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Asbury Theological Seminary
Information Services
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Japan Mission Records

ARC1983 -007

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Introduction

The A. B. C. F. M. (American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions), established in 1810, is a company incorporated under the laws of the state of Massachusetts “for the purpose of propagating the Gospel in “heathen” lands by supporting missionaries and diffusing a knowledge of the Holy Scriptures.” It is self-perpetuating and has no ecclesiastical character or relations; however, the Board has practically represented Congregationalists alone.

Coordinate with the growth of the Board itself has been that of its great auxiliaries, the three Woman’s Boards: the Woman’s Board of Foreign Missions (1868), the Woman’s Board of Missions of the Interior (1868), and the Woman’s Board of Missions of the Pacific (1873).

The early growth of the missions was rapid with new fields ever opening before the Board, one of them being the Japan mission. Upon request by Dr. Neesima, “a Japanese,” the Board decided to send D. C. Greene and his wife as the first missionaries to Tokio in 1869. In March, 1870, the mission was moved to Kobe where churches, schools, hospitals, and dispensaries were opened and evangelistic tours begun. The Kioto Training School, now called Doshisha, was opened in 1876, and a school for girls, now Kobe College, was opened. In 1890 the northern Japan Mission at Niigata and Sendai was incorporated as a station of the Japan Mission. In 1891 an impetus was given to the work of the Union Evangelistic Movement, when work was carried on in 42 provinces by 22 denominations.

In 1961 the A. B. C. F. M. joined with the Board of International Missions, the Commission on World Service, and the Congregational Christian Service Committee.

The Japan Mission collection includes the July annual meeting minutes of the Japan Mission of the A. B. C. F. M., from 1888-1912, with the exception of 1897 and 1902. Also included are three docket, four annual reports of the treasurer of the Japan Mission, several items concerning Kobe College (including three calendars), and two photos; a panoramic view of Kobe and the Kobe Church. There is also a letter from Japan's Minister of Justice concerning Mr. Muramatsu and four duplicate pamphlets describing his home for discharged prisoners. Finally, there is a news clipping, constitution of the Japan Cooperative Society, Ltd., committee and interim notes, a booklet of the Bible Union Church Dedication Service, a booklet describing the various Christian schools in Kobe, and other items of interest.

The collection is in good condition and is a complete unit of 50 folders and four envelopes.

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Box/Folder Inventory

Box	Folder	Series	Title	Date
1	1.	Pamphlet	Christian schools in Kobe, Japan	1917
	2.		News clipping of letter from Mayor of Kobe	
	3.	Pamphlet	Mission minute	1890
	4.	Pamphlet	Osake-Kobe minutes	1912
	5.	Booklet	Report-distribution of forces	1911
	6.	Booklet	Prospectus and constitution	1921
	7.		10 leaves-Japanese student scholarships	1922
	8.		1 leaf-Ad interim votes	1897-1898
	9.	Booklet	Kobe Union Church dedication	1929
	10.	Booklet	Kobe mission addresses	
	11.	Chart	Preliminary Estimate	1898
	12.	Letters	3 concerning Mr. Muramatsu	
	13.	Pamphlet	4 duplicates-Mr. Muramatsu	
	14.	Papers	Kobe College Board of Managers report	
	15.	Booklet	Searle Chapel, Kobe College dedication	1933
	16.		1 leaf-Kobe College home-makers course	
	17.		3 leaves-Kobe College Foundation constitution	
	18.		1 leaf-Kobe College Jubilee prize song	
	19.	Booklet	Kobe College catalog	1912-1913
	20.	Photo	Kobe Church	1911
	21.	Report	2 leaves-treasurer's report	1889
	22.	Report	2 leaves-treasurer's report	1894
	23.	Report	Treasurer's report	1897
	24.	Report	Treasurer's report	1911
	25.	Docket		1900
	26.	Docket		1911
	27.	Docket		1912
	28.	Minutes	Japan Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.	1888
	29.	Minutes	Japan Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.	1889
	30.	Minutes	Japan Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.	1890
	31.	Minutes	Japan Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.	1891
	32.	Minutes	Japan Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.	1892
	33.	Minutes	Japan Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.	1893
	34.	Minutes	Japan Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.	1894
	35.	Minutes	Japan Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.	1895
	36.	Minutes	Japan Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.	1896
	37.	Minutes	Japan Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.	1898
	38.	Minutes	Japan Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.	1899
	39.	Minutes	Japan Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.	1900
	40.	Minutes	Japan Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.	1901

41.	Minutes	Japan Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.	1903
42.	Minutes	Japan Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.	1904
43.	Minutes	Japan Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.	1905
44.	Minutes	Japan Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.	1906
45.	Minutes	Japan Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.	1907
46.	Minutes	Japan Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.	1908
47.	Minutes	Japan Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.	1909
48.	Minutes	Japan Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.	1910
49.	Minutes	Japan Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.	1911
50.	Minutes	Japan Mission of the A. B. C. F. M.	1912
51.	Calendar	Kobe College	1932
52.	Calendar	Kobe College	1933
53.	Calendar	Kobe College	1934
54.	Photo	View of Kobe	