

**Hong Kong Baptist University Library**  
**Special Collections & Archives**

**Lila Watson Papers**

**Record Group No. 1**

[30 September, 2020]

Watson, Lila, (吳立樂), 1892-1980

Papers; 1929-1949, n.d.

2 folders; 0.03 linear feet

**Restrictions**

Anyone using this collection must sign an *Agreement to use the Lila Watson Papers*. Photocopying of unpublished material prohibited.

**Preferred Citation**

Lila Watson Papers, RG. 1, Special Collections & Archives, Hong Kong Baptist University Library.

**Biography**

**Full name:** Watson, Lila Florence (吳立樂)

**Birth date:** February 5, 1892 in South Carolina, United States.

**Education:**

- |      |                                                                                                    |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1913 | Bachelor of Arts, College for Women, South Carolina (now part of University of South Carolina)     |
| 1919 | Bachelor of Religious Education, Carver School (now part of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) |

**Career:**

1913-1917	Schoolteacher in South Carolina
1919	Appointed as Southern Baptist missionary
1919-1920	Language student, Peking (Beijing), China
1920-1922	Director, Baptist good will center, Hwanghsien 黃縣 (Longkou, Shandong)
1922-1929	Evangelistic worker, Tsining 集寧, (Jining), Inner Mongolia
1929-1949	Woman's Missionary Union field secretary; Executive Secretary of China Baptist Young People's Missionary Organization; Editor, China Baptist Publication Society 中華浸會書局, Shanghai
1949	Young People's worker, Taiwan
1950 - 1953	Religious educational worker, Hong Kong
1953-1958	Secretary, Missionary Education, Baptist Press, Hong Kong
1958	Retired
1958-1968	Worker with foreign students, DeLand, Florida, US
1968-1969	Missionary educated worker, Dillon, South Carolina, US

\*Reference: Southern Baptist Convention. (1971). *Missionary album*.  
Richmond, VA: Foreign Mission Board, S.B.C.

**Other Significant Information**

Lila F. Watson was appointed as Southern Baptist Missionary to China in 1919 and worked for 39 years. She directed a good will center for two years, then spent another seven years in evangelism in China. She was the field secretary of Woman's Missionary Union, Executive secretary of the China Baptist Young People's Missionary Organization and editor for the China Baptist Publication Society in Shanghai during 1929-1949.

She wrote articles about Baptist history and biographies of Baptist missionaries such as Grace McBride and Dr. Theron Rankin (see RG.5 Baptist Press Collection). In 1936, the hundredth year's celebration of Baptist works in China, she was the chief editor of the Baptist history book: 浸會在華

*佈道百年史略* *Brief historical sketches of Baptist missions in China* (Shanghai: China Baptist Publication, 1936). She was a religious education worker until 1953 and then a Baptist Press editor until her retirement. She returned to the US and still worked for the Baptist Church until she died on September 17, 1980, at the age of 88.

### **Scope and Content**

Correspondence contains letters of Lila Watson with other field workers such as Mary Alexander, W B Johnson and W.H. Tipton, and also other affiliated organizations and committees. Some letters were forwarded to her for reports and planning, showed the difficult time of Baptist workers facing the financial difficulties, the threat of war and Japanese occupation of China. Folder 2 contains letters, reports and information gathered from various meetings and development of Baptist organizations to be used as program material for the China Baptist Young People's Missionary Organization (基督教中華浸會少年團聯會).

**Series:** Paper records

**Date range:** 1929-1949, n.d.

**Geographic coverage:** China

**Types of documents:** Articles and correspondence

**Subjects:** Baptist history in China, Baptist Young People's Missionary Organization

**Language:** Chinese and English

### **CONTAINER LIST**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Year</b>
1	Correspondence	1929-1949, n.d.
2	Articles	1935-1948, n.d.