

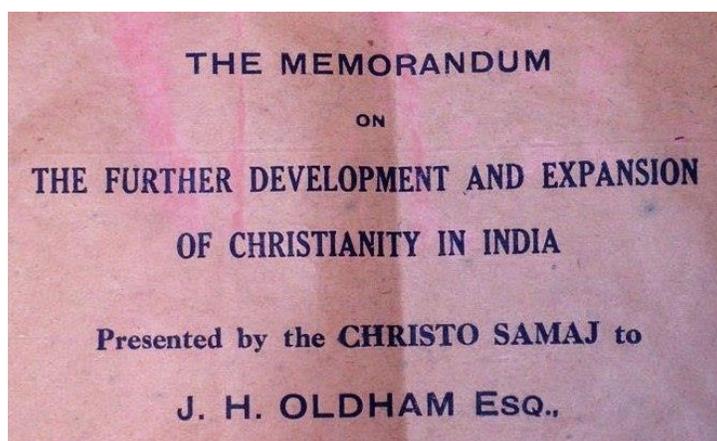
The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,
Union Theological Seminary, New York

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 3

Finding Aid for

The Memorandum on the Further Development and Expansion of Christianity in India, 1921

(Formerly titled J.H. Oldham Papers, 1921)



Credit to MRL 3: Memorandum on the Further Development and Expansion of Christianity in India, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Amy Meverden and Brigette C. Kamsler, January 2013
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: Christo Samaj
Title: The Memorandum on the Further Development and Expansion of Christianity in India
Date: 1921
Abstract: Christo Samaj, an association of indigenous Indian Christians, wrote the pamphlet, *The Memorandum on the Further Developments and Expansion of Christianity in India*, to J.H. Oldham, the secretary of the International Missionary Conference, in 1921 addressing issues of Western Christian influence in India.
Size: 1 Pamphlet, 0.25 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkearchives@library.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance: Originally part of the independent Missionary Research Library, these records were moved with the MRL to the Brown Memorial Tower of Union Theological Seminary in 1929. In 1976 the records were accessioned to the Burke Library archives with the closure of the MRL.
- Access: Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkearchives@library.columbia.edu, or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible
Burke Library staff is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- Access Restrictions: The collection is unrestricted to readers. Certain materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation: Item description, MRL 3: The Memorandum on the Further Development and Expansion of Christianity in India, pamphlet #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

History

The Christo Samaj “is an association of Indian Christians of the younger generation of all denominations of the Christian Church” (*Memorandum*, 1). Originating in 1904, this group expressed both a new spirit of nationalism and an express self-consciousness within the Indian Christian community.

Building upon previous movements attempting to unite Indian Christians, such as the National Church of India by Dr. Palani Andy in the late 1800’s, and responding to current movements imparting Western Christian ideology, such as the National Missionary Society founded in 1905, the Christo Samaj attempted to draw together Indian nationalism and Christianity, utilizing indigenous ideology and praxis.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The Memorandum on the Further Development and Expansion of Christianity in India collection is one pamphlet written by the Christo Samaj to J.H. Oldham during his first year as the secretary of the IMC in 1921.

Joseph Houldsworth (J.H.) Oldham (1874-1969) was born in India and lived in Bombay till age 7 when his family relocated to Scotland. He completed studies at Trinity College, Oxford, traveling to Lahore, Pakistan in 1897 for missions work with the YMCA where he met his wife Mary Fraser and married in 1898. The typhoid illness brought Oldham and his wife back to Scotland in 1901. Professionally, Oldham became the editor of the *International Review of Missions* in 1912 and after WWI he was the secretary of the Emergency Committee of Cooperating Missions. Oldham was the secretary of the International Missionary Council (IMC) from 1921-1938 and played a crucial role in the formation of the World Council of Churches (WCC).

**MRL3: The Memorandum on the Further Development and Expansion of Christianity
in India, 1921** **3**

The general theme of this pamphlet is a response by the Christo Samaj representing younger Indian Christians to leaders in Western Christianity, addressing the need for indigenous representation and ideology within Indian Christianity. The pamphlet gives a cursory history of Christianity in India and other general introductory information before addressing four specific factors determining the policy proposed for Christian expansion in India: Non-Christian India, the Christian Church, the Foreign Mission, and the Person of Christ (*Memorandum*, 8).

This pamphlet articulates themes of the embodied nature of racism in economics, a critique of empire and colonization, Western Christian domination, and other themes of social justice, though the language may not explicitly articulate the themes using these exact terms.

Processing

The document has been moved to the MRL Pamphlet collection. These can be viewed onsite and located through pamphlet ID # 1017 and 0976B. The pamphlet originally marked as the Oldham collection was not annotated.

Further Sources

There are other collections available at Burke that relate to the Church of South India and missions in India generally. These are in section 3 of the Missionary Research Library Archives. More information on what is available can be found online at:

<http://library.columbia.edu/indiv/burke/archives/mrl.html#series3>

Burke also has a small collection of International Missionary Council Records in MRL12:
http://library.columbia.edu/content/dam/libraryweb/libraries/burke/fa/mrl/ldpd_9503930.pdf.

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Pamphlet, 1921