

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

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 3

Finding Aid for

**Augustine Ralla Ram Papers, 1947 – 1955**



Augustine Ralla Ram, from "An Appreciation." Credit to MRL3: Augustine Ralla Ram Papers, box 1, folder 1, The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries, at Union Theological Seminary, New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Kristen Leigh Southworth and Brigette C. Kamsler, January 2013  
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**Summary Information**

Creator: Augustine Ralla Ram, 1888–1957  
Title: Augustine Ralla Ram Papers  
Inclusive dates: 1947 – 1955  
Abstract: General Secretary of the Student Christian Movement of India, Burma, and Ceylon; Vice President of the World Student Christian Federation; Executive Secretary of the Uttar Pradesh Christian Council, Editor of "The Christian Messenger." Contains one book, one report, and one letter.  
Size: 1 box, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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: Augustine Ralla Ram Papers, box # and folder #, The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries, at Union Theological Seminary, New York.

**Biography**

Augustine Ralla Ram was born on September 1, 1888, at Hoshiarpur in the Punjab. He was 1 of 4 children (3 sons and 1 daughter) of Ralla Ram, the only son of an orthodox Brahmin priest, and who was raised going to the temple daily with his father. He spent most of his time as a boy meditating and praying, and was deeply inspired by the preaching of Kali Charan Chatterji. When his father passed away, Ralla Ram converted to Christianity, a faith he would pass on to his son Augustine.

In 1911, Augustine graduated from Forman Christian College, and in 1915 he graduated from Saharanpur Theological Seminary. He served as a pastor in Allahabad for three years before traveling to Iraq and Persia to serve as a chaplain to Indian Christian forces. In 1919, he returned to India where he worked as both a church pastor and professor at Ewing Christian College. From 1923-1925, he took a leave of absence to travel with and served as National President of the Christian Endeavor Executive Council.

Ram was General Secretary of the Student Christian Movement of India, Burma, and Ceylon from 1928 to 1947, and Vice President of the World Student Christian Federation from 1932 to 1935, with whom he traveled to Bulgaria, France, Germany, the Philippines, Java, and Malaya. In 1945 Ram received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from the College of Wooster in recognition of his service to the Church of Christ Ecumenical. He was elected as Moderator in the United Church of Northern India at the 1947 General Assembly. Ram became the Secretary of the Uttar Pradesh Christian Council in 1948, a position he held until 1956. He was also editor of "The Christian Messenger," and remained so until his death in 1957.

Augustine Ralla Ram was involved with a number of organizations, boards, schools, and councils throughout his lifetime, and in the later years of his life he served as Vice President of the North India Auxiliary of the All-India Central Committee of the Bible Society of India,

Pakistan, and Ceylon, Secretary of the Provincial Committee of the National Missionary Society, Secretary of the Committee on the Study of Hinduism, Chairman of the Advisory Committee to the Rajpur Retreat and Study Center, and Superintendent of the School and Home for the Blind. He was also part of the Executive Committee of the National Christian Council and on its Committee on Public Affairs, and served on the sub-committee of the Unification of the Ministry for the Church Union Movement.

#### Publications:

Ram, Augustine Ralla. "Organic Church Unity: A Comment From India." *The Ecumenical Review*, 8 (1956): 243–248.

Ram, A. Ralla, ed. *The Church of Christ in India: Essays on Indian Missions*. Allahabad: Student Christian Movement, 1937.

Ram, A. Ralla, King, E. L., & Abbey, Vere W. *Putting Fresh Meaning into the Words Indian Christian*. Madras: Methodist Publishing House, 1929.

#### Sources:

From the materials in the collection, as well as:

Scovel, Myra. *I Must Speak: The Biography of Augustine Ralla Ram*. Allahabad, India: North India Christian Literature Society, 1961.

#### **Collection Scope and Content Note**

Contains a 1947 book of tribute entitled *An Appreciation* by the Student Christian Movement of India, Burma, and Ceylon, for which Ram served as General Secretary from 1928 to 1947. In his 1955 "personal report" as Executive Secretary of the Uttar Pradesh Christian Council, Ram lists the many organizations he worked with and positions he held from 1953-1955. The first page of an undated letter is also included in the collection, in which Ram describes a visit with the Metropolitan and details his travel plans.

#### **Processing**

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed. Any items in an advanced state of deterioration were placed in Mylar envelopes.

#### **Further Sources**

The Burke Library offers many other collections related to Ram's work in India, Burma and Ceylon. Other materials in section 3 of the Missionary Research Library, South Asia, would be useful to researchers. More information on available collections can be found online at: <http://library.columbia.edu/indiv/burke/archives/mrl.html#series3>.

## Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	<i>An Appreciation</i> of Reverend Augustine Ralla Ram, 1947
1	2	Personal Report, 1955 Correspondence, [19??]
1	3-4	Correspondence, Research and Writings [195?]