

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

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 3

Finding Aid for

**Arunodaya: The Autobiography of Bābā Padamanjī, 1944**

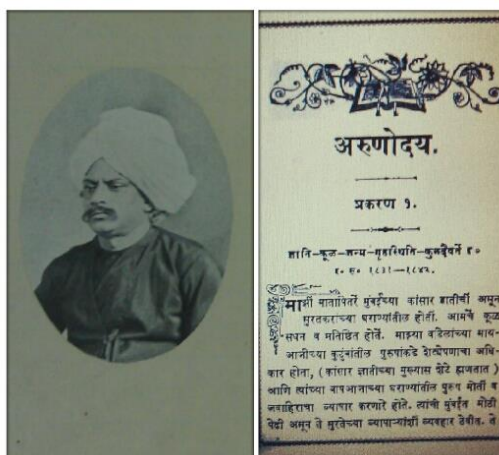


Image Source Left: MRL 3: Arunodaya: The Autobiography of Bābā Padamanjī, box 1, and folder 1,  
The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Image Source Right: Google Books scanned original language copy. [Google Books Arunodaya](#)

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### Summary Information

Creator: Bābā Padamanjī, 1831 – 1906  
Title: Arunodaya: The Autobiography of Bābā Padamanjī  
Original date: 1888  
Translation date: 1944  
Abstract: Contains handwritten translation of *Arunodaya: The Autobiography of Bābā Padamanjī: Containing a Description of His Former Life as a Hindu; and the Causes Which Led Him to His Conversion*. Gives a brief history of life as a Hindu, conversion to Christianity and details the religious, political, personal and familial struggles endured as a result.  
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: Arunodaya: Autobiography of Bābā Padamanjī, box 1, and folder 1, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

### Biography

Bābā Padamanjī was born in Belgaum, India in May of 1831 into a prominent family who were Kasar by caste. He grew up in a household filled with extended family and twelve siblings, all of whom were “orthodox and religious minded.” He began his education at the Government Marathi School in Belgaum. In 1843 he commenced his studies at the Mission High School where he met the headmaster Rev. W. Beynon, a missionary after whom the school was later named. (The translator of the autobiography, D. D. Chandekar was the Director of Religious Instruction at this same school.) It was at this school that Bābā Padamanjī was first introduced into the Christian religion. He was educated at the Elphinstone College in Bombay from 1847 to 1848. He had to leave the school early because of his Hindu marriage, but returned to Belgaum in March 1849 to resume his education, where he attended the Free Church Institution (FCI) and eventually continued on into the college-division.

It was while Bābā Padamanjī was at the FCI that he received a teaching post for Bible classes even though he was a practicing Hindu. His prolific writing career began while still in the college-division of FCI. He wrote articles for the newspaper and essays including “‘Essays on Female Education,’ ‘Essays on Hindu Festivals’ and ‘Advice against Adultery’ which were written before [he] became a Christian.” His commitment to the Christian faith was formally acknowledged through his baptism on December 3, 1854. Padamanjī continued to translate and write original Christian literature and tracts, present sermons and uphold the Christian faith for the rest of his life.

According to the *Catalogue of the Christian Vernacular Literature of India* printed in 1870, some of those works include *Comparison of Hinduism and Christianity*, *Manual of Christian Duties*, *Atmarampant*, or *Colloquies with the Angel of Death*, *The Sins of Holy Things borne by Christ*, *Comparison of Krishna and Christ*, etc. In 1887 he was also invited by the Bombay Christian Tract and Book Society to “assist them in revising and publishing the Bible in Marathi.” The

editor's note in *My Struggle for Freedom* states that by the time of Bābā Padamanjī's death on August 29, 1906, his body of original and translated work contained 73 treatises and books, "from Christian tracts to Marathi Dictionaries of 600 pages."

#### Sources:

- MRL 3: Arunodaya: The Autobiography of Bābā Padamanjī, box 1, folder 1, The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries, at Union Theological Seminary, New York.
- Murdoch, John. *Catalogue of the Christian Vernacular Literature of India: With Hints on the ...* C. Foster, 1870. [Web](#). Accessed 19 October 2012.
- Nelson, Henry Addison, and Albert B. Robinson. *The Church at Home and Abroad*. Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work, 1891. [Web](#). Accessed 19 October 2012
- Padmanji, Baba. *My Struggle for Freedom: The Autobiography of Baba Padmanji*. Raipur, C.P. [India]: Christian Book Depot, 1944. [Burke Call Number](#): MRL Pamphlets 1830

#### **Further Sources**

Burke Library Archives Collections include the related collection MRL3: George Bowen Papers, 1846-1862, which can be located on the website:

[http://library.columbia.edu/content/dam/libraryweb/libraries/burke/fa/mrl/ldpd\\_4492544.pdf](http://library.columbia.edu/content/dam/libraryweb/libraries/burke/fa/mrl/ldpd_4492544.pdf).

Other sources include:

- American Evangelical Lutheran Mission. *A Protest and an Appeal by the American Evangelical Mission of the South Krishna District*. Madras: Addison and Co, 1884.
- Dube, Saurabh. *Stitches on Time: Colonial Textures and Postcolonial Tangles*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2004. Contains an anthropological essay on the difficulties of excising previous religious traditions when converting to a new one. It references the evangelical mission in Bombay.
- Bowen, George, and Robert E Speer. *George Bowen of Bombay, missionary, scholar, mystic, saint*; New York city: Sold by the Missionary review of the world, 1938.
- Jackson, Samuel Macauley, Talbot Wilson Chambers, and Frank Hugh Foster. *Concise Dictionary of Religious Knowledge: Biblical, Doctrinal, Historical, and Practical*. The Christian Literature Co., 1890. [Web](#). Accessed 22 October 2012. Contains information about the Bombay Book and Tract Society.
- North, Eric M. *The Book of a Thousand Tongues; Being Some Account of the Translation and Publication of All or Part of the Holy Scriptures into More Than a Thousand Languages and Dialects with over 1100 Examples from the Text*. New York, London: Pub. for the American Bible society [by] Harper & brothers, 1938. References Baba Padmanji for his partial translation of *The Holy Bible* (noted below). He died before he was able to finish and the translation was completed by a committee.
- Padmanji, Baba, Translator. Molesworth, J. T. *A Compendium of Molesworth's Marathi and English Dictionary*. 4th ed., rev. and enl. Bombay: Education Society's Press, 1890.
- Padmanji, Baba, Translator. *The Holy Bible in Marathi*. Rev. ed. [Bombay: British and Foreign Bible Society], 1924.

Padmanji, Baba, Editor. *Annotated New Testament in Marathi. Acts to Revelation. Navya Kararavara tika ... Edited by Baba Padmanji.* Bombay Tract & Book Society: Mumbai 1877 [Bombay]. Available from The British Library  
 Yale University Divinity School Library. Missionary Periodicals Database. Link: [Light for India](#), Jan. 1872-Jan 1892.

### Collection Scope and Content Note

The book was originally printed in Bābā Padamanjī's native language Marathi in Bombay, by the Anglo-Vernacular press in 1888. In 1944 D. D. Chandekar hand transcribed a 381-page translation into English of the original. Included in this collection are a short newspaper clipping, photograph and list of important dates, in the front cover. This copy transcribes the letters of recommendation for Bābā Padamanjī, which were in the original autobiography as well as an epitaph for Rev. George Bowen, a former Union Theological Seminary student (class of 1847), Bombay missionary and editor of the Marathi publications of the Bombay Book and Tract Society, who had recently passed away.

It should be noted that printed versions of the autobiography may not contain all that Bābā Padamanjī originally wrote. Rev. M. P. Davis (member of the Foreign Mission Board for the German Evangelical Synod of North America) who edited the autobiography print version called *My Struggle for Freedom* mentioned in his forward that "numerous unimportant incidents related by [Bābā Padamanjī] in the original Marathi version" had been removed. The autobiography details his life up until 1854.

### Processing

The book was placed in a new acid-free folder and box. Book was wrapped in tissue and tied with acid-free cotton tying tape.

### Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Book, 1944