

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

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 3

Finding Aid for

Daniel Johnson Fleming Papers, 1918 – [1949?]



Passport Application, issued 1919, page 2;

Credit to: National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Washington D.C.; *Passport Applications, January 2, 1906 - March 31, 1925*; Collection Number: *ARC Identifier 583830 / MLR Number A1 534*; NARA Series: *M1490*; Roll #: *808*; .

Finding Aid prepared by: Leanora Lange, February 2012
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Summary Information

Creator: Daniel Johnson Fleming, 1877-1969
Title: Daniel Johnson Fleming Papers
Inclusive dates: 1918 – [1949?]
Abstract: Daniel Johnson Fleming was a Presbyterian missionary to India and Professor of Missions at Union Theological Seminary from 1918-1944. Collection includes a Buddhist primer, correspondence, pamphlets, and photographs.
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

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: Daniel Johnson Fleming Papers, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Daniel Johnson Fleming (1877-1969) was a Presbyterian missionary in India and Professor of Missions at Union Theological Seminary.

Fleming was born in Xenia, Ohio, and graduated from the College of Wooster in 1898. After a short mission assignment in India, he returned to the U.S. for graduate studies, earning a Master of Science in chemistry from the University of Chicago in 1903 and a Master of Arts in physics from Columbia University in 1904. He also studied theology at Union Theological Seminary from 1901-1903, and he was ordained a Presbyterian minister in 1903. He married Elizabeth Cole in 1904, with whom he had two daughters and a son. He and Elizabeth served for eight years as Presbyterian missionaries in Lahore, India, where Fleming lectured at Forman Christian College. Fleming earned a PhD from the University of Chicago Divinity School in 1914. Starting in 1915, he served as the director of the department of Foreign Service at Union Theological Seminary and then as Professor of Missions from 1918-1944. After Elizabeth's death in 1955, he remarried to Helen Mack Howard.

His largest contribution to Christian missions was through his prolific writing, in which he explores issues of missionary work in relation to the social sciences, Christian symbolism, greater global awareness, and ethical approaches to other cultures. Some of his most well-known books include *Schools with a Message in India* (1921), *Building with India* (1922), *Contacts with Non-Christian Cultures: A Case Book in the Christian Movement Abroad* (1923), *Whither Bound in Missions* (1925), *Each with His Own Brush: Contemporary Christian Art in Asia and Africa* (1938), and *Christian Symbols in a World Community* (1940).

Sources:

- "Daniel Fleming, Missionary, Dies: Union Theological Teacher, 92, Wrote 17 Books." *The New York Times* 21 April 1969. 47. (Proquest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times (1852-2008) with Index (1851-1993)).
- Hoyle, Lydia Huffman. "Fleming, Daniel Johnson." In *Biographical Dictionary of Christian Missions*, edited by Gerald H. Anderson, 214-215. New York: MacMillan, 1998.
- Marquis Who Was Who in America 1607-1984*. New Providence: Marquis Who's Who LLC, 2009. s.v. "[FLEMING, DANIEL JOHNSON](#)," http://ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/login?qurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.credoreference.com/entry/marqwas/fleming_daniel_johnson (accessed February 27, 2012).
- Stanfield, Claude E. "The Missionary Philosophy of Daniel Johnson Fleming." B.D. thesis, Duke Divinity School, 1946.

Collection Scope and Content Note

This collection contains a handwritten manuscript in the Telugu language, thought to be a Buddhist primer, as well as correspondence from 1936 written by Fleming and Missionary Research Library staff regarding this primer. Two of Fleming's shorter writings are also included. His pamphlet *The Missionary Occupation of India* from 1918 details Christian missionary presence in India. Fleming's booklet *Education through Stone and Glass* [1949?] discusses the religious symbolism of the architecture of UTS. While not directly related to his work as a missionary in India, this booklet is included in the collection not only because it was written by Fleming but also as a representative of Fleming's interest in Christian art and symbolism.

Also included are two photographs, one of Booker T. Washington and C. F. Andrews, and the other of Deaconess Ellen Lakshmi Goreh, the daughter of Nehemiah Nilankantha Goreh, an early convert in India.

Processing

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials where possible 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. Photocopies were made of deteriorating papers and included in the collections alongside the originals.

Further Sources

The Presbyterian Historical Society located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania holds further records related to Fleming. These can be accessed through their website at <http://history.pcusa.org>.

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Buddhist Epic Primer in Telugu [19??]
1	2	Correspondence regarding the Buddhist Epic Primer, 1936
1	3	<i>Education Through Stone and Glass: A Study of Decorative Symbolism in Union Theological Seminary</i> , [1949?]
1	4	Pamphlet: <i>The Missionary Occupation of India</i> , 1918
1	5	Photographs: C.F. Andrews and Booker T. Washington, Deaconess Ellen Lakshmi Goreh