

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

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 12

Finding Aid for

**Board of Foreign Missions of the Netherlands Reformed Church
Records, 1825; 1963-1971**

Formerly entitled "Netherlands Missionary Society Papers"



RAAD VOOR DE ZENDING DER NEDERLANDSE HERVORMDE KERK
BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS OF THE NETHERLANDS REFORMED CHURCH
CONSEIL DES MISSIONS DE L'ÉGLISE RÉFORMÉE DES PAYS BAS

Correspondence, July 17, 1970. Credit to: MRL 12: Board of Foreign Missions of the Netherlands Reformed Church Records, series 2, box 1, folder 4, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Virginia Pastor, July 2013
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: Netherlands Missionary Society, 1825-1951;
Board of Foreign Missions of the Netherlands Reformed Church, 1951-1999

Title: Board of Foreign Missions of the Netherlands Reformed Church Records

Inclusive dates: 1825; 1963 – 1971

Bulk dates: 1963 – 1971

Abstract: Netherlands Missionary Society (Nederlands Zendeling Genootschap) established in 1797 by the Netherlands Reformed Church and merged in 1951 with other Dutch missionary societies to form Board of Foreign Missions of the Netherlands Reformed Church (Raad voor de Zending Nederlandse Hervormde Kerk). Records include manuscript describing activities of Society, indexes and related correspondence.

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 at 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 12: Board of Foreign Missions of the Netherlands Reformed Church, series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

History

The Netherlands Missionary Society (Nederlands Zendeling Genootschap or N. Z. G.) was founded in 1797 as an ecumenical mission board, though its membership largely came from the Dutch Reformed Church. Influenced by the London Missionary Society, the N. Z. G. was largely centralized among the Dutch colonies, particularly in the area of the Indonesian Archipelago. Initial activities saw missionaries working with pre-existing Christian communities, which were eventually organized into the Protestant Church of the Dutch Indies. By 1848, the N. Z. G. began working with Muslim communities in Indonesia.

Faced with a growing resentment of colonialism, Dutch missionaries in the early twentieth century began to place new value on the cultures of local populations. In contrast with Dutch missionaries of the nineteenth century, who encouraged converts to emulate Western customs and practices, missionaries such as Albert C. Kruyt worked to preserve indigenous cultures for study, eliminating only the practices that were considered pagan and encouraging worship in the vernacular language.

Between 1847 and 1859, several other Dutch missionary societies were formed, and beginning at the start of the twentieth century, these societies worked closely together. In 1951, the Dutch missionary societies, which included the N.Z.G., the Dutch Mission Union (Nederlandsche Zendingsvereniging), and the Utrecht Mission Union (Utrechtsche Zendingsvereniging), merged to form the Board of Foreign Missions of the Netherlands Reformed Church (Raad voor de Zending Nederlandse Hervormde Kerk). The Board of Foreign Missions dissolved in 1999.

Sources:

Dirkzwager, M. H. "Archives of the Board of Mission of the Netherlands Reformed Church (Nederlands Hervormde Kerk)," *Itinerario* Vol. 7, Iss. 1 (March 1983), Leiden University,

p. 30-33.

van Butselaar, Jan. "Dutch Missionary Society." *Religion Past and Present*. Brill Online Reference Works, 2013. Accessed 25 July 2013 at http://brillonline.nl/entries/religion-past-and-present/dutch-missionary-society-SIM_124099.

van den End, Th. "Netherlands Missionary Society," *Encyclopedia of Western Colonialism since 1450*. Ed. Thomas Benjamin. Vol. 2. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2007. 841-844. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Accessed 22 July 2013 at: <http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CCX2587300305&v=2.1&u=columbia&it=r&p=GVRL&sw=w>.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection is organized in two series:

- **Series 1: Netherlands Missionary Society, 1825 (1 folder)**

Within this series is one 46 page bound manuscript handwritten in English by an unknown author. The manuscript describes the activities of the Netherlands Missionary Society (Nederlands Zending Genootschap) by geographic region and sub-regions and covers the period of 1823-1825. The missionary activities documented in the manuscript include the geographical areas of:

- I. Indonesian Archipelago: Amboina, Timor, Ceram, Banda, Celebe, Boono, Java
- II. Hindustan: Palliacatta, Sadras, Chinfurab
- III. South Africa
- IV. Suriname

- **Series 2: Board of Foreign Missions of the Netherlands Reformed Church, 1963-1971 (5 folders)**

This series consists of an index and supplementary material of the Old Missionary Archives of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Netherlands Reformed Church (Raad voor de Zending der Nederlandse Hervormde Kerk). The index was compiled in Dutch by Rev. F. Slump in 1963 in an effort to publicize the materials held within the organization's archives. The index alphabetically lists materials found in the records of Dutch missionary corporations from 1797-1927, the papers of Professor Hendrik Kraemer, 1921-1947, and the records of women's missionary work from 1928-1958.

The supplemental material is written in Dutch and includes a list of corrections to the original index and indexes to the papers of influential missionaries: Hendrik Kraemer, Dr. Albert C. Kruyt, Rev. J. Kruyt and Rev. I. J. Kijne.

Additional material includes correspondence written in English between the Board of the Foreign Missions of the Netherlands Reformed Church and the Missionary Research Library.

Processing

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Due to an advanced state of deterioration, the Netherlands Missionary Society manuscript was placed in a custom-made acid-free folder.

Series 1 was originally an independent collection entitled MRL 12: Netherlands Missionary Society Papers, 1825. The original finding aid was created in September 2008 by Arunabh Ghosh. In July 2013, the material was brought together into a single collection with an updated finding aid.

Further Sources

Additional records of the Netherlands Reformed Church and the Netherlands Missionary Society can be found in the Records of the Nederlandsch Zendeling Genootschap, 1805-1920 at the Yale University Divinity School Library in New Haven, CT. This collection consists of nine folders documenting missions in the Dutch East Indies, by-laws, and correspondence of Albert C. Kruyt. The finding aid can be accessed online at: <http://www.library.yale.edu/div/fa/HR1345.pdf>.

Additional material can be found in the collections of the Burke Library Archives. The Board of Foreign Missions of the Netherlands Church was formed under the leadership of Hendrik Kraemer in 1951. Please see the William Adams Brown Collection: Hendrik Kraemer Papers. The finding aid can be accessed online at:

http://library.columbia.edu/content/dam/libraryweb/locations/burke/fa/wab/ldpd_4492702.pdf.

Related collections can also be found in the Missionary Research Library Collection:

<http://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke/archives/mrl.html>.

Contents list

Series 1: Netherlands Missionary Society, 1825

Series Box Folder Contents

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Series 2: Board of Foreign Missions of Netherlands Reformed Church, 1963-1971

Series Box Folder Contents

| Series | Box | Folder | Contents |
|--------|-----|--------|--|
| 2 | 1 | 1 | Index to Old Missionary Archive, compiled by F. Slump, Dutch, 1963: Dutch Missionary Corporations, 1797-1927, Hendrik Kraemer Papers, Archives of Women's Missionary Work, 1928-1958 |
| 2 | 1 | 2 | Correspondence and Index Corrections, 1964-1969 |
| 2 | 1 | 3 | Supplement to Index: Prof. Hendrik Kraemer Records, 1966 |
| 2 | 1 | 4 | Correspondence and Supplement to Index: Albert C. Kruyt and J. Kruyt Papers, 1970 |
| 2 | 1 | 5 | Correspondence and Supplement to Index: I. J. Kijne Papers, 1970-1971 |