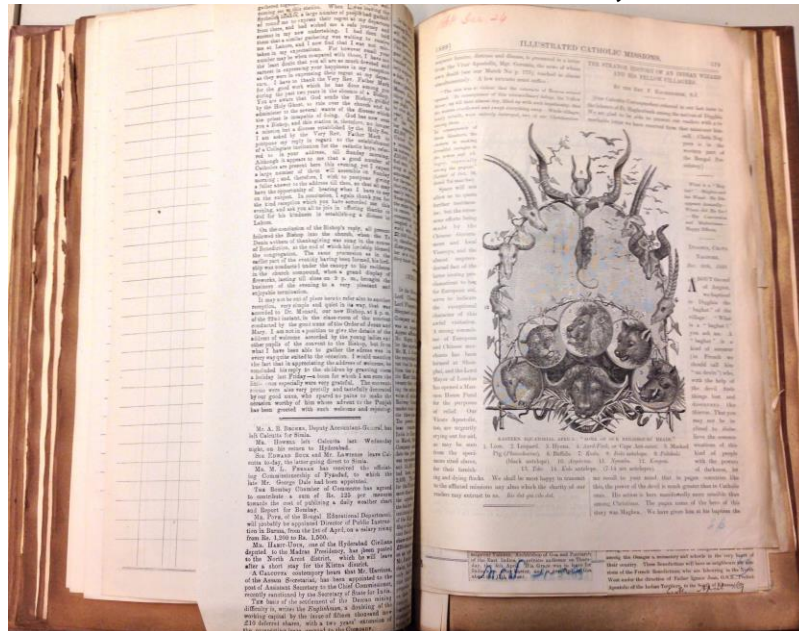


The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,
Union Theological Seminary, New York

Union Theological Seminary Archives 1

Finding Aid for

Catholic Church in India Records, 1880 – 1893



Page from Book 10, UTS: Catholic Church in India Records, 1880–1893, box 2, folder 2,
The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Erin Campbell, September 2015
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: William Reese Philipps
Title: Catholic Church in India Records, 1880–1893
Dates: 1880 – 1893
Abstract: A collection pertaining to the interests of the Catholic Church in India as gathered by the Secretary of the Madras Catholic Union: Includes church publications, newspaper clippings, and handwritten notes.
Size: 6 boxes (5 cartons and 1 oversize), 7.00 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: Exact provenance unknown. It is believed the materials came to the Burke Library when the Missionary Research Library coexisted alongside the Union Theological Seminary Library. These are stamped Union Theological Seminary Library.
- 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, UTS1: Catholic Church in India Records, 1880–1893, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

History

Early missionaries in India were affiliated with The Church of St. Thomas Christians. In 52 AD, the Apostle Thomas arrived in South India via the Malabar Coast. Before his death in 72 AD, Thomas is credited with converting thousands in India and founding seven Christian communities. The National Shrine of St. Thomas Basilica is built over his venerated tomb in Mylapore, Chennai. In the 15th century, Portuguese Catholic missionaries officially began arriving in India following the declaration of Pope Nicholas V on the 18th of June, 1452 that instructed the King of Portugal to “invade, conquer, subdue and subject all the kingdoms and lands of the infidels.” The Catholic population in India in 1891 reached 1,313,653 of the total 286,912,000 population.

The Catholic Church in India had three objectives: conversion, pastoral activity, and ethical order. Conversion brought the missionaries to India in order to spread the ideology, rituals, and ethical code of Catholicism. Pastoral activity would teach the community social aspects of Catholicism as well as introducing roles of the clergy in ritual. The aim of ethical order applies a standard of lifestyle as prescribed by the church that can include social norms and interpersonal relations.

Schools would become the main focus of the Catholic missionaries in India. Western education was considered to include Christian morals so much so that the missionaries hoped these schools would lead to a renunciation of prior beliefs in favor of conversion. Eventually, an emphasis on converting students to Catholicism was dropped for the sake of generally encouraging education. At one point as high as seventy percent of the schools in India were mission-run.

As of 2004, it is estimated that there are 17,005,000 Catholics in India, or 1.55% of the population.

Sources

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Collection Scope and Content Note

Collection of extracts and newspaper clippings connected with the Catholic Church in India from 1880-1893 in Portuguese, English, and French. These volumes are attributed to the secretary of the Madras Catholic Union, William Reese Philipps. This collection includes portions of the following contemporary publications: *Catholic Truth Society – Bombay Branch*, *India Sacra*, *O Crente*, *The Bombay Catholic Examiner*, *The Bombay East Indian*, *The Catholic Register*, *The Catholic Watchman*, *The Cochin Argus*, *The Epiphany*, *The Illustrated Catholic Missions*, *The Indian Churchman*, *The Indo-European Correspondence*, *The Messenger of the Sacred Heart*, *The Mylapore Catholic Register*, *The Sind Gazette*, *The Tablet*, and *The Weekly Register*. Also included are collections of bound issues of the following publications: *Les Missions Catholiques*, *O Vinte e tres Novembro*, *O Portugues Britannico*, *The Anglo-Lusitano* and *The Catholic Union*.

The material covers obituaries of missionaries and clergy, dedications of new churches and schools, budgets for construction, accounts of festivals, ecclesiastical appointments, the Pope's jubilee, congratulations and correspondence with the Queen of England for her jubilee, as well as circulation records and reviews of books.

Processing

Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes.

Further Sources

The Burke Library Archives offers other collections related to South and Southeast Asia. For more information, please see [the website](#). Columbia University Libraries also has the Starr East Asian Library, which contains collections specific to the study of East Asia, China, Japan, Korea and Tibet. For more information, please see [their website](#).

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