

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

William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives Group

Finding Aid for

Hendrik Kraemer Papers, 1954



Image from: Van Leeuwen, Arend Theodoor. *Hendrik Kraemer: Dienaar Der Wereldkerk*. Amsterdam: W. Ten Have, 1959

Finding Aid prepared by: Virginia Pastor, July 2013
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Summary Information

Creator: Hendrik Kraemer, 1888 – 1965
Title: Hendrik Kraemer Papers
Dates: 1954
Abstract: Hendrik Kraemer, a Dutch Reformed professor and missionary leader gave a series of lectures on *The Christian Faith and Non-Christian Religions* at the University of Geneva in January and February 1954. Collection contains lectures 1-8 and 11-14, examining ecumenism and scientific, philosophical, and theological approaches to relations with non-Christian religions.
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:** The papers are part of the William Adams Brown Ecumenical Library Collection, which was founded in 1945 by the Union Theological Seminary Board of Directors.
- 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. Please note that certain materials are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives: Hendrik Kraemer Papers, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Hendrik Kraemer was born in 1888 and at age 16 decided to become a missionary. Earning a degree from Leiden University, Netherlands in Indonesian languages, Kraemer then served as a missionary in Indonesia for the Dutch Bible Society from 1922-1937. While in Indonesia, he established the Higher Theological School at Jakarta (1934) and worked to transform Indonesian Christianity into an independent and fully-formed church.

Towards the end of his time in Indonesia, Kraemer became involved in the ecumenical movement. His most well-known work, *The Christian Message in a Non-Christian World* (1938), was prepared for the Second International Missionary Council at Tambaram, India. In this piece, Kraemer distinguished between Christian faith and non-Christian religions, noting that Christianity “has stood and stands under continuous and direct influence and judgment of the revelation in Christ,” which makes it unique from all other religions. *The Christian Message in a Non-Christian World* became a central topic at the 1938 conference.

After his return from Indonesia, Kraemer was heavily involved with the restructuring of the Dutch Reformed Church, but he is best known for his involvement in the ecumenical movement. He served as the first director of the Ecumenical Institute of the World Council of Churches at the Chateau de Bossey in Switzerland (1948-1955), and wrote several other works that built upon his 1938 piece, including *Religion and the Christian Faith* (1956) and *World Cultures and World Religions: The Coming Dialogue* (1960). Kraemer also held a guest lectureship at the Union Theological Seminary (1956-1957). He died in 1965.

Sources:

Ariarajah, S. Wesley. “Dictionary of the Ecumenical Movement article on Interfaith Dialogue,” World Council of Churches. Accessed 8 July 2013 at <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-programmes/interreligious-dialogue-and-cooperation/interreligious-trust-and-respect/ecumenical-dictionary-interfaith-dialogue>.

History of Missiology, Boston University School of Theology. "Kraemer, Hendrik (1888-1965)." Accessed 8 July 2013 at <http://www.bu.edu/missiology/missionary-biography/i-k/kraemer-hendrik-1888-1965/>.

Hoedemaker, Libertus A. "The Legacy of Hendrik Kraemer," *Occasional Bulletin*, Apr. 1980, p. 60-64. Accessed 8 July 2013 at <http://www.internationalbulletin.org/system/files/1980-02-060-hoedemaker.pdf>.

Collection Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of a series of lectures on "The Christian Faith and the Non-Christian Religions" delivered at the University of Geneva by Hendrik Kraemer in January and February 1954. Examining the relationship between Christianity and the world's non-Christian religions, these lectures place particular emphasis on the ecumenical movement, particularly the rising "interdependence" of different parts of the world, and various scientific, philosophical, and theological attempts to explain Christian theology to non-Christian religions.

The lecture series is divided into four distinct sections: lectures 1-4 provide introductory material and relate previous scientific and philosophical attempts at explaining Christianity, lectures 5-8 deal with theological attempts (Survey and Critical Consideration of Various Theological Attempts to Deal with the Problem of Religion and Religions), lectures 11-12 dissect biblical passages and examples in examining Christian relationships with non-Christian religions (Biblical Data on the Problem of Religion and Religions), and lectures 13-14 contain Kraemer's concluding remarks on the subject.

Processing

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. At this time, lectures 9 and 10 (p. 81-103) are missing from the collection.

Further Sources

Hendrik Kraemer was the first director of the Ecumenical Institute of the World Council of Churches. The Burke Library holds the records of the World Council of Churches and other collections related to the ecumenical movement in the William Adams Brown Ecumenical Library Collection: <http://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke/archives/wabrown.html>. Related collections can also be found in the Missionary Research Library Collection: <http://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke/archives/mrl.html>. For more information please contact burkearchives@library.columbia.edu.

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1-8	Lectures 1-8, p. 1 – 80
1	9-12	Lectures 11-14, p. 104 – 167