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Madras Catholic Union collection on the Catholic Church in India11602006

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

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New York, NY 10027

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URL: <https://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke.html>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
Creator:	Madras Catholic Union (Chennai, India)
Title:	Madras Catholic Union collection on the Catholic Church in India
ID:	11602006
Date [inclusive]:	1880 -- 1893
Physical Description:	7 linear feet 7.00 linear feet; 6 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	A collection pertaining to the interests of the Catholic Church in India as gathered by the Secretary of the Madras Catholic Union, and including church publications, newspaper clippings, and handwritten notes.

Preferred Citation

Item description, UTS1: Madras Catholic Union collection on the Catholic Church in India, 1880-1893, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Biographical / Historical

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.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains 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.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one roughly chronological series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2022-10-25

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Access

The following boxes are located offsite: Box 1-5. Please note that requests for use of boxes held in offsite storage must be made three business days in advance.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The exact provenance of this collection is unknown.

Processing Information

Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. The finding aid was created by Erin Campbell in 2015 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation, and edited by Leah Edelman in 2022.

Conditions Governing Use

Some material in this collection may be protected by copyright and other rights. Information concerning copyright, fair use, and reproduction requests can be consulted at Columbia's Copyright Advisory Office.

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Controlled Access Headings

- India
- Catholic Church -- : Sources -- : Missions -- : History -- : India
- Madras Catholic Union (Chennai, India) -- : Sources -- : History

Burke Library record group:

Union Theological Seminary Archives: UTS 1, papers of faculty and students

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Collection Inventory

Madras Catholic Union collection on the Catholic Church in India , 1880 -- 1893

Physical Description: 7 linear feet 7 linear feet; 6 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged roughly chronologically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains 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.

Title/Description

Instances

Book 1-8, 1880 -- 1888	box 1
Book 9-15, 1888 -- 1891	box 2
Book 16-23, 1892 -- 1893	box 3
Book 24-30; 33, circa 1880 -- 1890	box 4

Scope and Contents

Miscellaneous Clippings; The Bombay Catholic Examiner; The Indo-European Correspondence 1880-1890; Bound issues of Les Missions Catholiques; Vinte e tres de Novembro; Bound issues of Vinte e tres de Novembro; Extracts about books

Book 34-39, 1883 -- 1890	box 5
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Scope and Contents

Pamphlets from August 15, 1883 – September 24, 1890; India Orientalis Christiana notes, handwritten

Book 31-32, 1886 -- 1890	box 6OS
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Scope and Contents

Bound issues of The Indian Patriot, The Bombay East Indian, O Crente, The Anglo-Lusitano, The Catholic Union, and O Portugues Britannico; Anglo-Lusitano Extracts

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