American Madura Mission records4492553

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Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

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Summary Information

Repository:	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
Creator:	Banninga, John J., 1875-1963
Title:	American Madura Mission records
ID:	4492553
Date [inclusive]:	circa 1900 -- 1944
Date [bulk]:	1944
Physical Description:	0.25 linear feet 0.25 linear feet; 1 box
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	This collection contains recollections of Dr. John J. Banninga, a missionary in Madura from 1901-1942, as well as sermons by the Rev. P. Thomas Pastor of Trinity Church, Tirumangalam.

Preferred Citation

Item description, MRL3: American Madura Mission records, circa 1900-1944, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Biographical / Historical

The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) established the American Madura Mission (AAM) in July 1834 with seven missionaries from Jaffna, Ceylon, India. Education was emphasized at the American Madura Mission not only for evangelism, but as a foundation for cultural and economic advancement. By 1836, AAM established thirty-seven schools in Madurai and fifty-six in the surrounding area. That same year, a Plan of Polity was created so that the mission would be autonomous, but still connected to ABCFM. Multiple churches were also formed at this time. After years of discussion, a resolution was passed by ABCFM in April 1839 to create a seminary to train Indian mission workers. Missionary William Tracy gathered thirty-four boys from local boarding schools in 1842 to begin the seminary. A permanent establishment did not occur until 1844 when Pasumalai was chosen, located two

miles southwest of Madurai City; it was fully functional by 1847. The Pasumalai Seminary evolved, was renamed Union Theological Seminary at Pasumalai and would eventually merge with other seminaries to become the Tamilnadu Theological Seminary in 1969. The American Madura Mission continued to broaden its scope, reaching out with Bible teaching focused towards women. Christianity as a whole began to take precedence as opposed to the focus on an individual. Medical and industrial education and work became a focus into the twentieth century. The work of the American Madura Mission slowly became the work of the Church of South India, and missionaries were not replaced. The AAM no longer exists as a separate entity.

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Biographical / Historical

John J. Banninga was an American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions missionary in Madura from 1901-1942.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains the typed recollections of Dr. John J. Banninga, a missionary with the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in Madura from 1901-1942, titled, "Notes on the History of the American Madura Mission, South India, since the 75th Anniversary in 1909." Banninga wrote the document in Boston in 1944 at the request of Reverend Enoch F. Bell, concerning the history of the Madura Mission since the writing of the 75th anniversary book, "Seventy-Five Years in Madura," by Dr. John S. Chandler, 1849-1934. Banninga's recollections were designed to provide further anecdotal information. A later addition to the collection consists of two handwritten and bound sermons by the Rev. P. Thomas Pastor of Trinity Church, Tirumangalam.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in order of receipt.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2021-01-12

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Onsite storage.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Formerly part of the independent Missionary Research Library (MRL), and possibly donated to that entity in 1968 by Mary Walker (United Church Board for World Ministries Library), these records were accessioned by the Burke Library at the time of the MRL's closure in 1976.

Processing Information

Materials were cataloged by Lynn A. Grove on 1988-07-18. Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Chapters were separated by interleaving with acid-free folder inserts. The finding aid was created by Brigette Kamsler in 2011 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation, and edited by Leah Edelman in 2021.

Conditions Governing Use

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Related Materials

Related Materials

MRL 12: American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions records, 1878-1958, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Related Materials

WAB: John J. Banninga papers, 1883-1959, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Congregational churches -- Missions
- Missions -- India
- India -- Religious life and customs
- American Madura Mission

Burke Library record group:

Missionary Research Library Archives: MRL3, South Asia

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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Notes on the History of the American Madura Mission, South India, since the 75th Anniversary in 1909: Introduction and Chapters 1-5, 1944	box 1	folder 1

Notes on the History of the American Madura Mission, South India, since the 75th Anniversary in 1909; Chapters 6-10, 1944	box 1	folder 2
Notes on the History of the American Madura Mission, South India, since the 75th Anniversary in 1909: Chapters 11-16, 1944	box 1	folder 3
Sermons by Rev. P. Thomas Pastor, Trinity Church, Tirumangalam, circa 1900 -- 1944	box 1	folder 4