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David Chamberlin papers on John Eliot 4492644

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Description is written in: English.

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Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

3041 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

Telephone: (212) 851-5606

burke@library.columbia.edu

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

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	5
Related Materials	6
Controlled Access Headings	6
Burke Library record group:	6
Collection Inventory	7
David Chamberlin papers on John Eliot	7

Summary Information

Repository:	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
Creator:	Chamberlin, David, 1870-
Title:	David Chamberlin papers on John Eliot
ID:	4492644
Date [inclusive]:	1882 -- 1958
Physical Description:	0.5 linear feet 0.5 linear feet; 1 box
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	John Eliot, 1604-1690, was a Puritan minister and translator of the Bible into the Native American Algonquian language, originally published in 1663. His translation was the first Bible printed in North America. The collection, gathered by Eliot biographer David Chamberlain, includes articles, illustrations, photographs, pamphlets and correspondence related to Eliot's work, as well as the 300th Anniversary of Massachusetts.

Preferred Citation

Item description, MRL 10: David Chamberlin papers on John Eliot, 1882-1958, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

John Eliot, born in England 1604, studied at Jesus College, Cambridge University and graduated in 1622. In 1631, Eliot traveled to New England and was ordained the following year in Roxbury, Massachusetts, where he soon became minister of the First Church of Roxbury. Eliot began studying the Massachusetts language in 1646 with the help of a Native American captive from the Pequot War. This language was a highly inflected Algonquian dialect. In 1650, Eliot gathered his converts into one settlement or "praying town" called Natick, on a tract of two-thousand acres on the Charles River, eighteen miles southwest of

Roxbury. Residing at this location were Nonantum, Neponset, Musketaquid and Nipmuck Indians.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Eliot spent years translating the Bible, which culminated in the publication of the Old and New Testament in 1663. Eliot's translation was the first Bible printed in North America. He continued to translate Christian literature for the Native Americans, including Baxter's Call to the Unconverted and other practical books; prepared an Indian catechism; Psalter; Indian Primer; and The Indian Grammar Begun. Eliot is perhaps better known as one of the translators behind the publication of the famous Bay Psalm book, published in Cambridge, Mass in 1647. Eliot died in 1690.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

David Chamberlin, born in 1870, was a secretary of the London Missionary Society and biographer of John Eliot, John Smith, John Mackenzie, and David Livingstone, among others. His biography of Eliot, *Eliot of Massachusetts, the apostle to the Indians*, was published by an independent press in London in 1928.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

This series contains secondary material on John Eliot collected by Eliot biographer David Chamberlin, including articles and publications, illustrations, photographs, and pamphlets related to Eliot's life and pastoral work, Native Americans, and other people and buildings from Eliot's time period. This series also contains material related to the 300th anniversary of the state of Massachusetts, as well as selections of Chamberlin's correspondence in the course of his research on Eliot.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one series by format.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

xml instance created by Cecile Queffelec EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. EAD spot checked and corrected and description (including collection title) updated by Leah Edelman. 2014-03-27 2019-05-20 2020-06-26

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Onsite storage.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Formerly part of the independent Missionary Research Library (MRL), these records were received on November 4, 1964, and were accessioned by the Burke Library at the time of the MRL's closure in 1976.

Processing Information

Letters, articles, clippings, and photographs were cataloged by Lynn A. Grove on 1988-08-02. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders. Acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed. Preservation photocopying of newspaper clippings for retention of information was performed. Photographs were sleeved with Mylar. Collection contains one nitrate negative which was placed in acid-free

paper and enclosed in an acid-free paper envelope. The finding aid was created by Brigitte Kamsler in 2011 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation, and edited (including collection title) by Leah Edelman in 2020.

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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Materials

The Burke Library holds a copy of the Bible translated by John Eliot and Job Nesutan, from the authorized version and the Bay Psalm Book, commonly called the Eliot Indian Bible. See <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/4548166>.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Photographic prints
- Clergy
- Eliot, John, 1604-1690

Burke Library record group:

Missionary Research Library Archives: MRL10, North America

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances	
Publications, pamphlets, and newspaper clippings	box 1	folder 1
Correspondence	box 1	folder 2
Histories	box 1	folder 3
Illustrations	box 1	folder 4
Photographs and related information	box 1	folder 5

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)