

Yale University Library
Yale Divinity Library

Guide to the D.T. Niles Papers

RG 260



Mary N.S. Richardson

2014

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New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-5301

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<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
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New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-5301
divinity.library@yale.edu
<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

CALL NUMBER: RG 260

CREATOR: Niles, D. T. (Daniel Thambyrajah), 1908-1970

TITLE: D.T. Niles Papers

DATES: 1907-1970

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: This collection documents the life of D.T. Niles (1908-1970) who was a Sri Lankan Methodist minister, ecumenical leader, and evangelist. Niles held several positions in ecumenical leadership including Chairman of the Youth Department of the World Council of Churches, Chairman of the World Student Christian Federation, and General Secretary for the East Asia Christian Conference. The collection include correspondence and collected materials relating to Niles' work and personal life.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.260>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.260>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Niles papers were received with the archives of the Christian Conference of Asia. His personal papers were separated while the records relating to his leadership role in CCA remain in that collection (Record Group No. 237).

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

D.T. Niles Papers (RG 260), Special Collections, Yale Divinity Library.

Processing Information

Place names were modernized in the description, with the name originally used in the collection material or in an older version of the finding aid in parenthesis: e.g. "Beijing (Peking)" or "Benin (Dahomey)".

Biographical / Historical

Chronology

- 1908 May 4 ○ Daniel Thambirajah Niles was born in Tellippalai, Sri Lanka (Ceylon), the son of W.D. Niles a district judge, and comes from a long line of ministers
- 1933 ○ Bachelor of Divinity from the United Theological College in India
- 1933-1936 ○ Taught at Jaffna Central College
- 1935 December 25 ○ Married Dulcie Solomons
- 1936 ○ Ordained and appointed District Evangelist of the North District of the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka (Ceylon)
- 1939-1940 ○ Evangelism Secretary of the World Alliance of YMCA in Geneva
- 1941-1945 ○ Secretary of the National Christian Council of Ceylon
- 1950-1953 ○ Pastor at Maradana, Colombo
- 1946-1950 ○ Pastor of the Methodist Church at Point Pedro
- 1949-1953 ○ First Chairman of the World Council of Churches' Youth Department
- 1953-1959 ○ Executive Secretary for the Department of Evangelism of the World Council of Churches
- 1953-1960 ○ Chairman of the World Student Christian Federation
- 1953-1961 ○ Principal of Jaffna Central College
- 1957-1968 ○ General Secretary of the East Asia Christian Conference
- 1959-1960 ○ H.E. Fosdick Professor of Union Theological Seminary, New York
- 1964-1968 ○ Chairman of the Methodist Churches in the northern district of Sri Lanka
- 1968-1970 ○ President of the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka
- 1970 July 17 ○ Niles died from cancer at the Vellore Mission Hospital in India. He was survived by his wife, Dulcie; two children Dr. Preman Niles and Rev. Wesley Dayalan Niles

Scope and Contents

This collection documents the life of D.T. Niles who was a noted author, ecumenical leader, and evangelist in Sri Lanka. It is predominantly comprised of correspondence that varies from the personal to the business of leadership in ecumenical circles. The collection also features a small amount of correspondence to Niles' wife, Dulcie Niles, and his father, W.D. Niles. The Collected materials series is comprised mostly of news clippings that document D.T. Niles' travels and speaking engagements as an ecumenical leader and evangelist. It also includes biographical information on Niles' grandfather, Daniel Poor Niles, obituaries, and book reviews of Niles published material.

Arrangement

- I. Correspondence
- II. Family Papers

Collection Contents

Correspondence

| | | |
|-------------|---|-----------------------|
| b. 1, f. 1 | Niles, Dulcie to Niles, D.T. | 1920-1970 |
| b. 1, f. 2 | Bullough, H. | 1925-1961 |
| b. 1, f. 3 | Cash, Percy | 1925-1966 |
| b. 1, f. 4 | Niles family: Mercy to Dulcie, Elsie, Jefam, W.P., Preman, Jayam, and Chewan | 1925-1967 |
| b. 1, f. 5 | Jayawardana, Pinto | 1925-1942 |
| b. 1, f. 6 | Lockwood, Arthur | 1928-1950 |
| b. 1, f. 7 | re. D.T. Niles entering study for ministry | 1928 |
| b. 1, f. 8 | Hudson, Anacca | 1931-1963 |
| b. 1, f. 9 | Marris, G. Stainton | 1932-1952 |
| b. 1, f. 10 | re. D.T. Niles between W.H. Niles and Middleton Weaver | 1933-1938 |
| b. 1, f. 11 | re. Niles' report to the Student Christian Association of India, Burma, and Ceylon on his work as the traveling secretary | 1933 |
| b. 1, f. 12 | Thorpe, W.H. | 1933-1946 |
| b. 1, f. 13 | Weaver, Middleton E. | 1934-1965 |
| b. 1, f. 14 | World Student Christian Federation | 1934-1941 |
| b. 1, f. 15 | Bookwalter, L.G. | 1936-1949 |
| b. 1, f. 16 | Miscellaneous letters to Niles, Dulcie | 1937-1970 |
| b. 1, f. 17 | Moulton, H.K. | 1937-1957 |
| b. 1, f. 18 | World Alliance of YMCA (mostly Tracy Strong) | 1937-1961 |
| b. 1, f. 19 | Andrews, C.F. | 1938 |
| b. 1, f. 20 | International Missionary Council (William Paton and John R. Mott) | 1938-1945 |
| b. 1, f. 21 | Methodist Missionary Society | 1938-1970 |
| b. 1, f. 22 | Jessop, Gilbert | 1938-1959 |
| b. 1, f. 23 | Baker, Elizabeth | 1939-1941 |
| b. 1, f. 24 | Conference of Missionary Societies in Great Britain and Northern Ireland | |
| b. 1, f. 25 | Dore, Margaret | 1939-1970 |
| b. 1, f. 26 | Letters from various publishers | 1939-1964, undated |
| b. 1, f. 27 | Letters from various people in the United Kingdom to W.D. Niles re. D.T. Niles' trip | 1939-1940 |

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| b. 1, f. 28 | Letters sent by D.T. Niles to W.D. Niles describing his travels in the United Kingdom | 1939-1940 |
| b. 1, f. 29 | ?, Muriel | 1939-1942 |
| b. 1, f. 30 | Van Dusen, H.P. | 1939-1943 |
| b. 1, f. 31 | World Council of Churches | 1939-1955 |
| b. 1, f. 32 | Occasional correspondence | 1940-1959 |
| b. 2, f. 33 | Europe YMCA | 1940 |
| b. 2, f. 34 | re. visits to United States of America includes news clippings and papers | 1940 |
| b. 2, f. 35 | Bunker, Syd | 1942-1949 |
| b. 2, f. 36 | American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions | 1943 |
| b. 2, f. 37 | Jackson, G. Basil | 1945-1947 |
| b. 2, f. 38 | Cornish, H.R. | 1946-1957 |
| b. 2, f. 39 | Noble, W.J. | 1946-1968 |
| b. 2, f. 40 | Wilson, J.R. | 1946-1949 |
| b. 2, f. 41 | Nelson, Robert | 1947-1959 |
| b. 2, f. 42 | Mendis, George | 1948-1968 |
| b. 2, f. 43 | Newton, M.I. | 1948-1968 |
| b. 2, f. 44 | D.T. Niles' visit to Europe and World Council of Churches Amsterdam Assembly | 1944 |
| b. 2, f. 45 | Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands | 1949-1960 |
| b. 2, f. 46 | re. visit to Australia. Includes brochures and news clippings. | 1951-1952 |
| b. 2, f. 47 | Baker, A.J. Kendall | 1952-1954 |
| b. 2, f. 48 | Garret, John | 1952-1956 |
| b. 2, f. 49 | re. visit to New Zealand. Includes news clippings | 1952 |
| b. 2, f. 50 | Deschner, John | 1955-1960 |
| b. 2, f. 51 | Newbigin, Lesslie | 1958-1967 |
| b. 2, f. 52 | de Soysa, Harold | 1958-1968 |
| b. 2, f. 53 | From Dayalan Niles to parents | 1959-1960 |
| b. 2, f. 54 | re. Niles' appointment as the Harry Emerson Fosdick Visiting Professor at Union Theological Seminary | 1959-1960 |
| b. 2, f. 55 | re. 25th anniversary of D.T. Niles' ministry | 21 May 1960 |
| b. 2, f. 56 | Princeton spring lectures includes program | 1962 |

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|-------------|---|-----------|
| b. 2, f. 57 | Manikam, R. B. | 1966 |
| b. 2, f. 58 | From D.T. Niles to Dulcie Niles | 1968 |
| b. 2, f. 59 | Niles, Dulcie (during D.T. Niles' last illness). Includes misc correspondence. | 1970 |
| b. 2, f. 60 | Bereavement letters sent to Dulcie Niles upon D.T. Niles' death | 1970 |
| b. 2, f. 61 | Letters to Dulcie Niles including funeral service program for D.T. Niles | 1970 |
| b. 2, f. 62 | Letters to Preman and Dayalan Niles after the death of their mother, Dulcie Niles | 1970 |
| b. 1, f. 7a | Miscellaneous correspondents | 1929-1939 |

Collected materials

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|-------------|---|---------------------|
| b. 2, f. 63 | Notebook, notes, life sketch, and papers of appreciation of D.P. Niles | 1907, 1916 |
| b. 2, f. 64 | Tribute to Daniel Poor Niles by his son, W.D. Niles, letters of condolences, and obituaries | 1916 |
| b. 2, f. 65 | Certificates, diplomas, and testimonials of D.T. Niles | 1934-1956 |
| b. 3, f. 66 | News clippings re. D. T. Niles' career | 1937-1964 |
| b. 3, f. 67 | Student Christian movement of India, Burma, and Ceylon conference program and news clippings | 1937 |
| b. 3, f. 68 | Reviews of D.T. Niles' books | 1938-1968 |
| b. 3, f. 69 | Reviews of D.T. Niles' books | 1938-1968 |
| b. 3, f. 70 | Tambaran team visit to the United Kingdom. Includes news clippings, programs, report, and scrapbook. | 1938-1939 |
| b. 3, f. 71 | Ceylon Bible Study Conference news clippings | 1940 July 16 |
| b. 3, f. 72 | <i>A Desiring to be United Church</i> report by the Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Ceylon, presented at the annual meeting of the council | 1943 March 27 |
| b. 3, f. 73 | Nathaniel Niles: biographical information and news clippings | 1941, 1948, undated |
| b. 3, f. 74 | World Council of Churches Amsterdam Assembly opening service program and report | 1948 |
| b. 3, f. 75 | D.T. Niles' visit to the USA. Includes program from Yale Divinity School 47th Convocation because Niles delivered the Beecher Lecture. | 1957 |
| b. 3, f. 76 | D.T. Niles' visit to United Kingdom news clippings, program, and handwritten note in Tamil | 1958 |
| b. 3, f. 77 | Biographical information on Nathaniel Niles and Jordan Lodge by D.T. Niles | 1965, undated |
| b. 3, f. 78 | Typescript article The Christian Mandate by D.T. Niles (published in The Pacific Journal of Theology, December 1969 no 33) | 1969 |
| b. 3, f. 79 | Obituaries for D.T. Niles | 1970 |
| b. 3, f. 80 | Tributes to D.T. Niles | 1970 |
| b. 3, f. 81 | Biography of Wesley Duraiappa Niles by G.C. Niles | undated |
| b. 3, f. 82 | Edited report re. YMCA and Student Christian Movement program | undated |
| b. 3, f. 83 | Notes of Dulcie Niles and report of travel to Geneva in unknown publication | undated |
| b. 3, f. 84 | Notes on "Poonamalee's message" | undated |
| b. 3, f. 85 | Photographs of D.T. Niles | undated |
| b. 3, f. 86 | Speeches of D.T. Niles | undated |
| b. 3, f. 87 | Student Christian Movement of Singapore draft report | undated |

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Church work with students
Ecumenists

Names

Niles, D. T. (Daniel Thambyrajah), 1908-1970