

# Guide to the D.T. Niles Papers

RG 260



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2014

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

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Yale Divinity Library  
409 Prospect Street  
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 includes 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>

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## 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

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## Administrative Information

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### 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).

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Preferred Citation

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

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## 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)".

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## Biographical / Historical

### Chronology

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|------------------|---|
| 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 |

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## 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.

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## 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

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

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

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

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## **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