



The Center  
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# FOCUS

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## RELIGION in the MODERN WORLD

Some Primary Source Texts on Christian Missions 3

Some Additional Sources on Missions 6

American Theological Library Association (ATLA) Collections on Microform 8

Some Resources on Islam and Judaism Held by CRL 9

Tibetan Language Resources 11



### *In This Issue*

This issue of *Focus* highlights primary source materials and documentation of religion in the modern world, specifically Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and Tibetan Buddhism. Here we present a wealth of material on the spread of religious thought in the modern world and about encounters between these great religious traditions.

Pertinent CRL holdings include the records of Christian missionaries to India, Africa, China, and Japan. The papers and reports of the Council for World Missions, Church Missionary Society, Woman's Mission Society, American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and other organizations reveal not only their religious aims but the civil institutions, such as schools and clinics, which they put in place. The reports are valuable portraits of non-Western societies as the missionaries found them, as well as mirrors of the interests and values of the missionaries, teachers, and medical workers themselves.

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*continued on next page*

On page 1: The second class of graduating kindergarteners and other children in a missionary-run school in Tokyo's Mukojima district. From [Wayside Sowing](#), CRL collections.

*continued from page 1*

Dissertations from Israeli universities, recently acquired by CRL, reflect relatively recent work by Israeli and Arab scholars on Judaism and its role in the Middle East. The present issue also features the important work of the American Theological Libraries Association (ATLA) and Adam Matthew Publications, two organizations actively identifying—and preserving in microfilm and digital form—critical materials for research on the history of modern religion.

—Bernard F. Reilly, Jr.  
*President*

## Some Primary Source Texts on Christian Missions



Detail of a China Inland Mission publication, from CRL collections.

Religious revivals in North America and the British Isles during the early and mid-19th century generated a surge in interest in overseas missions. The archives and publications of individuals and religious organizations from Great Britain and North America that undertook missions to then-remote regions like Africa, South and Southeast Asia, China, and Japan—as well as to disadvantaged populations in the U.S. and Canada—survive today and are held by a number of research libraries and archives.

CRL has a strong collection of published accounts of missionary travels and works. These materials provide a wealth of unique information about societies newly “discovered” by the West, as well as about the attitudes and proselytizing ambitions of Western Christians.

### Links to Selected Full Texts

*Thomas Adam, Missionary to Trinidad. The missionary’s farewell to an affectionate and destitute people: a sermon occasioned by the recal [sic] of the author, from the mission in the island of Trinidad, and preached in the town of Port of Spain. London: A.A. Paris, 1823.*

A pastor’s reflection on 12 years of mission work among the people of Trinidad. “In this place God has blessed many of you, in translating you from the kingdom of Satan into the kingdom

of his dear Son.” Adam invokes and describes recent natural disasters that devastated neighboring “colonies,” including the volcanic eruption on St. Vincent in May 1812 and the 1812 earthquake in Caracas, Venezuela, citing them as evidence “that the judgments of God were abroad in the earth.” He also expresses gratitude to his congregation for their support at the time of his own wife’s death, and also exhorts his congregation to approach death and adversity, such as the plague epidemic of 1817, with faith. The sermon puts strong emphasis on the afterlife and the idea of divine mercy.

*Macbrair, Robert Maxwell. A Grammar of the Mandingo Language with Vocabularies. London: Printed for the Wesleyan-Methodist Missionary Society [1837?].*

Produced for the use of English missionaries in West Africa Macbrair’s guide to the Mandinka language includes extensive information about the grammar and idioms of the language, copious vocabulary, and translations of a selection of Christian religious texts such as the Lord’s Prayer and Matthew XX: 1–17 in English and Mandinka.

The Mandingo is one of the most extensive languages of Western Africa. It not only prevails in various parts of the coast, south of the Senegal, but reaches interiorly towards the Niger and the mysterious Timbuctoo. It is spoken by all the native tribes settled on the banks

of the Gambia, and has been adopted by the roving hordes also which frequent the neighbourhood of this noble river.

*William Campbell, Missionary to India. British India: The Land of Promise and the Field of Missions: A sermon delivered before the London Missionary Society . . . May 10, 1838 London, Hamilton, Adams, and Co., 1838.*

Unlike other early British missionaries to India, who sought to impose English as the language of education in the crown colony, the Reverend William Campbell advocated teaching in the vernacular. In his 1838 sermon he invokes the Christian tradition of sacrifice and martyrdom as imitation of the redemptive suffering of Christ, and the need to spread the “universal empire” of Christianity.

*American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. Select Committee on the Deputation to India. Report of the Special Committee on the Deputation to India. New York: J. A. Gray's Fire-Proof Printing Office, 1856.*

The report lays out the ideology of American Protestant missionaries on the eve of the American Civil War. It reports on debate on the goals and effectiveness of schools run by the missionaries for Tamils in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and Southern India, and includes letters from heads of various mission schools in Indian and Ceylon. Also discussed are the relative merits of teaching English versus Tamil, and the place of education itself in the work of conversion and missions. “We are brought now to the chief question of missions: What place, *relatively*, shall we assign to the *preacher*, the *teacher*, and the *book*?”

Resolved, the oral utterance of the Gospel, in public and private, is the chief instrumentality for the conversion of the world. Resolved, That education and the press are to be employed as auxiliary agencies, in forms and methods, and in a relative proportion to the chief instrumentality, to be determined by the circumstances of each particular mission.

The author asserts that “If the highest object is to educate and civilize, the education and civilization will not be worth having.”

*Samuel Adjai Crowther. Niger Mission: Bishop Crowther's Report of the Overland Journey from Lokoja to Bida, on the River Niger, and Thence to Lagos, on the Sea Coast. From November 10th, 1871 to February 8, 1872. London: Church Missionary House, 1872.*

Crowther (1807–1891) was a linguist and the first African bishop in the Anglican Church.

The Niger Mission of the Church Missionary Society must be regarded with peculiar interest by all the friends of Missions, especially those of the Church of England, inasmuch as it is an offshoot of the West-African Mission, entirely conducted by native teachers, catechists, deacons, and priests, with a native bishop at their head. . . . Bishop Crowther has sent home his journal of this second visit to Bida, and of his journey overland to Lagos, which conveys such a graphic account of the country and of the favourable disposition of King Masaba and other Mahometan Kings towards the Queen of England, as well as so much evidence of the gradual growth of the native Church.

CRL also holds Crowther's 1852 *A Vocabulary of the Yoruba Language*.

**Description of the “Chinese Empire” from the China Inland Mission Papers, ca. 1849.**

The *China Inland Mission Papers* from the *School of Oriental and African Studies* document missionary activities and communications in China from the 1840s through the early 20th century, document the evangelistic efforts of the British organization, while providing a glimpse of societies and culture in China during the period immediately following the Opium Wars and the opening of the country to Westerners. The papers are among the many mission-related archives in the U.K. microfilmed by **Adam Matthew Publications**. (See page 7 in *Some Additional Sources*.) Among

the *China Inland Mission Papers* is a brief written account of the geography, people, religion, and customs of the territories believed to be controlled by China at mid-century. The “Chinese Empire” included China proper and Japan, Manchuria, Korea, Mongolia, Tibet, and much of Southeast Asia.

The document illustrates the extensive system of intelligence-gathering in remote regions established by the missions, providing new and valuable information about areas long closed to Westerners. The handwritten report lays out for prospective missionaries to the East the landscape they would expect to encounter. One of the indigenous peoples described here are the “Laos.”

The Laos are a scattered race, serving many masters. They inhabit all the interior of the peninsula beyond the Ganges, from the northern frontiers of Siam to the boundaries of Yunnan. Those in the South own the Siamese monarch for their liege lord, those in the west the Birmahs, those in the north the Chinese, and only a few tribes of the central parts are independent. They are a simple hearted people, Buddhists by profession, patient and docile, with a literature of their own.

*Viau, Raphaël. The Poor Lepers. Paris, 1898.*

This pamphlet discusses the establishment of leper hospitals in the Seychelles, Japan, and Burma by Catholic Franciscan missionaries and nuns, and in particular describes the efforts of Franciscan nuns working in Japan and appeals for funds and medical assistance (“nurses”) to create a new hospital there. The text includes a graphic description of the leper colony at the village of Nakaomaru, the “city of the lepers,” and the labors of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary there.

**Thirtieth Annual Report of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, Canada. 1910–1911. Toronto: William Briggs Methodist Book and Publishing House.**

Proselytizing was often combined with education, notably for women and

girls, and with medical and relief work among remote, indigenous populations. The Woman's Missionary Society was established in the Wesleyan Ladies' College, Hamilton, Ontario in 1881. Field reports included here chronicle the various mission activities of the society in Japan (boarding schools and orphanages at Tokyo (Kanazawa)) and China (schools, orphanages, and hospitals in "Chengtu, Luchow, Kiating, Jenshow, Chungking"), as well as their "Oriental Home and School" for Japanese and Chinese Americans in Victoria, British Columbia and Japanese Mission in Vancouver. They also describe work among the Japanese in the mining camps on Vancouver Island; children's homes, schools, and hospitals for Native Americans in various parts of British Columbia, including Kitimat, Chilliwack, Bella Bella, Port Simpson, Cross Lake, and Morley; schools, children's homes, and missions operated for French, Syrians, Poles, Romanians, Austrians, Hungarians, and Jews in Quebec, Edmonton, and various parts of Canada; relief work in Nova Scotia, Labrador, and Newfoundland; and a mission for Italian immigrants in Toronto.

Of the Italian children in the kindergarten of the Italian Mission:

They form one of the most interesting sights one can see on any school morning, their bright little minds unconsciously absorbing Canadian ideals. The love and care lavished on them by the teachers and

other workers is preparing them to be Christian Canadian citizens of the right type, and the kindergartens have proved to be an 'open sesame' to the hearts of the mothers.

The annual report includes copious information about the fundraising and finances of the organization. Among the extensive listings of officers and contributors are such revealing cost items such as the French Institute in Montreal's expenditures on a "potatoe peeling machine," "traveling and streetcars," and a "new Hypoplate blackboard" acquired for the Crosby Girls' Home for Native Americans in Port Simpson.

*Bauernfeind, Susan M. Wayside Sowing: an Illustrated Story of the Work in Mukojima, Tokyo. Cleveland: The Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association, 191-?.*

Susan Bauernfeind's work among the 3,500 women and girls employed in the mills of the Kanegafuchi Spinning Company in Mukojima. The Kanegafuchi Company was one of the industrial giants that emerged in Japan with the growth of its domestic knit fabric industry during the late 19th century. Mass production transformed the spinning industry from a home and workshop enterprise to a factory setting, employing thousands of young women and girls in a setting largely unregulated by the government. The book presents a positive picture of the Kanegafuchi

company and the working and living conditions at its mill.

The sole purpose of the author in the publication of this book is to make known and preserve the story of the manifestly providential beginnings of the work of the Evangelical Association in the Mukojima district of Tokyo. ❖



View of the Sumida River landing in Tokyo's Mukojima district. From *Wayside Sowing*. CRL collections.

## Some Additional Sources on Missions



Detail plan of a Native American village dated October 22, 1757 in “Moravian mission records among the North American Indians from the archives of the Moravian Church, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.” From CRL collections.

### Links to Catalog Records

#### [Moravian Mission Records among the North American Indians, 1735–1900](#)

The *Moravian Mission Records* document the activities and observations of the workers in the Moravian Mission and among the Delaware Indians, in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Canada, Indiana, and Kansas; and among the Mohicans in New York and Connecticut; and the Cherokees in Georgia and Oklahoma. The records include diaries, church registers, catalogs of missionary records, and correspondence held in the archives of the Moravian Church in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Most of the records are in German script, although a substantial amount of English also appears.

On 40 reels of microfilm produced by Research Publications. OCLC # 25340694.

#### [The Archives of the Council for World Missions, 1775–1940](#)

The records of the London Missionary Society and the Commonwealth Missionary Society (which later merged to become the Congregational Council for World Missions) are among the earliest archives on missionary work, with correspondence files dating back to the 18th century. The original archives are held by the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. The records are arranged by geographic area, as described in

the extensive *Inventory of the archives online guide*.

On 23,398 microfiche produced by IDC Publishers. OCLC #13949021a.

#### [International Missionary Council and the Conference of British Missionary Societies Archives: Africa and India, 1910–1945](#)

These are records of the International Missionary Council and the Conference of British Missionary Societies. An inventory of manuscripts is included in the set.

On 2,336 microfiche produced by IDC Publishers. OCLC # 24149489.

#### [Methodist Missionary Society Archives, 1791–1948](#)

This set includes minutes, reports, and correspondence in manuscript and type-script of the Primitive Methodist Missionary Society, which merged with the United Methodist Missionary Society in 1932 to form the Methodist Missionary Society. CRL holds the sections of the archives relating to Africa, China, South Asia, and the West Indies.

On 24,281 microfiche produced by IDC Publishers. OCLC # 20671919.

#### [American Missionary Association Archives](#)

This microfilm collection of approximately 350,000 manuscript items relates to the missionary work of the American Missionary Association. The

AMA was established in 1846 to end slavery in the American South, educate African Americans, promote racial equality, and “send the Gospel to those portions of our own and other countries which are destitute of it, or which present open and urgent fields of effort.” In the late 1800s and early 1900s the interdenominational, evangelical organization sought to enable African Americans to enjoy the rights of citizenship and established elementary schools and eventually normal schools and colleges. Most of the papers in the collection date from 1839 through 1882, and are arranged by place of origin—by state or foreign country.

On 261 microfilm reels produced for the Amistad Research Center, Tulane University, New Orleans. OCLC # 9560746.

### *Missionary Periodicals from the China Mainland*

CRL holds in microfilm a number of journals published by Protestant missionary groups, mostly in the first half of the 20th century, such as the National Christian Council, Christian Society for China, and China Central Conference of the Methodist Church. Titles from this collection held by CRL include a number of journals published in Shanghai:

- *The China Christian Advocate* (1914–1941)
- *The China Christian Year Book* (1926–1939)
- *The China Mission Year Book* (1910–1925)
- *The China Medical Journal* (1907–1931)
- *The China Medical Missionary Journal* (1887–1907).

### *Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, 1833–1911*

This microfilm set features correspondence and reports of the Presbyterian Church in the United States. A Board of Foreign Missions documents the

educational, evangelical, and medical work of the Presbyterian missionaries in Latin America, Africa, Middle East, South Asia, Southeast Asia, China, Japan, Korea, and the Philippines. CRL currently has the records for the Iran, Syria-Lebanon, and India missions.

On 292 microfilm reels produced by Scholarly Resources Inc. OCLC # 38086289.

### *China Inland Mission, 1865–1951, Parts 1–2*

The China Inland Mission was an interdenominational Protestant missionary society founded in 1865. Its archives include the papers of founder James Hudson Taylor (1832–1905) as well as the journals and letters of others who traveled and served as missionaries in China from the opening of China in the wake of the Opium Wars to the expulsion of missionaries in 1951. They describe the peoples and their languages, culture, religions, politics, and governments. The collections afford researchers accounts of such important events as the Boxer Rebellion and the riots in Shanghai that occurred in the late 19th century.

The original papers reside at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. The complete collection is available on microfilm from [Adam Matthew Publications](#). OCLC # 84993403.

### *Church Missionary Society Archive*

In addition to the missionary records from [Africa](#), CRL holds portions of the Church Missionary Society Archives microfilmed by [Adam Matthew Publications](#) for other parts of the world. Portions of the collection currently held by CRL include:

- Section I. East Asia Missions: records of missions to Japan and China, from the 1830s through 1949.
- Section II. Missions to Women: including papers of the Society for Promoting Female Education (FES) in China, India and the East, 1834–

1899; journals including *Homes of the East*, 1910–1948; (including *Torchbearer* from 1914); *Daybreak*, 1889, 1893–1894, and 1906–1909; *The Indian Female Evangelist*, 1872–1880; *The Indian Female Evangelist* and successors, 1881–1956, (including *The Zenana: or, Woman’s Work in India*, 1893–1935; *The Zenana: Women’s Work in India and Pakistan*, 1936–1956); Minutes of the Zenana, Medical and Bible Mission, 1865–1937; and the Annual Reports of the Indian Female Normal School and Instruction Society, 1863–1879.

- Section III. Central records: including the annotated register of CMS missionaries; various publications and CMS Minutes, 1799–1876.
- Section V. Americas: covering the West Indies, 1819–1861; North West Canada, 1821–1930.
- Section VI. India: including India General, 1811–1815 and North India Mission, 1815–1886; North India Mission, 1844–1886; South India Mission, 1815–1884; and South India Mission, 1834–1880.

Microfilm of the complete collection is available from [Adam Matthew Publications](#). See also [publisher’s introduction and section guides](#). ❖

## American Theological Library Association (ATLA) Collections on Microform



The American Theological Library Association is a non-profit organization that for over 60 years has been providing access to the scholarly literature of religion and preserving it for future generations. In 1957, recognizing the rapid rate of deterioration of 19th and early 20th century monographs and journals in religion, ATLA established its Serials Preservation Program. To date, ATLA has coordinated the filming of more than 3,200 journals and since 1985 ATLA's Monograph Preservation Program has preserved more than 30,000 core titles in religion. This work has been carried out with the support of individual libraries, library consortia, and grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and other agencies.

### Some Notable ATLA Preservation Collections

#### *Religious Periodical Literature of the Hispanic and Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, 1850–1985*

This collection targets periodicals devoted to Hispanic and Indigenous religion in North and Latin America, published during the period 1850–1985. The literature is significant for understanding the long history of religious traditions among Indigenous peoples in the Americas and for understanding the more recent growth and development of new movements in Hispanic religious traditions. The preservation work for this grant is still underway.

#### *African American Religious Serials, 1850–1950*

The titles included are foundational for understanding the development of the African American church in the 20th century. Supplementing the periodical literature are titles from two other key areas: (1) annual reports and publications of African American churches and (2) reports from African American social service agencies.

#### *Christianity's Encounter with World Religions, 1850–1950*

This collection is representative of non-Christian, missionary, and syncretistic religious journals documenting three areas:

1. the dramatic commitment to missions that North American churches demonstrated at the turn of the 19th century;
2. the initial journals available in North America representing the theological

viewpoint of non-Western religions; and

3. titles that chronicle Western and non-Western religions.

Follow this link to [ATLA's catalog](#). ❖

### *Cooperative Digital Resources Initiative (CDRI): Open Access Digital Teaching Resources on Religion*

The Cooperative Digital Resources Initiative (CDRI) of ATLA and the Association of Theological Schools is a repository of open access digital resources contributed by ATLA member libraries. The CDRI database provides access to digital images of woodcuts, photographs, slides, papyri, coins, maps, postcards, manuscripts, lithographs, sermons, shape-note tune books, and various other forms of Christian art, architecture, and iconography.

Access to CDRI is free: <http://www.atla.com/digitalresources/>

For further information, please contact [sales@atla.com](mailto:sales@atla.com).

## Some Resources on Islam and Judaism Held by CRL



Title page detail from *Mizrakli ilm-I hal*, a 1902 book of doctrines, catechisms, and creeds. Published in Istanbul. From CRL collections.

*Arabic Manuscripts in the British Library—Islamic Mysticism & Philosophy. Microfiche published by IDC Publishers*

Because printing came late to the Middle East, relatively few of the key Arabic texts for Islamic Studies have ever been printed. Hence manuscript sources are particularly important in this field of study. This large British Library microfiche set reproduces works of Muslim philosophers in all fields of philosophical study, as well as various versions of key Greek texts and commentaries on same. Works address teachings on morality and conduct, both personal and public.

### *Islamic Studies and Journals from India and Pakistan*

CRL has collected from various sources assorted recent English- and South Asian-language books and journals on the topic of Islamic practice and law and political Islam, many of which were produced in Pakistan and India. Some examples:

- *Al-Islam*. Karachi: Published by the Holy Qur'an Society, May 1953–1958.
- Muhammad Ayyub Khan. *What is Islam?* Lahore: al-Ikhwan Idara Tablighi-Islam, 1979.
- Maryam Jameelah. *Islam and Orientalism*. Lahore, Pakistan: Mohammad Yusuf Khan & Sons, 1981.
- Moin Shakir. *Islam in Indian Politics*. Delhi: Ajanta Publications, 1983.

- Amalendu De. *Islam in Modern India*. Calcutta: Maya Prakashan, 1982.
- Mustafa Saba'i (Sibai). *Dīn-i Islām men sunnat o ḥadis kā maqām talīf, Muṣṭafā Ḥasnī al-Sabā'ī al-Shāmī; tarjūmah, Aḥmad Ḥasan Ṭonkī; naẓar-i ṣānī o tarmīn, ta'liqāt, Muḥammad Idrīs Mīrāthī*. Karachi: Sho'bah-yi taṣnīf O talīf, Madrasah-yi 'Arabiyyah Islāmiyyah, 1976.
- Pi. E. Rahmān. *Kēppittalisam, sōṣyālisam, Islām*. Calicut (Kozhikode): Kērala Islāmīk Akkādami, 1981.
- Muḥammad Salīm. *Islām kā nazariyyah-yi ta'lim* Tanzīm-i A'satizah-yi Pākistān; Lahore: milne kā patah, al-Badr Pablikeshanz, 1978? On the educational system of Islam.
- Sayyid Muḥammad Maṭīn Hāshmi. *Islām hudud* Pinḍī Bhaṭṭiyān, Zila' Gūjānvālagh: Shu'bah-yi Taṣniif o Tālīf, Anjuman-i Iṣlāhulmuslimīn; Lahore: sol ejant, Kutub Khānah Shān-i Islām, 1978.  
A treatise on Islamic criminal law.

### [Dissertations on Islam and the Middle East](#)

The CRL Islam and the Middle East list includes a selection of dissertations and theses on this subject available through interlibrary loan. These materials cover a broad range of topics regarding Islamic society, history, and culture in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Indonesia,

and China. Subject matter includes Western perceptions of Islam, Arab-Israeli relations, economic development, public policy, literature, and Islamic law in these regions.

All were produced at either U.K. or European universities, many by scholars and students of public policy and economics from Arab countries. With few exceptions the dissertations were written between 1970 and 2001.

*One way in which CRL supports advanced research and teaching in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences is by acquiring special collections identified by librarians and scholars at member institutions through the annual Purchase Proposal Program.*

*Topics in Jewish and Israel Studies:  
Doctoral Dissertations from Israeli  
Universities*

One way in which CRL supports advanced research and teaching in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences is by acquiring special collections identified by librarians and scholars at member institutions through the annual Purchase Proposal Program. In 2006, University of Maryland librarians Yelena Luckert and Desider Viktor sought CRL's help in obtaining access to

dissertations from Israel to support the interests of those in the university's Jewish Studies Program. In response CRL acquired through its Purchase Proposal Program, a collection of doctoral dissertations from a number of Israeli universities including Bar Ilan University, Hebrew University, Tel Aviv University and the University of Haifa. Additionally a standing order has been placed to continue to receive dissertations from an Israeli vendor. The acquired materials focus on Jewish literature and culture, Israeli history and politics, and other aspects of Israeli studies. Examples of the titles acquired are:

- *Animal Imagery in Wisdom Literature*
- *Encounters between Jews and Arabs in Israel*
- *Narrative Techniques in Mishnaic Stories*
- *Psychological Deployment of Israeli Male Adolescents in Anticipation of Army Service*
- *Social Structure of the Israelite Society during the 8th–7th Centuries BCE According to Archeological Evidence*
- *Ways of Life, Division of Labour and Social Roles of Palestinian Refugee Families: the Case of Dheisheh Refugee Camp.*

Follow this link for a list of [social sciences and humanities dissertations](#). These works were acquired through [CRL's acquisition programs](#). ❖

## Tibetan Language Resources



Symbolic depiction of perfect wisdom, from *Bla ma'i rnal 'byor byin rlabs nin byed*, a Tibetan monograph on guru yoga practice. From CRL collections.

### Public Law 480 Acquisitions

The Special Foreign Currency Program for libraries, popularly known as Public Law 480, was instituted in 1962 through an amendment to the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act, passed originally in 1954. A key objective of the law was to increase consumption of U.S. agricultural products by enabling selected countries to purchase goods using their own currency. The accrued foreign currencies were then used to purchase books, periodicals, and documents from those countries for deposit in U.S. research libraries.

In 1969 CRL became a full participant in the PL 480 program and began receiving titles in all fields except for those collected by the National Library of Medicine and National Agricultural Library. CRL's Tibetan language collections were acquired through PL 480 transactions with India under the Wheat Loan Program.

The inventory of religious materials accessible through CRL includes a significant collection of Tibetan religious texts, estimated at 2,500 titles, most of which are preserved in the traditional oblong *sadhana* format. CRL's holdings were acquired through the Special Foreign Currency Program for libraries, popularly known as Public Law 480 (see sidebar), over a 20-year period starting in 1969.

The vast majority of CRL's Tibetan language items focus on Tibetan Buddhism, also referred to as Vajrayana or Tantric Buddhism, and encompass the broad spectrum of Buddhist thought ranging from cosmology and physics, to ethics, logic, medicine, art, karma, and reincarnation. Holdings consist of materials in three formats—books, oversize volumes, and *sadhana* texts—and are derived primarily from the four major lineages of Tibetan Buddhism: Nyingma, Kagyu, Sakya, and Geluk. However, the collection includes numerous materials on the religious traditions and practices of the indigenous Bon culture and Tibetan versions of classical Buddhist texts, treatises, and commentaries from India and beyond.

### Manuscript Reproductions

CRL's collection is comprised entirely of Public Law 480 reproductions and photographic copies, many of which were produced under the auspices of the Li-

brary of Congress and local publishing houses in India, as noted in English on flyleaf pages throughout the collection. Many rare items, such as an astrological work by Sans Rgyas Mtsho, Sde Srid (1653–1705), were reproduced from tracings of the original wood-blocks that were held in a personal library at the time.

### Some examples of CRL Tibetan language materials

- Rare holdings of the writings of Acharya Nāgārjuna, arguably the most influential Buddhist thinker after Buddha, including letters, treatises, and medical tracts.
- Biographies of revered Tibetan Buddhist spiritual masters such as the Dalai Lama, Karmapa, Panchen Lama, and lesser known and obscure saints and spiritual luminaries such as Padmasambhava, Tsongkhapa, Karma Lingpa, and many others.
- *Dol-po Tshal-Mkha*, an 11-volume Bonpo canonical work.
- *Encyclopedia Tibetica*—a 137 volume, oversize opus with a table of contents in Tibetan and English. ❖



# The Center for Research Libraries

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The Center supports advanced research and teaching in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences by ensuring the survival and availability of the knowledge resources vital to those activities.*

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