

Hope College

Hope College Digital Commons

Collection Registers and Abstracts

Archives and College History

June 2013

W88-0095. Piet, John H. (1914-1992). Papers, 1940-1992. 12.50 linear ft.

Western Theological Seminary

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/collection_registers



Part of the [Archival Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Repository citation: Western Theological Seminary, "W88-0095. Piet, John H. (1914-1992). Papers, 1940-1992. 12.50 linear ft." (2013). *Collection Registers and Abstracts*. Paper 647.
https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/collection_registers/647
June 25, 2013.

This Register is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives and College History at Hope College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Collection Registers and Abstracts by an authorized administrator of Hope College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@hope.edu.

W88-0095. Piet, John H. (1914-1992).
Papers, 1940-1992. 12.50 linear ft.



Abstract

Hope College class of 1936; Western Theological Seminary class of 1939. Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary class of 1952. Minister of the Reformed Church in America, missionary to India, 1940-1960; professor of English Bible and Missions, Western Theological Seminary, 1960-1984; observer to the Joint Committee on Presbyterian Reunion and material concerning teaching religion in the public schools. Published articles and pamphlets; addresses include "Bristol and Decision for Church Union," 1967, "Race Relations at Home and the World Mission of the Church," and "The Purpose of Theological Education in the Reformed Church."

Accession No.: W88-0095
Donor: John H. Piet
Provenance: John H. Piet
Photographs: 340 images (297 slides; 27 Oversize) (Boxes 6-8)
Processed by: Larry J. Wagenaar, February 1992
Russell Norden, May 1997
Leon Witteveen, September 1998
Elaine Bruins, July 2010

Biography

John Henry Piet was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on September 2, 1914, son of Reinder Piet. While growing up, Piet and his family were members of Eighth Reformed Church in Grand Rapids. He graduated from Hope College in 1936, attended Princeton Theological Seminary 1936-1937, and received his B.D. from Western Theological Seminary in 1939. Following his departure from Holland, he completed an S.T.M. at the Kennedy School of Missions at Hartford Seminary, Hartford, Connecticut, in 1940, and a Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1952 during his first furlough from the mission field. Piet was licensed by the Classis of Grand Rapids in 1939 and ordained by the Classis of New York in 1940.

Piet married his wife Wilma in 1939, just before they both took up studies at the Kennedy School of Missions. After graduation, they served in the American Arcot Mission in Vellore, South India, from 1940 to 1960. During his tenure in India, Piet pioneered Bible correspondence courses, which were effective in reaching those beyond the Arcot mission throughout India.

In 1960, John Piet joined the faculty at Western Theological Seminary as professor of English Bible and Missions. In 1965, one of several Bible study courses, "His Witnesses," was published. His other major writing includes *A Path Through the Bible*, which appeared in 1981.

Wilma Piet passed away suddenly on January 16, 1982. In 1983, Piet married Ann Bajema. After his retirement from the faculty in 1984, Piet accepted the invitation to become pastor of the Protestant congregation of Katmandu, Nepal. He served there from 1985 to 1987. In 1987, Piet became pastor of the Yokohama Union Church, which he served until 1989. At that time, Piet returned with his wife to Holland, Michigan. John Piet passed away at his home

on October 13, 1992.

Scope and Content

The John H. Piet papers consist of materials from 1940-1992. Included are addresses, bibliographies, biographical information, article and book manuscripts and reviews, sermons, teaching notebooks, and photographs. The 1998 addition includes material concerning his position as observer to the Joint Committee on Presbyterian Reunion and material concerning teaching religion in the public schools. The folders are arranged alphabetically by subject. Oversize photographs are in the Oversize listing at the end of this document.

Container List

Box 1

Addresses, 1945-1978, n.d.
Arcot Mission, RCA, 1953
Area Studies Application 1966
Articles, Published, 1944-1988, n.d. (2 folders)
Bible Correspondence Course
 "His Witnesses," 1957, 1965
 "Jesus Christ, the Redeemer," 1979
 "The Kingdom of Heaven," n.d.
 "The Light of Life," 1952
Bibliography
 Books on Religion, n.d.
 History of Religion, 1944-1945
 Theology and History of Missions, n.d.
 Writings of John H. Piet, n.d.
Biographical Materials, 1914-1992
Books
 "A Path through the Bible," (English), 1981
 "A Path through the Bible," (Tamil translation), 1988
 "The Road Ahead," 1970
 "Saiva Siddhanta Philosophy," 1952
Booklets
 "The Key to the Good News," 1974
 "Leaflet Evangelism," 1951
Book Reviews, 1951, 1970-1971, 1975, 1982, n.d.
Buddhism, 1971-1975
Calendar, March 1974
Christian Faith and Other Religions, 1974-1980
Church Bulletins, 1954-1989, n.d.
Communism Material, 1959-1965
Composition Book, n.d.

Correspondence
1941-1977 (6 folders)

Box 2

Correspondence (cont.)
1980-1992, n.d. (3 folders)
Correspondence and Criticism of Thesis of 1940, 1941
deKruif, Dr. Parl, 1956
Oosterhaven, M. Eugene, 1950-1951
“Crack! Crack! Crack!” short story by Dr. Piet, n.d.
Diplomas and Documents, 1939, 1940, 1956, 1974
Dissertation, “God’s Messengers” by S. Immanuel David, 1983
Eerdmans Publishing Co., Royalties, Contracts, Statements, Correspondence, 1969-1976
“Experiences of God Acting in My Life,” 1991-1992
Farewells from India, 1960
Fragments of Manuscripts with Comments, n.d.
“Hindu Worship and Ours,” a Worship Service and Program on India, 1961
India
“Americot Arcot Mission,” Centenary Souvenir, 1853-1953
“The Pilgrim Church,” by Marcus Ward, 1953
Voorhees College, Vellore, 1955-1956
Voorhees High School, Vellore, 1945
Welcome Address to John Piet, 1983
Women’s Missions (tracts), n.d.
Japan
“Good News,” Yokohama Union Church, November, 1987-May, 1989
The Kyodan Missionary Bulletin, 1989
Theatre Production, Handel’s “Messiah,” 1989
Yokohama Union Church and Tokyo Union Church, 1987, 1989
Joint Calvin Seminary and Western Seminary meeting, 1964
Joint Committee on Presbyterian Reunion
Agenda, Meeting in St. Louis, Mo., 1977
Booklets, “A Brief Statement of Belief”, 1962, and “The Nature of the Unity
We Seek”, 1978, P.C. U.S.
Booklet, “Book of Order, P.C.U.S., 1969-1970
Committee Reports, 1976-1981
Correspondence, 1976
Draft Copies
The Plan for Reunion of P.C.U.S. and P.C.U.S.A., 1978
The Plan, Final Edition, 1981 (2 folders)
Handwritten Notes, n.d.

Box 3

Joint Committee on Presbyterian Reunion (cont.)

Minutes

Meeting in Charlotte, N.C., 1978

Executive Committee Meeting, Charlotte, N.C., 1978

Meeting in Memphis, Tenn., 1980

Meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, 1981

Meeting in Memphis, Tenn., 1981

Newsletters, Covenant Fellowship of Presbyterians, 1978-1980

Responses from Presbyteries, 1979-1980

Journal, travelogue, December 11, 1940- September 20, 1943

Journal, Madrid, Spain, August 15, n.d.

Journal/Notes, n.d.

Journals, July 24-October 6, 1974

Leaflets, Tracts, Short Bible Studies, 1944-1965

Lectures

“The Bible,” n.d.

“The Boundary of Revelation,” n.d.

“A Second Way to Think About the Church,” n.d.

Tokyo Union Seminary, 1987

“Where in the World is God?” n.d.

Lectures on communicating Christianity to other faiths, n.d.

Lecture Notes, Bound Notebooks

Apologetics, taught by J. Kuizenga, 1936

Church History, taught by Dr. A. Pieters and Dr. S. Nettinga, 1937-1939

Counter Reformation, The Church in the New World/The Modern Church
in Europe (Church History)/(Several Book Reviews-Term Papers for
Welmers), 1936-1939

History of Missions and Comparative Study of Religions, taught by Dr. Pieters,
1936-1939

Old Testament Notes, taught by Albertus Pieters, 1937

Old Testament Literature, 1938

Summer Reading, Notes, 1938

Lecture Notes

Apocalyptic Literature, 1939-1940

Christian Education 202, n.d.

Daniel, Book of, n.d. (2 folders)

Box 4

Lecture Notes (cont.)

Daniel and Revelation, 1972, n.d.

Gita, 1958

Gospel of Matthew, 1973-1975 (2 folders)

Hinduism, 1963-1975

History of Religion—Communism, 1966

Islam, 1949-1970 (2 folders)
"Jesus Is Lord," 1986-1989
New Testament History, delivered to nursing staff and students at Woman's Hospital, Vellore, India, 1945 (folder 1 in English, folder 2 in Hindi)
Revelation, n.d. (2 folders)
Revelation, 1963-1970, n.d.
Revelation Interpretation, n.d.
Lecture Overhead Transparencies, n.d.
Manuscripts
"Key to the Key to the Hidden Treasures of God's Wisdom and Knowledge," n.d.
Lenten Devotional, n.d.

Box 5

Manuscripts (cont.)
"A Path Through the Bible" part 1 (earlier), n.d.
"A Path Through the Bible" part 2 (earlier), n.d.
"A Path Through the Bible" part 1 (later), n.d.
"A Path Through the Bible" part 2 (later), n.d.
"A Path Through the Old Testament," n.d.
"A Road Ahead," 1970
"Where in the World Is God?" Reformed Review, Spring 1974
Marriage Ceremonies, 1990, 1991, n.d.
Miscellaneous Notes and Writings, n.d.
Miscellaneous Papers, 1956-1975
Miscellaneous Publications and Periodicals, 1968-1989
Name Plate, n.d.
Notebooks
I (Articles and Correspondence), 1967-1981
II (Articles and Correspondence). 1951-1966
III (Articles and Correspondence), 1941-1977
IV (Articles and Correspondence), 1956-1967
V (Articles), 1950-1974 (2 folders)
VI (Articles and Correspondence), 1951-1980 (2 folders)
VII (Articles, etc.), 1962-1983

Box 6

Note Cards, Islam 1973
Notes on the Gospel of John, n.d.
Orange Notebooks, various articles, 1949-1979 (4 folders)
Order of Worship Liturgy, n.d.
Pamphlet, "Why I Believe God Raises the Dead," n.d.
Papers
"Deuteronomy," n.d.

“Doing Mission in God’s Way: One Hundred Years of Change and Constancy,”
1989

Dr. Radhakrishan, n.d.

“The Origin of Protestant Missions,” n.d.

“The Reformational Way of Thinking About the Church,” 1991

“South Indian Musalmans,” n.d.

“The Teachings of Sri Aurobindo,” n.d.

“The Theological Problem in the Relationship of Christian Mission to Other
Religions,” n.d.

“What I Owe to Lesslie Newbiggin” and related materials, n.d.

“Where in the World Is God and How Do We Know,” n.d.

Photographs, 1967, n.d. (6 images)

Photographs for “Secrets of the Heart Disclosed,” 1968 (10 images)

Piet, John J., Service of Ordination

Piet, Wilma, obituary

“Prayer of Today,” 1967-1968

RCA materials, 1969-1974

Recording Tape, untitled, n.d. (3 folders)

Reformed Review, A tribute to John H. Piet, 1984

Reunion of Presbyterian Church US and United Presbyterian Church-USA

Working Group Reports 1-12, 1973-1976

Sermons

Advent, 1972

Baptism, n.d.

Funerals

Mrs. Bernard Rottschafer, 1973

Gilbert J. Vanden Broek, 1982

“A Holy Call and A Healthy Mind,” 1983

“The Lord Is My Shepherd,” n.d.

Miscellaneous, 1987, n.d.

Ordination, 1940

Nepal, October 1984-August 1985 (3 folders)

Box 7

Sermons (cont.)

Nepal (cont.), September 1985-April 1987 (4 folders)

Ordinations of Seminary Graduates, 1981, 1984, n.d.

Japan, Yokohama Union Church, September 1987-August 1989 (7 folders)

Slides

China

April 1992 (37 images)

Spring 1992 (37 images)

April 1993 (36 images)

Christmas 1992 (38 images)

Sports Day 1992 (37 images)
Painters, Northeast Normal Students, Spring 1993 (37 images)
Changchun, China, 1992 (2 folders) (75 images)
Teaching of Religion in the Public Schools
Booklets
 "Religion and Public School Curriculum," 1972
 "Studying the Sacred in the Schools," 1976
Catalogs, 1976
Correspondence, 1974-1977
Guidebook and Guidelines, 1969, 1974-1975, n.d.
Ontario Department of Education, "World Religions," 1971
Thesis, "Bhakti in Vaishnavism and Saivism," 1940 (bound volume)
Wooden Plaque, n.d.
Writing Class, notes, 1975

Box 8

Metal plate that reads, "Arcot Seminary Vellore" with engravings, n.d.
Records (LP)
 Sermon delivered by Dr. Piet at 1st Reformed Church, Holland, 1955 (33 1/3 rpm)
 The Church of South India Liturgy, n.d. (33 1/3 rpm)

Box 9 (Oversized Photographs)

1. Mrs. John Piet distributing famine relief milk to the children in and around Mission Compound, Vellore. W88-MP0095.1-1.
2. Miss Kitty Ebenezer welcomes a village woman to the Pungannor Hospital as a patient; the village husband looks on. W88-MP0095.1-2.
3. The preparation of rice prior to serving. 3,000 people were fed during the centenary celebrations, 1953. W88-MP0095.1-3
4. The preparation of rice for the centenary celebrations of the Arcot Mission, 1953. Over 3,000 people were fed three times each day by this process, and it took but one hour for each meal. W88-0095.1-4
5. An American Buddhist nun worshipping two Singalese students. W88-0095.1-5.
6. An American Buddhist nun at prayer in her hermitage in Kandy, Ceylon. W88-0095.1-6.
7. An American Buddhists nun prostrating before two Ceylon priests. W88-0095.1-7.
8. The distribution of famine relief wheat (or rice) to village teachers and their children. Rev. John Piet took a ton a week out to the village for the better part of two years. W88-0095.1-8.
9. The distribution of famine relief rice to Christian village teachers and their students. The supplies were evenly distributed in this way through the schools run by the church of South India to which Christians and non-Christians both come. W88-0095.1-9.

10. A Christian Indian wedding: Dr. and Mrs. Inbanathan were in the States some time ago. He is now the chaplain at the Christian Medical College, Vellore.
11. Miss Kitty Ebenezer reads the Bible to two village women who have come to the dispensary at Poonganur.
12. The Indian Christian Angelus.
13. A leaflet evangelist reads from the Bible to a bangle merchant prior to the sale. This is done to explain to the individual who buys the Bible how and where to read.
14. A leaflet evangelist tells a Bible story to village school children while Dr. Wierenga looks on. After the story, leaflets are given freely, and gospel portions and Christian books are sold at a nominal price.
15. Dr. C. R. Wierenga reads to a group of village school children from one of the Gospels. After this, the Gospel is offered for sale. In each Gospel sold there is the first sheet of Bible Correspondence lessons.
16. The inside of one of the elementary schools run by the American Arcot Mission. The teacher and his wife are some of the Christian employees of the Mission (now the Church of South India).
17. A group of village children who attend the nursery school of the mission. If they wash and comb their hair upon arrival at school, they are allowed to wear the clothes with which they are seen here. Of course, they leave the clothes at the school upon their return home in the evening.
18. A Christian family.
19. Rev. J. S. Ponniah is assisted by Dr. C. R. Wierenga in the baptism of an entire village group.
20. Hospital evangelism: there is a colored slide in one of the tubes and a text in the other. Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore.
21. Rev. J. S. Ponniah baptizes a village child at Easter Hill. In this pastorate, 600 people were baptized in 1953 alone. That number has now increased by 200 or more.
22. Rev. S. Ponniah conducting a baptismal service.
23. A Bible woman at the Christian Medical College Hospital telling stories to the children who are in-patients.
24. Dr. Victor Rambo examines the eye of a girl while Dr. and Mrs. Emil Brunner look on. The scene: Schell Memorial Eye Hospital, Vellore, started by Dr. Ida S. Scudder 50 years ago.
25. Two women and a dog.
26. A Christian worship service.
27. Tower of Piet Memorial Chapel in South India, built in the 1960s.