

The Christoph Merian Foundation:

The Christoph Merian Foundation (CMS)

Christoph Merian (1800-1858) was a successful Basel entrepreneur with a strong interest in social progress. He and his wife Margaretha (1806-1886) remained childless. Their entire fortune was willed to the Christoph Merian Stiftung to carry out and support pioneering projects in Basel in the fields of social affairs, ecology, city development, and culture.

During their lives, Christoph and Margaretha Merian showed true devotion to the activities of the Basel Mission. They contributed the funds needed by the organization to purchase a site and build the mission house dedicated in 1860, which is still in use today.

The CMS provided an initial and substantial grant in 1989 to support the inventory of this collection and the execution of technical procedures to enhance conservation and access. In order to make the results generally available, and to give these fantastic photographs a world-wide audience, CMS again contributed a substantial grant in 2001 for the creation of the first website. CMS hoped in this way to inspire a new dialogue concerning colonialism, mission and the relations between different cultures and religions.

Contact:

Christoph Merian Stiftung

St. Alban-Vorstadt 5

Postfach

CH-4002 Basel

Tel. +41 (0)61 226 33 33

Fax +41 (0)61 226 33 44

info@merianstiftung.ch

www.merianstiftung.ch