

# Handschriften / Autographen

## Tagebuch von Johann Ernst Geister.

**Geister, Johann Ernst**

**Cuddalore, 01.01.1739-17.12.1739; 10.01.1740**

1. Januar 1739

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# A Journal

containing the most material Circumstances happening  
in the Year 1739.

with the British Mission at Cuddalore near Fort St. David's  
in East-India.

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January.

1. At the Entrance of this Year I found myself excited to thank the most gracious God for his Protection et Assistance, by which I was carried through several Difficulties, and for his benefices bestowed upon me all this time. I was moved likewise to excite those under my care to this particular duty, and in my instruction to them for that day I explained the 103<sup>th</sup> Psalm. After a short Explanation of the Text, I shewed them, how they should apply this to their own Circumstances putting them in mind first of all of those benefits, which they enjoy in common with all their fellow-creatures, and then particularly of this especial Providence, which has moved several pious and religious persons in Europe, to be beneficial to the people in India, whom they never have seen, and in all probability will never see, of whom they never have received any benefit or service, nor in all probability ever will. The whole was concluded with an Exhortation, to regard and make a right use of this great benefit. The Subject of my instructions on Sundays has been to give them an insight in the most material parts of the history of the christian Religion, where I never forget to inculcate earnestly, that this is the only true Religion, revealed in its substance from the very beginning of the world. This is necessary for them to know against the idle and extravagant notions of the heathens in this Country, who boast of an antiquity of several Millions of years. Together with this I several times represent to them, that the places and Countreys mentioned in the bible are yet existent, and visited by travellers, whereas the Malabars cannot give an Account of any place, mentioned in their pretended old histories, only telling their Readers or hearers, that such a thing has happened several Millions of Leagues to the North or South. Though in my instructions I only interperse the like observations occasionally, keeping always close to the Explanation and application of my text. To attain this my design I began some Months ago to treat of the history of the bible from the Creation to the flood. Afterwards I took some of the most perspicuous and eminent types and prophecies of the Old Testament, proceeding further to the birth of Christ, which I explained out of the Evangelists on Christmas and some Sundays after. In all my Instructions I take the greatest Care to be intelligible to them, that hear me condescending to their Capacity by choosing the plainest words, repeating and taking proper similitudes, never proceeding to a New doctrine, till I find that the first has been understood. And every thing proposed by me is afterwards repeated by the Schoolmaster.