Register of the

John Oss Collection

Collection 67

Center for Adventist Research
James White Library
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, Michigan
October 2007
Processed by Rebekah Liu
John Oss Collection
(Collection 67)

Scope and Content

John Oss (Nov 11, 1892 to July 15, 1959) is best known as a Seventh-Day Adventist missionary to China. He and his wife, Olga Oss, served in China for 32 years, from 1919 to 1950, mainly in the publishing ministry. He was author of Mission Advance in China, and was working on the manuscript for The Sabbath and the Weekly Cycle in China at the time of his death.

This collection mainly contains John Oss' unpublished manuscript The Week and Sabbath in China, and pertinent materials collected in Chinese, Japanese and English. It also includes correspondence (from 1929-1958), articles, and a few photographs John Oss took in China.

Arrangement

The arrangement of the collection was done previously by the Center of Adventist Research, and it was finalized in 2007.

Provenance

This collection was donated to the Adventist Heritage Center in 1989 by Melvin Oss, the brother of John Oss.

Use

All users of this collection will complete the “Application to Use Unpublished Records,” and observe the regulation specified in the “Patron’s Agreement” and “Researcher’s Code of Conduct.” All records in this collection are open and available for research. Suggested citation for this collection:

Box ___, fld ___, John Oss (Collection 67), Center for Adventist Research, James White Library, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI.
John Oss Collection
(Collection 67)

INVENTORY

Bx1 Fld1  Correspondences between Louise Dederen, curator of the Adventist Heritage Center and Melvin Oss regarding the donation of the John Oss collection, Jun 28, 1989 and Jul 7, 1989.

I. Personal Documents

Biographical Information

Bx 1 Fld 2  Personal information including
“Biographical Sketch of Elder John Oss” for the John Oss Memorial Chapel dedication.
A Letter of Mrs. Olga Oss, John Oss' wife, relating to John Oss' death.

Bx 1 Fld 3  “Here and There in the United States: A Brief Record of Our Travels in the United States during Our 1934 Furlough.” Diary written by John Oss and his wife Olga Oss.

Photographs

Bx 1 Fld 4  Pictures include
John Oss' portrait, 1 piece.
Olga Oss’ picture in China. 1 piece.
Other pictures taken in China. 22 pieces.

Correspondence

Bx 1 Fld 5  Personal letters between the Oss family in China and their relatives and friends in the States, 1926-1945.

Bx 1 Fld 6  Personal letters between the Oss family in China and their relatives and friends in the States, 1947-1948.
Bx 1 Fld 7  Personal letters between the Oss family in China and their
relatives and friends in the States, 1949-1950.

Bx 1 Fld 8  Personal letters, 1952-1958.

Bx 1 Fld 9  Correspondences between John Oss and other people
regarding his manuscript, *The Week and Sabbath in China*,
1948-1959

Bx 1 Fld 10 Correspondences between Olga Oss and other people
regarding John Oss’ manuscript, *The Week and Sabbath in

II. Writings

Articles by John Oss

   Bx 1 Fld 11 Articles written by John Oss, 1927-1940

   Bx 1 Fld 12 Newspaper clippings about the Oss family and published
articles written by Olga and John Oss, 1927-1958.

Articles by Others about the Chinese Calendar

   Bx 1 Fld 13 *The Chinese Recorder* articles
   “Correspondence,” Mar, 1875.

   Bx 1 Fld 14 Articles on Chinese Sabbath copied from *Notes and
Queries*, Dec 1869; Jan 1869; Oct 1886.

   Bx 1 Fld 15 “Syriac Manuscripts Found in Peking, ca. 1925” by W. R.
Journal*, vol 61, 1941.

Books by John Oss

   Bx 2 Fld 1 *Mission Advance in China* by John Oss (Nashville,
TN: Southern Publishing Association, 1949)
Books by Others


Bx 2 Fld 3  *Xin Jing Yi Yi* (The Four Gospels/Chinese Catholic Bible) published by Shanghai Tushanwang publishing house, 1926. Chinese.  
*Jing Jia Tang Wen Ku Lue Shi* (history of the library in Tokyo where old Chinese books were found). Japanese.

Bx 2 Fld 4  *Liang Qiang Nian Zhong-Xi Li Dui Zhao Biao/A Sino-Western Calendar for Two Thousand Years: 1-2000 A.D.* by Hsueh, Chung-San and Ouyang, Yi (Changsha, China: The Commercial Press, Ltd, 1940).

Bx 2 Fld 5  *On Sabbath* published by the Seventh-Day Baptists, Shanghai, 1890. Chinese (photocopy).

Bx 2 Fld 6  Pages from the Chinese Bible Genesis 20 (photocopy).


Bx 3 Fld 1  *A Description of the Empire of China and Chinese-Tartary, Together with the Kingdom of Korea and Tibet: Containing the Geography and History of Those Countries*, vol II, by J. B. Du Halde (London: Edward Cave, 1741). (photocopy)

Bx 3 Fld 2  Ancient Chinese Writings about Chinese Calendar (photocopies)

Bx 3 Fld 3  Materials about Manichaeism in China (photocopy)
Magazines

The Voice of Prophecy brochure.
The China Division Reporter, Mar 1938.

Manuscripts

The Week and Sabbath in China by John Oss

Bx 3 Fld 5  A Complete Manuscript of The Week and the Sabbath in China (revised). Carbon copy.

Bx 4 Fld 1  The First Draft of The Week and the Sabbath in China.
Carbon copy.

Bx 4 Fld 2  Table of Contents

Bx 4 Fld 3  Introduction

Bx 4 Fld 4  Chapter 1: Divisions of Time (raw materials)

Bx 4 Fld 5  Chapter 2: The Week and the Seventh-Day Sabbath in History (raw materials)

Bx 5 Fld 1  Chapter 3: The Astrological Planetary Week and Worship on the Day of the Sun (raw materials)

Bx 5 Fld 2  Chapter 4: Reverence for Heavenly Bodies (raw materials)

Bx 5 Fld 3  Chapter 5: Astronomy and the Chinese Calendar (raw materials)

Bx 5 Fld 4  Chapter 6: Religious and Festive Days in Ancient China (raw materials)

Bx 5 Fld 5  Chapter 7: The Twenty-Eight Constellations of the Lunar Zodiac and the Weekly Cycle (raw materials)

Bx 5 Fld 6  Chapter 8: Seventh-Day Period in Ancient China: Jewish and Mohammedan Influences (raw materials)
| Bx 5 Fld 7 | Chapter 9: Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, and Their Designated Days (raw materials) |
| Bx 6 Fld 1 | Chapter 10: The Introduction of the Planetary Week into China (raw materials) |
| Bx 6 Fld 2 | Chapter 11: Manichaeism in Central Asia and China; Worship of Heavenly Bodies (raw materials) |
| Bx 6 Fld 3 | Chapter 12: Manichaeism and the Planetary Week in China; Sunday, the Day of the Sun God, Mithra (raw materials) |
| Bx 6 Fld 4 | Chapter 13: The Date on the Nestorian Monument (raw materials) |
| Bx 6 Fld 5 | Chapter 14: The Work of the Jesuit, Matteo Ricci, and Chinese Astronomical and Calendrical Reform (raw materials) |
| Bx 6 Fld 6 | Chapter 15: Jesuits Who Followed Matteo Ricci and the Seventh-Day Weekly (raw materials) |
| Bx 7 Fld 1 | Chapter 16: The Seven-Day Weekly Cycle During Early Protestant Occupation of China (raw materials) |
| Bx 7 Fld 2 | Chapter 17: The Week and the Sabbath During the Taiping Rebellion (raw materials) |
| Bx 7 Fld 3 | Chapter 18: The Taiping Calendar (raw materials) |
| Bx 8 Fld 1 | Chapter 19: Early Work of Seventh-Day Baptists in China (raw materials) |
| Bx 9 Fld 1 | Chapter 20: Seventh-Day Baptists and the Taipings (raw materials) |
| Bx 9 Fld 2 | Chapter 21: The Seventh-Day Weekly Cycle and Worship Days During the Latter Part of Ch’ing Dynasty (raw materials) |
| Bx 9 Fld 3 | Chapter 22: Weekly Cycle and Rest Days in China During the Present Century (raw materials) |
Bx 9 Fld 4  Chapter 23: Seventh-Day Adventists and the Week and the Sabbath in China (raw materials)

Bx 9 Fld 5  Chapter 25: Summary

Bx 9 Fld 6  Photocopy materials about the Chinese Calendar

Bx 9 Fld 7  Charts

Bx 9 Fld 8  Chinese Festivals

Bx 10 Fld 1  Miscellaneous: Quotations, notes, etc. (I)

Bx 10 Fld 2  Miscellaneous: Quotations, notes, etc. (II)

Bx 10 Fld 3  Miscellaneous: Quotations, notes, etc. (III)

Bx 10 Fld 4  Miscellaneous: Quotations, notes, etc. (IV)

Bx 10 Fld 5  Additional materials to the chapter on the change of the Sabbath (raw materials)

Bx 10 Fld 6  Materials about Taiping Rebellion

Bx 10 Fld 7  Notes about Translations

Bx 10 Fld 8  Seventh-Day Baptist Historical Society Materials

Other Manuscript by John Oss


Manuscripts by Others

Bx 10 Fld 10  “Lessons to Be Learned from the Experiences of Christian Missions in China” compiled by Harold S. Matthews, 1951.

“God’s Care for His Children during the Liberation of Shanghai” by E. L. Longway.

“Jesus, Our All in All” by A. A. Estel.
III. Photographs

Bx 10 Fld 11 Photos and negatives of Chinese writings about the Chinese calendar.

IV. Floppy Disk

Bx 10 Fld 12 Two floppy disks for the manuscript of *The Week and the Sabbath in China*:
- Disk 1: Table of Contents, Introduction, and chapter 1-14.
- Disk 2: Chapter 15-25.