

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This collection mainly contains John Oss' unpublished manuscript *The Week and Sabbath in China*, and pertinent materials collected in Chinese, Japanese and English.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All users of this collection will complete the "Application to Use Unpublished Records," and observe the regulation specified in the "Patron's Agreement" and "Researcher's Code of Conduct."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 China*, 1960-1980.

## 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.  
"Foreign Religions in the Tang Dynasty," Nov 1940.
- 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. Taylor, published in, *American Oriental Society 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 2 *The Christian Calendar and the Gregorian Reform* by Peter Archer, S.J. (New York: Fordham University Press, 1941).
- Bx 2 Fld 3 *Xin Jing Yi Yi* (The Four Gospels/Chinese Catholic Bible) published by Shanghai Tushanwang publishing house, 1926. Chinese.  
*Ricci's Scientific Contribution to China* by Henri Bernard, S.J. (Peiping: Henri Vetch, 1935).  
*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 2 Fld 7 Books about the calendar used by the Taiping rebellion. Mostly in Chinese and one in English: *The History of the Taiping Rebellion* by Ssu-Yu Teng (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1950). (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

- Bx 3 Fld 4 *China Bulletin of the Far Eastern Office*, published by the Division of Foreign Missions, NCCC/USA, New York. Feb 4, 1957; Nov 3, 1958; Apr 13, 1959.  
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

- Bx 10 Fld 9 “Historical Sketch of Our Work among the Chinese People in San Francisco and the Establishment of the Church” by John Oss, Nov 16, 1957. Attached is a bulletin for the “Dedication of the Chinese Seventh-Day Adventist Church Sabbath Nov 16, 1957.”

#### 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.

