

**Register of the**

**Carl B. Watts**

**Papers**

**Collection 347**

Center for Adventist Research  
James White Library  
Andrews University  
Berrien Springs, Michigan  
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## **Carl B. Watts Papers (Collection 347)**

### **Biographical**

Carl B. Watts was born on July 12, 1919, to Donna and William Cloyd Watts in Topeka, Kansas. He was the oldest of four boys. After graduating from Enterprise Academy in Kansas in 1939, he worked as a colporteur [literature evangelist] for a year. Then he went to Union College but withdrew from school in 1941 and returned to Kansas to serve as the Publishing Department Secretary of the conference. He married Lois May Shepherdson in 1942 and they subsequently had two children. In the fall of 1945 Carl and Lois May returned to Union College and both graduated in 1949. He was then called to the Missouri Conference as a pastor, and in 1955 was ordained to the gospel ministry.

In 1955 the Watts family received a call to work as missionaries in Japan. Carl served the Publishing Department for five years before moving to be the Publishing Secretary of the Japan Union Mission. In 1960 he became the President of the Okinawa Mission, and In 1967 the President of the Japan Union Mission. His final mission appointment was as the Field Secretary of the Far Eastern Division beginning in 1972 for one year until the family returned to the United States.

In addition to his regular administrative service, Watts oversaw two notable projects. The first is the building of the Adventist hospital in Okinawa, Japan, in 1960, when he was the President of the Okinawa Mission. And in 1972, when he was serving in the Division, he assisted in the building of the Kobe Adventist Hospital in Kobe, Japan. These were monumental achievements as the only Adventist hospital in Japan at the time was in Tokyo. He also led the way to the Union leadership being turned over to the indigenous people as he was the last non-Japanese president of the Japan Union Mission.

After their 18 years of missionary service in Japan, Carl and Lois May, in 1973, returned to the United States where Carl became the pastor of the Escondido, California, church. Carl retired in 1989, and passed away on April 17, 2016.

### **Scope and Content**

The Carl B. Watts collection is a series of documents that shows the Adventist Missionary work done in Japan from the 1950s until the 1970s.

This collection includes personal documents most of which are preparations for his move from America to Japan as well as photos that was sent to him by friends and other miscellaneous items. It also documents the Adventist work done in Japan from the 1950s to the early 1970s when Japan was being rebuilt following the devastation of World War II.

The documents associated with literature work as well as the administrative records document a portion of his service in Japan. The History of Missions in Japan and Okinawa are compilations of books, articles and notes which document the mission work done not only from a Christian point of view in Japan, but also the Adventist beginnings and influence.

Carl B. Watts clearly understood the importance of documenting your work with photographs. There are many photographs as there are many photographs that shows his work in Japan. There are albums dedicated to the projects of the Adventist hospitals in Okinawa and Kobe, Japan.

### **Extant**

2.6 linear feet.

### **Arrangement**

This collection is split into two main parts. The first are the documents that Carl B. Watts generated and collected while he served in various capacities in Japan. The second part are the pictures that show his work. The majority of the documents and photographs come from when he was the president of the Okinawa Mission.

There are different categories within the photographs. Early in the arrangement are two albums that give the general sense of his ministry while he was serving in Okinawa.

You will notice that most of the photos are in black and white as was the custom during those times. There are only a few that are in color and those are the photographs that were taken in the 1970s. There are also three carousel slide trays that show his time in Japan as well as when he visited Hong Kong.

### **Provenance**

This collection was donated by Carl B. Watts' two children, Kit and Howard, in 2016. Their desire was to show the work of their father in regards to the early Adventist Missionary work that was done in Japan.

### **Use**

All users of this collection will complete the "Request to Use Personal Papers Collections," and observe the regulation specified in the "Researcher's Code of Conduct" and the "Researcher's Agreement". All records in this collection are open and available for research. Suggested citation for this collection:

Box \_\_\_\_, fld \_\_\_\_, Carl B. Watts Papers (Collection 347), Center for Adventist Research, James White Library, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI.

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## **Carl B. Watts Collection** (Collection 347)

### **I. Personal**

- Box 1 Fld 1 Correspondence. (8 letters)  
Letters in regards to the selling in his home before leaving to Japan. Personal letters from friends.
- Box 1 Fld 2 Notes, Newspaper.
- Box 1 Fld 3 Post Cards. (47 postcards)  
Empty postcards from Okinawa and S.S Philippine Transport
- Box 1 Fld 4 Memorabilia.  
Signed Autograph Book from Members.  
Signed Poster from Members. (In Japanese)
- Box 1 Fld 5 Photographs.  
Friends (17 photographs)  
Family (3 photographs)  
Personal Ministry (7 photographs)
- Box 1 Fld 6 Obituary and Life Sketch of Carl B. Watts

### **II. Correspondence**

- Box 1 Fld 7 Transition from USA to Japan. (41 letters)
- Box 1 Fld 8 Publishing Secretary, Japan Union Mission, 1955-1960.  
(5 letters)
- Box 1 Fld 9 President, Okinawa Mission, 1960-1967. (3 letters)
- Box 1 Fld 10 President, Japan Union Mission, 1967-1971. (3 letters)

### III. Literature Evangelism Documents

Box 1 Fld 11 Hand Written Notes. (6 notes)

Box 1 Fld 12 Experiences as a Literature Evangelist. (10 articles)

Box 1 Fld 13 Experiences of Converting to Adventism. (5 articles)

Box 1 Fld 14 The Student Literature Evangelism Program.

Box 1 Fld 15 Report of a Convention of Apes (anecdote).

Box 1 Fld 16 Miscellaneous.

Encouragement and Inspirational Messages for  
Literature Evangelists

### IV. Administrative Documents

Publishing Secretary, Japan Union Mission.

Box 1 Fld 17 Article: "Greetings from the Far Eastern  
Division via the Watts Family".

Box 1 Fld 18 Newspaper Clippings, 1956-1957. (50 articles)

Box 1 Fld 19 Newspaper Clippings, 1957. (13 articles)

Box 1 Fld 20 Newspaper Articles, Miscellaneous.  
3 Articles. Halloween Benefit Ball  
Documents.

President, Okinawa Mission.

Box 1 Fld 21 Booklet of work in Okinawa and Ryukyu  
Islands.

Box 1 Fld 22 Newspaper Articles on building of hospital in  
Okinawa (13 English, 1 Japanese  
articles)

Box 1 Fld 23 Miscellaneous.  
Hospital Information, Ryukyu Island  
Population Census.

President, Japan Union Mission.

Box 1 Fld 24 Newspaper Articles. (2 Japanese articles)

Box 1 Fld 25 Notes.

Field Secretary, Far Eastern Division.

Box 1 Fld 26 Miscellaneous.  
List of Hospitals in FED

## V. History of Missions in Japan

Box 1 Fld 27 History of Christianity and Adventism in Japan.

Box 1 Fld 28 History of Adventism in Okinawa and Ryukyu Islands.

Box 1 Fld 29 Books.

*Adventure for God on Okinawa* by Jona Clark Jensen.  
*Operation Goodwill.*

Box 1 Fld 30 Miscellaneous.

Notes. Japan Union Mission Biennial Session,  
Newspaper June, 1953.

## VI. Photographs

Box 1 Fld 31 Everyday Life in Japan [1955-1972]. (43 photographs)

Box 1 Fld 32 Administration, 1955-1972. (25 photographs)

Box 2 Fld 3 Photograph Book I [1960-1967]. (91 photographs)  
Ministry in Okinawa and Ryukyu Islands

Box 2 Fld 4 Photograph Book II [1960-1967]. (118 photographs)  
Ministry in Okinawa and Ryukyu Islands

Okinawa Hospital, 1960-1967.

Box 1 Fld 33 Building of Hospital. (5 photographs)

Box 1 Fld 34 Opening Ceremony. (56 photographs)

Box 1 Fld 35 Okinawa Hospital and Staff. (16 photographs)

Box 1 Fld 36 Building of First Adventist School in Okinawa, 1962. (37  
photographs)

Box 1 Fld 37 Adventist Schools in Japan [1960s]. (19 photographs)  
Class Photos

Box 1 Fld 38 Ground Breaking, 1962. (14 photographs)

Box 1 Fld 39 New Church Building, 1963. (38 photographs)  
Building and Worship Services.

Box 1 Fld 40 Mission in Ryukyu Islands [1960-1967]. (33 photographs)  
Baptisms and Evangelism Series.

Box 1 Fld 41 Mission in Okinawa [1960-1967]. (48 photographs)  
Baptisms and Evangelistic Series.

Box 1 Fld 42 Ministry with USA Military. (31 photographs)

Worship Services [1960-1967].

Box 1 Fld 43 With USA Military. (9 photographs)

Box 1 Fld 44 Worship Service, 1963. (36 photographs)

Box 1 Fld 45 Various Churches. (47 photographs)

Box 1 Fld 46 Far Eastern Division [1971-1972]. (15 photographs)

Box 2 Fld 5 Kobe Hospital Photograph Book [1972]. (83 photographs)  
Building of the Hospital.

Box 1 Fld 47 Airport Photographs. (31 photographs)

Box 1 Fld 48 Historical Japan Photographs. (2 photographs)

Box 1 Fld 49 Motion Picture Film. (4 films)

Box 1 Fld 50 Miscellaneous. (8 photographs)

Box 2 Fld 2 Oversized Photos (7 photographs)

Box 1 Fld 51 Carousel Slide Tray I. (80 slides)  
Trip to Okinawa and Kobe, Japan.

Box 1 Fld 52 Carousel Slide Tray II. (40 slides)  
Trip to Okinawa, Japan and Hong Kong, China.

Box 2 Fld 1 Carousel Slide Tray III. (80 slides)  
Trip to Okinawa, Japan.

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