

**Register of the**  
**Adriel D. Chilson Collection**  
**Collection 32**

**Adventist Heritage Center  
James White Library  
Andrews University  
Berrien Springs, Michigan 49104-1400  
May 1998**

## **Adriel D. Chilson Collection Collection 32**

### Scope and Content:

The Adriel D. Chilson Collection consists of three parts: Nels P. Neilson, John G. Matteson, and various other writers concentrating primarily on Seventh-day Adventist activity in Brazil and South America. The collection appears to be truly a collection put together by Mr. Chilson. Parts 1 and 3 have some connection in that most of the writers were at one time in South America. Part 2 is derived from Chilson's interest in Matteson.

Nels P. Neilson (1871-1947), a Dane, was a successful pastor, evangelist, and administrator. He served local conferences in Wisconsin, South Dakota, the New York City area, and central California. He was President of Hutchinson Theological Seminary in Minnesota for two years before moving to the General Conference as an associate secretary for Home Missions with responsibility for the Danish-Norwegian work. From 1923 to 1941 he was a missionary to South America serving as President of the North Brazil Union, and for ten years as President of the division.

Neilson was a prolific writer in both English and Danish-Norwegian. He was a frequent contributor to several Church publications including the *Review and Herald* and *Evangeliets Sendebud*. He also wrote a lot of poetry. This collection highlights his writings through clippings of many of his articles and poetry. The clippings are of a devotional nature or relate to events and conditions relative the Seventh-day Adventists in Brazil and South America.

John Gottlieb Matteson (1835-1896) was a leading missionary to Scandinavian people in North America and Europe. Following his conversion to Seventh-day Adventism in 1863, he published many tracts and articles, some of which found their way to Scandinavia. The Europeans requested he come there, which he did in 1877. He was very successful as an evangelist and administrator. He established the first non-American SDA conference in Denmark, two periodicals and a publishing house. Due to his efforts, many missionaries flowed from Scandinavia to all parts of the world.

This collection includes 25 letters sent or received by Matteson as well as his report of labor for 1871. Most, if not all, of these documents come from the General Conference of SDA Archives. A researcher will find additional Matteson documents in their files.

Manuscript copies of the biography of Matteson by Adriel Chilson are included. According to one familiar with the details, Chilson had others do research and then he wrote the manuscript. One copy of the manuscript may be as it came from his typewriter and the other is a later version.

The other individuals represented in this collection, generally have only one documents in the collection, and most of them relate in some way to South America. The group of documents by Alvin N. Allen is of particular note. The bulk is an extensive diary he kept from 1928 to 1930 while he labored in the Amazon region of Brazil.

Arrangement:

The Neilson materials are arranged, as far as possible, by title. There are three books with clippings pasted into them. The arrangement in these books is random. Rarely is there any type of bibliographic reference. The rest of the arrangement is shown on the inventory.

Provenance:

The collection arrived from Mr. Chilson over a period of time, mostly in 1978. Chilson obtained the South American materials from Neilson's step-daughter while doing research on Adventists in Wisconsin. Much of the original Matteson material is from the General Conference Archives.

Use:

All users of this collection will be required to complete the "Application to Use Unpublished Records," and to observe the regulations specified in the "Patron Agreement" and "Researcher's Code of Conduct." All records in this collection are open and available for research. Citation for this collection:

Box \_\_\_\_, folder \_\_\_\_, Adriel D. Chilson Collection (coll 32), Adventist Heritage Center, James White Library, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI.

## Adriel D. Chilson Collection

### Inventory

#### Part 1 – Nels P. Neilson (1871-1947)

##### A. Personal Documents

- Bx 1 Fld 1 Neilson family biographical/genealogical information
- Bx 1 Fld 2 Diary of Nels P. Neilson during 1939 trip to the Amazon region

##### B. Writings

- Bx 1 Fld 3 Articles from published sources (alphabetical by title)
- Bx 1 Fld 4 Articles and poetry from published sources (pasted in to a book, part 1)
- Bx 1 Fld 5 Articles and poetry from published sources (pasted in to a book, part 2)
- Bx 1 Fld 6 Articles and poetry from published sources (pasted in to a book, part 3)
- Bx 1 Fld 7 Poetry (alphabetical by title)
- Bx 1 Fld 8 Articles in manuscript format (alphabetical by title)

##### C. Sermon notes

- Box 2 Fld 1 Small notebook containing what appears to be sermon notes and quotations to use in sermons.

#### Part 2 – John Gottlieb Matteson (1835-1896)

##### A. Created by Matteson

Bx 2 Fld 2

###### Correspondence

1866 1 letter  
 1870 1 “  
 1878 1 “  
 1887 1 “  
 1888 2 “  
 1889 5 “  
 1890 9 “  
 1891 5 “

Bx 2 Fld 3 “Report for the General Conference, 1871”

Bx 2 Fld 4 Poem: *Bethel*

## B. Related Documents

Bx 2 Fld 5

R. E. Hoen. "Excerpts From the Story of the Life of Peter L. Hoen."  
Compiled from various sources.

John Lorntz. untitled autobiographical document

Bx 2 Fld 6 Adriel D. Chilson. Typescript manuscript of the book,  
*Gospel Viking: The Story of John G. Matteson*. 1979. Copy  
1 of manuscript.

Bx 2 Fld 7 Adriel D. Chilson. Typescript manuscript of the book,  
*Gospel Viking: The Story of John G. Matteson*. 1979. Copy  
2 of manuscript. Copy 2 varies slightly from copy 1. Copy 2  
was sent to Dyre Dyresen, one of the principle helpers and  
advisors for the manuscript.

## Part 3— Other Individuals

## B. Alvin N. Allen

Bx 2 Fld 8

1. Diary, "Among Indians." 1927. 84 leaves.
2. "The Araguaya Indian Mission." ca. 1928. 11 leaves.
3. ["South America."] n.d. 7 leaves
4. [Brother Allen's Diary.] [1928-1930] 8, 30, 35, 14, 18  
leaves

## B. All others

Bx 2 Fld 9

1. Pastor Camacho. *A Trip Down Brazil's Araguaia River*
2. Adriel D. Chilson. Letter to Dyre Dyreson regarding  
*Miracles in My Life*
3. Mrs. Leo [Jessie] B. Halliwell. *Life of a Picture Roll* [Mission  
story for children's Sabbath school]
4. Leo Blair Halliwell. *Launch Work in Brazil* [Mission story for  
1954]
5. A. C. Harder. *The Taquara Academy - Brazil and Taquara  
School*.
6. M[erritt]. E. Cornell. Letter to Dear Cousin, March 16, 1893.
7. [Mrs. Nels P. {Rosa C.} Neilson?]. *Brazil*. [Mission story for  
the first quarter, 1954 *Missions Quarterly*]
8. North Brazil Union. *Report*. 1953.
9. Information booklet on the cooperation between colporteurs,  
the publishing house, and the college in Brazil. ca. 1932.