

Register of the
O. A. Olsen Collection
Collection 230

Center for Adventist Research
James White Library
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, Michigan
September 2004
Processed by Carol N. Williams

O. A. Olsen Collection

Collection 230

Scope and Content

Ole Andres Olsen (1845-1915) was an administrator and General Conference president. He was born at Skogen, near Christiania, Norway. When he was 5 years old his parents immigrated to the United States and settled on a farm in Oakland Township, Wisconsin. He was baptized in 1858. When he became an adult he worked for the Scandinavians in the upper Midwest. On June 2, 1873, he was ordained, and in 1874 he was elected president of the Wisconsin Conference. After two years he was released from the presidency to resume his work for the Scandinavians. Later he served as president of the Wisconsin (1880-1881), Dakota (1882-1883), Minnesota (1883-1885), and Iowa (1884-1885) conferences. During the spring of 1886 the General Conference sent him to the Scandinavian countries of Europe to supervise the growing work there.

While busy at his post in Europe, Olsen received word that he had been elected president of the General Conference during the session held in Minneapolis in 1888. This post he held for nine years. During his administration, progress was reported in expanding, organizing, and developing the Seventh-day Adventist cause throughout the world field. Olsen first advocated the formation of union conferences. The first union, the Australian, was organized during his visit there and with his cooperation. After laying down his General Conference responsibilities, he worked for a year in South Africa, giving special attention to work for the Africans. After this he spent about two years shepherding the work on the European continent. In 1901 he was asked to head the work in Great Britain. Under his supervision the field was organized into a union conference and a training school was established. In 1905 he went to Australia, where he served as president of the union for four years. In 1909 he was made secretary of the North American Foreign Department of the General Conference, and in 1913 was elected vice president of the North American Division, posts he filled until stricken with a heart attack on January 29, 1915.

Extent 0.42 linear feet.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged chronologically.

Provenance

This collection was held unprocessed by the *Ellen G. White Estate Branch Office* at Andrews University until 2004 when it was incorporated into the manuscript collections of the *Center for Adventist Research* at the James White Library, Andrews University. It is unknown who selected letters for inclusion.

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 ____, O. A. Olsen (Collection 230), Center for Adventist Research,
James White Library, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI.

O. A. Olsen Collection

(Collection 230)

INVENTORY

Correspondence by O. A. Olsen mainly to Ellen G. White and W. C. White. Other recipients are W. W. Prescott, John H. Kellogg, Mary Scott, J. M. Cole, and J. Edson White.

Fld 1	1890	
Fld 2	1892	January to April
Fld 3	1892	May to August
Fld 4	1892	September to December
Fld 5	1893	January to May
Fld 6	1893	June to July
Fld 7	1893	August to December
Fld 8	1894	February to May
Fld 9	1894	June to September
Fld 10	1894	October to December
Fld 11	1895	January to June
Fld 12	1895	July to December
Fld 13	1896	January to June
Fld 14	1896	July to December
Fld 15	1897	January to December

The End