

Moses Bruine Cotsworth Fonds

An inventory

in

The Library of the University of British Columbia
Special Collections and University Archives Division

Prepared by:

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TITLE: Moses B. Cotsworth fonds [textual record, graphic material, cartographic material]

DATES: [1867?-1943]

PHYSICAL
EXTENT: 56.5 cm of textual records and other material

BIOGRAPHICAL
SKETCH:

Moses Bruine Cotsworth was born on December 3, 1859, in Willitof, near York, England. He was the son of George and Sarah Cotsworth. Orphaned at the age of two, he was raised by his grandparents and great-grandparents. In 1884, he married Kezia H. Gardiner, (of Blairendinnie, Aberdeenshire), and they had one son and four daughters. He was educated at York Blue Coat School.

Cotsworth began work in 1874 in the office of the Chief Goods Manager of the North Eastern Railway Company, York. He had a series of jobs in which his aptitude for calculations and his investigative skill were evident: in 1881, he worked at Aire and Calder Navigation; from 1884 to 1886, he was the traffic manager for Trent Navigation; and from 1887 to 1891, he was the manager of Manners Colliery, Derbyshire. In 1892, he returned to the Chief Goods Manager office to work on a revision of railway rates and to do research. He published a book, *Railway Maximum Rates and Charges*, and his improved system of railway statistics has since been used by the British Railway companies and the Ministry of Transport. In 1907, he was appointed by the British Columbia government as Chairman of the Commission to re-organise and regrade the Civil Service. He moved to Vancouver in 1910, and from then until 1921, he was in business as an accountant and investigator of the cost of living for Western Canada.

Cotsworth devoted most of his time and efforts on calendar reform. His interest in calendars and time goes back to his upbringing by his grand-parents and great-grandparents who used the old shadow pin, noon-mark, and hour-glass methods as well as an old series of Calendars which contained charts, illustrations, and quotations. While he was working for the North Eastern Railway Company, he became aware of the difficulties in using the Gregorian calendar to calculate monthly totals for income and expenditures. These difficulties were due to the different number of weekdays in a month and the fact that, for the railway, every day of the week had a different economic value. The yearly changes of the date for Easter, and other holidays, imposed another difficulty. Even before he founded the International Fixed Calendar League in 1922, he was active in calendar reform. Cotsworth devised a

thirteen month calendar in which each month would have twenty-eight days or four weeks. The thirteenth month, called Sol, would be made up of the last thirteen days of June and the first fifteen days of July. In leap years, the extra day would be added after June the 28th. The 365th day, at the end of the year, would be called Year-day, and it would fall between December the 28th and January the 1st. In this way, Easter would always fall on the same date (the 15th of April). At one point, both the League of Nations and the Royal Society of Canada endorsed Cotsworth's proposal for calendar reform. The federal government of Canada officially endorsed it in 1931. However, Cotsworth's 13-month calendar was not adopted due to lack of world-wide consensus and to other individuals or calendar associations pushing for calendar reform. Even though the International Fixed Calendar League ceased to exist, Cotsworth continued his work on calendar reform. From 1922 to 1931, he was the Director of the International Fixed Calendar League (previously called the International Almanak Reform League), as well as the Expert to the League of Nations' Committee on Calendar Reform. As such, he visited more than sixty countries as part of his effort to convince people of the benefits of converting to a 13-month calendar. He served as Secretary to the British Association's Research Committee on Geological Evidence of Climactic Change from 1934 to 1937. He was a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society, and a Fellow of the Geological Society. His publications include monographs as well as a series of more than 50 pamphlets on calendar reform. He also wrote about railway rates and climactic change, among other topics. Moses Bruine Cotsworth died in Vancouver on June 4, 1943.

**CUSTODIAL
HISTORY:**

The records were given to the University of British Columbia after Moses B. Cotsworth's death, as was instructed in his will. A fourth box of records was added in December, 1978 after it was discovered, uncatalogued, in the Main Stacks of the Main Library.

**SCOPE AND
CONTENT:**

The fonds consists of textual records, photographs (prints and Negatives), pictorial images, postcards, statistical information, and maps. All of the records reflect Moses B. Cotsworth's involvement in calendar reform and his efforts to make his 13-month calendar more widely known throughout the world. The records have been arranged into the following series: Correspondence and Personal Notes; Newspaper Articles; Pamphlets on Calendar Reform and Related Material; Posters and Related Material; Records Relating to Egypt (Pyramids, Sphinx); Records Relating to Stonehenge;

Statistical Charts and Graphs; and Records Relating to
Miscellaneous Subjects.

SOURCE OF
SUPPLIED

TITLE: Title based on provenance of fonds.

DATE: The earliest date found on the textual records was 1867. However, there could be records in the fonds that pre-date 1867. The year of his death is taken as the terminal date because it is assumed that Cotsworth continued working on the issue of calendar reform up until his death.

PHYSICAL
DESCRIPTION:

The physical extent does not include photographs, nitrate and glass plate negatives, one oversize map, and other oversize material. Since the fonds is made up of multiple media, the numbers of the graphic material and cartographic material have been approximated to be: circa 416 photographs, circa 102 nitrate negatives, circa 72 glass plate negatives, approximately 26 postcards, and 8 maps (this figure does not include photographs of maps).

ARRANGEMENT: The records were contained in four file storage boxes and one oversize Hollinger box. The materials seemed to be thrown together without any apparent order. Thus, there did not seem to be an original order given to the records by the creator. Apparently, from information obtained from one of his daughters, the fonds seems to be incomplete since many of Cotsworth's personal papers and belongings were lost at sea during World War II. Since all of the records deal with the principal activity of calendar reform, it was decided to arrange the series according to either the physical form of the records or the subject matter of the records.

GENERAL: Information for the biographical sketch was obtained from a variety of sources:

Clay, Charles. "Calendar Reform." *Encyclopedia Canadiana*, 1970 ed.

Eastman, George. *Do We Need Calendar Reform?*, n.p., n.d.

Home Page for Calendar Reform,
<http://personal.ecu.edu/mccartyr/cotsworth.html>.

Who Was Who. Vol. 4, 1941-1950. London: Adam and Charles Black, 1952.

TITLE: Correspondence and Personal Notes

DATES: [before 1943]

**PHYSICAL
EXTENT:** 4 cm of textual records

**SCOPE AND
CONTENT:** Series consists of letters written to Cotsworth, personal notes (mostly written on envelopes and scraps of paper), drafts of printed material that may have been used in his publications, and miscellaneous articles written by other individuals. All of the records deal with calendar reform, but the personal notes reflect the wide range of Cotsworth's interest in this matter. They include notes taken on his travels to Stonehenge, Egypt, Northern British Columbia, and Alaska. The personal notes also include descriptions, even lists, of photographs taken on his trips. The articles written by other individuals deal with calendars and religious topics.

**SOURCE OF
SUPPLIED**

TITLE: Title based on content of series.

DATE: It is difficult to provide a specific date range for this series since only the correspondence is dated.

TITLE: Newspaper Articles

DATES: 1894-1931

**PHYSICAL
EXTENT:** 8.5 cm of textual records

**SCOPE AND
CONTENT:** Series consists of two folders containing newspaper clippings. The first folder contains loose clippings of articles from newspapers and journals. They deal with a diverse array of topics, most notably Stonehenge, telling or measuring time, and calendars and calendar reform. The second folder is a bound volume of newspaper clippings taken from a variety of sources covering the time period of August 4 to November 3, 1931, done by Editorial Services Ltd. on

behalf of the International Fixed Calendar League. These clippings are mostly about calendar reform and the activities of the League.

SOURCE OF SUPPLIED

TITLE: Title based on content of series.

TITLE: Pamphlets on Calendar Reform and Related Material

DATES: [before 1943]

PHYSICAL EXTENT: 12.5 cm of textual records and other material

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

Series consists of pamphlets, leaflets, reports, articles, other textual information, a scrapbook of graphical images, calendars, diverse pictures and diagrams (for example, astronomical diagrams, pyramids, different types of calendars used through time), statistical charts and other kinds of charts, and photographs. Cotsworth incorporates the textual information and all the different kinds of graphical images into his pamphlets and other publications. There are photographs of the different diagrams and pictures as well as photographs of certain pages of Cotsworth's published pamphlets.

SOURCE OF SUPPLIED

TITLE: Title based on content of series.

DATE: It is difficult to provide a specific date range since not all of the records are dated.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The physical extent does not include photographs and/or negatives.

LANGUAGE:

Certain diagrams, pictures, and charts have been translated from the English to French, German, and Spanish.

TITLE: The Need of a "Rational Almanac" [textual record] / by Moses B. Cotsworth, F.G.S., of York, England ; printed for the Royal Society of Canada

DATES: 1909

**PHYSICAL
EXTENT:** 33 p.

**SCOPE AND
CONTENT:** Item is a pamphlet containing the paper that Cotsworth presented to the Royal Society of Canada. Sir Sandford Fleming's introductory address to the Royal Society of Canada is also included in the pamphlet. Cotsworth discusses the history of calendars, the difficulties inherent in the Gregorian calendar, and the benefits and ease of changing to a calendar having thirteen months of four weeks each.

TITLE: Posters and Related Material

DATES: [before 1943]

**PHYSICAL
EXTENT:** 12.5 cm of textual records and other material

**SCOPE AND
CONTENT:** Series consists of posters of calendars, clocks, climactic maps, and statistical charts in differing stages of completeness. There are posters of calendars of different religions and cultures and of calendars used in ancient times. There is a set of posters that has been used by Cotsworth for demonstration purposes, and it mostly consists of statistical charts, clocks, different types of calendars, and his own 13-month calendar. There are photographs of many of the different kinds of posters. Many of the images on the posters can be found in Cotsworth's publications.

**SOURCE OF
SUPPLIED**

TITLE: Title based on content of series.

DATE: Very few of the posters in this series are dated. It is difficult to determine the period of time that Cotsworth was working on these posters.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: The physical extent does not include photographs and/or negatives.

LANGUAGE: Some of the other kinds of calendars are written in Chinese, Hindu, Latvian/Estonian, and Latin. Some of the posters have been translated into French, German, and Spanish from the English.

TITLE: Records Relating to Egypt (Pyramids, Sphinx)

DATES: [before 1943]

PHYSICAL EXTENT: 2.5 cm of graphic material and other material

SCOPE AND CONTENT: Series consists of drawings of pyramids, notes, posters in preparation, and photographs (with the accompanying negatives) taken in Egypt of the Sphinx and the pyramids. Some of the diagrams of the pyramids include astronomical measurements. Cotsworth used these diagrams to illustrate how the Egyptians measured time. These diagrams were then included in pamphlets written by Cotsworth.

SOURCE OF SUPPLIED TITLE: Title based on content of series.

DATE: A specific date range for the records cannot be given since most of the records in this series are not dated.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: The physical extent does not include photographs and/or negatives.

LANGUAGE: Certain diagrams are written in French, German, and/or Spanish as well as in English.

TITLE: Records Relating to Stonehenge

DATES: [before 1943]

**PHYSICAL
EXTENT:**

3 cm of textual records and other material

**SCOPE AND
CONTENT:**

Series consists of two monographs, posters (both finished posters and posters in preparation), drafts of diagrams and notes, two post cards, personal notes, diagrams, pictures, and photographs. It includes diagrams and photographs of Silbury Hill. Cotsworth used Stonehenge as an example of how time was measured in the past. He included the posters, diagrams, and pictures in his pamphlets on time and calendar reform.

**SOURCE OF
SUPPLIED**

TITLE:

Title based on content of series.

DATE:

Not all of the records are dated, therefore, a specific date range cannot be given for this series.

**RELATED RECORDS
IN THE SAME**

FONDS:

Newspaper clippings relating to Stonehenge and druids can be found in the Newspaper Articles series.

TITLE:

Statistical Charts and Graphs

DATES:

[before 1943]

**PHYSICAL
EXTENT:**

3 cm of graphic material and other material

**SCOPE AND
CONTENT:**

Series consists of hand drawn and machine produced statistical charts and graphs. The main areas of everyday life that Cotsworth analysed were: business, schools, production, customs and duties, hotels, post office, retail stores, and railways. He used these statistical analyses to show that there would be fewer inconsistencies in the data if the months were made up of four weeks/twenty-eight days. The series also consists of charts and diagrams/maps (of Canada) showing values for mean rainfall.

**SOURCE OF
SUPPLIED**

TITLE: Title based on content of series.

DATE: A specific date range cannot be given to the records since many of the records have not been dated.

**PHYSICAL
DESCRIPTION:** The physical extent does not include photographs and/or negatives.

LANGUAGE: Some of the statistical charts have been translated into French and German from the English.

TITLE: Records Relating to Miscellaneous Subjects

DATES: [before 1943]

**PHYSICAL
EXTENT:** 10.5 cm of textual records and other material

**SCOPE AND
CONTENT:** Series consists of diagrams, pictures, pamphlets, maps, a newspaper article, postcards, articles, published journals (both loose and bound), and photographs. The records have been organised according to subject matter because they did not fit into any of the other series. They have been organised in the following way: clocks, glaciers/geological data, obelisks, picture postcards, published journals and other published materials/pamphlets, published material, miscellaneous maps, miscellaneous photographs, and published journals (bound volumes). Most, if not all, of the information in this series has been used by Cotsworth in his efforts to try to bring about changes to the Gregorian calendar. He used the information in his publications on calendar reform.

**SOURCE OF
SUPPLIED**

TITLE: Title based on content of series.

DATE: Given the diverse array of records found in this series, it is difficult to give this series a specific date range because most of the items are not dated.

**PHYSICAL
DESCRIPTION:** The physical extent does not include photographs and/or negatives.

TITLE: Records Relating to Clocks

DATES: [before 1943]

**PHYSICAL
EXTENT:** 1 folder

**SCOPE AND
CONTENT:** File contains a pamphlet on the Zimmer Tower, two pictures of clocks, diagrams of clocks designed by Cotsworth, and photographs of clocks and his patented designs. Cotsworth applied for a patent in July, 1929, for his designs of clocks and watches that function according to his 13-month calendar.

**SOURCE OF
SUPPLIED
TITLE:** Title based on contents of the file.

DATE: Even though the patented designs and the pamphlet have specific dates, it is difficult to determine the period of time when the photographs were taken and when Cotsworth worked on his clock and watch designs.

**PHYSICAL
DESCRIPTION:** The physical extent does not include photographs and/or negatives.

TITLE: Zimmer Tower : Astronomical Clock and Studio : Supplement to the Illustrated Guide of Lierre (Belgium) / Louis Zimmer ; published by the "Gidsenbond," Belgium

DATES: 1931

**PHYSICAL
EXTENT:** 24 p.

**SCOPE AND
CONTENT:** Item is a pamphlet, which describes the clock tower that Zimmer constructed as clockmaker to the Royal Court in Belgium. He finished the tower in 1930 and presented it to the city of Lierre on the occasion of Belgium's centennial anniversary of independence. The pamphlet describes the twelve dials built onto the face of the Centenary Clock. It explains what the dials mean, how they

function, and how measurements are taken. It includes diagrams of the clock dials as well as charts and other diagrams. It also describes dials found in the Astronomic Studio. These include thirteen dials, dealing with the subdivision of time, as well as other dials representing astronomical phenomena. Zimmer has included a dial that functions according to Cotsworth's 13-month calendar.

Contents Listing

Box no. / Folder no.	Folder Title
1 / 1	Correspondence and Personal Notes (Correspondence)
1 / 2	Correspondence and Personal Notes (Personal Notes)
1 / 3	Correspondence and Personal Notes (Drafts of printed material/pamphlets)
1 / 4	Correspondence and Personal Notes (Miscellaneous articles by other writers)
1 / 5	Newspaper Articles (Including other published articles/material)
1 / 6	Newspaper Articles (Bound volume)
2 / 1	Pamphlets on Calendar Reform and Related Material (By Moses B. Cotsworth as Director, International Fixed Calendar League)
2 / 2	Pamphlets on Calendar Reform and Related Material (M. B. Cotsworth's scrapbook of material used in pamphlets)
2 / 3	Pamphlets on Calendar Reform and Related Material (Textual and graphical information used in pamphlets written by M. B. Cotsworth)
2 / 4	Pamphlets on Calendar Reform and Related Material (Drafts of articles; revisions done by Cotsworth)
2 / 5	Pamphlets on Calendar Reform and Related Material (Other writers)

- 3 / 1 Posters and Related Material (Posters in preparation)
- 3 / 2 Posters and Related Material (Posters in preparation)
- 3 / 3 Posters and Related Material (Posters in preparation)
- 3 / 4 Posters and Related Material (Posters in preparation – other types of calendars)
- 3 / 5 Posters and Related Material (Posters in preparation – other types of calendars)
- 3 / 6 Posters and Related Material (Posters of other kinds of calendars)
- 3 / 7 Posters and Related Material (Finished posters – for demonstration purposes)
- 3 / 8 Posters and Related Material (Finished posters – for demonstration purposes)
- 3 / 9 Posters and Related Material (Finished posters – for demonstration purposes)

- 4 / 1 Records Relating to Egypt (Pyramids, Sphinx)
- 4 / 2 Records Relating to Stonehenge
- 4 / 3 Statistical Charts and Graphs
- 4 / 4 Statistical Charts and Graphs
- 4 / 5 Records Relating to Miscellaneous Subjects
Records Relating to Clocks
- 4 / 6 Records Relating to Miscellaneous Subjects
Records Relating to Glaciers/Geological Data
- 4 / 7 Records Relating to Miscellaneous Subjects
Records Relating to Obelisks
- 4 / 8 Records Relating to Miscellaneous Subjects
Picture Postcards

- 4 / 9 Records Relating to Miscellaneous Subjects
 Published Journals and Other Published
 Materials/Pamphlets

- 4 / 10 Records Relating to Miscellaneous Subjects
 Published Material

- 4 / 11 Records Relating to Miscellaneous Subjects
 Miscellaneous Maps

- 4 / 12 Records Relating to Miscellaneous Subjects
 Miscellaneous Photographs

- 5 / 1 Records Relating to Miscellaneous Subjects
 Published Journals – Bound Volumes

- 5 / 2 Records Relating to Miscellaneous Subjects
 Published Journals – Bound Volumes

Photographs Relating to his Studies

Photograph/Negative Number

BC 1973/1 to BC 1973/2

BC 1973/3

BC 1973/4 to BC 1973/34

*BC 1973/35 to BC 1973/54

*BC 1973/55 to BC 1973/84

BC 1973/85 to BC 1973/119

*BC 1973/120 to BC 1973/124

BC 1973/125 to BC 1973/127

BC 1973/128 to BC 1973/194

BC 1973/195 to BC 1973/209

*BC 1973/210 to BC 1973/212

BC 1973/213 to BC 1973/239

Series

Correspondence and Personal Notes

Newspaper Articles

Pamphlets on Calendar Reform and Related Material

Posters and Related Material

Records Relating to Egypt

Records Relating to Stonehenge

Statistical Charts and Graphs

Miscellaneous Subjects

Records Relating to Clocks

Records Relating to

Glaciers/Geological Data

Records Relating to Obelisks

Miscellaneous Maps

Miscellaneous Photographs

Notes Relating to the Collection

* These series also have items in Map Cabinet 5

Posters and Related Material:	oversize "Mohammedan" calendar
Records Relating to Egypt:	oversize map of Nik River
	oversize poster of Ra
Statistical Charts and Graphs:	seven oversize charts/graphs