

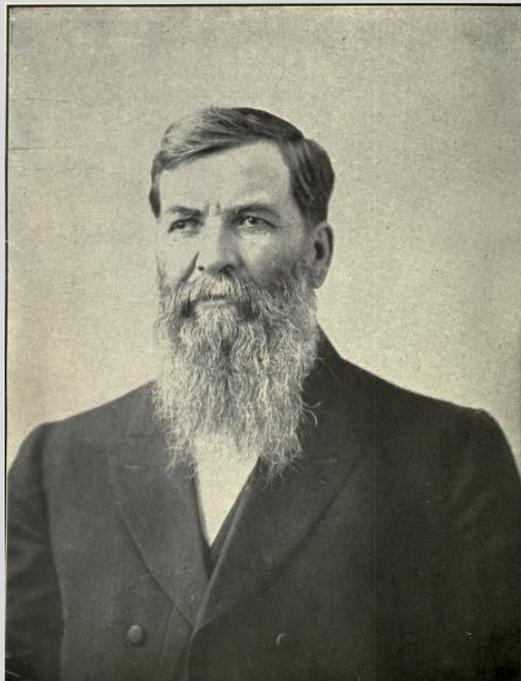
# Greenberry George Rupert

**A Significant Church of God Leader!**

*A quest over a 45-year period*

By Craig M White

Version 1.3



*GG Rupert (1911)*

Other articles in this series:

- *Amazing Temple Symbolism found in Revelation chapter 3!* by C White
- *Collection of Notes on Church of God Groups* by C White
- *GG Rupert. Man of God* by C White
- *Herbert W Armstrong. Man of God* by C White
- *Herman L Hoeh. Salute to a WCG Pioneer* by C White
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- *Seven Eras of Ancient Israel. Type of the Eras of the True Church?* by C White
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#### **History Research Projects**

GPO Box 864, Sydney, Australia 2001

[www.originofnations.org](http://www.originofnations.org)

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The purpose and desire is to foster Biblical, historical and related studies that strengthen the Church of God's message & mission and provides further support to its traditional doctrinal positions.

## Introductory Remarks

The article below is about the author's interest since 1973 in a prominent Church of God leader, Greenberry George Rupert. His 2-month trip to the USA (2017/18) has thrown further light on this very important – and during the early 1900s – famed preacher.

He feels that it is imperative to restore Rupert to his rightful place in Church of God history thus bringing him, once again, to prominence amongst ourselves. Rupert has been ignored or minimised for far too long.

Much of the original research and most of Rupert's literature may be found at <http://www.friendsofsabbath.org/GG%20Rupert/ggrupert.htm> At that site one can download the collected notes on Rupert titled *Greenberry G Rupert – Man of God!* by this author. These notes were assembled many years ago and considerable more research has been undertaken since. This further research will be incorporated into these notes in due course.

Rupert restored much truth and 'value added' to the Church of God's understanding in a number of areas, though his strength was not in end-time prophecy. However, it seems that he laid the foundations for Andrew N Dugger and Herbert W Armstrong and their additional doctrinal studies. After all, knowledge shall increase (Dan 12:4) which means its extent, depth and clarity. This includes improving upon the teachings of predecessors.

## Uncle Ron and GG Rupert

It was many years ago, when I was still a young boy, my Uncle Ron (Mum's brother) used to discuss politics and religion at family gatherings.

My earliest memories concerned his outspokenness, religious views and that he was a major bookworm on religious topics, World War Two and medical science. I noted well his opposition to liberal ministers infiltrating the churches and especially the Methodist churches, even in those days.

The nepotism, cronyism, lack of zeal, pathetic Biblical knowledge etc disgusted him. "Hell will be lined with white collars" he used to say oft.

When you would visit him, he would invariably be reading a book or talking about books he had been reading or expounding his political viewpoints.

Even at family functions and parties he would talk about the British Royal Throne descent from King David, the future revival of Germany, pagan origin of Christmas (even though he observed it), relations between nations and so on. I was very young then, but recall all of this.

He used to listen to *The World Tomorrow* broadcast and read *The Plain Truth* magazine but never joined the Radio Church of God (which later changed its name to the Worldwide Church of God in 1968).

Mum says that at one stage the Methodist Church was interested in ordaining him a lay preacher because of his Bible knowledge, gregarious personality and natural public speaking ability.

I think it was in 1973 that he and I were in conversation about the *Plain Truth*, prophecy etc and I had read *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*. Somehow, I had misunderstood what the book meant in the final chapters and thought Russia would be the end-time power coming against the West (I was probably influenced by the writings of evangelicals on the subject, thereby skewing my interpretation of this book).

‘No’ he exclaimed – it will be Germany that will rise again (heading up a US of Europe) – Germany is Assyria in prophecy he told me – watch them rise again as Armstrong predicted. I henceforth commenced to investigate the matter to prove German-Assyrian links in the local library and found a couple of references to the concept in old British-Israel books, but not much evidence – evidently the concept was only beginning to develop in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

We also debated Sabbath observance and other Biblical issues – I recall this all.

At that time, he also recommended *The Yellow Peril* by GG Rupert which he had borrowed from the Port Elizabeth, South Africa library many years previous. I went to the library to seek out the book but was told it was withdrawn from circulation and but a novel with that title was available. It took me 10 years to obtain a copy of that book (by that time the family had migrated to Australia via England) which I ordered from the USA and I consequently built up a library of books and booklets by Rupert.

Many years ago, I wrote a large article about him titled *Greenberry G Rupert – Man of God!* as mentioned above, and since then have accumulated much more information which will be added to it. This article and other information including most of Rupert’s writings are available at <http://www.friendsofsabbath.org/GG%20Rupert/ggrupert.htm>

Initially I had no idea at that time that Rupert was a Church of God minister whom observed the Sabbath, holy days etc. It was many years later that I discovered this to be the case. In the meantime, I was under the impression that he was a mainstream preacher.

As I wrote in the *Acknowledgements* to the book *The Great German Nation* (published in 2007):

“This book, sequel to *In Search of ... the Origin of Nations*, took many years to research and finalise. Yet, without the input and assistance of others, it would have not achieved the quality product it has ...

My uncle, Ron Martin, my Mother’s brother (1931-1996), mentioned the author Greenberry Rupert (1847-1922) to me from time-to-time in conversation. Uncle Ron used to receive the *Plain Truth* magazine and subscribed to many of its teachings such as the Israel Message and identity of Assyria. I recall especially one of the occasions his mentioning Rupert in 1973. He urged me to look up his books at the local library (he would have read the book in the late 1950s or during the 1960s.) Alas, upon inquiring at the library, I was told that the books had been withdrawn from circulation. But after migrating to Australia via England, I was able to procure

one of Rupert's books in 1983 and a number of his booklets which I ordered from the USA.

Around late 1976 or early 1977 I made contact with researcher Richard Nickels and sometime later found out that he had already undertaken his own extensive research into Rupert's publications and his important part in Church history. However, I continued my own independent research and discovered what a remarkable man he was.

It is important to realise that Rupert lived at a time that Seventh-day Adventist scholar Alonzo T Jones and others wrote about the Biblical origin of nations based on the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter of Genesis. This is one of the most over-looked chapters in the entire Bible."

At that time, I had no idea that Alonzo T Jones had left the Seventh-day Adventist Church and had become associated with the Church of God. Or that he became a colleague of Rupert. Further details are located here [http://www.friendsofsabbath.org/CG7/AT\\_Jones/alonzo\\_t\\_jones.htm](http://www.friendsofsabbath.org/CG7/AT_Jones/alonzo_t_jones.htm)



*Port Elizabeth library*

## **Letter from Uncle Ron**

Below are extracts from a letter he sent me in 1993:

"Dear Craig,

...

I started reading the *Plain Truth* ... I wanted to be a Methodist preacher, but was turned down [in part because he wanted to preach British-Israelism] ...

You are correct about me listening to the "World Tomorrow" from L.M. [that is Lourenco Marques, Mozambique. According to the *Autobiography of Herbert W Armstrong*, (vol 2, ch 62) the broadcast commenced in that year] that was before you were born, that is way back and makes me feel old.

...

What a coincidence - I received my copy of the Plain Truth today and guess what - N.S.W. Rugby team is playing Eastern Province at the stadium today. N.S.W. [ie the Australian State of New South Wales] are referred to as the "Waratahs."



The Remnant of Israel periodical, June 1919

Over the decades, members locally and overseas, became aware of my interest in Rupert's work. In fact, I gave a presentation on him and showed the audience some of his writings at the Sydney WCG Spokesman's Club in 1995 (I was Sergeant-at-Arms for the Club even though being a member of UCG since mid-1995. I thought it important to complete my tenure regardless of Church membership). In addition, I gave a PowerPoint presentation to a sabbatarian group in Brisbane 7 April 2007, extolling Rupert's virtues.

### The Mysterious Table of Nations

In the eighteenth-century Sir William Jones and Jacob Bryant wrote on the subject with the interest in this chapter of God's Word peaking late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century with academics such as Rawlinson famous for his *Origin of Nations* (1878); and Sayce in such books as *Races of the Old Testament* (1891; 1925). Seventh-day Adventist scholar, Alonzo T Jones, referred to previously, authored two works on the subject, *The Peopling of the Earth* (1887) and *The Empires of the Bible* (vol

1) (1904). He was obviously inspired by contemporary writers; in turn others this century were inspired by his writings.

It is within this context that Rupert undertook valuable research into national origins and wrote about this within a prophetic context. In addition, he wrote extensively on other subjects such as the Biblical Holy Days and Bible laws.

I even quoted from his book on *The Yellow Peril* (1911) in my book *In Search of ... the Origin of Nations* (published in 2003):

"I feel that it is important to quote at length from another source to cement this important concept in the reader's mind. This time from an incredible author during the early years of this century, G.G. Rupert, who wrote the famous *Yellow Peril*. In it he quotes from Dr Daniel Schenkel's *Bibel-Lexicon*:

"Rosh in Heseq 38:2, 3; 39:1, is the name of a people of the north, named along with Meschech and Tubal, and all together as subject people of Gog...Rosh as a proper name for a people does not, to be sure, occur anywhere else before the tenth century A.D., when it is found in use by Byzantine and oriental writers; but the statements concerning the same people, dwelling in northern Taurus, as also towards the Muscovite Mountains, or, as some other authors maintain, on the Taurian Peninsula (Crimea), and still further to the north along the Volga, - agree in a most striking manner with the combination of Rosh, Meschech, and Tubal ... Rosh is the oldest historical name to designate the tribal peoples of the Russians of history, a combination which already Bocharat has made, and for whom as a connecting link he has taken the Roxolani or Roxalani mentioned by Pliny (62-110), Ptolemy, and others, taking it for granted that the latter name arose from a connection of the Rox-Rosh with the Alani". [quoted in Rupert pages 127-28 which in turn was quoted in *In Search of ... the Origin of Nations*, page 267.]

Rupert wrote *The Inspired History of the Nations* series in six volumes. Below is an extract from Volume 1, *The Future of the Nations*:

"The lands of the grandsons of Noah are mentioned throughout the world's history, and especially is this true of the land of Magog, Meshech and Tubal, as mentioned in the 38th chapter of Ezekiel. In order to understand the inspired history or prophecy concerning the latter days, it is necessary to understand or know to what regions these grandsons of Noah immigrated. The next in order of this chapter is to trace the descendants of Ham. One of his descendants was the mighty hunter or persecutor of God's people, Nimrod, who became the founder of the Babylonian Empire over 2,000 years before Christ.

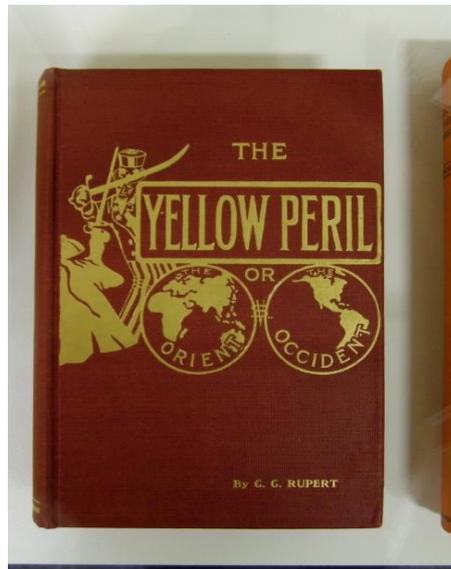
Shem was the next in order and the location of his sons was as follows:

'And their dwelling was from Mesha as thou goes unto Sephar a mountain of the east.'—Genesis 10:30. Gomer, the son of Japheth and the grandson of Noah, located both north and south of the Black Sea, the latter part being now the land of the Turks. Togarmah, another descendant of Noah, located east of Gomer, and southeast of

the Black Sea – now the land of Armenia. Meshech settled between Togarmah and the Black Sea. Magog, another grandson, settled in the land now called Russia. Ashkenaz, the great-grandson of Noah, located south and west of the Black Sea. This is a country lying east of Greece. Tubal was another grandson of Noah. His country was directly east of the Black Sea.

Ham's sons – Cush, Mizraim, Put, Canaan – located in northern Africa and also in Arabia. Nimrod, as before stated, was the founder of the Babylonian Empire. The sons of Shem are Elam, Ashur, Arphaxad, Lud and Aram. These settled in Arabia, adjoining the northern and eastern borders of Palestine.'

Let the reader study the attached map and fix these names and countries in mind. These names and the countries they represent will be spoken of relative to the closing events of the world's history. It is for this reason we give the ancient map representing these countries. Without it we would be very much in the dark regarding the prophetic statements made in regard to them." (page 45)



Cover for *The Yellow Peril*

Rupert's *The Yellow Peril* was so influential, that even to this day, historians and critics refer to this book! Even a friend of the family, during my youth, Uncle Albert, would refer to this concept in conversation.

It seems very likely that Rupert was a precursor or forerunner of Herbert W Armstrong who may well have read Rupert's writings. But note: drawing ideas and inspiration from sources has nothing to do with plagiarism. This is simply how God works to restore much knowledge to His Church – we humans build upon and improve upon predecessors' concepts and writings.

### **A Warning to the Church**

In one of his works, concerning *The Seven Churches* (published in the early years of the twentieth century), Rupert noted:

**“Verse 9 shows there is a great apostasy during the history of the Philadelphia church.** Yet there are some few in that age that have kept his word ... How truly all this history is fulfilled before the eyes of those who can see, having eyes anointed to discern truth ... **Now is the time to not be ashamed of his truth and proclaim it.”** (pages 19-20)  
[emphasis mine]

Rupert had predicted, in some inspired way, the apostasy of the Philadelphia era about 80 or so years prior to it occurring by understanding what the following verses in Revelation indicate:

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is set-apart, He who is true, He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts; and shuts and no one opens, says these things:

I know your works. Behold, I have given before you an open door, and no one can shut it. For you have a little strength [some sections of the Church are/were weak, not dead] and have kept My Word and have not denied My name [ie they revived the used of the title ‘Church of God’]. **[first phase – undertaking a Work]**

Behold, I give out of those of the synagogue of Satan, those saying themselves to be Jews and are not, but lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. [why? Because they caused the apostasy] **[second phase – apostasy]**

Because you have kept the Word of My patience, I also will keep you from the hour of temptation which will come upon all the habitable world, to try those who dwell upon the earth. [why? Because they resisted apostasy] **[third phase – keeping His Word – including a revived Work and then Great Tribulation]**

Behold, I come quickly. Hold fast to that which you have, so that no one may take your crown. **[fourth phase – Christ’s return]**

Him who overcomes I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will go out no more. And I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of Heaven from My God, and My new name.” **[finally – the granting of rewards in His Kingdom]**

It would appear that the Philadelphia Era contains 4 phases and that we are in phase 3 at the present time, enduring the impact of the Synagogue of Satan. How long it will continue and how extensive the end-time Work will be, remains to be seen. Cooperation between groups and extending the hand of friendship to demonstrate a brotherly love is needed now more than ever.

The evil Synagogue of Satan took control of the Church and continues to plot and plan to take over other Churches of God. They cunningly lay low for a long time – like political ‘sleepers’ – waiting for the right moment to take over. Such immoral and unethical behaviour!

Regardless of all opposition and apostasy, God's people continue to proclaim the true Gospel of God's approaching Kingdom.

*Nave's Topical Bible* reveals that "more space in the prophetic scriptures is devoted to a future rule of God on earth than to any other theme" (page 752). This was the major theme of Greenberry Rupert's, Andrew Dugger's and Herbert W Armstrong's preaching.

Yet this era is described as weak (Rev 3:8). But due to their faith (holding fast to true doctrine) and practice, God used this phase of His Work mightily. Notice a similar principle outlined by the prophet Isaiah:

"Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from Jehovah, and the justice *due* to me is passed away from my God?

Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard? The everlasting God, Jehovah, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary; there is no searching of his understanding.

**He giveth power to the faint; and to him that hath no might he increaseth strength.**

Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

**but they that wait for Jehovah shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint."**

(Is 40:27-31).

In addition to information on the nations of Genesis 10, Rupert brought with him the belief that the annual sabbaths are important for Christians to understand and to observe, which impacted upon sections of the Church of God, a few who were already observing these days since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. During his time with the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the late nineteenth century, he performed missionary work in Guyana, South America. Later, in the 1960s, Worldwide Church of God ministers stumbled across many of these scattered remnants of Sabbatarian churches in South America. The Church of God (seventh day) had churches and elders in that region before 1930, so these may have been due to those efforts and possibly even Rupert's missionary work. They never associated with any other sabbatarian group but continued to faithfully observe the sabbath and in many cases, the annual sabbaths. Perhaps some of these scattered groups are still extant to this day in South America.



GG Rupert c1919

So, the Churches of God have a former Seventh-day Adventist elder to thank for bringing the annual sabbaths into their theological framework. In fact, to this day some Adventists privately observe these days.

Similarities between Rupert's and Armstrong's doctrines include:

- Sabbath observance
- Feast days
- Clean unclean meats
- Tithing
- Identity of Israel
- Future fulfillment (or duality) of most prophecies
- The Jews are a small part of Israel and their return to Palestine prior to Christ's return is not the fulfillment of the second Exodus prophecies
- Church eras (including the belief that their church was the Philadelphia Era)
- Ministers must be appointed, not elected
- The term *The Work* was used by both to refer to undertaking outreach or evangelising

Refer also to Richard Nickel's article *The Remnant of Israel. An Analysis of G.G. Rupert and His Independent Church of God (Seventh Day) Movement, 1915-1929.*

In addition, Pasadena figured in Rupert's area of undertaking the Work.

At Pasadena, Rupert, stated the following to a gathering of Sabbatarians from all over the USA in the spring of 1919:

"the day is not far distant when the work will go in power to every child of God in the world and call the honest to the truth for this time ... God has been performing a great work. **It now at last looks like the time is now here for the execution of the work** ... So now is the time to teach a whole truth to the Remnant."

His statement proved almost prophetic – instead of himself or Dugger undertaking this vast Work that he predicted, it landed on Herbert Armstrong, from that very place (Pasadena) to move that branch of the Work forward and forth to the world.

### **Strange coincidences?**

It may be asked whether I prayed for God's assistance during this recent leg of the quest during my 2-month trip to the USA in late 2017/early 2018. The answer is "yes!"

Perhaps the below are coincidences or answered prayer – I suppose we will not know until the resurrection for sure.

For instance on 3 January 2018 I was doing a search for information on Rupert for the nth time. A book popped up titles *The Book of the Law Found Again* which was retitled *The Statutes of God* and represents the final volume in the series *Inspired History of the Nations* (part 6) that was missing from

my collection. This occurrence happened in Oklahoma City of all places – where Rupert was buried in 1922.

It was a very pleasant surprise coming across that book – it was funny that it did not show up until then – after all it had been scanned and loaded to the internet in September 2017 by someone. Why did it not show up previously between then and 3 January after so many searches, I have no idea.

In fact, the previous day (2 January) I had written the following to a number of members - notice the final paragraph:

“... today I had a successful time at CG7 HQ and was permitted to view the archives and photograph some old 'Hope of Israel' pages from the 1800s. After the meeting I sent them suggestions on how quick and easy it would be to scan these magazines - if that is not feasible - to photograph them. We will be keeping in touch.

Have done like-wise again with the Bible Sabbath Association re 'The Sabbath Sentinel' magazine. I wonder what gems these old magazines contain?

Am also looking online to see if any library in Oklahoma has any of GG Rupert's books or booklets - that is where many or most of them were published. As you know, I scanned all the booklets I have but still have some larger items to scan which will prove rather awkward to do so. Check out <http://www.friendsofsabbath.org/GG%20Rupert/ggrupert.htm>

In particular I am interested in his 'The Statutes of God' and 'Bible Atlas.' Perhaps some members with time on their hands could help seek them out?”

The following day (4 January) I visited the local library near Britton, a suburb of Oklahoma City where many of Rupert's books were published by Union Publishers. I asked the librarian if she had Rupert's *Bible Atlas* or knew where to obtain it – to no avail. After leaving the library, I decided to read my e-mails on my cell phone and was surprised to receive an e-mail from a relative of Rupert at that time!

“Hello

Sorry I didn't get your call. 6 people in the family have the bad flu going around. 3 still have it and this has been going on Dec 1st ... anyway I do have stuff to send. I didn't find the book with all of the maps in it.”

I responded accordingly:

“Amazingly and by some strange coincidence I just looked at my emails on my cell phone while leaving the local library inquiring about Rupert's books and especially the *Bible Atlas*. I am near Britton where Union Publishers were that published his books.”

That relative mailed to me a number of Rupert's original books from the early 1900s (some with the original brown paper wrappers on them) which were received 13 April 2022 via a friend in the USA. I wrote the following to my e-mail list:

“Dear everyone,

As many of you know, when I was a kid my Uncle Ron (and others) used to mention GG Rupert, the American religious author. Later, in 1973 he told me about one of the books Rupert wrote and recommended I read it - which took me until 1983 to obtain a copy (by that time we had moved from South Africa to England to Australia).

Over the past few years relatives of Rupert based in the USA have contacted me ‘out of the blue’ and offered to help. One, a great great grandson of Rupert said he would send me books (2009) – these were eventually sent to a member recently who mailed them to me – they were received today (see photos attached)! Another, a great grand-daughter contacted me in 2012 and sent me photographs of Rupert and family in 2018.

My information on Rupert including 2 articles I have written about him are available [here](#) and shall probably update this page in due course.

I wish Uncle Ron was still alive to see all the accumulation of Rupert’s works – he would be fascinated and analytical as always.

Goes to show you: in a righteous quest, no matter the odds and no matter how long it takes, just keep on and on until you succeed.”



*Photographs of the books received*

Also, during the evening of 3 January I was looking online for photographs of Rupert and could not find any that I didn’t already have. I went to bed (I can still clearly picture the motel room) wondering how to find any.

The next morning when I woke up, the first thing I did was get onto the internet and undertake another search, which I thought would be pointless. I could hardly believe it when a photograph that I did not have showed up almost immediately.

Another rather odd coincidence!

A few months later a relative of Rupert contacted me ‘out of the blue’ and over time was able to send me a number of photographs of him which are located on the Friends of the Sabbath website.

Finding where he was buried took a while to find (4 January).

I found some information online and eventually found where the graveyard was. After driving all around it was futile and the office manager was not in and apparently at lunch but I was not sure, so I offered up a prayer. I waited for around 45 minutes in the car and he finally showed up. He found the registration card for the site and pointed to the vault where Rupert's remains are and asked if I wanted to enter it. Of course I declined, but went over and took photographs.



*The Rupert family vault where Rupert's coffin is located at Fairlawn Cemetery, Oklahoma City*

## Conclusion

It is quite likely that Herbert W. Armstrong was familiar with the teachings of G.G. Rupert (although already deceased) during the 1920's and 1930's when Armstrong was formulating the Radio Church of God's beliefs. Certainly, Church of God (Seventh Day) leader Andrew N. Dugger, a close associate of Armstrong during the early years, was a student of Rupert's writings.

Dugger, while writing in his 1920's book *A History of the True Religion*, referred to the 1860's Church of God paper as the *Remnant of Israel* when the name of the paper was actually *Hope of Israel*. Dugger read Rupert's periodical and apparently confused the name of the 1860's Church of God paper with Rupert's contemporary paper! If Armstrong himself was not acquainted with Rupert, he must certainly have learned of Rupert's teachings through his association with Dugger.

Still, little has been written about Rupert in Church of God literature, which is a shame. However, he is acknowledged by John Ogwyn (Living Church of God) in the booklet *God's Church Through the Ages* (pages 43-44).

Lawson Briggs in "Can Prophecy Fail?," *Good News*, May 1975 (page 26) also makes reference to him.

One other reference is in "Looking back on early Feasts," *The Portfolio*, 21 September 1995 by John B Heath (*The Portfolio* was an Ambassador College publication).

Let us hope that instead of forgetting his enormous doctrinal achievements, that they be recognised and integrated into Church of God histories and acknowledgements.

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*For those interested, most of the books and booklets that I have by Rupert and Jones were procured from Giving & Sharing, Remnant of Israel, Leaves of Autumn Books, various websites and a member who had 2 booklets.*