

FRANCIS ROBERT OTTO COLLECTION
PP0100

Descriptive Summary

Creator Otto, Francis R., 1920-2010

Title Francis Robert Otto Collection

Accession Number PP0100

Physical Description 2 flip top archival boxes, papers all in good condition

Inclusive Dates 1956-1987

Language Note English

Administrative Information

Repository
Mercer University Library
Archives and Digital Initiatives
1501 Mercer University Dr.
Macon, Georgia 31207
478-301-2968
archives@mercer.edu

Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Francis Robert Otto Collection. Archives and Digital Initiatives, Mercer University Library, Macon, GA.

Acquisition
Gift of unknown

Processing note
Inventory prepared by Daniel Willams and Jahni Jules

Restrictions on access
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Collection Description*Biographical Note*

Francis Robert Otto was born in May 3, 1920, in Bristol, Connecticut. He married Hellen V. Carson and had 3 children. He attended the University of Minnesota, where he earned the B.A. in 1946 and the M.A. in 1956. He graduated from Bethel Seminary in 1947, and later earned the Th.M. from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1953. His last degree was the Th.D. from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1959. He studied philosophy, Greek, and religion very early in his career and taught those subjects at Bethel College and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary from 1948 to 1956. He arrived at Mercer University in 1956 and became Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Philosophy in 1959. He became Dean of Chapel in 1962.

Scope and Content Note

The Otto Papers contains one binder entitled “The Case of Dr. Francis Robert Otto,” and a notation inside reading, “This copy by hand from Dr. Otto, September 25, 1990.” The binder is organized into sections, all of which deal with a controversial chapel sermon delivered by Dr. Otto (Dean of the Chapel) in 1967. Chapel attendance was at that time required at Mercer University. The binder contains a transcript of the sermon and related correspondence and news clippings. The collection also contain Newton Chapel worship services bulletins and worship prompters, primarily from 1989-90.

Subjects

Baptists—Georgia
Mercer University
Preaching

Related Material

None

Series Description

Series 1: “The Case of Dr. Francis Robert Otto”

Series 2: Newton Chapel Worship Services

Container List

SERIES 1: “THE CASE OF DR. FRANCIS ROBERT OTTO”

Folder 1/1: Otto Letter and Autobiography

Folder 1/2: President’s Remarks

Folder 1/3: Radio and Newspaper

Folder 1/4: Petitions and Resolutions

Folder 1/5: Letters, Pro

Folder 1/6: Letters, Con

Folder 1/7: Letters, Mercer

Folder 1/8: Letters, Neutral

SERIES 2: NEWTON CHAPEL WORSHIP SERVICES

Folder 1/9: Bulletins, September 15, 1988; May 11-November 9, 1989

Folder 1/10: Bulletins, January 4-May 24, 1990

Folder 1/11: Bulletin, March 19, 2003

Folder 1/12: Worship prompters, September 14, 1986; October 12, 1986; November 2, 1986

Folder 1/13: Worship prompters, March 1, 1987

Folder 1/14: Worship prompters, September 7-November 12, 1989

Folder 2/1: Inventory and Info

Folder 2/2: Worship prompters, 1987

Folder 2/3: Worship prompters, 1988

Folder 2/4: Worship prompters, 1989

Folder 2/5: Worship prompters, 1990