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Robert C. Ode Papers: A Guide to His Papers at the Jimmy Carter Library

Collection Summary

Creator: Ode, Robert C., 1915-1995

Title: Robert C. Ode Papers

Dates: 1979-1995

Quantity: 10 linear feet, 11 linear inches, 25 containers

Identification:

Accession Number: 83-02
National Archives Identifier: 589909

Scope and Content:

The Robert C. Ode Papers document his time spent as a hostage in Iran following the takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran by a group of Iranian students who supported the Iranian Revolution. The collection consists of clippings, correspondence, invitations, notes, proclamations, reports, resolutions, telegrams, and general textual records. Material also contains summaries of events in Iran prepared by the U.S. Department of State during the time of the Iran hostage crisis. The collection also includes the diary of Robert Ode that he maintained during his captivity. The majority of material in the collection documents the concern and support of the American people, especially schoolchildren, regarding the hostages and their families.

Creator Information: Robert C. Ode

Robert Ode was born on December 10, 1915 in Plano, Illinois. He attended Olivet College in Michigan in 1933, and served in the U.S. Navy from 1941 to 1945. He entered the U.S. Foreign Service in 1947 and married Rita Muth in November 1947. He served until he retired in 1975. Although retired, in September 1979 he accepted a temporary assignment in Tehran, Iran. On November 4, 1979, he was taken hostage at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran along with fifty-one other Americans. Ode was the oldest of the hostages and remained in captivity for 444 days. He was released from captivity on January 21, 1981. He died in Sun City West, Arizona on September 8, 1995.

Restrictions:

Restrictions on Access: These papers contain documents restricted in accordance with applicable executive order(s), which governs National Security policies, applicable

statutes/agency restrictions, and material which has been closed in accordance with the donor's deed of gift.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction: Copyright interest in these papers has been donated to the United States Government. Some of the records may be subject to copyright restrictions (i.e. newspapers, publications, etc.). Researchers should contact the publisher for further information.

Related Material:

Related materials in this repository: Records of the Office of the National Security Advisor (Carter Administration); Richard Morefield Papers

Separated material: The collection includes a number of audio-visual and oversized items, such as gifts, as well as a number of books related to the hostage crisis. These have been transferred to other areas of the Library as applicable.

Index Terms:

Limited to major topics under each category
Persons: Robert C. Ode, Rita Ode

Organizations: U.S. Department of State

Subjects: Iran Hostage Crisis

Places: Tehran (Iran)

Types of Material: Clippings, correspondence, diary, invitations, notes, printed material, proclamations, reports, resolutions, summaries, telegrams

Administrative Information:

Preferred citation: [Type of Document], [Names of Sender and Recipient or Title of Document], [Date], [Collection Title], [Series Title], [Folder Title], [Box Number], Jimmy Carter Presidential Library.

Acquisition information: These donated historical materials were received under provisions of the instrument of gift that Robert C. Ode signed October 25, 1982. An accretion was donated by his widow, Rita Muth Ode, in 1997.

Processing information: The collection was opened in August 2000. The open dates are indicated in the series descriptions.

System of Arrangement:

Arrangement Note: The division of the collection into series was completed by the Carter Library. Brackets around folder titles (or portions of folder titles) indicate that information was supplied by Library staff.

The records of the Robert Ode Papers are divided into four series:

Series Title	National Archives Identifier
Robert Ode's Correspondence Files	590211
Robert Ode's Subject Files	590212
Robert Ode's Chronological Files	590215
Robert Ode's Clippings Files	7455323

Detailed Description of the Collection

[Robert Ode's Correspondence Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 1-13. This series was opened in August 2000. The correspondence in this series has been divided into five different categories. The categories include messages of support from schoolchildren in Arizona, Robert Ode's home state; messages of support and best wishes from schoolchildren throughout the United States and several foreign countries; general correspondence consisting of messages for Mr. Ode and his family; critical responses to some of Ode's post-captivity remarks; and general correspondence to and from Robert and Rita Ode that covers a broader time period. The correspondence also includes incoming mail and outgoing responses to and from family, friends, organizations, and members of Congress. Personal letters between Robert and Rita Odes are also included. Arranged alphabetically by correspondence type.

[Robert Ode's Subject Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 13-15. This series was opened in August 2000. This series contains correspondence, gifts, invitations, newspaper clippings, proclamations, resolutions, and telegrams with support messages concerning the hostages. This series also contains a variety of mementos and gifts from Americans during and after the hostage crisis. A highlight of this series is the diary that Robert Ode was allowed to keep during his time as a hostage. He began writing the diary after the first few months of being held captive. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[Robert Ode's Chronological Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 15-16. This series was opened in August 2000. This series contains State Department summaries of significant events in Iran for the families of hostages. Arranged chronologically.

[Robert Ode's Clippings Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 17-25. This series was opened in October 2013. This series contains original press clippings from newspapers and magazines relating to the hostage crisis and other affairs after his release. Loose clippings are in folders, unarranged. Clippings in albums are arranged chronologically.

[Return to Series List](#)

Container List

Robert Ode's Correspondence Files

Container 1

Arizona School Children's Correspondence

School - Arizona - Avondale - Avondale Elementary School
School - Arizona - Chandler - Knox School
School - Arizona - El Mirage - El Mirage School - 1st Grade
School - Arizona - El Mirage - El Mirage School - 2nd Grade
School - Arizona - El Mirage - El Mirage School - 3rd Grade
School - Arizona - El Mirage - El Mirage School - 4th Grade
School - Arizona - El Mirage - El Mirage School - 5th Grade
School - Arizona - El Mirage - El Mirage School - 6th Grade
School - Arizona - El Mirage - El Mirage School - Bilingual
School - Arizona - Gilbert - Greenfield School
School - Arizona - Glendale
School - Arizona - Glendale - Glendale Elementary School
School - Arizona - Glendale - Independence High School
School - Arizona - Glendale - Park Meadows School
School - Arizona - Glendale - Sunburst School

Container 2

School - Arizona - Holbrook - Hulet School
School - Arizona - Mesa - Hawthorne School
School - Arizona - Mesa - Roosevelt Elementary School
School - Arizona - Peoria - Dysart Junior High School
School - Arizona - Peoria Surprise Elementary School
School - Arizona - Phoenix - Acacia School
School - Arizona - Phoenix - Constitution School
School - Arizona - Phoenix - Encanto School
School - Arizona - Phoenix - Grancha Valencia West School
School - Arizona - Phoenix - Heard School
School - Arizona - Phoenix - Lakeview School
School - Arizona - Phoenix - Lincoln School
School - Arizona - Phoenix - Lookout Mountain School - Learning Disabled
School - Arizona - Phoenix - Madison School
School - Arizona - Phoenix - Madison Rose Lane Elementary School
School - Arizona - Phoenix - Manzanita Elementary School
School - Arizona - Phoenix - Mercury Mine School
School - Arizona - Phoenix - Mountain View School
School - Arizona - Phoenix - Paradise Valley School
School - Arizona - Phoenix - Peralta School
School - Arizona - Phoenix - St. Simon and Jude School

School - Arizona - Phoenix - St. Thomas the Apostle School

Container 3

School - Arizona - Phoenix - Shaw Buttle School
School - Arizona - Phoenix - Sims School
School - Arizona - Phoenix - Starlight Park School
School - Arizona - Phoenix - Tomahawk School
School - Arizona - Phoenix - Valencia School
School - Arizona - St. David - St. David School
School - Arizona - Scottsdale - Hohokam Elementary School
School - Arizona - Sells - Santa Rosa Boarding School
School - Arizona - Sierra Vista - Myer School
School - Arizona - Sun City - Luke School - Deer Valley Junior High
School - Arizona - Sun City - Luke School - Luke School - 1st Grade Luke Air Force Base
School - Arizona - Sun City - Luke School - 2nd Grade
School - Arizona - Sun City - Luke School - 3rd Grade
School - Arizona - Sun City - Luke School - 4th Grade
School - Arizona - Sun City - Luke School - 5th Grade
School - Arizona - Sun City - Luke School - 6th Grade
School - Arizona - Sun City - Port Orchard School
School - Arizona - Sun City - Showlow School
School - Arizona - Surprise - Dysart Junior High School [1]
School - Arizona - Surprise - Dysart Junior High School [2]

Container 4

School - Arizona - Surprise - Dysart Junior High School [3]
School - Arizona - Surprise - Dysart Junior High School [4]
School - Arizona - Surprise - Surprise School - 1st Grade
School - Arizona - Surprise - Surprise School - Special Classes
School - Arizona - Surprise - Surprise School - 2nd Grade
School - Arizona - Surprise - Surprise School - 3rd Grade
School - Arizona - Surprise - Surprise School - 4th Grade
School - Arizona - Tempe - Gethsemane School
School - Arizona - Tempe - Wood School
School - Arizona - Tucson - S.S.'s Peter and Paul School
School - Arizona - Tucson - Sacred Heart Church School
School - Arizona - Yuma - C.W. McGraw School
School - Arizona - Yuma - Playhouse Nursery

Container 5

School Children's State Correspondence

School - Alabama - Miscellaneous
School - Alabama - Fultondale - Fultondale Elementary School
School - Alabama - Tarrant - Tarrant Middle School
School - California - Miscellaneous
School - California - Indio - Parson School

School - California - San Diego - Perry School
School - California - Sunnyvale - Sunnyvale Christian School
School - Connecticut - Miscellaneous
School - Delaware - Miscellaneous
School - Florida - Miscellaneous
School - Florida - Largo - Oakhurst Elementary School
School - Foreign Country - Canada
School - Foreign Country - Vicenza - Italy
School - Foreign Country - in Spanish
School - Georgia - Miscellaneous]
School - Georgia - Dalton - Dawnville School
School - Illinois - Miscellaneous
School - Illinois - Oaklawn - Simmons Junior High School
School - Illinois - Plano - Bristol School
School - Indiana - Miscellaneous
School - Indiana - South Bend - St. Matthew's School
School - Iowa - Miscellaneous
School - Kansas - Miscellaneous
School - Kentucky - Miscellaneous
School - Kentucky - Louisville- Roosevelt Perry School
School - Kentucky - Scottsville - Allen County Elementary

Container 6

School - Louisiana - Miscellaneous
School - Louisiana - Metairie - St. Lawrence School
School - Massachusetts - Miscellaneous
School - Massachusetts - Brookline - Edith C. Baker School
School - Maryland - Miscellaneous
School - Maine - Miscellaneous
School - Michigan - Miscellaneous
School - Michigan - Trarerse City - Cherry Knoll School
School - Michigan - Canton - Gallimore School
School - Michigan - East Lansing - Donley School
School - Michigan - Pinconning - Garfield Fraser School
School - Minnesota - Miscellaneous
School - Minnesota - Coon Rapids - Mississippi Elementary School
School - Miscellaneous
School - Mississippi - Miscellaneous
School - Missouri - Miscellaneous
School - Montana - Miscellaneous
School - Nevada - Miscellaneous
School - Nevada - Winnemucca - Sonoma Heights School
School - New Hampshire - Miscellaneous

Container 7

School - New Jersey - Miscellaneous

School - New Jersey - Cape May Court House- Chatter Box Nursery
School - New Jersey - Collingswood - Thomas Sharp School
School - New Jersey - Landisville - Our Lady of Victories School [1-2]
School - New Jersey - Mt. Laurel - Countryside School
School - New Jersey - New Brunswick - Parsons School
School - New Jersey - Vincentown - Indian Mills School
School - New Mexico - Miscellaneous
School - New Mexico - Carlsbad - Alta Vista Middle School
School - New York - Miscellaneous
School - New York - Armonk - Comer Hill School
School - New York - Cheektowaga - Maryvale North Hill School
School - New York - Depew - Cayuga Heights Elementary School
School - New York - Hermon - Dekalb School
School - New York - Hinsdale - Hinsdale Central School

Container 8

School - New York - Mechanicsville - Mechanicsville High School
School - New York - Orchard Park - Orchard Park Central School
School - New York - Orchard Park - Windom Elementary School
School - New York - Selden - New Lane Elementary School
School - North Carolina - Miscellaneous
School - North Carolina - Albemarle - Stanly Technical College
School - North Carolina - Pleasant Garden - Pleasant Garden School
School - North Dakota - Miscellaneous
School - North Dakota - Fargo - Benjamin Franklin Junior High School
School - Ohio - Miscellaneous
School - Ohio - Long - London Primary School
School - Oregon - Miscellaneous
School - Oregon - Medford - Roosevelt School
School - Pennsylvania - Miscellaneous
School - Pennsylvania - Wilkes-Barre - Heights-Murray
School - Rhode Island - Miscellaneous
School - Rhode Island - Central Falls - St. George Episcopal Church School
School - Rhode Island - Nawgansett Elementary School
School - South Carolina - Miscellaneous
School - Texas - Miscellaneous
School - Texas - Odessa - Blackshear Junior High
School - Utah - Miscellaneous
School - Virginia - Miscellaneous
School - Virginia - Norfolk - Mary Calcott School
School - Virginia - Richmond - University of Richmond
School - Virginia - Hampton - Forrest School
School - Vermont - Miscellaneous
School - Washington - Miscellaneous
School - Washington, D.C. - Miscellaneous

Container 9

School - Wisconsin - Miscellaneous
School - Wisconsin - Milwaukee - Blaine School
School - West Virginia - Miscellaneous
School - West Virginia - Verdunville Grade School

Container 10

General and Family Correspondence

Correspondence - Incoming - A-F
Correspondence - Incoming - G-L
Correspondence - Incoming - Listing
Correspondence - Incoming - M
Correspondence - Incoming - Miscellaneous
Correspondence - Incoming - N

Container 11

Correspondence - Incoming - O
Correspondence - Incoming - "October Surprise" Barbara Honegger Packet, 10/21/88
Correspondence - Incoming - Ode - Howard and Mary Alice
Correspondence - Incoming - Ode - Rita [Mrs. Robert C. Ode] [1]
Correspondence - Incoming - Ode - Rita [Mrs. Robert C. Ode] [2]
Correspondence - Incoming - Ode - Rita [Mrs. Robert C. Ode] [3]
Correspondence - Incoming - P-R

Container 12

Correspondence - Incoming - S-Z
Correspondence - Ode Outgoing
Correspondence - Outgoing - A-M
Correspondence - Outgoing - Listing
Correspondence - Outgoing - Miscellaneous
Correspondence - Outgoing - N-O
Correspondence - Outgoing - Ode - Rita [1]
Correspondence - Outgoing - Ode - Rita [2]

Container 13

Correspondence - Outgoing - P-Z

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Robert Ode's Subject Files

Container 13

Arthur Simons Memorial Fund
Buttons
Cassette Recordings

Clippings
Diary
Family Liaison Action Group (FLAG)
45 RPM Records

Container 14

Gifts [1-2]
Gifts - Trips Taken
Honorary Doctorate from Olivet College
Interview (Excerpts) - Jimmy Carter and Larry King
Inventory of Items in Ode's Cell, 10/14/80
Invitations
Message from the Iranian People
Permanent State Monument to/for the Hostages
Photo/Postcards
President's Statement on Hostage Rescue
Proclamations and Resolutions [1]
Proclamations and Resolutions [2]
Proclamations - Resolutions and Observances
Rites of Passage, 1/18-31/81

Container 15

Telegrams [1-2]
Telegrams - Department of State - Incoming
Telegrams - Foreign Countries
Things I Want After Release
Transfers

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Robert Ode's Chronological Files

Container 15

Significant Events in Iran, 5/31/80-9/14/80

Container 16

Significant Events in Iran, 9/15/80-1/11/81
Final Report/Commission on Hostage Compensation, 9/21/81

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Robert Ode's Clippings Files

Container 17

Loose Clippings

Container 18
Loose Clippings

Container 19
Loose Clippings

Container 20
Clippings in Albums

Container 21
Clippings in Albums

Container 22
Clippings in Albums

Container 23
Clippings in Albums

Container 24
Clippings in Albums

Container 25
Clippings in Albums

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Last modified: November 2013