Finding Aid

Drew University Archives
36 Madison Avenue
Madison, NJ 07940
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Summary Information

Creator
Oden, Thomas C.

Title and dates

Abstract
Thomas Oden was the Henry Anson Buttz Professor of Theology and Ethics in the Theological School and Graduate School of Drew University from 1980-2004.

Size
.8 linear feet (2 boxes)

Location
Drew University Archives
Madison, NJ

Language(s) of materials
English.

Biography
Thomas Oden born October 21, 1931 in Altus, Oklahoma, the son of an attorney and music teacher. He married Edrita Pokorny on August 10, 1952. They had three children: Thomas, Edward, and Laura. Oden was the Henry Anson Buttz Professor of Theology and Ethics in the Theological School and Graduate School of Drew University from 1980-2004.

Oden received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Oklahoma in 1953, a Bachelor of Divinity from Southern Methodist University, Perkins School of Theology in 1956, a Master of Arts from Yale University in 1958, a Ph.D. from Yale University in 1960, and a Doctor of Letters from Asbury College in 1990.

Oden had a long teaching career, which included positions at Yale University, Southern Methodist University, Phillips University, Texas Medical School, Princeton Theological Seminary, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, the School of Theology at Claremont, the General Theological Seminary, and Drew University. He also held positions at Ruprecht-Karl Universitaet in Heidelberg, Germany, the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, Switzerland, and Moscow State University.

A prolific writer, Oden wrote and edited books, articles, essays, and speeches on such topics as church and the world, church controversies, evangelicalism, Kierkegaard, the Methodist church, church discipline, John Wesley, postmodernism, and numerous others.
Throughout his career, Oden also served in many professional and political organizations, including the American Theological Society, American Academy of Religion, Phi Beta Kappa, American Society for Christian Ethics, Rotary Club, Americans for Democratic Action, World Federalist Movement, National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples. He observed the Vatican Council II (1965), participated in the White House Conference on Urban Initiatives (1985), peace walks, demonstrations, and many other religious and political conferences.

Oden retired from Drew University in 2004, and is now Faculty Emeritus.

**Scope and Content Note**
A prolific writer, Oden wrote and edited books, articles, essays, and speeches on such topics as church and the world, church controversies, evangelicalism, Kierkegaard, the Methodist church, church discipline, John Wesley, postmodernism, and numerous others.

This collection contains originals or photocopies of Oden’s articles and speeches.

**Arrangement**
The Thomas Oden Publications are arranged alphabetically by title.

**Access and Use**

**Access**
The Thomas Oden Publications collection is available for research.

**Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information**
One photocopy may be made of each document for the purpose of research. Permission to publish must be obtained from the Drew University Archivist. Researcher responsible for further copyright restrictions.

**Related Materials**

**Related Archival Materials**
Books written by Thomas Oden are located in the Drew University Library, Methodist Library at Drew University, and the Drew University Archives Faculty-Alumni Collection.

**Processing and Other Information**

**Processing Information**
The finding aid was written by Cheryl Oestreicher in 2006.
Descriptive Rules Used
Finding aid content follows the guidelines suggested by Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

Language(s)
English.

Preferred Citation
Identification of item; Date (if noted); Thomas Oden Publications, Box and Folder Number; University Archives, Drew University Library, Madison, New Jersey

Subject Headings
[insert any LOC subject headings, or other topics relevant. Work with Cataloging, if necessary. These will also appear in the catalog record. List in MARC number order, as they would appear in the catalog record.]

Contents List

Box 1
“God’s No to False Community.” *Motive*, v.21, no. 7: p. 25-29.
“Human Potential and Evangelical Hope.” Photocopy of speech given September 12, 1972 at the Service of Matriculation for the Theological School, Drew University.
“Moscow State Discovers Religion; a Theologian Reflects on His Visit to the Soviet’s University’s Former Department of Atheism.” *Eyewitness*, June 24, 1991: p. 27-29.

**Box 2**

Thomas Oden publications, 1960-2000
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“Pastoral Care and the Unity of Theological Education.” *Theology Today*, v. 42, no. 1, April 1985: p. 34-42.
“What are ‘Established Standards of Doctrine’?: A Response to Richard Heitzenrater.” *Quarterly
