Louise Odiorne Papers

MS – 161

Wright State University
Department of Special Collections and Archives

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Introduction

The papers of Louise Odiorne were accessioned into the Wright State University Department of Archives and Special Collections in October 1982. They were donated by Louise Odiorne's children, Corrine Odiorne Pelzl, Eve Odiorne Sullivan, and Ken Odiorne.

The materials in this collection range from 1914 to 1976, but are concentrated on the years from 1966 and so on. The collection is contained in seven Hollinger boxes and 80 file folders. It is arranged into three series, as follows:

- Series I: Correspondence
- Series II: Miscellaneous Papers
- Series III: Projects
  - Subseries I: Rough Drafts of Papers
  - Subseries II: Diagrams and Photographs
  - Subseries III: Life-Clime Project
  - Subseries IV: Yellow Springs

There are no restrictions on the use of this collection.

Biographical Sketch

Louise Odiorne was born in McRae, Georgia, on January 8, 1910. She continued to live in Georgia and even began high school there. She and her family then moved to the Dayton, Ohio area where she finished high school in 1929. The same year, she entered Antioch College in Yellow Springs, which she attended until 1933.

In 1934, she accepted a fellowship to attend the Lowthorpe School to Landscape Architecture, in Groton, Massachusetts. In 1935 she transferred to Ohio State University, where, in 1938, she received a bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture, from the College of Engineering. Post graduate studies include the Steve Hamlin plant materials course at the Harvard University Department of Landscape Architecture during the summer of 1938; and also in 1938, she attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Architecture and Planning Department.

With her formal education and training completed, Louise Odiorne took a short break in her professional career and married Richard Odiorne in 1938. She resumed her professional interests in 1940 by entering private practice in Landscape Architecture and Planning. What followed was a varied and dynamic professional career in Landscape Architecture.

In addition to her private practice, one of her interests has been community planning. This interest has landed her in the Ohio Plan Board Office of both Dayton and Yellow Springs. She was also extensively involved in the planning and design of Melbourne Village, Melbourne, Florida.

Louise Odiorne was widely respected professionally and as a quest lecturer, she was able to share her knowledge. She was a guest lecturer at both Ohio State University and Antioch College. In addition, she participated in the Winter Lecture Series at Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA, and was a visiting lecturer at the Cheekwood Gardens and Tennessee Garden Clubs, Nashville, Tennessee. She also served as a consultant to the Notre Dame Graduate School of Environic Studies.

Louise Odiorne is probably best known for her research and development in building technologies and materials for buildings as human life support systems. This culminated in applying for patents for the "Life Clime Platform," an idea for establishing indoors the symbiotic relationship between living plants and people, called "The Indoor-Eden Effect". Twenty demonstration structures and installations were built. Closely related to this was her work with rural land owners for regenerative, economically feasible land use and conservation practices.

Finally, busy as she was, Louise also had several other business interests. She established Living Space, Inc., which became a franchise of Alside Structural System in 1965 and in 1969, she established Hunatech Foundation for research in environment. In addition, she was the director of Carr greenhouses, Yellow Springs and directed the conversion from commercial use to Human-Climate productive-ornamental plant selection research.

Scope and Content

The heart of the Louise Odiorne papers is the correspondence in Series I. The first part of the series contains letters to her husband and letters of condolences she received on her husband's death. It is almost as if her husband's death was a catalyst for everything that was to happen in the rest of her life. Louise Odiorne was forced to be the sole provider for her family and this was accompanied by an expansion of her professional interests. Almost without exception, all of the Louise Odiorne Papers are dated after the death of her husband.

The rest of Series I contains both general correspondence from friends and background information. Included with the correspondence is letters and postcards from family and friends. The background information contains legal and professional correspondence, political/social activities, and university correspondence.

The second series contains miscellaneous papers of Louise Odiorne. These include articles, handwritten notes, and a thesis authored by her. Profession artivles or books she had acquired during her career are also contained in this series. Finally, this series contains papers from her various business or professional interests, such as Hunatech Tech, Inc.

Series 3 contains a general section and four sub-series containing information on professional projects of Louise Odiorne. The general section contains mainly information about projects on a national level. These include a National Endowment for the Arts grant application, a Hunatech proposal to the Department of Education, General Services Administration Conference information, and information from the Federal Housing Administration.

Sub-series I contains rough drafts of important papers involving some of Louise's projects. Included in this series is Life-Clime Project correspondence, truly one of the highlights of her professional career. Sub-series II contains diagrams and photographs which provide a pictorial record of some of her projects.

Probably the second most important section of the Louise Odiorne Papers is Sub-series III of Series III, Projects. This sub-series is dedicated to the Life-Clime Project. The Life-Clime Project is the jewel of Louise's Professional career and will almost certainly be a lasting legacy of this truly remarkable woman.

Sub-series IV contains the last of the papers. This sub-series is dedicated to projects in and around Yellow Springs. Included in this section are several land use projects and the Yellow Springs sewer project. This series also contains a couple of magazine articles written about Louise Odiorne.

Container Listing

Series I: Correspondence

Box	File	Description	Date
1	1	Letters to Richard Odiorne	Mar. 1963-Nov. 1966
	2	Condolences regarding R. Odiorne's Death	Jul. 1963-Jul. 196?
	3	Condolences regarding R. Odiorne's Death	n.d.
	4	Coldolences from Business Associates	Jul. 1963-Aug. 196?
	5	General Correspondence with Family	1914, 1969, n.d.
	6	Friends	Dec. 1922-Feb. 197?
	7	Friends	n.d.
	8	Miscellaneous Post Cards	1934-1973
	9	Miscellaneous Post Cards	n.d.
	10	Randolph Black – Southern Rural Action Inc.	1969
	11	Political / Social Activities	Mar. 1966-Aug. 197?
	12	Landscape Architectural Business Information	Apr. 1964-Jul. 197?
	13	Clubs/Local Leaguer Newspaper	Feb. 1973-Aug. 1973
	14	Personal/ Legal Business	Jan. 1964- Jun. 197?
	15	Miscellaneous Professional	Apr. 1964-Jan. 197?
	16	Alside Homes, Inc.	Jan. 1963-Feb. 1975
	17	AHF Melborne Village, FL Newspaper	Oct. 1968-Nov. 1975
2	1	University Correspondence	1959-1974
	2	Environic / Notre Dame	Apr. 1969-Jun. 197?
	3	National Park Service	Jun. 1966-Sep. 197?
	4	Educational Facilities Lab	
	5	Handwritten Miscellaneous Rough Drafts	n.d.
	6	Handwritten Miscellaneous Rough Drafts	n.d.

Series II: Miscellaneous Papers

Box	File	Description	Date
3	1	Personal Information	
	2	Articles on Gardening by Louise and Richard Odiorne	n.d.
	3	Dr. Lalla Iverson, MD / Rural Medicine	May 1962-Oct. 196?
	4	Newsprint Items	
	5	Congress for Parks and Recreation	Oct. 10, 1966
	6	World Futurist Society	
	7	Hunatech Tech Inc.	
	8	Envirionic Found, Intl.	
	9	Environic Education by Edward G. Pickard	1970
	10	'Roof without walls' thesis	
	11	Miscellaneous Reports and Pamphlets	
	12	Drafts and Plants Today – R. Simmons and Lee Fryer	1968
	13	Handwritten notes 'Living with Plants Concept'	

Box	File	Description	Date
3	14	Handwritten notes – Manual of Eden Climate Building and Living	

Series III: Projects

Box	File	Description	Date
4	1	Senior Citizen Project Drawings	
	2	Senior Citizen Project, Misc. Papers	
	3	National Endowment for Arts, Grant Application	Jan. 1968-Apr. 1970
	4	National Endowment for Arts, Proposal	
	5	Luornian Ladder – Hunatech Time Management Project	
	6	Hunatech Proposal – Dept. of Education	1972
	7	D.M.O.C. – Dept. of Education Proposal	
	8	General Correspondence w/ H.U.D., regarding Projects	
	9	Grant Information from National Endowment for Humanities	
	10	General Services Administration Conference Information	
	11	Information from Federal Housing Admin.	
	12	H.E.W.	Sep. 2, 1969
	13	Thesis Project / Carr House Yellow Springs	
	14	Project Outline – Music Metamorphosis	

Series III: Projects

Sub-series I: Rough Drafts of Papers

Box	File	Description	Date
5	1	Regenerative Human Comm. Report N.E.A. Proposal	1972
	2	Regenerative Human Comm. Report, Hunatech	
	3	Life-Clime Project Correspondence	
	4	Rurban Village Project Notes	
	5	Miscellaneous Handwritten Note Cards	

Sub-series II: Diagrams and Photographs (½ of box)

Box	File	Description	Date
6	1	Miscellaneous Photographs	
	2	Ashbaugh Garden Project	
	3	NA – LA Garden – Hartman Place	
	4	Homeplace Gardens – Georgia	
	5	Omlake C.D.L. – Children's Project	

Sub-series III: Life-Clime Project (other ½ of box)

Box	File	Description	Date
6	1	Human Climate Plant Study	
	2	Housing Project, Yellow Springs	

Box	File	Description	Date
6	3	Housing Project, Yellow Springs Drawings	
	4	Correspondence to Hubert Humphrey regarding Life-Clime	Sep. 1969-May 197?
	5	General correspondence regarding Life-Clime	Nov. 1967-Mar. 197?
	6	Patent Application	
	7	Rough Draft of Life-Clime Papers	

Sub-series IV: Yellow Springs

Box	File	Description	Date
7	1	Centennial Booklets: Why they lame?	
	2	Yellow Springs Sewer Project	1959
	3	Correspondence, Business	May 1969-Jan. 197?
	4	Land Use Information	n.d.
	5	Land Planning	1961-1973
	6	Development Project	1968-1971
	7	Unincorporated Area's Commission	Oct. 1972-Jun 13, 1973
	8	Newsclippings on Land Use Project	
	9	Rough Draft – Land Use Project	
	10	Rough Draft – Whitehall Project	
	11	Magazine w/ Article on L. Odiorne	
	12	Magazine w/ Article on L. Odiorne	