

Robert J. C. Butow papers, circa 1950s-2000s

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Butow, Robert J. C. (Robert Joseph Charles), 1924-
Title	Robert J. C. Butow papers
Dates	circa 1950s-2000s (inclusive) 1950 2001
Quantity	41.67 cubic feet (37 boxes including textual materials, 6 sound cassettes, 5 floppy 3.5 in., 2 Zip disks, 2 floppy 5.25 in., 2 VHS videocassettes)
Collection Number	5978 (Accession No. 5978-001)
Summary	Research materials and drafts of books and articles of a history professor at the University of Washington
Repository	University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Special Collections University of Washington Libraries Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Telephone: 206-543-1929 Fax: 206-543-1931 speccoll@uw.edu
Access Restrictions	Open to all users. Records stored off-site; advance notice required for use.
Languages	English

Biographical Note

Robert Joseph Charles Butow (born March 19, 1924) is a professor emeritus of history at the University of Washington. Robert Butow was born in San Mateo, California. He attended college at Stanford University, where he was a member of the Army Reserve, and a student of the Japanese language. He received his A.M. in 1948 and Ph.D. in 1953, both from Stanford. Butow was an instructor in history from 1954 to 1959, and an Assistant Professor from 1959 to 1960 at Princeton University in New Jersey. He joined the faculty of the University of Washington as an associate professor in 1960, then became a full professor in 1966 and professor emeritus in 1990. He held a joint appointment with the UW's Jackson School of International Studies.

When his Army Reserve unit was activated, Butow was selected to attend the Army Japanese Language School. He served in the United States Army during the early months of the occupation of Japan in 1945 and 1946, and became interested in Japanese history and culture. Upon his discharge as a second lieutenant, he returned to Stanford. His doctoral thesis on the Japanese surrender (Japan's Decision to Surrender) was subsequently published as his first book. His next book, *Tojo and the Coming of the War*, was a biography of Hideki Tojo, the prime minister of Japan during most of World War II. His third book (*The John Doe Associates: Backdoor Diplomacy for Peace, 1941*) was about a small group of Americans who, without diplomatic authority, tried to promote peace with Japan before 1941, but only ended up worsening relations between the two nations. Butow worked for many

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years on a history of Franklin Roosevelt and the war in the Pacific, but was unable to complete the book due to illness.

Content Description

The collection primarily consists of research materials and drafts for Butow's books and articles. A large proportion of the collection consists of research files and drafts for Butow's unpublished history of Franklin Roosevelt and the Asia Pacific War. Included are copies of the "FDR tapes" from the Roosevelt Presidential Library that Butow is credited with bringing to light.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

Creator's literary rights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Administrative Information

Preservation Note

Records stored off-site; advance notice required for use.

Acquisition Information

Reiko Hurvitz, November 30, 2012; Stephanie Butow, April 9, 2013

Detailed Description of the Collection

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box		
1	"FDR Tapes"	
1	Japan/FDR Research Materials	
1	John Doe Associates Materials	
1	"Thar She Spaoutsâ€!" Materials	
2	FDR/Japan Research Material	

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2	Misc Research Materials	
3	FDR Materials	
3	"Surprise" Research Materials	
3	Misc Research Materials	
4	"A Notable Passage to China" Papers	
4	"A Notable Passage to China" Research Materials	
5	Research & Course Materials	
6	Research & Course Materials	
7	Research Materials	
7	"Death of an Emperor" Papers	
8	Research & Course Materials	
9	Research Materials	
10	Research Materials	
10	Naval History	
10	PHA Papers	
11	Military Testimonies	
11	Japan Research Materials	
12	Course Materials	
12	Whaling & "Thar She Spaoutsâ€" Materials	
13	Course Materials	
13	Japan Research Materials	

Container(s)	Description	Dates
14	Bibliographic Information Japan/FDR	
15	Tojo Correspondence	
15	Japan Research Materials	
16	Tojo Research Materials	
16	John Doe Associates Manuscripts	
17	John Doe Associates Illustrations	
17	"A Notable Passage to China" Correspondence	
17	The Surrender of Japan Research Materials	
17	Course Materials	
18	Navy and the Sea	
18	Oral Histories	
18	Pearl Harbor Attack Materials	
18	FDR Research Materials	
19	FDR Research Materials	
20	FDR Manuscripts & Materials	
21	FDR Materials & Correspondence	
22	FDR Manuscripts & Materials	
22	"A Notable Passage to China" Papers	
23	"The 'Magic' Road to Pearl Harbor" Materials	
23	FDR Research Materials	
24	FDR Research Materials	

Container(s)	Description	Dates
25	FDR Research Materials	
25	FDR Photos & Illustrations	
26	FDR/Japan Research Material	
27	FDR Research Materials	
27	FDR/Japan Chronological Files	
27	FDR/Japan Alphabetical Files	
28	FDR/Japan Alphabetical Files	
28	FDR Research Materials	
29	FDR Research Materials	
29	"FDR Tapes" on Cassette Tapes	
29	"FDR Tapes" on VHS Tapes	
29	Floppy Disks of Manuscripts	
30	FDR Research Materials	
30	Pearl Harbor Attack Materials	
30	Research Materials	
30	"A Notable Passage to China" Research Materials	
31	FDR Research Materials	
31	"Thar She Spaoutsâ€!" Galley Proofs & Working Copies	
31	Whaling Ships Log Books	
31	Japan/Pearl Harbor Research Materials	
31	"The 'Magic' Road to Pearl Harbor" Materials	

Container(s)	Description	Dates
32	National Archives Research Materials	
32	"The 'Magic' Road to Pearl Harbor" Materials	
32	FDR Research Materials	
32	Delano family/Fairhaven research materials	
33	FDR Research Materials	
33	"A Notable Passage to China" Research Materials	
33	FDR Research Materials	
33	Groton School Archival Materials	
33	"The 'Magic' Road to Pearl Harbor" Materials	
33	Drafts of FDR Manuscript Chapters	
34	Japan Research Materials	
34	"Surprise" Research Materials	
34	FDR Research Materials	
34	Groton School Archival Materials	
34	"Surprise" Research Materials	
35	Bibliographies, references, and index	
36	FDRL	2000-2002
37	FDRL Research visit	2000-2001

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Armed Forces--Officers--Archives

Pearl Harbor (Hawaii), Attack on, 1941--Sources

University Archives/Faculty Papers (University of Washington)

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World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Pacific Ocean--Sources

World War, 1939-1945--Japan--Sources

Personal Names :

Butow, Robert J. C. (Robert Joseph Charles), 1924- Japan's decision to surrender

Butow, Robert J. C. (Robert Joseph Charles), 1924- John Doe associates

Butow, Robert J. C. (Robert Joseph Charles), 1924- Tojo and the coming of the war

Butow, Robert J. C. (Robert Joseph Charles), 1924---Archives

Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Archives

Corporate Names :

University of Washington. Department of History--Faculty--Archives

Form or Genre Terms :

Audiocassettes

Drafts (documents)

Manuscripts (documents)

Sound recordings

Videocassettes

Other Creators :

Corporate Names :

University of Washington. University Archives
(host institution)

2016 (Last modified: 5/14/2018)



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