

# W. R. Poage Legislative Library

## Baylor Collections of Political Materials

### Narrative FY 2008

The following projects were finished or started in the past year:

**Book Vault Project:** One major project for the last year has been the construction and installation of the custom shelving for the books of Jack Hightower. The last stage of construction was completed with the installation of custom shelving in May.

- **Bullock Archive:** Benna and Ben both attended the annual Bullock memorial luncheon at the Texas State Museum in July. Former Bullock staffers continue to contribute items to the archive and funds to the Bullock Endowment.
- **Content Management System (CMS) and Contentdm:** These two programs are being implemented by our library for conversion of our extensive web site to the new Baylor standard. We have been working with Billie Peterson-Lugo, Darryl Stuhr, and Kathy Weber along with three of our students to put everything in place for the conversion to begin in summer 2008.
- **Digital Projects:** We completed the conversion of 174 Jack White video tapes to DVD and started on conversion of cassette tapes. We scanned a number of oversize items for other departments including The Texas Collection, Oral History Institute, and the geology department. We also created a number of graphics for the current exhibit, *Race for the White House*.
- **Donor visits:** Our donors give us papers but not money. Ben made numerous visits to Jack Hightower, Leah Tunnell, Scott Poage, Bob Platt, Jack White, Penn Jones III, Carolene English and Gary Shaw to secure additional materials for the library.
- **Exhibits:** We partnered with Delores Oliver to provide funding for a graduate student in museum studies. So far, this intern has created exhibits for *Race for the White House*, Baptist 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and is working with Bob Darden on a political cartoon exhibit for the fall. The cartoon exhibit will include cartoons throughout Moody/Jones/Poage libraries. We are working with American Studies, the Journalism Department and the *Waco Tribune-Herald* to bring outstanding editorial cartoonists to campus for the exhibit opening. In the past year, we also created an exhibit about Judge Barrow for the law school, an exhibit about Charlie Wilson's war for Moody library, an exhibit about campaign sheet music for Moody Library, and an exhibit about Barbara Jordan.
- **Hightower Exhibit:** The Hightower exhibit remained up through December 2007. A major reception was held for the Hightowers on April 1, 2007, attended by a large number of their friends.
- **JKF Materials:** We continued to receive JFK materials from Bob Platt, Jack White, Gary Shaw and two local Waco teachers. We are supplementing the papers with books related to the Kennedys and the assassination. We have also begun a partnership with the Harold Weisberg Archive at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland.
- **Open House:** Our annual Open House was held as usual in October. The Hightower exhibit was in place and the Book Vault was mostly finished. Student workers served as hosts for the event which was attended by Moody-Jones employees. While we had hoped that Colleen Hightower would be able to attend and be honored for her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, she suffered a stroke the week before and was unable to attend.
- **Penn Jones Materials:** We completed the processing of the Jones papers and are waiting to make sure his sons do not have additional materials before numbering the folders. This has been a four-year project so far.

- **Platt Materials:** Dr. Robert Platt continued throughout the last year to deposit books and political materials with us. Ben met with him regularly to pick up additional items. We also held a luncheon and Open House in his honor with his family in April 2008.
- **Poage Political Lecture Series:** We began the lecture series in April 2007 with former Lt. Governor Ben Barnes and continued in April 2008 with Max Sherman and Lyndon Olson, Jr. The lecture series has been accomplishing the goal of letting more people know about our library.
- **Professional Meetings.** Ben attended the annual meeting of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress in May, 2007 in Washington DC and in May 2008 at the Byrd Center in Shepherdstown, WV. Ben also attended meetings in November 2007 of the JFK Lancer research group and the Coalition on Political Assassinations. Both these groups met in Dallas but on different weekends and specialize on research related to the Kennedy assassination.
- **Research Requests:** Requests continue to come from throughout the country for materials listed on our web site. Some requests in the past year include:
  - A man in San Antonio has visited several times to do research in our JFK materials.
  - *A man from Colorado visited twice to research the life of Penn Jones, Jr.*
  - *A paralegal in Connecticut request two publications from the Fowler West papers.*
  - *Numerous requests for wide format scanning came from several Baylor departments.*
  - *A faculty member at Rice wanted a scan of a photo Puccini located in one of our books.*
  - *A faculty member in Louisiana requested information from the oral memoirs of Congressman Poage.*
  - *A student at the University of Illinois requested scans of editorial cartoons from the Mondale-Ferraro campaign.*
  - *Rep. Hensarling's office in Washington requested photos of a number of former congressman from his district.*
  - *A man at Jackson State, Mississippi, requested photographs of George bush and Paul Eggers.*
- **Representing Texas:** Some years ago, Ben Guttery gave us his political campaign button and political memorabilia collections. He continued to add to this each year. In 2005, he asked us to help him publish a book about Texans in congress. After two years, we were able to finish this book and we are using it to raise funds through The Standing Committee.
- **Student Workers:** Our library continues to attract outstanding graduate and undergraduate student assistants who can do just about anything they are challenged to do. Ben trained and supervised twelve students who worked for the library in the last year. We could not accomplish much in the areas of processing papers and technical projects without the students. A Student Workshop was held in September 2008 to train the students in processes and procedures for the library. While not a student worker, our volunteer, Harold Wellbaum interacts well with the students.
- **The Standing Committee:** We sent newsletters to the Committee during the year to keep them up-to-date on the progress of the library. Gifts to the Committee totaled several thousand dollars which went mainly to book vault expenses.
- **Web pages:** We created a new web site for the papers of Bob Platt. We have began working with ITS to convert our entire web site to CMS.

Submitted by Ben Rogers, June 17, 2008