



Narrative Report, FY 2009

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ Drawing Power exhibit, luncheon, symposium, dinner and lecture.
 - ❖ John and JD Dowdy Foundation purchase of Bob Platt presidential memorabilia collection
 - ❖ LBJ materials purchased from George Meyer
 - ❖ Lincoln bicentennial exhibit and lecture
 - ❖ Poage Estate auction purchases by Gloria and F. M. Young
 - ❖ Spring lecture: Charlie Wilson's war comes to Waco
 - ❖ Web page conversion to CMS
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- **Book Vault Project:** \$40,000 was made available for the completion of the HVAC for the book vault.
 - **Bullock Archive:** Staff attended the annual Bullock memorial luncheon at the Texas State Museum in July. Former Bullock staffers continue to contribute items to the archive. Gifts continue to be sent to the Bullock Endowment. Benna Ball continues to handle researcher requests, new acquisitions and donor letters.
 - **Content Management System (CMS):** The conversion of the library web site from the www3 server to CMS continued throughout the year. While many older pages were deleted or archived, many new ones were added. A total of 1328 pages, 3142 images, 281 documents and 23 videos were added to the new website in FY2009.
 - **Development:** The staff has worked to maintain a relationship with Gloria and F. M. Young after their generous gift to the library at the Poage Family auction. We also maintain contact with other donors including Skip and Sarah Dowdy, Carol Sue and Forrest Roberts, Alta Leath, Fowler West, Carolene English, Jack Hightower and others. The Youngs spent \$45,000 at the Poage Auction; The Dowdy Foundation committed \$20,000 for the purchase of the Platt Presidential Collection; and Jack Hightower sent \$3,000 with a matching gift from Entergy.
 - **Donor visits:** Ben Rogers made visits throughout the year to George Meyer, Jack Hightower, Leah Tunnell, Bob Platt, Jack White, Carolene English, Zoe Sheehy, Ben Guttery and Herman Sandford to secure additional materials for the library.
 - **Drawing Power Exhibit:** This year we employed a graduate student in Museum Studies to assist us with exhibits. She created two major exhibits: *Drawing Power: Original Editorial Cartoons* and *With Malice Toward None: An Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Exhibit*. The Drawing Power exhibit displayed original cartoons owned by Bob Darden in the journalism department. Bob worked with us to partner with his department and American Studies. We hosted a symposium with several editorial cartoonist, a luncheon, a dinner and a lecture. We also worked with the Central libraries, The Texas Collection and Armstrong Browning Library to expand the exhibit throughout the five libraries.
 - **Lincoln Exhibit:** The staff started on the Lincoln exhibit several years ago in cooperation with Judge Hightower. Erin Wolfe selected items from Hightower's Lincoln collection to create the exhibit. Groups which have toured the exhibit include Waco Scandinavian Club, Waco Study Club and a group from Seventh & James Baptist Church. We also sponsored a Lincoln lecture and reception in conjunction with the exhibit.
 - **JKF Materials:** We continued to receive JFK materials from Bob Platt and Jack White. We are supplementing the papers with books related to the Kennedy assassination. The long-term goal is to have materials in place for the 50th anniversary of the assassination in 2013.
 - **LBJ Collection:** Ben Rogers began forming a friendship with George Meyer in April 2008. He visited him several times during the fall of 2008 to inventory his LBJ collection before shipment to a dealer in Las Vegas. When the Las Vegas deal fell through in December 2009,

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Mr. Meyer offered the materials to us for half the original price. Using reserve funds, we were able to purchase these materials for the library which include 21 notebooks of correspondence.

- **Open House:** We held an open house in conjunction with both the Drawing Power and Lincoln exhibits. Our strategy was to bring staff from the other libraries into Poage Library to see what we do.
- **Platt Materials:** Dr. Robert Platt continued to deposit books and political materials with us. We also worked with Dr. Platt to secure his presidential materials collection for the library through the John and JD Dowdy Foundation. Ben, Skip and Sarah Dowdy made three trips to Dr. Platt's store in the Fort Worth Stockyards to evaluate, pack and move these materials.
- **Poage Family Auction:** At the Poage auction in July 2008, Gloria and F.M. Young volunteered to purchase the contents of Bob Poage's home office for the library. Ben has maintained a relationship with them throughout the year.
- **Poage Political Lecture Series:** We secured a speaker soon after the lecture last year through the recommendation of both Max Sherman and Jack Hightower. *Charlie Wilson's War Comes to Waco* by Charlie Schnabel was our best attended lecture so far.
- **Professional Meetings:** In August 2008, Ben attended the Society of American Archivists meeting in San Francisco. In November, he attended the meetings of the Coalition on Political Assassination and the JFK Lancer Research Group. In May, he attended the meeting of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress in Washington, D.C. For the past year, Ben has served on the Host Committee for the Society of American Archivists next meeting in Austin in August. Benna Ball and Mary Goolsby attended the Society of Southwest Archivists annual meeting in May.
- **Rana Najar:** Poage Library hosted Rana for a couple of day-long visits and explained our processing procedures. Our student assistants discussed their processing projects with Rana, as well. Ben worked with librarians Jennifer Borderud and Amanda Harlan to develop an EAD project for Rana using the papers of Herman Sandford.
- **Research Requests:** Forty-eight requests were received by the library during the year. Inquiries came from fourteen states, Australia and Washington DC. Ten requests were from Baylor related researchers, four from Waco citizens and eight from other individuals in Texas. Many of these requests came from people who found us through our web site.
- **Representing Texas:** Copies were sent this year to all members of the current Texas congressional delegation and to all retired members of Congress from Texas.
- **Student Assistants:** Our library continues to attract outstanding graduate and undergraduate student assistants who can do just about anything they are challenged to do. I trained and supervised 10-12 students who worked for the library in the last year. Without the students, we could not accomplish much in the areas of processing papers and technical projects. A Student Workshop was held in January go over processes and procedures. One of our student assistants is the niece of Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson. We have students from Kenya, Beijing, China; Mumbai, India; Tegucigalpa, Honduras; Florida and Texas.
- **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. We also hosted a luncheon with Committee Chair Fowler West in honor of Gloria and F.M. Young. On May 28, we hosted a book signing for Dr. Karl Brandt's new book, *Ronald Reagan and the House Democrats*.

Submitted by Ben Rogers, June 2009