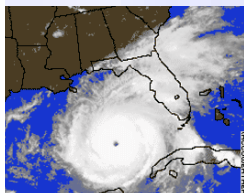


Baylor Collections of Political Materials

REPORT SEPTEMBER 2005

IN THE EYE OF THE STORM (ALMOST)



OPERATION RITA. With little advanced warning, we were advised to prepare for up to two feet of water with the approach of Hurricane Rita on Sept. 22nd. The staff swung into action and formulated a 21-step preservation plan.

Ben and Benna spent the morning moving books and boxes. Students arrived in the afternoon to assist. Towards the end of the project, Bill Hair and Jeff Steely arrived to relieve the tired, weary, and worn. We were so prepared, we scared Rita away.

THE BLUE TAPE PROJECT/BOOK VAULT. In order to accommodate a number of special items, including Jack Hightower's signed editions, we have initiated a plan to convert half the reading room into a special temperature/humidity controlled Book Vault. The initial meeting with architects was on Sept. 14th in the proposed space. In preparation for the meeting, Ben and several students added blue tape to the floor and walls to indicate what the room might look like. Photos of similar spaces in other libraries were added to the glass wall to show what we had in mind. The architects were very positive and felt the project could be finished within six months if funds were available. Fowler West, Chairman of THE STANDING COMMITTEE, has agreed to help solicit committee members for contributions in conjunction with their annual membership renewals in November. Jack Hightower has also given his blessings to the use of his 80th birthday next year as a fundraising opportunity. The architect hopes to have some preliminary sketches ready by Oct. 15th.

LIBRARY BOARD OF ADVISORS. The Library Board of Advisors again met in the exhibit gallery on Sept. 16th. After refreshments in the blue tape room, they visited the Music Library before returning to the exhibit area for the rest of the meeting.

CHINESE FURNITURE ON THE MOVE. In preparation for the transformation of part of the reading room into the Book Vault, Ben donated the Chinese furniture back to the International Programs from whence it had come (originally via ABL). We bid it 再见 Zai jian, Zai hui, Bai bai on Sept. 12th.

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION, SEPT. 6. Benna and Ben attended the President's reception this year. We are both working to improve our social presence on campus.

FALL STAFF FORUM. Benna and Ben also attended the Fall staff forum on Sept. 15th even though they mainly went for the door prizes. Alas, there were none this year.

LIBRARY BIRTHDAY TOUR. On Thursday morning, Sept. 29th, Benna and Ben gave a tour of the exhibit gallery to a group of ladies who were celebrating a birthday. After the tour, the ladies had lunch at ABL. The tour and lunch were

a gift to Ann Christian from her son who purchased them through the silent auction at the Texas Book Fair. Baylor Public Relations arranged both events.

THE CASE OF DIXON WECTER. Rescued from the warehouse, our students transformed this old case into a glass plate exhibit in time for the Board of Advisors' meeting.

BULLOCK ENDOWMENT. A plaque listing major donors to the Bullock Endowment is in the final stages of construction and will be installed in the exhibit gallery in a few weeks.

STUDENT ARCHIVAL ASSISTANTS

Julia Howard was gone a week in Sept. on a social work field trip to Moldova, a former Soviet republic. Nevertheless, she completed the Bullock Comptroller Issue list and continued to work on the Platt political materials collection.

Chen Yao continued to convert reel-to-reel tapes to digital using equipment in the fine arts library. She also continued to process and digitize Penn Jones' media and kept up with Platt books as they returned from cataloging. Chen Yao also helped with Operation Rita.

Amanda Barden spent much of her time on technical problems and kept the web pages up-to-date. She is currently working on new Penn Jones interface pages: <http://www3.baylor.edu/Library/BCPM/JFK/Media.htm> Amanda also helped with Operation Rita and even enlisted the help of her roommate.

Todd Pagitt continued to work on a comprehensive outline of the Hightower papers consolidating materials from archive boxes, notebooks, and unprocessed materials. Todd assisted with Operation Rita by securing all of Jack Hightower's papers.

Brittney Bain ordered books and completed exhibits highlighting the lives of Judge Sam Johnson and Mike Morrison. She also worked on the latest gift of books from Jack Hightower which included books from Jake Pickle and study materials from H. Jack Woods.

Maycie Mayfield kept the purchasing card notebook up to date and completed exhibits from the papers of John Dowdy and Bob Poage in time for the Library Board of Advisors meeting. Maycie also worked on Operation Rita.

SEPTEMBER STATS from Special Collections' Team cataloger Janet Pence: Titles: 105 books, 5 DVDs. Volumes: 121 books, 5 DVDs. Original cat.: 2 book titles.

ACQUISITIONS. Jack Hightower visited Poage Library briefly on Sept. 20th to drop off six boxes of books and papers which belonged to him, Jake Pickle, and H. Jack Woods.

UPCOMING PLANS . OPEN HOUSE. OCT. 25

"SEE IT AGAIN...FOR THE FIRST TIME."

Submitted by Ben Rogers, October 2005