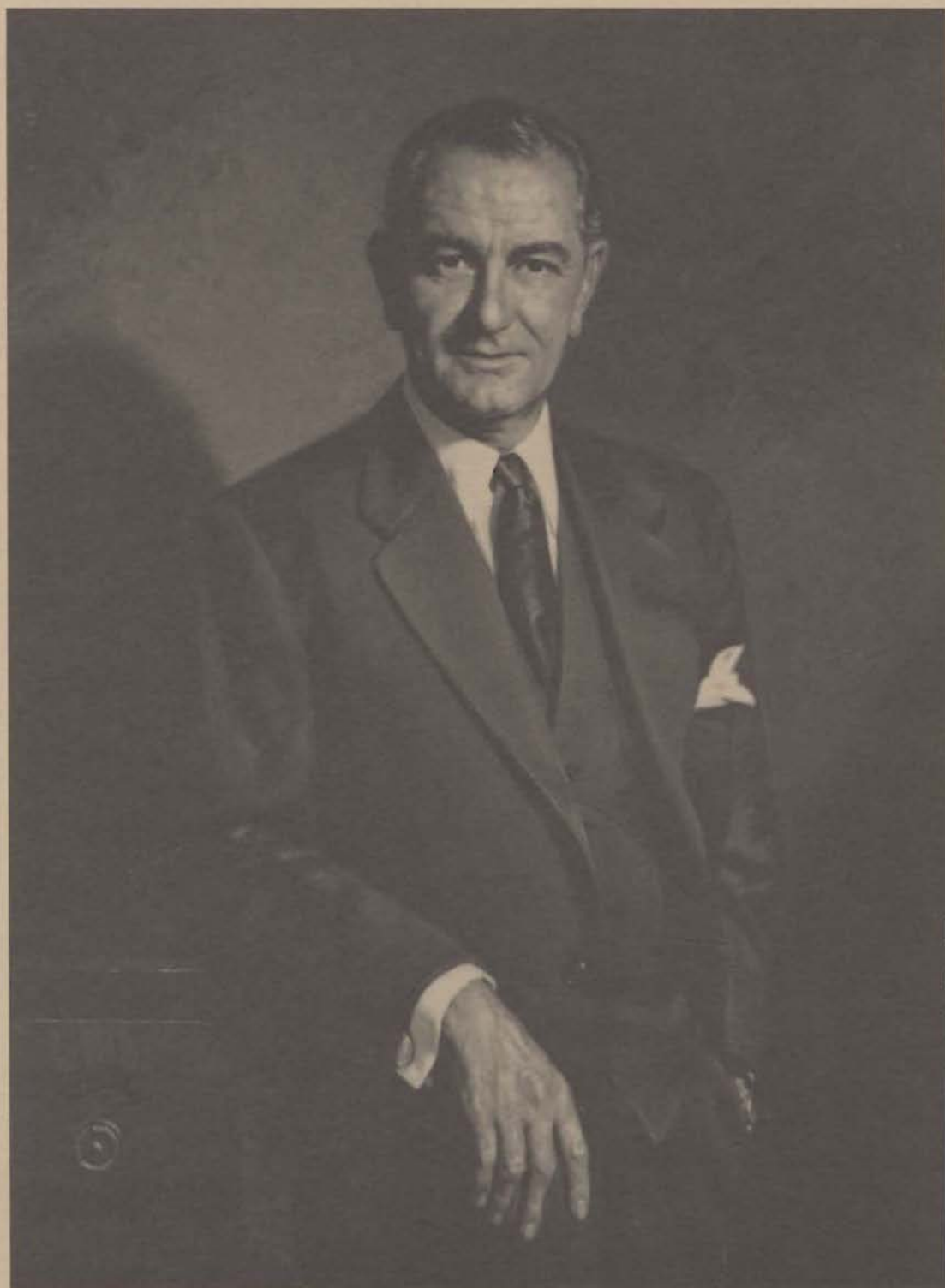




ISSUE NUMBER XXXV NOVEMBER 1, 1985

Among Friends of LBJ

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE LBJ LIBRARY



A New Portrait of LBJ

(see page 9)

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS BEGIN SIXTH SEASON

The LBJ Library program began in 1980 with 16 docents (those who provide guided tours) and has steadily grown to 105 volunteers—both men and women—working in four different areas of the Library: archives, photographic archives, oral history, and the museum. In this capacity they provide help in areas where it is really needed. Among the many duties they perform are greeting visitors to the museum, providing guided tours, transcribing oral history tapes, working in photographic archives, and assisting in the cataloging and preservation of collections.

In addition, the docents have expanded their service to include field trips where they give illustrated talks to public and private schools, nursing and retirement homes and senior citizen activity centers.

This group of volunteers, men and women, range from professionals with graduate degrees to community activists. Some are old time Austinites; others are from every section of our country. They are a diverse group, encompassing all ages with eclectic interests. Their common bond is an interest in history and, in particular, the life and administration of President Johnson.

The program is administered by Annette Sadler and her assistant, Kiran Dix.



Michael Hillmann, who teaches Persian literature and Iranian culture at the University of Texas, enlightened the volunteers about the carpets in the Library's collections.

George Christian, who was President Johnson's last press secretary spoke to the Library volunteers in September. Excerpts from Christian's comments about LBJ follow:

... More than likely, biographers and critics and admirers of Lyndon Johnson are going to be mining all the lore of President Johnson for years to come. He was an interesting political figure. There hasn't been any waning of that interest and I don't think there will be. Some of our Presidents come and go and you don't hear a heck of a lot about them afterwards ... except sporadically. I think Johnson was the type President that as time goes on, people are going to be inspecting every aspect of his Presidency, what worked, what didn't, mistakes he made, successes he had ... and even more than that, the type person he was because people say he was 'grander-than-life' and 'larger-than-life' ... a lot of his attributes and his faults were larger than life. When he did something wrong, he was usually pretty horrendous. He did make mistakes. But he had an attitude that was really refreshing.

He was willing to gamble on things. He didn't have assurance that something would work. He didn't take a safe course all the time. He didn't mind stirring up a little controversy here and there. He would roll the dice and see what came out and sometimes it didn't come out right ... and a lot of his legislation over the years didn't work as well as a lot of people thought it would. There have been big problems in some of the Great Society programs over the years. He couldn't solve everything overnight—but he

was willing to try. And I think of all the personality traits that he had, the one that drove him as a public figure and as President was this absolute dedication to try to change things. He was *not* content with things as they were; he, in many ways, was a visionary. He saw things happening in the country and saw things that were going to happen in the country if something wasn't done about it and he tried to do something about it.

He's always been identified as a man who understood the works of Congress, how to make things happen in Congress, who understood the strengths and weaknesses of people he dealt with when he was in the House of Representatives and in the Senate, as Vice President, how to push buttons to make things happen. But in addition to being a consummate legislator he was also a very able administrator. He kept the operation in the White House on its toes, he delegated fairly well—not all the way. I don't think he ever allowed a Press Secretary to have total freedom to do anything; he was his own best press secretary.

He was controversial, and he did collect enemies ... he usually tried to smooth over his relationship with people that disagreed with him, including a good many that were downright hostile to him. He never tired of the prospect of converting somebody to his point of view. If somebody really didn't like him, it was sort of a challenge to him sometimes to see if he could turn that person around.

He was not a vindictive-type politician. He didn't mind taking it out on somebody if he thought that person was really out to get him, but I don't recall very many instances of just outright vengeance. And in politics, that's pretty rare.

I think the relationship he had with people like Everett Dirksen, the Republican Majority Leader from Illinois, is probably unique in our history. There may have been other examples where a Democratic president and a Republican senatorial leader were able to work as closely as they did. I doubt it. Johnson worked that way with President Eisenhower and he fully expected Dirksen to work that way with him and Dirksen did. Johnson knew that Dirksen was going to help him every way he could but in some instances Dirksen wouldn't be able to deliver and he never fell out with him over those occasions when he looked like he had been deserted by Dirksen at a very critical time. And to the end of both their lives, they remained staunch friends although in many ways they were political enemies. He had essentially that same relationship with Gerald Ford, although Ford was more partisan in the House of Representatives than Dirksen was in the Senate. Ford was cooperative. Ford would come over and try to work with Johnson and didn't just go out of his way to pick fights, and would not say things publicly that Johnson didn't like. But when they worked together, they usually managed to work things out. That's what makes the country tick.

You saw Lyndon Johnson from your perspective. People had different views of him. He emphasized things that he thought you were interested in, and de-emphasized things that he didn't think you were interested in, and he did that with a whole lot of people and consequently any fifty people that worked closely around him over the years could write fifty books about him and you'd get fifty entirely different books. He was that type of person. You can't just categorize him and say this is what he was, and this is what he wasn't.

When you think back now what Johnson dealt with as President—he had racial problems, riots, the war and all

the protests that go with that, Caribbean problems—and the Dominican Republic that could have erupted into something terrible . . . he had all kind of problems in Africa . . . in Nigeria and Zaire . . . and everywhere else. He had these unsettled relations with China then which we don't have now—at that time China was a great threat to this country, or at least we perceived it to be. We had efforts all the time to try to reach accommodations with the Russians and he signed a lot of treaties of one kind or another with the Soviet Union during that time. It was a period of tension . . . but with all of this a social revolution was going on. He was trying to change things. He wanted better conservation. He wanted better education. He wanted civil rights laws. He wanted changes in the criminal justice system. He wanted to experiment with programs of funding better law enforcement-type programs at the local level. He wanted medicare, medicaid—you name it and he was with it. At the same time he was working with labor, with management, trying to minimize any labor strife, trying to be sure that working people got their breaks in society and that business prospered. Business had confidence in him, by and large, and labor had confidence in him.

Nowadays, a lot of people who want to forget everything except Vietnam, or everything except civil rights, or whatever their favorite issue was either pro or con—that's about all they want to think of him. But it was a complete administration, probably one of the few we've had. I think it could be compared with Lincoln's administration when there was a lot of social change and a lot of domestic legislation passed by Congress during the Civil War. I think that comes as close to a comparison of the Johnson administration as any. All the strife, all the torment—and yet, at the same time, things done to try to move the country forward.



Christian with Library Director Harry Middleton

LADY BIRD JOHNSON'S "A WHITE HOUSE



At the entrance to the exhibit is a giant photograph of the author, talking into her recorder as she did regularly in a small room on the second floor of the White House. Mounted against the photograph is the primitive machine with which she recorded her first entries.

(Later she graduated to more professional equipment.) A visitor pushing a button can hear Mrs. Johnson's voice eerily recounting the tragic events of the diary's first day: "... In the lead car were President and Mrs. Kennedy ..."

Fifteen years after its publication, Lady Bird Johnson's *A White House Diary* is serving as a major exhibition in the LBJ Library and Museum. Drawing on materials borrowed from a number of institutions and individuals, as well as from the Library's own collections, the exhibit documents passages from the book, which was Mrs. Johnson's tape-recording of her impressions of events which punctuated the Johnson presidency. (The actual recordings amounted to seven times the material ultimately used in the book.)

Beginning with the assassination of President Kennedy and ending with the return to the LBJ Ranch the day Richard Nixon was inaugurated, the diary chronicles events both momentous and quiet, cheerful and tragic, as seen through the eyes of the First Lady. The selections in the exhibition are dramatically illustrated with photographs, paintings, drawings, sculpture, plus a variety of historically related artifacts.

The book on which the exhibit is based is a unique document—the only extensive record kept by the wife of a President during an administration.

Sources from which objects have been borrowed for the exhibit include the White House, the National Portrait Gallery, the Department of State, the National Museum of Art, the National Museum of American History, the Henry Francis Du Pont Winterthur Museum, the Johnson family and several private collections.

The exhibition opened on May 1 and will continue through November 3.



"Ruth Harding," by Thomas Eakins was a gift to the White House in 1967 from Joseph Hirshhorn. (In her diary, Mrs. Johnson recorded: "I hope . . . that one of the 32 Eakins Mr. Hirshhorn owns will come to rest in the White House . . .") The White House lent the painting to the Library for this exhibition.

DIARY" IS BASIS FOR EXHIBITION

A display of White House china features plates used in seven administrations, including that of Abraham Lincoln (insert at right.)



Another exhibit shows figures from an 18th century Neapolitan creche given to the White House during the Johnson years (detail of one of the figures at right.) Both the Lincoln plate and the creche figure were borrowed from the White House.



A popular item is the wedding dress worn by Lynda Bird Johnson when she married Charles Robb.

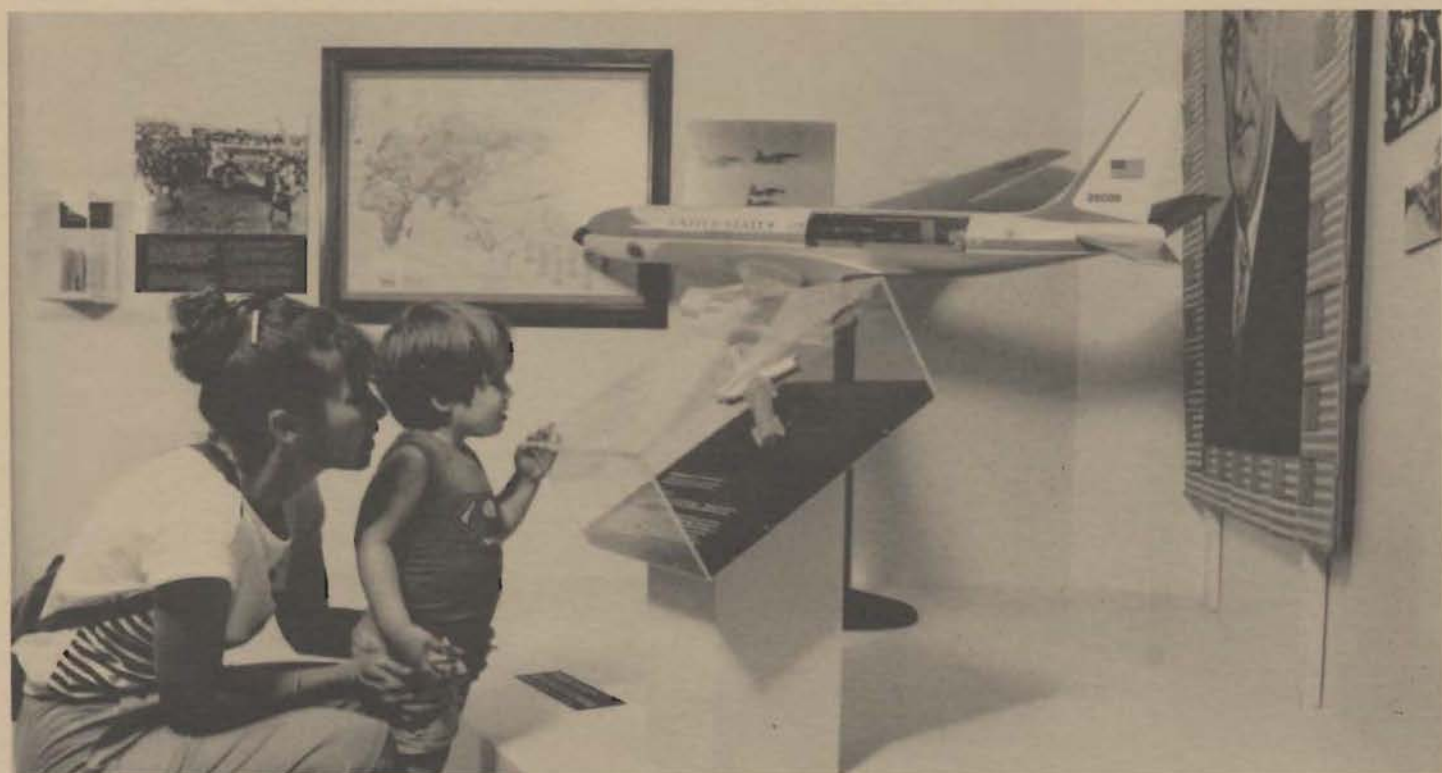
Carol Channing and other members of the cast performed the title song scene from "Hello, Dolly!" in the East Room in 1967. Mrs. Johnson recorded: "It was one of the gayest times I remember in the White House—and over all too soon."

A WHITE HOUSE DIARY:



"This is the year of the shovel for me!" the First Lady recorded in May 1965. The exhibition focuses on her tireless efforts at beautification with a series of photographs, the shovel she used on numer-

ous occasions, and—at right—a blazing wall of blooming plants and flowers kept constantly fresh.



A replica of Air Force One, fascinating particularly to young visitors, is accompanied by a map showing the more than 500,000 miles traveled by President Johnson, often accompanied by his wife.

THE EXHIBITION (continued)



A tourist examines the bronze portraits of Lady Bird and Lyndon Johnson by the sculptor Robert Berks. The President's sittings for his portrait, Mrs. Johnson said, "were always in the West Hall, a

place so much like Union Station that I withdrew for my sittings to the Lincoln Room."



Another image of LBJ is the painting by Peter Hurd which was rejected as the official portrait of the President. "Lyndon," Mrs. Johnson recorded, "could find nothing good about the portrait at all." His reaction inspired a spate of cartoons, such as the one above relating Republican reaction to the budget the President submitted to Congress. (It is captioned: "That's the ugliest thing I ever saw.")



LADY BIRD'S PAPERS REFLECT AN EVENTFUL ERA

By Nancy Smith

In addition to her diary, Lady Bird Johnson's documents include her personal papers—speech cards, a daily log, background information used in the preparation of her book, letters and other materials from the years both before and after the Presidency—and a collection known as the White House Social Files, which take up half a stack floor. All of these are housed in the Library and either have been or will be made available to researchers. Archivist Nancy Smith has been working with the Social Files. In a paper prepared for delivery to the Society of American Archivists meeting in Austin in October, she discusses the significance of those files. Following are some excerpts from that presentation:

The White House Social Files are the largest of the Library's files on Mrs. Johnson. Researchers will find the wealth of this collection staggering. Created during the White House years, the files contain material on her activities, particularly in the three main areas of conservation, education and children; the weddings and other activities of her daughters, and the social obligations of the First Lady, such as planning and hosting White House receptions, Head of State dinners and entertainment. The files also show Mrs. Johnson's involvement in the 1964 Whistle Stop Campaign and Women Do-er Luncheons.

Mrs. Johnson's conservation activities are enumerated in the Beautification Files which document the nationwide conservation programs and legislation spearheaded by Mrs. Johnson and the accomplishments of the Committee For A More Beautiful Capital, for which she served as Chairman.

Included in these files are notes and transcripts of meetings of the Committee, copies and drafts of Mrs. Johnson's Beautification speeches, and documents charting the progress of each project sponsored by the Committee in the District of Columbia. Documented is the fight to get the Highway Beautification Act of 1965 passed, the conflicts over the Federal Aid To Highways Act of 1968, and the different opinions of the members of the Committee as to the types of projects they should undertake in the District.

Material reflecting Mrs. Johnson's activities with children and education, including her Chairmanship of Project Head Start, is scattered throughout Liz Carpenter's Press Secretary files. Those files also contain drafts and final copies of Mrs. Johnson's speeches, trip files, and biographic and historical material on the Johnson family. In the files of Bess Abell and the Social Entertainment Office, the emphasis is on Mrs. Johnson's social activities as First Lady. These files contain invitation lists, seating charts, and material on arrangement and planning of entertainment for White House functions.

Here are a few historical incidents reflected in the files that seem to illustrate their importance.

In October 1964, Mrs. Johnson set out on a campaign trip for President Johnson which became known as the Whistle Stop Campaign. This was the most public exposure Mrs. Johnson had had in her political life and the conditions did not point to a very favorable reception. She was going to take a four-day train trip from Alexandria, Virginia, to New Orleans, Louisiana, stopping along the way in small towns and large cities. Mrs. Johnson said it was a "journey of the heart."



Archivist Smith with a box from the Social Files.

Although both President and Mrs. Johnson were from the South, the reception was expected to be hostile because of the President's strong role—and Mrs. Johnson's strong support—in getting the Civil Rights Act of 1964 passed in July. In her remarks at Alexandria, Virginia, on October 6, Mrs. Johnson explained why she wanted to make this trip:

... I want to tell you from Alexandria to New Orleans that to this President and his wife the South is a respected and valued and beloved part of the country. I know that many of you do not agree with the Civil Rights Bill or the President's support of it, but I do know the South respects candor and courage and I believe he has shown both.

It would be a bottomless tragedy for our country to be racially divided and here I want to say emphatically, this is not a challenge only in the South. It is a national challenge—in the big cities of the North as in the South.

The Library's files dealing with Whistle Stop include drafts and final copies of the over 25 speeches Mrs. Johnson made, plans for the trip, background on all the stops, and memoranda suggesting topics to be covered. One unsigned memo suggests the strategy that Mrs. Johnson used: to focus on education. "She would be a natural talking about education . . . TVA was FDR's dream for the South. Education can be the new dream and the ingredients are already at hand . . ."

The Whistle Stop Files document a unique political campaign, Mrs. Johnson's emergence as a public figure, the race question in 1964, and the importance of education in improving the quality of life in the South.

For June of 1965, President Johnson had planned a "White House Festival of the Arts." It was to be a salute to American

artists and their supporters. The Social Files document the complicated arrangements made for this affair—the scheduling, invitations to artists, Mrs. Johnson's remarks—and then reflect what happened. Although this was supposed to honor artists and be for their benefit, it turned into a political event. One of the invited guests, was Robert Lowell, a prominent American poet, who was to read some of his poetry. At first, Lowell accepted this invitation, but on May 30, 1965, he sent President Johnson a letter which he had also released to the *New York Times*. In his letter, Lowell said

"When I was telephoned last week and asked to read at the White House Festival of the Arts . . . I am afraid I accepted somewhat rapidly and greedily . . . After a week's wondering, I have decided that I am conscience-bound to refuse . . . Although I am very enthusiastic about most of your domestic legislation and intentions, I nevertheless can only follow our present foreign policy with the greatest dismay and distrust."

This regret, which was followed by others, thoroughly overshadowed the original purpose of this Festival.

To highlight the achievements of women during the 1960's, Mrs. Johnson held Women Do-er Luncheons. There were 16 such luncheons held from 1964 to 1968, with a guest speaker at each one, discussing the space program, city planning, beautification, training for underprivileged women, and crime. Most of these luncheons were pleasant occasions which achieved their purpose of focusing on important issues that women were addressing. However, one luncheon, on January 18, 1968, which was considering the subject of crime in the streets, ended, to quote Mrs.

Johnson, "explosively." Eartha Kitt, a well known actress and singer, had been invited to this luncheon because of her activities with underprivileged youth. In the question and answer period that followed the presentations, she decided to make a speech. The basic thrust of Ms. Kitt's comments was that the reason there was juvenile delinquency in America was that young people were angry over the Vietnam War. "They are angry because the parents are angry . . . the parents are angry because we are so highly taxed and because there is a war going on that the Americans do not understand." She went on to say "this nation depends on strength; it depends on men who are strong. You take the best of the country and send them off to war and they get shot. They don't want that." After Ms. Kitt finished her comments, Mrs. Hughes, the wife of the Governor of New Jersey, who had eight sons, rose to say that she did not feel the Vietnam War was any justification for juvenile delinquency. Mrs. Johnson also commented: "Because there is a war on, and I pray that there will come a just and honest peace, that still does not give us a free ticket not to try to work on bettering the things in this country that we can better . . ."

After this luncheon, Mrs. Johnson received a large amount of mail, both pro and con, regarding Eartha Kitt's comments. All of these letters, plus a total documentation of what happened at the luncheon are available in the White House Social Files.

These files reflect much more than social activities. They show that such central topics as crime and war were not only the concern of the President and his people, but also very much affected the East Wing of the White House—which housed the First Lady's staff.

NEW PORTRAIT OF LBJ IN HIS PRIME A Gift from Juanita Roberts' Estate

Lyndon Johnson was 50 years old when the portrait, a photograph of which appears on the cover, was painted in 1958 by J. Anthony Wills. Having just orchestrated the passage of the first Civil Rights bill in 82 years, he was building a reputation as one of the most energetic and effective majority leaders in the history of the United States Senate. Still ahead lay the vice-presidency through the Kennedy years and the turbulent but productive time of his own presidency.

Since its completion, the painting has been hanging in the artist's studio.

It was recently acquired for the Library as a gift from the estate of Juanita Roberts, President Johnson's long-time secretary who died in 1983. The terms of Mrs. Roberts' will stipulated that 25 percent of her estate should go to the LBJ Foundation, "to support the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library," as a memorial gift on behalf of her parents and herself. That share of the estate, which recently came to the Foundation, amounted to \$83,000.

Mrs. Roberts' is the second bequest to come to the Library under the terms of a will in recent years. The first was from D. B. Hardeman, who died in 1982, having served as aide to both Speaker Sam Rayburn and Congressman Hale Boggs.

The estate of Mr. Hardeman—who before his death also gave the Library his extensive collection of published books on the Congress—is not yet probated. To date the Foundation has received some \$56,500, to be used for the benefit of the Library. The Hardeman bequest is used to form an endowment, the income from which finances a prize named for Mr. Hardeman and given by the Library every two years to the author who—in the opinion of a panel of University of Texas scholars—has in that period published the best book on the U.S. Congress.



Juanita and LBJ



Hardeman

News from the LBJ School of Public Affairs

ROBERT K. GERMAN NAMED SLICK PROFESSOR

Robert K. German, a native Texan who is an authority on U.S.-Soviet relations, holds the Distinguished Visiting Tom Slick Professorship of World Peace for the 1985-86 academic year at the LBJ School.

A long-term career Foreign Service Officer, Mr. German has been stationed in Washington, D.C. where he was minister-counselor in the U.S. Foreign Service and dean of the School of Area Studies of the State Department's Foreign Service Institute.

Mr. German directed the State Department's Office of Soviet Union Affairs in 1980-1981 and was executive director of the Secretary of State's advisory committee on private international law from 1982 to 1984.



German



Krueger

ROBERT KRUEGER HOLDS VISITING LLOYD M. BENTSEN JR. CHAIR

The holder of the Visiting Lloyd M. Bentsen Jr. Chair in Government/Business Relations for 1985/86 is Robert C. Krueger. Dr. Krueger, who has a Ph.D. in English from Oxford University, served in the Congress from 1975-1979. From 1979 to 1981, he was President Jimmy Carter's U.S. Ambassador-at-large and Coordinator for Mexican Affairs.

Dr. Krueger's academic background includes 12 years on the faculty of Duke University and one year as Vice-Provost and Dean of Duke's Trinity College of Arts and Sciences.

SCHOOL'S ENTERING CLASS LARGEST YET

This year's entering class at the LBJ School is by far the largest in the school's history—116 new students have registered for the fall semester, bringing the school's total enrollment to 224.

The previous record was established in 1982/83, with an entering class of 101.

Females slightly outnumber males in the entering class—60 to 56—but in the school as a whole there are 128 males and 96 females.

Other statistics reveal that this class is unusually diversified in terms of ethnicity, residency, and backgrounds. The number of minorities in the class is the largest ever, with 14 Hispanics, 12 blacks, and 8 international students.

Sixty-five of the new students are Texas residents and 51 come from other states.



JORDAN NAMED TO UN GROUP

Professor Barbara Jordan, who holds the Lyndon B. Johnson Chair in National Policy at the LBJ School, is the only American among 11 world figures chosen by the United Nations to serve on a new panel examining activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia.

The appointments were made by Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru, Secretary General of the United Nations, and Konstantin Kolev of Bulgaria, chairman of the U.N.

Functioning under the aegis of the U.N. Commission on Transnational Corporations, the panel held public hearings in New York in September to examine the extent to which transnational corporations in South Africa contribute to and sustain the system of apartheid and other matters of social and economic concern to the area.

Professor Jordan served in the U.S. Congress from 1972-1978, and was the first black woman to serve in the Texas Senate, 1966-1972.

COMING EVENTS



Grant as General . . .



Grant as President . . .

U. S. GRANT: THE MAN AND THE IMAGE, an exhibition sponsored by the LBJ Library and the National Portrait Gallery, will be in the Library January 10-May 4. It will be a biographical exhibit utilizing paintings, sculptures, drawings, lithographs, tintypes and photographic prints, as well as personal artifacts such as furniture, flags, books, letters and uniforms.

The exhibit will trace Grant's West Point days, his unsuccessful venture in real estate, his work at a tannery in Galena, Illinois, his return to the army and the military success that followed, the Presidency and the final years.

**AN EVENING WITH
JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH,**
December 6.



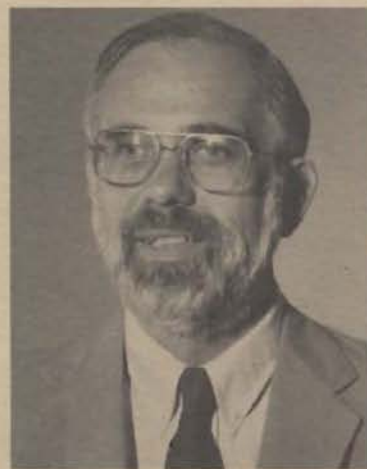
GUTENBERG BIBLE VISITS LBJ LIBRARY



The University of Texas' Gutenberg Bible, which usually resides in the University's Humanities Research Center, was for a brief period in October, on display in the lobby of the LBJ Library. The Bible is the first book known to have been printed on a press using movable type. Of the 180 copies that were printed in Latin in the mid-15th century, 48 now survive.

Mrs. Johnson presents her 16th annual award for highway beautification to Frank J. Gray, a Texas Highway Department construction supervisor who oversaw the planting of some 5,000 pecan seeds along one highway and the sowing of wildflowers on the roads leading into Bonham, Texas. The \$1,000 award has been given by the former First Lady every year since 1969 to someone who in the judgment of a specially appointed committee has made an outstanding contribution to the beautification of Texas highways. Also pictured is Mrs. Gray.

David C. Humphrey, the Library's Assistant Supervisory Archivist, has produced an illustrated history of the city of Austin which is to be published by Windsor Publications. The book's appearance will coincide with the observance of Texas sesquicentennial.

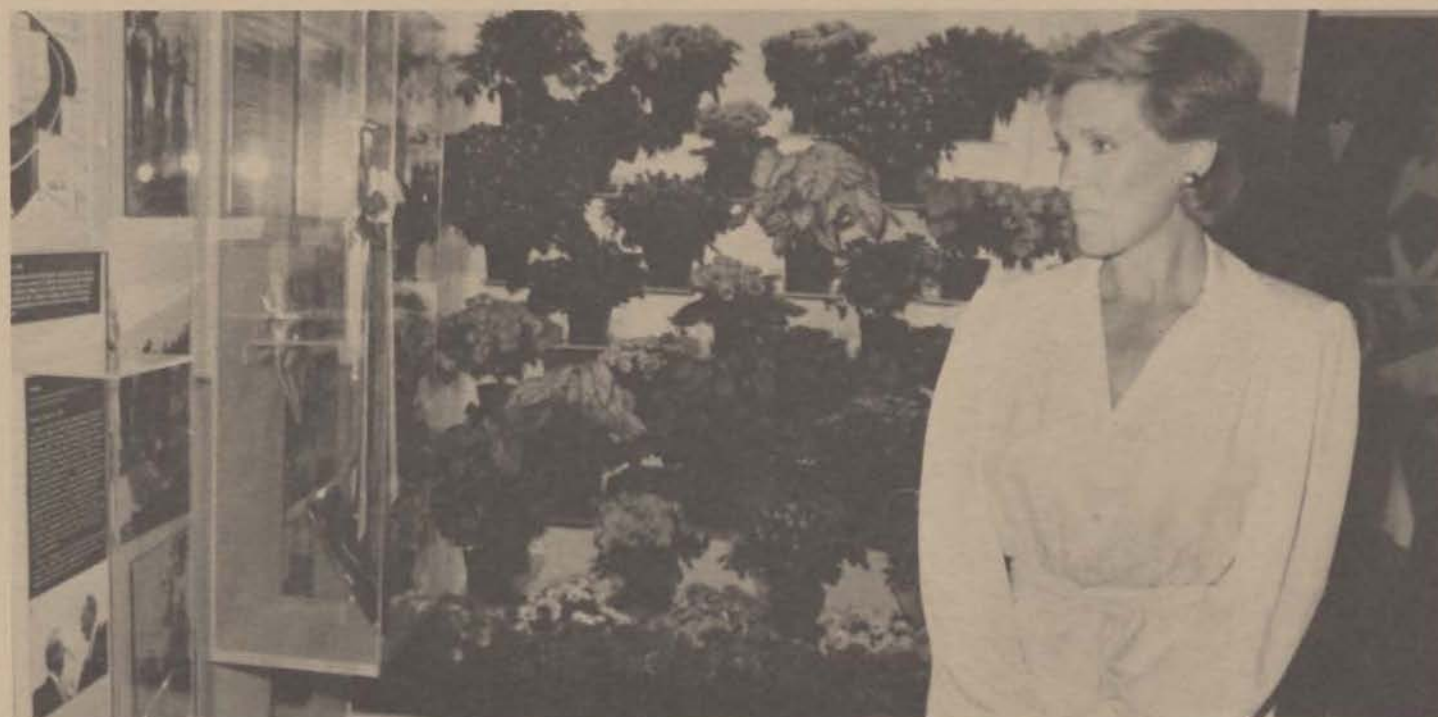


Visitors to The Library



Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and her husband, John O'Connor, found particular interest in the "White House

Diary" exhibition when they visited the Library in September. Justice O'Connor was on the campus to address students at the University.



Another prominent visitor was Actress Julie Andrews, who was in Austin to meet with Governor Mark White.

AMONG FRIENDS OF LBJ is a publication of the Friends of the LBJ Library

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