

AMONG FRIENDS *of LBJ*

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Balcony Sculpture Garden
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The Balcony Sculpture Garden



Gary Yarrington, former curator of the LBJ Museum and a sculptor by avocation, furnished the inspiration for this new showpiece. Set on the Library's second floor north balcony,

it now features three pieces, described below. More will be added as opportunity permits. The Balcony Sculpture Gallery is open to the public.

Jimilu Mason executed this yard-high bronze study of President Johnson in 1969. It served as a model for the eight-foot statue which is in the LBJ National Historic Park in Stonewall, Texas.

This bronze work, "Sunning," is a product of Gary Yarrington's studio. The model was Kiran Dix, formerly of the Library's Volunteer Office.



Sorel Etrog, a Romanian-born artist who studied in New York City, produced this bronze abstract. Titled simply "The Source," and massive in appearance, it weighs less than

six hundred pounds. Its permanent pedestal had not arrived at the time of this writing. This sculpture is on extended loan from the Joseph H. Hirshhorn Museum in Washington,

D.C. In the name of the country, President Johnson accepted the gift of the Hirshhorn art collection in 1966 to become part of our national heritage.

Historian Dallek Shares Insights of LBJ



Robert Dallek

A large gathering of Friends came to the Library to hear Robert Dallek, LBJ's latest biographer, discuss his work with a panel consisting of Robert Divine, professor emeritus of history at The University of Texas; Elspeth Rostow, former dean

of the LBJ School of Public Affairs; and George Christian, former press secretary to LBJ. The audience was encouraged to submit questions to Dr. Dallek as well, and the discussion which ensued was lively and informative.

Perhaps inevitably, much of the discussion centered around Vietnam. Dallek's position is that in the context of the times, President Johnson could not have avoided committing troops in that conflict. But he also contends that in 1967 LBJ missed an opportunity to begin what was later called "Vietnamization" of the war, turning the bulk of the fighting over to the South Vietnamese.

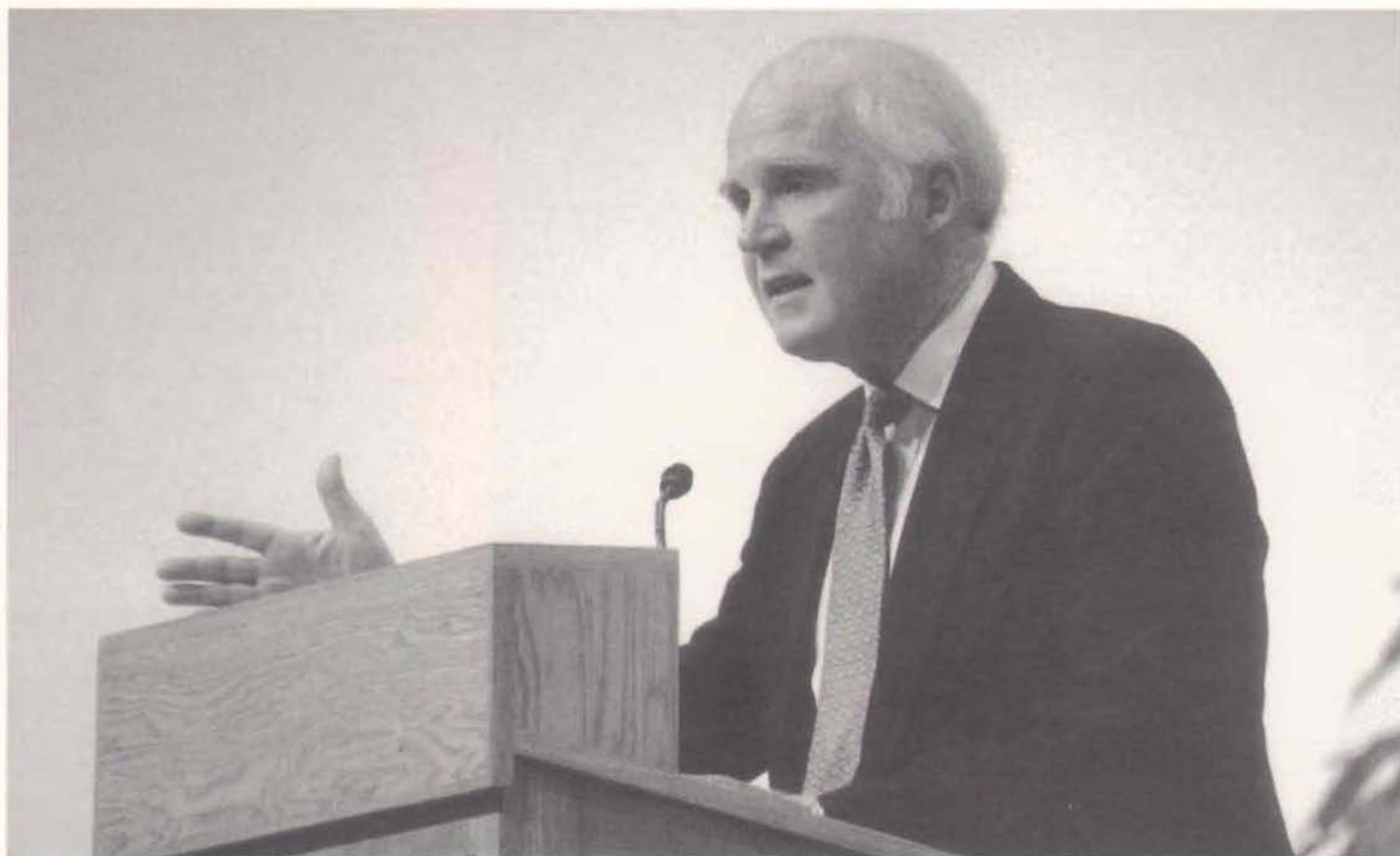
One questioner referred to the Great Society and the War on Poverty as "unmitigated disasters." Dallek's response was to ask if Americans are ready to give up such programs as Medicare, Medicaid, federal aid to education, civil rights, environmental protections, and other Great Society programs which today are taken for granted.

"Do you view LBJ differently today than when you began your work on him?" asked one member of the audience. Dallek smiled and said, "At times I felt myself angry at him, frustrated by him, annoyed and exhilarated by him. And now I must tell you that...I miss him."



From left to right: Robert Divine, Elspeth Rostow, George Christian

Noted Historian Chronicles the Civil Rights Movement



"An Evening With Taylor Branch" brought a crowd to the LBJ Library to hear a leading historian's fascinating insights into the early civil rights movement. Professor Branch had just published a second volume on that slice of American history, titled *Pillar of Fire: America in the King Years 1963-65*. His first volume, *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years 1954-63*, won the Pulitzer Prize for History in 1988.

Among the unexpected turns he encountered while researching and writing his second volume, Branch recalled a recurring theme from the many interviews he did with those who had been young student activists in the freedom rides and sit-ins. Now in their forties and fifties, they recall each of those episodes as making leaps of faith into the unknown, going into them fearful and a bit weak in the knees. What struck Branch was the arresting comparison a number of them made between going on freedom rides, on the one hand, and getting married, on the other. Both experiences inspired a unique mixture of

dread and exaltation. What sustained them was the conviction that, as one put it, "If we are part owners of this country, we ought to act like it."

One member of the audience asked Branch for his assessment of Malcolm X. A hundred years from now, Branch asserted, history will remember Malcolm X not as popular culture sees him today, a poorly-understood figure symbolized by the "X" on gimme hats, but primarily for his profound impact on religion in America. The reason is in the numbers: Nearly all of the six million Black Muslims in this country follow the precepts of Malcolm X.

His research at the LBJ Library, Branch said, convinced him that it was genuine personal conviction, and not political expediency, which fueled LBJ's passionate struggle on behalf of the underdogs of our society. His populist roots and New Deal heritage combined powerfully to make LBJ a zealous partisan for the disadvantaged.

Branch paid tribute to the powerful rhetoric of Martin Luther King,

pointing out that his formula was to rely on the twin pillars of the Constitution and the Bible. King always managed to call upon both Jefferson and the prophets in equal measure—not only "one person, one vote," but "Let Justice Roll Down" as well.

Responding to a question from the audience, Branch noted that the King family has come to accept the theory that James Earl Ray, King's convicted assassin, was at most the dupe of a conspiracy, and perhaps innocent altogether. Branch considered it "unfortunate" that the Kings had taken this position. He said that Ray's guilt had been well established and that to have granted the convicted assassin a new trial would have meant renewing the presumption of Ray's innocence, which would have misled historians of the future.

Professor Branch has been a writer and editor for *Esquire*, *Harper's*, and *The Washington Monthly*, and is a visiting Professor at Goucher College.

Prize Encourages Scholarly Work on the U.S. Congress

Three distinguished congressional observers and two political scientists of the University of Texas faculty have chosen the winner of the LBJ Library's twelfth D. B. Hardeman Prize: Robert V. Remini, for *Daniel Webster: The Man and His Time* (New York: W. W. Norton).

The \$1,000 Hardeman Prize is awarded annually to recognize an outstanding book on a congressional topic. The prize was established in 1978 by the Lyndon B. Johnson Foundation to honor the late D. B. Hardeman, former aide to Speaker Sam Rayburn and noted authority on

the history and operation of the Congress.

Members of the committee are: Donald C. Bacon, coeditor of the *Encyclopedia of the United States Congress*; Dr. Richard Baker, Historian of the U.S. Senate; Professor David Prindle and Associate Dean Brian Roberts, UT faculty; and Dr. Raymond Smock, former Historian of the House of Representatives.

Committee chairman Bacon says of Professor Remini's *Webster*:

"Dr. Remini has given us a long and distinguished list of works on Jacksonian America, but this is clearly

his masterpiece. Remini sees Webster as a master politician and the finest orator of his day, a great patriot and defender of the beleaguered Union. At the same time he makes no effort to minimize Webster's flaws; there was a "Black Dan" side to him which was bullying, sybaritic, alcoholic and greedy. But with all that he was one of the giants of our history, and for a long time to come, this book will be his definitive biography. It is a superlative effort."

First Lady Gallery To Open

Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn once said of Lady Bird Johnson, "The smartest thing Lyndon ever did was to marry her." Library Director Middleton has long wanted to have an exhibit dedicated to Mrs. Johnson, and staffing changes in her Library office has finally freed the space to do so. LBJ Museum curator Lisa Royse is now overseeing the construction of the project. Although it will focus primarily on Mrs.

Johnson's tenure as First Lady, there will be considerable space devoted to her life before that time, and also to her post-White House days at the LBJ Ranch.

This new exhibit will display video excerpts from Mrs. Johnson's home movies, never before seen by the public. One station will feature a video of Kirk Douglas and Helen Hayes, reading from letters which Mrs. Johnson and LBJ exchanged

before they were married. There will be a replica of the platform on the last car on the "Lady Bird Special," the train which Mrs. Johnson used during her whistle-stop campaign through the South in 1964. Royse is having a life-sized photo of Mrs. Johnson placed on the car, and visitors will be invited to step aboard and have their picture taken "with Lady Bird."

The First Lady Gallery will open to the public in January.

White House Telephone Tapes Project Continues

The latest release of tape recordings of White House telephone conversations during President Johnson's tenure took place on September 18. This batch consists of the conversations recorded during September-October, 1964.

Researcher listening to telephone tapes.



Visitors to the Library



Between eight and nine hundred Boys State delegates convened at the Library on June 11 to elect their officers and tour the Museum. A few of them, with their sponsors, paused for this picture.

Richard Helms, Director of Central Intelligence during the Johnson Administration, visited the Library to consult its archives in preparation for his memoirs.



Former Lieutenant Governor William P. Hobby has joined the LBJ Foundation Board of Directors. Mr. Hobby has had a long and distinguished career in public service and private business. He served as Lieutenant Governor from 1973 to 1991, longer than anyone else. Hobby was president and executive editor of *The Houston Post* from 1965 to 1983, when his family sold the paper. He was chancellor of the University of Houston System from 1995 to 1997.

Celebrating LBJ's Birthday

He would have been ninety on August 27. But LBJ predicted a number of times that he would die young, as had so many other men in his family. In fact he passed away at age sixty-four.

Marking this year's anniversary of President Johnson's birth, three major observations—solemn, but not sad—gave his family and his friends a chance to recall how fully he lived life in the time he had.



At the LBJ Grove in Washington, D.C., Library Director Harry Middleton addressed a crowd of celebrants. "President Johnson," he said, "was a man whose goals were justice and equality, who roused a nation to bend its effort in one historic try to make a Great Society."



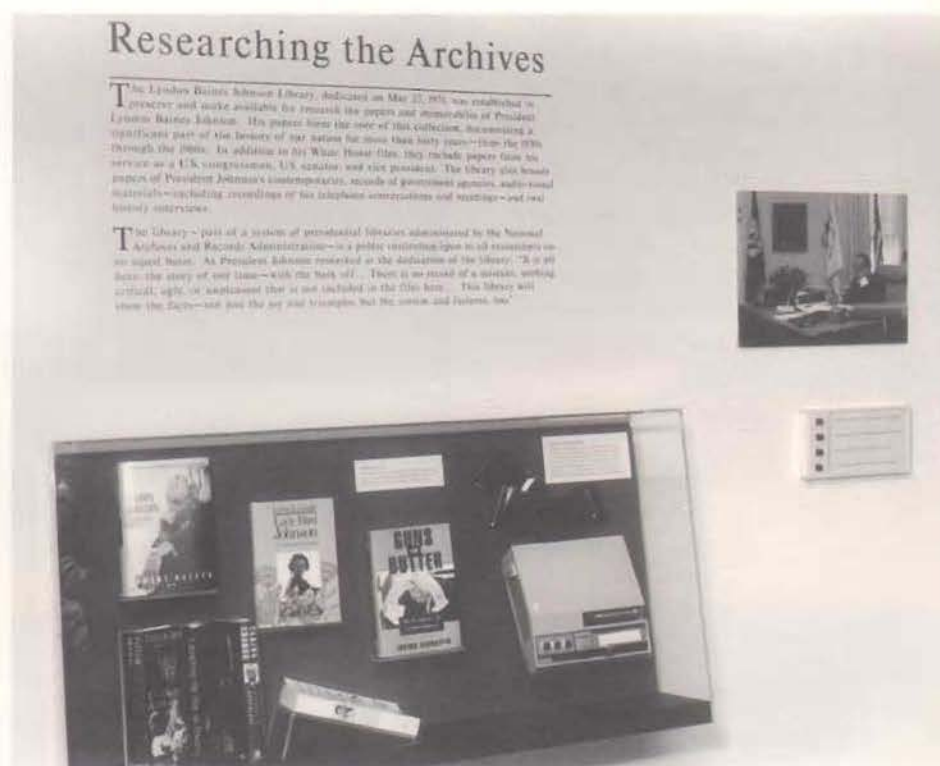
The LBJ Library traditionally offers all visitors cake, coffee and punch to celebrate August 27. It was no different this year. Here docent Norma Crozier and grandson Ian Murphy have a sample.

Cactus Pryor, for decades a Texas radio and television celebrity, spoke and laid a wreath at LBJ's grave, beneath the live oaks on the banks of the Pedernales at the LBJ Ranch. Assisting Pryor is Air Force Brigadier General Richard A. Mentemeyer. Pryor spoke of LBJ's love of the Ranch: "He is of this place. These trees, these fields, the cattle, the deer—this place that fed his soul, that gave him strength—that gave him peace—that gave him home."



New Exhibit in the Lobby

Because it is located next to the Library's exit, this exhibit will probably be the last one visitors will see. Displayed are a number of books, including several best-sellers, which are based on research done in the Library's archives. There is also a station where visitors can listen to four of the White House telephone tapes, which have aroused so much interest since the Library has begun opening them. Listeners will hear LBJ in spirited conversation with Martin Luther King, Jr., Senators Everett Dirksen and Richard Russell, and McGeorge Bundy. Next to the books is a Dictaphone machine, similar to those used to make the recordings.



In Memoriam:

Yolanda Boozer, former personal secretary to President Johnson, and for twenty-five years the executive assistant to the LBJ Foundation, passed away on May 17, 1998. She joined the staff of Vice President Johnson early in 1961, and except for one brief hiatus, she remained a key LBJ staffer until his death in 1973. She will be sorely missed. *Que le vaya bien.*



Coming Events

September 25

An Evening With
Carl Anthony:
"Florence Harding"

October 6

An Evening With
Janice Woods Windle:
"Hill Country"

November 30

An Evening With
Cokie Roberts

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The LBJ Library is one of ten presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration.

