JIMMY CARTER

WHY NOT THE BEST? COLLECTION

AR 795 – 627

Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

Updated November, 2011
Summary
Main Entry: Jimmy Carter. Why Not the Best? Collection

Date Span: 1924 – 1975.

Abstract: “Why Not the Best?” is an autobiography by Jimmy Carter, published in 1975. The collection includes a copy of the original manuscript of the book with corrections, galley sheets, author’s proof sheets, paste-ups, and photographs. Carter, a Baptist, served as Governor of Georgia and was elected President of the United States in 1976.

Size: 1.5 linear ft. (two document boxes)

Collection #: AR 795 – 627

Historical Sketch


The book was on the United States best seller list and went through several printings. It was first issued in hardback and then followed by a soft cover edition. In 1977, Broadman published a special Presidential edition and limited signature edition.

Scope and Content Note

The Why Not the Best? Collection consists of 1.5 linear ft. of material in 2 document boxes. The collection includes a copy of the original manuscript with corrections, galley sheets, author's proof sheets, material on the initial publication in 1975, the presidential edition, the limited signature edition, paste-ups, and original photographs used in the book. Most of the photographs are arranged in numerical order by page number in the presidential edition of *Why Not the Best?* The arrangement of the collection attempts to conform to the development of the book.
The collection does not contain any correspondence with Jimmy Carter about the publication of the book.

**Arrangement**
Arranged in alphabetical order by folder title

**Provenance**
Transferred from the Baptist Sunday School Board’s Broadman Products Department to the SBC Historical Commission in 1985.

**Preferred Citation**

**Access Restrictions**
None

**Subject Terms**
Carter, Jimmy, 1924 –
Governors – Georgia – Biography
Presidents – United States – Biography

**Related Resources**
Interview with Jimmy Carter by Bill Sumners, 1991. Rec R635vt (videorecording)

**Container List**

**Box 1**
1.1 Manuscript (with corrections)
1.2 Author's proofs
1.3 Galleys
1.4 Galleys
1.5 Scattered proof sheets and paste-ups
1.6 Reproduction proofs for limited / presidential edition
1.7 Reproduction proofs for limited / presidential edition

**Box 2**
2.1 Print copy (1975 edition)
2.2 Presidential edition – Title page and epilogue changes
2.3 Photograph – Carter home, 1928 – 1949, p. 14
2.4 Photograph – Jimmy and Billy, p. 14
2.5 Photograph – Earl Carter and Jim Jack Gerdy, p. 38
2.6 Photograph – Hugh Carter and baby Jimmy, p. 38
2.7 Photograph – Jimmy Carter (young boy), p. 38
2.8 Photograph – Submarine, p. 46
2.9  Photograph – Midshipman at Annapolis, p. 62
2.10 Photograph – Naval officer, p. 62
2.11 Photograph – Jimmy and Miss Lillian, p. 69
2.12 Photograph – Jimmy shoveling peanuts, p. 70
2.13 Photograph – Jimmy Carter and sons, Chip and Jeffery, p. 70
2.14 Photograph – Jimmy and Rosalynn, 1965, p. 70
2.15 Photograph – Shaking hands, p. 88
2.16 Photograph – Jimmy and Rosalynn, 1965, p. 116
2.17 Photograph – Shaking hands in governor's campaign, 1970, p. 126
2.18 Photograph – Inauguration as governor of Georgia, January, 1971, p. 144
2.19 Photograph – Carter family, 1974, p. 151
2.20 Photograph – Carter and family outdoors, p. 152
2.21 Photograph – Governor Carter speaking in church, p. 165
2.22 Photograph – Carter with handicapped in Georgia, p. 166
2.23 Photograph – Campaigning for governor, p. 166
2.24 Photograph – Jimmy and Rosalynn, 1975, p. 176
2.25 Paste-ups, title page to p. 88
2.26 Paste-ups, pages 89 – 166
2.27 Paste-ups, pages 167 – 208