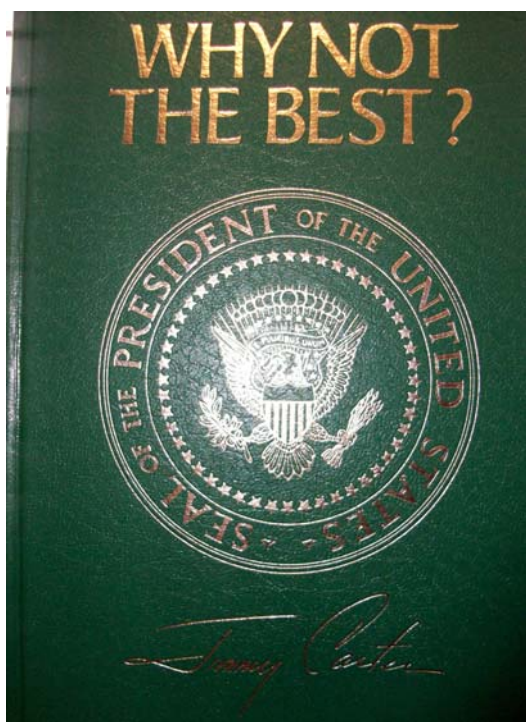


**Inventory to the
Why Not the Best? Collection
AR. 795-627**



Updated February 18, 2009

Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

Inventory to the Why Not the Best? Collection

AR. 795-627

I. Historical Description

Why Not The Best? is an autobiographical book written by Jimmy Carter and published by Broadman Press in 1975. The book describes Carter's life in rural Georgia, his military career, his business enterprises, his family, and his political career. *Why Not the Best* was released prior to Carter's successful campaign for President of the United States in 1976. Carter had previously served in the Georgia Legislature and as Governor of Georgia from 1971-75.

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.

II. 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.

The Why Not the Best? Collection was transferred from Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman Products Department to the SBC Historical Commission in 1985.

III. Folder Listing

Box 1

1. Manuscript (with corrections)
2. Author's proofs
3. Galleys
4. Galleys
5. Scattered proof sheets and paste-ups
6. Reproduction proofs for limited / presidential edition
7. Reproduction proofs for limited / presidential edition

Box 2

8. Print copy (1975 edition)
9. Presidential edition – Title page and epilogue changes
10. Photograph – Carter home, 1928-49, p. 14
11. Photograph – Jimmy and Billy, p. 14
12. Photograph – Earl Carter and Jim Jack Gerdy, p. 38
13. Photograph – Hugh Carter and baby Jimmy, p. 38
14. Photograph – Jimmy Carter (young boy), p. 38
15. Photograph – Submarine, p. 46
16. Photograph – Midshipman at Annapolis, p. 62
17. Photograph – Naval officer, p. 62
18. Photograph – Jimmy and Miss Lillian, p. 69
19. Photograph – Jimmy shoveling peanuts, p. 70
20. Photograph – Jimmy Carter and sons, Chip and Jeffery, p. 70
21. Photograph – Jimmy and Rosalynn, 1965, p. 70
22. Photograph – Shaking hands, p. 88
23. Photograph – Jimmy and Rosalynn, 1965, p. 116
24. Photograph – Shaking hands in governor's campaign, 1970, p. 126
25. Photograph – Inauguration as governor of Georgia, January 1971, p. 144
26. Photograph – Carter family, 1974, p. 151
27. Photograph – Carter and family outdoors, p. 152
28. Photograph – Governor Carter speaking in church, p. 165
29. Photograph – Carter with handicapped in Georgia, p. 166
30. Photograph – Campaigning for governor, p. 166
31. Photograph – Jimmy and Rosalynn, 1975, p. 176
32. Paste-ups, title page to p. 88
33. Paste-ups, pp. 89-166
34. Paste-ups, pp. 167-208