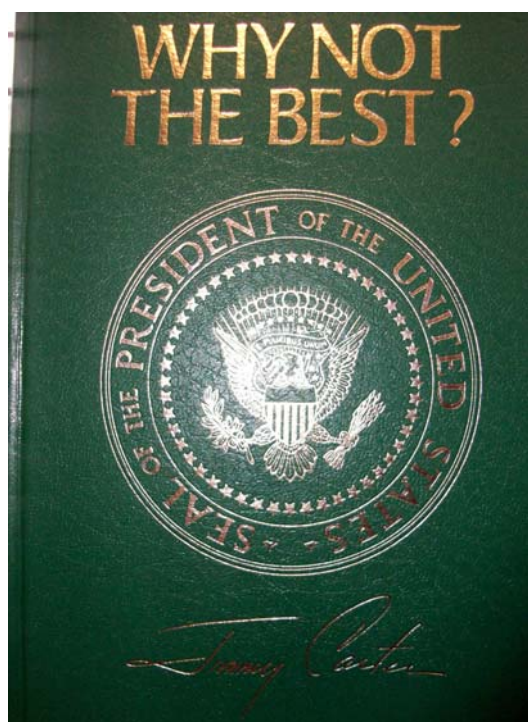


JIMMY CARTER

WHY NOT THE BEST? COLLECTION

AR 795 – 627



Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

Updated November, 2011

Jimmy Carter

Why Not the Best? Collection

AR 795 – 627

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

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 – 1975.

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

Jimmy Carter. *Why Not the Best?* Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Carter, Jimmy, 1924 –

Governors – Georgia – Biography

Presidents – United States – Biography

Related Resources

Interview with Jimmy Carter by Bill Summers, 1991. Rec R635vt (videorecording)

Carter, Jimmy. *Living faith*. New York: Times Books, 1996.

Carter, Jimmy. *Our endangered values: America's moral crisis*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2005.

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