Robert F. Darden Editorial Cartoon collection.
Baylor Collections of Political Materials, W. R. Poage Legislative Library
Baylor University, Waco, Texas

Summary Information
Creator
Darden, Bob, 1954-

Extent (quantity/size)
5 oversized boxes and 1 oversized folder.

Language
English

Abstract
The Robert F. Darden Editorial Cartoon collection contains the original artwork for editorial cartoons created by over twenty artists, including Darden. Works were created in media such as pen and ink, charcoal, and pencil on paper. Topics addressed in the collection range from politics in the late twentieth century, to religion, theology, sports, and sketches of popular television and comic book characters.

Subjects

Administrative Information
Restrictions on Access and Use
All requests for copying of materials must be submitted to the W. R. Poage Legislative Library in writing. Please use the Request Form for Copying Materials sheet. Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Use/Reproduction Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation
When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is:

Robert F. Darden Editorial Cartoon collection, Accession #106, Box #, Folder #, Baylor Collections of Political Materials, W. R. Poage Legislative Library, Baylor University.

Processing Information
Described by Kristina Benham and released on 2023-08-03.

Scope and Content
The scope of the collection ranges from the early 1940s to 2000 and is focused primarily on the 1960s and 1970s, though many cartoons remain undated. Darden’s collection consists of original artwork from cartoonists he interviewed for his Master’s thesis in the late 1970s. Over 150 cartoons includes pieces created in charcoal, pencil, and pen and ink on paper.

Pieces appeared in publications such as the Baylor Lariat, San Antonio Express-News, Anchorage Times, Dallas Morning News, Tyler Courier-Times, Religious Drawings, “Out of Orbit,” and Dallas Times Herald. Many of the cartoons address topics such as Texas sports, the oil industry, US politics, foreign and domestic policies, taxes, lunar landings, US Foreign relations, the Cold War, Vietnam War, the economy, and Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter.

Administrative/Biographical History

Robert F. Darden is a writer, professor, musician, researcher, and cartoonist. Born in 1954, Darden completed his BSED in 1976 at Baylor University and his Master’s in Journalism in 1978 at the University of North Texas. He was a recipient of the Rotary Foundation Fellowship, which he used to continue his education in art history and film at the University of Bristol in England.

Darden held positions for several publications throughout his early career. He worked as the Arts and Entertainment Editor at The Waco Tribune-Herald from 1978 to 1986, the Gospel Music Editor for Billboard Magazine from 1984 to 1994, and Senior Editor of the The Wittenburg Door, a Christian satire and humor magazine.

From 1988-2023, Darden was a professor at Baylor University. He served as an adjunct professor in the English department until 1999, when he secured a tenured position as an Associate Professor of Journalism, Public Relations, and New Media. Darden has published over 25 books, including People Get Ready!: A New History of Black Gospel Music in 2004, the work which resulted in the Black Gospel Music Restoration Project.

Darden’s work in connection to the editorial cartoon collection pertained to his Master’s thesis centering on three artists of The Dallas Morning News: John Knott, Herc Ficklen, and Bill McClanahan. Darden also submitted his own editorial cartoons as a student at Baylor for The Lariat, and his career as a journalist included interviews with Texas editorial cartoonists whose works later became part of his collection.

Related Resources
Related citations

Archival Arrangement

This collection contains the artistic works of twenty-five artists. The collection has been organized according to the size of the cartoons; there are no series divisions, and all items are individually labeled in plastic sleeves. Folder titles include cartoon titles, artist names, inventory numbers, and minor descriptions when available. If known, the original publication dates are also included.

Box 1A. Folder 1. “Aw C’mon, Stu!!”, Bob Dale [2008-01], undated
Box 1A. Folder 3. “Settle Down...And We Will Beat This Gas Crunch”, Bob Dale [2008-06], 1979 May 28
Box 1A. Folder 4. “Do We Just Learn to Live with It??”, Regarding Violence and Crime, Bob Dale [2008-07], 1979 August 1
Box 1A. Folder 5. “Gadzooks and Forsooth, T.M., T’was Naught!!”, Bob Dale [2008-08], 1979 August 4
Box 1A. Folder 6. “Fifty Big Ones in Cash, Man, Or Splitsville!!”, Regarding Medical Costs, Bob Dale [2008-09], 1979 August 11
Box 1A. Folder 7. “You Can’t Put Me Off This Bus!! A Cop Can!!”, Bob Dale [2008-10], 1979 August 13-23
Box 1A. Folder 9. “Have the Bureaucrats Thought of Using This Stuff??”, Bob Dale [2008-12], 1979 August 17
Box 1A. Folder 10. “Pay D’sales Tax ‘R I’ll Crunch Up Yer Face, Mac!”, Regarding Liquor Sales Tax, Bob Dale [2008-13], 1979 August 21
Box 1A. Folder 11. “I’m Surprised That You Collect Them!! I’m Surprised That You’re Surprised”, Regarding Buttons, Bob Dale [2008-14], 1979 August 19
Box 1A. Folder 12. “Oh, !*@3#!, Now They’ll Cancel My Insurance!”, Bob Dale [2009-01], 1979 August 24
Box 1A. Folder 13. “Out Of Orbit”, Regarding Lunar Landing, Herc Ficklen [2011-02], undated
Box 3. Folder 2. “Have You Tried U.P.S., Ma’am?”, Regarding Christmas Packages, Bob Dale [2008-04], undated
Box 3. Folder 3. (Santa Bear), Robert F. Darden [2009-02], undated
Box 3. Folder 5. (The Beatles), Robert F. Darden [2015-01], undated
Box 3. Folder 6. (Marvel and D.C. Superheroes), Robert F. Darden [2015-02], undated
Box 3. Folder 7. (Disney Characters), Dan Foote [2015-04], undated
Box 4. Folder 1. Pin, “I Go Pogo” (2 copies), undated
Box 5. Folder 1. “Gridgram”, Regarding Baylor vs. Texas A&M, Bill McClanahan [2015-06], undated