

Miller Center's "Presidential Recordings of Lyndon B. Johnson Digital Edition" Wins American Association of Publishers' PROSE Award

"Presidential Recordings of Lyndon B. Johnson Digital Edition," edited by scholars at the University of Virginia's Miller Center and published by UVa Press's Rotunda, has won the American Association of Publishers' 2011 PROSE Award for Best eProduct in the Humanities. The PROSE Awards recognize the very best in professional and scholarly publishing by bringing attention to distinguished books, journals, and electronic content in more than 40 categories.

The LBJ Digital Edition features expertly annotated transcripts of hundreds of conversations from the secretly recorded tapes of Johnson. The published collections focus on three key themes: Vietnam, Civil Rights and the War on Poverty. Readers can be a fly-on-the wall in the Oval Office, listening in on Johnson's secretly recorded telephone conversations with members of Congress as they grapple with escalating US involvement in Vietnam, with Martin Luther King, Jr. about the struggle for civil rights, and with senior advisers about the War on Poverty.

The LBJ Digital Edition can be found at
<http://presidentialrecordings.rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/>.

Each conversation is transcribed, annotated and accompanied by audio. The conversations are searchable by topic, speaker, date, time, and location. There is also a multimedia presentation that includes photo and video galleries and a timeline.

"We're very grateful to the Association for American Publishers for this award," said David G. Coleman, chair of the Miller Center's Presidential Recordings Program and an editor of the edition.

"It's a great honor and testament to the painstaking efforts of our remarkable group of scholars, staff, and students who make up the Presidential Recordings Program. And it's testament also to the innovation and expertise by the superb team at the University of Virginia Press. We hope that our collaboration makes it possible for more people to access these remarkable and unique historical materials for themselves."

Besides Coleman, other editors include Kent B. Germany, Guian A. McKee, and Marc J. Selverstone. They are part of a team of scholars at the Miller Center who are transcribing all the secret White House tapes recorded by every president from Franklin Roosevelt to Richard Nixon.

A grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission helped fund the LBJ Digital Edition.

The PROSE Award comes on the heels of “Choice” magazine, a leading publication for academic librarians, citing the LBJ Digital Edition an Outstanding Academic Title for 2011.

Rotunda was created for the publication of original digital scholarship along with newly digitized critical and documentary editions in the humanities and social sciences. The collection combines the originality, intellectual rigor, and scholarly value of traditional peer-reviewed university press publishing with thoughtful technological innovation designed for scholars and students.

Founded in 1975, the Miller Center is a nonpartisan institute at the University of Virginia focused on the presidency, policy and political history that works to inform public debate and national decision-making. It is the leading organization in the country looking to provide historical insights for the policymaking challenges the country faces today.