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Dear AARC Supporter:

When we launched The AARC Quarterly, we underestimated the costs and time needed to publish four issues a year. We apologize for the long delay in delivering the second issue. Your patience is appreciated. Publication of the next Quarterly is being expedited to catch up on back issues.

The response to our first issue was almost uniformly favorable. We hope that you will find the second issue interesting and informative.

Although the AARC's finances remain precarious, we continue to make progress nonetheless. A few examples show what we are doing. First, a team of dedicated volunteers, led by Volunteer Coordinator Linda Hansen, has been cataloging all the books in our collection. Ms. Hansen has performed yeowoman services in xeroxing the title pages of all volumes in our collection and sending them to Alan Fitzgibbon, our computer consultant, who has downloaded basic Library of Congress information about each title, so that we now have a computerized catalogue listing our books and describing them. This is an important step in professionally organizing our "special library" and research institute and will enable us to identify and speedily retrieve the books in our collection.

Second, the AARC continues to obtain new records. In the past two years, we have obtained over 250,000 pages of CIA records, and about 50,000 pages of FBI records, that were made available to the HSCA. These records have been processed under the terms of the JFK Act, and thus have much less material redacted from them than records which are released under FOIA.

Additions to our collection are not limited to what the HSCA looked at. The AARC also gets copies of all records ordered released by the JFK Review Board. Researchers who are members can obtain these records from AARC at twelve cents per page. Those who want all such records can set up an account with AARC, which will then automatically make a copy and send it to the researcher.

Researchers should be aware that the AARC has most of the records in the JFK Collection at the National Archives, and it is taking steps to acquire many it does not have. For example, AARC obtained a complete copy of the Clay Shaw trial transcript from the Archives. At least two researchers have ordered the entire transcript from us. We will continue to use our ability to get a fee waiver for records to obtain those documents of paramount interest.

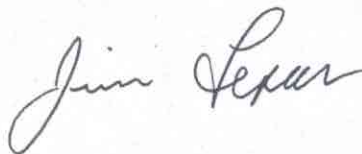
The AARC is also developing lists or inventories describing materials that we have available. For example, AARC has a list of the Clay Shaw trial witnesses which allows researchers to identify the portions of the transcript pertaining to each witness. The AARC is also compiling a rough inventory of the more than 100 boxes of CIA documents released under the JFK Act. This inventory lists the subject matter of each folder in each box and estimates the number of pages in each folder.

The AARC has recently received FBI investigative records on William Pawley, Cuba Libre, E. Howard Hunt, Lake Ponchartrain, and Carlos Marcello. We will soon be receiving two boxes of materials on David Ferrie.

Since the first AARC Quarterly, several new books of interest to our members have been published. These include: Oswald Talked, by Ray and Mary La Fontaine (New Orleans: Pelican Press, 1996); Orders to Kill, a book on the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by Bill Pepper (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1995); Perfect Villains, Imperfect Heroes, by Ronald Goldfarb (New York, Random House, 1995); and Assignment: Oswald, by James Hosty (New York: Arcade, 1996).

Ocean Press has recently published two books which reflect the views of General Fabian Escalante, former head of Cuban State Security on CIA operations against Cuba: CIA Targets Fidel, which reprints the CIA Inspector General's 1967 report on the CIA-Mafia plots against Castro, together with an interview of Escalante; and The Secret War: CIA Covert Operations against Cuba 1959-62 by Fabian Escalante.

In late 1977 and early 1978, the FBI released 80,001 pages from its JFK Headquarters files on The Assassination of President Kennedy, the Warren Commission, Jack Ruby, and Lee Harvey Oswald. The AARC has obtained an extra set of these records which it wants to sell. If you know any libraries or persons who might be interested in purchasing this set at a discounted rate substantially below the FBI's price (\$8,000), please have them contact us. The set is in good condition, and there are relatively few excisions compared with other Freedom of Information Act releases.



Jim Lesar
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