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## Wayne Chastain collection

**Title:** Wayne Chastain collection  
**Collection No:** MSS.507  
**Extent:** 2 cubic feet  
**Inclusive Dates:** 1965-1999

**Abstract:** The collection comprises published materials collected by Wayne Chastain (1930-1999), journalist and lawyer, primarily dealing with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

**Donor:** Dr. James Presley, Texarkana, Texas, March 2005.  
**Processed by:** Gerald Chaudron, April 2017.  
**Access:** Open to all researchers.  
**Language:** English  
**Preferred Citation:** Wayne Chastain collection, Preservation and Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

**Publication date:** April 2017

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## Scope and contents

The collection comprises published materials collected by Wayne Chastain, journalist and lawyer, primarily dealing with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy but also Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert F. Kennedy.

Wayne Chastain was born on April 30, 1930, in Paris, Texas, and moved to Texarkana as a child. He attended Texarkana College and graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1956. Chastain served in the U.S. Air Force and later worked as a reporter for newspapers in Texas, Louisiana and Missouri before joining the *Memphis Press-Scimitar* in 1967. It was as the general assignment reporter on April 4, 1968, that Chastain was the first print journalist at the Lorraine Motel after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Convinced the killing was part of a conspiracy, Chastain began a lifelong quest to prove his theory. He had also previously investigated the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. He earned a law degree from Memphis State University in 1974 and began working as a lawyer, later representing both James Earl Ray and the King family. Chastain died in Memphis on June 7, 1999.

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## Subject terms

Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963--Assassination.

Kennedy, Robert F., 1925-1968--Assassination.

King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968.

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## Inventory

### Box 1

Folder 1: Clippings:

Cohn, Lew K, "DeKalb resident guarded Oswald's killer, Jack Ruby", *Bowie County Citizen's Tribune*, New Boston, Tex., 1999 November 24, pp.1, 18.

"Lawmakers try to buy King papers", *Texarkana Gazette*, 1999 October 27.

"New JFK video reveals 2<sup>nd</sup> shooter", *Globe*, 1998 July 28.

Presley, James, "Former Texarkanian dies of pancreatic cancer at age 69", *Texarkana Gazette*, 1999 June 10. (copy)

Perrusquia, Marc, "Wayne Chastain, lawyer for Ray and King family, dies, *Commercial Appeal*, Memphis, Tenn., 1999 June 8. (copy)

Publications:

Fox, Sylvan. *The Unanswered Questions about President Kennedy's Assassination*. New York: Award Books, 1975.

Garrison, Jim. *On the Trail of the Assassins: My Investigation and Prosecution of the Murder of*

*President Kennedy*. New York: Sheridan Square Press, 1988.

Jeffreys-Jones, Rhodri. *The CIA and American Democracy*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989.

Kirkwood, James. *American Grotesque: An Account of the Clay Shaw-Jim Garrison Affair in the City of New Orleans*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1970.

La Fonatine, Ray and Mary. *Oswald Talked: The New Evidence in the JFK Assassination*. Gretna, La.: Pelican Publishing Co., 1996.

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Melanson, Philip H. *Spy Saga: Lee Harvey Oswald and U.S. Intelligence*. New York: Praeger, 1990.

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Newman, John M. *JFK and Vietnam: Deception, Intrigue, and the Struggle for Power*. New York: Warner Books, 1992

Newton, Michael. *The King Conspiracy*. Los Angeles: Holloway House Publishing Co., 1987.

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Ragano, Frank, and Selwyn Raab. *Mob Lawyer*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1994.

Roffman, Howard. *Presumed Guilty: Lee Harvey Oswald in the Assassination of President Kennedy*. Rutherford: Farleigh Dickinson University Press, 1975.

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Weisberg, Harold. *Never Again! The Government Conspiracy in the JFK Assassination*. New York: Carroll & Graf, 1995.

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**Box 2**

Anson, Robert Sam. *"They've Killed the President!": The Search for the Murderers of John F. Kennedy*. New York: Bantam Books, 1975.

Ashman, Charles. *The CIA-Mafia Link*. New York: Manor Books, 1975.

Bleiweiss, Robert M., ed., with Jacqueline L. Harris and Joseph R. Marfuggi. *Marching to Freedom: The Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.* New York: Signet Books, 1969.

Blumenthal, Sid, and Harvey Yazijian, eds. *Government by Gunplay: Assassination Conspiracy Theories from Dallas to Today*. New York: Signet, 1976.

Buchanan, Thomas G. *Who Killed Kennedy?* New York: MacFadden Books, 1965.

Callahan, Bob. *Who Shot JFK? A Guide to the Major Conspiracy Theories*. New York: Fireside Books (Simon & Schuster), 1993.

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1992.

Davis, John H. *Mafia Kingfish: Carlos Marcello and the Assassination of John F. Kennedy*. New York: McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., 1989.

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