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THE 1861
TECHAS PRINTINGS
OF THE
ORDINANCE OF SECESSION, A DECLARATION OF THE CAUSES
AND AN ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS

AN ILLUSTRATED DESCRIPTIVE PRINTING HISTORY
COMMENORATING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY
OF THEIR ADOPTION AND THE SECESSION OF TEXAS
FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

BY
EVERETT C. WILKIE, JR.

In early 1861, after the election of Abraham Lincoln, Texas promptly started down the path to secession and the Civil War. Although irregularly elected, a secession convention meeting in Austin quickly agreed on a secession law, which was, at Sam Houston's insistence, put to a plebiscite in March, where it easily passed.

In the course of its activities, the convention produced three major documents concerning secession. The first was the secession ordinance itself, which went through several private versions for the convention's secret use before being passed and then spread to the general public. To explain their actions, the convention promulgated A Declaration of the Causes, which sought to explain their proceedings. Finally, a committee meeting after the convention adjourned produced An Address to the People of Texas, yet a different justification.

All of those documents were prepared for the convention's use and for public distribution by the printing press. The imprints are among the rarest Texas Civil War documents known, usually existing in only a single or a handful of copies; several are not known to be extant. In this work documenting those printings, Wilkie provides detailed bibliographical descriptions of each item and locations for copies he found, including those in both public and private hands. This work will likely never be superseded and is essential for libraries, historians, booksellers, and private collectors.

The book measures 8.25"x 11.5" and was designed and printed by Bradley Hutchinson in an edition of 240 copies in Monotype Walbaum and Old Face Open. Forty are bound in quarter leather and housed in a slipcase by Jace Graf at Cloverleaf Studio, and the remainder are case bound in quarter cloth and decorated paper sides by Custom Bookbinders. The book contains 7 text figures and 24 color plates including a folded frontispiece of the original manuscript copy of the secession ordinance. All entries with located copies are illustrated. Available only from The Book Club of Texas.

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