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***Bio of Jesse Jones Wins Ottis Lock Book Award***

COLLEGE STATION—*Unprecedented Power: Jesse Jones, Capitalism, and the Common Good* by Steven Fenberg (Texas A&M University Press, 2011) has received the 2012 Ottis Lock Award for the Best Book on East Texas History.

Named for late teacher, Texas legislator and Texas Department of Public Safety chairman in 1984, the Ottis Lock award is presented annually by the East Texas Historical Association during the organization's fall meeting.

Throughout his life, Lock maintained a strong interest in the history, heritage and folklore of East Texas – an interest that was reflected in his service as a trustee of the Southland Paper Mills Foundation.

“It is an honor to join the ranks of other esteemed authors whose works have received the Ottis Lock Award in previous years,” said Fenberg, whose biography illustrates the life of Jesse Jones, who was Houston's preeminent developer during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and who salvaged capitalism during the Great Depression and militarized industry during World War II.

At a crucial time in U.S. history and working largely out of the limelight as chairman of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, Jones saved millions of farms, homes, banks and businesses; built transformative infrastructure; and in the process made hundreds of millions of dollars for the federal government. Then he turned the RFC's focus from domestic economics to global defense.

In writing *Unprecedented Power*, Fenberg had unrestricted access to the archives of Houston Endowment – the philanthropic foundation established by Jesse and Mary Gibbs Jones in 1937—and to the archives of the Library of Congress, the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at The University of Texas, the Houston Public Library and an array of other sources.

*Unprecedented Power* has received much critical acclaim since its 2011 release. *Kirkus Reviews* called the book “a somewhat-forgotten page of U.S. history that holds enormous relevance today.”

In the April edition of *The Texas Observer*, writer Cecily Sailer said, “Anyone even slightly worn by the drag of this latest downturn should be enlivened by a capital-C Capitalist who viewed business as an agent for public good, who believed government could be a catalyst for economic repair and who worked doggedly to rebuild the nation’s financial structure and prepare the country for unprecedented militarism overseas. Fenberg’s attentive prose and keen research don’t hurt either.”

For more information, visit [www.jessejonesunprecedentedpower.com](http://www.jessejonesunprecedentedpower.com).