

WALTER SULLIVAN COLLECTION

1928 –1993

Collection Number: MSS 426

Size: 1.21 linear feet

Special Collections and University Archives

Jean and Alexander Heard Library

Vanderbilt University

Nashville, Tennessee

WALTER SULLIVAN COLLECTION

1928 - 1993

Biography/History

Walter Sullivan, a native of Nashville, is a 1947 Vanderbilt University alumnus who later became a Professor of English at Vanderbilt University for 51 years, and retired in 2000. Professor Sullivan is Vanderbilt's leading authority on the Fugitives and the Agrarians, and was personal friends with Donald Davidson, Peter Taylor, Allen Tate, Andrew Lytle, and Robert Penn Warren. He was a student of Richmond Beatty, Donald Davidson, Walter Clyde Curry, and Claude Finney, each contributing to his dedication to literature and teaching. Professor Sullivan earned a Master's of Fine Arts degree at the University of Iowa, and served in the U.S. Marine Corps for three years during World War II. He is a fiction writer and his first novel, *Sojourn of a Stranger*, was published in 1957. His second novel, *The Long, Long Love*, was published in 1959. Since that time he has authored numerous articles, books, and short stories.

Professor Sullivan delivered a series of lectures on modern American novelists in 1973 on WDCN, the NET channel in Nashville. The series became an immediate hit, and his subjects included Hemingway, Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor, Katherine Anne Porter, Eudora Welty, and Saul Bellow. The next series of lectures focused on modern British authors.

These research materials will be part of the Jesse W. Wills Fugitive and Agrarian Collection that was established in 1969, and contains the largest accumulation of Fugitive and Agrarian materials available anywhere.

Scope and Contents

This collection is 1.21 linear feet. It contains 157 pieces of correspondence, in 27 file folders, to Walter Sullivan from the following Southern literary writers, who were part of the Fugitives/Agrarians: Donald Davidson, Andrew Lytle, Allen Tate, Peter Taylor, and Robert Penn Warren. It also includes four(4) books, and 43 reel-to-reel tapes, in chronological order, from Literary Symposium Lectures, Panels, Readings, and Interviews with Southern writers.

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Box 1 of 2

Correspondence – Incoming - from Donald Davidson – 14 items

August 3, 1943
January 16, 1944
February 15, 1944
March 26, 1944
April 15, 1948
July 30, 1948 - postcard
March 31, 1949
April 27, 1949

December 20, 1950
July 27, 1951
September 14, 1957
June 16, 1957 – postcard
May 10, 1959

September 6, 1964

Correspondence – Incoming - from Andrew Lytle – 43 items

March 28, 1949
April 11, 1949
December 30, 1949

May 12, 1950
February, 1950
January 11, 1952
February 8, 1952
April 22, 1955
September 16, 1955
December 21, 1956
March 19, 1957
November 20, 1957
January 31, 1959 – postcard

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July 26, 1960
September 23, 1960
November 5, 1964
November 17, 1964
January 28, 1965
February 24, 1965 - postcard
November 23, 1965
December 16, 1965
September 27, 1966
February 8, 1967
July 16, 1968

March 31, 1970
August 10, 1971
August 10, 1975

May 7, 1980
November 13, 1980
October 8, 1982
December 18, 1982
September 27, 1986
September 9, 1988
October 8, 1988
1988

September 14, 1990
July 31, 1993
September 27, 1993

n.d. – 5, one of which is a postcard

Correspondence – Incoming - from Peter Taylor – 12 items

February 28, 1948
April 21, 1948

January 15, 1957
April 10, 1957 – postcard
June 18, 1957

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May 1, 1960
February 13, 1964
March 20, 1964

November 23, 1987 – postcard
November 4, 1991 - postcard

n.d. – 2

Correspondence – Incoming - from Robert Penn Warren – 42 items

April 14, 1952
April 23, 1953
January 25, 1959
March 7, 1959
March 18, 1959
August 10, 1959
September 21, 1959

March 23, 1962
February 24, 1964
February 24, 1964 - telegram
October 16, 1967
November, 1967 – original and typescript
May 11, 1968
June 3, 1968
June 10, 1968
January 15, 1969

October 14, 1970
October 19, 1972
May 30, 1973
February 12, 1975
July 17, 1977
March 30, 1979
April 25, 1979 – postcard
July 16, 1979 - postcard
September 25, 1979 – original and typescript note

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March 23, 1980 – original and typescript
October 19, 1980 - postcard
November 20, 1980
December 19, 1987 – original and typescript
January 20, 1988
March 16, 1988
March 18, 1988 – original and typescript
June 25, 1988 – original and typescript
September 15, 1988 – original and typescript
September 15, 1988 – original and typescript
October 4, 1988 – original and typescript
January 25, 1989 – original and typescript
August 9, 1990

n.d. – 1 letter and (3) postcards, one w/typescript

Correspondence – Incoming - from Allen Tate – 46 items

May 14, 1943
June 19, 1943
July 28, 1951
October 29, 1951

April 27, 1962
May 5, 1963
November 1, 1965 - postcard
January 7, 1966
January 30, 1966
October 2, 1966
November 16, 1966 - postcard
October 31, 1967
November 25, 1967
January 13, 1968
March 5, 1968
May 9, 1968
January 1, 1969
February 4, 1969
February 28, 1969 – postcard
May 3, 1969 - postcard
August 30, 1969
October 16, 1969

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January 14, 1970 - postcard
January 31, 1970
February 7, 1970
November 11, 1970
January 22, 1971
March 21, 1971
June 22, 1971
July 26, 1971
October 9, 1971
February 4, 1972 - postcard
April 26, 1972
May 28, 1972
September 8, 1972
January 31, 1973 - postcard
September 19, 1973
October 1, 1973
January 28, 1974
October 8, 1974 – postcard
November 27, 1974 – postcard
December 12, 1974 – postcard
January 15, 1976 – postcard
May 11, 1976 - postcard
May 29, 1976
November 11, 1976

Correspondence – from Mary Boyd Fleming to Donald Davidson

November 20, 1930 [thank you note to the authors of *I'll Take My Stand*]
includes book announcement

Critic's Almanac

The Poetry of Allen Tate in Book Page, Sunday, 1929

Radio Address

Christmas in the Old South.

A talk made by Donald Davidson of Vanderbilt University on the Caldwell
Radio Program on December 21, 1928.

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Books – cataloged in the Fugitive and Agrarian collection

Chills and Fever

by John Crowe Ransom, 1924

[inscribed to Professor and Mrs. Bowen from John Crowe Ransom]

I'll Take My Stand

by Twelve Southerners, First Edition, 1930

Mr. Pope and Other Poems

by Allen Tate, 1928

[inscribed to Donald Davidson from Allen Tate]

The Tall Men

by Donald Davidson, Advance Copy, 1927

Box 2 of 2

Literary Symposium Lectures, Panels, Readings, and Interviews – 43 reels

1. April 15, 1957 – Interview
Peter Taylor
2. April 16, 1957 – Side I and II
Colloquium
3. April 30, 1958 Side and II – Panel
W. Beck, Donald Davidson, Andrew Lytle, Richard Weaver, Walter Sullivan
4. May 1, 1958 – Side I – Lecture
Richard Weaver
May 1, 1958 – Side II – Lecture
Cleanth Brooks
5. April 22, 1959 – Side I – Lecture
Jesse Stuart
April 23, 1959 – Side II - Interview
Robert Penn Warren, Flannery O'Conner

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6. April 23, 1959 – Side I - Panel
William Davidson, Murray Krieger, Jesse Stuart, Robert Penn Warren
April 23, 1959 – Side II - Interview
Robert Penn Warren
7. November 17, 1959 – Side I – Reading
William Meredith
8. February 25, 1960 – Side I and II – Interview
Madison Jones
February 25, 1960 – Side I – Reading
Madison Jones
9. March 1, 1960 – Reading
Paul Engle
10. April 14, 1960 – Side I – Interview
Shelby Foote – Part I
April 14, 1960 – Side II – Interview
Shelby Foote – Part II
11. April 14, 1960 – Side I – Interview
Shelby Foote – Part III
April 21, 1960 – Side II – Interview
Peter Taylor, Lionel Trilling, John Crowe Ransom
12. April 20, 1960 – Side I - Reading
Peter Taylor
April 20, 1960 – Side II - Reading
Lionel Trilling
13. April 21, 1960 – Side I - Panel
Lionel Trilling, John Crowe Ransom, Peter Taylor, John Aden
October 27, 1960 – Side II – Interview
Brainard Cheney
14. April 21, 1960 – Side I - Reading
John Crowe Ransom
October 27, 1960 – Side II - Reading
Brainard Cheney

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15. December 8, 1960 – Side I – Lecture
August Wilson
December 8, 1960 – Side II – Interview
August Wilson
16. April 27, 1961 – Side I – Panel
John Aden, Katherine Anne Porter, Austin Warren, Randall Jarrell
April 27, 1961 – Side II – Lecture
Randall Jarrell: 'Poets, Critics and Readers'
17. December 1, 1961 – Side I – Reading
William Golding
18. April 25, 1962 – Side I – Reading
John Donald Wade
April 25, 1962 – Side II – Reading
Allen Tate
19. April 26, 1962 – Side I – Lecture
Arthur Mizener: 'Memory and Drive in the American Novel'
April 26, 1962 – Side II – Reading
Donald Davidson
20. April 24, 1963 – Side I – Lecture
Carlos Baker: 'Faulkner, Hemmingway, the 88th and Other Parallels'
April 25, 1963 – Side II – Panel
Carlos Baker, Eudora Welty, Andrew Lytle, John Aden, Walter Sullivan
21. April 25, 1963 – Side I – Lecture
Andrew Lytle: 'Impressionism and It's Desperation'
22. December 13, 1963
Graduate English Club – Christmas Party – Donald Davidson speaking
23. April 29, 1964 – Side I – Reading
Peter Taylor: 'A Strange Story'
April 29, 1964 – Side II – Reading
Louis Coxe

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24. April 30, 1964 – Side I – Panel
Peter Taylor, Louis Coxe, Cleanth Brooks, T. D. Young
April 30, 1964 – Side II – Lecture
Cleanth Brooks: ‘The American Innocence as Reflected in James, Fitzgerald, Faulkner’
- * November 4, 1964 – Side I – Reading
Benedict Kiely { see also March 13, 1967 }
25. February 23, 1965 – Interview
Donald Davidson
26. March 2, 1965 – Interview
Donald Davidson – Fugitive Reminiscences – Part II
27. April 21, 1965 – Side I – Reading
Madison Jones
April 21, 1965 – Reading
Richard Wilbur
28. April 22, 1965 – Side I – Panel
Richard Wilbur, Madison Jones, Malcolm Cowley, Vereen Bell
April 22, 1965 – Side II – Lecture
Malcolm Cowley: ‘The Untold Story of the Portable Faulkner’
29. November 16, 1965 – Interview
Allen Tate and Andrew Lytle
30. November 16, 1965 – Side I Reading
Allen Tate
November 17, 1965 – Side II – Reading
Andrew Lytle
31. April 20, 1966 – Side I – Reading
J. F. Powers
April 20, 1966 – Side II – Reading
Richard Eberhart
32. April 21, 1966 – Side I – Panel
Louis Rubin, Richard Eberhart, J. F. Powers, Walter Sullivan
April 21, 1966 – Side II – Interview
Louis Rubin

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33. June 11, 1966 – Reunion Seminar
Walter Sullivan on F. Scott Fitzgerald
34. March 13, 1967 – Side II – Reading
William Stafford {see also November 4, 1964}
35. April 26, 1967 – Side I – Reading
Anthony Burgess
April 26, 1967 – Side II – Reading
Louis Simpson
36. April 27, 1967 – Side I – Panel
Anthony Burgess, Richard Ellemann, A. Guerard, Louis Simpson, Allen Tate
April 27, 1967 – Side II - Lecture
Richard Ellemann: 'Yeats and Auden'
37. April 17, 1968 – Side I – Lecture
Lawrence Thompson: 'Some Problems of a Frost Biographer'
April 17, 1968 – Side II – Reading
Jean Stafford
38. April 23, 1969 – Side I – Reading
Elizabeth Spencer
April 23, 1969 – Side II – Lecture
R.W.B. Lewis: 'The Man in the Novel: Formal Criticisms & Literary Biography'
39. April 24, 1969 – Side I – Reading
William Jay Smith
April 24, 1969 – Side II – Lecture
Robie Macaulay: 'Fiction and Us'
40. April 22, 1970 – Side I – Reading
R. V. Cassill
April 22, 1970 – Side II – Lecture
James Cox: 'American Autobiography'
41. April 23, 1970 – Side II – Reading
James Dickey

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42. March 31, 1971 – Side I – Lecture
Louis Simpson: ‘Images of Redemptive Community in Southern Literature’
March 31, 1971 – Side II – Lecture
Malcolm Cowley: ‘The Last Year of Ernest Hemingway’

43. April 1, 1971 – Side I – Panel
Malcolm Cowley, Lewis Simpson, Andrew Lytle
April 1, 1971 – Side II – Reading
Andrew Lytle