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
**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.
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
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
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
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

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

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
15. December 8, 1960 – Side I – Lecture
   August Wilson
December 8, 1960 – Side II – Interview
   August Wilson

   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

   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
   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
   April 21, 1966 – Side II – Interview
   Louis Rubin
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  

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
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