Allen Tate/ T.S. Eliot Symposium

MSS 735

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Vanderbilt University
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Scope and Content Note


After the death of Eliot on January 4, 1965 Allen Tate brought together these twenty-six essays in reminiscence and tribute to Eliot and his contribution to twentieth century literature. The book is the hardcover edition of the special Winter issue of The Sewanee Review devoted to the late poet which sold out completely its 4500 issues shortly after it appeared. Among the 27 contributors to this collection are I.A. Richards, Stephen Spender, Ezra Pound, C. Day Lewis, Helen Gardner, and Conrad Aiken. Photographs of Eliot are included in the book.

This small collection (0.2 linear feet) consists primarily of correspondence concerning the actual permissions and publication details and editorial work involved in the publication of this book.

Biographical Notes

T.S. Eliot (1888 – 1965) was born in St. Louis Missouri and educated at Harvard and later at the Sorbonne and at Merton College, Oxford. He became a British citizen in November of 1927, the same year he converted to Anglicanism; even so he always acknowledged the profound influence of his American roots on his writing.

He was a poet, a playwright, and a critic and received the Nobel Prize for literature in 1948, and a commemorative stone installed in 1967 in the Poets’ Corner in Westminster Abbey in London. He is generally regarded as the most influential poet of the twentieth century having published such masterpieces as: The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock, The Wasteland, Ash Wednesday, The Four Quartets, Murder in the Cathedral, and O’Possum’s Book of Practical Cats which was the basis for the hit musical Cats.

Allen Tate (1899 - 1979) graduated from Vanderbilt in 1922. He was invited to join the Fugitive poets and later went on to join the Agrarian group and contributed to both I’ll Take My Stand (1930) and Who Owns America? (1936). He taught at a number of universities including Princeton and the University of Minnesota, and was editor of The Sewanee Review from 1944 - 46. Tate was a distinguished teacher, critic, novelist and poet and was honored in many ways for his work including holding the Chair of Poetry at the Library of Congress from 1943 - 44. Allen Tate’s friendship with T.S. Eliot spanned thirty-six years, and his work to bring together the essays honoring Eliot is his enduring tribute to this great poet.
The Contributors

Conrad Aiken
Neville Braybrooke
Cleanth Brooks
E. Martin Browne
H.S. Davies
Bonamy Dobree
Wallace Fowlie
Helen Gardner
Robert Giroux
Frank Kermode
G. Wilson Knight
Francis Noel Lees
Cecil Day Lewis
Frank Morley
Ezra Pound
Mario Praz
B. Rajan
John Crowe Ransom
Sir Herbert Read
I.A. Richards
Robert Richman
Janet Adam Smith
Robert Speaight
Stephen Spender
Leonard Unger
Austin Warren

**Container List**
**Box 1**

1. Correspondence - February 18, 1965 - March 28, 1966
2. Correspondence - April 4, 1966 - June 27, 1966
3. Correspondence - July 1, 1966 - August 2, 1967
4. Correspondence and documents pertaining to permissions granted *The Sewanee Review* from publishers and contributors, October 1965 - March 1966
5. Correspondence - Eliot, Valerie
6. Correspondence - Knight, G. Wilson
7. Correspondence - Ralston, William
8. Correspondence - Ransom, John Crowe
9. Correspondence - Richards, I. A.
10. Correspondence - Tate, Allen
11. Correspondence concerning photo of Eliot and Tate, February - April, 1987
12. Photocopies and correspondence of the title page of *T.S. Eliot: The Man and His Work*
13. Contributors to the Symposium - names and addresses, biographical notes
15. Reviews and correspondence
16. Reviews