

Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections  
University of South Carolina Libraries

**Cleanth Brooks Collection, 1930 – 1994**  
**Collection: Mss. 1998:1**

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**Descriptive Summary:**

**Title:** The Cleanth Brooks Collection 1930 - 1994

**Collection Number:** Mss. 1998:1

**Creator:** Cleanth Brooks

**Extent:** 6 boxes

**Administrative Information:**

**Provenance:** Gift

**Processed by:** Sarah Fleming

**Access Restrictions:** Open to research.

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**Scope and Contents Notes**

This collection documents the life and work of Cleanth Brooks (1906 - 1994) considered to be one of the most influential scholars on William Faulkner, and a preeminent critic on Southern Literature. He changed the way poetry was taught, arguing for ambiguity and paradox as central concepts. Brooks helped to create formalist criticism and the principals of close reading. He founded the journal *The Southern Review* with Robert Penn Warren. Brooks' best-known works include *The Well-Wrought Urn: Studies in the Structure of Poetry* (1947) and *Modern Poetry and Tradition* (1939).

Cleanth Brooks' works are academic. He focused his efforts on teaching others and discussing literature, rather than publishing autobiographical material. This was echoed by his repeated emphasis on structural and textual analysis, close reading, rather than a historical or biographical approach. From his works, New Criticism and its tenets of text analysis were formed. The movement was met with mixed reactions from other critics, however, it had enough impact on the study of literature to still be used or studied by modern-day critics.

This collection is a mixed materials collection. It contains biographical information such as newspaper articles and honorary degrees. The manuscript material within this collection is diverse and even includes a rough draft of what was either to be a book or an article. It also contains correspondence, journals, articles, financial and legal information, photographs, awards, and framed materials.

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## **Container List**

### **Series I: Biographical**

#### **Box 1**

Chapel Hill Conference Transcript, no date

Deed, October 17, 1975

Funeral Proceedings for James Marshall Osborn, December 7, 1976

Genealogy (handwritten), no date

#### **Honorary Awards/Degrees**

Adelphi University, no date

Centenary College of Louisiana, May 28, 1972

Lehigh University, June 1, 1980

Millsaps College, May 8, 1983  
Newberry College, May 27, 1979  
Oglethorpe Universal, May 16, 1976  
Phi Beta Kappa, March 7, 1977  
Saint Louis University, October 1968  
Saint Peter's College, no date  
Tulane University, June 2, 1969  
University of Kentucky, June 5, 1963  
University of New Haven, January 22, 1984  
University of the South, May 25, 1975  
Washington and Lee University, June 7, 1968

### **Newspaper Clippings**

"Four Dignitaries to Get Honorary TU Degrees", no date  
"Receiving Honorary Degrees", June 8, 1969  
"TU Will Honor Noted Leaders", May 31, 1969

### **Notebooks**

Comments and Ideas, no date  
Journal, December 17, 1983  
Writing Tablet, no date  
Notes, Assorted, no date

### **Pamphlets**

A Correspondence with Cleanth Brooks, February 1981  
An Affair of Honor, 1991  
Comments on Thematic Arrangements, 1977  
Criticism and Literary History, 1947  
Derrida on the Mend, no date

Literary Criticism: A Short History, 1958  
Milton and Critical Re-Estimates, December 1951  
National Humanities Center Newsletter, 1985  
The Critic and His Text, no date  
The Formalist Critics, 1970  
The Well Wrought Urn, no date  
Teaching Materials, no date

## **Series II: Manuscripts**

### **Box 1**

#### **Rough Draft**

The materials in this subseries relate to an unfinished work. The items in this subseries have been kept in original their order with their original folder titles.

Mr. Eliot's Christian Critic, no date  
Eberhart, Richard Preface, no date  
Dedication, no date  
Quote, no date  
Contents, no date  
Foreword, no date  
Title Page, no date  
An Exequy to His Matchlesse, no date  
5 – 24, no date  
A Proper New Ballad, no date  
Corbett, 1 – 22, no date  
Shirley, 1 – 18, no date  
Townsend, 1 – 19, no date  
Marvell, Andrew Poems, no date

Marvell, Andrew, 1 – 21, no date

Marvell, Andrew, A – D, no date

Lord Herbert of Cherbury, 1 – 32, no date

Lovelace, 1 – 2, no date

Lovelace, 3 – 20, no date

Lovelace Postscript, 1 – 9, no date

Fanshawe, 1 – 22, no date

Ode, 1 – 3, no date

Ode, 5 – 36, no date

Epilogue, 1 – 7, no date

Bibliography, 1 – 11, no date

Corbett, A – C, no date

Corbett, 1 – 22, no date

King, 1 – 4, no date

King, 5 – 24, no date

Shirley, 1 – 18, no date

Townshend, 1 – 19, no date

Marvell Poems, A – D, no date

Marvell, 1 – 21, no date

Marvell Notes, A – D, no date

Herbert, 1 – 32, no date

Lovelace, 1 – 20, no date

Lovelace Postscript, 1 – 9, no date

Fanshawe, 1 – 22, no date

Horatian Ode, 1 – 4, no date

Horatian Ode, 5 – 36, no date

Epilogue, 1 – 7, no date

Bibliography, no date

## **Box 2**

Fraser, Russel, *The Life of R. P. Blackmur*, October 1981

### **Book Reviews**

Book and Review List, Intro – 36, no date

Book and Review List, 37 – 88, no date

Book and Review List, 89 – 124, no date

Book and Review List, 125 – 160, no date

Book and Review List, 161 – 212, no date

### **Dissertations**

Anthony Tassin Thesis, Intro – 16, May 12, 1960

Anthony Tassin Thesis, 17 – 61, May 12, 1960

Anthony Tassin Thesis, 62 – 102, May 12, 1960

Anthony Tassin Thesis, 103 – 137, May 12, 1960

Anthony Tassin These, 138 – 179, May 12, 1960

Anthony Tassin Thesis, 180 – 222, May 12, 1960

Camilla Cedenna Thesis, Intro – 39, December 4, 1983

Camilla Cedenna Thesis, 40 – 88, December 4, 1983

Camilla Cedenna Thesis, 89 – 134, December 4, 1983

Camilla Cedenna Thesis, 135 – 166, December 4, 1983

Camilla Cedenna Thesis, 167 – 199, December 4, 1983

Camilla Cedenna Thesis, 200 – 229, December 4, 1983

Camilla Cedenna Thesis 230 – 261, December 4, 1983

Mary Jerome Hart Thesis, February 1963

### **Journals**

*The Ecumenic Age*, Intro – 20, no date

*The Ecumenic Age*, 20a – 49, no date

*The Ecumenic Age*, 50 – 83, no date

*The Southern Tradition*, Materials and Intro – 20, no date

*The Southern Tradition*, 21 – 52, no date

*The Southern Tradition*, 53 – 90, no date

*The Southern Tradition*, 91 – 120, no date

*The Southern Tradition*, 121 – 150, no date

*The Southern Tradition*, 151 – 190, no date

Notebook on Literary Criticism, no date

Notes on Literary Criticism, no date

### **Miscellaneous Articles**

“1990 Conference of Permanent Things”, 1990

“A Characteristic of Happiness”, no date

Alfred A. Housman, no date

“Allen Tate and the Question of Agency in Modernist Poetics”, no date

“American Literary Realism”, 1979

“A Reminiscence”, no date

Big Bad Bill, no date

Book Reviews, January 1979

CLC – 41, October 1985

“Cleanth Brooks and the Question of New Criticism”, January 1985

“Cleanth Brooks, Critic of Critics”, 1974

Commencement Address, May 17, 1992

Contemporary Novelists, no date

“Critica Stilistica e Critica Sociologica”, January – February 1959



“Critical Essays”, no date

“Criticism and Literary History”, no date

“Edgar Allan Poe as Interior Decorator”, no date

Epps, Epps, and A Way, no date

“Et Veritas”, September 1950

“Evidence in Literary Scholarship”, 1979

“Faulkner and the Muse of History”, 1975

I.A. Richards: Essays in His Honor, 1973

“Imagined Worlds”, 1968

“Jahrbuch für Amerikastudien”, 1959

J. C. Ransom Notes, no date

Leicester Materials, March 16, 1992

Leicester Menu, March 16, 1992

Lerner, Seth, no date

“Milton and Critical Re-estimates”, December 1951

“Murray Krieger and the Place of Poetry”, 1968

New Haven, Conn., no date

“Observations on James Baldwin’s *The Fire Next Time*”, no date

“Paradox and Negation in the Criticism of Maurice Blanchot”, no date

“Poetic Traditions of the English Renaissance”, 1982

“Political Philosophy and the ‘Mortgage of the Polis’”, 1980

“Reflections on My History of Modern Criticism”, no date

“R.P. Blackmur Re-examined”, 1971

Savile Club, 1 November 1965

“Spiritual Problems in Contemporary Literature”, no date

“The Country Parson as Research Scholar”, 1959

“The Disciplines of Criticism”, 1968  
“The Enemy Up Close”, January 1982  
“The Epistemology of the Image”, no date  
“The Language of Poetry”, no date  
“The Literary Criticism of Cleanth Brooks”, no date  
“The Literary Criticism of Cleanth Brooks”, 1978  
“The New Nihilism in Literary Studies”, no date  
“The Place of Cleanth Brooks”, March 1, 1971  
“The Rose in the Sea Wind”, May 2, 1964  
“The State of Letters”, 1979  
“*The Waste Land: Sixty Years Later*”, November 4, 1983  
*The Western Humanities Review*, 1959  
“Three Times in Four Quarters”, no date  
Wellek Review, no date

### **Series III: Correspondence**

#### **Box 3**

Armour, Robert, May 1, 1986  
Bagchee, Shyamal, June 30, 1987  
Berg, Irwin, June 9, 1971  
Boly, John, October 13, 1974  
Brooks, Cleanth, 1959 – 1993  
Carothers, Milton, February 13, 1981  
Carson, Margaret, September 18, 1986  
Coffin, C.M., November 24, 1947  
Diamandopoulous, Peter, May 21, 1992

Dickey, Frank, April 2, 1963

Donnelly, T. October 27, 1976

Donald, Aïda, August 5, 1993

Duncan, Edgar H., February 11, 1971

Etheridge, Eric, December 13, 1985

Freedman, Susan, February 5, 1986

Folks, Jeffery J., November 1, 1983

Gough, Jeanne A., September 18, 1986

Grigsby, Kathryn, October 10, 1985

Hamel, Charles Scott, November 21, 1985

Hubbell, Jay B. Sr., November 17, 1976

Jackson, Joseph A., April 26, 1991

Kimball, Roger, December 2, 1991

Krishnan, Mini, March 31, 1987

Lawson, Evald, June 4, 1963

Lewicki, Zbigniew, June – August 1987

Lipman, Samuel, June 5, 1987

Long, Russel, March 17, 1971

Magliola, Robert, July 24, 1984

Malone, Molly, June 2, 1980

May, Georgia, October 10, 1975

Newton, Kenneth, January 19, 1987

Norwood, Valerie, March 18, 1987

Ohahi, Kenzaburo, December 1986 – February 1987

Paine, J. H. E., March 24, 1987

Perlikan, Jaroslav, 1976 – 1977

Perkins, Ann, March 13, 1953  
Perkins, Jean, January 17, 1967  
Quinn, Richard, no date  
Richter, David H., March 24, 1987  
Scott, Michael, March 13, 1992  
Shusterman, Richard, September 4, 1988  
Singletary, Otis A., January 2, 1980  
Stanton, Shirley, March 21, 1987  
Tagliaferri, Aldo, September 1960 – November 1961  
Tassin, Anthony, May 2, 1966  
Trauax, John, July 4, 1978  
Turner, Craig, March 27, 1987  
Walsh, John, July 19, 1987  
Weiner, Tina, November 17, 1983  
Wescott, Glenway, April 19, 1971  
Whitesell, J. Edwin, August 14, 1979  
Unknown, Unknown Date Range

#### **Series IV: Financial/Legal**

Alfred A. Knopf Incorporated, 1956 – 1977  
Associated Book Publishers Ltd., January – October 1976  
Bedford Books, 1992 – 1993  
CBS College Publishing, May 5, 1980  
Champion, Laurie, November 2, 1990  
Chelsea House, March – April 1986  
College English Association, March 24, 1980

Columbia University Press, 1975

Dennis Dobson Limited, November 1954

Everett/Edwards, Inc., 1975 – 1982

F.S. Crofts and Co., May 28, 1945

Gale Research, 1940 – 1994

G. K. Hall and Co., July 1993

Harcourt Brace Inc., 1948 – 1949

Harcourt Brace Inc., 1950 – 1953

Harcourt Brace Inc. 1954 – 1956

Harcourt Brace Inc., 1957 – 1958

Harcourt Brace Inc., 1959

Harcourt Brace Inc., 1960 – 1961

Harcourt Brace Inc., 1962 – 1963

Harcourt Brace Inc., 1964 – 1965

Harcourt Brace Inc., 1966 – 1967

Harcourt Brace Inc., 1968 – 1969

Harcourt Brace Inc., 1970 – 1971

Hendrix College, June 4, 1982

Henry Holt and Co., June 18, 1941

Holt, Rinehart and Winston, March 17, 1980

Kenyon Review, April 11, 1980

Kinney, Arthur, July 17, 1993

Louisiana State University Press, 1971 – 1982

Methuen and Co. Ltd., 1970 – 1987

Missouri Review, December 1, 1982

New York University Press, 1990

Nicholson and Watson, July 19, 1945  
Oxford University Press, March – April 1962  
Prentice Hall, March 8, 1972  
Random House, 1955 – 1982  
Routledge and Kegan Paul Ltd., no date  
Rylance, Rick, November 4, 1986  
Sewanee Review, July 10, 1992  
Saint Martin's Press, February 28, 1973  
United States Information Agency, July 10, 1991  
University of Chicago Press, February 20, 1978  
University of Georgia Press, December 5, 1984  
University of North Carolina Press, 1945 – 1987  
Yale University Press, 1955 – 1982  
Unknown, no date

## **Series V: Published Materials**

### **Box 4**

#### **Articles**

“Criticism and Literary History: Marvell's Horatian Ode”, 1947 – 1954  
“Faulkner: Fifty Years After *The Marble Faun*”, 1976  
“James Joyce's ‘The Boarding House’”, no date  
“Literary Theory and Criticism”, no date  
“Prayer Book Revision: Literary Style”, 1962  
“Studies in English”, 1978  
The Flora Levy Lecture in the Humanities, 1983 – 1988  
“The Image of Helen Baid”, no date

“The Quick and the Dead”, no date

“Two Complementary Critical Readings”, 1944

### **Periodicals**

*American Studies*, 1969

*Archiv*, May 1969

*Book Reviews*, 1960

*Etc. A Review of General Semantics*, 1944

*Journal of the Short Story in English*, 1987

*Keats-Shelley Journal*, January 1952

*Mosaic*, no date

*Parish Magazine*, August 1965

*Steaua*, May 1972

*Tennessee Studies in Literature*, 1979

*The British Journal of Aesthetics*, October 1965

*The Journal of Southern History*, February 1960

*The Literary Criterion*, 1982

*The New Criterion*, September 1984

*The Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*, 1959

*The Tradition of Romantic Love and the Wild Palms*, 1972

### **Series VI: Photographs**

#### **Box 4**

Photographs, 1960 – 1994

### **Series VII: Realia**

#### **Awards**

Outstanding Alumnus Graduate School, 1978

Explicator Literary Foundation, 1979

Tennessee Governor's Award in the Humanities, 1993

## **Box 5**

### **Framed Items**

Millsaps College Annual Commencement, May 8, 1983

University of South Carolina Photo Album, no date

University of South Carolina Citation and Degree, no date

New Mexico Military Institute Cadet Officer Commission, no date

Garret Carthers Governor of New Mexico Award of Colonel, Aide-de-Camp, 16 March 1988

## **Series VIII: Oversized**

### **Oversize Box 1**

Adelphi University Degree, no date

Photograph at Adelphi, no date

Tulane University Degree [rolled], June 11, 1930

Transcript from Awarding Tulane Degree [rolled], June 11, 1930

Tulane Commencement Program [rolled, damaged], June 11, 1930

Indiana State University Degree [rolled], no date

Transcript from Lehigh University Degree [rolled], June 1, 1980

Yale Degree [rolled], no date

Transcript from Awarding Unknown Degree [rolled], no date

Cleanth Brooks Citation [rolled], May 25, 1975

John Hurt Fisher Award [rolled], November 15, 1990

Tennessee Degree [rolled], no date

American Philosophical Society Membership [rolled], no date

American Academy of Arts and Sciences Membership [rolled], no date



Tulane University Bachelor's Degree for Edith Amy Blanchard [rolled], no date

University of Exeter Degree [rolled], May 10, 1966

Washington and Lee University Degree [rolled], no date

Upsala College Degree [rolled], no date

Vanderbilt University Bachelor's Degree for Cleanth Brooks Jr. [rolled], no date

Lehigh University Degree [rolled], no date

Saint Louis University Citation [rolled], October 25, 1968

Saint Peter's College Degree [rolled], no date

Tulane University Master's Degree for Cleanth Brooks Jr. [rolled], no date