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.

Preferred citation: [Item], Cleanth Brooks Collection, Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, University of South Carolina Libraries

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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.

### Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series I: Biographical</th>
<th>Box</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapel Hill Conference Transcript, no date</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deed, October 17, 1975</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genealogy (handwritten), no date</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Honorrary Awards/Degrees

| Adelphi University, no date | 4 |
| Centenary College of Louisiana, May 28, 1972 | 5 |
| Lehigh University, June 1, 1980 | OS Box 1 |

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**Container List**

**Series I: Biographical**

**Box 1**

Chapel Hill Conference Transcript, no date

Deed, October 17, 1975


Genealogy (handwritten), no date

**Honorrary 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
Box 2


**Book Reviews**

Book and Review List, Into – 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, 103 – 137, May 12, 1960

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


Camilla Cedenna Thesis, 135 – 166, 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
“Criticim 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 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
Diamandopulous, 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, Kenzabuno, 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
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
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., 1959
Harcourt Brace Inc., 1964 – 1965
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
Series V: Published Materials

Box 4

Articles

“Criticism and Literary History: Marvell’s Horatian Ode”, 1947 – 1954
“Faulkner: Fifty Years After The Marble Fawn”, 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 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