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Vol. 6, No. 1 (1986)

Hunter Cole

Jane Isbell Haynes

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THE FAULKNER NEWSLETTER

& Yoknapatawpha Review



Vol. VI, No. 1

January-March 1986

A Checklist

New Faulkner Journal, Other Critical Works

Brooks, Cleanth. "William Faulkner." *The History of Southern Literature*. Louis D. Rubin Jr., general editor; Blyden Jackson, Rayburn S. Moore, Lewis P. Simpson and Thomas Daniel Young, senior editors; Mary Ann Wimsatt, associate editor; Robert L. Phillips, managing editor. Professor Brooks treats the life and literature of Faulkner in a nine-page essay. "He is an original," Brooks concludes. "There is no one else quite like him in American literature. His place in the canon is secure." Numerous references to Faulkner are made in other essays in this new work that explores Southern literature from the mid-1500's to the present. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press. Published October 31. 626 pp. + xiv. \$29.95.

Burns, Frank. *Mr. Faulkner in Tennessee*. A collection of four essays, published in commemoration of Tennessee Homecoming '86, that explore connections between Tennessee and Faulkner. Included are "The Mayday Girl From Tennessee" (Helen Baird of Nashville), and "The Arthurian Legend in Faulkner's Fiction: Memphis As Carcassonne," and a listing of papers on Faulkner and his writings read at meetings of the Tennessee Philological Association since 1967. (Tennessee's Homecoming observance throughout 1986 is a statewide celebration of the state's social, historic and cultural roots. Author Alex Haley and the Grand Ole Opry's Minnie Pearl co-chair the festivities that, in the words of Gov. Lamar Alexander, are "part history lesson, part reunion, and part hoedown." Professor Burns is Homecoming '86 Heritage chairman for Lebanon and teaches English at Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville.) *Mr. Faulkner in Tennessee* is published in 250 numbered, signed copies, in stiff wrappers. 39 pp. \$4.

Dickie, Kaye. "Decay troubles state-ly silence of Faulkner's home." *The Commercial Appeal*, Memphis, Nov. 17, 1985, p. B-1. Reports on need for repairs of four structures at Rowan Oak—the log barn, the red brick outdoor "kitchen" (or smokehouse), the stable, and tenant house.

The Faulkner Journal. James B. Carothers and John T. Matthews, co-editors. Vol. I, No. 1 (Fall 1985). Critical and scholarly studies in this 60-page first appearance of the new journal are "Elder Watson in Heaven: Poet Faulkner as Satirist," by Louis Daniel Brodsky; "Rev. Shegog's Powerful Voice," Stephen M. Ross; "Terror and

(Continued Page 2)

Finally following copy — Thanks to The Library of America

"Yes. Yes. That was" He began to fumble in his pocket, the proprietor watching him. His hand came forth, still fumbling. It blundered upon the counter, shedding coins. The proprietor stopped two or three of them as they were about to roll off the counter.

"What's this for?" the proprietor said.

"For the" Hightower's hand fumbled at the laden basket. "For—"

"You already paid." The proprietor was watching him, curious. "That's your change here, that I just gave you. For the dollar bill."

"Oh," Hightower said. "Yes. I I just—"

The merchant was gathering up the coins. He handed them back.

When the customer's hand touched his it felt like ice.

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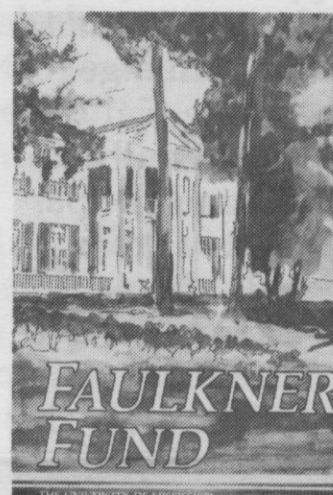
FAULKNER PUBLISHING EVENT OF THE YEAR for 1985 was the appearance on December 1 of The Library of America's *Novels 1930-1935: As I Lay Dying, Sanctuary, Light in August, Pylon*. The volume, prepared by Faulkner scholars Joseph Blotner and Noel Polk, marks Faulkner's first appearance in LOA and the first by a 20th century writer. Editors Blotner and Polk have produced versions of the four novels that follow Faulkner's copy as submitted to the publishers. Extracts from *Light in August* above show Faulkner's use in handwritten manuscript and in typescript of long lines of dots and extended dashes. A copy editor's "corrections" are shown in the typescript, while Faulkner's original use of dots and dashes is restored in the Library of America text (page 627). The LOA texts remain faithful to Faulkner's intentions in other ways, including his use of "dont" and "aint" without the apostrophes. The handsome 1,034-page volume now available is actually the second printing. The first printing of 20,000 copies was rejected because of imperfections resulting from defective paper. The published "second printing" measures beautifully to LOA's standards on lightweight acid-free paper that the experts say will last for generations. Included are a Chronology, Note on the Texts, and Notes. The new corrected Faulkner volume is available in stores at \$27.50, and by subscription at \$21.95 plus \$2.75 for shipping and handling.

Rowan Oak Fund

Ole Miss Seeks To Preserve 4 Structures

A special fund with a goal of \$250,000 has been established by The University of Mississippi Foundation for urgently needed restoration of Rowan Oak's four outbuildings.

Establishment of the Rowan Oak Fund was announced by Ole Miss Chancellor R. Gerald Turner in an appeal for tax-deductible contributions needed for the renovation and preservation.



The four structures are the turn-of-the-century tenant house, the home for many years of Caroline Barr, immortalized as Dilsey Gibson in *The Sound and the Fury*; the "cookhouse" (or kitchen or smokehouse),

made of bricks fired on the grounds; the log barn, and the stable and paddock built by Faulkner in 1956.

"The condition of these outbuildings is such that, unless an effort is made to preserve them very soon, they will be lost," according to a brochure published in support of the fund. "The barn and cookhouse are especially critical, having reached a point where immediate measures must be taken to ensure their survival.

"The outbuildings of Rowan Oak and the cedar fences which connect them reflect the bond of man and the land that permeates the legacy of Faulkner literature."

Rowan Oak was Faulkner's home for 32 years, until his death in 1962. He purchased the old Shegog place, then consisting of four acres, in 1930, the year following his marriage to Estelle Oldham Franklin. Built in 1844, the house had fallen into disrepair and still lacked electricity and in-door plumbing.

Faulkner directed its restoration and additions over the years, doing much of the work himself. The property was enlarged to its present 32 acres, and was purchased by Ole Miss in 1973 from Faulkner's daughter, Jill Faulkner Summers.

Designation as a National Historic Landmark came in 1977. Major restoration of the house was done during 1979-80 through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and generous support from Mrs. Dorothy Crosby of New Orleans.

Contributions to the Rowan Oak Fund may be sent to The University of Mississippi Foundation, P.O. Box 249, University, Miss. 38677.

Faulkner Connection Opens Moscow Doors To University Press

By HUNTER COLE

It was chiefly the Faulkner connection that made possible the presence of University Press of Mississippi at the Moscow International Book Fair in September.

And how did we, one of the smallest university presses in the United States, happen to be in Moscow at an international book fair?

In August 1984, Bill Ferris, director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi, fresh from the first Soviet conference on William Faulkner, relayed to us an invitation from the Moscow Book Fair directorate. A year later, with the assistance of Sergei Chakovsky and Alexandre Vaschenko, two scholars at the A. M. Gorky Institute of World Literature in Moscow, the arrangements were finalized.

Chakovsky and Vaschenko, Faulkner specialists who have presented papers at the annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha conference at the University of Mississippi, warmly supported Ferris and the press' efforts to mount an exhibit. The exchange of scholars between Ole Miss and the Gorky Institute has been roundly applauded in both countries, and the participation of the University Press of Mississippi in the biennial book fair helped to strengthen the Soviet-American exchange.

A stand-up display promoting the press' recently published screenplay by Faulkner, *The De Gaulle Story*, drew many a fairgoer into Mississippi's booth. Most of them noted General de Gaulle's profile first, then recognized Faulkner's face, these two being featured on the book jacket.

"Ah, William Faulkner!" they'd say.

Then some of them who had read Faulkner's books located the home state of this publishing house as being the same as William Faulkner's. One visitor told me he had read *Sanctuary*. Another remarked that she knew of Mississippi, a place where they "ate crocodiles." I assured her that she must be thinking, instead, of Louisiana, where there are alligators in abundance. I thought that Mississippi need not be blamed for this, too.

"Yes, I remember now," she said. "It is Louisiana. Not in William Faulkner."

Toby Holtzman, that paragon among book collectors and Faulknerians, journeyed to Moscow with me.

In 1984 Holtzman attended the first Soviet conference on Faulkner and—always magnanimous—gave the Soviet Union a valuable collection of Faulkner first editions and memorabilia. The exhibit of this collection in 1984 at the All-Union Library of Foreign Literature helped to focus special interest on the Mississippi exhibit at the fair.

On the second day this major Soviet library commissioned the purchase of the 53 books we had brought.

"I love your books," said Olga Niculina, representing the library in making the arrangements. "Faulkner is my favorite author, along with Dostoyevsky."

She presented a complimentary copy of the library's published bibliography

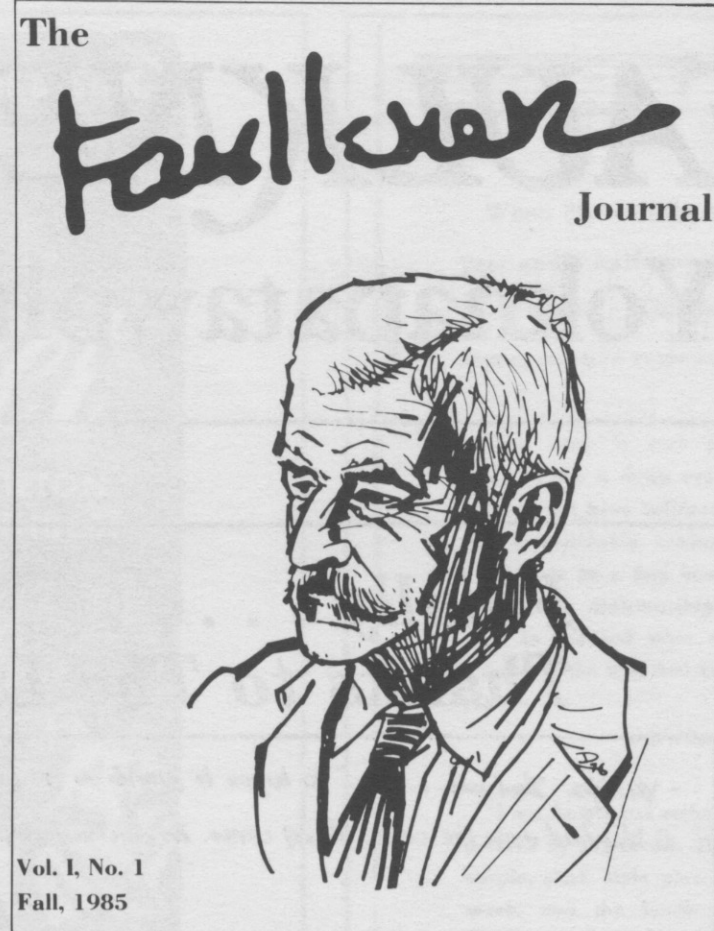


SOVIET FAULKNER SCHOLAR Alexandre Vaschenko (left) guides Hunter Cole along the Kremlin wall during last September's Moscow International Book Fair.

on Faulkner's writings and, with the administrative staff of the library, hosted a guided tour through their splendid building.

Faulkner's presiding presence was there in Russia with us to open many doors.

(Hunter Cole is marketing manager for the University Press of Mississippi. For a more complete account of the 1985 Moscow Book Fair see his "Why Am I Here?" in the November 1 Publishers Weekly.)



Checklist

(From Page 1)

Nausea: Bodies in *Sanctuary*," Andre Bleikasten; " 'What Leaf-Fring'd Legend Haunts about Thy Shape?': *Light in August* and Southern Pastoral," Stephen Hahn; "Distant Mirrors: The Intertextual Relationship of Quentin Compson and Harry Wilbourne," Gary Harrington; "Gender and Generation in Faulkner's 'The Bear,'" Patrick McGee, and "Some Problems in Faulkner: Words, Sources, and Allusions," Calvin S. Brown. To subscribe to *The Faulkner Journal*, write Managing Editor Charles M. Oliver, Department of English, Ohio Northern University, Ada, Ohio 45810. Subscription rates are \$9 for one year (two issues, published in September and March); library and overseas rates are \$15 a year.

Faulkner, William. *Soldiers' Pay* and *Mosquitoes*. New paperback printings by Washington Square Press, New York. \$4.95 each.

Hall, Constance Hill. *Incest in Faulkner: A Metaphor for the Fall*. A pre-publication announcement calls this "The most thorough examination of a theme found throughout Faulkner's writing. Approaches his use of incest in the light of anthropology, psychology, and history, as well as literature." *Studies in Modern Literature*, No. 55, A. Walton Litz, series editor. Ann Arbor, Mich.: UMI Research Press. 127 pp., October 1985. \$34.95.

The Mississippi Quarterly, Vol. 38,

THE FAULKNER NEWSLETTER & Yoknapatawpha Review

Lawrence Wells
Publisher

William Boozer
Editor

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Vol. VI, No. 1 January-March 1986

No. 3 (Summer 1985). Special Faulkner issue, edited by James B. Meriwether. Includes "Faulkner's Variations on Romantic Themes: Blake, Wordsworth, Byron, and Shelley in *Light in August*," by Martin Bidney; "Pylon: Faulkner's Waste Land," Susie Paul Johnson; "The Evolution of Roth Edmonds in *Go Down, Moses*," David Paul Ragan; "The Campfire and the Hearth in *Go Down, Moses*," David Mickelsen; "Kinship and Heredity in Faulkner's 'Barn Burning,'" Jane Hiles; "The Language of the Blues in Faulkner's 'That Evening Sun,'" Ken Bennett; "Faulkner 1984: A Survey of Research and Criticism," and book reviews. Single copies are \$3 and may be obtained by writing *MissQ*, Box 5272, Mississippi State, Miss. 39762.

Pate, Willard. "Return to Yoknapatawpha." *The Furman Magazine*, Furman University, Vol. 30, No. 1 (Spring 1985). Professor Page, in her eighth visit to Oxford in almost 19 years, finds that "Year by year the physical links between Faulkner's fiction and his region come apart." This "slow, constant process seems but an extension of Yoknapatawpha, a reminder that Faulkner's art captured a South not static, but alive and thus subject to both loss and change."

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By
Michel Gresset

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! Perhaps! Who knows?
: Ah! He'll fool you yet!
o If at first you dont, etc.

? Better men have been known to succumb.
† Unknown to us but we are suspicious
* Might be worth trying?????

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PREMIUM RATES of The Bluebird Insurance Co. were published by William Falkner and friends in this ad in the Jan. 18, 1924 issue of *The Mississippian*, Ole Miss student newspaper, one week after announcement in the same columns of the formation of the company to insure students "Against Professors and Other Failures." In this copy, provided by Lawrence Wells, someone scribbled subjects alongside five professors' names. (See Joseph Blotner's *Faulkner: A Biography*, Vol. 1 [1974], pp. 350-351, for an account of the Bluebird enterprise, including a Midnight Oil Co. counterattack by four of the professors in the January 25 issue.)

Samuel Watt Wardlaw May Have Inspired Mr Wordwin in Reivers

By JANE ISBELL HAYNES

William Faulkner said that a writer would borrow and steal ideas whenever and from wherever he could. It is not always known on which actual people his fictional characters were based or if, indeed, they were based on anyone. But one character in *The Reivers* conceivably is based on a well-respected Oxonian who would become a prominent Memphian, a longtime vice president of First National Bank of Memphis (now First Tennessee Bank).

The after dinner stories at the home of my uncle, the banker, Samuel Watt Wardlaw, included accounts of the many Mississippi weddings in which Uncle Watt had been a groomsman in his youth.

Uncle Watt began his banking career in the Bank of Senatobia, Miss. in 1892 at the age of 17. For many years he was employed at the Bank of Oxford, in addition to having been a partner in Davidson and Wardlaw, Oxford jewelers whose business included books, a newsstand, stationery, and optical services.

In *The Reivers* (p. 29) Faulkner writes of a "Mr Wordwin, the cashier in Grandfather's bank (he was a bachelor, one of our most prominent clubmen or men about town; in ten years he had been a groomsman in thirteen weddings)." It was Wordwin who went to Memphis by train with Boon Hogganbeck and drove the Winton Flyer back to Oxford, setting a record of less than two days for the 80-mile trip.

"Grandfather's bank" was Oxford's First National Bank, organized by John Wesley Thompson Falkner in 1910. According to Wardlaw's daughter, Margaret Elizabeth Wardlaw Blackburn of Memphis, and his nephew, James Jackson, a longtime resident of Memphis who now lives in Asheville, N.C. — and according to my own remembrances from childhood and youth — the number of weddings in which Wardlaw actually was a groomsman was nearer to 40. He had time for this social phenomenon for he was then indeed a bachelor, not marrying until he was 45 years old. He had refused to marry earlier as he was the sole support, since age 15, of his mother, four sisters (who subsequently married), and several nieces; however, Wardlaw was no martyr.

John Faulkner in *My Brother Bill: An Affectionate Reminiscence* (p. 27) tells how the dust that Mr. Watt swirled up every evening was "worth breathing just to see him pass," on his way to give some young lady a ride in the buggy. The Wardlaw family home and the Falkner home were then next door to each other on Second South Street in Oxford, now South 11th Street.

John Faulkner tells what the Falkner boys remembered:

[Mr. Watt] had what was known as a "spanking bay," though the horse was a good bit darker than bay. It was almost a brownish black with red fire rippling along it when he touched it with the switch. His buggy always looked like it was shiny new. He had white harness for his mare and when he came by, dressed up with a handkerchief sticking out of his breast pocket and that horse of his stepping out, it was a sight to see. I can remember Bill and Jack and me hanging over the fence to watch him pass and breathing dust until he was far out of sight. And Damuddy and Mother came out on the porch too to watch Mr. Watt each evening as he passed on his way to give some girl a treat. And it was a treat to sit behind that ripple of fire he had harnessed to that speckless chariot of his, though we never understood why he had to have a girl, of all things, beside him to help him enjoy it.

Joseph Blotner in *Faulkner: A Biography* (I, pp. 141, 142; 1974) describes Mr. Watt further:

"Wardlaw was the opposite of his partner, Ed Davidson, a rotund, white-haired little man whose flushed complexion gave rise to knowing surmises among his customers. The good business done by Davidson and Wardlaw's was due primarily to Wardlaw, who was pleasant, polite, and got along with everyone...[Watt] would stand behind the counter, a Beau Brummell in his frock coat, and would sell a customer a two-dollar book with the same flourish he would employ with a diamond ring."

According to Blotner, one of the attractions at Davidson and Wardlaw's, on the north side of the town square in Oxford, was a small back room comfortably furnished with chairs and book shelves where customers could buy books, browse or simply sit and read. William Faulkner sat in the chairs placed in the book area and read magazines and books and sometimes wrote. As a high school student, Billy Falkner would see his sweetheart, Estelle Oldham, there reading fashion magazines or poetry of the Brownings. Once he handed her a few verses and asked which she liked best. "This one," she answered. "You're a darn good literary critic," he said. "Those are from 'The Song of Solomon.' The others are mine."

Wardlaw left Oxford for Memphis in 1923, after having dissolved his partnership in the firm of Davidson and Wardlaw and after having become a bank examiner in Mississippi. As bank examiner, he had caught the eye of the president of Central-State National Bank in Memphis, Sam E. Ragland, who brought him to Memphis to manage what was then the "Country Bank Department." The Central-State National Bank merged with the First National Bank in 1926. Ragland became its president.

(Continued Page 4)

Faulkner-Hemingway Meet to Draw U.S. And U.S.S.R. Scholars

"The Life-Affirming Values in the Works of Faulkner and Hemingway" will be explored at a conference on the two writers January 27-31 at Ohio Northern University.

The Faulkner Journal reports that papers on Faulkner will be presented by Noel Polk of the University of Southern Mississippi and Thomas L. McHaney of Georgia State University. Michael Reynolds of North Carolina State and Scott Donaldson of William and Mary will read papers on Hemingway. P.V. Palievsky, deputy director of the Gorky Institute of World Literature in Moscow, will speak on Faulkner and Hemingway in the Soviet Union. Participating in panel discussions will be James B. Carothers and John T. Matthews, co-editors of *The Faulkner Journal*, and James Hinkle, a member of the *Journal's* editorial board.

Conference director is Charles M. Oliver, editor of *The Hemingway Review* and managing editor of *The Faulkner Journal*. Full particulars on the conference may be obtained from Professor Oliver at the address given in the entry on *The Faulkner Journal* in the Checklist on page one.

Scholars to Explore Faulkner & Military

"William Faulkner and the Military" is the topic for a conference scheduled July 14-15 at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Joseph Blotner will speak at an opening dinner to be hosted by the Academy on July 14, according to the current issue of the News-Letter of The Society for the Study of Southern Literature.

Papers by scholars to be announced by the Academy will be read in a day-long program July 15.

There will be no registration fee, but registration is required.

The full conference program will be available from Capt. David Tippett, Department of English, USMA, West Point, N.Y. 10996-1791.

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SAMUEL WATT WARDLAW was photographed in 1896 at 21 by "Theo. Sweeny, The Oxford Photographer." The Davidson & Wardlaw full-page ad appears in the 1913 Ole Miss Yearbook. Photo of Wardlaw is courtesy of Watt Wardlaw Daniel.

Samuel Watt Wardlaw (From Page 3)

Wardlaw asked Ragland if he could change the name of his department to "Correspondent Bank Department" because his outlying banks were objecting to being called "country"; it was not, in fact, an appropriate word, since some banks being served were in Nashville, Little Rock, Louisville, Ky. and other Mid-South cities. Thereafter, the banks with which First National Bank did business became known as "Correspondent Banks."

Wardlaw retired from First National in 1948. When he died in 1954 at age 79, he was still the well-dressed southern gentleman. Norfleet Turner, past president and chairman of the board of the bank, remembers Wardlaw as one of the most respected and highly regarded bankers of his time, "certainly the most beloved and popular banker in the South."

(Jane Isbell Haynes of Memphis is author of "Faulkner's Verbena," *The Mississippi Quarterly*, Vol. 33, No. 3 [Summer 1980], and editor of *Faulkner's A Sorority Pledge* [The Seajay Press, 1983]. Her *William Faulkner: His Tippah County Heritage: Lands, Houses, and Businesses*, Ripley, Mississippi is newly published by The Seajay Press.)

CALL FOR PAPERS

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL FAULKNER AND YOKNAPATAWPHA CONFERENCE

The University of Mississippi

July 27 - August 1, 1986

The Department of English is issuing a call for papers for possible presentation at the Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference to be held on the Oxford campus of the University of Mississippi July 27-August 1, 1986. Papers on any aspect of the conference theme, "Faulkner and Race," are eligible for submission. Among the wide-ranging and diverse topics that might be developed for conference papers are Faulkner's characterization of blacks; his attitude toward race as manifested in his fiction as well as in his essays, speeches, letters, and interviews; his depiction of slavery; his representation of black culture; black-white relations in Faulkner's fiction; and black critics and authors on Faulkner's fiction.

Authors whose papers are selected for presentation at the conference will receive (1) a waiver of the conference registration fee; (2) lodging in the University Alumni House from Sunday, July 27, through Friday, August 1; and (3) reimbursement of travel expenses (20¢ per mile by automobile or tourist-class air fare). Papers presented at the conference will be published by the University Press of Mississippi.

Two copies of manuscripts (3000-5000 words) must be submitted by January 15, 1986. Notification of selection will be made by March 1, 1986. Manuscripts and inquiries about papers should be addressed to Ann J. Abadie, Associate Director, Center for the Study of Southern Culture, The University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677. Telephone: 601/232-5993.

THE FAULKNER NEWSLETTER

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Concordance Of The Town Is Published

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"Entries have been transcribed as nearly as possible in grammatical 'sense units' that give the best contextual reading of words within the single-line limitation of the concordance format," according to a publisher's announcement of the new work. "No words have been omitted to accommodate transcription; punctuation is reproduced exactly. A statistical summary is included, along with a histogram of word length and frequency and both an alphabetical and frequency listing of vocabulary."

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