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Jan H. Robertson

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THE FAULKNER NEWSLETTER

& Yoknapatawpha Review

Vol. X, No. 4

October-December 1990

A Checklist

New Bleikasten Work Examines 4 Major Novels

Sixteen new or recent titles or other items by or about Faulkner are reported on in this longest Faulkner Newsletter Checklist to date:

Bleikasten, Andre. *The Ink of Melancholy: Faulkner's Novels from The Sound and the Fury to Light in August*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1990. Bleikasten, professor of English at the University of Strasbourg and author of *Faulkner's As I Lay Dying, The Most Splendid Failure: Faulkner's The Sound and the Fury*, and many essays on Faulkner and other American writers, re-examines and re-evaluates those two novels along with *Sanctuary* and *Light in August* in this major new work. "Faulkner was a writer of fierce independence and vaulting ambition who thought of himself as an 'author' in the fullest sense," Bleikasten writes in the Preface to the new study. "Literature was to him what it had been to the greatest writers from Romanticism to Symbolism and what it was for nearly all Modernists: an extremely jealous goddess demanding total devotion and deserving heroic sacrifices, including that of the writer's life." 359 + xiii pp., notes and index. \$37.50.

Bloom, Harold, ed. *Caddy Compson*. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1990. Major Literary Characters series. Selected critical extracts, plus essays by Catherine B. Baum, Sally R. Page, John T. Irwin, Gladys Milliner, Andre Bleikasten, Douglas B. Hill Jr., Steve Carter, Linda W. Wagner, Cleanth Brooks and Max Putzel. 139 + xv pp., bibliography and index.

Brodsky, Louis Daniel. *William Faulkner, Life Glimpses*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1990. Brodsky's "biographical glimpses" into the life of Faulkner are "intended to give, through random impressions, a collective cohesiveness to an eclectically lived life," he writes in the introduction. "...I have been guided by one overriding assumption: namely, that Faulkner lived his life by fits and starts, not always by disciplined and predictably discernible patterns implemented by conscious volition." Drawing on materials he has assembled during 30 years of collecting Faulkner, Brodsky provides revealing overviews of his subject's life and literary career, and a bibliographical appendix that gives the publication history of *The Wishing Tree*, Faulkner's recipe for curing pork, two public speeches, and the author's impressions of "Danzas Venezuela," performed in his honor in Caracas in April 1961. Six-

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Faulkner Conference



FAULKNER CONFERENCE participants this summer at the University of Mississippi included (top, left to right) Willie Morris; Saul Rosenberg, winner of the first Faux Faulkner write-alike contest; George Plimpton, and Doug Crichton, editor of American Airlines' *American Way* magazine. Morris and Plimpton are judges with William Styron of the contest sponsored by *American Way*, the Ole Miss Department of English and Center for the Study of Southern Culture, and Yoknapatawpha Press and its *Faulkner Newsletter*. The first speaker from the People's Republic of China in the conference's 17 years was Tao Jie, professor and vice chair of the Department of English at Peking University in Beijing. Faulkner collector Toby Holtzman of Southfield, Mich., a conference regular, recorded with his camera a portion of Faulkner's "office" at Rowan Oak. Discussing Soviet perceptions of Faulkner's short stories were (from left) panelists Tamara Denisova of Kiev, a research fellow at the T.H. Shevchenko Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, and Maya Koreneva, Sergei Chakovsky, Tatiana Morosova and Ekaterina Stetsenko, each with the A.M. Gorky Institute of World Literature in Moscow. The 1990 conference drew an attendance of about 250 from 41 states and France, Italy, Norway, Canada, Japan, China and the USSR.

—University of Mississippi Photos

Major Find

Faulkner's Rowan Oak Papers Shed New Light on S&F

By JAN H. ROBERTSON

The University of Mississippi's Rowan Oak Papers, some of them written in William Faulkner's minute, almost indecipherable handwriting, have yielded a major literary discovery — offering a revealing self-analysis of his development as a writer.

Seventeen previously unpublished pages of drafts of an introduction Faulkner wrote in 1933 for *The Sound and the Fury* show "an astonishing frankness as Faulkner explores the autobiographical origins of the novel," said Doreen Fowler.

Fowler, a University of Mississippi associate professor of English, is co-author with Philip Cohen, an assistant professor of English at the University of Texas at Arlington, of an essay in the June 1990 issue of *American Literature* which details their important find among the 1,800 pages of Faulkner manuscripts and typescripts in the Rowan Oak Papers.

"These pages reveal a side of Faulkner that he tried to keep hidden," says Fowler, who is at work on a book, *Faulkner: The Return of the Repressed*. "Faulkner was a very private person who always tried to disguise his presence in his own works. In interviews he always sought to separate himself from his characters. But in these drafts he uses 'I' — instead of disguising himself, as he did repeatedly.

"These drafts reveal the profoundly intimate nature of *The Sound and the Fury* and seem to imply that the novel is the expression of his unconscious, the articulation of his most deeply repressed fears and desires."

For example, Faulkner reveals that all three of the brothers in the novel were meant to represent him.

Faulkner wrote the introduction in 1933 for a proposed Random House-Grubhorn Press limited edition of the novel that never materialized.

In 1946 when Random House was planning another edition of the novel, the writer was asked to write an introduction for it. When Faulkner referred Random House to the introduction that they had paid for but never used, a copy of that was sent to the author for his approval to publish. Faulkner wrote back vehemently denying such permission, saying that he had destroyed the copy sent to him and offering to return double the amount of the money originally paid him "for the chance of getting it out of danger and

(Continued Page 4)

Faulkner & Popular Culture Has 15th F&Y Conference Papers

(From Page 1)

teen pages of photos accompany the new work that draws further on the Brodsky Faulkner Collection now at Southeast Missouri State University. 200 + xvi pp., notes and index. \$27.50.

Brodsky, Louis Daniel and Robert W. Hamblen, eds. *Faulkner: A Comprehensive Guide to the Brodsky Collection. Vol. V: Manuscripts and Documents*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1989. Catalogued here are more choice items in the Brodsky Collection, in seven categories—drawings, poetry, fiction, non-fiction, plays, biographical documents, and last wills and testaments. Preface by Brodsky and Hamblin. Illustrated. 382 pp. + xiii and index. \$47.50.

Broughton, Irv, ed. *The Writer's Mind: Interviews with American Authors, Vol. 1*. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 1989. Numerous references to Faulkner in interview with Malcolm Cowley. "There is a curious thing that isn't much known about Faulkner," Cowley says. "I think he was very much influenced by some of Hemingway's early stories. I know he was by 'Big Two Hearted River,' because a scene from that turned up in *The Sound and the Fury*. But something about Hemingway's ideas of hunting and certain other ideas presented in early Hemingway work also began to turn up in Faulkner's stories. Then, too, although they never met, they did have certain things in common." Broughton asks whether Cowley had ever known anyone with quite as vivid an imagination as Faulkner. "I never have," Cowley responds. "I think his imagination is the most remarkable one that has appeared in this century." Interviews also with Allen Tate, Kay Boyle, Richard Eberhart, William Stafford, John Ciardi and others. 386 + xii pp. \$22.

Bryer, Jackson R., ed. *Sixteen Modern American Authors—Volume 2: A Survey of Research and Criticism Since 1972*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1990. The 90-page essay on Faulkner was prepared by Philip G. Cohen (Bibliography, Editions and Manuscripts); David Krause (Criticism 1980-88); and Karl F. Zender (Letters, Biography, and Criticism, 1973-1979). 760 + xx pp. and index. \$57.50 in library cloth edition; \$24.95 paper.

Budd, Louis J. and Edwin H. Cady. *On Faulkner: The Best from American Literature*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1989. Collects 17 essays on Faulkner that have run in *American Literature*, beginning with "Faulkner's Wilderness," by Otis B. Wheeler, in 1959. Others whose work is represented are William J. Sowder, Marvin Klotz, Donald M. Kartiganer, Walter Taylor, Patricia Tobin, Brent Harold, David Minter, Warwick Wadlington, J.E. Bunselmeyer, Jay Martin, Philip J. Egan, Martin Kreiswirth, Virginia V. Hlavsa, Margaret M. Dunn, Charles Palliser, and Alexander Marshall III. 281 + x pp. and index. \$33.50.

Crane, John Kenny. *The Yoknapatawpha Chronicle of Gavin Stevens*. Selinsgrove: Susquehanna University Press, 1988. Crane combines literary criticism and fiction in this history of Yoknapatawpha County as

"recorded" by Gavin Stevens himself, whose voice Crane assumes. The chronicle is "Compiled by Gavin Stevens, County Attorney, Yoknapatawpha County, Mississippi," and edited by "Charles J. Mallison, Jr., nephew of Gavin Stevens and executor of his estate, and by Melissa Meek, librarian (retired), City of Jefferson, Mississippi"; Mallison also provides preface, and Meek an afterword. Author's preface, genealogical tables and index. 308 pp.

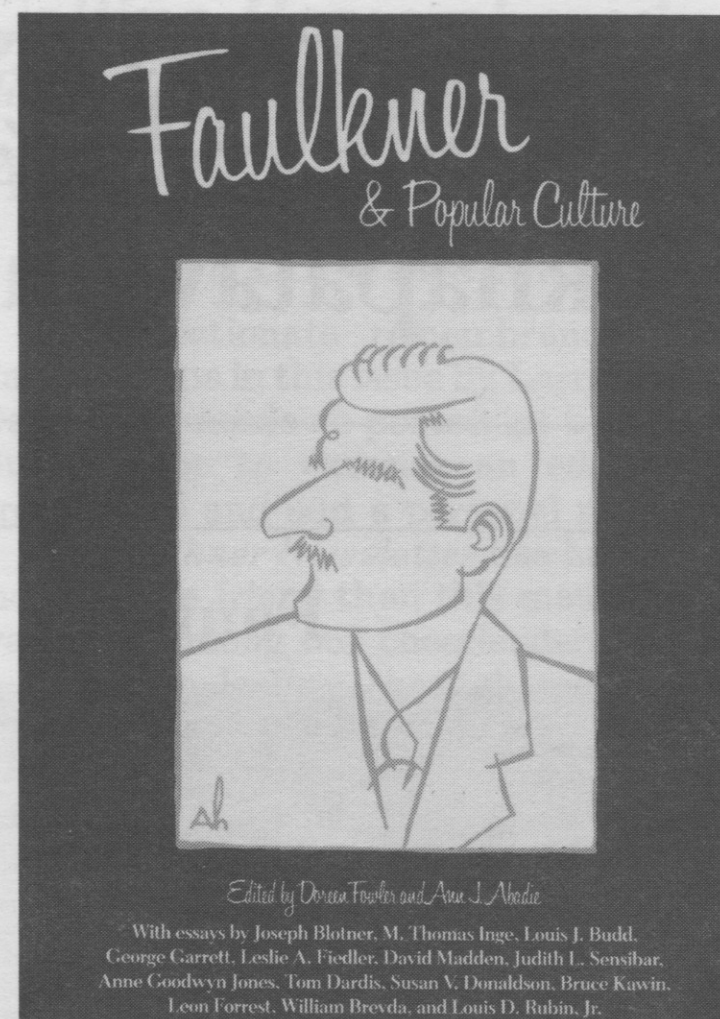
Duvall, John N. *Faulkner's Marginal Couple: Invisible, Outlaw, and Unspeakable Communities*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1990. Duvall, assistant professor of English at Memphis State University, challenges the traditional view of Faulkner's work as misogynist, in readings that include *Light in August*, *The Wild Palms*, *Sanctuary*, *Absalom, Absalom!*, *Pylon*, and several short stories. 159 + xx pp. \$22.50.

Faulkner, Donald W., ed. *The Portable Malcolm Cowley*. New York: Viking Penguin. Includes "His Saga," Cowley's introduction to *The Portable Faulkner* (1946), "An Afterword" (1966), and Cowley's Aug. 9, 1945 letter to Faulkner telling him that the Viking *Portable* on him was going to happen. 584 pp. + xxxiv, a brief bibliography of critical writings on Cowley, and index. \$21.95.

Faulkner, William. *Stallion Road: A Screenplay*. Edited by Louis Daniel Brodsky and Robert W. Hamblin. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi. Introduction by the editors, and "Glimpses of William Faulkner," an interview with Stephen Longstreet by Brodsky. Faulkner worked on the adaptation at Warner Bros. from June until September 1945, completing a 17-page treatment, a 134-page script, and a 151-page revised script. At that point, the assignment as scenarist went to Longstreet, whose adaptation of his own novel by the same name starred Ronald Reagan, Alexis Smith and Zachary Scott. *Stallion Road* is the second supplement to the five-volume *Faulkner: A Comprehensive Guide to the Brodsky Collection*; the first supplement, also in the UPM's Center for the Study of Southern Culture Series, is *Country Lawyer and Other Stories for the Screen* (1987). *Stallion Road* is 103 + xxvii pp. \$17.95.

"Faux Faulkner." *American Way* (Aug. 1, 1990), Doug Crichton, ed. American Airlines' in-flight magazine reports at length in a cover feature on the first Faulkner Write-alike Contest. Illustrations by Brian Ahjar, Robert Pryor, David Diaz, John Rush and Richard Reens accompany Saul Rosenberg's winning entry, "Delta Faulkner," the first and second honorable mention winning entries by Jeffrey E. Simpson and Michael A. Crivello, respectively, and the others judged in the top 10 of more than 650 entries received.

Fowler, Doreen and Ann J. Abadie, eds. *Faulkner and Popular Culture*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1990. Papers read at the 1988 Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference by Joseph Blotner, M. Thomas Inge, Louis J. Budd, George Garrett, Leslie Fieldler, David Madden, Judith



L. Sensibar, Anne Goodwyn Jones, Tom Dardis, Susan V. Donaldson, Bruce Kavin, Leon Forrest, William Brevda and Louis D. Rubin Jr. Introduction by Doreen Fowler. 268 + xvii pp. and index. \$35 cloth, \$15.95 paper.

Hamilton, Ian. *Writers in Hollywood 1915-1951*. New York: Harper & Row, 1990. An Edward Burlingame Book. One 19-page chapter is devoted to Faulkner. Two photos of Faulkner—one of them made in 1944 by Alfred Eris, which decorates the front of the dust jacket. 302 + ix pp., notes and index. \$25.

Life, fall 1990 special issue naming the magazine's choice of "The 100 Most Important Americans of the 20th Century." Faulkner and Hemingway make the list, as do T.S. Eliot, Eugene O'Neil and Tennessee Williams. "His complex and haunting tales of the South put the regional novel on the map," *Life* headlines its three-paragraph entry on Faulkner.

The Mississippi Quarterly, Vol. XLII, No. 3 (Summer 1989). Special William Faulkner Issue, edited by Noel Polk. Mississippi State University. Essays and reviews by Joan St. C. Crane, Terry Heller, Bernhard Radloff, Edmond L. Volpe, Dawn Trouard, Michael Zeitlin, Thomas L. McHaney, Donald M. Kartiganer, Regina Fadiman, Richard Godden and Keen Butterworth.

THE FAULKNER NEWSLETTER
& Yoknapatawpha Review

William Booser
Editor

Dean Faulkner Wells
and Lawrence Wells
Publishers

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LSU Press Issues Brooks' Studies

Cleanth Brooks' monumental two-volume study of William Faulkner, first published by Yale University Press in hardback 15 years apart, has been newly-published in softback editions by Louisiana State University Press.

In *William Faulkner: The Yoknapatawpha Country* (1963), Brooks examines the 14 novels that are set in Yoknapatawpha County, looking at ways in which the author used the county in dealing with characteristic themes of the 20th century.

Malcolm Cowley, writing in *The New Republic* when Brooks' *William Faulkner: Toward Yoknapatawpha and Beyond* came from Yale in 1978, stated that "The two volumes taken together as they should be taken, are the best rounded exposition not only of Faulkner but of almost any American author." That second of the companion volumes examines Faulkner's early poetry and prose and the five non-Yoknapatawpha novels.

Each of the new LSU Press printings is issued at \$16.95.

Second Annual Faux Faulkner Contest

Win an 11-day vacation for two—five days in the Bahamas or Hawaii or just about anywhere else in the U.S. you want to go, plus six days in Faulkner country.*

All you need do is write the *best* bad Faulkner, 250-to-500-words, drawing on Faulkner's style, themes or plots. Each entry must be typed and double-spaced. Entries in the second annual contest are being received until Feb. 1, 1991. Entries will be judged by William Styron, Willie Morris and George Plimpton. Contest sponsored by American Airlines' *American Way* magazine, the University of Mississippi's Department of English and Center for the Study of Southern Culture, and Yoknapatawpha Press and its *Faulkner Newsletter*. Contestants grant publication rights to *American Way*, Yoknapatawpha Press and *FN*, and the right to release entries to other media. Send entries to *The Faulkner Newsletter*, P.O. Box 248, Oxford, MS 38655.

*Winner gets two round-trip tickets to any American Airlines destination in the continental U.S., Hawaii or the Bahamas, plus five-days lodging at a Marriott Hotel if present in the destination of choice. Plus attendance at 1991 Faulkner Conference at Ole Miss.

New Light on S&F (From Page 1)

destroyed."

Faulkner had obviously forgotten the many drafts of the introduction that are in the Rowan Oak Papers. In fact, according to Fowler, the author had forgotten all of the papers or, at least, never revealed their existence.

"In 1957-59 Faulkner got together with James Meriwether to discuss all his papers and never mentioned these, which are perhaps the most revealing of all," Fowler says. "He didn't acknowledge them, but he also didn't destroy them."

This ambivalence is in keeping with the theory she is exploring in her book — that Faulkner did and did not want to reveal himself in his fiction.

After the Rowan Oak Papers were discovered in August 1970 in a broom closet at Faulkner's home and before Ole Miss acquired them in 1982, access to the papers was limited only to a few scholars who received written permission from the Faulkner family. One of those was Meriwether, who found a short typed version of the *Sound and the Fury* introduction, which he published in 1972, and a 10-page typescript, published in 1973. Meriwether believed the shorter version was the one submitted to Bennett Cerf at Random House.

Fowler—who, along with Arthur Kinney, had published a census of the papers—assumed that the handwritten drafts of the introduction in the Rowan Oak Papers were identical to the typescripts Meriwether had found.

Philip Cohen discovered that there are other drafts of the introduction to *The Sound and the Fury* among the Rowan Oak Papers which differ significantly from the previously published ones. He asked Fowler to work with him, and the two learned that the typed, widely-distributed versions differed from the earlier handwritten drafts, which were much more self-revelatory. They have also concluded that the long typescript version was the last version.

Cohen and Fowler's research shows that Faulkner first approached the task of writing the introduction with disdain but later warmed to it, becoming involved in examining his career as a writer, his view of art, and what this particular novel meant to him.

"Working on the introduction seems quickly to have triggered a profound self-analysis about his own development as a writer," Fowler says. "Two pages contain a probing attempt at self-analysis that Faulkner discarded in subsequent drafts."

In Meriwether's published version, Faulkner admitted that he had created Caddy as the substitute for the sister he never had and for his first daughter, Alabama, who died nine days after her birth in 1931.

The newly revealed manuscripts, however, contain Faulkner's hitherto unpublished admission that Quentin, Benjy and Jason are all self-representations of the author.

He wrote: "I could be in it, the brother and father both. But one brother could not contain all that I could feel toward her. I gave her 3."

Then he explained how the three brothers represented three aspects of Faulkner's complex feelings — Quentin, "who loved her...as a lover would"; Jason, "who loved her with the same hatred of jealous and outraged pride of

a father"; and Benjy, "who loved her with the complete...mindlessness of a child."

In the newly-discovered pages, Faulkner, who "wore masks all his life as a defense mechanism, momentarily dropped his guard," says Fowler. "These drafts moved inward and got more and more personal. Then, it was as if he realized 'I've given away too much.' In subsequent drafts and the ones Meriwether published, he becomes more objective and generalized. He begins talking about the Southern artist, not himself, even talking about Brooklyn, as if he's trying to get as far away as possible from himself."

Cohen and Fowler believe that even the later, less confessional version of the introduction which he submitted to Random House was rejected and destroyed years later because "it was still more self-revealing than he preferred to have published."

Fowler believes there are still many valuable insights in the Rowan Oak Papers that haven't yet been examined closely. "I think there may be more interesting discoveries in these papers for anyone who can find the time to go through them."

(Jan H. Robertson is director of University News at the University of Mississippi.)


Second LOA Faulkner Volume

THE LIBRARY OF AMERICA

All of Melville, all of Hawthorne, all of Henry James, and Emerson and Thoreau and Mark Twain—these and the writings of other notable American novelists, historians, poets, philosophers, and essayists are, for the first time in our history, being published in a series of handsome and durable volumes. Each compact, elegant book includes several unabridged works and contains 800 to 1600 pages. Major support for the series has been provided by the Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Thanks to their generosity, America, like other nations, can offer readers the collected works of its major authors in authoritative editions. Only after thorough research is a text selected for this series. Each volume contains a chronology of the author's life and career and an essay on the choice of texts. A distinguished scholar has prepared some notes for the general reader.

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Faulkner
Novels 1936-1940

Faulkner

Absalom, Absalom!
The Unvanquished
If I Forget Thee, Jerusalem
[The Wild Palms]
The Hamlet

THE LIBRARY OF AMERICA'S second volume in a projected complete works of Faulkner in authoritative new editions is *Novels 1936-1940*, containing the four novels listed on the dust jacket above. Texts both for *Novels 1930-1935*, published by LOA in 1985, and this second volume in the definitive collection were researched and restored by Noel Polk, with notes and chronology of Faulkner's life prepared by Joseph Blotner. The editions being issued by LOA are based on Faulkner's own manuscripts and typescripts and are freed of editorial interventions that had altered his distinctive punctuation, spelling, and portions of texts in earlier editions. Of the four novels in this second LOA volume, only *Absalom, Absalom!* has been previously published in this authoritative version (by Random House in 1986); the other three works appear corrected here for the first time. *Novels 1936-1940* (\$32.50) is 1,075 pp. plus chronology, notes on the texts, and notes. It is available also in a slip-cased edition for subscribers only. This second Faulkner volume is the 48th in the LOA series, which is distributed by Penguin USA. The subscription price is \$24.95 for each volume.

CALL FOR PAPERS

THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL FAULKNER AND YOKNAPATAWPHA CONFERENCE

"Faulkner and Psychology"
The University of Mississippi
July 28-August 2, 1991

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 28-August 2, 1991. Papers on any aspect of the theme "Faulkner and Psychology" are eligible for submission. We welcome any psychoanalytic interpretations of Faulkner's fiction. In particular, we encourage Freudian, Freudian-revisionist, Jungian, feminist-psychoanalytical, Lacanian, and related approaches.

Authors whose papers are selected for presentation at the conference will receive (1) a waiver of the conference registration fee; (2) lodging at the University Alumni House from Sunday, July 28, through Friday, August 2; and (3) reimbursement of travel expenses within the continental United States (\$.20 per mile by automobile or tourist-class air fare). Papers presented at the conference will be published by the University Press of Mississippi.

The thirteenth edition of the University of Chicago *Manual of Style* should be used as a guide in preparing manuscripts (3,000 to 6,000 words). Two copies of manuscripts must be submitted by January 15, 1991. Notification of selection will be made by March 1, 1991. Manuscripts and inquiries about papers should be addressed to Ann J. Abadie, Center for the Study of Southern Culture, The University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677. Telephone: 601-232-5993.

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