

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Cleanth Brooks

COLLECTION: 4700.0142

IDENTIFICATION: [1906-1994] Former LSU English Professor and co-founder of
The Southern Review

INTERVIEWER: Pamela Dean

SERIES: University History – Distinguished Faculty & Administrators

INTERVIEW DATE: June 21, 1992

FOCUS DATES: 1930-1950

ABSTRACT:

Tape 199

Family background; grammar school in rural Tennessee; football as an equalizing aspect of school life; his education at Vanderbilt and his introduction to literature; Robert Penn Warren, friend and advisor; Rhodes Scholarship and studying at Oxford; Charles Pipkin, Chairman of the Rhodes Committee of Louisiana and Dean of LSU Graduate School; obtaining a position at LSU, 1932; initial impressions of Baton Rouge; LSU English department in the 1930s; Brooks and Warren on critiquing texts [New Criticism]; books they collaborated on; demise of *The Southern Review*; its predecessor, *The Southwestern Review*; early obstacles for *The Southern Review*; day-to-day routine running the magazine; being criticized for including their own works.

Tape 200

University politics; President James Monroe Smith scandal and reforms; searching for a replacement for William A. Read, chairman of the English department; Thomas Kirby's selection and his ability; Katherine Anne Porter; Eudora Welty.

TAPES: 2 (T199, T200)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 2 hours, 5 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 81 pages

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