

LEWIS P. SIMPSON PAPERS

Mss. 4412

Inventory

Compiled by
Neil Guilbeau

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Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

2007
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SUMMARY

Size	24 linear feet
Geographic Locations	Baton Rouge, La.
Inclusive Dates	1923-2004
Bulk Dates	1980-2000
Languages	English
Summary	This collection documents the professional life of Lewis P. Simpson, LSU English professor and co-editor of the <i>Southern Review</i> . The collection consists of correspondence, contracts, flyers, printed matter, book reviews, reports, essays, conference materials, and bibliographies.
Access Restrictions	None
Copyright	Physical rights and copyright are retained by the LSU Libraries
Citation	Lewis P. Simpson Papers, Mss. 4412, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location(s)	95:83-106

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

A native of Jacksboro, Tex., Lewis Simpson (1916-2005) received his Bachelor's, Master's and Doctorate degrees at the University of Texas at Austin. In 1948, Simpson and his wife Mary, called Mimi, moved to Baton Rouge, La. There he spent the remainder of his career at Louisiana State University as a professor of English (1948-1987), and Boyd Professor (1980). In 1965, he became co-editor of *Southern Review*, the literary journal founded by Cleanth Brooks and Robert Penn Warren. In addition to serving on advisory and editorial boards of various literary journals between 1968 and 1990, he also served on the advisory board of the publishing firm, Library of America. Between 1970 and 1990, Simpson was part of several grant and award committees including the Brooks Award Committee, Harvard University Ad Hoc Committee, Christian Gauss Award Committee, J.B. Hubbell Award Committee, and the Richard Beale Davis Prize Committee. Among Simpson's many achievements, he was named to the LSU Distinguished Faculty Fellowship (1971-1972), and honored by the National Endowment of the Humanities (1977-1978), the Louisiana Endowment of the Humanities (1987), and the Modern Language Association (1991). In 1987, Simpson was a founding member of The Fellowship of Southern Writers, and served as president of the St. George Tucker Society from 1991 to 1994. He also traveled as a lecturer to several universities around the country including the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Kent State University, the University of Texas at Austin, and Dartmouth College.

During his career, Simpson authored several books and essays including *The Man of Letters in New England and the South: Essays on the History of the Literary Vocation in America* (1973), *The Possibilities of Order: Cleanth Brooks and His Work* (1976), *The Brazen Face of History: Studies in the Literary Consciousness in America* (1980), *The Dispossessed Garden: Pastoral and History in Southern Literature* (1983), *Mind and the American Civil War: A Meditation on Lost Causes* (1989), *Imagining Our Time: Recollections and Reflections on American Writing* (2007), *The Mark Twain Encyclopedia*, *Literary New Orleans*, and *Something in Common: Contemporary Louisiana Stories*. He concluded one of his works, *The Fable of the Southern Writer*, with his own memoir in 1994. Simpson died in April 2005 at the age of 88.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Papers have been organized into two groups: Correspondence, 1923-2003, and Topical Files, 1924-2004.

Correspondence consists primarily of Simpson's professional correspondence with peers, employees, publishers, reviewers, and organizations. Some of the professional correspondence contains personal notes indicating that a number of Simpson's professional contacts were also his friends. The correspondence pertains to discussions of literary works and projects, itineraries, publishing issues, organization and committee activities, his work as an English professor at LSU, an editor of *Southern Review*, and as an author. Folders are arranged alphabetically by author.

Topical Files include many essays, poems, and drafts by Simpson and his peers; writings accepted for publication by *Southern Review*; speeches by Simpson; clippings documenting his awards and honors; bibliographies filed on index cards; memorials of friends and peers; memos circulated within LSU's Dept. of English involving schedules and search committee activities; applications to the National Endowment of the Humanities for literary projects; correspondence, announcements, meeting notes and minutes, reports, and memos between Simpson and professional organizations with which he was involved; undated black-and-white and color photographs; invitations to literary events, banquets, and ceremonies; telegrams; contracts between Simpson and universities hiring him to speak; publishing contracts; business and greeting cards; television scripts and projects in which Simpson participated; printed matter including fliers and announcements of literary events; assorted journal articles; and conference correspondence, proceedings, and miscellaneous materials. Topical Files also contain many folders for specific associates of Simpson that combine correspondence, printed matter, memos, essays, poems, and drafts relating to that particular colleague. Folders are arranged alphabetically by topic.

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		10	New York Center for Visual History, 1995		
		11-12	Notes for “End of the Literary World,” undated		
		13	O’Brien, Michael, 1973-1986		
		14	O’Casey, Sean—Chapter IV, undated		

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		19	Olney, James, 2001-2003
		20	Oxford University Press, 1988
		21	Parks, Ward, undated
		22	Parrill, William, undated
		23	PBK (Phi Beta Kappa) Awards, 1975
		24	PBS Interview with Lewis Simpson, 1997
		25	Peachtree Press, 1985
		26	The Permanent Press, 1990-1991
		27	Phi Beta Kappa, 1975-1988
		28	Phi Kappa Phi, 1987
		29	Photographs, undated
		30	<i>The Poetry of Community</i> , undated
		31	<i>The Poetry of Community</i> —Correspondence, 1971
		32	"Poetry and the Practical," 1982
		33	"The Politics of Hawthorne's Literary Reputation," undated
		34	<i>The Possibilities of Order</i> , undated
95:100	18	1-4	<i>The Possibilities of Order</i> , 1975, undated
		5-11	Printed Matter, 1838-2001, undated
		12	Prunty, Wyatt, 1981-1999
		13	Reck, Rima O., 1992
		14-15	Recommendations, 1979-1987
		16-19	Regalis, Martha, 1986-2002 undated
		20	"The 'Regular' Contributor," undated
		21	"Remembering Walter Prescott Web," 1987
		22	Report to PMLA: untitled article on Uncle Tom's Cabin
		23	Report on Politics Panel, undated
		24	Report for UIC Press, undated
		25	Report for UNC Press on Mackethan's Manuscript, 1977
		26	Retirement, 1984, 1987
		27	Review of <i>The Journals and Miscellaneous Notebooks of Emerson</i> , undated
		28	Reviews, undated
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		6	Robert Penn Warren (essays by Simpson), undated
		7	Robert Penn Warren Center, 1991-1996
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		17	<i>Scotland and America: A Study of Cultural Relations</i> , undated
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		33	"The South and the Lost Cause of New England," undated
		34	"The South's Reaction to Modernism: A Problem in the Study of Southern Letters," undated
95:102	20	1	"The South's Struggle for Representation," 1983-1985
		2	Southern Festival of Books, 1989
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		5	"The Southern Instauration," undated
		6	Southern Letters and Modern Literature Conference, 1979-1987
		7	<i>Southern Literary Culture</i> , 1955
		8	"The Southern Literary Imagination and the Pastoral Mode," undated
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		10-12	<i>The Southern Review</i> , 1966-1996, undated
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		4	"Southern Spiritual Nationalism and Southern Fiction", undated
		5	Southern Texts Society, undated
		6	<i>Southern Voices</i> , 1996-1997
		7	Southern Writers Series, 1968
		8	<i>The Southerners: A Narrative Anthology, 1785-1860</i> , 1986-1987
		9	Southwest Writers Series, 1967
		10	Spears, Monroe K. undated
		11	Speech: "Contemporary Southern Criticism," undated
		12	Speech: "The Southern Writer & the Literary Market Place," undated
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		19	Strout, Cushing, 2003
		20	<i>Studies in the Novel</i> , 1972
		21	<i>Studies in American Humor</i> , 1980
		22	"The Symbolism of Literary Alienation in the Revolutionary Age," 1976
		23	Symposium on Historical Fiction, 1979
		24	Tassin, Anthony, 1998
		25	Tate, Allen, 1986
		26-27	Teaching: LSU English, undated
		28	Telegrams, 1957-1986
		29	"The Telescope and the Transparent Eyeball: Alienation in Emerson's Early Thought," undated
		30-31	Television Script: <i>William Faulkner of Mississippi</i> (first draft), 1975, undated
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		35	Tribute Notes to Simpson, undated
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95:104	22	1-2	Trilling, Lionel, 1990, undated
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		19	<i>Walker Percy and the Century of Self</i> (clear copy), undated
		20	<i>Walker Percy and the Century of Self</i> (marked copy), undated
		21	Walker Percy File (Walker Percy Society), 2003
		22	"Walker Percy's Vision of the Modern World" (draft, notes), undated
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