ABSTRACT

INTerviewee name: Cleanth Brooks

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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