



Cleanth Brooks and Robert Penn Warren: A Literary Correspondence

From University of Missouri

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James A. Grimshaw, Jr., brings together for the first time more than 350 letters exchanged by two scholars who altered the way literature is taught in this country. The selected letters focus on the development of their five major textbooks—the rationale for selections, the details involved in obtaining permissions and preparing indexes, and the demands of meeting deadlines. More important, these letters reveal their attitudes toward literature, teaching, and scholarship.

Providing insight into two of the most influential literary minds of this century, these letters show two men who were deeply involved in research and writing, and who were committed to a life of travel, conversation, and learning. Their zest for life and their love of literature explain, in part, their uncanny ability to persevere and to succeed. Yet their human qualities are also present in the letters, which bring Brooks and Warren to life as rare individuals able to sustain a deep, lifelong friendship.

Cleanth Brooks and Robert Penn Warren will help readers better understand the critical work of Brooks and the creative work of Warren. Students and teachers of American literature will find this book indispensable.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Brooks and Warren met as teenagers in Nashville and remained friends for 65 years, teaching together at Louisiana State University and later Yale. Along the way, they collaborated on the enormously influential textbooks *Understanding Poetry* (1938) and *Understanding Fiction* (1943), which helped establish the New Criticism as the primary method of interpreting literary texts in this country. Grimshaw (regents professor, Texas A&M Univ.) has gathered 372 letters that detail their collaboration on these and other books.

Nonspecialists will find little to savor here, though these letters and the new essays by colleagues from LSU (Simpson) and Yale (Lewis) will matter considerably to biographers of two literary giants as well as historians of a critical method that has fallen into disrepute among literary theorists yet that continues to shape reading practices in classrooms today. David Kirby, Florida State Univ., Tallahassee, FL
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Review

"[*Cleanth Brooks and Robert Penn Warren*] shows the working of two of America's best literary minds in an extraordinary collaboration over the span of five decades. It gives a kind of insight into the formulation and writing of literary criticism nowhere else available in such detail. One of the particularly valuable results is an intimate picture of these outstanding poets, critics, and scholars (and their families) in their warm and winning human dimension."—Joseph Blotner

From the Back Cover

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Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to learn everything in the world. Each book has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people truly feel enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. They may be reading whatever they acquire because their hobby will be reading a book. Consider the person who don't like examining a book? Sometime, man feel need book once they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you will require this Cleanth Brooks and Robert Penn Warren: A Literary Correspondence.

Rebecca Clark:

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