

**Multitudes: A Celebration of the Yale Collection of American Literature, 1911–2011**  
*On view at Beinecke Library, Yale University, July 8 through October 1, 2011*

Checklist and Descriptions: Literary Intellectuals at Yale

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Literary Intellectuals at Yale

Among the Collection's holdings of literary archives are the papers of numerous twentieth-century literary critics, great intellectuals of their time. Chief among these holdings is the Robert Penn Warren Papers, consisting of 145 linear feet of manuscript drafts, correspondence, and personal papers, all from the desk of poet, novelist, and critic Robert Penn Warren. Warren, known to most as "Red," began his career as an undergraduate at Vanderbilt University, where he became closely involved with the Fugitives, a group of Southern poets and literary critics. He joined the English faculty at Yale in 1950 and was instrumental in the development of the American Studies program. His third novel, the political thriller *All the King's Men* (1946), won him his first Pulitzer Prize. He received subsequent Pulitzer Prizes for two volumes of poetry, *Promises* (1958) and *Now and Then* (1979), and in 1986 became Poet Laureate of the United States. His papers contain rich correspondence with literary heavyweights such as William Faulkner, Harold Bloom, John Cheever, Lillian Hellman, John Hollander, Katherine Anne Porter, John Crowe Ransom, Allen Tate, and Eudora Welty.

Yale literary traditions remain central to the Yale Collection of American Literature; in recent years, the Library has added the archives of Yale poets Robert Fitzgerald, Louise Glück, John Hollander, and J. D. McClatchy.

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Robert Penn Warren, *To a Little Girl, One Year Old, In a Ruined Fortress* (New Haven: Yale School of Design, 1956).

Letter from Katherine Anne Porter to Robert Penn Warren, September 26, 1957, with facsimile. *From the Robert Penn Warren Papers.*

Warren's papers include extensive correspondence with Katherine Anne Porter, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and godmother to his daughter Rosanna. This 1957 letter references the first part of *Promises*, "To a Little Girl, One Year Old, in a Ruined Fortress," dedicated to Rosanna, and is illustrative of Warren's close-knit literary and personal circle.

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Cleanth Brooks and Robert Penn Warren, *Modern Rhetoric* (New York: Harcourt, 1949).

Cleanth Brooks, John Thibaut Purser, and Robert Penn Warren, *An Approach to Literature* (New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1936).

Cleanth Brooks and Robert Penn Warren, *Understanding Fiction* (New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1943).

Letter from Cleanth Brooks to Robert Penn Warren, July 13, 1946. *From the Robert Penn Warren Papers*.

Letter from Robert Penn Warren to Cleanth Brooks, August 10, 1946. *From the Cleanth Brooks Papers*.

Warren's path closely followed that of fellow Kentuckian Cleanth Brooks, with whom he founded the *Southern Review*, one of the major academic literary magazines of the 1930s, and coauthored several influential literary textbooks. Letters between the two work through projects, share personal news, analyze politics, and illuminate a culture of letters and intellectual collaboration that seems to belong to a bygone era.

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Robert Penn Warren, *All the King's Men* (New York: Harcourt, 1949).

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