

**ALLEN TATE PAPERS
CORRESPONDENCE
AND
MANUSCRIPTS
1923-1974**

MSS # 431

**Arranged and described by Molly Dohrmann
July 2006**

**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
Jean and Alexander Heard Library
Vanderbilt University
419 21st. Avenue South
Nashville, Tennessee 37240
Telephone: (615) 322-2807**

ALLEN TATE PAPERS

Biographical Note

John Orley Allen Tate was born near Winchester, Kentucky November 19, 1899. He graduated from Vanderbilt University *Magna Cum Laude*, Phi Beta Kappa in 1922. During this time at Vanderbilt he became one of the Fugitive poets who published their magazine *The Fugitive* during the years 1922-1925. Later he contributed an essay to the Agrarian manifesto *I'll Take My Stand* (1930) and in 1936 he was co-editor with Herbert Agar of *Who Owns America?* He published poetry throughout his long career and was an accomplished man of letters writing one novel *The Fathers* (1938), criticism, and biographies. Tate was also the editor at *The Sewanee Review* from 1944-46. He received many awards for his poetry including the Bollingen Prize in 1956 and held the Chair of Poetry at the Library of Congress in 1943-44.

Allen Tate was also a teacher with appointments at among others the Women's College of the University of North Carolina, Princeton, New York University, and the University of Minnesota where he taught from 1951 until his retirement in 1968.

He was married twice to the writer Caroline Gordon from 1924 to 1959. They had a daughter Nancy born in 1924. After his divorce from Caroline Gordon in 1959 he married poet Isabella Gardner. And after his divorce from Gardner in 1966 he married his former student at Minnesota Helen Heinz. They had three sons, one of whom died in an accident in infancy.

Tate lived in many places including England and France (on a Guggenheim Fellowship), New York, Minnesota, Sewanee, and at his farm Benfolly near Clarksville, Tennessee. He had lifelong friendships with writers Robert Penn Warren, Donald Davidson, Andrew Lytle, Hart Crane, Ernest Hemingway, Ford Madox Ford, John Peale Bishop.

Allen Tate died in Nashville, Tennessee in February 1979. His papers are at the Firestone Library at Princeton University.

Scope and Content Note

This small collection (.21 linear feet) includes personal correspondence between Allen Tate and family members Benjamin E. Tate, Sr., Benjamin E. Tate, Jr. (Chuck), and Louise Fleishman Tate. There are also letters to J. Edgar Simmons and others, and incoming letters from Mark Van Doren, William S. Knickerbocker, and others making a total of 39 letters. The collection also includes the Chronology and Resume of Allen Tate, typescripts of two poems and several articles by Tate.

Folder Listing

Folder 1

Outgoing Correspondence—Miscellaneous
1931,1937,1960, undated
4 Letters

Folder 2

Outgoing Correspondence Allen Tate to J.Edgar Simmons
1949-1964
6 Letters

Folder 3

Outgoing Correspondence Allen Tate to Benjamin E.Tate, Sr.
1932-1961
11 Letters

Folder 4

Outgoing Correspondence Allen Tate to Benjamin E. Tate, Jr. (Chuck)
1968-1974
9 Letters

Folder 5

Outgoing Correspondence Allen Tate to Louise Fleishman Tate and related
documents
1974
4 Letters

Folder 6

Incoming Correspondence—Miscellaneous
1926-27
5 Letters

Folder 7

Personal and Biographical

Chronology of Tate's Life 1899-1966; Resume 1974

Folder 8

Writings—Poem

“The Meditteranean” typescript, signed

Folder 9

Writings—Poem

“Shadow and Shade” typescript, signed

Folder 10

Writings—Letter to the Editor

The Literary Review/Re: John Crowe Ransom and *The Waste Land*

August 4, 1923

Folder 11

Writings—Article

“Mere Literature and the Lost Traveller”

(4th Annual Williamson Memorial Lecture)

Reprint, July 17, 1969

Folder 12

Writings—Article

“Mere Literature and the Lost Traveller”

Photocopy of typescript with note

Folder 13

Writings—Article

“Some Influences of Baudelaire” in *Bulletin Baudelairien*

Le 31 Aout 1969

With typescript, program, and letter from W.T. Bandy

Folder 14

Writings—Incomplete typescript
Sixty American Poets, A-K

Folder 15

Original Register; Description of Series; Chronology, Listing of
Correspondence by Tate