

**JOHN CROWE RANSOM AND ANN MITCHNER
CORRESPONDENCE COLLECTION**

MSS # 388

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

Biographical Note

John Crowe Ransom was born in 1888. He graduated from Vanderbilt University and went to Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar. He taught English at Vanderbilt until he accepted a Chair in Poetry position at Kenyon College in 1937, and there founded and edited *The Kenyon Review*. John Crowe Ransom was one of the Fugitive poets who published poetry in Nashville in the early 1920's. He also contributed an essay to *I'll Take My Stand*, the Agrarian manifesto published in 1930. Ransom was instrumental in developing what came to be called the New Criticism. He wrote and was internationally recognized for his poetry, his lifelong vocation, as well as for his teaching and works of criticism. He died in 1974 at the age of eighty six.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains four typed and signed letters from John Crowe Ransom to Ann Mitchner, a friend and novice writer. The collection was purchased in early 2006. The four letters are dated January 17, February 2, March 15, and March 26, 1950, and include handwritten corrections and some tape repairs. This small correspondence collection records Ransom's editorial and critical advice over the period of three months to aspiring writer Ann Mitchner.

Contents Listing:

- 1) Ransom to Mitchner, January 17, 1950
- 2) Ransom to Mitchner, February 2, 1950
- 3) Ransom to Mitchner, March 15, 1950
- 4) Ransom to Mitchner, March 26, 1950