

2001

Editors' Foreward (Volume 1)

William Bedford Clark

James A. Grimshaw Jr.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/rpwstudies>

 Part of the [American Literature Commons](#), and the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Bedford Clark, William and Grimshaw, James A. Jr. (2001) "Editors' Foreward (Volume 1)," *Robert Penn Warren Studies*: Vol. 1 , Article 3.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/rpwstudies/vol1/iss1/3>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Robert Penn Warren Studies by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.

EDITORS' FOREWORD

The editors launch this premier issue of *RWP* with a deep sense of gratitude to the Center for Robert Penn Warren Studies at Western Kentucky University. Since its inception, the Center has dedicated itself to enhancing our appreciation of Warren's contribution to American letters; and few American writers, living or dead, have been so admirably served. The Center's Advisory Group initially recommended the funding of an annual journal devoted to Warren and his circle at its April 1999 meeting in Bowling Green, and that proposal soon gained the enthusiastic and resourceful support of key members of the Western Kentucky community. From the outset, Professors Mary Ellen Miller and Joe Millichap of the Department of English worked closely with Dean David Lee of the Potter College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences and Provost Barbara Burch; together they secured the generous cooperation of the University's president, Dr. Gary Ransdell. At the heart of this initiative was and is the redoubtable Joy Bale Boone, whose vision has informed and guided the activities of the Center for Warren Studies from its inception and who enjoys the respect and affection of all who have had the pleasure of working with her.

The editors of this annual volume devoted to "Robert Penn Warren Studies" construe that phrase in a broad and flexible way. To be sure, even when it is relatively circumscribed, the study of America's first Poet Laureate and his work admits of an extraordinarily wide range of approaches, as the diverse and frequently divergent essays in the present volume so dramatically attest. One need only compare Anthony Szczesiul's application of new theoretical insights to the problem of language and meaning in Warren's verse with the close detective work provided by James A. Perkins in his assessment of Warren as "new journalist" to see the rich possibilities in both subject and approach available to critic and scholar alike. But

an annual of "Robert Penn Warren Studies" should, in the estimation of the present editors, be a forum that also welcomes significant scholarship and commentary dealing with figures within Robert Penn Warren's "circle" in a more inclusive sense. Much needs to be done to place the achievement of Robert Penn Warren within the fuller context of his time and place and to explore the role his virtually unrivaled network of literary and personal connections played in the shaping of his career. Thus, work that investigates the relationship between Warren and other writers, whether celebrated figures like Saul Bellow or unfairly neglected authors like Brainard Cheney and Pier Pasinetti, is of particular interest; and new primary materials, biographical information, and serious contributions to the "oral record" are likewise sought. *RWP* will survey new titles and trends in Warren scholarship on a selective, useful basis and, in time, may run correspondence and other features of interest to our readers, both academic and lay. We invite suggestions on directions this journal might profitably take and features it might include in the interest of promoting "Warren Studies" in the broadest sense, while reserving to ourselves one of the few autocratic prerogatives left to our age: the privileges implied by the phrase "editorial discretion." Meanwhile, we look forward to your inquiries and submissions, which should conform to the specifications set forth at the front of this issue.

William Bedford Clark • James A. Grimshaw, Jr