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Robert Penn Warren-Cleanth Brooks Award

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Beginning with *The Fable of the Southern Writer* by Lewis Simpson in 1994, the Center for Robert Penn Warren Studies at Western Kentucky University has offered the Robert Penn Warren-Cleanth Brooks Award for an outstanding work of literary scholarship or criticism published in that year.

The Advisory Group selects from among submitted works the one that most clearly exemplifies, in the broadest sense, the spirit, scope, and standards represented by the critical tradition established by Warren and Brooks.

In particular, the award is intended to recognize and honor work that employs in a significant way the methods associated with "close reading" of texts. The winner of the Award is invited to present a lecture at Western Kentucky University on the weekend of the Robert Penn Warren Circle Meeting.

In 2017, the award was given to Bonnie Costello for *The Plural of Us: Poetry and Community in Auden and Others* (Princeton University Press, 2017).