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Blotner, Joseph Leo, 1923-2012 (MSS 200)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 200 BLOTNER, Joseph Leo, 1923-2012

25 boxes. 339 folders. 7053 items, 1890-1997. Originals and photocopies

1998.207.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Joseph Leo Blotner

Joseph Leo Blotner was born in 1923 and grew up in Scotch Plains, New Jersey. While attending Drew University, World War II erupted and Blotner joined in the war effort, serving as a bombardier aboard a B-17 Flying Fortress. His plane was shot down while flying over Frankfurt, Germany, and he was held prisoner in a German war camp for six and a half months until the camp was liberated in April 1945. While on the GI Bill, Blotner managed to complete his academic studies, earning his MA in English at Northwestern University, then he received his Ph.D. in English at the University of Pennsylvania.

Blotner's first academic position was as a professor at the University of Idaho. Later, at the University of Virginia, he arranged residencies for William Faulkner. He also compiled and edited transcripts of Faulkner's question-and-answer sessions with university students, forming a strong friendship that would ultimately lead to Blotner's first academic achievement, *Faulkner: A Biography*. Published in 1974, the biography earned rave reviews and was accepted as the canonical work of Faulkner's life. Blotner had the ability to get his subjects to comfortably open up about their lives. As he did with Faulkner, Blotner spent ten years compiling a biography about Robert Penn Warren. Blotner began working with Warren late in the author's life. Blotner had just retired from the Michigan English Department and was looking for a long-term project that would cap his career. The result was a 587-page monument to the acclaimed writer.

In the 1990s, Blotner used his in-depth biographer skills on himself, penning the autobiography *An Unexpected Life*. Not only was Blotner adept at telling the lives of other famous authors, he was equally skilled at telling his own story. In 1998, the Center for Robert Penn Warren Studies purchased Blotner's collection of research material related to Warren, which is located in the Department of Library Special Collections at Western Kentucky University.

Blotner's first wife Yvonne Wright died in 1990. His second wife, Marnie C. Allen, died in 2006. He had three daughters: Tracy, Pamela, and Nancy. Blotner died in 2012 at the age of eighty-nine years old.

Robert Penn Warren

Robert Penn Warren was born on April 24, 1905. The son of a banker and school teacher, Warren grew up in Guthrie, Todd County, Kentucky, with two siblings. At the age of fifteen, he graduated from Guthrie School, and then spent a school year at Clarksville High School in Clarksville Tennessee before pursuing college. In 1921, he enrolled at Vanderbilt University at the age of sixteen.

Warren's time spent at Vanderbilt found him involved with The Fugitives. The Fugitives were a group of Southern poets that were advocates of the rural Southern agrarian tradition, writing poetry about the classical aesthetic ideals of which they believed. Some of the members included Allen Tate and John Crowe Ransom (two professors of literature that Warren fell under the tutelage of at Vanderbilt). Warren was the group's youngest member, and published his first collection of poems in the group's magazine, *The Fugitive*. He also became involved later on with The Agrarians, a group of some of the same writers of The Fugitives, who believed in traditionalist conservative values. Warren contributed to the Agrarians' *I'll Take My Stand* manifesto, writing "The Briar Patch," an essay that defended racial segregation in the South.

After graduating from Vanderbilt, he attended the University of California, obtaining his Master's Degree while also serving as a teaching assistant. He met his first wife, Emma "Cinina" Brescia at U.C. whom he married in 1929. After UC, he attended Yale University on fellowship, and then entered New College at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, receiving his B. Litt. in 1930. Afterward, he taught at many universities, including Vanderbilt, The University of Minnesota, Yale University, and Louisiana State. It was at Louisiana State where he and Cleanth Brooks and Charles W. Pipkin, two fellow literary critics, published *The Southern Review*, a literary quarterly that published poetry, essays, interviews, fiction, and excerpts from novels written by emerging and established authors. Warren and Brooks also published *Understanding Poetry* in 1938. *Understanding Poetry* was a textbook which widely influenced New Criticism and the study of poetry at the college level in America.

Between 1933 and 1942, while teaching at LSU, Warren closely observed Huey Pierce Long, the radical populist governor of Louisiana. In his research, Warren was able to publish the novel *All the King's Men*. The novel tells the story of Willie Stark, an ambitious populist of the American South, and his political ascent and governorship during the 1930s. *All the King's Men* received tremendous recognition, and is the most widely known of all of Warren's literary works. The novel was adapted into a 1949 film, which won several Academy Awards, including Best Picture. The film was remade in 2006 and also inspired an opera in 1981.

All the King's Men won Warren the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1947. He also received two Pulitzers for poetry: in 1958 for *Promises: Poems 1954-1956*, and in 1979 for *Now and Then*. He is the only writer to have received a Pulitzer Prize for fiction and poetry. Throughout his career, Warren has received many awards, including the Bolingen Prize, the National Medal for Literature, and Presidential Medal of Freedom. In 1986, he was named the first U.S. Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry.

Warren was married to Emma Brescia from 1929 until 1951. He married author Eleanor Clark in 1952. The marriage produced two children, Rosanna Phelps Warren and Gabriel Penn Warren. During the latter part of his life, he lived in Fairfield, Connecticut, and Stratton, Vermont. He died of complications from bone cancer in 1989 at the age of eighty-four years old.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection contains research material collected by Joseph Blotner in preparing his biography of Robert Penn Warren. This collection was purchased by the Center for Robert Penn Warren Studies at Western Kentucky University in 20?? Box 1 contains four folders of logistical notes related to the preparation of the biography itself. Folder 4 through 13 include genealogical information about Warren's family and information about his early childhood in Guthrie, Kentucky. Folder 14-16 begin the chronological arrangement of Warren's correspondence that Blotner collected from institutions around the country. This arrangement continues through Box 7, Folder 3. This correspondence from 1917 to 1995 discusses all aspects of Warren personal and professional life. All of this correspondence is photocopies; when citing this material, the original repository should be credited.

Box 7, Folder 11 through Box 11, Folder 6 contains information about books written or edited by Warren. Each folder represents a different title and are arranged chronologically by the book's publication date; the inclusive dates indicate material collected after the initial publication. These folders include information such as book reviews, scholarly essays and newspaper clippings; some include scripts, broadsides and other material related to the publication.

Box 11, Folder 7 through Box 13 include transcripts of oral interviews done with the listed individual and/or notes and correspondence related to the same. Folders are arranged alphabetically by the informant. WKU's Library Special Collections does not own the original interviews. Blotner's notes from interviews were retained in each folder; some folders include only Blotner's notes and no transcript.

Box 14 includes secondary material used by Blotner in preparation of RWP's biography. This does include critical essays, bibliographic essays, research notes, and notes from interviews. Folder 9 includes correspondence between Blotner, RPW, and Eleanor Clark Warren.

Box 15 includes research notes from various repositories related to RPW and his work. Folders 14-18 include travel and copy fees related to Blotner's research and are arranged chronologically by year. Folders 19-24 include information about meetings of the RPW Colloquiums at Western Kentucky University and the RPW Circle. Folder 25 includes correspondence about the founding of the RPW Journal; it also includes an article submitted by Blotner in 1995 titled "History and Narrative in Robert Penn Warren's Long Poems."

Boxes 16-25 include drafts, page proofs, author's galleys, and a final draft of the biography: B16,F1-B17,F2 first draft; B17,F3-B18,F3 revised first draft; B18,F4-B19,F4 revised second draft; B19,F5-B20,F4 revised draft based on comments by Robert D. Loomis, editor at Random House; B20,F5-B21,F6 page proofs with quotes marked for permission request. The remainder of Box 21 deals with revisions, designs, and permissions. Box 22 contains author's galleys. And Box 23 includes the final draft of the biography. Box 24 includes miscellaneous material related to preparation of the biography, including information about photographs found in Folders 1 and 4. Folder 2 includes correspondence with Sam Prestridge relating to a paper titled "Warren's Craft of Revision in *Brother to Dragons*." Folder 3 includes miscellaneous correspondence, news clippings, and magazine articles from a variety of sources, including his sister, Mary Barber, and Victor Strandberg. Folder 3 also includes a copy of Victor Strandberg's article "Warren's Worst Book."

SHELF LIST

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|--------------|--|------------------|------------------|
| BOX 1 | Genealogy & Correspondence | 1890-1997 | 274 items |
| Folder 1a | Inventory | n.d. | 2 items |
| Folder 1 | Spiral index file: people, places, etc. | n.d. | 1 item |
| Folder 2 | Legal pad: poem summaries and disk numbers | n.d. | 5 items |
| Folder 3 | Miscellaneous | 1944-1997 | 64 items |
| Folder 4 | Notes on books read | 1992-1994 | 12 items |
| Folder 5 | Genealogy | 1995-1996 | 23 items |
| Folder 6 | Mary M. Penn – Genealogy | n.d. | 8 items |
| Folder 7 | The Penn family of Virginia | 1896, 1964 | 9 items |
| Folder 8 | RPW medical history | 1921-1994 | 63 items |
| Folder 9 | Robert Franklin Warren (father) | 1890-1991 | 10 items |
| Folder 10 | Ruth Penn Warren (mother) | 1931 | 1 item |
| Folder 11 | Parents, siblings, and other ancestors | 1975-1991 | 18 items |
| Folder 12 | Childhood | 1979-1989 | 21 items |
| Folder 13 | Guthrie | 1979-1990 | 15 items |
| Folder 14 | RPW, 1917-1920 | 1917-1988 | 6 items |
| Folder 15 | 1920 | 1979-1991 | 5 items |
| Folder 16 | Vanderbilt University | 1920-1926 | 11 items |
| BOX 2 | Correspondence | 1922-1994 | 372 items |
| Folder 1 | 1921 | 1979-1992 | 18 items |
| Folder 2 | 1922 | 1922-1991 | 10 items |

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| Folder 3 | 1923 | 1923-1991 | 10 items |
| Folder 4 | 1924 | 1924-1994 | 39 items |
| Folder 5 | 1925 | 1925-1991 | 20 items |
| Folder 6 | Berkeley records | 1925-1991 | 25 items |
| Folder 7 | 1926 | 1926-1992 | 22 items |
| Folder 8 | 1927 | 1927-1991 | 27 items |
| Folder 9 | 1928 | 1927-1991 | 23 items |
| Folder 10 | Rhodes Scholarship | 1928-1991 | 33 items |
| Folder 11 | 1929 | 1928-1992 | 35 items |
| Folder 12 | 1930 | 1929-1991 | 29 items |
| Folder 12b | RPW's thesis: A Study of 1930; John Marston Satires | 1990 | 4 items |
| Folder 13 | 1931 | 1931-1992 | 43 items |
| Folder 14 | 1932 | 1930-1990 | 18 items |
| Folder 15 | 1933 | 1933-1985 | 16 items |
| BOX 3 | Correspondence | 1930-1993 | 623 items |
| Folder 1a | 1934 | 1934-1992 | 52 items |
| Folder 1b | M. Thomas Inge on the Agrarians | 1977-1991 | 4 items |
| Folder 2 | <i>The Southern Review</i> | 1935-1988 | 4 items |
| Folder 3 | 1935 | 1935-1992 | 63 items |
| Folder 4 | 1936 | 1936-1988 | 32 items |
| Folder 5 | 1937 | 1936-1988 | 28 items |
| Folder 6 | 1938 | 1938-1993 | 34 items |

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| Folder 7 | 1939 | 1930-1988 | 71 items |
| Folder 8 | 1940 | 1940-1991 | 57 items |
| Folder 9 | LSU Houses | 1984-1993 | 12 items |
| Folder 10 | 1941 | 1941-1989 | 46 items |
| Folder 11 | 1942 | 1942-1989 | 62 items |
| Folder 12 | 1943 | 1943-1989 | 19 items |
| Folder 13 | 1944 | 1944-1988 | 53 items |
| Folder 14 | 1945 | 1945-1992 | 39 items |
| Folder 15 | 1946 | 1946-1989 | 47 items |
| BOX 4 | Correspondence | 1947-1989 | 601 items |
| Folder 1 | 1947 | 1947-1986 | 46 items |
| Folder 2 | 1948 | 1948-1988 | 29 items |
| Folder 3 | 1949 | 1949-1989 | 35 items |
| Folder 4 | 1950 | 1950-1988 | 40 items |
| Folder 5 | American Academy & Institute of Arts and Letters | n.d. | n.d |
| Folder 6 | 1951 | 1951 | 63 items |
| Folder 7 | 1952 | 1952 | 34 items |
| Folder 8 | 1953 | 1953 | 51 items |
| Folder 9 | 1954 | 1954 | 26 items |
| Folder 10 | 1955 | 1955 | 30 items |
| Folder 11 | 1956 | 1956 | 37 items |
| Folder 12 | 1957 | 1957 | 28 items |

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| Folder 13 | 1958 | 1958 | 29 items |
| Folder 14 | 1959 | 1959 | 30 items |
| Folder 15 | 1960 | 1960 | 39 items |
| Folder 16 | 1961 | 1961 | 41 items |
| Folder 17 | 1962 | 1962 | 43 items |
| BOX 5 | Correspondence | 1963-1974 | 575 items |
| Folder 1 | 1963 | 1963 | 45 items |
| Folder 2 | 1964 | 1964 | 45 items |
| Folder 3 | 1965 | 1965 | 47 items |
| Folder 4 | 1966 | 1966 | 61 items |
| Folder 5 | 1967 | 1967 | 50 items |
| Folder 6 | 1968 | 1969 | 21 items |
| Folder 7 | 1969 | 1969 | 36 items |
| Folder 8 | 1970 | 1970 | 45 items |
| Folder 9 | 1971 | 1971 | 25 items |
| Folder 10 | 1972 | 1972 | 49 items |
| Folder 11 | 1973 | 1973 | 79 items |
| Folder 12 | 1974 | 1974 | 72 items |
| BOX 6 | Correspondence | 1975-1986 | 613 items |
| Folder 1 | 1975 | 1975 | 83 items |
| Folder 2 | 1976 | 1976 | 65 items |
| Folder 3 | 1977 | 1977 | 65 items |

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| Folder 4 | 1978 | 1978 | 36 items |
| Folder 5 | 1979 | 1979 | 30 items |
| Folder 6 | 1980 | 1980 | 74 items |
| Folder 7 | 1981 | 1981 | 67 items |
| Folder 8 | 1982 | 1982 | 32 items |
| Folder 9 | 1983 | 1983 | 36 items |
| Folder 10 | 1984 | 1984 | 37 items |
| Folder 11 | 1985 | 1985 | 51 items |
| Folder 12 | 1986 | 1986 | 37 items |
| BOX 7 | Correspondence and Notes, The Fugitive Publication | 1922-1995 | 330 items |
| Folder 1 | 1987 | 1987 | 36 items |
| Folder 2 | 1988 | 1988 | 23 items |
| Folder 3 | 1989-1995 | 1989-1995 | 81 items |
| Folder 4 | Notes and letters for revision of <i>RPW: A Biography</i> | 1992-1994 | 28 items |
| Folder 5 | To be dated and located | n.d. | 31 items |
| Folder 6 | Poems, General | 1985-1987 | 4 items |
| Folder 7 | Individual poems | 1946-1989 | 30 items |
| Folder 8 | Biographical sketches of RPW | 1950-1989 | 12 items |
| Folder 9 | Shack One and Shack Two | 1988-1990 | 13 items |
| Folder 10 | Individual stories | 1945-1960 | 5 items |
| Folder 11 | <i>Driftwood Flames</i> and early poems | 1923-1933 | 11 items |

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| Folder 12 | <i>The Fugitive</i> 1922 | 1922 | 4 items |
| Folder 13 | <i>The Fugitive</i> 1923 | 1923 | 4 items |
| Folder 14 | <i>The Fugitive</i> 1924 | 1924 | 5 items |
| Folder 15 | <i>The Fugitive</i> 1925 | 1925 | 4 items |
| Folder 16 | <i>The Fugitive & The Fugitives</i> | 1924-1991 | 14 items |
| Folder 17 | <i>John Brown: Making of a Martyr</i> | 1928-1988 | 11 items |
| Folder 18 | <i>I'll Take My Stand</i> | 1930-1960 | 14 items |
| BOX 8 | Notes on Works and Topics | 1908-1990 | 107 items |
| Folder 1 | <i>God's Own Time</i> | 1935 | 9 items |
| Folder 2 | <i>Prime Leaf</i> | 1947-1988 | 5 items |
| Folder 3 | Second unpublished novel | 1933-1934 | 13 items |
| Folder 4 | <i>36 Poems</i> | 1936 | 1 item |
| Folder 5 | <i>Understanding Poetry</i> | 1939-1960 | 29 items |
| Folder 6 | <i>Black Patch War</i> | 1969-1987 | 3 items |
| Folder 7 | <i>Night Rider</i> | 1908-1940 | 13 items |
| Folder 8 | <i>Proud Flesh</i> | 1939-1988 | 16 items |
| Folder 9 | <i>11 Poems on the Same Theme</i> | 1940 | 2 items |
| Folder 10 | <i>At Heaven's Gate</i> | 1943-1988 | 10 items |
| Folder 11 | <i>Selected Poems, 1923-1943</i> | 1944-1990 | 5 items |
| Folder 12 | <i>The Rime of the Ancient Mariner</i> | n.d. | 1 item |

| BOX 9 | Notes on Works and Topics | 1929-1996 | 238 items |
|--------------|--|------------------|------------------|
| Folder 1 | <i>All the King's Men</i> | 1929-1992 | 42 items |
| Folder 2 | <i>All the King's Men</i> (play) | 1948-1959 | 6 items |
| Folder 3 | <i>Circus in the Attic</i> | 1978-1991 | 7 items |
| Folder 4 | <i>Modern Rhetoric</i> | 1972 | 1 item |
| Folder 5 | <i>All the King's Men</i> (film) | 1988-1989 | 7 items |
| Folder 6 | <i>World Enough and Time</i> | 1948-1991 | 35 items |
| Folder 7 | <i>The Wedding Ring</i> | 1951 | 2 items |
| Folder 8 | <i>Brother to Dragons</i> | 1952-1987 | 19 items |
| Folder 9 | <i>Willie Stark: His Rise & Fall</i> | n.d. | 1 item |
| Folder 10 | <i>Band of Angels</i> | 1955-1988 | 13 items |
| Folder 11 | <i>Segregation</i> | 1956-1988 | 5 items |
| Folder 12 | <i>Promises: Poems 1954-1956</i> | 1956-1988 | 15 items |
| Folder 13 | <i>How Taxes Won Her Freedom</i> | n.d. | 1 item |
| Folder 14 | <i>Selected Essays</i> | 1958 | 2 items |
| Folder 15 | <i>Remember the Alamo</i> | 1956-1988 | 5 items |
| Folder 16 | <i>The Cave</i> | 1958-1996 | 12 items |
| Folder 17 | <i>The Gods of Mount Olympus</i> | 1959 | 2 items |
| Folder 18 | <i>You, Emperors, and Others</i> | 1958-1990 | 10 items |
| Folder 19 | <i>The Legacy of the Civil War</i> | 1960-1990 | 11 items |
| Folder 20 | <i>Wilderness</i> | 1961-1962 | 12 items |
| Folder 21 | <i>An Approach to Literature</i> | 1963 | 3 items |
| Folder 22 | <i>American Academy in Rome</i> | 1963-1994 | 8 items |

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| Folder 23 | <i>Flood</i> | 1939-1964 | 19 items |
| BOX 10 | Notes on Works and Topics | 1962-1994 | 248 items |
| Folder 1 | <i>Who Speaks for the Negro</i> | 1964-1965 | 17 items |
| Folder 2 | <i>So Clear, O Victory</i> | 1966 | 1 item |
| Folder 3 | <i>Selected Poems: New & Old, 1923-1966</i> | 1966-1968 | 13 items |
| Folder 4 | <i>Incarnations</i> | n.d. | 2 items |
| Folder 5 | <i>Audubon: A Vision</i> | 1969-1993 | 19 items |
| Folder 6 | <i>Selected Poems of Herman Melville</i> | 1970 | 3 items |
| Folder 7 | <i>John Greenleaf Whittier's Poetry</i> | n.d. | 1 item |
| Folder 8 | <i>Homage to Theodore Dreiser</i> | 1962-1989 | 3 items |
| Folder 9 | <i>Meet Me in the Green Glen</i> | 1963-1972 | 68 items |
| Folder 10 | <i>American Literature: The Makers and the Making</i> | 1969-1994 | 13 items |
| Folder 11 | <i>Or Else – Poem/Poems 1968-1974</i> | 1974-1989 | 10 items |
| Folder 12 | <i>Brother to Dragons, Video</i> | 1975-1993 | 8 items |
| Folder 13 | <i>Democracy and Poetry</i> | 1975 | 1 item |
| Folder 14 | <i>Selected Poems: 1923-1975</i> | 1974-1977 | 14 items |
| Folder 15 | <i>Willie Stark – Opera</i> | 1947-1991 | 8 items |
| Folder 16 | <i>Ballad of a Sweet Dream of Peace</i> | 1974-1975 | 4 items |
| Folder 17 | <i>A Place To Come To</i> | 1976-1985 | 21 items |
| Folder 18 | <i>Now and Then: Poems 1976-1978</i> | 1977-1979 | 5 items |
| Folder 19 | <i>Brother to Dragons: A New Version</i> | 1974-1979 | 7 items |

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| Folder 20 | <i>Robert Penn Warren Speaking</i> | 1979-1988 | 3 items |
| Folder 21 | <i>Nashville – “A Remembrance”</i> | 1979 | 5 items |
| Folder 22 | “Portrait of a Father” | 1987 | 2 items |
| Folder 23 | <i>Jefferson Davis Gets His Citizenship Back</i> | 1979-1981 | 6 items |
| Folder 24 | <i>Life is a Fable (Being Here)</i> | 1977-1980 | 1 item |
| Folder 25 | <i>Being Here (1977-1980)</i> | 1980-1981 | 13 items |
| BOX 11 | Notes and Interview Transcripts | 1977-1996 | 159 items |
| Folder 1 | <i>Rumor Verified</i> | 1981-1982 | 4 items |
| Folder 2 | <i>Chief Joseph of the Nez Pierce</i> | 1984-1996 | 13 items |
| Folder 3 | <i>New and Selected Poems 1923-1985</i> | 1985 | 7 items |
| Folder 4 | <i>Portrait of a Father (1988)</i> | 1986-1988 | 3 items |
| Folder 5 | <i>Collected Essays</i> | 1988 | 1 item |
| Folder 6 | <i>A Robert Penn Warren Reader</i> | 1989 | 1 item |
| Folder 7 | Transcript of interview with Robert Penn Warren conducted by David Farrell (01) | 1977 | 3 items |
| Folder 8 | Transcript of interview with Robert Penn Warren conducted by David Farrell (10) | 1978 | 2 items |
| Folder 9 | Transcript of interview with Robert Penn Warren conducted by David Farrell (15) | 1978 | 2 items |
| Folder 10 | Transcript of interview with Robert Penn Warren conducted by David Farrell (18) | 1979 | 7 items |
| Folder 11 | Transcript of interview with Robert Penn Warren conducted by David Farrell (20) | 1979 | 1 item |
| Folder 12 | Transcript of interview with Robert Penn Warren conducted by David Farrell (KY) | 1991 | 3 items |

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| Folder 13 | Transcript of interview with Robert Penn Warren conducted by William Ferris | 1989 | 2 items |
| Folder 14 | Notes relating to Mary Warren Barber | 1987 | 1 item |
| Folder 15 | Transcript of interview with Northrup Beach conducted by David Farrell | 1980 | 1 item |
| Folder 16 | Transcript of interview with Saul Bellow conducted by David Farrell | 1980-1988 | 11 items |
| Folder 17 | Transcript of interview with Eric Bentley conducted by David Farrell | 1980 | 2 items |
| Folder 18 | Transcript of interview with Harold Bloom conducted by Susan Allen | 1980 | 2 items |
| Folder 19 | Transcript of interview with Cleanth Brooks conducted by David Farrell | 1978-1995 | 15 items |
| Folder 20 | Information about Emma Brescia Warren | 1988-1992 | 58 items |
| Folder 21 | Transcript of interview with Huntington and Elizabeth (Wentworth) Brown | 1991 | 1 item |
| Folder 22 | Letters to Elizabeth (Wentworth) Brown "Bid" | n.d. | 15 items |
| Folder 23 | Transcript of interview with Matthew Bruccoli conducted by Susan Allen | 1981 | 1 item |
| Folder 24 | Transcript of interview with Ken Burns conducted by Joseph Blotner | 1995 | 3 items |
| BOX 12 | Notes and Interview Transcripts | 1942-1994 | 104 items |
| Folder 1 | Transcript of interview with Robert Brustein conducted by David Farrell | 1981 | 1 item |
| Folder 2 | Transcript of interview with Robert Penn Warren conducted by Alexander S. Crouch | 1980 | 2 items |
| Folder 3 | Transcript of interview with Lambert Davis conducted by Joseph Blotner; Davis named A Statesman of the Republic of Books (Dedication written by Robert Penn Warren); | 1970-1988 | 3 items |

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| Folder 4 | Transcript of interview with Peter Davison conducted by David Farrell; Transcript of telephone interview with Davison by Joseph Blotner; Letters to Peter and Natalie Davison | 1933-1991 | 9 items |
| Folder 5 | Transcript of interview with James Dickey conducted by Susan Allen | 1981 | 1 item |
| Folder 6 | Transcript of interview with Richard Eberhart conducted by David Farrell | 1981 | 2 items |
| Folder 7 | Letter to Joseph Blotner from John Egerton | 1990 | 1 item |
| Folder 8 | Published interviews with Robert Penn Warren | 1957-1987 | 4 items |
| Folder 9 | Transcript of interview with John Ervin conducted by David Farrell | 1978 | 1 item |
| Folder 10 | Transcript of interview with Charles H. Foster and Doris Foster conducted by Susan Allen; Correspondence between Charles H. Foster and Joseph Blotner | 1942-1993 | 18 items |
| Folder 11 | Transcript of interview with John Kenneth Galbraith and Kitty Galbraith conducted by Joseph Blotner and Eleanor Clark Warren | 1991 | 1 item |
| Folder 12 | Transcript of interview with Isabella Gardner conducted by David Farrell | 1981 | 1 item |
| Folder 13 | Letters to James A. Grimshaw, Jr. from Robert Penn Warren; Letter to Joseph Blotner from Grimshaw; Uncorrected proofs of poems to appear in <i>Robert Penn Warren: A Descriptive Bibliography, 1919-1995</i> ; Essay about Warren by Grimshaw to appear in the "Gettysburg Review" | 1977-1994 | 15 items |
| Folder 14 | Letters to Joseph Blotner from Margaret Allison Hemphill | 1990 | 2 items |
| Folder 15 | Transcript of interview with Robert B. Heilman conducted by David Farrell; Letters to Joseph Blotner from Thomas A. Kirby | 1991 | 6 items |

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| Folder 16 | Letter to Joseph Blotner from John Hollander | 1994 | 1 item |
| Folder 17 | Transcript of interview with Thomas A. Kirby conducted by Joseph Blotner | 1988 | 2 items |
| Folder 18 | Transcript of interview with R.W.B. Lewis conducted by Susan Allen; Newspaper article about Lewis | 1978-1992 | 3 items |
| Folder 19 | Transcript of interview with Frederick Manfred conducted by Joseph Blotner; Letters to Blotner from Manfred | 1988 | 3 items |
| Folder 20 | Transcript of interview with Samuel Holt Monk conducted by Susan Allen | 1978 | 2 items |
| Folder 21 | Transcript of telephone interview with David Milch conducted by Joseph Blotner; Letters to Milch from Blotner | 1988 | 6 items |
| Folder 22 | Transcript of interview with Mary O'Connor conducted by David Farrell; Correspondence between O'Connor and Joseph Blotner | 1978-1988 | 6 items |
| Folder 23 | Letter to Joseph Blotner from Harriet Owsley | 1988 | 2 items |
| Folder 24 | Transcript of interview with John James Ellis Palmer conducted by David Farrell; Letter to Robert Penn Warren and Cinina from Palmer; Information about Palmer; Letter to Joseph Blotner from James Wilcox | 1979-1989 | 5 items |
| Folder 25 | Transcript of interview with Pier Maria Pasinetti conducted by Laura Sanguinetti White (Italian); Letter to Joseph Blotner from Pasinetti; Information about Pasinetti | 1985-1991 | 3 items |
| Folder 26 | Transcript of interview with Leo & Rosalind Pflaum conducted by David Farrell | 1991 | 2 items |
| Folder 27 | Letters to Joseph Blotner from David Quammen | 1988 | 2 items |

| BOX 13 | Notes and Interview Transcripts | 1964-1995 | 172 items |
|---------------|---|------------------|------------------|
| Folder 1 | Biographical information about John Crowe Ransom; "American Scholar" article about Ransom written by Cleanth Brooks | 1989 | 3 items |
| Folder 2 | Letter to Joseph Blotner from Danforth Ross | 1992 | 1 item |
| Folder 3 | Transcripts of interviews with Louis D. Rubin Jr. conducted by Susan Allen and Joseph Blotner | 1978 | 2 items |
| Folder 4 | Letters to Joseph Blotner from Arthur H. Scouten | 1992-1993 | 7 items |
| Folder 5 | Letters to Karl Shapiro, Ernest Brooks, and Cleanth Brooks from Robert Penn Warren | 1945-1954 | 14 items |
| Folder 6 | Tribute to Robert Penn Warren by Lewis P. Simpson; Essays about Warren by Simpson | 1989 | 5 items |
| Folder 7 | Transcript of interview with Robert Penn Warren and his wife Eleanor conducted by Calvin L. Skaggs; Letter to Joseph Blotner from Skaggs | 1987-1988 | 5 items |
| Folder 8 | Transcript of interview with Francis Steegmuller conducted by David Farrell | 1981 | 1 item |
| Folder 9 | Transcript of interview with Arnold S. Stein conducted by Susan Allen; Reminiscence about Robert Penn Warren and his first wife Cinina by Stein | 1978 | 3 items |
| Folder 10 | Transcript of interview with John L. Stewart conducted by David Farrell | 1979 | 2 items |
| Folder 11 | Correspondence between Elizabeth B. Stommel and Joseph Blotner; Reminiscence about Robert Penn Warren and his first wife Cinina by Stommel | 1988-1995 | 7 items |
| Folder 12 | Transcript of interview with Victor H. Strandberg conducted by Susan Allen | 1978 | 3 items |

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| Folder 13 | Transcript of interview with William Styron conducted by Susan Allen; Letters to Styron from Joseph Blotner | 1994 | 6 items |
| Folder 14 | Notes about Robert Penn Warren and his first wife Cinina from Jane Sullivan; Letter to Joseph Blotner from Sullivan | n.d. | 3 items |
| Folder 15 | Transcript of interview with Leonard Unger Conducted by David Farrell; Letter to Joseph Blotner from Unger; Letter to Farrell from Unger | 1978-1980 | 2 items |
| Folder 16 | Transcript of interview with Brenda Ueland conducted by David Farrell | 1980 | 1 item |
| Folder 17 | Correspondence between Marshall Walker and Robert Penn Warren; Correspondence between Walker and Eleanor Clark Warren; Letter to Joseph Blotner from Walker; Correspondence between William W. Combs and RPW | 1964-1993 | 74 items |
| Folder 18 | Transcript of interview with Robert Penn Warren conducted by Gabriel Warren; Letter to Gabriel from Joseph Blotner | 1977-1990 | 4 items |
| Folder 19 | Recollections of Robert Penn Warren by Floyd C. Watkins | n.d. | 1 item |
| Folder 20 | Transcript of interview with Robert Penn Warren conducted by Mary Louise Weaks; Correspondence between Weaks and Lewis P. Simpson; Correspondence between Simpson and Floyd C. Watkins | 1985-1986 | 11 items |
| Folder 21 | Transcript of interview with Rene Wellek conducted by Susan Allen | 1978 | 2 items |
| Folder 22 | Transcription on interview with Eudora Welty conducted by Joseph Blotner | 1990 | 2 items |

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| Folder 23 | Essays by C. Vann Woodward; Essay about Woodward written by John Herbert Roper; Notes compiled by Roper for his essay; Newspaper article about Woodward written by Mark Feeney; Transcript of interview with Woodward conducted by Roger Adelson; Correspondence between Woodward and Joseph Blotner | 1986-1991 | 9 items |
| Folder 24 | Letter to Joseph Blotner from Herbert Woodman | n.d. | 1 item |
| Folder 25 | Transcript of interview with Stuart T Wright conducted by Joseph Blotner | 1988 | 2 items |
| Folder 26 | Transcript of interview with Mary Wyville | n.d. | 1 item |
| BOX 14 | Critical Essays, Notes and Correspondence | 1923-1995 | 331 items |
| Folder 1 | Rejected and used material: letters, clippings – Copies | 1923-1993 | 35 items |
| Folder 2 | Critical and bibliographic essays | 1948-1995 | 27 items |
| Folder 3 | Critical and bibliographic essays on RPW | 1974-1995 | 12 items |
| Folder 4 | Essays and introductions | n.d. | 18 items |
| Folder 5 | Interviews, notes (later transcribed) | 1988-1990 | 27 items |
| Folder 6 | Things to do | 1987 | 14 items |
| Folder 7 | People who will help | 1988-1991 | 18 items |
| Folder 8 | RPW material at the University of Kentucky, RPW Oral History Project | 1952-1995 | 73 items |
| Folder 9 | Correspondence of Joseph Blotner with RPW and Eleanor Clark Warren | 1965-1990 | 78 items |
| Folder 10 | RPW indexes and bibliography compiled dissertation | 1977-1994 | 29 items |

| BOX 15 | Notes from Location Holdings and Meetings, Research Costs | 1969-1997 | 428 items |
|---------------|--|------------------|------------------|
| Folder 1 | <i>RPW Circle Newsletter</i> | 1990-1997 | 10 items |
| Folder 2 | Baton Rouge, LSU | 1987-1988 | 5 items |
| Folder 3 | Charlottesville, UVA | 1971-1988 | 16 items |
| Folder 4 | District of Columbia, Library of Congress | 1987-1991 | 15 items |
| Folder 5 | Atlanta, Emory University [list of RPW holdings, Watkins notes] | 1988 | 21 items |
| Folder 6 | Minneapolis, University of Minnesota [list of RPW holdings] | 1988-1992 | 13 items |
| Folder 7 | New Haven, Beinecke Library [RPW holdings] | 1968-1996 | 38 items |
| Folder 8 | New York City | 1987-1991 | 9 items |
| Folder 9 | Princeton, Princeton University | 1988-1996 | 47 items |
| Folder 10 | Sewanee, University of the South | 1987-1989 | 11 items |
| Folder 11 | Nashville, Vanderbilt University | 1987-1997 | 25 items |
| Folder 12 | West Wardsboro, VT [Warren summer home] | 1989 | 9 items |
| Folder 13 | Western Kentucky University | 1988-1995 | 35 items |
| Folder 14 | RPW research costs – 1987 | 1987 | 24 items |
| Folder 15 | RPW research costs – 1988 | 1988 | 48 items |
| Folder 16 | RPW research costs – 1989 | 1989 | 17 items |
| Folder 17 | RPW research costs – 1990 | 1990 | 21 items |
| Folder 18 | RPW research costs – 1991-1993 | 1989-1993 | 17 items |
| Folder 19 | First Annual RPW Colloquium | 1988 | 7 items |
| Folder 20 | Second Annual RPW Colloquium | 1989 | 7 items |

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|---------------|--|-------------|-----------------|
| Folder 21 | RPW Circle & Center Colloquium | 1992 | 6 items |
| Folder 22 | RPW Circle & Center Colloquium | 1993 | 14 items |
| Folder 23 | RPW Circle & Center Colloquium | 1996 | 4 items |
| Folder 24 | RPW Circle meeting – 1998 | 1997 | 2 items |
| Folder 25 | Information related to <i>RPW Journal</i> | 1995-1996 | 7 items |
| BOX 16 | First Draft of Biography | n.d. | 5 items |
| Folder 1 | Typescript, first draft - IBM & Apple Mac - 73 chapters (p. 1-145) | n.d. | 1 item |
| Folder 2 | Typescript, first draft - IBM & Apple Mac - 73 chapters (p.146-306) | n.d. | 1 item |
| Folder 3 | Typescript, first draft - IBM & Apple Mac - 73 chapters (p. 307-550) | n.d. | 1 item |
| Folder 4 | Typescript, first draft - IBM & Apple Mac - 73 chapters (p. 551-720) | n.d. | 1 item |
| Folder 5 | Typescript, first draft - IBM & Apple Mac - 73 chapters (p.721-869) | n.d. | 1 item |
| BOX 17 | First Draft and Revised First Draft of RPW Biography | n.d. | 49 items |
| Folder 1 | Typescript, first draft - IBM & Apple Mac - 73 chapters (p. 870-1,059) | n.d. | 1 item |
| Folder 2 | Typescript, first draft - IBM & Apple Mac - 73 chapters (p. 1,060-1,188) | n.d. | 1 item |
| Folder 3 | Revised first draft RPW I-XII book one | n.d. | 14 items |
| Folder 4 | Revised first draft RPW XIII-XXII book two | n.d. | 10 items |

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| Folder 5 | Revised first draft RPW XXIII-XXXV book three | n.d. | 13 items |
| Folder 6 | Revised first draft RPW XXXVI-XLV book four | n.d. | 10 items |
| BOX 18 | Revised First and Second Drafts of RPW Biography | n.d. | 57 items |
| Folder 1 | Revised first draft RPW XLVI-LIV book 5 | n.d. | 9 items |
| Folder 2 | Revised first draft RPW LV-LXIV book 6 | n.d. | 10 items |
| Folder 3 | Revised first draft RPW LXV-LXXIII book 7 | n.d. | 9 items |
| Folder 4 | Revised second draft RPW book one chapters I-VII | n.d. | 7 items |
| Folder 5 | Revised second draft RPW book two chapters VIII-XII | n.d. | 5 items |
| Folder 6 | Revised second draft RPW book three chapters XIII-XXII | n.d. | 10 items |
| Folder 7 | Revised second draft RPW book four chapters XXIII-XXIX | n.d. | 7 items |
| BOX 19 | Revised Second Draft and Re-Draft Loomis of Biography | n.d. | 57 items |
| Folder 1 | Revised second draft RPW book five XXX-XXXVI | n.d. | 7 items |
| Folder 2 | Revised second draft RPW book six XXXVII-XLV | n.d. | 10 items |
| Folder 3 | Revised second draft RPW book seven XLVI-LIV | n.d. | 9 items |
| Folder 4 | Revised second draft RPW book one chapters I-VII [A cleaner copy of B18 F4] | n.d. | 7 items |

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| Folder 5 | Re-draft Robert D. Loomis chapters 1-7 | n.d. | 7 items |
| Folder 6 | Re-draft Robert D. Loomis chapters 8-14 | n.d. | 8 items |
| Folder 7 | Re-draft Robert D. Loomis chapters 15-22 | n.d. | 9 items |
| BOX 20 | Re-Draft Loomis and Pages with Quotes for Permission | 1991-1992 | 40 items |
| Folder 1 | Re-draft Robert D. Loomis chapters 23-30 | n.d. | 8 items |
| Folder 2 | Re-draft Robert D. Loomis chapters 31-38 | n.d. | 8 items |
| Folder 3 | Re-draft Robert D. Loomis chapters 39-44, 46 | n.d. | 7 items |
| Folder 4 | Re-draft Robert D. Loomis chapters 47-54 | n.d. | 8 items |
| Folder 5 | Chapter drafts | 1991-1992 | 9 items |
| Folder 6 | PP with quotes marked for permission, 1-200 | n.d. | n.a. |
| Folder 7 | PP with quotes marked for permission, continued 201-392 | n.d. | n.a. |
| BOX 21 | Publication Notes and Drafts | 1949-1997 | 117 items |
| Folder 1 | PP with quotes marked for permission, continued 393-578 | n.d. | n.a. |
| Folder 2 | PP with quotes marked for permission, continued 579-804 | n.d. | n.a. |
| Folder 3 | Revisions | 1949-1997 | 33 items |
| Folder 4 | Editing and proofing design pages | 1996-1997 | 41 items |
| Folder 5 | Front and back | n.d. | 10 items |
| Folder 6 | Permissions | 1988-1997 | 33 items |

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| BOX 22 | Publication Notes and Author's Galleys | n.d. | 698 items |
| Folder 1 | Index | n.d. | 84 items |
| Folder 2 | Author's galleys chapters 1-12 Pages i-110 | n.d. | 130 items |
| Folder 3 | Author's galleys chapters 13-29 Pages 111-274 | n.d. | 164 items |
| Folder 4 | Author's galleys chapters 30-43 Pages 275-413 | n.d. | 139 items |
| Folder 5 | Author's galleys chapters 44-54 Pages 414-507 | n.d. | 94 items |
| Folder 6 | Author's galleys, Etc. Pages 508-index | n.d. | 87 items |
| BOX 23 | Final Draft of Biography | n.d. | 728 items |
| Folder 1 | Final draft chapters 1-10 | n.d. | 139 items |
| Folder 2 | Final draft chapters 11-22 | n.d. | 158 items |
| Folder 3 | Final draft chapters 23-32 | n.d. | 153 items |
| Folder 4 | Final draft chapters 33-42 | n.d. | 152 items |
| Folder 5 | Final draft chapters 43-54 | n.d. | 126 items |
| Folder 6 | Final draft notes | n.d. | n.d. |
| BOX 24 | Correspondence and Publication Notes | 1960-1996 | 119 items |
| Folder 1 | Photo captions, photo xeroxes, permission letters, photo inserts | 1996 | 69 items |
| Folder 2 | Sam Prestridge | 1993 | 7 items |
| Folder 3 | Miscellaneous | 1960-1996 | 18 items |

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|---------------|---|------------------|----------------|
| Folder 4 | Photos to be used | 1996 | 25 items |
| BOX 25 | Audio Visual Material | 1980-1988 | 8 items |
| Folder 1 | Robert Penn Warren reads <i>Selected Poems, 1923-1978</i> | 1980 | 2 items |
| Folder 2 | Transcripts and collateral material related to "Poetvision presents Robert Penn Warren" | 1988 | 3 items |
| Folder 3 | Tape 1 of "Poetvision presents Robert Penn Warren" | 1988 | 1 item |
| Folder 4 | Tape 2 of "Poetvision presents Robert Penn Warren" | 1988 | 1 item |
| Folder 5 | Tape 3 of "Poetvision presents Robert Penn Warren" | 1988 | 1 item |

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS BLOTNER, Joseph Leo, 1890-1997
200 1923-2012

Research material collected by Joseph Leo Blotner for his literary biography of Robert Penn Warren. Includes Warren's correspondence (photocopies from various repositories), interview transcripts, notes, news clippings, critical essays, and other documentation about Warren. Also includes drafts, galley proofs, and permissions related to the biography.

25 boxes. 339 folders. 7053 items.

Originals and photocopies.

1998.207.1

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

A Place to Come To – Comments about B6,F2

A Place to Come To (script) – Comments about B6,F4

A Statesman of the Republic of Books Award – Relating to B12,F3

Ace in the Hole – Comments about B4,F14

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All the King's Men – Article about B4,F6
All the King's Men (film) – Comments about B4,F3-4
All the King's Men (play) – Comments about B4,F11-12,14-15
 Allan, Gay Wilson – Comments about B4,F5
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American Scholar – Related to B13,F1
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Approach to Literature – Comments about B4,F6
 “Argument for Prayer” – Comments about B6,F3
Audubon: A Vision – Comments about B5,F7-8
 Baker, George Pierce, 1866-1935 – Article about B4,F6
 Bales, Kent – Letter to B6,F11
 “Ballad of a Sweet Dream of Peace” – Comments about B4,F12
Band of Angels – Comments about B4,F8-11,13
 Bandy, William T., d. 1989 – Correspondence B2,F8-9; B4,F6-7,10,14-17; B5,F1,4-5,10; B6,
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 Barber, Mary Cecilia (Warren), b. 1908 – Relating to B11,F14; B24,F3
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 Beach, Joseph Warren – Comments about B4,F14
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 Beach, Robert A. B5,F11
 Beck, Warren – Comments about B4,F5
 Becket, Thomas, 1118-1170 – Comments about B4,F13
Being Here: Poetry (1980) – Comments about B6,F6-F7
 Bellow, Solomon “Saul,” 1915-2005 – Comments about B4,F1,4,12; B6,F8
 Bellow, Solomon “Saul,” 1915-2005 (Informant) B11,F16
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 Berg, Stephen, 1934-2014 – Correspondence B6,F8
 Bernstein, Leonard, 1918-1990 – Article about B4,F5
 Bishop, John Peale, 1892-1944 – Correspondence B2,F11 ; B24,F5-6
 Bishop, Margaret Grosvenor (Hutchins), 1898-1974 – Correspondence B24,F6
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 Blotner, Joseph Leo, 1923-2012 – Correspondence B2,F8-9; B3,F1a,2-4,7-9,10;
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 Brooks, Cleanth, 1906-1994 – Comments about B4,F5-6,12-14; B5,F1; B6,F1
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 Bruccoli, Matthew Joseph, 1931-2008 (Informant) B11,F23
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 Cooper, Duncan – Letter to B2,F13
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Cowley, Malcolm, 1898-1989 – Comments about B4,F5
 Coxe, Hugh – Comments about B4,F6,16
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 Danzinger, Frederick S. – Correspondence 11
 Daves, Joan, 1919-1997 – Correspondence B6, F1
 Davidson, Donald Grady, 1893-1968 – Comments about B3,F1b; B5,F5-6
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 Davidson, Philip Kearney, 1941-2011 – Letter to B4,F14
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 Davis, Lambert, 1905-1994 – Comments about B12,F3
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 Davison, Natalie (Weiner), 1899-1959 – Correspondence B4,F1,13
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 Davison, Peter Hubert, 1928-2004 – Correspondence B5,F2,8-12; B6, F2-11
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 Ellison, Ralph 1914-1994 – Comments about B4,F5,11-12,17; B6,F1
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Enabling Acts – Comments about B4,F5
End Game – Comments about B4,F13

Ernst, Max, 1891-1976 – Comments about B4,F5

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Fitzell, Lincoln H., Jr., 1903-1938 – Comments about B2,F7

Flood: A Romance of Our Time – Comments about B5,F1-2; B6,F6

“The Flower” – Comments about B4,F12

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Forman, Helen Elizabeth (Ransom), 1922-2015 – Letter to B5,F11

Forrest, Nathan Bedford, 1821-1877 – Comments about

“Founding Fathers” – Comments about B4,F12

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Frost, Robert, 1874-1963 – Comments about B4,F15,17

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Galbraith, Catherine Merriam “Kitty,” 1913-2008 (Informant) B12,F11

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 Harrington, Evans Burnham, 1925-1997 – Correspondence B5, F2-3; B6,F6
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SEE or SEE ALSO

American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters

See:

American Academy of Arts and Letters

Brescia, Emma "Cinina" 1902–1968

See:

Warren, Emma (Brescia) "Cinina," 1902-1968

Clark, Eleanor

See:

Warren, Eleanor (Clark), 1913-1996

Brown, Elizabeth "Chickie,"

See:

Stommell, Elizabeth B. (Huntington Brown) "Chickie," b. 1926

Riding, Laura, 1901-1991

See:

Jackson, Laura (Riding), 1901-1991

Warren, Cinina 1902–1968

See:

Warren, Emma (Brescia) "Cinina," 1902-1968

