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John Faulkner collection

Title: John Faulkner collection
Collection No: MSS.3
Extent: 0.25 cubic feet
Inclusive Dates: 1940-1971

Abstract: The collection comprises items collected by Redding Sugg, Jr., related to the Mississippi author John Faulkner, including copies of correspondence and a manuscript.

Donor: Redding Sugg, Jr., Memphis, Tennessee, circa 1970.
Processed by: Gerald Chaudron, April 2015.
Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: John Faulkner collection, Preservation and Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

Publication date: April 2015

Biographical information

John Wesley Thompson Falkner, III, was born in Ripley, Mississippi, on September 24, 1901, the third of four sons of Murry Cuthbert Falkner (1870–1932) and Maud Butler (1871–1960). The family moved to Oxford, Mississippi, and John attended the university there. He married Lucille "Dolly" Ramey (1903–1984) on September 2, 1922. John Faulkner worked for the state highway department in Greenwood and then became a commercial pilot based in Memphis, Tennessee. In 1938, he returned to Mississippi to manage his older brother William's farm in Lafayette County. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Second World War. After the war, he made his living by writing, lecturing and painting.

John Faulkner published his first novel, *Men Working*, in 1941 and wrote nine novels in all. He also wrote a memoir about his childhood growing up with William, magazine articles and short stories, and was an accomplished artist. He died on March 28, 1963 in Oxford.

Scope and contents

The collection comprises items collected by the donor, Redding Sugg, Jr., related to the author John Faulkner. It includes some Sugg correspondence about Faulkner and a photographic print of John Faulkner with his brother William taken by Osceola, Arkansas, newspaper editor Philip Mullen. There are also copies of correspondence to Faulkner from his agent, Ivan von Auw, and Faulkner's letters to his publisher. The collection contains three publications about Faulkner by Sugg, including an inventory of the John Faulkner papers then held at the University of Memphis but later transferred to the University of Mississippi. A bound photocopy of Faulkner's manuscript of *Mississippi Hill Country* is the only example of Faulkner's writing in the collection.

Related materials

MUM00129. John Faulkner Collection, University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi.

Subject terms

Faulkner, John, 1901-1963.

Inventory

Box 1

Folder

Correspondence:

- 1 Redding Sugg, Jr., 1967-1968, re: John Faulkner. Includes b/w photograph of William and John Faulkner, c. 1950, by Phillip E. Mullen.
- 2 Ivan von Auw, Jr., New York, to John Faulkner, Oxford, Miss., and other correspondence, 1940-1949 (copies), re: publication of Faulkner's books.
- 3 John Faulkner, 1940-1961 and undated (copies). Letters to his publisher, Fawcett, about his books.
- 4 Publications by Redding Sugg, Jr., re: John Faulkner:
Sugg, Redding S., Jr., "John's Yoknapatawpha", *South Atlantic Quarterly*, Vol. 68, No. 3, 1969 Summer, pp. 343-362 (reprint).
White, Helen, & Redding S. Sugg, Jr., "John Faulkner: An Annotated Check List of His Published Works and of his Papers", *Studies in Bibliography*, Vol. 23, 1970, pp. 217-229. Includes a typewritten inventory.
- 5 Sugg, Redding S., Jr., "John Faulkner's Vanishing South", in *American Heritage*, Vol. 22, No. 3, 1971.
- 6 Faulkner, John, *Mississippi Hill Country*, 241pp. Bound copy of manuscript.