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## The Faulkner Collection

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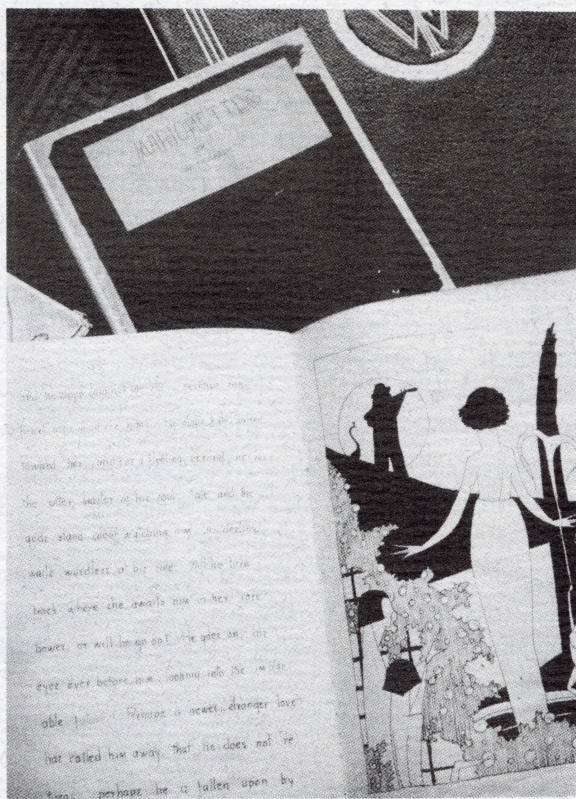
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# The Faulkner Collection



From William Faulkner's "The Marionettes."

**The University of Mississippi  
Archives and Special Collections  
John Davis Williams Library  
Second Floor  
University, Mississippi 38677  
(601) 232-7408**

## History of the University's Faulkner Collection

Initially William Faulkner's works were ordered by the Library as reading copies for the general collection and later for the Mississippi Collection of local and state authors. Faulkner's first published book, *The Marble Faun*, was, for example, added to the collection in 1929, five years after publication at the nominal cost of \$1.20 a copy. No systematic approach to collecting Faulkner was taken for many years and no attempt was made to add manuscript material to the collection. A persistent local legend maintains that an early curator of the Mississippi Collection Faulkner's sister-in-law, Dorothy Oldham, gave away copies of Faulkner's ephemeral and now extremely valuable "Beer Broadside" as souvenirs to visitors to the Mississippi Room.

Gradually, the Library did form a representative collection of Faulkner's trade and limited editions and also secondary works about the author. By and large these acquisitions still came out of regular library funds, although there are scattered examples of books presented to the Library by Faulkner himself and by other donors.

In 1975 the Department of Archives and Special Collections was established in the Library. This administrative change accelerated collection development of Faulkner materials with manuscripts being sought as eagerly as were superior examples of Faulkner's published editions. These, along with extensive secondary works about Faulkner, were made available to an increasing number of researchers from a national and international community of scholars interested in Faulkner.

Greater emphasis began to be placed on exhibiting new acquisitions and in producing catalogues and keepsakes to accompany Faulkner exhibitions.



## Exhibition Highlights

Faulkner materials displayed in exhibition cases are arranged in an unrigid chronological sequence. Notable among many rarities are: one of the six known copies of "The Marionettes," a hand-lettered, hand-bound and illustrated playlet made by Faulkner on the University of Mississippi campus, unique copies of Faulkner contributions to the student newspaper, "The Mississippian", a "*Marble Faun*" inscribed by Faulkner to the postal inspector who fired him from his position as postmaster of University, Mississippi, William Alexander Percy's copy of *Soldiers' Pay* in the truly rare dust jacket, and the Nobel Prize medal and diploma awarded to Faulkner in 1950.

**Publications.** The department has produced the following catalogue and keepsake to accompany Faulkner exhibitions. Each of these titles is available at a nominal cost from the John Davis Williams Library:

*William Faulkner's Gifts of Friendship:  
Presentation and Inscribed Copies from  
the Faulkner Collection of Louis Daniel  
Brodsky*

*Saxe & Bill: A Keepsake*

**Hours and reader policies.** The regular hours for the department when classes are in session are from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Saturday. Closed Sunday. The department maintains a comprehensive collection of theses and dissertations written about Faulkner and xerographies of selected periodical articles.

Inventories and guides to the "Rowan Oak Papers" and other manuscript holdings are available in the Department of Archives and Special Collections.