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## Introduction

Evans Harrington  
*University of Mississippi*

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Selections from  
Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha, 1975  
Introduction

by *Evans Harrington*

This is the second issue of *Studies in English* devoted to speeches and panel discussions which took place at the University of Mississippi's annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha conference, in this case the second one, held in August, 1975. In the preceding issue of this journal, which published speeches and panel discussions from the 1974 conference, it was explained how the conference came into being. Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha continues to thrive, and at this time (January, 1978) plans are well underway for the fifth session, to be held July 30–August 4 of this year.

The 1975 conference was received very enthusiastically by the approximately 300 people who attended it, and readers of the following pages will find an even fuller range of speeches and panel discussions than was offered in the last volume. Cleanth Brooks writes with his characteristic clarity and sensitivity about two of his favorite subjects: the sense of community in Yoknapatawpha and the chivalric tradition as embodied in Gavin Stevens. Carvel Collins combines his encyclopedic knowledge of Faulkner and his work with a brilliant wit in two articles about the artist and his environment.

Robert Penn Warren once said that to talk about Faulkner without talking about race was like making an apple pie without apples. In the 1975 conference we were very fortunate to have the black scholar Blyden Jackson to examine both Faulkner's depiction of the Negro and his relationship to America's first great Negro novelist—also a Mississippian—Richard Wright. For the second consecutive year the conference was greatly enriched by Elizabeth Kerr's speeches. Drawing on knowledge garnered for her book *Yoknapatawpha: Faulkner's Little Postage Stamp of Native Soil*, she spoke with detailed accuracy of Faulkner and women, and in one of the finest papers ever delivered at Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha she discussed Gothicism in Faulkner—a subject on which she is now bringing out a book.

The formal papers read on the main program of the conference in 1975 were by no means, however, the only rewarding experiences of the week. Richard Godden, a participant from England, delivered one night a brilliantly provocative meditation on Addie Bundren, Faulkner, and language, printed here. William Boozer spoke with charm and extensive knowledge about collecting Faulknerana. The panel discussions, of which four are printed in slightly edited form here, yield many sharp insights into Faulkner and his work as well as some rich entertainment. The stories of William Roane, Howard Duvall, and Robert J. Farley are often hilarious in themselves, while illustrating an aspect of Faulkner's character and experience. Phil Mullen provides sharp-eyed observations of Faulkner and much historical information from his viewpoint as a newsman who knew Faulkner for years. The memories of Faulkner related by his niece, Dean Faulkner Wells, and his step-granddaughter, Victoria Fielden Black, as well as by Christine Drake, Lucy Howorth, and Mary McClain, have a charm quite apart from the very valuable insights they give into Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha.

As Elizabeth Kerr points out in one of the panels presented here, Faulkner and James Joyce continue to stimulate more academic interest than any other writers. The Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha conference of 1975 both reflected and rewarded the interest in Faulkner. The editors of this volume hope it will be of value to Faulkner students in years to come.