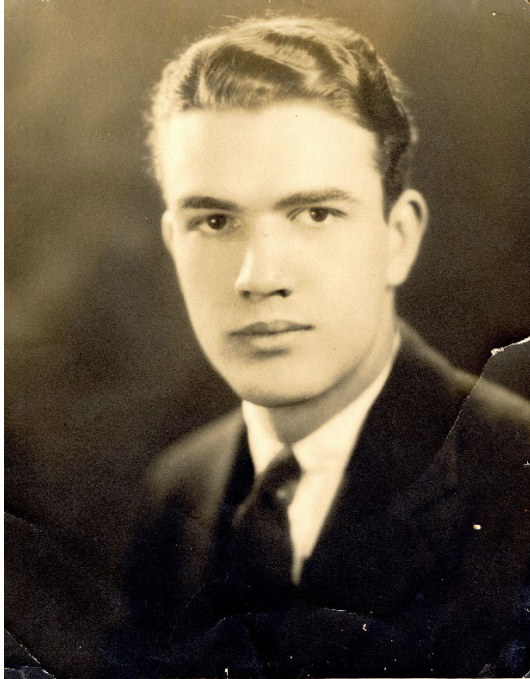


Hubert Creekmore (1907-1966)



Born in Water Valley, Mississippi, **Hiram Hubert Creekmore** (1907-1966), gained notoriety as an author, poet, translator, editor, literary critic, among other noteworthy accomplishments. A 1927 graduate of the University of Mississippi, Creekmore later earned a master's degree from Columbia University. He remained in New York City for the majority of his adult life, despite a few sporadic moves back to Mississippi to stay with family.

After beginning his career as a contributor to various literary publications, Creekmore published *Personal Sun* (1940), his first book of poetry. His later novels drew largely upon his early life in the Southern United States. These were often critical of the region's history of enslavement and discrimination, among other issues. In particular, Creekmore's 1953 work, *The Chain in the Heart* addressed the legacy of enslavement, prejudice, and racism. The author's 1948 work, *The Welcome*, confronted the painful realities of what scholar Courtney Chartier described as the, "forced heterosexuality" of the region, as well as the resulting societal pressure and emotional distress (Chartier 303). Undoubtedly, as a gay man growing up in the South, Creekmore, must have been directly familiar with such discrimination.

Other publications further cemented Creekmore's long-term literary legacy, including a book of poetry, *The Long Reprieve and Other Poems from New Caledonia* published in the years following World War II. His versatility as an author is showcased in the myriad genres he explored, such his later non-fiction work, *Daffodils Are Dangerous: Poisonous Plants in Your Garden* (1966).

Although Creekmore studiously worked to achieve public success during his lifetime, it was frequently elusive and he occasionally struggled with economic stability. However, his circle of friends and business associates was extensive and included numerous prominent literary, musical, and artistic figures of the time. He was related by marriage to Pulitzer Prize winning author Eudora Welty, who was a frequent

visitor and close friend, as well as relative. Largely still living in Mississippi, his extended family was extremely supportive and they maintained a close relationship through the years, especially his mother, Mittie Horton Creekmore. This family connection lasted throughout the rest of his life which ended due to a heart attack in May 1966.

The Creekmore Collection comprises six boxes (6.50 linear feet) of correspondence, ephemeral materials, photographs, and publications. The materials cover the early 1930s through the 1960s, although the bulk of the collection dates from the 1940s-1960s. The majority of the collection consists of correspondence sent to family members, especially his mother Mittie Horton Creekmore. They maintained a steady correspondence through the years, often writing to each other twice a day. Hubert's letters are the main surviving documents of this correspondence, although some letters from family members sent to him in New York are a part of the collection.

The collection is arranged into three series:

1. professional/personal correspondence
2. family correspondence
3. ephemera (including a large collection of theatre programs collected by Creekmore).

Mary Alice Welty White and Elizabeth Welty Thompson donated the Hubert Creekmore Collection to Special Collections in 2010. Subsequent additions have been gifted by Cynthia Walker Kennedy. The University of Mississippi's Hubert Creekmore Digital Collection was made possible through the generous support of the Creekmore family.

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Selected Sources:

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