



*Richard Wright (1946), photograph by Carl Van Vechten, Courtesy Ellen Wright and the Van Vechten Estate
Image courtesy Special Collections, University of Mississippi Libraries*

The Eighth
Oxford Conference for the Book
The University of Mississippi • Oxford, Mississippi
March 30–April 1, 2001

Grove Press, 1951 - 2001

"This is not a book, in the ordinary sense of the word," wrote Henry Miller in his infamous *Tropic of Cancer*. "No, this is a prolonged insult, a gob of spit in the face of Art, a kick in the pants to God, Man, Destiny, Time, Love, Beauty...what you will." Miller's words might have been a fitting mission statement as well for Grove Press, the small New York house that in 1961 published this controversial piece of literature, which had been banned in the U.S. and Britain since the 1930s, and whose publisher, Barney Rosset, Jr., reportedly brought a grand jury to laughter by reading a section from the book during one of his many court battles to keep the book from further censorship. Over the years, Rosset and Grove Press would endure many such battles of law and will, wrangling free from would-be censors and delivering to American readers great works of literary art such as D. H. Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover* and William Burroughs's *Naked Lunch*, not to mention, some time later, a slate of sensual avant-garde films from Europe that the publisher acquired and distributed to American movie houses. Grove Press, in its 50 years of service to literature, has proven a savior of free expression, an agitator of the meek and obvious, and a reliable purveyor of progressive modern thought.

"Rosset was the rogue who personalized publishing, made it an extension of his will, psyche and libido," writes scholar S. E. Gontarski in the introduction to the recently released *Grove Press Reader, 1951-2001*, in which the house's history is told and some of its most outlandish writers excerpted, a real feast of good reading and collective evidence of the press's cultural impact over the past 50 years. In 1951, Rosset, then a 29-year-old college student, acquired the failing house for \$3,000 and began publishing out of his apartment at 59 West 9th Street in New York City. While most publishing houses were printing safe, proven literature, Grove published writers whose value was measured in more abstract, enduring currency. These books weren't crafted to be bestsellers, nor made to carry their own profitable weight. The only tastes taken into consideration were those of the publisher and editors, whose tastes tended away from the Establishment and toward a younger, burgeoning subculture full of disillusion. Bored by the status quo that constituted America's mainstream culture, Rosset sought out angry poets from New York and San Francisco, surrealists in France, expressionists in Germany, and members of the absurdist theatre from all over Europe. Year by year, Grove's list and influence grew with major works from writers like Burroughs and Jack Kerouac, who helped cement America's Beat movement; European dramatic artists like Samuel Beckett, Eugène Ionesco, and Jean Genet, whose published work ignited a revolution in the American theatre; and writers as diverse as Che Guevara, Frantz Fanon, and Timothy Leary, who shook things up politically and socially at home and abroad.

In the 1970s and '80s came a wave of political and financial woe, though Grove Press continued to publish such important authors as Tom Stoppard, Harold Pinter, David Mamet, Robert Coover, and John Kennedy Toole. Then, in 1993, the house saw a resurrection of sorts when Morgan Entrekin acquired Grove and merged with Atlantic Monthly Press to form what is now called Grove/Atlantic, a company that, for the past several years, has consistently published some of the most fresh, interesting writing of its day. The current roster includes American heavyweights like Jim Harrison, Barry Hannah, and Charles Frazier; strong foreign voices such as Dario Fo, Kenzaburo Oe, and Ivan Klíma; and an impressive slate of new voices that are among the era's most exciting: Sherman Alexie, António Lobos Antunes, Tristan Egolf, Richard Flanagan, Dagoberto Gilb, Anthony Loyd, Stewart O'Nan, Will Self, Darcey Steinke, and Jeanette Winterson.

JAMIE KORNEGAY

PHOTO CREDITS

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THE CITY OF OXFORD, originally part of the Chickasaw Cession, was incorporated by Legislative Act in 1837. The town was captured during the Civil War by Union troops, and most of its buildings were burned to the ground, although many historic structures remain. Oxford has always been known for its close relationship with the University of Mississippi, whose approximately 11,000 students make it roughly the same size as the town. Many people visit Oxford each year to see the University, Rowan Oak, and other classic Southern architecture, including the Lafayette County Courthouse, Isom Place, built in 1838, and other homes on the streets surrounding the town square. Visitors and residents alike appreciate the close and gentle beauty of the Lafayette County countryside, which includes National Forest land and such buildings as College Hill Church, where William and Estelle Faulkner were married in 1929. *USA Today* named Oxford one of the top six college towns in the United States. Oxford is also listed in *The 100 Best Small Towns in America*.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI, affectionately known as Ole Miss, is the state's oldest public institution of higher learning and has been a recognized leader in teaching, research, and public service since opening in 1848. In November of that year a faculty of four offered liberal arts instruction to 80 students. From those beginnings, the student body has increased to its current enrollment of 11,400 on the main Oxford campus. The campus itself has expanded from 640 acres in 1848 to more than 2,500. The academic division of the Oxford campus is composed of the College of Liberal Arts (1848), School of Law, which is the fourth oldest state-supported law school in the nation (1854), School of Engineering (1900), School of Education (1903), School of Pharmacy (1908), School of Business Administration (1917), Graduate School (1927), and School of Accountancy (1978). The Schools of Medicine (1903), Nursing (1958), Health Related Professions (1972), and Dentistry (1973) are located at the Jackson campus. In all, the University offers more than 100 programs of study. Having graduated 23 Rhodes Scholars, Ole Miss ranks seventh among all public universities in number of students chosen for this honor.

THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOUTHERN CULTURE was established at the University of Mississippi in 1977. Since then, the Center has gained an international reputation for innovative education and scholarship on the American South. The Center administers B.A. and M.A. programs in Southern Studies, sponsors research and documentary projects on all aspects of Southern culture, and encourages public understanding of the South through publications, media productions, lectures, performances, and exhibitions. Among the programs the Center sponsors or cosponsors are the Oxford Conference for the Book in the spring, the Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference in the summer, and a history symposium in October. The current exhibition in the Center's Barnard Observatory Gallery is *Yoknapatawpha 2000: The Changing Face of Lafayette County - Work by Southern Studies Documentary Photography Students*. Open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., except for University holidays. Telephone: 662-915-5993.

ROWAN OAK, William Faulkner's Home, was built by a pioneer settler in 1844 and bought by Faulkner in 1930. This plantation-style house was his home until his death in 1962. Open 10:00 a.m.-noon and 2:00-4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 2:00-4:00 p.m. Sunday. Closed on Mondays and on Easter Sunday, July 4, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, News Year's Eve, and New Year's Day. Telephone: 662-234 3284.

UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS: The Mary Buie Museum (1939) and the adjoining Kate Skipwith Teaching Museum (1976) house collections representing the fields of archaeology, art, anthropology, decorative arts, history, science, and technology. Particularly outstanding are the David M. Robinson Collection of Greek and Roman antiquities, the Millington-Barnard Collection of 19th-century scientific instruments, and the Southern Folk Art Collection, centered on the paintings of Oxford artist Theora Hamblett. Open 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1:00-4:00 p.m. Sunday. Closed Mondays and on University holidays. Telephone: 662-915 7073.

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS/UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY: Over 300 manuscript collections and over 30,000 volumes of Mississippiana are housed here. Among its permanent exhibits are William Faulkner's Nobel Prize and signed first editions and manuscripts. The Seymour Lawrence Room, a gift of the late publisher, contains signed first editions, manuscripts, photographs, correspondence, and memorabilia of the dozens of authors he published, including J. P. Donleavy, Barry Hannah, Jim Harrison, and Jayne Anne Phillips. Many Mississippi writers are on display in the adjacent Mississippi Hall of Writers. Open 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except for University holidays. Telephone: 662-915-7408.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MUSIC LIBRARY'S BLUES ARCHIVE/FARLEY HALL: This research collection on blues music contains books, periodicals, recordings, films, photographs, and posters. Of special interest are the B. B. King Collection, the Kenneth S. Goldstein Folklore Collection, and the Living Blues Archival Collection. Materials do not circulate. Open 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except for University holidays. Telephone: 662-915-7753.

YOUNG AUTHORS FAIR: Kimberly Willis Holt will participate in the 2001 Young Authors Fair sponsored by the Junior Auxiliary of Oxford. This year, in preparation for the fair, students in the fifth grade are reading Holt's *Zachary Beaver Came to Town* and have opportunities to write, illustrate, and bind a book to be displayed at the Oxford-Lafayette County Public Library the first week of April. Members of Junior Auxiliary are encouraging every fifth grader in the county to write a book for the fair, hear Holt talk about being an author, and attend a reception in her honor at the public library after school on April 2.

The Eighth Oxford Conference for the Book

The University of Mississippi • Oxford, Mississippi

Dedicated to Richard Wright

Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, Department of English, Department of History, Department of Journalism, John Davis Williams Library, McDonnell-Barksdale Honors College, Barksdale Reading Institute, Renée and John Grisham Lecture Series, University Lecture Series, Junior Auxiliary of Oxford, and Square Books.

Partially funded by the University of Mississippi, Morgan Entrekin and Atlantic/Grove Press, and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Mississippi Humanities Council, the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council, and the City of Oxford.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

The National Endowment for the Arts, an independent agency of the Federal Government, was created in 1965 to encourage and assist the nation's cultural resources. Dedicated to fostering the excellence, diversity, and vitality of the arts in the United States, the Endowment serves the public good by nurturing the expression of human creativity, supporting the cultivation of community spirit, and fostering the recognition and appreciation of the excellence and diversity of our nation's artistic accomplishments.

MISSISSIPPI HUMANITIES COUNCIL

The Mississippi Humanities Council is funded by Congress through the National Endowment for the Humanities to provide public programs in traditional liberal arts disciplines to serve nonprofit groups in Mississippi.

OXFORD TOURISM COUNCIL

The Oxford Tourism Council strives to enhance the quality of life and economic vitality of Oxford by promoting Oxford as a travel destination.

YOKNAPATAWPHA ARTS COUNCIL

The Yoknapatawpha Arts Council is a nonprofit organization established in 1975 to access, celebrate, and promote the arts with all citizens of Oxford and Lafayette County, Mississippi. The Yoknapatawpha Arts Council is the official arts agency for the City of Oxford.

SIXTH ANNUAL NATIONAL POETRY MONTH APRIL 2001 • A NATIONWIDE CELEBRATION OF POETRY

Inaugurated by the Academy of American Poets in April 1996, National Poetry Month brings together publishers bookstores, literary organizations, libraries, schools, and poets across the country to celebrate poetry and its vital place in American culture. For additional information, visit the web site of the Academy of American Poets (www.poets.org) or inquire by telephone (212-174-0343) or email (poets@artswire.org).

For more information concerning the conference, contact:

Center for the Study of Southern Culture

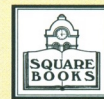
THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
University, MS 38677 • phone 662-915-5993 • fax 662-915-5814 • Email cssc@olemiss.edu • www.olemiss.edu/depts/south



For tourist information, contact:

Oxford Tourism Council

P.O. Box 965, Oxford, MS 38655
phone 800-758-9177,
662-234-4680 fax 662-234-0355



For information about books and authors, contact:

Square Books

160 Courthouse Square, Oxford, MS 38655
phone 800-648-4001,
662-236-2262 fax 662-234-9630
www.squarebooks.com



*The
University of Mississippi*

The Seventh Oxford Conference for the Book is dedicated to
Richard Wright (1908–1960)
in recognition of his contributions to American letters.

Richard Nathaniel Wright, commonly said to be from Natchez, Mississippi, was born some 22 miles east of Natchez on a farm outside Roxie, Mississippi, September 4, 1908. His father was a sharecropper and his mother a schoolteacher. All four of his grandparents had been born into slavery.

Within a few years his life would take on a pattern that would continue throughout, traveling and making many moves—first with his family into Natchez, and soon after that up to Memphis, then to Jackson to his grandparents' home, then into Arkansas, and back to Jackson, where his natural propensity for reading was reinforced both in school and at work, as a young newsboy—one of the numerous jobs Wright took on to help support his impoverished family. In another after-school job he would find discarded magazines and pulp novels and devour them, reading that enabled him, after starting Jim Hill School two years behind, to catch up with his classmates and to finish as valedictorian of Smith Robertson Junior High in 1925. He rejected the graduation speech his principal had prepared for him, choosing to recite his own, "The Attributes of Life."

In 1927 Wright moved with an aunt to Chicago, where he continued to work and read, interested by H. L. Mencken, Theodore Dreiser, and O. Henry, among many others. He began to take an interest in literary and political organizations, including the Universal Negro Improvement Association, the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, and the John Reed Club, a literary organization sponsored by the Communist Party. His activity in this latter group provided a venue for many of his early writings and enabled him to meet a variety of intellectuals, including James T. Farrell and Nelson Algren. Sympathetic to all efforts to end racial injustice, Wright joined the Communist Party in 1934. Ironically, he grew frustrated by the party's failure to address wartime discrimination and angry with their efforts to control his writing and broke from their ranks in 1942—the year the FBI began investigating Wright, an activity that would continue until his death. His essay "I Tried To Be A Communist" was published in *The God That Failed* in 1949.

Wright's relatively immediate literary success had to be one of the happy elements of his life. His short story "Fire and Cloud" won first prize in a contest sponsored by *Story Magazine* in 1937; he worked for and published with the Federal Writers' Project; and in 1938 he found an agent for his first book, *Uncle Tom's Children*, which Harper and Brothers published and soon afterward provided Wright an advance for *Native Son*. Within the next two years his stories would sell successfully, win awards, and find further publication in leading anthologies. *Native Son*, published on March 1, 1940, was featured by the Book of the Month Club and would sell 215,000 copies in the first three weeks but was banned in Birmingham libraries.

Black Boy, Wright's stirring childhood autobiography, was published in 1944 and became the nation's number-one bestseller that year. Sales were perhaps increased when Theodore Bilbo, in the U.S. Senate, denounced the book as obscene. Through his success, Wright was enabled to advocate and promote the work of many of his friends, including James Baldwin, Gwendolyn Brooks, Chester Himes, George Lamming, and Ralph Ellison. Toward the end of WWII, Wright moved to New York, where he lived for several years before moving to Paris. There he would live and write, including a large number of extraordinary haiku, for the rest of his life. In Paris he encountered and befriended many of the postwar American expatriates and French intellectuals, including Gertrude Stein, Simone de Beauvoir, and Jean-Paul Sartre. Wright was among those who helped launch the *Paris Review*. He traveled extensively, to Africa, South America, India, and Europe, meeting and consulting with Gunnar Myrdal, Nehru, and Martin Luther King, Jr. The usual subjects for these encounters were Wright's lifelong activism and the heart of his work, racial equality and justice. After an illness, Richard Wright died of a heart attack November 28, 1960, leaving behind his widow and two daughters. On December 3 he was cremated and interred, with a copy of *Black Boy*, at the Pere Lachaise cemetery in Paris.

RICHARD HOWORTH

Our Mothers Before Us: Women and Democracy, 1789-1920

Our Mothers Before Us: Women and Democracy, 1789-1920 is an educational resource highlighting women's contributions to American democracy. The materials are organized in six units and gathered in a three-ring binder for ease of use. In addition to color facsimiles of historical documents, the binder contains historical background essays, teaching and learning aids, period artwork, photographs, and reading lists. *Our Mothers Before Us* joins *The Presidency of Thomas Jefferson*, the first educational resource developed by the Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives, in bringing documentary treasures to the nation's classrooms. The Foundation for the National Archives accepts contributions to support the distribution of these resources to schools in a state. The Phil A. Hardin Foundation has provided grants to distribute copies of *The Presidency of Thomas Jefferson* and *Our Mothers Before Us* to nearly 400 high schools and community colleges throughout Mississippi.

The Eighth Oxford Conference for the Book

The University of Mississippi • Oxford, Mississippi

All program sessions will be in the Education Auditorium, located on University Avenue.

Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, MARCH 30

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome
Richard Howorth
- Submitting Manuscripts/Working One's Way into Print
Barry Hannah, moderator
Brooks Haxton, Judith Hottensen
Dave Smith
- 10:30 a.m. Finding a Voice/Reaching an Audience
Barry Hannah, moderator
Neal Coonerty, William Gay,
Amy Williams, Webster Younce
- 11:30 a.m. *Southern Review: Past and Present*
Joseph Urgo, moderator
Michael Griffith, Dave Smith, Webster Younce
- 1:30 p.m. Richard Wright:
The Enduring Challenge of His Legacy
Jerry W. Ward, Jr.
- Comments and Reflections
Geneviève Fabre, Michel Fabre, Paul Oliver,
Hazel Rowley
- 3:30 p.m. Poetry: Readings and Remarks
Michael P. Dean, moderator
Nikky Finney, Claude Wilkinson
- 4:30 p.m. Readings
Brooks Haxton, Jerry W. Ward, Jr.
- 5:30 p.m. Readings/Remarks
Michael Griffith, Jayne Anne Phillips,
Dave Smith
- 7:00 p.m. Cocktail Party
Off Square Books (Reservations Required)

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

- 9:00 a.m. Writing Sexuality in and of the South
Ethel Young-Minor, moderator
Jeffrey Renard Allen, Lasana Kazembe, Reginald Martin
- 10:30 a.m. Writing Our Southern Mothers
Kathryn McKee, moderator
Rosemary Daniell, Patricia Foster, Jayne Anne Phillips
- 11:30 a.m. *Our Mothers Before Us: A Link to History*
Robert C. Khayat, moderator
Deborah Barker, Alysha E. Black,
Michael L. Gillette, Mary Lynn Kotz,
Lucinda D. Robb, C. Thompson Wacaster

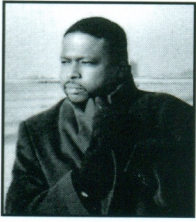
Noon Lunch - On Your Own

- 1:30 p.m. The Endangered Species: Readers Today and Tomorrow
Elaine H. Scott, moderator
Claiborne Barksdale, Kimberly Willis Holt
- 3:00 p.m. Readings/Remarks
Jeffrey Renard Allen, David Anthony Durham,
Reginald Martin
- 4:00 p.m. Readings/Remarks
Richard Flanagan, William Gay,
Cynthia Shearer
- 5:00 p.m. Reading
Amy Tan
- 6:00 p.m. Booksigning
Square Books
- 7:30 p.m. Grove Press 50th Anniversary
Country Extravaganza
Taylor, Mississippi
(Reservations Required)

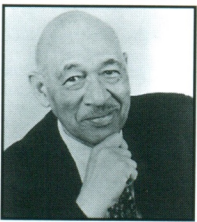
SUNDAY, APRIL 1

- 8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast
Mississippi Hall of Writers
John Davis Williams Library
Hosted by John M. Meador
Dean of University Libraries
- 9:00 a.m. Writing the Civil War
Ted Ownby, moderator
Allen Ballard, David Blight, Catherine Clinton
- 10:30 a.m. Writing Race and Politics in the South
Charles Reagan Wilson, moderator
Jesse James Holland, Jr., Bill Minor
- Noon Lunch - Memory House
(Reservations Required)
- 1:30 p.m. Grove Press: Its First Half Century
Morgan Entrekin, Judith Hottensen,
Grove/Atlantic Authors
- 2:30 p.m. Readings/Remarks
Barry Hannah
Jim Harrison
Stewart O'Nan

The Speakers



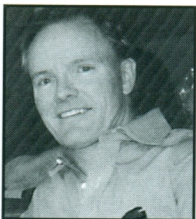
JEFFREY RENARD ALLEN is an associate professor of English at Queens College, City University of New York, where he teaches African American literature and creative writing. His essays, fiction, and poetry have appeared in numerous magazines, journals, and anthologies, including *Callaloo*, *Code*, *Notre Dame Review*, and *Caliban*. In 1999, Asphodel Press of Moyer Bell published his first book, *Harbors and Spirits*, a collection of poems with a compact disc of the author reading the entire text. In January 2000 Farrar, Straus & Giroux published his first novel, *Rails Under My Back*, which won the *Chicago Tribune's* Heartland Prize for fiction.



ALLEN BALLARD teaches history and African American Studies at the State University of New York at Albany. He is the author of *Where I'm Bound*, the first work of historical fiction to focus solely on soldiers of an African American regiment in the Civil War, published in 2000 by Simon & Schuster. He is also the author of two works of nonfiction. He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Kenyon College and earned a doctorate in government from Harvard College.



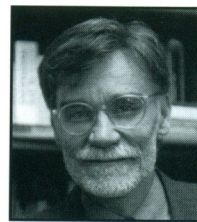
DEBORAH BARKER is director of the Sarah Isom Center for Women's Studies and associate professor of English at the University of Mississippi. Among her publications are *Aesthetics and Gender in American Literature: The Portrait of the Woman Artist* and articles on Kate Chopin, Doris Betts, Edith Wharton, and Alice Walker.



CLAIBORNE BARKSDALE is executive director of the Barksdale Reading Institute at the University of Mississippi. After earning B.A. and J.D. degrees from Ole Miss, he practiced law in Jackson for five years, was legislative coordinator for Senator Thad Cochran for four years, spent a year as a clerk for the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and has served as counsel for communications companies since 1983. Barksdale moved to Oxford in July 2000 with his wife and three children.



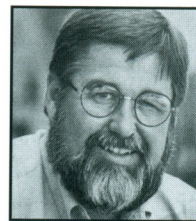
ALYSHA E. BLACK is an archivist and outreach specialist at the Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives. For the last five years she has been the director of *Our Mothers Before Us: Women and Democracy, 1789-1920*, a project that features women's writings to Congress on some of the great issues and events in American history. Black is currently one of the editors working on the Center's newest educational resource, *Congress and the Shaping of American History*.



DAVID BLIGHT, a professor at Amherst College, has published books on Frederick Douglass and the Civil War and has been a consultant to several documentary films, including the 1998 PBS series *Africans in America*. He has also written many articles on abolitionism, American historical memory, and African American intellectual and cultural history. His new book, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory, 1863-1915*, was recently published by Harvard University Press.



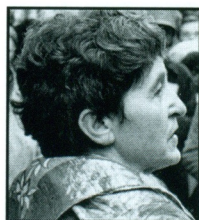
CATHERINE CLINTON has taught at many universities, including Harvard, Brandeis, CUNY, and the University of Richmond, and is currently Mark Clark Visiting Chair of History at the Citadel. She is author and editor of more than a dozen books about Southern women's history, Civil War history, and African American history. She is the editor of the diary of Fanny Kemble and author of *Fanny Kemble's Civil Wars*, published in 2000 by Simon & Schuster.



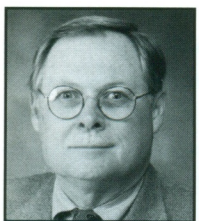
NEAL COONERTY, president of the American Booksellers Association, has owned Bookshop Santa Cruz since 1973. For three years after the store was destroyed in California's Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989, he operated as Booktent Santa Cruz in a 5,000 square foot tent. He has served on the city council and as mayor of Santa Cruz.



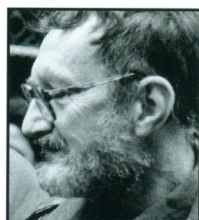
ROSEMARY DANIELL is the author of *Confessions of a (Female) Chauvinist*, a collection of essays recently published by Hill Street Press. Hill Street has also reissued her memoirs *Fatal Flowers: On Sin, Sex, and Suicide in the Deep South* (1980) and *Sleeping with Soldiers* (1984). Her other books include a novel, two collections of poetry, and *The Woman Who Spilled Words All Over Herself: Writing and Living the Zona Rosa Way*. Her features and reviews have appeared in such publications as *Harper's Bazaar*, *Mademoiselle*, *Mother Jones*, and the *New York Times Book Review*.



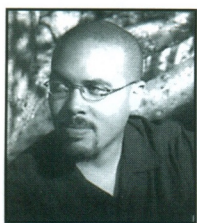
GENEVIÈVE FABRE is a professor of literature and director of the Center of African American Research at Université Paris 7. She has written or coauthored books about James Agee, African American theatre, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and American minorities. She has also edited a number of works, including *History and Memory in Afro-American Culture*, and contributed to several collected volumes and encyclopedias. Most recently, she edited, with Michael Feith, *Temples for Tomorrow: Looking Back at the Harlem Renaissance*.



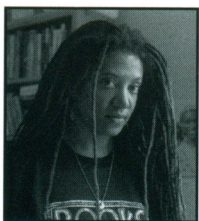
MICHAEL P. DEAN is associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and associate professor of English at the University of Mississippi. He is primarily interested in 20th-century British and American literature, and he has published articles about T. S. Eliot, Robert Hayden, Ellen Douglas, and Larry Brown, among others.



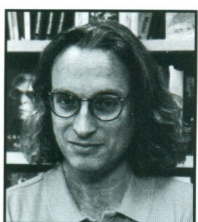
MICHEL FABRE is professor emeritus and founding director of the Center for Afro-American Studies and Post-Colonial Literature in English at the Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle (Paris 3). One of the world's foremost scholars of African American literature, he is the author of *From Harlem to Paris: Black American Writers in France, 1840-1980* and numerous other works. Among them are *The World of Richard Wright*, *The Unfinished Quest of Richard Wright*, and *Richard Wright: Books and Writers*. With Wright's widow, Ellen, he coedited *The Richard Wright Reader*. He was Ford Foundation Professor of Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi during the spring of 1988.



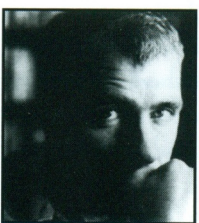
DAVID ANTHONY DURHAM is a writer whose first novel, *Gabriel's Story*, is about a young African American who moves to the West during Reconstruction. He is the recipient of the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Fiction Award and received an M.F.A. from the University of Maryland.



NIKKY FINNEY was born in Conway, South Carolina, and was raised in several small towns across the state. She is on the faculty of the Department of English at the University of Kentucky. She is the author of two collections of poetry, *On Wings Made of Gauze* and *Rice*, and *Heartwood*, a collection of short stories written especially for literacy students. She is currently work on a new poetry collection and a novel.



MORGAN ENTREKIN acquired Atlantic Monthly Press in 1991 and Grove Press in 1993. As president and publisher of Grove/Atlantic, Inc, he says he tries "to carry on the tradition that Grove founder Barney Rosset created and to keep the spirit of independent publishing alive." Grove/Atlantic now publishes 75 to 80 titles a year. Among its authors are Kenzaburo Oe, Jean Genet, Barry Hannah, Jim Harrison, Richard Ford, Sherman Alexie, Fay Weldon, and Charles Frazier.



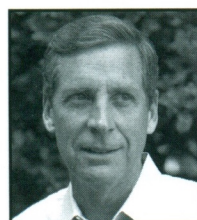
RICHARD FLANAGAN is a novelist and filmmaker from Australia. He is the author of *The Sound of One Hand Clapping*, which won the Australian Booksellers Book of the Year Award and the Vance Palmer Prize for Fiction, and which he also produced as a film. His novel *Death of a River Guide*, winner of the 1995 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for First Fiction and the South Australian Premier's Literary Award, will make its American debut this spring.



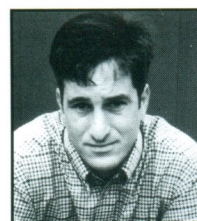
PATRICIA FOSTER grew up in Alabama and now teaches at the University of Iowa. She is the author of a memoir, *All the Lost Girls: Confessions of a Southern Daughter*, and editor of *Minding the Body: Women Writers on Body and Soul* and *Sister to Sister: Women Write about the Unbreakable Bond*. Her short stories and essays have been published in numerous anthologies and quarterlies. She has won both the PEN/Jerard Fund Award and the Mary Roberts Rinehart Award in nonfiction.



WILLIAM GAY is the author of two novels, *The Long Home* and *Provinces of Night*. His short stories have appeared in *Harper's*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *GQ*, and the 1999 and 2000 volumes of *New Stories from the South*. The winner of the 1999 William Peden Award and the 1999 James A. Michener Memorial Prize, he lives in Hohenwald, Tennessee.



MICHAEL L. GILLETTE has been director of the Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives and Records Administration since 1991. He previously directed the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library's Oral History Program. He is the author of *Launching the War on Poverty: An Oral History* and has published numerous articles on politics and the civil rights movement. He received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Texas at Austin.



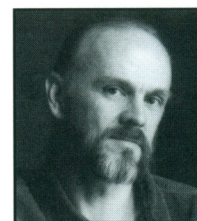
MICHAEL GRIFFITH has been associate editor of the *Southern Review* and a freelance book editor for the Louisiana State University Press since 1994. He also works as a freelance copy editor/proofreader for the University of Chicago Press, University of Georgia Press, Oxford University Press, and Sandlapper Books. His short stories and nonfiction have appeared in numerous publications. His first novel, *Spikes*, was recently published by Arcade Publishing.



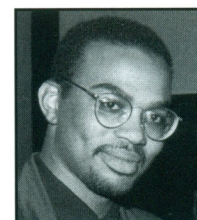
BARRY HANNAH is the author of ten works of fiction, including his first novel, *Geronimo Rex*, which was awarded the William Faulkner Prize and nominated for the National Book Award; *Ray*, nominated for the American Book Award; and *Airships*, a collection of stories widely regarded as a contemporary classic. His new novel, *Yonder Stands Your Orphan*, is soon to be published by Grove/Atlantic. He is writer in residence at the University of Mississippi.



JIM HARRISON is the author of four volumes of novellas, including *The Beast God Forgot to Invent*, published by Atlantic Monthly Press, seven novels, seven collections of poetry, and a collection of nonfiction, *Just Before Dark*. He has been awarded a National Endowment for the Arts grant and a Guggenheim Fellowship.



BROOKS HAXTON is the author of five collections of poetry, including *Dances for Flute and Thunder: Poems, Prayers, and Insults from the Ancient Greeks*. His new book is *Fragments: The Collected Wisdom of Heraclitus*, which brings together the surviving Greek originals in a powerful new free verse translation. The son of novelist Ellen Douglas, he grew up in Greenville, Mississippi, and teaches at Syracuse University.

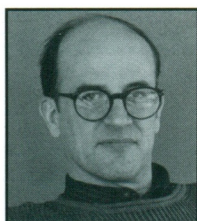


JESSE JAMES HOLLAND, JR., is a native of Holly Springs, Mississippi. He is a 1994 graduate of the University of Mississippi, where he was editor of the student newspaper, the *Daily Mississippian*. After five years with the Associated Press in Columbia, South Carolina, he asked to transfer to the Albany, New York, bureau to cover the U.S. Senate race to fill Daniel Patrick Moynihan's seat. Holland recently moved to the AP's Washington, D.C., bureau, pursuing a long-held dream of reporting from the White House. A passionate advocate of diversity in the newsroom, he often visits college campuses to encourage African American journalism students to consider newspaper careers.

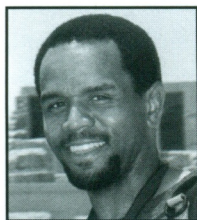


KIMBERLY WILLIS HOLT has won numerous awards and critical acclaim for her children's novels *My Louisiana Sky*, *Mister and Me*, and *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*. The latter won the National Book Award for Young People's Literature and was among the American Library Association's Top Ten Best Books for Young Adults for 1999. Her new book is *Dancing in Cadillac Light*. She lives in Amarillo, Texas, with her husband and daughter.

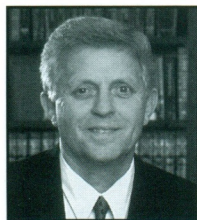
JUDITH HOTTENSEN began her publishing career as an editor for Grove Press. She remained with the publishing house when it was merged with Atlantic Monthly Press in 1993 and is currently the director of marketing and publicity.



RICHARD HOWORTH is proprietor of Square Books in Oxford, Mississippi, and past president of the American Booksellers Association. He is an organizer of the Oxford Conference for the Book.



LASANA KAZEMBE is a poet, spoken word performer, technical writer, and founder of IBIS book publishers. The company emphasizes technical writing, but recently expanded into publishing poetry, essays, and fiction with African American interest. Kazembe is the author of the poetry collection *Nappyheaded Black Girls* and editor of *The Shadetree Anthology*, a forthcoming collection of work by writers from Chicago.



ROBERT C. KHAYAT, an avid reader, has been chancellor of the University of Mississippi since 1995.



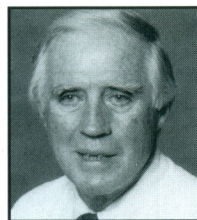
MARY LYNN KOTZ is a contributing editor of *ARTnews* and has written numerous articles, a biography of the artist Robert Rauschenberg, and three other books. A native of Mathiston, Mississippi, and an alumna of Ole Miss, she lives in Washington, D.C., where she serves as a member of the board of directors for the National Archives Foundation.



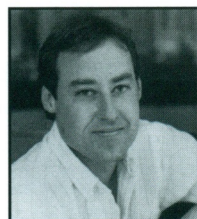
KATHRYN MCKEE is McMullan assistant professor of Southern Studies and assistant professor of English at the University of Mississippi. She has published essays and lectured on Ellen Glasgow, Kaye Gibbons, Bobbie Ann Mason, and other authors.



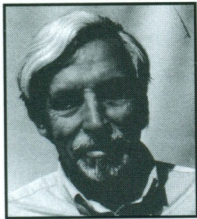
REGINALD MARTIN edited the anthology *Erotique Noire*, which has gone through 35 printings since it appeared in 1992, and the sequel, *Dark Eros*, in 1997. Among his other publications are *Ishmael Reed and the New Black Aesthetic Critics*, *Primary and Secondary Annotated Bibliography of New Black Aesthetic Criticism*, collections of poetry (*Southern Secrets*) and short stories (*Dysfunction Junction*), and a novel (*Everybody Knows What Time It Is*). He teaches in the English Department at the University of Memphis.



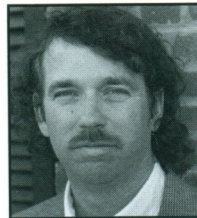
BILL MINOR, considered by many as the dean of Mississippi journalists, has written thousands of columns about Mississippi politics during the past several decades, first for the *Times-Picayune* of New Orleans and later as an independent syndicated writer. His work regularly appears in newspapers across the South. A collection of his columns was recently published in a volume titled *Eyes on Mississippi*.



STEWART O'NAN is the author of the story collection *In the Walled City*, winner of the Drue Heinz Literary Prize. His novels *Snow Angels*, *The Names of the Dead*, *The Speed Queen*, *A World Away*, and *A Prayer for the Dying* have earned him numerous awards and *Granta's* designation as one of America's best young writers. Among his nonfiction are *The Circus Fire* and the anthology *The Vietnam Reader*, which he edited. His new novel, *Everyday People*, will be released this spring. He lives with his family in Connecticut.



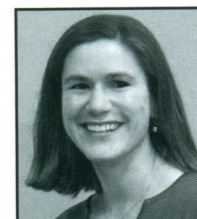
PAUL OLIVER is one of the founders of modern blues scholarship, with the publication of *Blues Fell This Morning* in 1961. His friend Richard Wright wrote the introduction to the book. Oliver's *Story of the Blues*, more than three decades after its first publication (1969), remains the most durable narrative of blues history. Although residing in England, he has been a guiding mentor for blues researchers and writers on both sides of the Atlantic for over 40 years.



TED OWNBY is the author of *Subduing Satan: Religion, Recreation, and Manhood in the Rural South, 1865-1920* and *American Dreams in Mississippi: Consumers, Poverty, and Culture, 1830-1908*. He teaches Southern Studies and history at the University of Mississippi.



JAYNE ANNE PHILLIPS is the author of five books, among them the acclaimed *Black Tickets* and *Machine Dreams* and, most recently, *MotherKind*. She is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, two National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, and a Bunting Fellowship. She has been awarded the Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction and an Academy Award in Literature by the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She is currently writer in residence at Brandeis University.



LUCINDA D. ROBB worked for the Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives from 1993 to 1997, first researching and developing an exhibition and educational materials on the presidency of Thomas Jefferson and then serving as director for *Our Mothers Before Us: Women and Democracy, 1789-1920*. Since 1997 she has worked for the Teaching Company, recruiting outstanding lecturers and scholars to develop college level courses on tape.



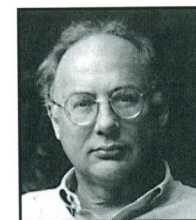
HAZEL ROWLEY is the author of a biography of Richard Wright, soon to be published by Henry Holt. Her articles on Wright have appeared in *Partisan Review*, *Mississippi Quarterly*, and *Antioch Review*. Her previous book, a biography of the expatriate Australian writer Christina Stead, was a 1994 *New York Times* Notable Book. She is a residential fellow at the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute at Harvard University.



ELAINE H. SCOTT is former chair of the Arkansas State Board of Education, a member of the Education Commission of the States 1987-1997, and a leader in several organizations concerned with education, teacher training, libraries, and literacy. She has been involved with the Reading Is Fundamental program since 1974 and received the RIF Leader for Literacy Award in April 1994.



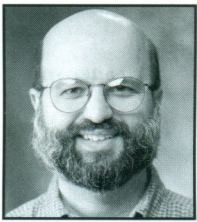
CYNTHIA SHEARER lives with her husband and daughter in Oxford, Mississippi, where she teaches in the English Department at the University. Her stories and essays have appeared in *Ladies Home Journal*, *Triquarterly*, and *Missouri Review*, among others. Her first novel, *The Wonder Book of the Air*, won the 1996 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters prize for fiction. She received an NEA fellowship in fiction for 2000. Her second novel, *The Celestial Jukebox*, is forthcoming.



DAVE SMITH is Boyd Professor of English and coeditor of the *Southern Review* at Louisiana State University. He is the author of numerous collections of poetry, fiction, and criticism. His most recent book is *The Wick of Memory: New and Selected Poems, 1970-2000*. He has won fellowships in poetry from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the Lyndhurst Foundation.



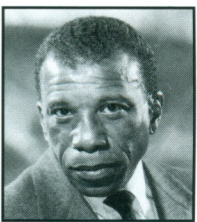
AMY TAN is the author of *The Joy Luck Club*, an international bestselling novel that explores the relationships of Chinese women and their Chinese American daughters. Winner of the National Book Award and the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award in 1989, the novel has been translated into 25 languages and made into a major motion picture. She is also the author of *The Kitchen God's Wife*, *The Hundred Secret Senses*, and two children's books. Her new novel, *The Bonesetter's Daughter*, was published in February 2001.



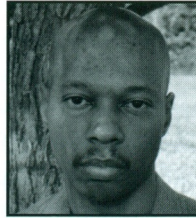
JOSEPH URGO chairs the English Department at the University of Mississippi. Among his publications are *Willa Cather and the Myth of American Migration*, *Faulkner's Apocrypha: A Fable, Snopes, and the Spirit of Human Rebellion*, and *In the Age of Distraction*.



C. THOMPSON WACASTER is vice president of the Phil Hardin Foundation in Meridian, Mississippi. Through his leadership, the Hardin Foundation contributed funds to provide each high school in Mississippi a copy of two new education resources published by the Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives: *The Presidency of Thoms Jefferson* and *Our Mothers Before Us*.



JERRY W. WARD, JR., a prominent literary scholar and poet, is Lawrence Durgin Professor of Literature at Tougaloo College. His essays have appeared in *Southern Quarterly*, *The Furious Flowering of African American Poetry*, *Sturdy Black Bridges: Visions of Black Women in Literature*, *The Oxford Companion to African American Literature*, and numerous other publications. He is editor of *Trouble the Water: 250 Years of African American Poetry*, coeditor of *Redefining American Literary History* and *Black Southern Voices*, and author of *Richard Wright: "Black Boy": A Teacher's Guide* and an essay in *Approaches to Teaching Wright's "Native Son."*



CLAUDE WILKINSON, an accomplished literary critic and poet, is a recipient of the 2000 Whiting Writers' Award. His first poetry collection, *Reading the Earth*, was published by Michigan State University Press to national acclaim. He is currently John and Renée Grisham Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi, his alma mater.



AMY WILLIAMS has worked as a literary agent at the Gernert Company since its inception in January 1996. She has worked selling foreign, first serial, and audio rights as well as negotiating contracts for the agency. She primarily represents fiction writers, including William Gay, Ana Menendez, Marc Nesbitt, Olympia Vernon, Steve Almond, and Karen Essex.



CHARLES REAGAN WILSON is director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture and professor of history and Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi. Among his publications are *Baptized in Blood: The Religion of the Lost Cause and Judgment and Grace in Dixie: Southern Faiths from Faulkner to Elvis*.



WEBSTER YOUNCE is an editor at Arcade Publishing in New York. A native of Jackson, Mississippi, he earned a B.A. in history and English from Ole Miss and an M.Phil. in English from the University of Oxford. His journalism has appeared in *Harper's*, *Time Out New York*, and *Beliefnet.com*. Formerly of Random House and Alfred A. Knopf, he has worked with Fred Anderson, Nathan Englander, Barry Gifford, and Charles Royster, among others.



ETHEL YOUNG-MINOR is an assistant professor of English and Afro-American Studies at the University of Mississippi. She is coeditor of *Black Sermons*, a collection of African American sermons delivered from 1901 to 2000, and has published articles in the *College Language Association Journal* and *Women Studies International*. Her current research focuses on African American women in performance.