

**JOHN B. RANSOM, III  
CORRESPONDENCE COLLECTION**

**MSS # 358**

**Arranged and described by Molly Dohrmann**

**October 2006**

**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS  
The Jean and Alexander Heard Library  
Vanderbilt University  
419 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue South  
Nashville, Tennessee 37240  
Telephone: (615) 322-2807**

## **Biographical Note**

John B. Ransom, III was born September 12, 1920 in Nashville, Tennessee, the son of Marie Litton Howe Ransom and John Bostick Ransom, Jr. He graduated from Wallace University School and attended Vanderbilt University from 1938-1940. He then transferred to the University of the South (Sewanee) and received the B.A. in 1942. He served in the U.S. Army in World War II. After the war he attended Stanford University where he earned an M.A. degree in American Literature. His Master's Essay at Stanford was an analysis of the writings of Robert Penn Warren. After Stanford he attended Oxford University and the Sorbonne in Paris, France. Later, in Paris he served for ten years as Education Adviser for the Army's Seine Area Command. In that position he administered a program in which American military and civilian personnel could earn college credits in courses offered by the University of Maryland. After Paris he accepted the position of Director of Admissions at Sewanee where he served for many years. Retiring from that position, he became Secretary of the University until his retirement. He died in Sewanee on March 4, 2000.

## **Scope and Content Note**

This small collection (.21 linear feet ) is comprised of correspondence to John B. Ransom, III from the following:

- C.S. Lewis
- Mrs. Robert Lowell (Jean Stafford)
- Francis Robinson
- Wallace Stegner
- Allen Tate
- Nancy Tate Wood
- Robert Penn Warren

There is other correspondence from Donald Davidson to Marie H. Ransom concerning poems by John B. Ransom, III.

## **Incoming Correspondence**

### **Folders**

- 1) **Lewis, C.S.**, July 24, 1950  
**Lowell, Mrs. Robert T.S. (Jean Stafford)**, postmark October 12, 1944
- 2) **Robinson, Francis**  
December 25, 1937  
November 6, 1942  
May 9, 1943  
February 23, 1949  
February 10, 1964  
December 20, 1966

**3) Stegner, Wallace**

January 19, 1966

August 14, ?

**4) Tate, Allen**

Invitation

August 21, 1968

November 15, 1974—Program of the Celebration of his 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday

March 26, 1979 –Nancy Tate Wood on her father's death

**5) Warren, Robert Penn**

December 1949, Christmas greeting from Cinina and Red Warren

August 15, 1950

May 2, 1964

**Other Correspondence**

- 6) November 21, 1944-- Letter to Marie H. Ransom from Donald Davidson, concerning John B. Ransom's poems with comments by Davidson ( letter and 16 pages of poems)