

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Donald Stanford

COLLECTION: 4700.0124

IDENTIFICATION: Former editor of the *Southern Review*

INTERVIEWER: Pamela Dean

SERIES: University History – Distinguished Faculty & Administrators

INTERVIEW DATE: 5/15/92

FOCUS DATES: 1953-85

ABSTRACT:

Tape 172

Family history; early education at Stanford and College of the Pacific; influence of Yvor Winters and Winter's wife, Janet Lewis; inspiration for his works and his style; M.A. from Harvard, 1934; correspondence with Vassar student-poet, Elizabeth Bishop; post-graduate work at Stanford University because of the Depression; early teaching experiences; navigation instructor for Air Corp during WW II in Brazil; LSU instructor teaching foreign students in English, 1949-1950; reasons for choosing LSU; Ph.D. from Stanford University with dissertation on poet Edward Taylor; meeting and marriage to Maryanna Peterson; return to LSU in 1953; internal political process for reviving the *Southern Review* with support of Otis Wheeler, Thomas Kirby, John Hunter, Max Goodrich, and Pete Taylor; reasons for Lewis Simpson and Donald Stanford as co-editors; contributions of Pat Roberson and Rima Reck in magazine start-up; conflict between Simpson and Stanford over journal's emphasis--southern or international; continuity achieved from production of old *Review* and new *Review* with original contributors; meeting with Cleanth Brooks and Robert Penn Warren in November, 1963; local support as the cause of high circulation; well-known contributors, Allen Tate, Eudora Welty, Glenway Westcott, and Mary McCarthy, and promising young writers, Rene Wellek, Malcolm Cowley, Matthew Josephson, and N. Scott Momaday; formalist and free verse poetry forms; success of special issues; strong support of administration for the *Southern Review*; financial independence of the *Southern Review* from the University Press; independence of both editors in inclusion of commissioned materials; stability of literary quarterlies; renaissance of Southern culture leading to elite literature; creation of LSU "formalists," a group of devotees of formal verse poetry, and their contributions to the *Southern Review*.

TAPES: 1 (T172)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 43 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 30 pages

RESTRICTIONS: None