

Faulkner: Life and Works

February 6 – July 7, 2017

Main Gallery, Small Special Collections Library

University of Virginia Library

<http://faulkner2017.lib.virginia.edu> | #faulkner2017

Directions and parking info:

<http://www.library.virginia.edu/map/#!/directions/special-collections>

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An exhibition surveying one of the great archives of American literature: the University of Virginia's William Faulkner collections.

When William Faulkner arrived at the University of Virginia to serve as the first Balch Writer-in-Residence in 1957, he was world famous: a Nobel laureate with sixteen novels to his name. Not long after arriving, he deposited his papers in the UVA Library. In the ensuing decades, the collections have grown into an unparalleled resource for the study of Faulkner—both the man and his works. This exhibition celebrates the variety of artifacts scholars and students use to study one of the most influential American voices of the twentieth century.

Faulkner might be said to have composed two bodies of work throughout his lifetime. His writings are richly varied: novels, stories, poems, plays, and screenplays. His life, too, might be seen as a body of work: varied personae, some carefully constructed by Faulkner himself, others imposed upon him by circumstance. This exhibition draws together fragments from across the Faulkner collections to imagine these *oeuvres*: each cabinet in the room comprises a temporary bibliographical or biographical unity.

The exhibition has three parts. In the center of the gallery are documents telling the history of nine novels and selected stories and poems. Around the perimeter of the room are glimpses into just a few of Faulkner's personae, arranged in a loosely chronological order. In the back of the gallery we feature the only item in the exhibition not from Faulkner's lifetime: *Digital Yoknapatawpha*, a national project that began at UVA, showing how Faulkner is transformed yet again by the digital environment.