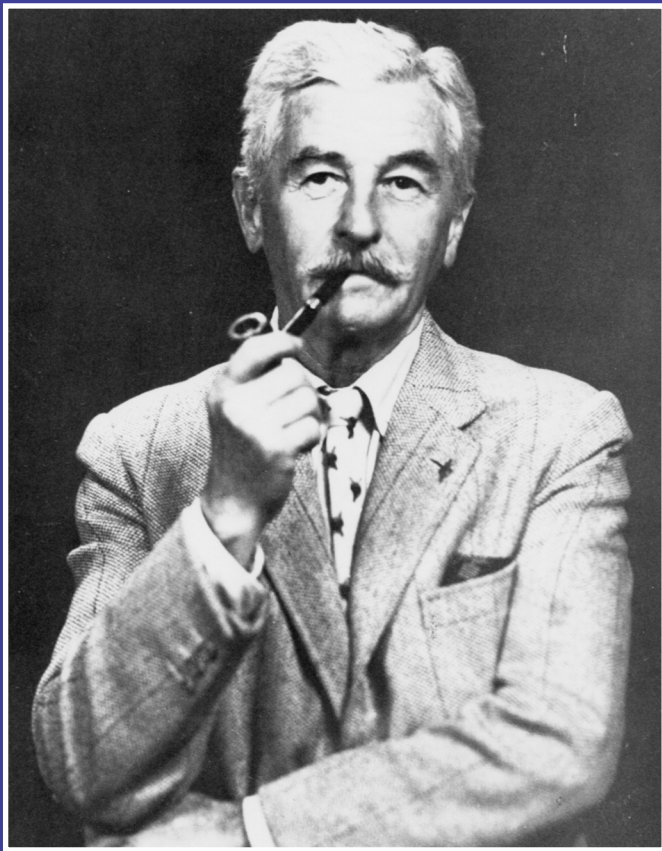


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MODERN  
AMERICAN  
LITERATURE

# William Faulkner, Gavin Stevens, and the Cavalier Tradition



Lorie Watkins Fulton

Many readers imagine Gavin Stevens as the character most similar to William Faulkner in all of his apocryphal Yoknapatawpha, and while Stevens was once considered the most reliable Faulknerian spokesperson, ample scholarship has demonstrated that he functions as far more than merely the author's mouthpiece. In *William Faulkner, Gavin Stevens, and the Cavalier Tradition*, Lorie Watkins Fulton defines Stevens's role and examines the scope of his influence. Fulton proposes that Faulkner uses similarities between himself and Stevens to voice, at a fictional remove, concerns about people of his own class and even of his own ancestry. Ultimately, she suggests that Stevens's manipulations of the law, his misunderstanding of human beings, and his rhetorically high-minded pursuit of "not so much truth as of justice, or of justice as he sees it" remove him ideologically only a degree or two away from the most terrifying dictators of the twentieth century.



**Lorie Watkins Fulton** received her Ph.D. from the University of Southern Mississippi and is Assistant Professor of English at William Carey University. She has published several essays about William Faulkner and is a former William Faulkner Society Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference student fellow.

William Faulkner,  
Gavin Stevens, and  
the Cavalier Tradition



Yoshinobu Hakutani  
*General Editor*

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Lorie Watkins Fulton

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FOR THE TEACHERS WHO HELPED ME  
FIND MY VOICE, FROM AUDREY TO NOEL





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# Abbreviations

The following abbreviations for William Faulkner's texts have been established by *The Faulkner Journal* and appear in parenthetical references:

CS	<i>Collected Stories of William Faulkner</i>
ESPL	<i>Essays, Speeches, and Public Letters</i>
FD	<i>Flags in the Dust</i>
FU	<i>Faulkner in the University: Class Conferences at the University of Virginia 1957-58</i>
GDM	<i>Go Down, Moses</i>
H	<i>The Hamlet</i>
ID	<i>Intruder in the Dust</i>
KG	<i>Knight's Gambit</i>
LA	<i>Light in August</i>
LG	<i>Lion in the Garden: Interviews with William Faulkner 1926-1962</i>
M	<i>The Mansion</i>
MAY	<i>Mayday</i>
R	<i>The Reivers</i>
RN	<i>Requiem for a Nun</i>
SL	<i>Selected Letters of William Faulkner</i>
T	<i>The Town</i>
US	<i>Uncollected Stories of William Faulkner</i>

