

Cambridge University Press

0521451140 - New Essays on *The Sound and the Fury*

Edited by Noel Polk

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury* met with only limited success when published in 1929, probably due to its fragmented, non-chronological structure. Since, however, it has become one of the most popular of Faulkner's novels serving as a litmus paper upon which critical approaches have tested themselves. In the introduction to this volume Noel Polk traces the critical responses to the novel from the time of its publication to the present day. The essays that follow present contemporary reassessments of *The Sound and the Fury* from a variety of critical perspectives. Dawn Trouard offers us the women of *The Sound and the Fury*, reading against the grain of the predominant critical tradition which sees the women through the lens of masculine cultural biases. Donald M. Kartiganer comes to terms with the ways in which the novel simultaneously attracts readers and resists readings. Richard Godden discusses the relationship between incest and miscegenation. Noel Polk examines closely the way Faulkner experiments with language.

Cambridge University Press

0521451140 - New Essays on The Sound and the Fury

Edited by Noel Polk

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

NEW ESSAYS ON THE SOUND AND THE FURY

Cambridge University Press

0521451140 - New Essays on The Sound and the Fury

Edited by Noel Polk

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

★ The American Novel ★

GENERAL EDITOR

Emory Elliott

University of California, Riverside

Other books in the series:

New Essays on The Scarlet Letter

New Essays on The Great Gatsby

New Essays on Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

New Essays on Moby-Dick

New Essays on Uncle Tom's Cabin

New Essays on The Red Badge of Courage

New Essays on The Sun Also Rises

New Essays on A Farewell to Arms

New Essays on The American

New Essays on The Portrait of a Lady

New Essays on Light in August

New Essays on The Awakening

New Essays on Invisible Man

New Essays on Native Son

New Essays on Their Eyes Were Watching God

New Essays on The Grapes of Wrath

New Essays on Winesburg, Ohio

New Essays on Sister Carrie

New Essays on The Rise of Silas Lapham

New Essays on The Catcher in the Rye

New Essays on White Noise

New Essays on The Crying of Lot 49

New Essays on Walden

New Essays on Poe's Major Tales

New Essays on Hawthorne's Major Tales

New Essays on Daisy Miller and The Turn of the Screw

New Essays on Rabbit, Run

Cambridge University Press

0521451140 - New Essays on The Sound and the Fury

Edited by Noel Polk

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

*New Essays on
The Sound and the Fury*

*Edited by
Noel Polk*



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 0521451140 - New Essays on The Sound and the Fury
 Edited by Noel Polk
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
 Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521451147

© Cambridge University Press 1993

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
 and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
 no reproduction of any part may take place without
 the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1993

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

New essays on The Sound and the fury / edited by Noel Polk.

p. cm. — (The American novel)

ISBN 0-521-45114-0. — ISBN 0-521-45734-3 (pbk.)

1. Faulkner, William, 1897–1962. Sound and the fury.

I. Polk, Noel. II. Series.

PS3511.A86S8 1993

813'.52 — dc20 93-568

ISBN-13 978-0-521-45114-7 hardback

ISBN-10 0-521-45114-0 hardback

ISBN-13 978-0-521-45734-7 paperback

ISBN-10 0-521-45734-3 paperback

Transferred to digital printing 2005

Contents

Series Editor's Preface
page vii

1
Introduction
NOEL POLK
page 1

2
Faulkner's Text Which Is Not One
DAWN TROUARD
page 23

3
"Now I Can Write":
Faulkner's Novel of Invention
DONALD M. KARTIGANER
page 71

4
Quentin Compson:
Tyrrenian Vase or Crucible of Race?
RICHARD GODDEN
page 99

Cambridge University Press

0521451140 - New Essays on The Sound and the Fury

Edited by Noel Polk

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

5

Trying Not to Say:
A Primer on the Language of
The Sound and the Fury

NOEL POLK

page 139

Notes on Contributors

page 177

Selected Bibliography

page 179

Cambridge University Press

0521451140 - New Essays on The Sound and the Fury

Edited by Noel Polk

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Series Editor's Preface

In literary criticism the last twenty-five years have been particularly fruitful. Since the rise of the New Criticism in the 1950s, which focused attention of critics and readers upon the text itself – apart from history, biography, and society – there has emerged a wide variety of critical methods which have brought to literary works a rich diversity of perspectives: social, historical, political, psychological, economic, ideological, and philosophical. While attention to the text itself, as taught by the New Critics, remains at the core of contemporary interpretation, the widely shared assumption that works of art generate many different kinds of interpretations has opened up possibilities for new readings and new meanings.

Before this critical revolution, many works of American literature had come to be taken for granted by earlier generations of readers as having an established set of recognized interpretations. There was a sense among many students that the canon was established and that the larger thematic and interpretative issues had been decided. The task of the new reader was to examine the ways in which elements such as structure, style, and imagery contributed to each novel's acknowledged purpose. But recent criticism has brought these old assumptions into question and has thereby generated a wide variety of original, and often quite surprising, interpretations of the classics, as well as of rediscovered works such as Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*, which has only recently entered the canon of works that scholars and critics study and that teachers assign their students.

The aim of The American Novel Series is to provide students of American literature and culture with introductory critical guides

Cambridge University Press

0521451140 - New Essays on The Sound and the Fury

Edited by Noel Polk

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Series Editor's Preface

to American novels and other important texts now widely read and studied. Usually devoted to a single work, each volume begins with an introduction by the volume editor, a distinguished authority on the text. The introduction presents details of the work's composition, publication history, and contemporary reception, as well as a survey of the major critical trends and readings from first publication to the present. This overview is followed by four or five original essays, specifically commissioned from senior scholars of established reputation and from outstanding younger critics. Each essay presents a distinct point of view, and together they constitute a forum of interpretative methods and of the best contemporary ideas on each text.

It is our hope that these volumes will convey the vitality of current critical work in American literature, generate new insights and excitement for students of American literature, and inspire new respect for and new perspectives upon these major literary texts.

Emory Elliott
University of California, Riverside