

Atop Monteagle Mountain at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, is the office of The Sewanee Review. Founded in 1892, the Sewanee Review (SR) has never missed an issue, distinguishing it as the oldest continuously published quarterly review in the United States. For its first half-century, the magazine existed as a general journal of the Humanities, featuring articles on literature, art, politics, and the South. In the early 1940s its focus became purely literary, and the SR now regularly publishes superb essays, literary criticism, fiction, poetry and, of course, reviews of current books. This shift in tone was facilitated expressly by the editors of the time. Indeed, a great deal of the magazine's continued excellence has depended on its editors, without whom the SR would not have been able to solicit and select the excellent writers that have graced their pages during these past decades. For the last seventy-six years, the office of the SR has housed only five, with the most recent editor, George Core, beginning his run in 1973. Andrew Nelson Lytle, one of the South's more distinguished (and underappreciated) men of letters, edited the Sewanee Review twice in his career, once in 1942 to 44 and then again from 1961 to 1973. During his tenure as editor, Lytle helped to resurrect the magazine from academic stagnation, financial straits and a dwindling readership while presenting some of the twentieth century's finest critics, writers and poets.

Lytle's career prior to his position was certainly not what one might expect from an editor. He attended Vanderbilt University in the early 1920's, making connections with several members of the Agrarian movement, an assortment of influential professors and new writers collaborating under the banner of Southern idealism. He left Vanderbilt in 1927 after studying literature and history to attend the Yale School of Drama. Lytle's interests remained primarily Southern, however, and in 1930 he contributed his first major essay to the Agrarian symposium *I'll Take My Stand*, which also included pieces written by Allen Tate, Robert Penn Warren, Donald Davidson and John Crowe Ransom—Lytle's friends and teachers from Vanderbilt. Tate became acquainted with Lytle through Ransom. They first met in New York City, and over time developed a strong, almost kindred relationship, often referring to each other as "brother." Their relationship is carefully documented in *The Lytle-Tate Letters*, as edited by Thomas Daniel Young, which provides their selected correspondence from the 1920s through the late 1960s. After a short stint on the Broadway circuit, Lytle published his first book, *Bedford Forrest and his Critter Company*, a biography of the Confederate general, in 1931.