

Dear Douglas Brinkley,

File

To answer your questions:

1:

DB: You shipped out for the Pacific Theatre with a Texas unit. Did this influence your decision, in any way, to sell your archive to the University of Texas?

NM: In fact, I went overseas from a Ft. Bragg artillery training unit to Leyte, where I was assigned to the 112th Cavalry. They had been stripped of their horses, becoming, in effect, infantry. In that outfit, I learned a good bit about Texas and Texans so that may have been a factor in choosing the University of Texas. However, despite a few sentimental and cultural attachments to the state, the largest part of my decision grew out of the fact that the Ransome Center at the University of Texas has one of the finest, if not the finest, collections of American literary archives in the world.

2:

DB: How did you meet Dr. Michael Lennon? Why did you trust him with your papers?

NM: I've known Dr. Lennon at least thirty-five years now, and probably met him first through his literary scholarship. Over the years, we became good friends and he and Dr. Robert Lucid convinced me of the need for an archive. Lucid started the archive and Lennon then took it over. If it weren't for Mike Lennon and Bob Lucid, my papers would be moldering in cartons on a wet cellar floor.

3:

DB: Could you offer an illuminating anecdote about what it's like to part with your life's work? Some humor would be welcomed.

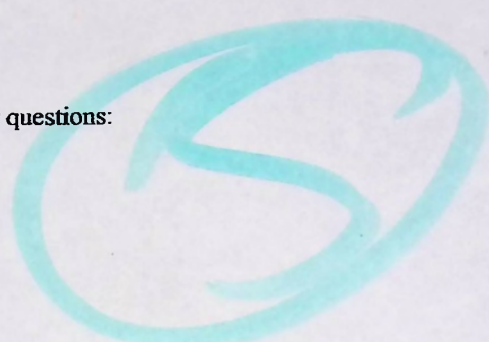
NM: I have nine children. It does remind one a bit of sending them off to college.

I hope Thompson's papers end up in Texas too.

①

Dear Douglas Brinkley,

To answer your questions:



1) In *Naked and the Dead*—and in real life—you shipped art for the Pacific Theatre with a Texas unit. Did this influence your decision, in any way, to sell your archive to the University of Texas?

In fact, I went overseas from a Ft. Bragg artillery unit to a Texas Cavalry Unit—the 112th Cavalry—that had lost its horses, becoming, in effect, artillery. In that outfit, I learned a good bit about Texas and Texans so that may have been a factor in choosing the University of Texas for my archive. However, despite a few

(2)

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2) How did you meet Dr. Michael Lennon? Why did you trust him with your papers?

I've known Dr. Lennon at least thirty-five years now, and probably met him first through his work, as he is one of the foremost Mailer scholars in the United States. Over the years, we became good friends and he and Dr. Robert Lucid convinced me of the need for an archive. Then Lennon became my archivist and created it. If it

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