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April 25, 1999

Dr. Henry P. Mills
Director
The Walker Percy Project
P.O. Box 3561
Austin, TX 78764

Dear Dr. Mills:

I am writing in support of the Walker Percy Project. I have observed the project's work on the internet and have studied your plans for the future. The project has enormous potential as a way to focus literary work on Walker Percy and, more broadly, to offer a model for bringing together technology and the humanities.

I am impressed with the promise of the Walker Percy Project. Plans for its future development suggest ways to use the internet in teaching at all levels. This will be a boon in making accessible literary materials in ways that teachers cannot now utilize them. The project directors are thinking concretely about ways to create a community around the study of Walker Percy. The great writers of the earlier Southern Literary Renaissance in the twentieth century were part of an extended network that represented a version of literary community. The Walker Percy Project will go beyond such earlier efforts and bring together an interdisciplinary coterie of scholars, writers, and students who will have access to research and teaching materials through the internet. The potential for deepening and broadening our understanding of Percy, within regional, national, and international realms, will be enormously improved.

I am pleased to support the work of the Walker Percy Project. The Center for the Study of Southern Culture hopes to work with project staff on possible collaborative programs, and we look forward to encouraging the work of this innovative endeavor.

Sincerely,

Charles Reagan Wilson
Director and Professor of History