

SHELBY DADE FOOTE

Shelby Foote has achieved noteworthy success both as a novelist and historian of the South. As early as his student days here from 1935 to 1937, he was described by one of his professors as "interesting and talented." In the years since, he has devoted his great abilities to his chosen task. His early career bore as its fruit a series of five highly professional novels, which drew freely upon the life of his native Mississippi.

In his efforts to understand the experience of his region he found himself digging ever more deeply into its history. In the middle 1950's he undertook a commitment to set down and interpret the military history of the War Between The States, and during the years that followed he has written a beautifully structured and widely praised three-volume account entitled The Civil War: A Narrative. The third volume was published last year.

In this massive work, Mr. Foote has brilliantly combined the techniques of the historian and the novelist; it was his goal, he said, to employ the historian's standards and the novelist's methods. His achievement has been hailed by professional historians and general readers alike, as an incisive and absorbing study of a crucial event in the history of the South and the nation.

With this award, the University recognizes Shelby Foote's pursuit of literary excellence over the last three decades and more.

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GORDON GRAY

Gordon Gray has distinguished himself in many ways, especially in the service of the state and the nation. Reared in Winston-Salem as scion of an eminent family, he could have chosen a life of easy comfort and convenience; he chose rather to strive for excellence and usefulness. He was elected Phi Beta Kappa here and was editor of the Law Journal at Yale.

Successful as a lawyer, he succeeded also as a publisher and operator of a radio station. In World War II he enlisted as a private; the man who was later a director of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company was content to pick up cigarette butts in "policing the area" along with other G.I.'s. By the end of the war he was a captain; three years later he was Secretary of the Army.

As President of the University of North Carolina from 1950 to 1955, Gordon Gray guided the institution through this difficult period of integration and rapid expansion. University-wide conferences facilitated the orderly growth of the system. He brought educational television to the state and he established Alumni Annual Giving and foundation programs which have brought greatly needed resources to the University.

Since leaving Chapel Hill he has exhibited a sustained interest in the University even as he has served in important national offices, as chairman of the board or director of important business corporations, as chairman of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and as trustee of the Corcoran Art Gallery and the Brookings Institution.

The University presented Gordon Gray with an honorary degree in 1949 and now takes great pleasure in conferring on an outstanding alumnus this further award.

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FRANK BORDEN HANES

Frank Borden Hanes is a poet, novelist, civic leader, sportsman, businessman, and patron of education and the arts. A native of Forsyth County, Mr. Hanes was graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1942.

After service in the Pacific as a naval officer in World War II, he returned to Winston-Salem, where he first became a journalist. During the years that followed, he wrote three successful books; managed the extensive business interests of his family; and gave both impetus and leadership to the civic and cultural development of his city and state.

In 1951 his verse-novel Abel Anders won for him the Roanoke-Chowan Poetry Award of the North Carolina Literary and Historical Society, which elected him its president in 1972.

Mr. Hanes' devotion to this University has never flagged. He has given generously of his time and substance to the establishment of endowed professorships, the enrichment of the University Library, and to the vitality of the University of North Carolina Press.

He is presently a trustee of the John Motley Morehead Foundation, and a member of the Chancellor's ^{Order of the} Tar Heel ~~Committee~~ of One Hundred. Last year, on University Day, Mr. Hanes followed a tradition of his family by presenting to the Wilson Library its two millionth volume. This year, his Alma Mater is pleased to reverse those roles, and to confer upon Frank Borden Hanes its Distinguished Alumnus Award.

#6423

1975 D.A.A



GUION GRIFFIS JOHNSON

Guion Griffis Johnson is a noted social historian and a dedicated and influential civic and social leader. She attended Mary-Hardin Baylor College and the University of Missouri before coming to this University for her Ph.D.

She has participated in the life of this University in research, teaching, and many other ways. One of her books, Ante-Bellum North Carolina: A Social History, has been termed a classic in its field. She contributed a significant segment to the Carnegie Foundation-Gunnar Myrdal Study of the American Negro. She has published a long list of other important books and professional articles.

Dr. Johnson has generously shared her knowledge and even her notes with budding scholars. John Hope Franklin, the distinguished black historian, has written that without her assistance he would have found it immeasurably difficult to complete his doctoral dissertation.

She has been active in many state and national civic, social and church organizations, often as president or member of the board. She has served on the state Youth Advisory Board, and the Lieutenant Governor writes that she has done more than any single adult to develop the State Youth Council. A student who served with her on the Youth Advisory Board put into words what many persons have felt: "She simply shines with people."

Dr. Johnson's energetic support for groups concerned with the position and status of women has brought her several distinguished service awards. This University delights to present a distinguished alumna this Award for her significant contributions in many areas.

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GUY BENTON JOHNSON

Guy Benton Johnson, Kenan Professor Emeritus of Sociology at this institution and a scholar of note, has also served as an outstanding leader in human relations. He attended Baylor University and the University of Chicago before coming to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for his doctorate.

Like the late Rupert B. Vance he was drawn to this campus by the work of Howard Odum. This trio of professors, Odum, Vance, and Johnson, have provided an enduring and dynamic scholarly atmosphere in the Department of Sociology which has made it a focus for research of national significance.

Professor Johnson's several books and numerous articles have fortified the scholarly quality and the intellectual vitality of the Department. His quiet and reasoned but persistent and effective leadership in other ways may have been even more important.

He served in Atlanta as the first Executive Director of the Southern Regional Council in 1944-1947. There, as Gordon Blackwell has said, he showed that he was "not afraid to stand on the firing line of race relations in the South during the 1940's." Later, as the nation became more aware of the need for improved race relations, Professor Johnson continued to provide wise leadership that earned the respect of black leaders and deserves the praise of all.

Professor Johnson's work has brought him recognition, including the presidency of the Southern Sociological Society. With this award the University applauds the long list of achievements which mark the rich career of Guy B. Johnson.

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