

ARCHIE RANDOLPH AMMONS

Archie Randolph Ammons has written an abundance of poetry—native, original, intelligent, and humane—that is much admired and often honored. Born in Whiteville, North Carolina, he was graduated from Wake Forest University and given further training at the University of California at Berkeley. After a period of work as principal of an elementary school in Hatteras and, later, as a business executive, he joined the faculty of Cornell University, where he is now Professor of English. Through all this time, in nine books, he has devoted himself to poems of every kind: some are very long, some very short; some possess the formal dignity of systematic philosophy, others the charm and wit of vernacular story-telling. The National Book Award, presented to him this spring for his *Collected Poems: 1951-1971*, confirms his stature as one of the leading poets of the English language today. The University of North Carolina is pleased to award this distinguished native of North Carolina the degree, Doctor of Letters.