

CHARLES PHILLIPS RUSSELL

Charles Phillips Russell is Professor Emeritus of the School of Journalism here at the University. Born in Rockingham, he attended this University. Here he edited the Daily Tar Heel and the Carolina Magazine; and he was inducted into the Order of the Golden Fleece. After graduation he turned to newspaper work, writing for the Charlotte Observer and for other newspapers in New York, Philadelphia, and London. He returned to his alma mater in 1931 to teach creative writing and journalism. He was himself a prolific writer. Among his books which won acclaim are biographies of Benjamin Franklin, John Paul Jones, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Thomas Jefferson. A 1949 volume, The Woman Who Rang the Bell, the story of the life of Cornelia Phillips Spencer, won the North Carolina Mayflower Award. In 1968 he received the North Carolina Award in Literature. "With a mind as bristly as his famous eyebrows," wrote Walter Spearman, "he kindled and fanned the creative spark in his students." A list of these students emphasizes the quality of his instruction. Those who have become successful writers include William D. Snider, editor of the Greensboro Daily News, the late novelist Robert Ruark, and Clifton Daniel and Tom Wicker of The New York Times. In recognition of Professor Russell's long career as an inspiring teacher and a creative writer his University is honored to award him the degree, Doctor of Letters.