

JOSEPH GREGOIRE de ROULHAC HAMILTON, beloved member of this Faculty and now Kenan Professor of History and Political Science Emeritus, has given fifty years to the task of collecting, recording, and interpreting the past. Born in 1878 in Hillsboro, and educated at the University of the South and Columbia University, where he earned the Ph.D. degree in 1906, Dr. Hamilton became in that year Associate Professor of History in this University. In 1920 he was made Kenan Professor and Director of the Southern Historical Collection, to which he devoted his superb talents, building up through the years a collection, which in the words of one librarian, will be honored and used "so long as ... there is meaning in the past" and "pride in men and motives and memories." Though retired in 1948, he continues active to this moment. His achievements as author and editor include over one hundred articles, fourteen books and monographs, and editions of the works of five important figures in the history of North Carolina. He holds an honorary membership in Phi Beta Kappa, the Distinguished Alumni Medal from Columbia University, and two honorary degrees.

Leader in Southern historical studies, he was the moving spirit which guided the Department of History in its advancement to a position of national prominence. Hundreds of graduate students, fired by his boundless enthusiasm, magnetic personality, and tireless capacity for work, have gone out from these halls to carry on the tasks of historical scholarship learned under his inspiring guidance. By men's works are they known, and whether one turns to those works in print, which fill a sizeable shelf in the Library, to those living works, the grateful students who are the products of his skilful teaching, or to the enduring monument represented by the more than two million priceless items constituting the Southern Historical Collection, the works of Joseph Gregoire de Roulhac Hamilton all proclaim the man to be one of that glorious company of scholars and teachers who gave to the University of North Carolina its great reputation as a center of learning.

It is therefore altogether fitting that now, in the sunset of his life, his grateful and admiring colleagues pay tribute to his notable accomplishments by awarding him the degree of Doctor of Laws.