THOMAS JAMES WILSON, one of Chapel Hill's own, was born in this village in 1902,
the son of a long-time faculty member and University Registrar, Thomas J. Wilson,
Jr., and Lorena Frank Pickard. He received an A.B. from the University in 1921,
an A.M. in 1924 and the D. Phil. from Oxford University, England, in 1928 as a
climax of his career as a Rhodes Scholar. He served as an instructor and
assistant professor in this University before going with Henry Holt in 1930 to
remain in commercial publishing until he was commissioned a lieutenant in the
Navy in 1942. After distinguished service in the Pacific Theater of Operations
on the USS Enterprise, he was discharged with the rank of Commander in 1945. In
1946 he became Director of the University of North Carolina Press; in 1947 he was
appointed Director of the Harvard University Press, a post he presently holds.
He served as president of the Association of American University Presses, 1951-
1953. In 1962 he was appointed by Secretary of State Dean Rusk to serve with
other eminent Americans on the Government Advisory Committee on International
Book Programs. Under his direction the Harvard University Press has not only
increased its volume of titles but has initiated such large ventures as the
publication of the papers of the Adams family and the John Harvard Library; the
real achievement lies in the fact that he has accomplished this extraordinary
expansion while maintaining the strictest scholarly standards and while showing
by precept and example that university presses should never lose sight of the
fact that communication between scholars is their chief reason for being. It is
singularly appropriate in this year in which the Press of the Nation's oldest
university is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary that a son of the Nation's
oldest state university who has contributed so much to the present status of the
Harvard University Press should be honored by his Alma Mater with this degree of
Doctor of Letters.

University of North Carolina
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