

THE THOMAS JEFFERSON AWARD

The Thomas Jefferson Award was established in 1961 by the Robert Earll McConnell Foundation and is presented to "that member of the academic community who through personal influence and performance of duty in teaching, writing, and scholarship has best exemplified the ideals and objectives of Thomas Jefferson."

1981 Recipient

RICHARD HARTER FOGLE

University Distinguished Professor of English

What Richard Harter Fogle brought to Chapel Hill as University Distinguished Professor in 1966 was academically awesome. Educated at Hamilton College, Columbia, and the University of Michigan, he had taught at Tulane University for twenty years and had been chairman of its English Department for fourteen. He had held visiting professorships at Chapel Hill, Michigan State, Illinois, Harvard, and the University of Hawaii. Internationally renowned for his books on the imagery of Keats and Shelley, Coleridge's criticism, Melville's shorter tales, and Hawthorne's fiction, he had also contributed half a hundred articles to scholarly journals and books. In short, he came equipped with every professional credential a man could possess.

Within months after his arrival it became clear to students and colleagues that he was also deeply committed to teaching "high thought, and amiable words, and courtliness, and love of truth, and all that makes a man." To colleagues, he has been a cherished and respected confidante; to students, a sympathetic and trusted counsellor.

Since arriving in Chapel Hill, Richard Harter Fogle has served his Department and University with distinction. He has continued to publish books and articles; he has served on the Faculty Council, the Council of Alumni Giving, the UNC Press

Board of Governors, the editorial boards of American Literature and the Keats-Shelley Journal; he has conveyed his learning with power and grace.

Students and colleagues have acquired a relish for his humane and sprightly wit. To find a scholar who has published two highly regarded books on Hawthorne and is now working on a third represented in the Oxford Book of American Light Verse may be unexpected; to find him the author of these lines on the venerable Scarlet Letter may at first seem startling:

Wrote the clergy: "Our Dear Madame Prynne:
We keep mighty close watch upon sin:
And we think we had better
Proclaim by this Letter
Our sense of how Active you've been."

Hester's answer: "Dear Clergy, I say,
This is truly a Red Letter day!
I accept with elation
Your certification
That I've finally managed my A."

Those who know Richard Fogle the man are not surprised. His teaching, scholarship, service, and life have revealed daily those qualities that make the University proud to present him the Thomas Jefferson Award for 1981.

Presented at the April 24, 1981
Meeting of the General Faculty
and Faculty Council