

BEATRICE CUMMINGS MAYER

One of those rare individuals whose lives embrace many diverse spheres, Beatrice Cummings Mayer has been actively committed to the causes of social justice, to the vitality of the arts, to the responsibilities of business, and, not least, to her alma mater in Chapel Hill. Far from competing with each other, these interests have resonated in a harmony of graceful service and care.

A native of Canada, she attended Mount Saint Agnes College in Baltimore, where she took an Associate in Arts degree, followed two years later by a B.A. in Chemistry from this University. Her years in North Carolina must have ripened her love for her adopted country, for a year after leaving here she became a naturalized citizen. She went on to do graduate work in the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago. In the 1960s she was an active participant in the Civil Rights movement in Mississippi. Since 1947, she has served on the Board of Directors of the Sara Lee Corporation, and, more recently, she has been the chair of the Nathan Cummings Foundation in New York.

Museums of art have been a life-long interest. According to her vision, such museums should be active centers for education and art forms other than the plastic and visual ones. A Life Trustee of the Art Institute of Chicago and a trustee and former Senior Vice President of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, she has been a Director of the Spoleto Festival in Charleston since 1980 and a member of various boards connected with Kenyon College, Brandeis University, the University of Chicago, North Carolina School of the Arts, and other institutions of higher learning. A special loyalty to the Ackland collection on this campus was recently marked by her sponsorship of a symposium celebrating the reopening of the museum. She was also a patron of a recent Honors Symposium in the College of Arts and Sciences.

For her years of humanitarian service and social engagement, we warmly salute Beatrice Cummings Mayer with this Distinguished Alumna Award.

GAILLARD FITZSIMONS RAVENEL II

Those of us who journeyed to the National Gallery of Art to see the Treasures of Tutankhamun (more commonly known as the King Tut exhibit) will not have forgotten its stunning impact. That exhibition, as well as more than 200 others dating from 1971, was designed and installed by Gaillard Ravenel. Countless museum visitors will remember such other shows as the Exhibition of Archaeological Finds from the People's Republic of China (1974); the Splendour of Dresden: Five Centuries of Art Collecting (1978); El Greco of Toledo: An International Exhibition (1982); The Treasure Houses of Britain: Five Hundred Years of Patronage and Art Collecting (1985); and, opening on this very day, Circa 1492: Art in the Age of Exploration. As Senior Curator and Chief of the Department of Design and Installation at the National Gallery, he creates a museum within a museum -- becoming thoroughly familiar with the contents of an exhibition and creating its setting. He oversees all aspects of design and installation -- architecture, color, lighting, graphics, period settings, and placement of the works of art. Writing about The Treasure Houses of Britain exhibition, John Russell, art critic of The New York Times, singled out Gaillard Ravenel for his "skill, a delicacy and power of suggestion that are truly extraordinary."

A graduate of Duke University, he took his M.A. in Art History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1969. He then entered on a year of study at the Universities of Perugia and Florence. He was already known for his precocity while a student in Chapel Hill, and was named Curator of Prints at the Ackland Art Museum. During those years he energetically assembled fourteen exhibitions of prints and other works of art.

In recognition of his status as the preeminent designer of art exhibitions in the United States today, we are pleased to acknowledge Gaillard Ravenel's unique contribution to the arts by conferring upon him a Distinguished Alumnus Award.

KENNETH CLAIBORNE ROYALL, JR.

In 1988, Kenneth C. Royall, Jr. was recognized by the North Carolina Center for Public Policy for the sixth consecutive time as the most effective member of the Senate in the North Carolina General Assembly. Now in his tenth term in the Senate, following three terms in the House of Representatives, he is Dean of the Senate. He has made it his personal policy to decline offers of campaign contributions in each of his bids for election and reelection. He served ten years as Senate Majority Leader and has chaired nine different committees of the Senate, including the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Mental Health Study Committee, and the U.N.C. Board of Governors Selection Committee. In the most recent session he was Deputy President Pro Tempore and chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Working indefatigably in the General Assembly to secure proper treatment and care of the mentally ill, he has been singled out for his services by awards from the North Carolina Society for Autistic Adults and Children, the North Carolina Alliance for the Mentally Ill, the North Carolina Mental Health Centers Association, and the National Association of Mental Health. In 1990, he was awarded the American Psychiatric Association Jacob K. Javits Public Service Award for his contributions of service to the mentally ill. North Carolina public education of the highest quality has been another tireless commitment in his public office. He played an influential role in the creation of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham.

A native of Duplin County, Senator Royall graduated from this University in 1940. He attended law school at the University of Virginia and Wake Forest University and later served in World War II as a major in the Marine Corps. For combat duty in the South Pacific he was awarded the Bronze Star. Prior to his retirement in order to give full time to public service, he was a retail furniture store owner.

He has already been recognized by his alma mater and by other distinguished institutions. In 1985, he received the Distinguished Service Medal of the U.N.C. General Alumni Association, having served that Association as director from 1973 to 1975. Distinguished Service Awards were conferred by the U.N.C. Schools of Medicine in 1982 and Dentistry in 1986. Honorary doctorates of law have been conferred by North Carolina Central University and Duke University.

The impressive array of Kenneth Royall's citations and awards confirms his status as an effective legislator, a compassionate laborer for the disadvantaged, and a gifted and wise public servant. His energetic dedication to the people of North Carolina over many years marks him as a worthy recipient of this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

VERMONT ROYSTER

A year following his graduation from U.N.C. in 1935, and in the depths of the Depression, the young Vermont Royster walked by a newsstand in New York City, spotted a copy of The Wall Street Journal, and, disappointed in his various other employments in the city, resolved to seek out the newspaper's offices and ask for a job. As described in his autobiography, My Own, My Country's Time, he located the building, took the elevator to the third floor, and stepped into the office of the boss. "What can you do?" the boss asked. "Well, if you give me a broom I'll sweep up the office," he replied. Instead he was given a job monitoring ticker news services to banks and brokerage houses for \$15 a week. From that fragile beginning, he went on to serve as reporter, Washington Bureau chief, editorial writer, columnist, editor, and senior editor before his retirement from the editorial staff of The Wall Street Journal in 1971. In one especially memorable editorial, he endorsed the 1954 Supreme Court decision banning the segregation of public schools, Brown vs. Board of Education, calling the decision an "inevitable one." Covering the administrations of Roosevelt through Reagan, he collected his first Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing in 1953 and another in 1984 for his column called "Thinking Things Over." For distinguished journalism, he was also awarded the William Allen White Award by the University of Kansas, the Loeb Award for economic writing by the University of California at Los Angeles, and the Fourth Estate Award by the National Press Club. He is a charter member of the North Carolina Journalism Hall of Fame.

His career as a journalist actually began with The Daily Tar Heel during his undergraduate years when he learned to run a Linotype, cover local news stories, and serve as music critic and editorial writer. "It was particularly intoxicating," he recalls in his autobiography, "to have carte blanche to lay into Dr. Frank and the University administration, which I did with gusto." The gusto of his pen and the carte-blanche freedom to cover a wide range of issues continued to mark each stage of his subsequent career as a journalist.

Born and reared in Raleigh, he was instructed in Latin from his earliest years by his father, a professor of Greek and Latin. A classics major at U.N.C., he took his Phi Beta Kappa key during his junior year. During World War II he interrupted his journalism career to join the Navy as an ensign and by the end of the war was commanding officer of the USS Jack Miller, a destroyer in the Pacific, before returning to his Washington beat. Recalled to this campus in 1959 to receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree, he also served as president of the General Alumni Association in 1966. He returned to the campus in 1971 as William Rand Kenan Professor of Journalism and Public Affairs. Here he applied in the classroom his well-honed gifts for incisive expression and trenchant wit. He retired from the University in 1983. Besides his autobiography, he is the author of two other books, Journey Through the Soviet Union and A Pride of Prejudices. In 1986 he was accorded the high honor of a Presidential Medal of Freedom.

To one who has demonstrated through almost six decades a fearless and eloquent devotion to the highest traditions of a free press, we take pride in conferring this Distinguished Alumnus Award.