

ALBERT COATES

Albert Coates is usually thought of as the founder and first director of our Institute of Government. He has been associated with this University almost continuously from student days; the number of years in which he greatly influenced the direction and character of this institution is nearly as many. He has been described as "an authentic genius with matchless words upon his tongue, peerless magic in his pen, lofty ideals in his heart and iron purpose in his soul." That "iron purpose" ought perhaps to be emphasized above the Institute he founded, for he has been a man with a mission: to increase the effectiveness of government and to improve the quality of personnel in government at all levels in this state and so far as possible in the nation. The degree to which he succeeded in his mission is what impresses us about Albert Coates. His achievements have been noted in the honors that have come to him: the O. Max Gardner Award, the North Carolina Award, the Di-Phi Award, and the Parker Award of the North Carolina Bar Association. A few years ago he wrote a book, What the University of North Carolina Meant to Me. This award emphasizes what Albert Coates means to the University of North Carolina, as well as to the state and to the nation.