

EUDORA WELTY

Eudora Welty is one of the recognized masters of twentieth century literature, whose works have attracted critical attention from an ever-widening reading audience. As the years have progressed, there has come the increasing realization that in profundity of insight into the human experience there are none who surpass and few who approximate her achievement.

Born in Mississippi, she was educated there at the State College for Women and at the University of Wisconsin. Her first collection of short stories, A Curtain of Green, published thirty-five years ago, marked her even then as a writer of distinction. Since, she has published several other collections and four novels. These works have been exceptionally well received, have enjoyed wide popularity, and have firmly established her national and international renown. Her last novel, The Optimist's Daughter, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1973. Her books are kept in print as the demand for them grows.

Miss Welty represents the very best in the Southern--and therefore American--imagination. The University honors her today for her lofty literary achievements with this degree.

(awarded Litt.D. at May 9, 1976, Commencement)