

WILLIAM ASBURY WHITAKER, scientist, educator, business executive, book collector, and library benefactor, is a native of North Carolina and an alumnus of this University, where he received the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy in 1904. Major in Chemistry, and holder of the M.A. degree from Columbia University, he pursued further graduate study at the University of Chicago. As a teacher of science for twelve years, he rose from Assistant in Chemistry at UNC to Instructor at City College of New York, to Professor of Metallurgy at the University of Kansas. Author and editor of numerous scientific articles, bulletins and publications; pioneer member of the American Association of University Professors, associate member of the U. S. Naval Consulting Board; leader in the alumni activities of this University; representative in Europe and Asia of an importing and exporting firm; director of several corporations in New York in the 1920's and partner-manager of the uptown office of a well-known investment and stock exchange firm, he retired in 1940 to nurture his increasing personal interests in colonial history, literature, art and archaeology.

Collector par excellence of books of distinctive merit in the fields of these and other interests, he has been a continuing donor to the University of North Carolina Library since 1947, when he systematically began to send almost weekly shipments of carefully selected scarce books in choice condition to strengthen the scholarly resources of the Library. He is the founder of seven distinguished collections relating to Samuel Johnson, James Boswell and Their Friends; Charles Dickens, First Editions and Other Dickensiana; The Illustrations of George Cruikshank; The Original Folios of Shakespeare's Plays; Costume Plates in Color; Books relating to William Makepeace Thackeray; First Editions of One Hundred Books Famous in English Literature.

Honoring his parents, whose four sons attended this University, he has recently established the "William A. Whitaker, Sr. and Anna B. Whitaker ~~Memor~~ Joan Fund."

In recognition of his business and professional achievements and of his generous benefactions for the advancement of scholarship, his Alma Mater is proud to confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws.