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# Yale Gives Degrees as 7,500 Watch 11 Are Honored At 254th Exercise

By Francis Sugrue

NEW HAVEN, June 13.—Yale University gave degrees to 2,029 men and women today when it held its 254th commencement exercises before 7,500 witnesses under a blue sky on the Old Campus.

The ninety-minute graduation ceremony, with an academic procession, the singing of hymns and the awarding of degrees, was composed of equal parts of tradition, sentiment and the general feeling of a reward well earned. As is customary, no commencement address was delivered.

The main theme seemed to be focused on the smiles of the participants; the composed and friendly smiles of the Yale deans, officers and trustees looking on from under the blue-canopied platform, and the smiles of accomplishment worn by the candidates for degrees.

## 11 Honorary Degrees

Dr. A. Whitney Griswold, president of Yale, read the citations when ten men and one woman were called to receive honorary degrees.

Each citation gave a touchstone in words to describe why Yale had decided to honor the recipient.

When Secretary of the Treasury George S. Humphrey came forward, Dr. Griswold declared, "Trained in law, seasoned in industry, you left the security of private life for the ardors of public responsibility in one of the nation's highest offices. We recognize in you a man worthy of that office."

Wallace Stevens, a poet who won the Bollingen Prize in poetry in 1949 and is a vice-president of the Hartford Accident and Indemnity Co., was told that "in you the two worlds of practical affairs and art have found a perfect marriage."

In the citation for Albert Buckner Coe, moderator of the General Council, Congregational Christian Churches of the United States of America, a sentence read: "You have reflected the integrity of the prophets."



Herald Tribune photos by Joe Engels

Recipients of honorary degrees at Yale University with Dr. A. Whitney Griswold, president of the university. In front (left to right) are Mrs. Winifred Sturley, Lawrence H. Gibson; Treasury Secretary George M. Humphrey; Dr. Griswold, Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, Douglas S. Moore and Detlev W. Bronk. In the rear (left to right) are John H. Benson, Albert B. Coe, Wallace Stevens, Vincent du Vigneaud and William E. Hall.

## Gen. Smith Honored

There was loud applause when Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, former Under Secretary of State, stood before Dr. Griswold, who said, "You have performed with distinction difficult and thankless roles of the greatest consequence to the security of the nation, and the preservation of its way of life."

Yale was able to put its words to music in the case of Douglas Stuart Moore, composer and chairman of the Department of Music at Columbia University. "Your music springs naturally from our soil, and you have given wings of melody to the legends of our people," his citation read, and as a part of the commencement program the Yale University band played "Passacaglia," one of Mr. Moore's compositions.

The procession began shortly after 10 a. m. from Cross Campus, with Professor Frederick W. Hilles, corporation marshal, leading the way, followed by Professor Frederic W. Keator, chief marshal, who carried the university mace, which is made of silver covered with gold and weighs twenty-four pounds. This

is a symbol of the Yale president's authority.

Leading the line of the eleven who received honorary degrees was Secretary Humphrey, who was escorted by the Right Rev. Henry Knox Sherrill, presiding bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church and a senior fellow of the university. Next came Gen. Smith, accompanied by Dean Acheson, a fellow of Yale University.

The procession moved down Elm St. to the New Haven Green, where everyone walked once around the Center Church in commemoration of the early Yale commencements that were held in it.

When the long line of cap and gowns crossed College St. and entered the Old Campus through Phelps Gateway, the bells in Harkness Tower began to toll, which is customary on this occasion.

But a new note was added this year. Four trumpet players from Yale band were also in the tower, and they greeted the procession with Gabrieli's "Cantona."

## The Honorary Degrees

The recipients of honorary degrees were:

JOHN HOWARD BENSON, artist, Newport, R. I. Sculptor, calligrapher, and teacher. Master of Arts.

MRS. WINIFRED STURLEY, principal of the Foote School, New Haven, Conn. Master of Arts.

WILLIAM EDWIN HALL, (Yale Class of 1900, Sheffield Scientific School), former president of the Boys' Clubs of America. Master of Arts.

LAWRENCE HENRY GIPSON, (Ph.D. from Yale, 1918), research professor of history emeritus, Lehigh University. Doctor of Humane Letters.

WALLACE STEVENS, poet, Hartford, Conn. Businessman and poet. Doctor of Letters.

VINCENT DU VIGNEAUD, professor of biochemistry, Cornell University, Cornell University Medical College. Doctor of Science.

DETLEV WULF BRONK, president, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research and president, National Academy of Science. Doctor of Science.

ALBERT BUCKNER COE, (Bachelor of Divinity from Yale, 1922), moderator of the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches of the United States of America. Doctor of Divinity.

DOUGLAS STUART MOORE, (Bachelor of Arts, 1915, and Bachelor of Music, 1917, from Yale), composer, chairman of the Department of Music, Columbia University. Doctor of Music.

WALTER BEDELL SMITH, general United States Army, former Under Secretary of State and Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Doctor of Laws.

GEORGE MAGOFFIN HUMPHREY, Secretary of the Treasury. Doctor of Laws.