

JOHN EDWARD SAWYER, scholar, educational administrator, respected guider of the fortunes of the Pentagonal Colleges. A Yankee born and bred, graduate of Williams College and Harvard University, he began his academic career as a promising economic historian at Harvard and at Yale. In 1961, he accepted the presidency of Williams College, thus beginning one of the most spectacularly successful college presidencies the Northeast has ever known. College presidents, as we know, are notorious for saying such things to each other at commencements, but the achievements of his years are truly legion, including the development of a residential program that has increased faculty-student relations, the bringing of coeducation to Williamstown, the construction of imaginative contemporary architecture, the development of a major environmental center focusing on the problems and opportunities for Berkshire County, all accompanied by a staggering increase in the financial endowment of the college. A man who pays infinite attention to detail, his shrewd and honest New England approach has made a living reality out of his assertion that the small liberal arts college is viable. As the senior president of the Pentagonal Colleges in recent years, he has provided quiet, firm, and inspired leadership to that group, and the ties between those colleges have grown more firm and certain in his hands. One of the pioneers of the Twelve-College Exchange and of the New England Small College Athletic Conference, he has understood well what the New England colleges can do in concert and what high standards they must maintain in unison. Retiring this year as President of Williams College, he leaves a goodly inheritance to his successor, and completes a presidency that will be difficult to match.

Honoris Causa, DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS