

EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY

Edna St. Vincent Millay, distinguished daughter of the State of Maine, and eminent graduate of our sister College to the South: Russell Sage College has chosen to honor you this morning because it believes that in the years to come your literary achievements will be treasured as an essential and important part of the literary heritage of our nation.

Free, vital, winsome, self-reliant poet that you are, you have taken over, with a supreme artistry that is all your own, the English sonnet and have made of it an effective means of composing with precise and measured beauty the songs that the souls of us all have longed to sing. And in so doing you have shown us anew the beauty in truth and the truth in beauty.

Blending, as you have, the daintiness of Queen Anne's lace with the rugged strength of the sturdy oak, the heights of ecstasy with the valleys of despair, the solemnity of death and war with the levity of figs and thistles, you have written imperishable verse which will remain everlasting proof of the fallacy that true art can never be popular.

Posterity would rebuke us if we did not include you in our list of notable twentieth-century women upon whom we confer our highest academic honors.

By the authority vested in me as President of Russell Sage College, I now confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Letters, with all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto, in token of which I now present you with this diploma, cause the appropriate hood to be placed upon your shoulders, and ask that your name be inscribed upon the list of honorary alumnae of Russell Sage College.

June 5, 1933.