

John Hope Franklin

President

American Historical Association

1979



John Hope Franklin, president of the American Historical Association, is the John Matthews Manly Distinguished Service Professor of History at the University of Chicago. He was born in 1915 in Rentiesville, Oklahoma, and attended the public schools of Tulsa. In 1935 he received the Bachelor of Arts degree in history, magna cum laude, from Fisk University. He continued his education at Harvard University, where he received the MA and PhD degrees in 1936 and 1941 respectively. While at Harvard he held the Edward Austin Fellowship from the university and a fellowship from the Julius Rosenwald Fund. He has received postdoctoral research grants from the President's Fund of Brown University, the Social Science Research Council, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, and the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences.

Mr. Franklin has taught at Fisk University, St. Augustine's College, North Carolina College at Durham, and Howard University. In 1956 he became professor and chairman of the department of history at Brooklyn College. Since 1964 he has taught at the University of Chicago, where he served as history department chairman from 1967 to 1970. He was named John Matthews Manly Distinguished Service Professor in 1969. He has also served as visiting professor in several American universities, including Harvard University, the University of Wisconsin, Cornell University, the University of California at Berkeley, and the University of Hawaii.

Abroad he has served twice as professor at the Salzburg Seminar in American Studies in Austria as well as visiting lecturer at the Seminar in American Studies at Cambridge University in England where, in 1962-63, he was Pitt Professor of American History and Institutions. In 1960 he was Fulbright Professor at several Australian universities. He has lectured and participated in forums and discussion groups in many countries of Europe, Africa, and Asia. In 1957 he represented the American Council of Learned Societies at the centennial observances at the Universities of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay. Since then he has made several trips to India under the auspices of the Department of State, and in 1975 participated in a bicentennial lecture series at several Indian universities. In 1973 he was the Lincoln Lecturer for the Board of Foreign Scholarships in South America, the South Pacific, and East Asia.

His first book, *The Free Negro in North Carolina, 1790-1860*, was published in 1943. In 1947 he brought out *The Civil War Diary of James T. Ayers* and his well-known *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of Negro Americans*, the fifth edition of which appeared in 1979. In 1956 the Belknap Press of

Harvard University published his *The Militant South, 1800-1860*, which has been widely reviewed. In 1961 the Harvard University Press published his edition of Tourgee's *A Fool's Errand* in the John Harvard Library and in 1962 the Beacon Press published his edition of T. W. Higginson's *Army Life in a Black Regiment*. His *Reconstruction After the Civil War* was published in 1961 as part of the University of Chicago Series in American Civilization. In 1963, Doubleday published the American edition of his *Emancipation Proclamation*, while the Edinburgh University Press published a British edition. *Land of the Free*, which he wrote jointly with John Caughey and Ernest May, has been widely used as a text in junior high school courses in United States history. *The Negro in the Twentieth Century*, of which he was coeditor, was published in 1967. One of his most recent books, *A Southern Odyssey: Travelers in the Antebellum North*, published in 1976, won the Jules Landry Award from the Louisiana State University Press for the best manuscript submitted in 1975 in history, biography, or literature. In the same year his Jefferson Lecture was published by the University of Chicago Press under the title *Racial Equality in America*. Professor Franklin is general editor of the University of Chicago Press Series of Negro American Biographies and Autobiographies. He has contributed articles to leading journals in the United States and Europe and for twenty years served on the editorial board of the *Journal of Negro History*.

Professor Franklin has been an active member of many scholarly and professional associations. In 1967 he was president of the American Studies Association, in 1971 he was president of the Southern Historical Association, and in 1974 he was president of the Organization of American Historians. He has served twice on the Council of the American Historical Association — from 1959-62, during which term he was chairman of the Executive Committee for two years, and again from 1970-73. He was a foundation member of the Fisk University Chapter of the Society of Phi Beta Kappa and was president of the United Chapters from 1973 to 1976. He is now a member of the Senate of Phi Beta Kappa. In 1973 he was elected to membership in the American Philosophical Society.

Professor Franklin's civic and public services now and in the past are extensive. For seven years he served on the Board of Foreign Scholarships, and was chairman from 1966 to 1969. He has been a member of the boards of directors of the American Council of Learned Societies, National Education Television, the Salzburg Seminar in American Studies, and the Chicago Public Library. He currently serves on the board of trustees of Fisk University and is a member of the boards of the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago and of the Orchestral Association of Chicago.



Mr. Franklin's accomplishments have been recognized with numerous honors and special appointments. In 1974 he was selected by the faculty of the University of Chicago to be the first Nora and Edward Ryerson Lecturer. In 1976 he was selected by the National Endowment for the Humanities as the fifth Jefferson Lecturer in the Humanities and delivered lectures in three cities. He was also appointed by President Ford in the same year to the National Council on the Humanities, from which he resigned in 1979 when President Carter appointed him to the Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy. He recently visited the People's Republic of China at the invitation of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

In 1978, the year he was elected to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, he was also one of eight Americans cited by *Who's Who in America* for significant contributions to society. He has been the recipient of honorary degrees from a large number of colleges and universities. In March 1979 he was honored by the creation of the John Hope Franklin Professorship in History at Fisk University.



## Honorary Degrees

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| Arizona State University                  | Michigan State University              |
| Bard College                              | University of Michigan                 |
| Boston College                            | Morehouse College                      |
| Brooklyn College                          | Morgan State College                   |
| Brown University                          | College of New Rochelle                |
| Cambridge University                      | University of the State of<br>New York |
| Carnegie-Mellon University                | Northern Michigan University           |
| Catholic University of America            | Northwestern University                |
| Columbia University                       | University of Notre Dame               |
| Dickinson College                         | Princeton University                   |
| Dillard University                        | Rhode Island College                   |
| Drake University                          | Roosevelt University                   |
| Fisk University                           | Seattle University                     |
| Governors State University                | Johnson C. Smith University            |
| Grand Valley College                      | Temple University                      |
| Hamline University                        | University of Toledo                   |
| Howard University                         | Tougaloo College                       |
| University of Illinois,<br>Chicago Circle | Trinity College                        |
| Kalamazoo College                         | Tulane University                      |
| Lake Forest College                       | University of Tulsa                    |
| Lincoln College                           | Tuskegee Institute                     |
| Lincoln University                        | Union College                          |
| Long Island University                    | University of Utah                     |
| Loyola University                         | Virginia State College                 |
| Marquette University                      | Washington University                  |
| University of Maryland                    | Wayne State University                 |
| University of Massachusetts               | Whittier College                       |
| Miami University                          | Wilmington College                     |
|   | Yale University                        |

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### II

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