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MARGARET MEAD

Specialist in primitive education and cultural mechanisms of character formation, artist in the making of delicious corn fritters with crocodile eggs, petite femme.

Illustrious daughter of Pennsylvania. Recipient of three degrees earned in course from Columbia University, including the doctorate in philosophy won at the age of twenty-eight.

Taught by her grandmother to take notes on the behavior of younger children before she was eight, inspired during her senior year in college by Dr. Franz Boas and Dr. Ruth Benedict when she took their course in anthropology, she has become recognized as the world's leading woman ethnologist.

For over a quarter of a century, this oldest child of a father who was a university professor of economics and a mother who was a sociologist, has dedicated her life to the study of primitive peoples. As a result of her extended studies of these groups of peoples living in their primitive cultures untouched — or almost so — by modern civilization, and being wholly committed as she is to the belief that greater knowledge means greater freedom, she sincerely holds that the obligation of the social scientist is not only to spread knowledge but it is his responsibility to do so with respect and consideration for those who are taught. As she penetratingly states: "knowing that society is the patient, knowledge should be spread in a way which does not manipulate and coerce people into knowing and acting, but which can be slowly integrated into their awareness and thus may improve the functioning of democracy."

International President of the Mental Health Association and Associate Curator of the American Museum of Natural History, she has done the seemingly impossible in writing scholarly and authoritative books on anthropology that yet have been popular best sellers.

In recognition of her many distinguished achievements in the fields of science and literature, I present to you, Mr. President, on the twenty-ninth anniversary of the publication of her first book, "COMING OF AGE IN SAMOA," and the eighth anniversary of her brilliant work, "MALE AND FEMALE," MARGARET MEAD, to receive, upon recommendation of the Faculty and by vote of the Trustees, the honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters.