



*Claudine Gray*

Marie Alexandria Claudine Gray '97 was a true product of Hunter. She graduated from the College's Elementary School and from the College, and all her regular teaching was done in the Elementary School, the High School, and the College.

She was born on August 4, 1877, in New York City, but part of her childhood was spent in England and France. When she returned to this country at the age of eight, she was placed in our school, and from it she went to Hunter, then known as Normal (there was no high school interval in those days), graduating in 1897. Through later additional study she earned two degrees from Normal, Pd.B. in 1900, and A.B. in 1912. She was one of the original group of seven alumnae, all persons with exceptionally high records, elected to Phi Beta Kappa in 1920, the year of the establishment of our Chapter. She later (1922-23) served as vice-president of the Chapter, and as president (1924-25).

She received the degree of A.M. from Columbia in 1914, and at the University of Michigan did some further graduate work.

On her graduation she had begun to teach in our Elementary School in 1897. In 1902 she returned to her chosen specialty, French, for which as an undergraduate, under Miss (later Dean) Annie E. Hickinbottom and under Professor Eugene Aubert, she had conceived the great love that was to endure all her life. By this time the High School had been separated from the College, and there she spent six years, during the last two as Head of the French Department. She was transferred to the College in 1908, where she served

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successively as Instructor (1908-16), as Assistant Professor (1916-20), as Associate Professor (1920-26), and as Professor and Department Head (1926-40). She retired on September 16, 1940, and was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus on December 15, 1941.

During the summers of 1919, 1921, and 1922, she acted as Director of the Maison Française and Professor of French Phonetics at the Normal School for Teachers in Cleveland, Ohio.

Claudine Gray's great interest was in the training of her students in oral work, and in training them similarly to train others. Under her guidance, beginning students acquired fluency and facility in conversation, and excellence in pronunciation. One of her star pupils, who learned under her to speak French like a native, was Dora Schatzberg Bashour, now Assistant Professor and Director of the Language Laboratory at Hunter. Claudine Gray was far ahead of her time in the use of oral drill, phonetic transcription, and mechanical apparatus; thanks to her, Hunter was one of the first institutions of the country to acquire laboratory equipment for training in pronunciation (victrolas with records by great users of French such as Sarah Bernhardt, artificial palates to be used by the students in making their own records, etc.). All this was at a time when high schools and colleges throughout the country were teaching reading alone, and the present writer can testify that professors all over the United States refused to believe her when she assured them that at Hunter French was the language of the classroom at every stage. Thanks to Claudine Gray countless generations of Hunter graduates went out into the schools of the City, ready and eager to teach their students to talk and understand French as well as to read it.

As a supplement to classroom work, Claudine, who was herself a superb actress, coached innumerable French plays, mainly chosen from the classic theatre of France.

In recognition of her success in teaching the French language, France in 1930 made her an Officer d'Académie (the award granted by the Minister of Public Instruction) and in 1932 a Chevalier de la Légion

d'Honneur. The Légion's Cross was pinned on her by the distinguished writer Paul Claudel, who pronounced her the first American Woman to be decorated by his government for service in the field of education. She also received in 1938 the medal of the American Association of Teachers of French for "wise leadership and unstinting service". This was an association which she and Professor Charles Downer of City College had founded in 1927; she had served as its First Vice-President from 1927 to 1930, and in its Metropolitan Chapter as First Vice-President from 1930 to 1937, and as President from 1937 to 1938. She had also been President of the Modern Language Section of the Society for the Experimental Study of Education, from 1924 to 1925.

She collaborated with Professor Henry Bargy, her



#### A TRIBUTE

Laura Goldblatt Rubin died on December 22, 1962, after a brief illness.

Graduating from Hunter in 1914, Laura Goldblatt taught in the public schools and earned an M.A. at Columbia in 1919. After her marriage to Dr. William B. Rubin she went to live in Philadelphia, where their son was born. Widowed after ten years, she found opportunity to serve in the Department of Public Assistance.

Later on, returning to New York, she worked from 1938 to 1947 in the constituent agencies of the United Jewish Appeal, in the German division of the Jewish Social Service Association, the National Refugee Service, United Service for New Americans and the N. Y. Association for New Americans.

In 1947 she was transferred to the National Committee for the Resettlement of Foreign Physicians and became its Executive Secretary in 1954. Until a week before her death she continued to serve people of all faiths most capably. With sympathy, understanding, and wise counsel she helped many hundreds of foreign

predecessor as Head of the College French Department, in the writing of a book entitled "Plan d'une étude consciente de la prononciation française", which was published by the Société d'Éditions "Belles-Lettres" in Paris in 1927.

She lived to the age of eighty-five, retaining her physical energy and mental alertness up until her final illness, which was mercifully short. She died on March 25, 1963.

Claudine Gray — "Claudie" to her intimate friends — will always be remembered gratefully by countless devoted pupils, among whom the present writer is proud to be counted. She is also proud of the fact that she was chosen by Claudie to write her obituary, a task which she has now performed *pietatis causa*.

E. Adelaide Hahn

#### IN MEMORIAM

1894 The class of '94 records with sorrow the death of Emma Louise Berwick, the first woman village trustee in the history of N.Y. State. Emma Berwick was the founder and organizer of the Eastchester Republican Women's Club and was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tuckahoe in 1926.

1901 The class of '01 records with sorrow the passing of a loyal and generous alumna, Clara Creed. Miss Creed's mother was also a graduate of Hunter, of old Normal.

1903 The class of '03 records with sorrow the death of Betsey Cohen Flax, on December 20, 1962 and of Marion Schlang Williamson on May 2, 1963. Mrs. Williamson was a N.Y. school teacher for 40 years and a founder of the Social Welfare League of Montefiore Hospital.

1904 The class of '04 records with sorrow the deaths of two of its faithful alumnae, Elsie Kaufman Wolff and Wilhelmine Oetjen.

1906 The class of '06 records with sorrow the deaths of Blanche Dickerson Taylor on February 19, 1963, and Margaret A. Lindquist, a retired JHS principal.

1919 The class of 1919 records with sorrow the deaths of Adelaide Boice Mehlig, on March 3, 1963 and Anita Rosenthal Singer on November 12, 1962. Mrs. Singer was the first Sing leader.

1942 The class of 1942 notes with sorrow the death of Clara Irene Goldfine.

1943 The class of '43 records with sorrow the death of Florence Fogel Rudow on March 12, 1963.

trained physicians and dentists to comply with the requirements set by hospitals, by communities, wherever the need was greatest.

Hers was a career of devotion to good works in the finest and most unselfish spirit.

Meta A. Schechter



With a deep sense of loss, the class of January 1915 records the death of its president, Josephine Soldano Terranova.

An inspired teacher, she had established a private school in West Haven, Connecticut, where she worked with retarded children, lifting them to self-esteem and self-confidence. Josie Soldano was an enthusiastic alumna, filled with gratitude for having been favored with a Hunter education. Her devotion to her Alma Mater led her to rally "her girls" each year to renew their spirit at the College reunions.

Josie was a friend to all her classmates. Her warmth, her vitality, her enthusiasm, her love have enriched all the lives she touched, and all who knew her rejoice in having had her.

Josie Soldano's friends are asked to send contributions to the Scholarship and Welfare Fund in her name, as the memorial — making education possible for others — that she would have chosen.

Make checks payable to the Fund, but please mail them to Mrs. George Roseman (Naomi Krohn), 1441 West 70 Avenue, Philadelphia 26, Pennsylvania.

Elizabeth Vera Loeb Stern