

first entrance marked by cowboys parading in, whooping it up with lassoes and pistols. More fondly, one remembers the stars who gave star performances — Morris Carnovsky as Lear and as Shylock, and Alfred Drake as Iago.

The Connecticut Stratford Festival began with a building, and it has been looking for a company ever since. In 1963 the Festival received a Ford Foundation grant to train one, so all may end well.

The New York Shakespeare Festival, founded and guided by Joseph Papp, started with the plays, and the audience demand for them became so great that in 1962 the company was given a theatre in Central Park. Designed by Eldon Elder, the stage of the outdoor theatre follows the general principles of the Canadian: a large, curtainless platform with suggestions of Eliza-

bethan features, the audiences seated in amphitheatre-fashion.

The Central Park Shakespeare theatre opened with George C. Scott giving a stunning portrayal of Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*, but it has not reached that height again. It has never had another actor of Mr. Scott's talents. Yet even workmanlike productions in the Park seem more immediate than they would elsewhere, again because of the proximity of actor and audience.

And so the summer draws nigh and off we go to the Shakespeare festivals. Perhaps we will disagree with the Oedipus complex of Hamlet, or *The Tempest* as an allegory of modern science, of *Twelfth Night* as an operetta — but how better may one spend a summer evening?

HELEN GRAY CONE '76
1859-1934



President, Alumni Association 1886-1888

Helen Gray Cone taught at Hunter for thirty-seven years. She was first appointed to the teaching staff in 1889. From 1899 until her retirement in 1926 she was Chairman of the Department of English.

English majors in her courses in Shakespeare and Romantic poetry carried away a life-long impression of her devotion to literature, her dedication to all the best that has been thought and said.

She was herself a poet in the Romantic tradition, a writer of verses "grave and gay" reflecting a love of nature, a love of country, "a vision of the brotherhood of man." In 1931 she published *Harvest Home*, a selection of poems from five volumes of her verse which had appeared earlier: *Oberon and Puck*, 1885; *The Ride to the Lady*, 1891; *Soldiers of the Light*, 1911; *A Chant of Love for England*, 1915; *The Coat Without a Seam*, 1919.

In 1920, in the course of the celebration of Hunter's fiftieth anniversary, an honorary doctorate of literature was bestowed on her by the College. She was also elected to the newly established chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at Hunter in that year. She had earlier been awarded a Master of Humane Letters degree by New York University.

After her retirement, graduates of the College and members of the Faculty, as well as other friends, established the Helen Gray Cone Fellowship in the English Department. No graduate of the College, no member of the teaching staff was perhaps more widely admired and revered, in the first decades of this century.