



*Charles H. Russell*

Portrait and signature furnished by courtesy of Mrs. Jean Randall and Professor Mary K. Bennett.

## **Charles Hamilton Randall: 1928–1987**

Charles Hamilton Randall was born in New York City on February 21, 1928, the elder child and only son of Charles J. and Anna (Hayward) Randall. His forebears had emigrated to the United States from Ireland and Holland several generations earlier, and the family eventually settled in Brooklyn where Charley spent his boyhood. His family was of moderate means; his father managed a gas station in Harlem. He was always proud of his Brooklyn roots, and his distinctive Brooklyn accent stayed with him throughout his life, in spite of (or perhaps because of) his later New England academic career.

Charley was educated in the Brooklyn public schools and was recognized early on as an exceptional student. He won admission to the highly competitive Brooklyn Technical High School, where he graduated in 1945. As did many young men of his age, he immediately enlisted in the Army Air Corps just at the end of World War II. When he was discharged two years later, he took advantage of the GI Bill to begin his college education, and received his bachelor's degree from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn in 1951.

He was active in the ROTC in college, and to the end of his life he was very proud to have been president of the Pershing Rifle Division, and an officer of the *AXA* fraternity. He was recalled to duty as an officer in the Army Corps of Engineers in Korea, and was finally discharged from the Army as a First Lieutenant in 1953. By now he had met Jean Wendt (also from his native Brooklyn), and they were married on September 12, 1953. They eventually became the parents of three children, Barbara, Kenneth, and Paul.

From 1953 to 1956 he worked for the Westinghouse Corporation in Pittsburgh as a thermal engineer in the reactor department and from 1956 to 1958 as a nuclear specialist and project engineer for Advanced Systems, Martin Company, in Baltimore. He helped to design the nuclear reactor for the world's first nuclear submarine, the U.S.S. *Nautilus*, under the late Vice Admiral Hyman Rickover. During his time in Pittsburgh he worked on his master's degree in nuclear engineering, which he obtained in 1957 from the University of Pittsburgh. He moved to the Knolls Atomic Power