

OXFORD UNIVERSITY GAZETTE



ENCAENIA 2002

SUPPLEMENT (1) TO NO. 4628

FRIDAY, 21 JUNE 2002

University Acts

CONGREGATION 19 June

1 Conferment of Honorary Degrees

THE PUBLIC ORATOR made the following speeches in presenting the recipients of Honorary Degrees at the Encaenia held in the Sheldonian Theatre on Wednesday, 19 June:

Degree of Doctor of Civil Law

DAME ROSALYN HIGGINS, DBE, FBA, QC

Judge of the International Court of Justice

Honorandorum agmen ducit, ut par est, femina iuris peritissima quae totiens obtinuit locum principem. inter Cantabrigienses nutrita, inter Yalenses polita, haec quam produco protinus sese illi iurisprudentiae generi contulit quod civitatum inter se negotia gubernat; quod quidem, cum recenti saeculo tot nefandas strages, tot tamque atrocia bella, tot foedera tam turpiter viderimus rupta atque violata, nemini nostrum non maximi momenti esse videatur. plurimi sunt hodie ei qui de re publica verba faciunt et quidem saepe ornatissima; haud pauci sunt consulti qui istud legum genus tractant; paucissimos autem illos reperias qui utriusque sint capaces, qui ita legum argutias enodare possint ut non simul res veras, foedera bella paces, ex animo amittant. haec quam produco et hic et alibi duplicem quandam exercet potestatem: in iudiciis et nostratum morem et Americanorum tamquam digitos suos novit, et ipsa primum inter legis peritos postea inter politicos educata duas scientias amplectitur, quae nisi in iudice perfecte planeque erudito convenire non possunt. sic evenit ut cum in pluribus academiis munerum academicorum cursum percurrisset, honore adfecta est insignissimo: iudicio omnium summo adlecta cui ante eam mulier nemo, lites iudicat cum implicatissimas tum gravissimas quae ad plures simul civitates spectant. libros publici iuris fecit plurimos, doctrina saluberrima refertos, quippe quae olim cathedram academicam obtinuerit; unum laudare libet quem de pace tuenda quattuor voluminibus conscripsit, doctis (Iuppiter) et laboriosis, femina quae scientiam suam usu quoque exercuit, cum civitates duas de finibus litigantes citra sanguinis effusionem summa concordia conciliarit. inter arma silere leges questus est olim vir eloquentissimus M. Cicero, et quidem proverbium erat; rem inversam esse, silere aliquando saltem arma inter

leges, gratias huic habendas esse vel maximas, cernimus libentissime. nuper causam celeberrimam iudicavit quae navis aeriae naufragium, trecentorum hominum caedem, tractaverunt amplissimi iudices.

Praesento feminam in iure docendo eruditissimam, in causis iudicandis aequissimam, in pace totius orbis terrarum defendenda optime meritam, Rosalyn Higgins, Excellentissimi Ordinis Imperi Britannici Dominam Commendatricem, Reginae Consiliariam, Academiae Britannicae Sodalem, ut admittatur honoris causa ad gradum Doctoris in Iure Civili.

Admission by the Chancellor

Iustitiae famula vigilantissima, totius orbis terrarum administra eminentissima, quae iuris maiestatem in causis gravissimis summa doctrina, summo acumine, summa aequitate sustinuisti, ego auctoritate mea et totius Universitatis admitto te ad gradum Doctoris in Iure Civili honoris causa.

Paraphrase

The procession of our honorands is led, appropriately enough, by Dame Rosalyn Higgins, who has so often taken the first place. Her university education was begun in Cambridge and perfected at Yale. She applied herself to the study of international law, an area which I imagine that all of us, reflecting on the last century, with its fearful wars, horrendous massacres, and wickedly broken international agreements, would agree is vitally important. There is no shortage nowadays of people who can speak, and speak with sophistication, on politics. There are also lawyers who specialise in international law. But one can find very few people who are masters of both disciplines, who can unravel the hard knots of the law without losing sight of the world of political activity and of the realities of war and peace and treaty obligations. Dame Rosalyn has here a twofold ability: as she possesses an equally impressive expertise both in English and in American legal procedure, so her education both in politics and in the law gives her a mastery of both disciplines such as one might find only in a judge who was perfectly trained for this position. Thus it was that after an academic career and periods in several different universities she received the signal distinction of elevation to the International Court of Justice, the first woman to serve on that supreme body. She has published a large number of books, packed with enlightened learning, of which I can single out only one: that on United Nations Peacekeeping, in four volumes, the product of enormous labour. Dame Rosalyn has shown

that on this subject she is active, not simply academic; she was responsible for resolving without bloodshed and to general satisfaction the frontier dispute between Libya and Chad. Marcus Cicero, that great Orator, complained that when weapons are used the laws are silent—it was indeed a proverbial saying. We can feel great satisfaction that sometimes, at least, weapons fall silent when the laws are in action; and we should acknowledge a debt to our honorand. More recently she has been involved in the trial of those accused of the Lockerbie bombing.

I present a learned teacher of the law, an outstanding judge in its practical application, and a most effective defender of the peace of the world, Dame Rosalyn Higgins, DBE, FBA, QC, for admission to the honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law.

Admission by the Chancellor

You are a most vigilant agent of justice and an eminent servant of the international community; you have maintained the majesty of the law with the highest standards of learning, intelligence, and equity. Acting on my own authority and on that of the whole University, I admit you to the honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law.

The Rt. Hon. the LORD ROTHSCHILD, GBE, FBA

Formerly Chairman of the National Heritage Memorial Fund

Vir sequitur qui cum gente ortus sit quae Musis omnibus semper assidue favet et eis praecipue qui picturae sculpturae architecturae praesident, tum ipse si quis alius excellit in artibus colendis, artificibus alendis, civibus denique universis expoliendis inque humanitate formandis. neminem in hac hominum litteratissimorum conventu esse facile coniecetis, quin semel bisve saltem hinc iter fecerit ad amplissimas illas aedes, francogallicas quidem adspectu, refertas autem tabulis atque omni genere gazae, quae cum haud procul absint homines Oxonienses politiores adliciunt detinent delectant. aedificium ipsum inter hortos exquisitos camposque ridentes positum nec non pulcherrima illa artificiosissimi cuiusque magistri opera huius maiores populo universo legaverunt, hic autem qua est et iudicio et elegantia summo ordine, summa gratia ornavit. neque alteri villae, et vetustate et luxuria vix minus splendidae, defuit vir opibus doctrina auctoritate praeclarus. minime igitur admirandum est eum summo omnium plausu vigintiviris praesedis qui Pinacothecae Britannicae consulunt, quo magistratu functus rem tam prospere gessit ut facultates conquireret quibus porticus nova aedificaretur, tabulae vetustiores ita exponerentur ut contemplari summo otio, summa delectatione possemus. neque tabulis tantum vacat omnium Musarum homo. hic enim est cui cives nostri debent quod admirabilem illam auri et argenti molem, a Carolo Gilberto collectam, qua comprehenduntur et preti et artificii exempla locupletissima, inter nos collocarunt heredes; cui beneficio et ipsi valde admirando hoc quoque accedit, quod Palatium Somersetense, obsitum paene atque obsoletum, scribarum si dis placet lecticis deditum, ad magnificentiam pristinam adque civium delectamentum restitutum est. vix mihi videor verum excedere si hunc Fortunae non tantum filium adpellem verum etiam quodam modo gubernatorem: hic enim, hic est qui sortitionum vectigalia ita direxit ut Museia Charitumque agros luculento flumine ditarent atque inaurarent.

Praesento virum quo nemo magis mentes nostras ad cultum atque humanitatem evelit, temporum nostrorum Maecenatem, elegantiae arbitrum subtilissimum et eundem promotorem efficacissimum, Nathanielem Baronem de Rothschild, Excellentissimi Ordinis Imperi Britannici Magnae Crucis Equitem, Academiae Britannicae Sodalem honoris causa creatum, ut admittatur honoris causa ad gradum Doctoris in Iure Civili.

Admission by the Chancellor

Artium scrutator oculatissime, aestimator subtilissime, defensor generosissime, ego auctoritate mea et totius Universitatis admitto te ad gradum Doctoris in Iure Civili honoris causa.

Paraphrase

Our next honorand comes from a family which has a long history of association with the arts, and in particular with those of painting, sculpture, and architecture. He has himself an outstanding record as collector of works of art, as patron of artists, and in actively educating the public in matters of taste and of artistic interest. There is surely nobody in this cultured company who has not several times made the pilgrimage to Waddesdon Manor, that splendid pile, in appearance a French château, full of paintings and treasures of all kinds; its convenient distance from Oxford makes it a lure and a delight for the more aesthetic members of the University. The house itself, set amid delightful gardens and magnificent grounds, along with the fine collections of the works of many of the greatest masters, was bequeathed to the nation by Lord Rothschild's family, and he himself has applied his knowledge and connoisseurship to the magnificent arrangement and adornment of the collections. Spencer House, hardly inferior in opulence and splendour, has also benefited from Lord Rothschild's fortune, his knowledge, and his authoritative taste. It was therefore appropriate that he should serve as Chairman of the Trustees of the National Gallery, a position which he filled triumphantly, and in which he succeeded in securing the money for a new wing, and for exhibiting the earliest pictures in such a way that they can be appreciated with the greatest convenience and delight. His activities are not confined to paintings; his interests are very wide, and we owe it to him that the extraordinary Charles Gilbert Collection of artefacts in gold and silver, rich in examples both of craftsmanship and of intrinsic value, was deposited in this country by Mr Gilbert's heirs. That benefaction, so memorable in itself, gains added importance in that it has brought back Somerset House from disregard and neglect—it was serving (one blushes to say it) as a parking place for the cars of the bureaucracy—to shine again in something like its former splendour, and to serve the refined pleasure of the public. One would hardly exaggerate in greeting Lord Rothschild not only as a favourite of Fortune but also as in a sense her director; for he it is who has guided the proceeds of the National Lottery so that they enrich the nation's museums and art galleries with a splendid stream of gold.

I present Lord Rothschild, GBE, FBA, the Maecenas of the age, an arbiter of taste and a promoter of the arts, who has done more than anyone to elevate and educate the public, for admission to the honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law.

Admission by the Chancellor

The arts have in you a keen eyed connoisseur, a splendid patron, and a formidable champion. Acting on my own authority and on that of the whole University, I admit you to the honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law.

Degree of Doctor of Letters

Professor JOHN M. COETZEE, FRSL

Writer

Professor of Social Thought, University of Chicago

Auditoribus academicis virum praesento et ipsum inter alia academicum, qui cum cathedram obtineat, discipulos erudiat, illud philosophiae genus interpretetur quod in moribus atque ipsius rei publicae rationibus versatur, tum vel maiorem laudem ideo consecutus est quod complures optimaе notae libros conscripsit, quibus tales humani generis vitas vices amores praeponit, quales in civitate maximis incommodis obnoxia experiuntur homines cum ampliores tum humiliores. in Africa Australi natus diu illam tyrannidem ante oculos habebat qua Afri ipsi disiuncti si dis placet et separati legibus iniustissimis opprimebantur; ipse partibus favebat humanioribus, spes fovebat meliores, sed nolebat rem ita tractare ut quidam, qui nimis quidem credulo animo nihil arduum, nihil implicatum, nihil in rebus civilibus reperiunt de quo suo iure ambigere et haesitare viri boni possint. nam tyrannidem difficultates proponere spinosissimas, tyrannoctonos ipsos scelere quoddammodo implicari, inter sapientes iamdiu constat. hic est qui philosophorum argutias, quae scholas nonnumquam magis quam forum sapere videntur, ita e Platonis πολιτεία ad hominum coetus devocavit ut fabulas lepidissimas vividis hominum imitationibus expressas contemplemur. Michaellem quendam introduxit, homunculum nullis naturae disciplinae donis ornatum, ne cognomine quidem ullo insignem nisi inominata illa k littera, qui, ut obiter emendem Horatium poetam,

multorum improvidus urbes
et mores hominum inspexit,

dum sibi redditum parat—nam sociis plane carebat; hunc lectoribus ostendit, spectaculum et misericordia et terrore dignissimum. notissimam istam fabulam quae nautam naufragum in insulam Lemno illa Sophoclea desertiorem deportat ingeniosissime retractavit; Professorem depinxit summa ignominia—quod di avertant—adfectum, rus relegatum, canes placidae morti demissos quibus saltem poterat honoribus sepelientem. quo fit ut non solum hominum singulorum verum etiam civitatis universae indolem intellexisse videamur.

Praesento adfectuum humanorum observatorem oculatissimum, vitiorum virtutumque depictorem candidissimum, vitae interpretem humanissimum, praemiis plurimis insignitum, Johannem Coetzee, Societatis Regiae Litteris Fovendis Sodalem adscitum, ut admittatur honoris causa ad gradum Doctoris in Litteris.

Admission by the Chancellor

Iuris rectique defensor fortissime, fabularum inventor ingeniosissime, qui ita singulorum hominum calamitates depingis ut nos qui legimus civitatis universae incommoda numquam ex animo amittamus, ego auctoritate mea et totius Universitatis admitto te ad gradum Doctoris in Litteris honoris causa.

Paraphrase

I present to this academic audience a man who is himself, among other things, an academic. He holds a University Chair, he educates pupils, he teaches the sort of philosophy which is concerned with moral and political issues; but he has won even more reputation as the author of many excellent books, which represent the vicissitudes of human life as it is lived, at all social levels, in a society beset with evils. Born in South Africa, he had before his eyes the spectacle of that tyrannical regime which imposed on the native peoples the separation which was known as Apartheid. He took the more liberal side, and he worked for better things, but he did not make the naive mistake of supposing that in such a situation there was no complexity, no ambiguity, nothing which might cause feelings of doubt or uncertainty even in the minds of decent people. The ancients were long ago aware that tyranny offered intractable moral problems, and that the position of the tyrannicide was far from unambiguously clear. Professor Coetzee brought some of the discussions of the philosophers, which at times seem remote from the world, into contact with real life in a series of novels which depicted people with vividness in the action of engrossing plots. He shows us Michael, with no advantages of appearance or education, without even a surname except the letter K, always somehow ill omened; if I may slightly distort the words of the poet Horace about the wanderings of Ulysses,

He travelled widely, towns and camps and sand,
Saw world and men, and did not understand.

He too was trying a home-coming, but alone—he had no Odyssean companions. The story is a harrowing and moving one. Elsewhere he gives a new and original turn to the story of Robinson Crusoe; and he shows a Professor involved in Disgrace (*absit omen!*), driven out to a farm, attempting to give a little dignity to the death of the stray dogs which are daily put down. In his work we see individual people represented in such a way that their experiences illuminate the society in which they live.

I present John Coetzee, FRSL, winner of many prizes and distinctions, a keen observer of the emotions of mankind, truthful in the depiction of good and bad qualities, and a most civilised interpreter of life, for admission to the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters.

Admission by the Chancellor

You have shown yourself a sturdy champion of justice, as well as a most inventive story teller. You tell us of the sufferings of individuals in such a way that we never lose sight of the general questions of the morality of society. Acting on my own authority and on that of the whole University, I admit you to the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters.

Mr PAUL SCOFIELD, CH, CBE

Actor

Histrionem produco quem cum valde diligent spectatores, venerentur collegae, ipse tamen homo haudquaquam sui venditor minime aut adulatione gaudet aut pervagatis urbis sermonibus vult innotescere. puerum se bardum fuisse autumat, rem paene incredibilem, cum poetarum verba tam acuto sensu intellegat, tam lucide repraesentet, ut abstrusis criticorum lucubratiunculis praetermissis in

scaena nobis, non in bibliotheca, fabularum subtilitates optime explicari posse videantur. dies me deficiat, si enumerare coner quot partes hic summa cum laude sustinuerit; idem enim arte pari imitatus cum virum constantia atque virtute praeclarum Divom Thomam, tum sacerdotem vino fere madentem, officii sui interdum immemorem, tum denique veteratorem Germanum qui urbem totam fallaciis suis inretit atque deludit, in Gulielmi tamen Quatipili operibus vel praecipue admirationem universam consecutus aemulos collegasque superavit, sive opus erat Scotorum tyrannum, histrionum saepe terrorem, sic repraesentare ut cognoscerent spectatores virum et scelere et fortitudine eximium, sive tristem illum Danum, regis necati filium, se ipsum torquentem, ceteros clade admiscentem, cogitationum dubitationumque subtilitatibus laborantem. cuius partes apud Russos quoque egit luculentissime. idem regem Britannum senem filiabus indignissimis regnum suum temere partitum, quo nescio an ullae apud ullum poetam partes aut plus habeant difficultatis aut magis terrificum spectaculum ostendant, ita egit ut nos in eodem homine maiestatem taedium violentiam agnosceremus misericordia adfecti atque terrore. sed hic victores triumphatoresque fere aspernatus eorum partes sustinere mavult qui vincuntur sive ab aliis sive a suis vitiis suaeque animi infirmitate. cum tam doctus sit in hominibus imitandis ut nonnumquam geminorum partes sustinuerit, utrum imitetur risu incessu toto corporis habitu planissime declararit, cum lacrimas in scaena exprimere possit, tum illos animi adfectus quos ad vivum significat non suos esse declarat sed earum quas imitatur personarum. nec vultu tantum ac gestibus verum etiam voce mera auditores capit detinet delectat.

Praesento saeculi nostri Roscium, poetarum interpretem praeclarissimum, scaenae decus ac columen, Paulum Scofield, inter Viros praecipue Honoratos Comitum adlectum, Excellentissimi Ordinis Imperii Britannici Commendatorem, ut admittatur honoris causa ad gradum Doctoris in Litteris.

Admission by the Chancellor

Histrionum excellentissime, qui tua praestantissima arte optimam quamque fabulam artificiosissime interpretaris, ipsi vitae humanae speculum splendidissimum praebes, ego auctoritate mea et totius Universitatis admitto te ad gradum Doctoris in Litteris honoris causa.

Paraphrase

Our next honorand is an actor, loved by his audiences, respected by his colleagues, but a man who has no taste for flattery and self-advertisement, and no wish for the sort of notoriety which is gained through gossip columns. He claims to have been 'a dunce at school', but that is not easy to believe in the light of the insight which he possesses and communicates into the meaning of poetry. Indeed, his interpretations are such as to make us turn away from the fine-spun efforts of the literary critics and feel that the finer points of a play's meaning are, after all, to be grasped rather in the theatre than in a library. It would take much more time than we have at our disposal, if I were to try to list all the parts in which he has scored successes on the stage. He has shown equal skill in the role of that great figure of resolution and integrity, St Thomas More, as the delinquent whisky priest in *The Power and the*

Glory, and as the confidence trickster who enmeshes a whole town in his pretences in *The Captain of Kopenick*. But it is above all in his interpretations of Shakespeare that Mr Scofield has achieved the greatest triumphs and most clearly excelled his contemporaries. In the Scottish play, so often an object of superstitious dread to theatre people, he brought out both the criminality and the courage of Macbeth; as Hamlet he showed the Gloomy Dane tormenting himself and bringing ruin on the other characters, as he struggles with his doubts and reservations. In that role he made a great hit in Moscow. He has acted the part of King Lear, who so foolishly gave away his kingdom to his wicked daughters, of all roles in the repertoire perhaps the most exacting and the most sublime; he let us see the King's dignity, his boredom, and his capacity for violence. The spectacle was one to arouse in us the pity and terror of which Aristotle speaks. On the whole he has avoided playing winners and successful men, preferring those who are defeated by other people or by their own weaknesses. His technique is so skilful that he has several times played both of a pair of twins, making it quite plain which is at the moment on stage by his smile, his walk, or his stance. He is able to shed tears on stage; but he declares that the emotions he expresses so vividly are not his own but those of the character he is playing. Even without the use of facial expression or gestures he can by his voice alone captivate and delight an audience.

I present the Roscius of the age, outstanding in his acting of poetic roles, the support and the glory of our stage, Mr Paul Scofield, CH, CBE, for admission to the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters.

Admission by the Chancellor

You are a most distinguished actor. Your portrayal of the greatest works in our literature is outstanding in technique and in power; you hold up a brilliant mirror to reflect all human life. Acting on my own authority and on that of the whole University, I admit you to the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters.

Professor ROMILA THAPAR, FBA

Emeritus Professor of Ancient Indian History, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Etiam si totum terrarum orbem consideremus, vix regionem ullam reperire possimus artiori nobiscum et societatis et benevolentiae vinculo coniunctam quam ingentem illam cui cognomen inditum est India; quam olim devictam atque pacatam obtinebant Reges Imperatoresque nostri, nunc sui iuris degentem plus quam quinquaginta annos populi ipsius arbitrio gubernatam esse, rem nimis raram saepiusque optatam quam perfectam, et gratulamur et salutamus. in Indiae annalibus homines Britanni partes egerunt egregias sed easdem recentiores tantum; vixere reges ante Agamemnona, et quidem, ut ait poeta, multi; quorum tempora haec quam produco plus fere quam quisquam alius inlustrat. si quis enim ita res Indorum antiquiores explorare volet ut mendacia confutet caliginemque dissipet, ei opus erit non solum investigationibus laboriosissimis verum etiam ingeni acumine acerrimo, iudicio perspicacissimo, ut fabulosas istas narrationes ad historiae verae moderationem revocatas redactasque conscribat. sed ne tunc quidem paratus erit ille quem quaerimus auctor perfectus annalium; adeo grassatur patriae amor ultra iustum

modum nonnumquam auctus, adeo insana quaedam in re divina pervicacia, adeo denique infestissima sententiarum alienarum impatientia. quisquis mehercle veritatem sibi proponit, ut iterum Horati poetae verbis utar,

periculosae plenum opus aleae
tractabit, incedens per ignes
subpositos cineri doloso.

haec est quae labore indefessa minisque interrita Indorum theologiam antiquam, societatem vetustissimam, intensius oculis scrutata a rabulis istis qui vulgus exagitant, seditionem incitant, dissentire se proclamavit: delirare illos qui exstitisse theologiam unam indivisam immutabilem fingant, contra plures fuisse sectas, uberrimam et rituum et opinionum varietatem, Indiae enim vires inde vel praecipue augeri, quod fontibus diversissimis hauriat. quae sententia ut cum ipsa rerum veritate consentit, ita hoc praecipue patriae tempore iniquo saluberrima est valdeque rei publicae optabilis.

Praesento rerum gestarum indagatricem doctissimam, annalium conditricem facundissimam, veritatis adseclam constantissimam, Romilam Thapar, Academiae Britannicae Sodalem, Aulae Dominae Margaritae sociam honoris causa adscitam, ut admittatur honoris causa ad gradum Doctoris in Litteris.

Admission by the Chancellor

Fabularum existimatrix sapientissima, quae temporum praeteritorum mores ritus res gestas tam deditis laboribus tamque acuto iudicio inluminavisti, ego auctoritate mea et totius Universitatis admitto te ad gradum Doctoris in Litteris honoris causa.

Paraphrase

We should not be likely to find, however far we searched, a part of the world more closely linked to this country by ties of friendship and of history than the great Indian subcontinent. Once upon a time it was subdued and ruled by the British; we welcome and salute the fact that India has for fifty years since Independence been a democracy, a state of affairs very difficult to maintain, and much more often desired than achieved. In the long history of India the British have played a remarkable part, but only in the recent past. To quote the Roman poet Horace, there lived kings before Agamemnon, and many of them; and the early history of the country has been illuminated by Professor Thapar, whom I now present, more than by almost any other scholar. An historian of that period who seriously wishes to refute accepted fictions and dispel the general darkness will need several high qualities. Laborious research will not suffice, without the most acute perception and the most critical judgment, if mythical inventions are to be reduced to the sober dimensions of true history. But even then we have not exhausted the qualities which our ideal historian will need, so powerful is the influence of exaggerated nationalism, of religious bigotry, and of intolerance of differences of opinion. To quote Horace again, whoever makes an aim of historical truth 'must walk through deceptive ashes, thinly spread over the fires that burn beneath'. Professor Thapar has been equally undeterred by laborious research and by threats. She has examined early Indian history with an eagle eye and published conclusions very different from those beloved of the demagogues who stir crowds and incite riots. In her view it is a fantasy to maintain that there

existed in religion one universal orthodoxy; on the contrary, there flourished a number of different sects and a rich variety of beliefs and ritual practices. Such a view not only does justice to the evidence: it is also, and not least at this crucial moment in the history of the community, of vital practical significance and of the highest value for the well-being of the nation.

I present an historian who is indefatigable in the pursuit of knowledge and prolific in its publication, and who is above all a devoted partisan of the truth, Professor Romila Thapar, FBA, for admission to the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters.

Admission by the Chancellor

Most perspicacious critic of myth, whose devoted researches have cast so much light on the society, the religion, and the history of the past, acting on my own authority and on that of the whole University, I admit you to the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters.

Degree of Doctor of Science

Dr ARNO ALLAN PENZIAS

Formerly Chief Scientist, Bell Laboratories

Quibus modis quove auctore atque artifice initium habuit tota illa mundi ipsius compages? quis stellas quas admiramur, quis solem qui nos nutrit, quis immensa illa spatia quae mentem perstringunt in luminis oras ex nihilo evocavit? neminem esse certo scio quin aliquando his et talibus interrogatis sese inligarit; sed quotus quisque nostrum invenit vel unum verbum quod sibi quaerenti mirantique respondeat? ad narrationes plane fabulosas adque verba translata confugerunt homines in hac saltem re cum ipsa rerum natura consentientes, cum vacuum quod inane vocamus male odisse videantur. tandem ex tantis tenebris eque tam profunda ignoratione homines docti cum ipsi emergere tum ceteros evehere coeperunt, quorum hic quem produco partes egit nemini secundas. attendite, quaeso, dum rem implicatissimam paucis conor exponere. erat quoddam tempus neque ita diu abhinc cum de hoc ambigebant peritiores: utrum subito tota haec rerum universitas creata esset fulgore cum maximo, fragore inaudito, an contra semper perstitisset creandi continuus quidam perennisque processus. magnis auctoribus confidebant utrique, et diu sub iudice lis erat; cui finem imposuit hic quem produco. spatia illa incredibilia quae stellas ac sidera separant et luce et calore carere credideramus omnino; ecce autem reppererunt viri docti, novis organis excogitatis, hoc autem duce atque signifero, caloris aliquid adesse, frigus permanere gelidum quidem sed aliquantulo calidius quam quod expectandum esse videbatur. quid plura? vestigia inventa erant remotissimi illius fragoris quo totus hic mundus ex nihilo originem traxit. ex nihilo, dixi; nam si quis inquit quid antea acciderit, ei poenas infinitas non sine risu amaro minatur Divus Augustinus. hinc sequitur quod homines acuti mundum universum rationibus Euclideis parere didicerunt. hic autem, qui haud minus disciplinae suae historiae virumque doctorum et coniecturis et investigationibus vacat quam scientiae hodiernae inquisitionibus, cum ipse tanti momenti res explorarit, ceterorum quoque investigationes felicissime gubernavit.

Praesento virum ingeniosissimum, qui vitae origines investigavit, scientiae fines promovit, ipsius mundi indo-

lem magnitudinem initium illustravit, Arno Penzias, Praemio Nobeliano nobilitatum, ut admittatur honoris causa ad gradum Doctoris in Scientia.

Admission by the Chancellor

Caeli observator oculatissime, organorum artifex sollertissime, quaestionum reconditarum enodator subtilissime, ego auctoritate mea et totius Universitatis admitto te ad gradum Doctoris in Scientia honoris causa.

Paraphrase

How did the Universe come into being? What force created it, and how did it come to be as it is? Most people have put those questions to themselves at one time or another, but very few indeed are those who have succeeded in returning any kind of answer. Traditionally people have simply abhorred a vacuum, in that point at least resembling Nature herself, and have filled it up with mythical or metaphorical language. At last scientists have begun to emerge from that profound state of ignorance, and to lift up the rest of us; and among them Dr Arno Penzias has been one of the leaders. I shall try to give a brief and simple account of matters of very great complexity. There was a time, and that quite recently, when the experts were sharply divided on the question whether the Universe had come into existence once for all with one sudden Big Bang, or whether on the contrary there persisted a steady state of continuous creation. Both parties had eminent authorities on their side, and the debate was for a long time inconclusive. It is Dr Penzias who resolved it. It had been supposed that the colossal stretches of space between the heavenly bodies were completely void of both heat and light. Then scientists discovered, using new instruments, and with Dr Penzias in the very forefront, that there was in reality some faint heat; space was very cold, but it was measurably warmer than our calculations had led us to believe. Traces had been discovered, in fact, of that colossal explosion which had brought the Universe into existence from nothing. From nothing, I say; St Augustine, with a grim smile, condemns anyone who enquires into the state of affairs before the Creation to eternal punishment. It was a consequence of this discovery that it became possible to prove that the geometry of the Universe is essentially Euclidean. Dr Penzias has a strong interest in the history of his discipline and in the theories of earlier cosmologists, no less than in contemporary theories and experiments; and in addition to his own important discoveries he has been a keen and successful director of the work of other researchers.

I present Dr Arno Penzias, Nobel laureate, a scientist of the highest ingenuity, who has enquired into the origins of life, enlarged the scope of our knowledge, and shed much light on the nature, the dimensions, and the origins of the Universe, for admission to the honorary degree of Doctor of Science.

Admission by the Chancellor

You are a most acute observer of the heavens, a most ingenious deviser of equipment, and a most gifted solver of some of the most momentous of all puzzles. Acting on my own authority and on that of the whole University, I admit you to the honorary degree of Doctor of Science.

Professor SHIRLEY TILGHMAN, FRS

President, and Howard A. Prior Professor of the Life Sciences, Princeton University

Cum notissimum sit praeclarum illud dei Apollinis dictum, Nosce teipsum, tum quid deus in mente habuerit non omnino est facile dictu. hoc saltem manifestum esse concedimus, hominum naturam illis temporibus haudquaquam eisdem obnoxiam fuisse inquisitionis generibus quae maximo cum fructu excogitaverunt viri hodierni. viri, dixi? immo mulieres quoque ingentem horum studiorum processum admirabilem ad modum adiuverunt, inter quas haec quam praesento eminentissima est, doctrinae nostrae plurimum contulit. abstrusissimas istas quaestiones sed easdem gravissimas investigavit quae ad infantis nondum nati indolem pertinent, qua de re multo plus hodie intelligi quam intellexissent maiores nostri audivimus fere omnes, scientiam esse quandam geneticam, quae ita insitam omnium animalium naturam exploret ut et partus formationem et originem cuiusque hereditariam scrutetur; politiores hoc quoque didicerunt, complures homines doctos et hic et in ceteris civitatibus ideo laborem pecuniam vires coniunxisse ut occultissimum quodque naturae humanae arcanum penitus cognoscant, tantae enim tamque involutae quaestioni unum Oedipodem non sufficere. maioris momenti quaestionem vix inveneris, quam haec quam praesento, locum principem inter eos consecuta qui partum inchoatum vestigabant, olim cum paucis aliis tantis facultatibus temptandam esse censebat. alia sunt quae silentio praeterire non possum: hanc et mulieribus doctis hunc vitae cursum, hoc doctrinae genus prosecutis ducem exstitisse ac signiferam, et cum nimis multi homines doctrina insignes sibi tantum laborent, discipulos disciplinaeque molestias ceteris linquant, hanc adeo a docendi munere non abhorre ut omnium prima in Universitate sua praemio adfecta sit praecipienda erudiendique causa. cui Universitati, nobiscum et vetustis amicitiae vinculis et novis concordiae societatisque foederibus coniunctae, hanc nuper Praesidem electam esse multis nominibus gaudemus, et ipsi et Academiae cui praeest gratulamur e corde.

Praesento feminam cum in scientia tum in re gerenda inque hominibus ducendis eminentissimam, rerum naturae investigatricem sagacissimam, doctrinae explicatricem eloquentissimam, Shirley Tilghman, Societatis Regiae Sodalem, Universitatis Princetonsensis Praesidem, ut admittatur honoris causa ad gradum Doctoris in Scientia.

Admission by the Chancellor

Praeses doctissima Academiae et praestantissimae et nobiscum coniunctissimae, intimatorum geniturae arcanorum scrutatrix subtilissima, ego auctoritate mea et totius Universitatis admitto te ad gradum Doctoris in Scientia honoris causa.

Paraphrase

We all know that Apollo gave us the salutary instruction: Know thyself. It is not so easy, however, to see exactly what the god had in mind. One thing at least is evidently true: in those days the composition of human beings was not open to many of the techniques of enquiry which have been devised and successfully exploited in recent times by men of science. By men, did I say? I must immediately rephrase that: women, too, have made an admirable con-

tribution to the very great progress achieved by science in this area; and among them Professor Tilghman, whom I now present, is one of the leaders and has added very much to our knowledge. Her research has been on questions, at once extremely difficult and extremely important, concerning the nature of the unborn child. We are all aware that in this area much more is known nowadays than was known by our ancestors, and that there is a science of genetics which deals with the innate properties of all animals, with the formation of the foetus, and with the inheritance of characteristics. The well-informed know also that many researchers in many different countries are combining their efforts and their resources in the Human Genome Project, which aims to unravel all the secrets of the human make-up. This is a riddle far too complex and intricate for the powers of any individual Oedipus. It would be hard to imagine a more important enquiry. Professor Tilghman, having attained a high position in the subject by her researches on the unborn, was one of the few who took the lead in pressing for the establishment of this great venture. There are other aspects of her work which I cannot fail to mention. She has set herself to encourage and to be a role model for women scientists; and, in a time when so many distinguished academics work only for themselves, leaving the burdens of pupils and of teaching to other people, she was the first winner at Princeton of a special award for distinction in teaching. She has now been made President of that University, one which is connected with Oxford by long-standing ties of friendship and also by new links of shared activity. We take pleasure in that appointment for many reasons, and we offer our hearty congratulations both to Princeton and to Professor Tilghman.

I present a scientist who is equally distinguished in administration and in leadership, a most perceptive researcher in biology, and a most able communicator of her discoveries, Professor Shirley Tilghman, FRS, President of Princeton University, for admission to the honorary degree of Doctor of Science.

Admission by the Chancellor

You are the Head of a great University, and of one which is particularly closely linked with ours. You are a most discerning observer of the most intimate secrets of conception. Acting on my own authority and on that of the whole University, I admit you to the honorary degree of Doctor of Science.

2 Encaenia

THE PUBLIC ORATOR delivered the following Oration 'in commemoration of the Benefactors of the University according to the intention of the Right Honourable Nathaniel, Lord Crewe, Bishop of Durham':

Honoratissime Domine Cancellarie: This has been an exceptional year. (I say that every year.) But this year I really mean it. (I say that every year, too.) For at last the University has a Mission Statement. What a relief! when for years and decades and centuries we have been blundering along in the dark: tutoring a bit, perhaps, and lecturing a bit, and doing a spot of research, but with no real idea of the point of it all. We note with mingled surprise and gratification that it opens with these words, lapidary in style, if in content unexpected and almost paradoxical:

'The University of Oxford aims to achieve and sustain excellence in every area of its teaching and research'.

What, *excellence*, eh? And not just in a few areas, but in every area? What struggles, what compromises, what floods (perhaps) of tears, must lie behind the marmoreal calm of that deceptively magisterial pronouncement! What hard fought victories over benighted Departments, what last minute conversions of purblind Professors, desperately insisting that in their domains, at least, excellence was the last thing that was wanted, but rather feebleness or, at most, mediocrity! Our ringing slogan should mark us off pretty decisively from other institutions, whose aspirations are doubtless very different.

Hardly less searching, in its own way, is the enquiry raised by the Pitt Rivers Museum, which in March put on an event called 'Handling the Museum', offering to discuss the question: 'Is the Museum a muddle, or is there a method behind it?' Now *there's* a line of enquiry, worded with engaging frankness, which it might be really interesting to extend to the University as a whole. As it is, our Mission Statement goes on to claim that 'Oxford is an open and vigorous institution'. I have not been able to establish its position on the crucial question of vibrancy. Are we, or are we not, vibrant? Is there perhaps here a lack of transparency? After the All Souls luncheon, for instance, will our hands be noticeably more vibrant than they were before it? I think we ought to be told. Meanwhile the University Museum, in a vein (presumably) of gentle satire, has put on a series of events with the title 'Fantastic Fossils'.

On a less frivolous note, the outgoing Senior Proctor, in a well-turned Oration, reported: 'In general, we demit office having witnessed that the University is overwhelmingly staffed by intelligent and responsible people, honestly striving by their own best lights to pursue the ideals for which the University stands'. In this period, when what we usually get is off-hand and uninformed criticism, that statement of what we all know to be true comes almost as a surprise. I fear only, in these days of financial deficiency, when we regularly cannot afford to replace members of staff who leave, that to proclaim that the University is 'overwhelmingly staffed' might possibly offer a damaging sound-bite to some unfriendly spider, spinning, ever spinning, in a lair somewhere in Whitehall.

The University has in fact been doing well, in the many and various external tests which profess to measure our scholarship, teaching, transparency, and (not least) vibrancy. In 2000–1 Oxford received the highest research income of any university in the UK; and we came top, too, in *The Times Good University Guide*, which assesses teaching and research. In the Research Assessment Exercise, deplorable and damaging as the whole thing undeniably was, we, like other institutions, did find matter for boasting. In the carefully chosen words of the invaluable *Blueprint*, 'According to figures published by HEFCE in December, Oxford has more academic staff working in world-class research departments than any other UK university'. So by that measure we win. Other universities have extracted different factoids, which (I regret to say) have the apparent effect—totally spurious, of course, and deeply misleading—of putting them top instead of us. But at least the beastly Exercise is over for a bit. And perhaps it will not recur, at least in the same time-wasting and Philistine form.

I can give a few details of the gratifying rise in our research income. Grants from UK charities are the largest element, followed by the Research Councils. Research funding from external sponsors has risen this year by 10 per cent. An important focus has been, in one way or another, our efforts to widen access to Oxford. The Oxford University Press has established an important fund which will support students from other countries and enable them to pursue their studies here. These are the Clarendon Fund Bursaries. £2.5 million has been pledged to enable the University to widen access: £2 million from HEFCE, and £500,000 over five years from the Atlantic Philanthropies. The Oxford Bursary Scheme has received a generous benefaction from Atlantic Philanthropies (Ireland) Ltd., and an important gift from Mr Kevin B. Malone, for the establishment of the Ethel and Kevin Malone Scholarships. The Sutton Trust has made a generous contribution to the University's Summer School for Students and other contributions to attracting interest among those who might not have thought of applying here. And the late Mrs Mary D. Blaschko left a valuable legacy for the Blaschko Visiting Research Scholarship.

The University's core grant from HEFCE, however, works out as an actual reduction in cash terms on last year's figures. Some of the Science Departments report particularly swingeing cuts. It is indeed fortunate that we are not wholly dependent, that higher education in this country is not wholly dependent, on a single paymaster, the State, which has so often proved itself both whimsical and stingy; and our gratitude to our Benefactors, corporate and individual, is greater than ever.

It is thus especially welcome that this year has been an exceptionally successful one for the Development Office. The total raised by them comfortably exceeds that in any previous year. It follows that I have the pleasant duty of mentioning a greater number than usual of substantial benefactions. Mr Wafic Rida Said has made a munificent gift to the Saïd Business School and for the Chair in Globalisation attached to it, while L'Oréal has established there the L'Oréal Chair in Marketing. In addition, HSBC Holdings PLC has made possible the building in the Business School of the Edmond Safra Lecture Theatre, and Mr H. Augustus and Mrs Jennifer Carey have endowed the Gus and Jennifer Carey Courtyard.

The Bodleian Library is, as the Bodleian, four hundred years old this year, and various exhibitions, displays, and other staid and scholarly festivities are marking the auspicious occasion. An enjoyable Founder's Luncheon, sponsored by Blackwell's, was held amid the Tudor splendours of Christ Church Hall. The Bodleian has acquired the manuscript of Mendelssohn's *Hebrides* Overture, described as 'very much a working copy', with the assistance of the Heritage Fund, the Friends of the Bodleian, and some individual supporters. The late Mr Gerald H. Marillier left a substantial legacy to the Library, and the late Mrs Ursula M. Carswell left a similar legacy to the Oxford colleges and the Bodleian, while Dr Lee Seng Tee, FBA, has made a significant benefaction to Oriel College and the Radcliffe Camera Reading Room. In November, as part of the Bodleian celebrations, honorary degrees will be conferred on four eminent librarians, each (of course) presented in a speech in Latin. Emergency services will be present, in case any of the audience are carried away by the excitement of the occasion.

Other libraries have also been active. The Library of St Hugh's College has been handsomely restored and refurbished, thanks to a benefaction from Terence and Siewyong Piper. The Codrington Library, that stately monument to the slave trade, has been elaborately restored. 'If a man would prance as he reads', purred Dr Johnson, 'let him read in the library at Christ Church or All Souls'. That is no less true of eating the Encaenia luncheon there, and I suspect that more than one man in this audience, perhaps secretly even the odd woman, is at this very moment looking forward to enjoying a prance while eating it.

From prancing to spanking. Our spanking new University Statutes were promulgated and accepted. Statutes, of course, are not the end. The Working Party is continuing to work, and perhaps also to hold parties, but now on the drafting of the new Regulations to be associated with the new Statutes. Statutes without Regulations, of course, are like a ham sandwich without mustard, or like trifle without custard, or (in the words of a Victorian lady) like kissing a man without a moustache. Then, perhaps, we can get on with the next stage: the pressing need for some Bye-laws, without which Statutes and Regulations are like a Lancashire hot-pot without dumplings.

It was without surprise that we observed that by far the longest part of the Statutes relates to Discipline (I suppose I should not have said *spanking*, really—that was but a loose or jocose epithet, and no such punishment appears in the new document, at least not explicitly). It appears that the Proctors have lost their judicial powers. Discipline is mostly, even nowadays, of junior members, but the next longest section, headed 'Academic Staff and the Visitation Board', is entirely concerned with those malign presiding deities of modern academic life: Redundancy, Dismissal, Grievance Procedures, Appeals, and Removal from Office (whether from Incapacity on Medical Grounds, or Other). Heigh ho.

There is even a whole large page of small print—three paragraphs, twelve sub-headings—on 'the Removal of the Vice-Chancellor from Office'. Golly, Sir! Perhaps 'excellence in every area of discipline and dismissal' should figure more prominently in our Mission Statement. It is a relief to find nothing on that most blasphemous of possibilities: one hardly dares to whisper its name: the removal of the Chancellor. It is rumoured that an impertinent functionary did embark on the composition of a page of suitably impacted bureaucratic prose, but that a thunderbolt struck the ball-point from his palsied hand. And quite right, too. The event has perhaps not happened since the forced resignation of Lord Clarendon; and that, of course was forced, not by the University, but by a corrupt and over-mighty executive.

Other benefactions call for grateful acknowledgement. The Refugee Studies Centre has received a substantial award from the Mellon Foundation; and also from the late Mr R.A. Johnson, and from the R.A. Johnson Discretionary Settlement, for its Lecturership on Forced Migration. Mr Lief D. Rosenblatt, long-standing benefactor of the University Swimming Pool, has made a further benefaction for its café and computerised chemical system. The Oxford Institute of Ageing has had a generous subvention from Help the Aged; they have also given to Queen Elizabeth House.

It has been a vintage year for the opening of new build-

ings. HRH The Princess Royal came in October to Green College and opened a fine new seminar centre in the house once lived in by Sir William Osler. The Saïd Business School, the large and important development which (among other things) is transforming the first view of Oxford for those who arrive here by train, was opened by Signor Romano Prodi, who received an honorary degree, followed by a luncheon at which the speeches, both that of Signor Prodi and that of Lord Sainsbury, were listened to with nervousness, tinged with apprehension. The building can be said to redeem a sadly wasted site near the station; but some of us, having contemplated its beauties, are still not really sorry that it was not, as originally threatened, erected in the Parks.

Last summer there was also the opening ceremony for the Sackler Library, the handsome new neoclassical centre for the study of Greek and Roman antiquity, in the presence of Dr Mortimer and Mrs Theresa Sackler and of other donors. In December a new building on Manor Road was formally opened by the Governor of the Bank of England. It will house the Economics Department. The Oxford Centre for Computational Research was launched in the presence of high-powered mandarins from the Treasury and the Bank of England.

Takeda Chemical Industries have made a munificent grant for phase two of the Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Metabolism. The Wolfson Foundation has generously equipped the Centre for Gene Function. The new Centre for Portuguese Studies was opened by the President of the Instituto Camões. The Peter Medawar Building for Pathogen Research was officially named at a ceremony in December. A purpose-built edifice houses our new Oxford Protein Production Facility; it aims to clear up obstructive bottlenecks which are impeding the Human Genome Project. A new physics laboratory is capable of generating the highest magnetic fields on offer anywhere in the country; 'non-destructively', it adds, on a rather defensive note.

Nor have our older holdings been neglected. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has made grants to the Centre for Ancient Documents, the Voltaire Foundation, and the Digital Image Archive of Medieval Music, to help create digital versions of their respective treasures. It may, of course, be pure coincidence that the Vice-Chancellor has been named as the first non-American Trustee of the Mellon Foundation; or, I suppose, it may not. Seven colleges have formed a consortium to conserve their old books, manuscripts, and incunabula; they have a building, where binding and conservation can be studied and practised. And in the Sheldonian itself the new digital organ, presented by Mr Robert Venables, QC, has at last been finished and is showing its paces to splendid effect, in four different styles of voicing.

The Ashmolean has bought, in memory of Evelyn Joll, and with contributions from many sources, a watercolour of Christ Church by the great Turner. It also reports the establishment of the Christensen Fellowship in Chinese painting, thanks to the generosity of the Christensen fund and an anonymous benefactor. The Museum has received from another anonymous benefactor funding for an Indian Research Fellowship in the Department of Eastern Art; and the late Mr Brian D.H. Miller left the Museum a substantial legacy for the Departments of Eastern and of

Western Art. The Pitt Rivers Museum reports a substantial gift from Dr William B. Scott-Jackson, given also for the establishment of the new Research Fellowship at the PADMAC unit. And Mrs G.M. Kurti has made a generous gift to the Nicholas Kurti Fund.

Every year the Orator looks to the Bate Collection of Musical Instruments with hope, and rarely in vain. This year it has made a number of interesting acquisitions, including a violin with what is suggestively described as an 'unusual portrait head', given in memory of Annie Herring; a mouth organ; a piccolo Swanee Whistle; and a collection of three clavichords, a virginal, and a spinet, made by the late Steve Saunders and given in his memory. It is charming to read that Mr Saunders began as bass guitarist in a heavy metal band 'but was then "seduced" by baroque music'. *O si sic omnes*: if only everyone were sick of it. And surely the seduction of a heavy metal guitarist by the Baroque Muse presents a perfect subject for a painting. I see her stooping over his sleeping form, as he lies facing away from the guitar (note the symbolism), to give him the chaste kiss that will turn his affections in a new direction, at once more healthy and of greater delight. I see her wearing the best kind of academic dress: a frock both transparent and vibrant. I hope this suggestion will be carefully studied in the Ruskin School.

We are to have a Genetics Knowledge Park, with the aid of a substantial grant from the Department of Health. Sited at the Churchill Hospital, it will specialise in cardiovascular and metabolic diseases. Also the University is having made a 900 MHz magnet, the first in this country, which will help improve our understanding of protein molecules and their role in the onset of disease. A team working in the Peter Medawar Building for Pathogen Research, led by Dr Martin Maiden, has produced a powerful new vaccine against meningitis C. Meanwhile, the Oxford Vaccine Group is calling for volunteers to be infected with rabies. Music, Maestro, please: Noel Coward's *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*.

The University Museum of Natural History held an exhibition called 'The Dodo and the Dinosaur'—here the Orator bites back a couple of predictable witticisms—another called 'Alligators and Astrolabes', and an event, featuring feely-boxes, billed as 'Free Family Friendly Fun on Sundays'. There was also an Easter Eggstraordinary Eggciting Easter Egg Hunt; and the Ashmolean joined in with an Easter Egg-stravanza. Egad! Eggregious Eggs-hibitions; they must have appealed even to the most hard-boiled. Evidently the Museums have suffered an Astonishing Attack of Alphabetical Alliteration. A trick was perhaps missed when the Free Family Friendly Fun with Feely-boxes was not Firmly Fixed for Fridays in February. And there was an intriguing exhibition in the Pitt Rivers of 'Body Arts: Tattooing and Body-piercing to Hair-dressing and Head-shaping'.

Earlier this month various parts of the University marked Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee with celebrations of one kind or another. There was a spectacular concert in this very Sheldonian Theatre, playing the music performed at the coronation of King George II, and featuring (rather wittily) Robert King and the King's Consort; while the Ashmolean ran some interesting events with the theme, 'Kings and Queens'.

In March the University, as a Privileged Corporation,

presented an address to Her Majesty on the occasion of her Jubilee. The address is written in English, but English of a very special kind. The word 'you', for instance, is spelt with a capital letter; perhaps in deference to the Royal family's German origins. The twenty-nine Privileged Corporations, rubbing shoulders afterwards in a magnificent picture gallery, as they were entertained by the Monarch to drinks and nibbles, presented, in their robes and uniforms—academic, chivalrous, military, and municipal—a dazzling display of rainbow colour and old world finery. A rather quizzical light was shed on the Englishman's traditional dislike of dressing up or drawing attention to himself.

In October, in co-operation with fifty Oxfordshire primary schools, the University launched, with gratifying success, The Great Oxfordshire Bug Quest; in another part of the forest, the city and University are co-operating in a bid for Oxford to become the European Capital of Culture in the year 2008. Presumably the bugs will be ironed out of the programme by then.

The National Environment Research Council (NERC) has set up a research centre, to be based in the Department of Earth Sciences, to study earthquakes and the faults in the earth's crust that cause them. The first two companies have been launched of those which are to be spun out under the University's agreement with Beeson Gregory. They are called Inhibox and Pharminox. Feelybox, I am assured, is quite different. From Inhibox to Anthrax. The international anthrax project, run from the Department of Chemistry, and involving 1,400,000 computers in 200 countries, has been able to hand over to the governments of the UK and the US a compact disc containing data of some 300,000 promising molecules.

Nor, in great co-operative projects, are the arts far behind. The largest ever Web-based reference work has been produced by the University Press: *Oxford Reference Online* has converted nearly 100 Oxford reference books and 60,000 pages into one titanic database. And the mighty revision of the *Dictionary of National Biography* moves majestically towards its completion. The 60 volumes are expected to be available in less than three years. Terrific demand is anticipated. One is reminded of Hilaire Belloc's poetic puff: No person, says he,

Will be truly content without purchasing three;
While a parent will send for a dozen or more
And strew them about on the nursery floor.

Reuters and Green College have set up a scheme for working journalists to spend some time on Fellowships in Oxford, to deepen their knowledge of their subjects. It is believed that the fortunate journalists are bringing with them some ready-made phrases which seem sure to come in handy: 'sipping vintage port' is rumoured to be one; 'panelled common rooms' another. A third suggestion that has been put to me, for some reason, is 'donnish humour': I have no idea what that can refer to.

President Nelson Mandela gave a lecture on the global issues affecting the modern world, as the Saïd Business School launched an appeal for the establishment of a Chair in Globalisation. Mr Neil MacGregor, Director of the National Gallery, delivered the Romanes Lecture under the title 'The perpetual present: art for all'. It turned out that the first half of his title did not refer to the perennial problem of Christmas shopping.

A team from Somerville gave general pleasure by winning this year's *University Challenge*. Slightly less pleasure, perhaps, was given, at least in some senior quarters, when they went on to meet a team of Golden Oldies, the winners of the very first contest, and crushed them with contemptuous ease. Young people nowadays... I don't know...

Oxford won a unusually thrilling Boat Race in the last few yards, and the Oxford crews completed a unique whitewash of the other University, all seven crews winning both on the Boat Race course and at Henley.

This year, as in other years, we suffer the loss of some familiar figures who come to the end of their terms of service to the University. From November we have had a new High Steward. Lord Goff, who had since 1990 been a sage and benevolent presence in our counsels, is succeeded by Lord Bingham, the Senior Law Lord and Visitor of Balliol. Welcome to him in that capacity. I recall a time, when I was a Freshman at Balliol, when Lord Bingham was President of the JCR. The worst I can say of him is that he did little, by his demeanour or his actions, to prepare us for what we had to endure from holders of that exalted office, in the stormy years from 1968 to 1973. I read in *Blueprint* that 'The High Steward is *ex officio* the Visitor of Linacre and Wolfson Colleges, and has a visitatorial function at St Cross'. The distinction is trying to tell us something, I feel; but what?

There are a number of changes among Heads of House. Lord Windlesham retires this summer as Principal of Brasenose; his successor is announced as Professor Roger Cashmore, Professor of Experimental Physics. Sir Brian Fall retires as Principal of Lady Margaret Hall and is succeeded by Dr Frances Lannon, Tutor in Modern History. Professor David Marquand, Principal of Mansfield, is succeeded by Dr Diana Walford, currently Director of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Professor Roger Ainsworth, Deputy Head of the Department of Engineering Science, succeeds Sir Peter Williams as Master of St Catherine's. Mr Andrew Dilnot, Director of the Institute of Fiscal Studies, succeeds Mr Derek Wood as Principal of St Hugh's. The Internet Institute has received its first head: he is Professor William Dutton, currently at the University of Southern California.

Sir Anthony Kenny retired as President of the Development Programme; he was succeeded by the Vice-Chancellor, the President of Magdalen becoming Vice-President (of the Programme, that is, not of Magdalen). Mr Tim Lewis retired as Secretary of the Oxford University Society, being succeeded by Mr Alastair Lack, a graduate of University College. Our grateful thanks to them all.

In the smaller world of the Sheldonian we lose both the Custodian, Mrs Sue Waldman, and the Secretary to the Curators, Mr J.D. Brown. As Orator I have been part of their efficient and congenial team, and I take the opportunity to say farewell to them with thanks, both collective and personal.

In the New Year's Honours the usual catalogue of footballers and crooners contained some academic and, we observed with pleasure, some Oxford names. In the words of the *Aeneid* of Virgil, *apparent rari nantes in gurgite vasto*: In that vast gulf a few are seen to swim. The Warden of Merton, Dr Jessica Rawson, became a DBE, for services to Oriental Studies. Professor Richard Brook, Professor of Materials Science, received a knighthood for services to

science and engineering. There were CBEs for Dr John Goldthorpe, Fellow of Nuffield, and Professor David Kerr, Rhodes Professor of Therapeutic Sciences and Clinical Pharmacology. Dr Neil Ferguson, Fellow of Lincoln, received an OBE, and Mr Paul Turner, Supernumerary Fellow of Linacre, an MBE.

In the recent Birthday Honours some more of us were singled out. Sir Michael Howard, Regius Professor of Modern History Emeritus, was made a Companion of Honour; Mrs Ruth Deech, Principal of St Anne's, becomes a DBE, and Professor Adam Roberts, Professor of International Relations, becomes KCMG, as does Jeremy Lever, QC, Senior Dean of All Souls. We are delighted to salute these well deserved distinctions: our congratulations to them all. But on this very Oxford occasion I feel sure that a special pleasure is felt at the knighthood bestowed on the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Colin Lucas, for his services to Higher Education. His services to this University, in particular, are well known to us and warmly appreciated. All our new knights and dames can feel confident that from now on we shall be dropping their names into our conversation with especial unction and much more frequently.

Two of us were elected this year to Fellowships of the Royal Society: Professor Peter Ratcliffe, Professor of Renal Medicine, and Professor Terence Lyons, Professor of Mathematics. The British Academy elected to Fellowships no fewer than ten of our number, out of a total of thirty-three elections; from Cambridge, I observe, in a manner intended to be casual and off-hand (as well of course as transparent and vibrant), there were three. They are: Professor Michael Ayers (philosophy), Professor Thomas Charles-Edwards (Celtic), Dr John Eekelaar (law), Professor James Harris (law), Professor Hermione Lee (English), Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch (church history), Dr Ian McMullen (Japanese), Professor Stephen Pulman (linguistics), Professor Gerald Smith (Russian), and Professor Keith Ward (divinity).

It was also a pleasure to see the election to a Corresponding Fellowship of Professor Robert Darnton of Princeton, well remembered as Eastman Visiting Professor at Balliol and as Associate Member of All Souls, who is a Trustee of the Press (USA), and who gave a stimulating lecture at the University's North American event in New York in March; the event, which was a great success, was also graced with a couple of most elegant speeches, one by you, Sir, and one by ex-President Bill Clinton. A professed Orator acknowledges two masterly performers. He and you, Sir, in fact performed what might be called a double act on the question, not entirely straightforward, whether Mr Clinton—*Doctor Clinton*—already the recipient of a Doctorate of Civil Law of the University, might be considered for a yet higher honour; there is only one, the Doctorate of Divinity; and somehow...

Other distinctions have been showered upon deserving members of our academic community. Professor Frances Ashcroft, who holds the Chair of Physiology, has been made a Royal Society Research Professor. Professor Jim Kennedy, Curator of the Geological Collection at the University Museum, has been awarded the Linnean Society Medal for Zoology. Professor Graham Richards has won an Italgas Prize for his work on Computer Aided Drug Design. Professor Rees Davies has been declared one of the joint winners of the inaugural British Academy Book Prize for

his book on *The First British Empire*. Sir Martin Wood, founder of Oxford Instruments and benefactor of the University, has been awarded the President's Medal of the Institute of Physics.

Mr Graham Taylor, of Pembroke, has been named Science Graduate of the Year. *Oxford Student* was named 'Newspaper of the Year' in the annual student media awards organised by the *Guardian*. Mr Paul Salaman, a postgraduate student in the Department of Zoology, discovered in the Colombian mountains a new kind of bird: the chestnut-capped piha. And Ms Emily MacDonald, also a graduate student, has been chosen by the Mars Society as one of six members of a team which on an island in the Canadian Arctic will simulate conditions on the Red Planet. Women, we know, are from Venus, men from Mars; but most of the sterner sex (as it used to be called, in the days of man's innocence) are much too fly to want to go back there.

A Chair of Indian History and Culture has been founded, with an endowment from the Indian Government. The first holder is Dr Sanjay Subrahmanyam. We also have for the first time a Professor of the Study of Contemporary China: nothing to do, I am assured, with the Gallery Talk given in February in the Ashmolean under the title 'French porcelain'; it is concerned with the place, not the place-settings. The Chair, whose first holder is Professor Vivienne Shue, is established with a grant of £2 million from the Leverhulme Trust.

The eye of the Orator, restless in its quest for the revealing detail that helps to shape our picture of the surprisingly varied activities of this great University, was caught this year by some interesting titles among the Special Lectures. For instance:

'What Adam and Eve Did Next'—a matchlessly suggestive title, and my personal favourite
'Evil is the Root of All Money'
'Cities of the Dead and the Undead'
'The Cockney Moment: Metropolitan Journalism, 1820–40'
'Serpentisation, Deserpentisation, and Bending and Unbending of Subducting Slabs'
'Lloyd George: a Model for New Labour?'
'"Fiends (*sic*), Romans, Countrymen"'. Aspects of native Culture in fourth- to sixth-century Britain'
'Glass'
'From Washington to Kandahar: does religion cause war?'
'Banal Transnationalism'
'Cosmic Crabs and Elephants'
'Fornicating with the Nine Muses'—this, mark you, in the normally irreproachable setting of Rewley House.

Every year the Orator, speaking to an University which is ageless, but which is composed of mortal creatures who, like him, must age and die, has the sad but glorious duty of recording the names of our dead. 'Man', says Sir Thomas Browne, 'is a noble animal, splendid in ashes and pompous in the grave, solemnising nativities and deaths with equal lustre, nor omitting ceremonies of bravery in the infamy of his nature'. And so let it be.

This year we have lost: Madge Adam, Fellow of St Hugh's; Elizabeth Armstrong, Fellow of Somerville; Sally Ball, Fellow of Trinity; Spencer Barrett, Fellow of Keble; Maurice Bartlett, Fellow of St Peter's; Edward Watson Bill, Archivist of Christ Church; Miles Blackwell, Fellow of St Cross; Colin Cooke, Fellow of Magdalen; Joan Crow, Fellow

of Lady Margaret Hall; Mollie Gerard Davies, Fellow of St Hilda's; Colin Day, Fellow of University College; Anthony Firth, Fellow of University College; Quintin Hogg, Viscount Hailsham, Fellow of All Souls; Edward Hall, Fellow of Worcester; Richard Hare, Fellow of Balliol and of Corpus Christi; Susanna Holman, Fellow of Kellogg; Martha Kneale, Fellow of Lady Margaret Hall; Alban Krailsheimer, Student of Christ Church; James Lambert, Fellow of Trinity; Geoffrey Masefield, Fellow of Wolfson; Walter Matthews, Fellow of St Edmund Hall; James Mills, Fellow of Wolfson; Freda Newcombe, Fellow of Linacre; Dmitri Obolensky, Student of Christ Church; Edward Parsons, Fellow of St Cross; Margaret Paul, Fellow of Lady Margaret Hall; George Peters, Fellow of Wolfson; Aylwin Robbins, Fellow of St Cross; Marion Taylor, Fellow of St Hilda's;

Nancy Trenaman, Principal of St Anne's; Nancy Waugh, Fellow of Somerville; Christiane Wilkinson, Fellow of St Hilda's; David Worswick, Fellow of Magdalen; John Wright, Fellow of Trinity.

These our friends and colleagues are dead; the work of the living goes on. The University pursues its exacting and momentous business. At once respected and viewed with irony, at the same time seen with affection and treated with random and ignorant hostility, it labours to pass on the accumulated riches of the past and to achieve new treasures of knowledge and insight for the present and the future. We honour the memory of these our dead, who spent their lives in its service. Let us resolve that we shall be their worthy successors, and that in our generation those high purposes shall not fail. *Et lux perpetua luceat eis.*

