

ACTA

Congregation of the Regent House on 12 June 2009

A Congregation of the Regent House was held this day at 2.45 p.m. The Chancellor was present. Processions formed in the Schools Arcade at 2.25 p.m. and entered the Senate-House by the East Door.

Music was performed at the Congregation by the Dulce Quartet and the Choirs of King's College and St John's College.

The following titular degrees were conferred:

Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa)

His Highness Prince KARIM AL-HUSSAINI AGA KHAN

K.B.E.

Doctor of Law (honoris causa)

MELINDA FRENCH GATES

Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Philanthropist

Doctor of Law (honoris causa)

WILLIAM HENRY GATES III

HON. K.B.E.

Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Co-Founder and Chairman of the Microsoft Corporation, Philanthropist

Doctor of Law (honoris causa)

**The Right Honourable SHIRLEY VIVIAN TERESA BRITTAIN,
Baroness WILLIAMS OF CROSBY**

P.C.

Honorary Fellow of Newnham College, Co-founder and sometime President of the Social Democratic Party, Public Service Professor of Elective Politics Emerita in the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University

Doctor of Science (honoris causa)

ELIZABETH HELEN BLACKBURN

PH.D., F.R.S.

of Darwin College, Morris Herzstein Professor of Biology and Physiology in the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics at the University of California, San Francisco, Biologist and Bioethicist

Doctor of Science (honoris causa)

WALLACE SMITH BROECKER

Foreign Member of the Royal Society, Newberry Professor of Geology in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia University, Geoscientist

Doctor of Science (honoris causa)

Sir PETER ROBERT CRANE

F.R.S.

John and Marion Sullivan University Professor in the Department of Geophysical Sciences at the University of Chicago, sometime Director of The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Doctor of Letters (honoris causa)

AMARTYA KUMAR SEN

HON. C.H., M.A., PH.D., F.B.A.

Fellow and sometime Master of Trinity College, Honorary Fellow of Darwin College and of St Edmund's College, Lamont University Professor and Professor of Economics and Philosophy at Harvard University, Nobel Laureate in Economics

Doctor of Letters (honoris causa)

WANG GUNGWU

C.B.E.

University Professor at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and founding Director of the East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore, sometime Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong, Professor of Far Eastern History Emeritus at the Australian National University, Canberra, Historian of China and the Chinese

Doctor of Music (honoris causa)

Sir PETER MAXWELL DAVIES

C.B.E.

Honorary Fellow of Homerton College, composer and conductor, Master of The Queen's Music

The Orator delivered the following speeches when presenting to The Chancellor the recipients of Honorary Degrees:

FORTASSE decet nos, qui annum nostrum octingentensimum celebramus, hunc uirum primum salutare qui progenie sua sexto saeculo orta prophetam Dei ipsum, qui in pace requiescat, fontem et stirpem sibi adrogare solet.

heres relictus est e testamento ab auo, qui populo suo maximo beneficio fore scripsit si sibi succederet iuuenis annis recentioribus eductus et noua in aetate confirmatus, qui noua sententiarum subtilitate officio suo consulturus esset. ex eo tempore cum dux et princeps creatus est per concilium suum ad res humanas emendendas institutum summam operam dat ne omnes qui in maxima egestate uersantur salutis eruditionis rei familiaris inopia omnino premantur sed ut ea quae ad uictum pertineant sibi suppeditare possint. et haec non modo humanitate commotus uerum etiam religione; nec pro suis tantum laborat, sed ut pacem amicitiam familiaritatem omnes inter gentes foueat contendit. nam ut ait Propheta: *memores este, homines, officii uestri Deo debiti, qui uno ex animo coniugem creauit et ex illis tantam hominum multitudinem in terras extendit.* praeterea hic uir qui natus est apud Heluetios, apud Afros puer eductus, qui historiam apud Haruardianos didicit, et domicilium nunc habet apud Francogallos (ut praetermittam eum pro Turcis et Persis in Olympiis per niuem praecipitauisse, equos in Foro Nouo uicino stabulatos exercuisse); hic uir, dico, re uera ut Ulixes πολλῶν ἀνθρώπων ἶδεν ἄστεα καὶ νόον ἔγνω. haud mirum igitur eum ut Chremetem illum Terentianum humani nihil a se alienum putare.

praesento uobis principem celsissimum, excellentissimi ordinis Imperi Britannici equitem commendatorem,

KARIM AL-HVSSAINI, uel AGA KHAN eius tituli quantum

AS we celebrate our eight hundredth anniversary, it is perhaps fitting that we first honour a man who traces his ancestry to the sixth century, and to the Prophet Mohammed, peace be upon him.

His grandfather named him as his heir, writing, 'I am convinced that it is in the best interests of the Shia Muslim Ismailia community that I should be succeeded by a young man who has been brought up and has developed during recent years and in the midst of the new age, and who brings a new outlook on life to his office.' Since becoming the fourth Aga Khan he has worked tirelessly through his Development Network to ensure that those who are pressed by the worst poverty should enjoy a reasonable standard of healthcare, education and financial security. And this is not

humanitarianism, as he says, but the requirement of his faith. Did not the prophet say, 'O mankind! Be careful of your duty to your Lord, Who created you from a single soul and from it created its mate, and from the twain hath spread abroad a multitude of men and women'?¹ Besides, this man, who was born in Geneva and spent his earliest years in Kenya, who studied at Harvard and now lives in France (not to mention the fact that he ski'ed for Turkey and Iran in two Olympiads and trained his horses at Newmarket), like Odysseus has 'seen the towns of many men and known their ways.' What wonder, then, if like Terence's Chremes he is an oecumenist?

I present to you

His Highness Prince KARIM AL-HUSSAINI AGA KHAN, K.B.E.

¹ *The Holy Qur'an* 4:2.



SI quid ueri inest in uetere illo paroemio cuique uiro magno magnam adesse feminam, haec sane maxima et praeclarissima documenta nobis praebet.

multa de eius et mariti beneuolentia dicere possum, sed et illos plures quam septingentos scholares qui de bonitate eorum apud nos studiis inseruire potuerunt, et elaboratorium illud magnificum institutum ad abacum electronicum uestigandum quod nobis dederunt idcirco oratione supersedi ut quanta non pecunia modo, quamuis multa sit, uerum etiam opera humanitate suae manus labore ad mala gemina perniciosissima—paupertatem dico et aegrotationem—radicitus extirpanda se adhibuerit laudibus celebrem. nonne aliis haec curae esse possunt, domina? 'quae ipsa uidi mala,' inquit, 'non auersanda esse censeo.' sed cur cum pauperibus et aegris tu ipsa uersaris ut tam duriter uiuas cum tam suauiter potes? 'cum iis uersari mihi libet. et quam celeriter me uexent symposia et uestium frequens mutatio!' nonne tamen melius erat tantas diuitias coaceruare? 'qui moritur diues, idem moritur turpiter.'

sed ut breuiter dicamus, uiri illius musici qui merito Bonus appellatur uerbis utamur: dixit enim postera aetate monumentis annalium euolutis eos qui tot memoratu digna adhuc fecissent manifestum fore innumerabilia hominum milia seruauisse. formam enim ipsam, magistri, et tamquam speciem liberalitatis uidetis. nec mirum, cui praeceptum est puellae ut seruiret.

praesento uobis feminam re uera φιλόανθρωπον, Instituti sui inter conditores et rectores,

MELINDAM FRENCH GATES

IF there be any truth in the old maxim that behind every great man there is a great woman, Melinda Gates stands as a shining example.

I could say much about the generosity shown by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; but I shall not now praise them for the gift which has so far allowed more than seven hundred Gates Scholars to pursue their studies at Cambridge; nor for the splendid and innovative William Gates Building which houses our Computer Laboratory. I shall celebrate instead the devotion which our honorand has shown to eradicating from the world the twin evils of poverty and disease, not only with her gifts of money, but with her own time, her humanity, and the work of her own hand. Could not

others be concerned with this? 'I cannot turn away from what I saw,' she says. But must you yourself visit the sick and the slums? Why make so hard a life which could be so easy? 'I love being in the slums. I can't imagine doing the cocktail party thing, the dressing up, all the time.' Would it not be better, though, to keep your money for yourself? 'He who dies rich, dies disgraced.'

Let me borrow the words of their friend Bono: 'What the Gates Foundation has done already is mind-boggling, and when the history books are written, it will be found to be responsible for having saved literally millions of lives.' There stands before you the very form and face of philanthropy. Evidently she learned from her school motto: seruiam.

I present to you

MELINDA FRENCH GATES

Co-founder and Co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Philanthropist



DE beneficentia ac de liberalitate nunc dicamus et una cum sapientibus, de officiis quae magnas opes sequuntur deliberemus. nam ut ait Tullius ille qui non modo oratoris sed philosophiae magistri nomen sibi adrogauit, cum a Platone praeclare scriptum est non nobis solum nos natos esse, sed ortus nostri partem patriam uindicare, partem amicos, tum Stoicis uidebantur homines hominum causa generari ut aliis alii prodesse possent. ergo non debemus dubitare quin eos qui uiri boni nominari uelint communes utilitates in medium ita adferre oporteat ut artibus opera facultatibus deuinciant hominum inter homines societatem. nempe dixit euangelista multum quaeri ab illo cui multum datum esset.

nunc igitur negotiatorem hunc uidemus praediutem et diuina liberalitate praeditum, qui nuper se a negotiis remouit non ut ad id praestantissimum et maxime aliis optabile cum dignitate otium se deuoueret, sed ut eos sumptus administraret quos uxore adiuuante ad rem humanam meliorem faciendam instituit. si enim Cicero recte scripsit ciuis boni esse popularibus suis prodesse, κοσμοπολίτην καλὸν τε καὶ ἀγαθόν certe hunc uirum appellare debemus qui maxima ui et uigore fretus nec sine maioris rei familiaris suae partis sumptu tot in terris ad morbum debellandum, ad discipulorum facultates augendas, ad hominum omnium statum uitae emendandum se adhibuit. cuiuslibet enim uitam eiusdem momenti habet.

sunt profecto qui adfirment diuitiis hominum mores corrumpi atque deprauari; neque hic uir negat sibi displicere quod interdum propter pecuniam suam hominum mentes ad se conuertantur. sed deme diuitias nullus erit Maecenas. ignoscat igitur mihi dum praesento uobis excellentissimi ordinis Imperi Britannici equitem commendatorem honoris causa adscitum, Instituti sui inter conditores et rectores, Societatis Microsoft inter conditores et eiusdem societatis praesidem,

GVLIELMVM HENRICVM GATES
eius nominis tertium

LET us say a few words about philanthropy and think for a moment about the responsibilities which attend on wealth. As Cicero reminds us – for he was an accomplished philosopher as well as an orator – and as Plato has admirably put it, we are not born for ourselves alone, but our country and our friends each claim a share; and as the Stoics held, men are made for the sake of men, that they might mutually help one another. We should not doubt, then, that those who desire to be

called good men should contribute to the common good, so that by their skill and industry and talent they might cement together the society of man.² Let us remember, too, the words of St Luke: For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required.

We have before us a businessman of some success who is endowed with wonderful generosity. Recently he withdrew from the day-to-day running of Microsoft, not to enjoy the life of leisured retirement that others might desire, but to devote himself to the charitable Foundation which bears his name and that of his wife. Through this Foundation he has donated all his energy, and the majority of his personal fortune, to combating disease, to improving educational opportunities, and to raising the standard of living across the globe, for his philosophy is that every life is of equal value. If Cicero was right, then, when he said that it is the duty of the good citizen to help his fellows, truly we should hail this man as a citizen of the universe – and a gentleman to boot.

Some, of course, hold that money is a corrupting influence. Mr Gates himself has said that he dislikes drawing attention to himself because of his wealth. But without wealth, there could be no Maecenas. I hope then that he will forgive me as I present to you

² See Cicero, *De Officiis* 1.7.22.

WILLIAM HENRY GATES III, HON. K.B.E.

Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Co-Founder and Chairman of the Microsoft Corporation, Philanthropist



IOHANNES quidam, clarissimus uir et ingenuus, dignationem eorum qui in re publica lusersarentur tam corruptam esse olim adfirmavit ut nesciret an nemo qui uerae et honestae gloriae studeret eam capessere uellet. nemo tamen quamuis sit seuerus morum castigator aliquid huius modi hanc quam nunc salutamus criminetur! quae, si signis unius factionis relictis ad alia conuenit, ne aurae popularis captandae causa de cursu suo demota esse dicatur, sed dum alii mobiliore animo errant rationes certas esse secuta. popularium enim partium primum erat studiosa, quo tempore ad honores ascendit et multa auctoritate ualebat. postea tamen in certaminibus cum homines quidam nouarum rerum cupidi in eas partes irrepere, eas ad prauas sententias deducere conarentur, tum trinis cum sociis—o illustrissimi quattuoruirii!—se abstulit, ex eis prima in eo oppido cuius nomine nunc est decorata ciuium suffragiis extra ordinem designata est. cum in Vniuersitatem Haruardianam ad docendum se recepisset, non a negotiis publicis omnino se remouit: nam Rusorum et Afrorum nouas ciuitates legibus et institutis temperauit. deinde in Domum Procerum arcessita per triennium suos ducebat. nunc posterioribus e subselliis, et saepius inter sapientes publice interrogatos, qua est clara uoce libertatem nostram defendit.

quid plura? olim nomen suum ut a nobis honores peteret professa, repulsam potius quam punctum tulit; hodie quos possumus honores ei ultro offeramus.

praesento uobis dominam admodum honorabilem regiae maiestatis ex intimo concilio, Collegi Newnhamensis honoris causa sociam adscitam, partium quas ad Societatis causam Defendendam Popularem sociis adiuuantibus condidit quondam praesidem, in Schola Kennediana Rerum Administrandarum apud Haruardianos rerum ciuium professorem emeritam,

SHIRLEY VIVIAN TERESA BRITTAIN, BARONISSAM WILLIAMS DE CROSBY

THE great liberal statesman John Bright once said that the character of the politician was so tainted and equivocal that no-one of pure and honourable ambition would aspire to such a career. But let no such charge be levelled at our next honorand. If she has changed her political colours, it is not because she was courting the favour of the public, but because she remained true to her principles while her party shifted its ground around her. She began her political career in the Labour Party, and held ministerial office in the cabinets of Wilson and Callaghan. But when the Militant Tendency were successfully infiltrating the party and turning it to Trotskyism, she and three colleagues left to form the SDP. She was the first of the so-called Gang of Four to be elected to represent the new party, in a by-election in Crosby, whence she has taken the style of her peerage. She abandoned party politics for a time, and became a professor in Harvard University, but she did not give up public life altogether, helping to draft new constitutions in Russia, Ukraine, and South Africa. Having been summoned to the House of Lords she served as Leader of the Liberal Democrats in that place for three years. Although she has now retired from that post she is a tireless champion of liberty and human rights both from the back benches, and as the most regular panellist on BBC's Question Time.

She once offered herself as a candidate in the constituency of Cambridge, but she was not elected. Today we gladly offer her what honours we can.

I present to you

The Right Honourable SHIRLEY VIVIAN TERESA BRITTAIN,
BARONESS WILLIAMS OF CROSBY, P.C.

Honorary Fellow of Newnham College, Co-founder and sometime President of the Social Democratic Party, Public Service Professor of Elective Politics Emerita in the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University



MVLIER adest de qua dixisset Vergilius *in tenui labor, at tenuis non gloria*;³ nunc et ego (si patientia uestra uti possum) admiranda uobis leuium spectacula rerum canam:

saetigerum pecus est, dictu mirabile monstrum
corpus habens tenuis micae modo pulueris instar.
quippe leui prorsum properat uibrante capillo
cursusque in liquidis intortos exigit undis!
haec si cogere uis ut coniungantur amore
Hispanis canta numeris Venerisque ale flammis.

sunt *Tetrahymenae* genetiuia corpuscula alia aliis minora eo modo ut his extremae partes pro rata portione sunt longiores. τελικὰ haec μέρη, ut nominantur, moleculam diribonucleariam cuius in filis implicatis aenigma uitae quattuor litteris chemicis scriptum est, sicut nodus uel massula glutinis obstragulum cothurni ne soluatur protegant. quae quo sunt longiora eo facilius haec femina exprimere et structuram explicare poterat: ex CCCCAtenis ea quibusdam uel quingentiens ideo iteratis constare, ne eisdem uetustate omnino contritis foret ut cellula citius senesceret nec diu se propagare posset. deinde ἐνζύμιον quoddam repperit, mirabile pristinae aetatis uestigium, quod ut τελικῶν μερῶν uitam producat, nouas catenas e proprio suo exemplari solet conficere. hoc ἐνζύμιον quo modo et quas cellulas in carbunculos cogat ab illa est petendum; ego qui talium rerum sum rudis tacere debeo.

nescio denique utrum liceat memorare eam cum cellularum quas multipotentes nominamus uim medicam defenderet, in praesidis offensionem olim incurrisse. cum

tamen consentiat ille qui nuper rerum potitus est, quis est qui dubitet quin illa magni momenti aliquid dixisse iure sit habenda?

praesento uobis doctorem in philosophia Collegi Darwiniani alumnam, Regiae Societatis sodalem, biologiae et physiologiae professorem in nomine Morris Herzstein apud Californienses ad Sanctum Franciscum,

ELIZABETHAM HELENAM BLACKBVRN

³ Virgil, *Georgica* IV 6.

NEXT we see a woman of whom Virgil might have said 'she works on something very small, but great is her glory.' Allow me to tell you of *Tetrahymena thermophila*, a miniature miracle. It is a ciliated protozoan which lives in pond water, with a body no bigger than a speck of dust. It corkscrews its way through the water by rhythmically beating its hairs. 'In my lab,' says our honorand, 'it wasn't unheard of to sing Ravel's Bolero to them to encourage them to mate.'

Now *Tetrahymena* has another odd property. Some of its chromosomes are shorter than others, so that their end regions are proportionately longer. These telomeres, as they are called, protect the DNA strand on which is written the code of life, just as the cap on a shoelace stops it from unravelling. And because the telomeres were longer, relatively speaking, she was able the more easily to extract them and analyse their structure. They consist of chains of the sequence of bases CCCCAA repeated up to fifty times, because they gradually wear away over time, and when they are completely gone the cell suffers senescence and can no longer reproduce. She discovered too a remarkable enzyme, a relic, it seems, from an earlier stage of evolution, which can build new fragments of DNA from its own internal template, and by attaching these to the telomeres prolong their life. This enzyme has a role in the development of cancer cells, but if you want the details you must ask her. Your orator must remain silent on such medical mysteries.

Perhaps I should not mention the fact that she incurred the displeasure of President Bush by advocating research into the therapeutic use of infant stem cells; but I am pleased to say that she would appear to have been vindicated by President Obama.

I present to you

ELIZABETH HELEN BLACKBURN, PH.D., F.R.S.

of Darwin College, Morris Herzstein Professor of Biology and Physiology in the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics at the University of California, San Francisco, Biologist and Bioethicist



CVM rogauisset quantum abesset quin orbis terrarum aliquantum calfieret, hic uir nouum uocabulum in nostram linguam imprudenter induxit quod quinto et tricensimo hoc post anno tam est peruulgatum ut omni populo in ore esse uideatur. alii profecto carbonis uaporem in aerem emissum mundum tamquam uiridarium uitreo instructum calfacere posse intellexerant; hic tamen primus ruinam imminere praeuidit, hic primus clamorem sustulit.

eas naturae potestates quae frigoris et caloris modum temperant alii matrem almam et diuinam, hic tamen bestiam saeuam ferocem impotentem fingit, quam ne stimulo laceamus monet. moles enim illae e glacie compressa factae quanta celeritate in loca quondam feruentiora interdum se intulerint, alio tempore haud lentius altos in montes et remotas partes se receperint cognouit. eas quoque uias et motus patefecit per quos aquae solis radiis tepefactae surgunt et ad septentrionales partes conuehuntur, unde refrigeratae ac sale grauidiores rursus sidunt et ad meridiem iterum subterfluunt. his perpetuis fluminibus incolae harum insularum calemus ac temperatioribus locis fruimur; quibus si quid obstat, frigoribus hiemis intolerabiliter oppressi horreamus.

sed cum hic eluuiionibus aquarum aut magno glaciei pondere, illic siccitate et umoris inopia obsidemur, quid faciunt illi qui se rerum ciuiliū peritos esse gloriantur nisi clariore in dies uoce aliquid faciendum esse conclamant? quid, nisi stimulum in illam bestiam uibrant? fortasse hunc audire debemus qui monet ut nescioquo artificio uaporem et perniciem ex aere trahamus. agendum est hodie, ne perendino die serius agamus.

praesento uobis Regiae Societatis hospitis iure sodalem, geologiae in nomine Newberry professorem in Vniuersitate Columbiana,

WALLACE SMITH BROECKER

WITH the publication of his paper 'Climatic Change: Are We on the Brink of a Pronounced Global Warming?' in the journal *Science* in 1975, Wallace Broecker inadvertently gave the English language a new expression. Thirty-four years later it seems to be on everyone's lips. Others before him had understood that carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere could turn the world into a giant greenhouse, but he was the first to see the imminent danger, and he was the first to raise the alarm.

Others have characterised nature as a divine and benevolent mother. Professor Broecker describes the climate system as an angry beast, hungry and unpredictable; and 'if you're living with an angry beast,' he warns, 'you shouldn't poke it with a sharp stick.' He has seen how quickly in the past glaciers have advanced into once warmer climes, and how abruptly they have receded again into remote mountain spaces. He discovered too the ocean conveyor, the great stream by which the waters heated by the rays of the sun rise to the surface and are carried northwards, where cooled once more and heavy with salt they sink back to the depths and flow south again. We in these islands are warmed by this perpetual movement of water, and thus we enjoy a temperate climate. If the conveyor were to be switched off, we would be plunged into shivering winter.

We are threatened on one side by floods and glaciers, on the other by drought and desert, but what do our politicians do except shout daily that something must be done? What do they do, except continue to poke the Beast? Perhaps we should listen to Professor Broecker when he advises us to scrub the pernicious carbon from the atmosphere by some contrivance. We must certainly act today, because the day after tomorrow may be too late.

I present to you

WALLACE SMITH BROECKER

*Foreign Member of the Royal Society, Newberry Professor of Geology in
the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia
University, Geoscientist*



CENTVM abhinc annos orator alius, uir doctissimus, hac in Curia unum et uiginti homines e sapientissimis noua rerum scientia imbutis ad Cancellarium adduxit ut celebraretur annus centensimus alumni nostri Caroli illius qui primus in lucem proferre ausus est magnum mysterium: nullam rem e nilo gigni diuinitus umquam⁴ sed semper sese mutando et natura iudice certando omne genus animalium gradatim exortum esse:

nam quaecumque uides uesci uitalibus auris
aut dolus aut uirtus aut denique mobilitas est
ex ineunte aeuo genus id tutata reseruans.⁵

sed ei qui uitae arboris multiplices ramos tam clare nobis illustrauit, cum animum ad herbas floriferentes attenderet, quot formae coortae essent et quam breui tempore in totam orbem terrarum percrebuisent, in hac re occultissima soluenda uiuida mentis uis nihil profuit. neque id mirum uideri debet, cum florum quae fossiles dicuntur reliquiae tam rarissimae tum haberentur. hic tamen Petrus, non minore oculorum acie quam manuum sollertia praeditus, cum excogitauisset quo pacto flores uel tenuissimos ex argillo extraheret, effecit ut prisca naturae uariatio nobis patefieret.

nec pristina tantum curat. septem per annos regis hortis botanicis praesidebat, frondiferis locis, ut melius scripsisset Naeuius,

ingenio arbusta ubi nata sunt et obsitu.⁶

eo duce collecta et in thesauro conseruata sunt omnia insularum nostrarum uernacula semina. eo duce hortuli Kewenses a summo gentium consilio dignati sunt qui omnium hominum hereditas esse nuncuparentur. nunc uentosam in urbem ubi Musaeo olim praefuit se recepit ut ad priscos flores uestigandos rursus se dedicet, et sententias suas et naturae curam latius disseminet. esto: probae in quemuis segetem datae fruges ipsae suapte natura enitent.

praesento uobis equitem auratum, Regiae Societatis sodalem, scientiarum ad terrarum naturam pertinentium professorem in nomine Iohannis et Marion Sullivan in Vniuersitate Sicagoensi, Regionum Hortorum Botanicorum Kewensium quondam rectorem,

PETRVM ROBERTVM CRANE

⁴ Lucretius, *De Rerum Natura* l 150.

⁵ Lucretius, *De Rerum Natura* v 857–9, trans. W. E. Leonard.

⁶ See Naeuius, *Lycurgus* 23.

A HUNDRED years ago in this very Senate-House a predecessor of mine, Sir John Edwin Sandys, presented to the Chancellor twenty-one honorands, all experts in the new science of evolution. The occasion was the centenary of our alumnus Charles Darwin, the first man who dared to cast the light of science on the sacred mystery, and who showed that nothing comes to be from nothing by divine will, but that all living species arose through a continuous process of random mutation and natural selection:

For whatsoever creatures thou beholdest
Breathing the breath of life, the same have been
Even from their earliest age preserved alive
By cunning, or by valour, or at least
By speed of foot or wing.

But although Darwin revealed the tree of life with its many branches, when he came to contemplate the flowering plants, how so many forms had arisen, as it seemed, in so short a span of time, he found only an 'abominable mystery.' And no wonder, when fossilised flowers were thought so rare. Then along came Peter Crane, who devised a way to detect such fossils in china clay and extract

them intact – a feat demanding sharpness of eye and steadiness of hand in equal measure. And so the history of the angiosperms was laid bare.

He cares not only for the prehistoric. For seven years he served as Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, a leafy place, as Naevius might have said, where trees have grown by nature as well as by design. In that time the Millennium Seed Project succeeded in collecting and conserving all the seeds native to these islands. Under his Directorship the Gardens were recognised as a World Heritage Site. Now he has returned to Chicago, where once he was a curator in the Field Museum, to resume his work on fossil flowers, and to spread even more widely his concern for nature. He will do well: a good seed produces fruit wherever it is planted.

I present to you

Sir PETER ROBERT CRANE, F.R.S.

*John and Marion Sullivan University Professor in the Department of
Geophysical Sciences at the University of Chicago, sometime Director of
The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew*



NVPER in somniis praeclaro cum philosopho sermonem conferre mihi uisus sum, de quo, magistri, insolito etiam more, si placet, uobis enarrabo.

Τὰ ἐμαυτοῦ ἐν τῇ ἀγορᾷ ὡς εἶωθα πράσσω συνέντευχον ἐκείνῳ τῷ φιλοσόφῳ τε καὶ οἰκονόμῳ Ἀμβροσίῳ ὠνομασμένῳ. ὁ δέ, Χαῖρε, ὦ φίλε, ἔφη. λέγωμεν δὴ περὶ τῆς ἰσότητος, εἴ σοι σχολή· οὐ μὲν γὰρ ἀλλοτριὰ ἡμῖν ἢ μακρολογία, ἀλλὰ φιλόλογοι ἔσμεν. νῦν δὲ εἰπέ μοι τάδε· τοὺς ἀνθρώπους ἐκ τοῦ ἴσου ἀλλήλοις εἶναι λέγοντες, κατὰ τί ἐξ ἴσου λέγομεν;

Οὐδὲν ἄλλο λέγομεν, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ἢ ὅτι ἄνθρωπος ἕκαστος ἴσων καλῶν τυγχάνει ὥστε πάντας ἐξ ἴσου εὐδαιμονία χρᾶσθαι.

Καὶ δὴ οὐκ ὀλίγοις οὕτως δοκεῖ, ἦ δ' ὅς, ἀλλὰ σκοπώμεθα· ἄρ' οὐ γὰρ εἰσὶν οἵτινες οὕτω ἐλασσοῦνται ὥστε καὶ εἰ οἶον τροφήν ἀπὸ τῆς πόλεως τοσαύτην δέξαιτο ὅσην οἱ ἄλλοι, πείναν καὶ τότε πάσχοντας μηδαμῶς ἂν εἶναι εὐδαίμονας; καὶ αὖ ἄλλοι οἵτινες στέργουσιν τὰ ἤδη κεκτημένα καί περ ὀλίγα ὄντα καὶ οὐκ ἐπιθυμοῦσιν οὐδενὸς ἄλλου, ὥστε μὴ ἂν μειοῦσθαι τὴν εὐδαιμονίαν μηδὲν δεξαμένοις; ἄρα οὗτοι ἐξ ἴσου σοι φαίνονται εἶναι τοῖς πλέονα ἔχουσι;

Οὐκ ἔμοιγε, ἔφη.

ὁ δέ, Δῆλου γὰρ δήπου, ἔφη, ὅτι ἡ ἰσότης οὐκ ἐξαρθᾶται οὔτε ἐκ τοῦ τὰ αὐτὰ πράγματα δεδέχθαι, οὔτε τὴν αὐτὴν εὐδαιμονίαν, οὔτε τὸ αὐτὸ συμφέρον, ἀλλὰ τὰς δυνάμεις τὰς αὐτάς· καὶ δυνάμεις λέγων οὐ δικαίωματά τινα διανοοῦμαι λόγῳ μόνον ὑπάρχοντα, ἀλλὰ τὸ τῆς πολιτείας μετέχειν δύνασθαι ἔργῳ καὶ πράγματι καὶ τῷ ὄντι. ἦ πῶς σοὶ δοκεῖ;

καὶ ἐγώ, Ἀληθῇ λέγεις, ἔφη, ὦ Ἀμβρόσιε, καὶ εὖ ἐποίησας ἀποκαλύψας τὴν τῆς ἐμῆς δόξης ἀμαρτίαν.

praesento uobis Indum disputationis cupidum palmis Nobelianis coronatum, magistrum in artibus, doctorem in philosophia, inter homines praecipue honoratos socium honoris causa adscriptum, Academiae Britannicae sodalem, Collegi Sanctae et Indiuiduae

Trinitatis socium et quondam magistrum, Collegi Darwiniani et Collegi Sancti Edmundi honoris causa socium, rerum oeconomicarum necnon philosophiae in nomine Lamont in uniuersitate Haruardiana professorem,

AMARTYA KVMAR SEN

I RECENTLY had a dream in which I fell into conversation with a famous philosopher, and with your leave I will tell you of it in an unaccustomed manner.

I was going about my usual business when I met the philosopher and economist Amartya. 'Let us talk about equality,' he said, 'if you have the time. Prolixity is not alien to us; we do like to speak. So tell me, when we say that people enjoy equality, equality of what?'

'We mean that each receives the same good things,' I said, 'and all enjoy the same level of happiness.'

'A good many people do think that,' said he, 'but let us consider. Are there not some people who are so deprived that even if they received from the State the same amount of food, say, as their peers, they would still starve? They would not be at all happy. And on the other hand there are others who are content with their lot, poor as it is, and have no aspiration for more. Their happiness would not be diminished even if they received nothing. Do you think they enjoy equality with the rich?'

'Not at all,' I said.

'For it is clear, I think,' said he, 'that equality depends on receiving not the same material things, nor the same happiness, nor the same utility, but the same capabilities; and by capabilities I mean not "rights" which exist only in theory, but the real and practical ability to take part in society. What do you think?'

'You are right,' I said. 'Thank you for pointing out the error in my thinking.'

I present to you an Argumentative Indian,

AMARTYA KUMAR SEN, HON. C.H., M.A., PH.D., F.B.A.

Fellow and sometime Master of Trinity College, Honorary Fellow of Darwin College and of St Edmund's College, Lamont University Professor and Professor of Economics and Philosophy at Harvard University, Nobel Laureate in Economics



OLIM hic uir puerilibus in scriptis res Serum tanta antiquitate obductas esse dixit ut haud sciret an nemo eas penitus percipere et comprehendere posset—o adulescens bonae spei, qui a prima uetustate usque ad huius aetatis memoriam repetens ad rerum illarum studium te applicaturus eras!

mergi, ut ferunt, facile radican- tur: Seres peregrini qui quamquam patrios mores colere pergunt ciuitatem tamen mutant et domicilium sedemque apud alienos habent idem fere de se confitentur. uitam haud minus quam laborem huius uiri ita describere possum, qui peregrinator ipse διασπόραν Sericam uestigandam sibi proposuit. διασπόραν dixi? immo, τοὺς διεσπαρμένους ipsos, ne uitae singulorum uno tenore describantur.

uelim tamen ne eum ducatis omne studium in litteris collocare uel in bibliothecam suam abditum uita umbratili fructum esse, quippe qui iuuenis in rebus publicis uersatus populi causam egerit, qui eo tempore cum coloniam nostram in Portu Odorifero ad patriam reddebatur, illic in uniuersitate Procancellarii officio functus sit. sed tantas res administranti nihil obstitit quin opera permulta tam doctrinae elegancia quam integritate orationis limata ederet.

adest denique qui uersus fundere amat. quid? non iuuenis docti cuiusdam laudem cecinit nostrum cui flumen sub pectore suscitatur ignem?

talem musarum cultorem incondito meo carmine uel nugis celebrare nefas. uerba igitur Carminum Libri mutuemur:
ceum cum saxosum collem celsumque uidemus
sic te suspiciunt omnes, praeclare magister.

praesento uobis Serum et rerum Sericarum scriptorem, in Facultate Artium et Scientiarum Ciuium professorem et Instituti Rerum Asianarum Orientalium apud Sagedenses conditorem et rectorem, Vniuersitatis Portus Odoriferi quondam Procancellarium, Orientis Vltioris Historiae in Vniuersitate Terrae Australis professorem emeritum, excellentissimi ordinis Imperi Britannici commendatorem,

WANG GUNGWU

THE civilisation of China is of such extreme antiquity that probably no one is able to understand it fully. So said our next honorand in an essay published while he was still at school in Ipoh. A promising youth, evidently, who would go on to dedicate himself to the study of the history of that very civilisation, from the earliest times to the present day.

Luo di sheng gen, the Chinese say, 'falling to the ground and striking root,' to describe the way in which expatriates adopt the citizenship of their new home while preserving Chinese cultural values. An apt description for Professor Wang's life as well as his work. Himself a Chinese who has lived his whole life abroad, he took as his theme the Chinese diaspora – though he would prefer that we not use that word, masking as it does the disparate experiences of many people. Very well, then, let us say that he took as his theme the Chinese overseas.

But you must not think that he has devoted all his time to the past, nor enjoyed the easy, cloistered life of the scholar in his ivory tower. As a young man he was active in politics, a founder member of the Malaysian People's Movement. And he is a great administrator, who served as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong at the time when the colony was returned to China. Yet nothing has stopped him from publishing a wealth of academic papers, distinguished for their elegant style as much as their scholarship.

He is also a poet. Perhaps, like the clever young man Ahmad of whom he has written, 'in his heart he had stirrings for Cam.' A man beloved of so many Muses I will not address with doggerel from my own pen. Instead, let us borrow the words of the Book of Odes:

節彼南山、維石巖巖、赫赫師王、民具爾瞻 ⁷

I present to you

WANG GUNGWU, C.B.E.

University Professor at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and founding Director of the East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore, sometime Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong, Professor Emeritus of Far Eastern History at the Australian National University, Canberra, Historian of China and the Chinese

⁷ 'Lofty is that southern hill, with its rugged masses of rocks! Greatly distinguished are you, O grand-teacher Wang; the people all look up to you.' *Book of Odes*, Mao 191, trans. J. Legge (adapted). After the honorific opening, the poem goes on to denounce the injustice of the original addressee, one Master Yin. Let us not follow the poet after the lines quoted.



ORPHEA detinuisse feras et concita dicunt
flumina Threicia sustinuisse lyra.⁸

huiusne uiri clauicinum tantam uim habeat quantam Orpheos lyra, nescio; quod si ad misericordiam, ut ille, Orcum ducere uix potest, illud pro certo affirmare licet haud minus mirandum, quod maestis fidibus canendo negotiatores uranii metalli et lucri cupidos suis depulit Orcadibus. quid opus est tibi ualere dicere, Valide Aestus, si huius propter operam iam uales?

quam uariae sint ei ingeni artes, quam diuersos composuerit modos, quis nostrum cum recenset non miratur? ecce, hic symphoniaci inclusi cantus neotericos regis furiosi modulantur! si tamen mavis in Campis Niueis eum petere, insanum, ut dixit existimator quidam, et uestibus mutatis somnio similem inuenies pantomimum. monachi cantum nunc audire nobis uidemur, alio tempore modos populares. iam melica agitur fabula, iam chorus numerosior. hic κῆθάριον conspicimus, illic musicorum gregem toto corpore uacillantium. sed neque copiosius dicere licet, nec si liceat ego—asinus ad lyram!—oratione soluta omnem eius artem persequi possum.

de his rebus igitur tacebo, sed iuuat commemorare quantum huic uiro debeatur a liberis quorum studiis multifariam fauet et ab iis qui mero musicae amore commoti et nullo stipendio canant. artem enim illam non floris nobilitatis atque uirorum ciuitatis electissimorum sed ciuium omnium dicit esse patrimonium; quae si pereat, haud multum afore quin cunctus animi atque ingeni cultus exstinguatur et omnino deleatur.

praesento uobis uirum musicum et mesochorum, equitem auratum, excellentissimi ordinis Imperi Britannici commendatorem, Collegi Homertonensis honoris causa socium, Regiae Maiestatis musicae magistrum,

⁸ Propertius III 2 1–2.

PETRV M MAXWELL DAVIES

ORPHEUS is said to have charmed wild beasts and stayed fast-flowing rivers with his Thracian lyre. Whether our final honorand can perform such feats with a piano, I do not know. But if he cannot move Orcus to pity with his song, as Orpheus did, I can report with certainty that he was able to ward off uranium miners from the Orkneys, an equally remarkable feat. What need, then, to say Farewell to Stromness, if Stromness fares well because of his music?

This man's range of styles and influences is truly remarkable. Eight Songs for a Mad King seems avant garde with its caged musicians. In Mavis in Las Vegas we find 'a mad, transvestite dream ballet,' as one critic has put it. He draws upon plainsong as easily as folk melodies. Now we hear an opera, now a swing band – and look, a banjo! Now a rock band! I could go on, but time will not allow; and even if it did, I could not do justice in prose to our honorand's talent.

I will move on then, and recall how great a champion he is of music for children and amateur performers. Serious music, he says, is not elitist, but for everyone, and its survival is a question of the survival of civilised values themselves.

I present to you

Sir PETER MAXWELL DAVIES, C.B.E.

Honorary Fellow of Homerton College, Composer and Conductor, Master of the Queen's Music