Doctor of Law (*honoris causa*)
The Right Honourable **Igor,** Baron **Judge of Draycote**, M.A.
Honorary Fellow of Magdalene College, Visitor of Darwin College, Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, President of the Selden Society

Doctor of Science (*honoris causa*)
Brigitte Alice Askonas, PH.D., F.R.S., F.MED.SCI.
Honorary Fellow of Girton College and of Murray Edwards College, formerly Director of Immunology at the National Institute for Medical Research

Doctor of Science (*honoris causa*)
Uta Frith, HON. D.B.E., F.R.S., F.B.A, F.MED.SCI.
Honorary Fellow of Newnham College, Research Foundation Professor in the Faculties of Humanities and Health Sciences, University of Aarhus, Professor of Cognitive Development Emerita, University College London, developmental psychologist

Doctor of Science (*honoris causa*)
Sir **Richard Lavenham Gardner**, M.A., PH.D., F.R.S.
Honorary Fellow of St Catharine's College, formerly Edward Penley Abraham Royal Society Research Professor in the Department of Zoology, University of Oxford, Honorary Professor in the University of York, physiologist

Doctor of Science (*honoris causa*)
Peter Ware Higgs, f.r.s., f.r.s.e., hon. f.inst.p.
Professor of Theoretical Physics Emeritus in the University of Edinburgh

Doctor of Science (*honoris causa*)
Roger Yonchien Tsien, ph.d.
Honorary Fellow of Gonville and Caius College and of Churchill College, Professor of Pharmacology and Chemistry and Biochemistry in the University of California, San Diego, Nobel Laureate

Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*)
Phillip Kenneth King, c.b.e., m.a., p.p.r.a.
Honorary Fellow of Christ's College, formerly President of the Royal Academy and Professor of Sculpture in the Royal Academy Schools, Professor of Sculpture Emeritus in the Royal College of Art, sculptor

Doctor of Music (*honoris causa*)
Alfred Brendel, hon. k.b.e.
Pianist, Honorary Fellow of Peterhouse, Inaugural Humanitas Visiting Professor, in Chamber Music

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

HANC legum summam si quis uult iura tueri
perlegat et sapiens si uult orator haberi.

hos uersiculos Andrea quidam Horn, iurisperitior uir quam numerosior, ei libello qui *Speculum Iustitiariorum* inscribitur praeposuit; quem quidem nostratem in sermonem uersum editumque a Societate Seldeniana, cui ad memoriam iuris Anglorum fouendam institutae praesidet hospes hic noster, facillime, si uultis, magistri, legere potestis. agmen enim ducit iudex. iudicem dixi? immo, Iudex ipse ceteris iudicibus praefectus qui, ut ille Cancellarius Gilbertianus (meministi illud officium caput iudicum esse solere?), ad cancellos etiam iuuenis arcessitus, primum causis dicendis tum sententiis reddendis omnes dignitatis gradus ascendit donec ad summam iudiciorum sedem peruenit. famam iam sibi comparauit quod morem maiorum in iudiciis administrandis contra eos—licet sint uiri ciuitatis amplissimi—qui iudicibus incorruptis uel alienam administrationem uel nouum reipublicae statum minentur uerbis simplicioribus defendere solet.

sunt qui eum argentarii prisci et comis instar eruditionem ingenique acumen dissimulare dicant. nolite tamen eum Catonem quendam habere, qui commentariola e iudicio per aethera missiculari non uetuit. quod si μύωπός τινος more eos quos penes sit respublica concitare fertur (quod quidem haud scio an laudi potius quam dedecori sit habendum) nihilo alio permotus est nisi quia si iudices obseruauerint quid nescioquis alius uelit esse ius iudiciumque, tum uero haud multum absit quin sancta ea nostrorum iustitiariorum integritas omnino deleatur.

dignissime domine, Domine Cancellarie, et tota academia, praesento uobis nobilissimum hunc uirum admodum honorabilem, Magistrum in Artibus, Collegi Sanctae Mariae Magdalenae honoris causa socium adscitum, Collegi Darwiniani Censorem, totius Angliae Vallesiaeque Summum Iustitiarium, Societatis Seldenianae Praesidem,

IGOR baronem JUDGE DRAICOTENSEM

ut honoris causa habeat titulum gradus Doctoris in Iure.

READ *me, whoe'er the substance of the laws*
Desires to see, or plead with sage applause.

These verses were prefaced by one Andrew Horn (a man more skilled in matters jurisprudential than metrical) to his legal handbook The Mirror of Justices. *You can easily read it, if you wish, in the English translation published by the Selden Society, founded to encourage the study and advance the knowledge of the history of English law, whose president now stands before us. Yes, our first honorand is a judge. And not just any judge, but the most senior Judge in the land, who, like W. S. Gilbert's Lord Chancellor (until recently, you will recall, the Lord Chancellor was head of the judiciary), went to the bar as a very young man and rose through the ranks, first as a barrister and then on the bench, until he arrived at the most august office of Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales. And in that office he has gained a reputation for plain speaking in defence of the traditions of British justice and the independence of the judiciary from those who would weaken them (among them people who should know better) through subjugation to foreign jurisdiction or with threat of constitutional reform.*

It has been said that he resembles a kindly 1950s bank-manager, and that he wears his learning lightly. But it would be a mistake to think him old-fashioned: did he not permit the use of Twitter from his court-room? And if, as has also been said, he is sometimes a thorn in the government's side (a mark of distinction, it seems to me, rather than a criticism!) it is only because, as he puts it himself, 'If ever we decide cases on the basis of what someone else wanted the law or the result to be, we would have forfeited the very principle of independence for which judges in this country stand.'

Distinguished Chancellor, members of the University, I present to you

The Right Honourable IGOR, Baron JUDGE of DRAYCOTE, M.A.,
Honorary Fellow of Magdalene College, Visitor of Darwin College, Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, President of the Selden Society,

that he may receive the title of the degree of Doctor of Law, honoris causa.

❖

PARTICVLAE sunt quaedam morbiferae forma tam simplici—e nihilo alio enim compositae nisi primordiis genitiuis πρωτείου tegmine inuolutis, eo tempore cum repertae sunt ne utrum uiuerent quidem satis constabat—quibus tamquam si uenenum modo sint nomen uirus adhibeatur. et tam pusillae ut quamquam maximam partem copiamque animantium efficiunt, nulla sit acies oculorum qua conspiciantur. his quarum uis mortifera latissime euagatur nunc salutamus feminam inimicissimam; nobis tamen amicissimam filiam reducem quae abhinc annos lx in eodem loco stetit ut gradum Doctoris in Philosophia assequeretur. cuius gradus cucullo assumpto cum a nobis discessisset ut apud Londinienses in Instituto Inuestigationum Medicinalium πρωτείου moleculis studeret, Fortuna arridente in caprino lacte inuenit ἀντισώματα. (ita nuncupantur—si licet mihi uobis paulisper praelegere, magistri—paruula corpuscula organica quae animali contagione uexato in sanguine orta aliquid immunitatis eiusdem morbi dehinc praebent.) tum uero morborum immunitatis nouae scientiae se dedit, cuius instituto a se condito tandem praefuit. ἀντισώματα quo modo et quibus in corporis partibus exprimerentur cognouit; cellulae quaedam ἐκ θυμοῦ oriundae quo pacto producerentur duplicarenturque inuenit; quemadmodum contagionem recognoscerent recognitaeque repugnarent patefecit. hoc denique repperit quod arti medicinae maximo erit beneficio: si grauedinis semina (ut hoc exemplo utar) ui imminuta alicui consulto infusa essent ut non ἀντισώματα, quorum aliud cum alio genere uiri depugnat, sed hae θυμοῦ cellulae producerentur, fortasse medicum ab omnibus huius morbi formis eum tueri posse.

dignissime domine, Domine Cancellarie, et tota academia, praesento uobis egregiam hanc mulierem, Doctorem in Philosophia, Regiae Societatis Sodalem, Academiae Scientiarum Medicinalium Sodalem, Collegi Girtonensis necnon Collegi Murray Edwards honoris causa sociam adscitam, in Instituto Inuestigationum Medicinalium Londiniensi Scientiae Immunitatis olim praefectam, cuius quidem rei haud indigna est quae mater et fundatrix nominetur,

BRIGITTE ALICE ASKONAS

ut honoris causa habeat titulum gradus Doctoris in Scientiis.

THERE *are certain infectious agents so simple in form—mere strands of genetic material wrapped up in a protein coat—that they are named virus, from the Latin word for 'poison'. Indeed, when they were discovered it was not even clear whether they were really alive. Although they are so small as to be invisible, yet they are the commonest form of life on the planet. They are the cause of some of our deadliest epidemic diseases, and the woman who stands before us is perhaps their bitterest enemy. To us, however, she is a very dear returning friend. Sixty years ago she stood here to receive the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, and having graduated she went to the National Institute for Medical Research to study proteins. But Fate had other plans. While looking at goat's milk she found by chance that it contained antibodies. (These, you will recall, are small organic particles produced in response to infection which provide some measure of subsequent immunity.) At once she changed the course of her career and devoted herself to the new science of immunology, co-founding and eventually leading the Institute's department. She discovered by which cells antibodies were secreted and how they could be synthesised. She was one of the first to clone T lymphocytes, and discovered their role in detecting and fighting infection. And she pioneered the use of vaccines which stimulate the production of these T cells instead of antibodies, each of which protects against only one sub-type of a particular virus, and so offer the possibility of immunising against all strains of viral diseases such as influenza.*

Distinguished Chancellor, members of the University, I present to you one of the founders of the scientific discipline of immunology,

BRIGITTE ALICE ASKONAS, PH.D., F.R.S., F.MED.SCI.,
Honorary Fellow of Girton College and of Murray Edwards College, formerly Director of Immunology at the National Institute for Medical Research,

that she may receive the title of the degree of Doctor of Science, honoris causa.

❖

TRIPERTITO diuisum esse animum humanum dicit Plato. quod si philosophus in singulis rebus explicandis interdum aut simplicius dicebat aut omnino errabat, si tamen doctissimae huius mulieris pellucidos libellos euolueritis, dogmata haud dissimilia legetis. dum ad animi medicinam Danico in Colli instituitur adeo mirata est liberos eo morbo uel cerebri conformationis perturbatione afflictos quae αὐτισμὸς dicitur, quia aliquatenus εἰς ἑαυτοὺς ἀπέρχεσθαι uidentur, ut medici cubiculum elaboratorio inuestigatoris permutauerit. qua re enim alia opera quae facillima uidentur illi liberi non nisi summa cum difficultate, alia tamen ceteris difficiliora facillime perficere possent? quos nodos ut solueret sociis discipulisque adiuuantibus dum de pila in cistellam furtim abdita uel de stylo in bellariorum pyxidem condito fabellas commenticias narrabat audientium cerebra obseruauit. quibus consiliis hoc mirum est repertum: ut caeci sensu uidendi carerent

neque oculorum acumen haberent, ita his liberis facultatem quandam alienae mentis cognoscendae intellegendaeque, quae ceteris suppeditaret, si non omnino deficere certe extenuatam esse. praeterea quamobrem sint qui singula potius quam uniuersa intueri soleant scrutata mentis facultatem alteram quae spectatori quod sit minimi momenti eradat quo clarius res ipsa eluceatur nonnumquam pigram fieri postulauit.

nec facile est has res narrare, magistri, neque, confiteor, copiam quam uoluissem persequi potui. haec tamen mulier libros duos composuit quorum in altero rem breui in conspectu posuit, in altero de huius morbi aenigmate soluendo uerbis clarissimis et humanitate plenis copiosius omnia explicauit.

dignissime domine, Domine Cancellarie, et tota academia, praesento uobis egregiam hanc mulierem humani animi doctissimam, Collegi Newnhamensis honoris causa sociam adscitam, Regiae Societatis, Academiae Britannicae, Academiae Scientiarum Medicinalium Sodalem, Vniuersitatis Remorum Domus hospitis iure Professorem adscriptam, in Collegio Vniuersitatis Londiniensi Professorem emeritam, excellentissimi ordinis Imperi Britannici honoris causa nuperrime adscitam dominam commendatricem,

UTA FRITH

ut honoris causa habeat titulum gradus Doctoris in Scientiis.

ACCORDING *to Plato the human soul is divided into three faculties. Although the great philosopher was wrong in the details, in the writings of our next honorand you will find theories which are astonishingly similar—though rather more sophisticated. While she was training in psychiatry in Denmark Hill she became so fascinated by children affected by autism that she swapped the consulting room for the research laboratory. Why did they find it so hard to do things which seemed so simple? Why, on the other hand, did tasks which seemed almost impossible for others apparently pose them no difficulty at all? To solve these and similar mysteries she and her colleagues made up stories about marbles being stolen away and hidden in baskets, or about pencils secreted in tubes of sweets, and told them to children while observing what went on inside their brains. What they discovered she has termed 'mind blindness': most people have a brain system which allows them to recognise and almost, as it were, to read the minds of others, but in those with autistic disorders this system is damaged or absent. She has also investigated why such children sometimes notice remarkable detail but fail to see the bigger picture, and has hypothesised that there exists another system in the brain which deletes irrelevant detail so that the whole may be seen more easily.*

These are matters which it is difficult to explain, and I confess that I have not said all I should have liked. But our honorand has written two wonderful books, one A Very Short Introduction, *the other* Autism: Explaining the Enigma, *in which she sets forth everything with clarity and compassion in equal measure.*

Distinguished Chancellor, members of the University, I present to you

UTA FRITH, HON. D.B.E., F.R.S., F.B.A., F.MED.SCI.,
Honorary Fellow of Newnham College, Visiting Professor in the University of Aarhus, Professor of Cognitive Development Emerita, University College London, developmental psychologist,

that she may receive the title of the degree of Doctor of Science, honoris causa.

❖

PRODIGIA inueniunt docti qui sidera seruant:
non aliter nobis angustum habitantibus orbem
multigenis plenum grauidumque animantibu' multa
admiranda adsunt propius miracula rerum

ita alumnus noster proximo anno honoratus earum cellularum quae stirps uitae rite nominantur inuentor. hunc alterum iam uidemus qui humani ingeni uim humaniores ad quaestiones contulit. admonuit enim quibus naturae praeceptis ductum ἔμβρυον concipiatur et conceptum adolescat donec pariatur. idem cognouit quibus ex fontibus cellulae corporis nostri ortae sint et quo foedere ita mutentur et multas in formas uertantur ut tandem tamquam consulto et cuiusdam dei manu dirigente ad officium suum quaeque conformata esse uideatur. idemque cum ἔμβρυον e quo cellula extracta esset quae in membra redigeretur nulla re impediri demonstrasset quin in partum integrum ac sanum se produceret, nouam particularum genitiuarum morbos cognoscendi facultatem quae iam maximo est usui medicis praebuit.

si quis uel unam ex his rebus exsequi potuisset, eum dignum iudico quem laudibus in caelum tollamus; hoc tamen ab eo inuentum maximae ei gloriae esse credo, magistri: cellulas ex altero mure ereptas et in concauum alterius βλαστὸν insitas tam penitus in fetum accipi ut alibi in corpore intextas et in partibus genitalibus se ostendant. accedit quod priusquam insitae sunt quoduis corpusculum genitiuum inseri potest quod in omnibus illius muris progeniei cellulis inuenietur ut uis effectusque facile cognoscantur.

dignissime domine, Domine Cancellarie, et tota academia, praesento uobis egregium hunc uirum, equitem auratum, Magistrum in Artibus, Doctorem in Philosophia, Regiae Societatis Sodalem, Collegi Sanctae Catharinae Virginis honoris causa socium adscitum, quondam in Schola Zoologiae apud Oxonienses professorem, ab Eboracensibus honoris causa professorem adscriptum,

RICHARD LAVENHAM GARDNER

ut honoris causa habeat titulum gradus Doctoris in Scientiis.

'ASTRONOMERS *look to the stars and find out wonderful things about them. We live, on this world, in a biological universe, and our internal stars need to be studied in just the same way.*' [1]

There stands before us a man who has directed his attention to the fundamental questions of life. He has taught us how the embryo develops from conception to birth. He has discovered the origins of our cells, and how they develop into all the forms which we see in the body so that they give the illusion of having been made each for their individual functions by some intelligent design. He showed, too, that a cell could be removed from an embryo for analysis, and that the embryo, undamaged by the procedure, could go on to develop into a normal, healthy individual. This is now a valuable tool in the diagnosis of genetic diseases.

The discoverer of just one of these things would deserve undying fame. But this revelation of his is even more marvellous: cells taken from one mouse and implanted into the hollow cavity at the centre of another mouse blastocyte become so deeply incorporated into the embryo that they reproduce and their descendants are found interwoven throughout the body, some even entering the germ-line. More than this, he was able to alter the genetic material of the implanted cells to introduce some

[1] Professor Sir Martin Evans, the discoverer of stem cells, whom we honoured last year.

desired gene which would be present in all the cells of the mouse's offspring, so that the gene's effects could be easily discovered.

Distinguished Chancellor, members of the University, I present to you

Sir RICHARD LAVENHAM GARDNER, M.A., PH.D., F.R.S.,
Honorary Fellow of St Catharine's College, formerly Edward Penley Abraham Royal Society Research Professor in the Department of Zoology, University of Oxford, Honorary Professor in the University of York, physiologist,

that he may receive the title of the degree of Doctor of Science, honoris causa.

❖

AENEADVM genetrix, hominum diuumque uoluptas
te sociam studeo scribendis uersibus esse
quos ego haruspicibus de ternis pangere conor.
primus erat noster qui malum uidit alumnus
concidere et nobis uerbis euoluit apertis
quae uis naturae uel lex ferat omnia prorsus
ad medium et uinclis constringat uix uiolandis.
quo spatium pacto deforment explicat alter
et rerum moles et copia materiai.
tertius in serie, non nomine tertius, est hic
qui iam perpetuam tibi reddit, Scotia, famam,
ponderi' principium quia detegit unde oriatur:
ut cum nix omnis occultat frigida campos
aggeribus densis et contigit undique terram,
qui trahea uehitur citius super aequora currit;
quod si quis pedes it propriis membris iter urgens
tardatur niuea, quasi uinctus compede, mole
et pressus glacie uix se mouet artubu' fessis.
[haud secus ac patiens clitellis bos oneratur.]
abdita sic uastum tendit per inane potestas,
corpora quae sinit haec, retinens quae praepedit illa:
lubrica cum rapide uolitent corpuscula lucis
altera onus capiunt ut segnia pondere facta
non leuitatem habeant, qua fungebantur, eandem.
nec mora, gignuntur corpuscula parua uigoris
huius de proprio fingentia nomine nomen,
Cyclopum ritu quae quaerunt ingeniosi,
rerum seminibus collisis ui furiosa,
hospitis ut nostri (iam iam sub iudice lis est)
sollertis uerae rationes esse probentur.

dignissime domine, Domine Cancellarie, et tota academia, praesento uobis egregium hunc uirum, Regiae Societatis sodalem, Regiae Societatis Edinensis sodalem, Rerum Physicarum Instituti honoris causa sodalem adscitum, rationalis disciplinae rerum physicarum apud Edinenses Professorem emeritum,

PETER WARE HIGGS

ut honoris causa habeat titulum gradus Doctoris in Scientiis.

MOST *fecund Muse, whom all adore,*
Come help me now, I thee implore,
To sing and praise a trinity
Of men whose bright posterity
Illuminates the path we tread:
The first was he upon whose head
That local apple fell and gave
To Newton fame beyond the grave.
The second drew on gravity
To show through relativity
Whole warping universes bent
And folded back to pay time's rent.
Now third in line (though not renown)
We have this man, whose scarlet gown
Will light the lands beyond the Wall
Because he saw the root of all.
The briny thickness of the sea
Restrains and binds the arms of he
That seeks to swim against the tides—
His progress slows, slows more, then dies.
Yet heaving swells, both fore and aft,
Do not slow down a well-formed craft
Maintained well by crew and boatswain.
And so it is with what goes on
In the great vacancies of space:
Where wave-like light still wins the race
Against more massy forms of stuff
Which give off energy enough—
By crashing through, out, down, across—
To give birth to the seeds of force
Named for this man—him, over there.
And this is why, quite everywhere,
To prove aright this good Professor
Men in labs smash things together. [2]

Distinguished Chancellor, members of the University, I present to you

PETER WARE HIGGS, F.R.S., F.R.S.E., HON. F.INST.P.,
Professor of Theoretical Physics Emeritus in the University of Edinburgh,

that he may receive the title of the degree of Doctor of Science, honoris causa.

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[2] amico meo Marco ab Insula Mona cognominato, qui uir amplissimus Musarumque amantissimus uersiculos meos in sermonem nostratem tali lepore reddidit, gratias quam maximas ago.

ΖΩΙΟΝ ἄειδε, θεά, πλωτὸν κατὰ νῶτα θαλάσσης,
ὃ προΐει χλωρὸν φέγγος δι' ἀφεγγέα πόντον.

non minus tamen laude dignus est hic uir a pueritia tam colorum quam rei chemicae studiosus qui a mirifico illo pulmone πρωτεῖον φωσφοροῦν mutuatus ita mutauit ut non uiridi modo luce sed flaua caerulea quouis denique colore renideret. o uirum artificiosissimum! qui

microbio docuit depingere multicolore
pulmonis claro tabulam medicamine tinctam

haud mirum erat si laureas Turnerianas consecutus esset! sed uia utilior ad ampliores eum honores et palmas Nobelianas duxit. nam effecit ut quibus in partibus cellulae, quibusue corporis ὀργάνοις uim haberet particula quaedam genitiua ita immutata ut et proprio munere fungeretur et talem tincturam exprimeret in promptu poneretur.

cuius quidem rei fundamenta posuit antehac xl fere annos dum apud nos gradum appetit Doctoris in Philosophia. cum enim motus traiectionesque eorum calcii corporum tenuissimorum quae ἰόντα dicuntur facilius obseruare uellet, moleculam excogitauit quae ἰοῦσιν se adhiberet et adhibens ita complicaretur ut colorem sibi alium induceret. hanc moleculam alio in elaboratorio molitus produxit (talium enim scientia apud uiros chemiae peritos reperitur) in alio immissam in cellulas probauit (quinam talium scientiores sunt quam φυσιολόγοι?). ita igitur huc illuc se mouendo ἰόντων ipsorum motus omnibus patefecit.

dignissime domine, Domine Cancellarie, et tota academia, praesento uobis egregium hunc uirum palmis Nobelianis coronatum, Doctorem in Philosophia, Collegi Gonuilli et Cai necnon Collegi Churchilliani honoris causa socium adscitum, Chemiae Biochemiae Pharmacologiae Professorem in Vniuersitate Californiensi apud Sanctum Iacobum,

ROGER YONCHIEN TSIEN

ut honoris causa habeat titulum gradus Doctoris in Scientiis.

SING, *goddess, of the fluorescent sea-lungs,*
How they flash green in the murky depths!

No less deserving of praise is our next honorand, who, fascinated from childhood as much by colour as by chemistry, took the green fluorescent protein from the jelly-fish and modified it so that it glowed yellow and blue and any colour he wished. O most artful man! who

Discovered how to paint a view
With microbes on a Petri dish
Dyed in ev'ry glowing hue
By protein from a jelly-fish.

He might have won the Turner Prize! But a more practical path led him to the higher honours of a Nobel Laureate. He was able to modify a gene so that in addition to having its proper effect it also produced this glowing protein; and so the parts of the cell—or even entire organs of the body—in which it was expressed became immediately visible.

The foundations of this work were laid some forty years earlier in his doctoral research at Cambridge. Keen to observe more easily the movement of calcium ions in living cells, he devised a molecule which would bind to calcium and then fold itself up in such a way that its colour would change. He designed and produced his molecule in the Chemical Laboratory and tested it in the Physiological Laboratory. And so by moving back and forth himself, he revealed the movements of the ions.

Distinguished Chancellor, members of the University, I present to you

ROGER YONCHIEN TSIEN, PH.D.,
Honorary Fellow of Gonville and Caius College and of Churchill College,
Professor of Pharmacology and Chemistry and Biochemistry in
the University of California, San Diego, Nobel Laureate,

that he may receive the title of the degree of Doctor of Science, honoris causa.

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FILIOS iam duos ad orbem terrarum capiendum emisisti, Karthago, quorum alter ui armis elephantis gentes debellare conatus est, alter hospes hic noster arte sculpendi mentes cordaque eorum deuicit. cum ad sculptores neotericos se adiunxisset, qui praeceptis canonibusque priscis reiectis inusitatas artis uias ingressi sunt, ab eis artificiis quorum peritissimum se praebuerat ideo impauide auersari solebat ut noua insolitaque persequeretur. ecce, brutas in figuras primum argillam tectoriumque conformat; deinde conos uirgas fistulas cubos ita componit confodit contorquet ut coloribus modo subpallidis modo praelustribus inductis species iam calycis rosae iam solis sororisque lunae iam praetorii regis Mongolorum ante oculos cecidisse uideatur. tum iterum artem a natura tam longe abstrahit ut nulla re manum dirigente e nihilo nisi conformatione ipsa membrorum gignatur pulchritudo. et iam—dictu mirabile monstrum!—per artem orientali sub axe doctam fictilia perfossa nullo uitro inlito sed tuberibus effusis cumulatis animi motus turbatos repugnantisque adumbrant. neque apud nos modo uerum e peregrinorum existimantium arbitrio κλέος ἄφθιτον sibi comparauit. quippe, ciues Florentiani, qua laude unum modo e popularibus nostris antea decorauerant, opera eius in Calloscopio exposuerunt.

dum Academiae Regali praeest noua constitutione descripta sodalium opera diplomatica ex apothecis eruta populo commodauit. qua re in area nostri aedifici grallis subleuati caerulea membra Interualli iam consurgunt tamquam si Druidarum monumenta non lapide sed ferro haud procul a ripis Cami exstructa sint.

dignissime domine, Domine Cancellarie, et tota academia, praesento uobis egregium hunc sculptorem, excellentissimi ordinis Imperi Britannici commendatorem, Magistrum in Artibus, Collegi Christi honoris causa socium adscitum, Academiae Regalis quondam praesidem et artis sculpendi professorem, Regalis Artium Collegi sculpturae professorem emeritum,

PHILLIP KING

ut honoris causa habeat titulum gradus Doctoris in Litteris.

YOU *have sent forth two sons to take the world by storm, Tunis. The first (you were called Carthage then) tried to conquer the nations with the force of arms and elephants. The second, our honoured guest, won their hearts and minds with the art of sculpture. Having associated himself with the New Generation of British sculptors, who rejected the norms and canons of the past and pursued new avenues of art, he has shown himself willing to turn away from familiar pastures where he has already proven his talent in order to explore the unexplored. The brutalist style of his early work in clay and plaster gives way to cones and cubes and tubes and rods, arranged and drilled and twisted, painted in colours sometimes subtle sometimes brilliant, until they suggest the shapes of a rose-bud, the sun and moon, or Genghis Khan (or perhaps his yurt). Then he*

turns to abstract works, guided by no likeness; their beauty arises from the very arrangement of their members. Presently, with skills learned on Eastern shores, he turns to ceramics, unglazed and (as Richard Cork has put it) 'pierced from one side to the other and interrupted by renegade protuberances' which convey 'more emotional conflict than initially seems possible.' And it is not just at home in Britain that he wins accolades. The citizens of Florence honoured him as only one other British sculptor with an exhibition at the Forte di Belvedere.

As President of the Royal Academy he reformed its constitution and saw to it that the diploma works of its members were brought out of the store-rooms and put on loan across the nation. That is why today his Span rises in the courtyard of our Raised Faculty Building, like some Druidic monument built in metal on the banks of the Cam.

Distinguished Chancellor, members of the University, I present to you

PHILLIP KING, C.B.E., M.A., P.P.R.A.,
Honorary Fellow of Christ's College, formerly President of the Royal Academy and Professor of Sculpture in the Royal Academy Schools, Professor of Sculpture Emeritus in the Royal College of Art, sculptor,

that he may receive the title of the degree of Doctor of Letters, honoris causa.

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QVI agmen iam claudit a Fortuna non designatus est qui apud ceteros clauicines honoratos honoratissimus summa gloria floreret. 'e puero,' inquit, 'non eram miraculo. neque in orientis partibus natus, neque, quoad scio, Iudaeus. quam musicam non bene noui bene canere non possum, nec mihi memoria est bona. familia oriundus sum non artibus non litteris non ingenio insigni.' ipse igitur te docuisti? 'ipse: magister nullus mihi obstitit, nullus me laesit.' eo plus igitur miremur Musarum diligentissimum hunc indagatorem, doctissimum scriptorem, disertissimum praelectorem qui olim apud nos rogauit (neque id mirum, quippe qui lasciuis ludat digitis, imagines iocosas colligat) num interdum Musa iocetur, ad quem cum nuperrime reuenit concurrerunt auditores sescenti tam uerba quam cantum auscultandi cupidissimi.

omnibus per annos lx plaudentibus nuper in otium se recepit (concentibus tamen in ceram impressis—sit dis gratia!—delectare haudquaquam desinit) ut ad libros et artempoeticam se conferret. sed quia uerbis solutis oratorem poetam alloqui uix decet,

clauichordi te colimus poetam:
tu Camenarum comes atque Phoebi.
rostra cum scandis resonat tubarum
  uis tibi clara.

numquis octonas series sonorum
ocius doctis manibus profudit?
neniam psallas, domine, usque nobis,
  callide, Marsam.

quis potest certare? quis audet umquam?
tu coronam fers, et Apollinaris
usque cantoris uiget in uenusto
  uertice laurus.

qui iuuas nostros recreasque sensus
huc ades comptus roseis coronis
ut togam tinctam uario colore
  hanc tibi demus.

dignissime domine, Domine Cancellarie, et tota academia, praesento uobis egregium hunc uirum, clauicinem praestantissimum excellentissimi ordinis Imperi Britannici equitem commendatorem honoris causa adscitum, Collegi Diui Petri honoris causa socium adscitum, qui primus apud nos humanitatis professor adscriptus est,

ALFRED BRENDEL

ut honoris causa habeat titulum gradus Doctoris in Musica.

OUR *final honorand was not marked out by Fate to become one of the greatest pianists of our age. 'I was not a child prodigy,' he says, 'or Eastern European or Jewish, as far as I know. I'm not a good sight reader, I don't have a phenomenal memory and I didn't come from a musical family, an artistic family or an intellectual family.' Indeed, he is largely self-taught, or, as he puts it himself, 'lucky in not being hindered or damaged by teachers.' Even more, therefore, are we full of admiration for his masterful expositions in print and in the lecture hall. In his Darwin Lecture before the University he asked* Does classical music have to be entirely serious?*—not, perhaps, a surprising topic, for a man noted for the playfulness of his playing and for his passion for collecting cartoons. And when he returned last year as the inaugural Humanitas Visiting Professor, in Chamber Music, crowds flocked to hear him speak as much as to hear him play.*

For sixty years he thrilled his audiences. In 2008 he retired from public performance (how grateful we are that he has made so many recordings!) to concentrate on writing and poetry. But it ill befits an Orator to address a Poet in prose. So let us hail der Klavierpoet*, of whom it may rightly be said (forgive me, sir, if I take liberties with your own verses) that*

As he stepped on the stage
the orchestra played a fanfare

and

Never before
did rapid octaves
ooze from the wrist
with such perfection.

May the pianist go on weaving his magic!

That he is the greatest
there can be no doubt
Laurel sprouts from his head.

Since

To you above all
belongs the frenzy
of our five senses
Be embraced
and crowned by roses

and accept the many-hued gown which now we humbly offer you.

Distinguished Chancellor, members of the University, I present to you

ALFRED BRENDEL, HON. K.B.E.,
Pianist, Honorary Fellow of Peterhouse, Inaugural Humanitas Visiting Professor, in Chamber Music,

that he may receive the title of the degree of Doctor of Music, honoris causa.