

Congregation of the Regent House on 18 June 2013

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 Concentus Brass Ensemble, Mr Robbie Stanley-Smith of Emmanuel College, and members of the Choirs of Clare College and Gonville and Caius College.

The following titular degrees were conferred:

Doctor of Science (honoris causa)

DANIEL KAHNEMAN, F.B.A.

Eugene Higgins Professor of Psychology Emeritus, and Professor of Psychology and Public Affairs, Emeritus and Senior Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University, Nobel Laureate

Doctor of Science (honoris causa)

JOSEPH STIGLITZ, M.A., FOR.MEM.R.S., F.B.A.

Honorary Fellow of Gonville and Caius College and of Fitzwilliam College, University Professor at the Columbia Business School, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and the School of International and Public Affairs of Columbia University, Nobel Laureate

Doctor of Science (honoris causa)

HAROLD VARMUS, FOR.MEM.R.S.

former Rede Lecturer, Director of the National Cancer Institute of the United States of America, Nobel Laureate

Doctor of Science (honoris causa)

ADA YONATH

Martin S. and Helen Kimmel Professor of Structural Biology and Director of the Helen and Milton A. Kimmelman Center for Biomolecular Structure and Assembly in the Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel, Nobel Laureate

Doctor of Letters (honoris causa)

JOHN ELLIOTT, Knight, M.A., PH.D., F.B.A.

Honorary Fellow of Trinity College, formerly University Lecturer in History, Regius Professor of Modern History Emeritus in the University of Oxford

Doctor of Letters (honoris causa)

HILARY MANTEL, C.B.E., F.R.S.L.

Author

Doctor of Letters (honoris causa)

JONATHAN SPENCE, C.M.G., M.A., F.B.A.

Honorary Fellow of Clare College, Sterling Professor of History Emeritus, Yale University

Doctor of Letters (honoris causa)

MARIO VARGAS LLOSA

Marqués de Vargas Llosa, Honorary Fellow of Churchill College and formerly Simón Bolívar Professor of Latin-American Studies, Nobel Laureate

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

ECCE salsus uir et facundus, faceto sermone praeditus, ingeni acie distinctus, doctrina fabellis quaestiunculis abundans, qui uerbo subtiliter conuerso rem in utramlibet partem dirigere potest. 'oratorem scilicet,' inquis, 'adumbras!' nec mirum; sed fallacia quadam deductus et exemplo promptiori quam ueri similiori confisus, longe errasti. immo, hospitem hunc primum nostrum humanae mentis indagatorem memoro (numeriosiores enim qui rebus uestigandis quam oratiunculis effundendis uictum quaerunt) qui istud peccatum explicat. nam amicissimo collega adiuuante – 'rara quidem aui,' inquit, 'potiti fuimus, quippe qui una laborantes maiora conficeremus quam singuli poteramus' – non illos ratiocinatores quos rerum oeconomicarum peritissimi temere disserere solent sed medios uiros contemplatus docet nos omnes periculis circumsessos et damni metuentiores quam lucri cupidiores quoduis facilius inspicere compendiariasque uias consequi ut breuiore tempore consilium capiamus quam si rem ipsam circumspectam persecuti essemus; sed quotiens et quam facile hominum rationem falli decipique! ut tandem non modo manifesta uerum etiam ignorantiam ipsam ignorare uideamur. neque hi duumiri admirabiles humani ingeni infirmitatem in ludibrium redigere sed nouae scientiae *πραγματικῆς οἰκονομίας* fundamentis iactis uafritiam subtilitatemque hominum extollere conabantur.

ea opuscula quae rem ad artem et praecepta reducunt tam bene nota sunt apud uiros sapientes ut nulla crebrius proferantur. iam in libello delectationis plenissimo *De celerius lentiusue cogitando* omnia cuilibet aperte pleneque exposuit. hunc, magistri, censeo legatis auctoritatique Delphorum pareatis ut uos noscatis.

dignissime domine, domine Cancellarie, et tota academia, praesento uobis egregium hunc uirum palmis Nobelianis coronatum, Academiae Britannicae Sodalem adscitum, in nomine Eugene Higgins psychologiae professorem emeritum et in Schola Woodrow Wilson psychologiae nec non rerum publicarum professorem emeritum scholaremque maiorem apud Princetonenses,

DANIEL KAHNEMAN,

ut honoris causa habeat titulum gradus Doctoris in Scientiis.

AMAN of wit and eloquence, clever of conversation, sharp of intellect, full of learning, rich in anecdotes and leading questions. With subtle changes in the framing of what he asks, he can influence your answer in any way he pleases. 'An orator, obviously!' you say. Ah, but you have been led astray by a cognitive fallacy, preferring to give the answer which comes sooner to mind rather than the more probable one. No, it is statistically more likely that I had in mind a scientist, and in fact I was describing our first honorand, a psychologist who can explain this fallacy to you. Together with his late friend and colleague ('Amos and I,' he says, 'shared the wonder of together owning a goose that could lay golden eggs – a joint mind that was better than our separate minds.') he investigated how risky decisions are made not by those 'rational agents' that the economists are wont to discuss, but by ordinary people, more averse from loss than eager for gain, who use heuristic short-cuts and substitute easier questions for harder ones to speed the decision-making process. They showed, too, how easily and how often these tricks cause our judgement to err: how, as he says, 'we can be blind to the obvious, and we are also blind to our blindness'. Their aim was not to ridicule human rationality as a feeble thing but rather to reveal its versatility and subtlety, and in doing so they not only founded the science of Behavioural Economics but earned themselves the soubriquet 'the Dynamic Duo'.

*The academic papers in which these theories are developed hold such renown among experts that they are the most cited in the field. Now our honorand has written a fascinating book, *Thinking, Fast and Slow*, which explains everything to a popular audience. Read it, I urge you: you will be amazed how much you discover about yourself.*

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

DANIEL KAHNEMAN, F.B.A.,
Eugene Higgins Professor of Psychology Emeritus, and Professor of Psychology and Public Affairs, Emeritus and Senior Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University, Nobel Laureate,

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



SCIENTIAM potentiam esse satis constat: hodie tamen non potentiam sed mercem diuitiasque dicendum iudico. quod bene intellegit qui nunc adstat.

mirabatur olim eos qui opum publicarum rationem se explicare posse gloriarentur affirmare ausos esse emptorum uenditorumque commercium cottidianum manu quadam leuiore quam quae uideretur dirigente tandem necessario facturum ut nemo inique tractaretur, nemo quaestu careret, nemo ad egestatem redigeretur. nonne tamen persaepe fieri ut eodem munere functus alius alio praemio afficeretur? nonne eos qui laborare concupiscerent manum concauam ad sportulam capiendam porrigere cogi? nonne permultos in eisdem iniquitatibus uersari quas effrenati fori occulta manus ademptura praediceretur? immo, ea causa hanc manum uideri non posse quod omnino abesset! eos enim qui impari rerum scientia instructi mercaturam facerent aliter inter se transigere negotiumque conficere ac si (ut dicerent uiri peritissimi) omnia prouidere atque animaduertere possent. tandem igitur accidere ut pretio suo constituto scientia ipsa opumquoddam genus fieri uideretur.

a quibus profectus apud eos erat qui medium tertium in rebus administrandis propositum ad rationem reuocauerunt. idem eis qui principem locum dignitatis obtinuerunt suadebat; idem orbis uniuersi argentariis in primis consulebat. nec si errorem aut iniuriam conspexit censuram solet continere: quippe procuratores pecuniae fide gentium collocatae reprehendit quod sententias quae iampridem explodi exsibilarique debuissent non modo per mendacia peregrine uenditassent sed ui lacessendoque nationibus imposuissent. hoc enim praeceptum habet: ab eis quibus honores sint mandati publico bono esse consulendum.

dignissime domine, Domine Cancellarie, et tota academia, praesento uobis egregium hunc uirum palmis Nobelianis coronatum, Magistrum in Artibus, Regiae Societati hospitis iure adscriptum, Academiae Britannicae Sodalem adscitum, Collegi Gouilli et Caii necnon Collegi de Fitzwilliam honoris causa Socium creatum, scholae negoti administrandi, scholae artium scientiarumque, scholae denique rerum publicarum exterarumque apud Columbianos professorem,

JOSEPH STIGLITZ,

ut honoris causa habeat titulum gradus Doctoris in Scientiis.

KNOWLEDGE, it is generally agreed, is power; but today, perhaps, we should better say that knowledge is money – something our next honorand knows well.

He wondered how economic experts dared to claim that the ‘invisible hand’ of market forces would inevitably lead to the eradication of discrimination, unemployment and poverty. For was it not common for individuals to receive unequal pay for the same work? Did he not see multitudes who were eager for work reduced to beggary and the dole? Were not people everywhere oppressed by the self-same iniquities which, it was confidently predicted, the invisible hand of the Free Market would make obsolete? No, that hand is invisible, he realised, because it is simply not there. When different parties have access to unequal information, they behave differently with one another and conduct their business in different ways than they would if, as the market fundamentalists assumed, they acted in full and equal knowledge. And thus information itself becomes a kind of commodity with its own price.

He was among those who, guided by these principles, conceived of the new economic philosophy known as the Third Way and developed its intellectual foundations. He has advised Presidents, and he has served as Chief Economist to the World Bank. When he sees error and injustice he is not slow to point it out: he famously accused the International Monetary Fund not just of peddling discredited and damaging policies to the developing world, but of using its economic might to impose them. For his conviction, he says, is that if one attains positions of ‘power’, one should view them as opportunities for social change.

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JOSEPH STIGLITZ, M.A., FOR.MEM.R.S., F.B.A.,

Honorary Fellow of Gonville and Caius College and of Fitzwilliam College, University Professor at the Columbia Business School, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and the School of International and Public Affairs of Columbia University, Nobel Laureate,

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ABHINC duos annos, disertissime domine, cum in hanc contionem ut orationem Redianam haberes trepidans (ut dicis) escendisses, illum indagatorum rerumque inuentorum gregem laudasti qui poetis materiem praebuissent. ut mihi adsint igitur imprecor Musis (memini enim te prius Calliopem quam Hygieiam coluisse) ut

nunc ratio quae sit cancris aut unde repente
 pestiferam possit cladem conflare coorta
 morbida uis hominum generi uolucrumque cateruis
 expediam: primum reperit corpuscula quaedam
 gallinae Stephanus noster celata tumore
 quae cellam sanam cum extrinsecus insinuuntur
 totam corrumpunt et in aegram uertere possunt
 perpetuo ut crescens sine finibu’ multiplicetur
 dum pullus tabe pressus fatum patiatur.
 at tu consocio cum scito mox docuisti
 particulam uiris genitalem haud propriam inesse
 quam dum se uulgant exesis surripuissent
 e cellis. iam iam quae nuper erat moderatrix
 crescentis cellae morbi fit causa molesti.

affligunt non dissimiles genus omne animantum
 pestes et laedunt suboles pecudumque hominumque.
 hae tamen oncogenae (sic gaudent rite uocari)
 non taetris huius uiri maculis modo tinctae
 uerum externa ui uel casu sponteque surgunt.
 iamne uides igitur nonnumquam qua ratione
 laesae fraternis obeant incursibu' cellae
 et penitus pereant conuulsi conque putrescant?
 digna nunc fama praecinctus nec tremebundus
 uestem hanc ut sumas nitidam, laudande, propinqua.

dignissime domine, Domine Cancellarie, et tota academia, praesento uobis egregium hunc uirum palmis Nobelianis coronatum, Regiae Societati hospitis iure adscriptum, Foederatarum Americae Ciuitatum concili ad cancrum inuestigandum instituti rectorem, apud nos quondam lectorem Redianum,

HAROLD VARMVS,

ut honoris causa habeat titulum gradus Doctoris in Scientiis.

TWO years ago, sir, you approached this very dais (with trepidation, so you said) to deliver your Rede Lecture, in which you praised that generation of scientists who had inspired poets with their discoveries. Let us therefore adopt a mode more fitting to a man whose chosen subject was literature before it was medicine.

*And now whence cancer's rage is stirred
 Against both man and wingèd bird
 I will (assist, o Muse!) expound:
 Our own alumnus¹ once had found
 In chicks the viral seed of blight
 Which from one cell another might
 Infect, corrupt and cause to grow
 And choke the body's vital flow.
 What next? Our fêted guest has seen
 The virus hides a stolen gene
 Which lodged inside a healthy cell
 Controlled its growth and placed a well-
 Thought limit on division's rates,
 But which from time to time mutates.
 And when the virus recombines
 Host D.N.A., it intertwines
 The changeling deep within itself –
 An agent now of death, not health.
 Not only birds, you needs must ken,
 But ev'ry race of beasts and men
 To some such pestilence falls prey.
 Yet oft in sundry other ways –
 External force, or blinkered fate –
 The dreaded oncogenes predate
 And kill. And so the cause to all
 Shews forth, why cells in cancer's thrall,
 Immortal, swell and putrefy
 Until their host at last must die.*

Approach now, not, we hope, with trepidation, but crowned with honour, and receive our acclamation.

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

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*former Rede Lecturer, Director of the National Cancer Institute of the United States of America,
Nobel Laureate,*

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¹ G. Steven Martin, Queens' College, who isolated a mutant of the Rous Sarcoma Virus which spurred the search for the genetic basis of its carcinogenic properties.



‘MAGISTER artis ingenique largitor fortuna’ scripsisset Persius. quod certe dici potest de hac muliere, quae e birota delapsa dum lecto tenta omne tempus in legendo consumit nescioquem libellum de ursis forte nacta ut si diuino quodam instinctu concitata est ad rem occultissimam aperiendam.

perparuulae eae molecularum machinationes quae exiguiore quam ut ulla acie oculorum conspiciantur ribosomata nuncupantur quo pacto dirigentibus particulis genitiuis in cellula uiua τὰ πρωτεϊα producerent, colligerent, in omnia quae ad corpus conficiendum essent utilia contexerent ualde auebat intellegere. quas si modo in crystalli formam congelatae redigi possent radiis Roentgenis immissis totam structuram conformationemque patefacturas esse sciebat; ac cuius machinae bene nota esset structura, eius uim effectusque diutius latere non posse. sed moleculam tam tortuosam flexibilem immutabilem et e partibus imparibus neque sibi congruentibus compositam nemo congelare potuerat; plerique eam congelari posse negabant; irridebant nonnulli. de conatu tamen non depulsa de ursis legit qui dum hieme conduntur ribosomata ideo confertim constipant ut conseruentur. at nonne quod conferciretur crystalli simile fieri posse? in rem incumbit haud minus enixe quam titanis qui

ter sunt conati imponere Pelio Ossam
scilicet atque Ossae frondosum inuoluere Olympum.¹

nec frustra laborabat: en iam spatium concauum uidemus Volcani domus simile ubi

ferrum exercebant uasto Cyclopes in antro,²

in quo texuntur implicanturque molecularum catenae; iam cuniculum ubi concatenatae dum maturentur proteguntur fouenturque; iam denique orbis pusilli atque mirabilis canales sinuosissimi cauernosaque penetralia ante oculos manifesta cadunt.

dignissime domine, Domine Cancellarie, et tota academia, praesento uobis egregiam hanc mulierem palmis Nobelianis coronatam, conformationis biologiaeque professorem atque concili compaginum biomolecularium conformandarum in Instituto Scientiarum ex nomine Chaim Weizmann nuncupato apud Israelitas reatricem,

ADA YONATH,

ut honoris causa habeat titulum gradus Doctoris in Scientiis.

¹ Verg., Geo. 1.281–2.

² Verg., Aen. 8.424.

THE *teacher of the arts and the mother of invention (Persius should have written) is chance. That is at any rate true in the case of our next honorand. While recuperating from a bicycle accident, consigned to bed and with nothing to do but read, she chanced upon a paper about hibernating bears which inspired her to solve one of science's greatest mysteries.*

There exist within the living cell microscopic molecular machines called ribosomes which under the instructions of the genetic code weave proteins together and so produce the building blocks of life. But how, she wanted to know, did they do it? If the ribosomes could somehow be crystallised, she could use the techniques of X-ray crystallography to reveal their structure, and so understand their workings. Therein lay the problem: the ribosome is extraordinarily intricate, flexible and unstable, lacking internal symmetry. Nobody had ever succeeded in crystallising such a molecule. Many said it could not be done. Some mocked even the attempt. Our honorand was not to be dissuaded. Then she read about the bears. When they hibernate they pack their ribosomes tightly together for protection. What can be packed together, she reasoned, can be crystallised, and she set about finding a way to do it. It was not an easy task. 'I can compare this journey,' she recalls, 'to climbing Mount Everest, only to discover that a higher Mount Everest stood in front of us.'

Her labours were not in vain. She revealed that the ribosome has a 'cavern', like the workshop of the Cyclopes in Vulcan's halls, where protein chains are woven and constructed; and a 'tunnel', in which the new molecules are protected until they are mature. And so the wondrous geography of a minuscule world, crossed by tortuous channels and pierced with chambers, is opened up to our eyes.

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FALCE feri, constans patriae tutela, recurua!
quo uigiles, messor sedule, tempus adest!

haec uerba quae patriae amantes Tarraconenses hodie canere solent a priscis illis messoribus tradita sunt qui ad arma incitati in comitem ducemque Oliuarensem olim consurrexerunt. o imperator splendidissime! o regis Philippi carissime minister! te superbum arrecto spadice insidentem lorica nigra clauulis argenteis distincta uestitum purpureoque ducis balteo praecinctum, te cum in tabula depictum uidisset hospes hic noster dum etiam iuuenis apud nos triuiaie studens diebus feriatis otiandi causa Hispaniam lustrat et Pinacothecam Pratensem uisitat, ad bellum illud messorium, ad omnem rerum Hispanarum tuae aetatis historiam indagandam repetendam litteris mandandam se adhibuit.

qui humanas res fluxas et mobiles illuminare et mentis acie tamquam acu figere conatur uolatilem profecto gloriam nec nisi multis aerumnis capiendam insequitur. hic uir tamen nec philosophorum arrogantiorum praeceptis deductus neque hominum morum reiue familiaris ignarus continuis uoluminibus tam orationis quam sententiarum copia pergrauibus nomen haud minus per Hispaniam quam apud nos sibi comparauit. quippe etiam illic huius uiri libris potius magistri doctissimi in discipulis docendis adeo malunt uti quam suis ut aduena Imperi Iberici res gestas clarius quam scriptores indigenae intellexisse uideatur.

'beatus ille' inquit 'cui quas terras uestigat tantam praebent materiem.' sed beatio qui rerum contextarum causas colligatas non tantum acute cernere sed etiam aliis clarissima luce illustrare potest.

dignissime domine, Domine Cancellarie, et tota academia, praesento uobis egregium hunc uirum, equitem auratum, Magistrum in Artibus, Doctorem in Philosophia, Academiae Britannicae Sodalem, Collegi Sanctae et Indiuiduae Trinitatis socium honoris causa adscitum, quondam apud nos historiae praelectorem, aevi recentioris apud Oxonienses professorem regium emeritum,

JOHN ELLIOTT,

ut honoris causa habeat titulum gradus Doctoris in Litteris.

BON cop de falç, defensors de la terra! Bon cop de falç!
Ara és hora, segadors. Ara és hora d'estar alerta.¹

The words of the Catalan National Anthem derive from a battle-hymn sung by the Reapers who took up arms against the Count-Duke of Olivares in the seventeenth century; and it was a portrait of Olivares by Velázquez, sitting proudly upon a rearing bay horse, dressed in black armour studded with silver, wearing the red sash of a Captain-General, which so struck our next guest on a visit to the Prado – he was still an undergraduate then, touring the Iberian peninsula with some friends on holiday during the Long Vac – that he dedicated his life to researching and writing about the Catalan Revolt, and indeed the whole history of Spain.

'The attempt to pin down the past is an elusive enterprise,' he warns. And it is true that the historian wins fame through hard labours, if he wins it at all. But glory this man has certainly won. Rejecting the dogmas of Marxist historiographers but remaining convinced of the importance of social and economic history, with a sequence of books as rich in the eloquence of their expression as in the weight of their scholarship, he has made a glorious name for himself not only at home but also in Spain. Indeed, his Imperial Spain has been used as a text book by generations of Spanish students: the foreigner, we may dare to say, is more knowledgeable about the history of the country than its own historians.

'Fortunate the historian,' he says, 'whose chosen country has so much to offer.' More fortunate still the man who perceives the warp and weft of history so sharply, and can illuminate it for others with such elegant clarity.

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Honorary Fellow of Trinity College, formerly University Lecturer in History, Regius Professor of Modern History Emeritus in the University of Oxford,

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¹ 'Strike with your sickle! Strike with your sickle, defenders of the land! Now is the time, reapers. Now is the time to stand alert.' From Els Segadors, 'The Reapers', by Emili Guanyavents, on a traditional model.

I AM uiolas puerique legant hilaresque puellae
quis texant, calami callida, sarta tibi.

hodie exigua nostra corona (uel galero saltem) eam donamus quae omnium undique laudem iam collegit. cuius si librum euolueris scripsit nescioquis existimator incertum esse quid inuenturus sis. et merito quidem: nam ut commentarios diurnariique opuscula praetermittam fabellarum libellum uitaeque suae memoriam cum xi apologis coniunxit tam generis scribendi quam argumenti uarietate distinctis ut nisi in breuissimo modo conspectu operum multitudinem copiamque ponere coner, rem maiorem quam quae hac oratione contineatur suscipiam. en uir gigantis similis pro ludibrio ad nundinas se exhibet; en iterum manium internuntiam laruarum manus tamquam Furiae Oresten persequuntur; seu matris filiaeque mente aegrae historiam inuicem tragice atque comice enarrat, seu rei publicae euersae triumuiros Francogallos ad machinam mortemque adducit, fabulam factumque facillime conflatur. et iam ob libros binos notissimos de uita potentiaque tua, Thoma, regis administer astutissime, laureis Bookerianis bis coronata (atque id mirum? quis enim modus adest uincendo?) tertium fore promittit quem nullus huius aetatis lector, ut opinor, non auide exspectat. 'ut tres illos libros conscribam me exercui,' inquit. 'haec mihi sors.'

sed satis me dixisse iudico, magistri: nam si porro in laudando progrediar, uereor ne, ut de Henrico rege puellam Tarraconensem primum uidenti traditur, mihi quoque coram ea quae cunctis plaudentibus principem inter scriptores locum obtinuerit, omnis eloquentia defecisse uideatur.

dignissime domine, Domine Cancellarie, et tota academia, praesento uobis egregiam hanc mulierem, fabularum creatricem, excellentissimi ordinis Imperi Britannici commendatricem, Regiae Litterarum Societatis sodalem,

HILARY MANTEL,

ut honoris causa habeat titulum gradus Doctoris in Litteris.

NOW let a happy band of lads and maids gather violets to weave a wreath for a lauded author! Our doctor's bonnet is too humble a crown to offer to one who has already won glory on all fronts. It has been said that when you open one of her books you never know what you are going to find. Such, indeed, is the scope of her work. Leaving aside reviews and journalistic pieces she has written a book of short stories, a memoir of her life, and a series of eleven novels as different from one another in literary style as in subject matter. Who could do justice to her *œuvre*? Who could do more than set it in the briefest overview? She has shown us *The Giant*, O'Brien exhibiting himself in a freak show, and the medium Alison Hart, pursued by her demonic troupe of fiends, like Orestes by the Furies. Whether she tells the story, tragic and comic by turns, of a mother and her mentally ill daughter, or leads Danton, Robespierre and Desmoulins to the guillotine, she effortlessly blends fact with fiction. But it is with two books charting the rise of Thomas Cromwell, crafty adviser of Henry VIII, that she has achieved her greatest renown – and two Booker Prizes. (There is not, as she says, a quota system for winning such prizes.) And she has promised a third, which is eagerly awaited by all. 'This trilogy is what I was meant to write,' she says. 'It's what I've been training for.'

I could go on; but I fear that if I tried, in the presence of such literary talent as hers, I would suffer the same fate that she describes as befalling Henry VII on his first meeting Catherine of Aragon, and my Latin might fail me.

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

HILARY MANTEL, C.B.E., F.R.S.L.,

Author,

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



STVDIA rerum gestarum, studia litterarum: hoc Sinensibus in prouerbio fuit ex eo tempore quo mathematicus ille, qui animo regis iracundi offenso capitis damnatus spado uiuere maluit ut ad commentarios perficiendos incumberet quam integram mortem sibi consciscere, historicorum lautissimus appellatus est. de hoc tamen uiro, qui apud nos instructus, ad Yaleanos socius Mellonensis missus, ab eisdem professoris rude donatus honorum laetiolem cursum consecutus est, haud omnino dissimilia audimus: 'Sinarum historiae omnem speciem faciemque mutauit' aiunt et 'quam eximia est structura uerborum! ut si diuinitus scripta!' et 'mehercle! non aridos annales sed lepidissimum apographum euoluere mihi uidebar!'

in libro ter iam edito res gestas Sinarum a priorum regum domo labefactata repetitas usque ad memoriam nostram temporum ordine seruato clarissime narrauit. memoriae caligine discussa imperatorem euocauit ut uerbis suis coactis se depinxerit. narratorum fabellis, magistratum tabulis, municipiorum annalibus usus mulieris rusticae remota in prouincia necatae causam cognouit. uolumina bis septem cum sonorum odorum saporum spectaculorum completa omnis sensus nobis delectant, tum eruditione memoriaeque fide distincta docent atque erudiunt. cuius quidem opera non libentius magister discipulis commendare dicitur quam litterarum amator ut nocturnam in legendo capiat uoluptatem ad cubile prompta habere, haud dubium est quin dignus sit qui rerum scriptoris illius lautissimi non admirator sed successor heresque nominetur.

dignissime domine, Domine Cancellarie, et tota academia, praesento uobis egregium hunc uirum, praeclari ordinis Sancti Michaelis et Sancti Georgii socium, Magistrum in Artibus, Academiae Britannicae Sodalem adscitum, Collegi de Clare honoris causa socium creatum, Vniuersitatis Yaleanae professorem historiae Sterlingianum emeritum,

JONATHAN SPENCE,

ut honoris causa habeat titulum gradus Doctoris in Litteris.

文史不分家: 'There is no difference between history and literature' has been a Chinese saying ever since Sima Qian, the Han Dynasty court astrologer, incurred the wrath of his emperor and, condemned on a capital charge, chose the ignominy of life as a eunuch to an honourable death in order to complete his Historical Records; in doing so he earned himself the title of the Grand Historian. This man's career has been rather happier – having read history at Clare College, he went to Yale on a Mellon Fellowship, where he retired as Sterling Professor in 2008 – but he has garnered similar accolades: 'Qing historical studies will never be the same again,' and 'He writes like an angel!' and 'His books are as exciting to read as novels.'

In *The Search for Modern China*, now in its third edition, he sets out the history of that vast country from the fall of the Ming Dynasty to the present day. He has parted the curtain of time and called forth the Kangxi Emperor to paint a portrait of himself with his own words. He has used local gazettes, magistrates' records and story-tellers' fables to reconstruct the case of *The Death of*

Woman Wang. Fourteen volumes filled with the sights and sounds, the smells and tastes of the past delight all our senses, while suffused with scholarship they educate our minds. It has been said that they would be just as well placed on the bedside table for night-time reading as on the bibliography of an advanced graduate seminar.

The name which Professor Spence has taken for himself, 史景遷, translates as 'The historian who admires Sima Qian'; but he is not merely the Grand Historian's admirer: he is his worthy successor.

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

JONATHAN SPENCE, C.M.G., M.A., F.B.A.,
Honorary Fellow of Clare College, Sterling Professor of History Emeritus, Yale University,

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



SAEPE pater dixit 'studium quid inutile temptas?
 Maeonides nullas ipse reliquit opes.'¹

pater studio litterarum aequae inimicus erat Nasoni ac huic uiro. ad castra dimissus ut apud milites exercitus mentem ab Helicone uersam potius ad Martem dirigeret nihil a stilo deterritus quae delicta suscipere discipuli, quas iniurias acciperent litteris tam aperte exhibuit ut ludi magistri exterorum coniurationem et contumeliam suspicati ignibus illatis libellum exstirpare conarentur. a suae regionis finibus per Afros ad Hiberniam perlustrans hominum proborum innocentia ac stultitia, prauorum uitiiis libidine turpitudine libellos scaenam commentarios complet. iuuenes scorta amittunt scriptores, qui in seruitudinem rediguntur, qui res nouas moliuntur, qui ius certissimum obtinere aude student: hos omnes iam sale iam humanitate tractat. tyrannorum crudelitatem ignominiae obicit. necessario obmutescens uocem ipsius commodat.

studium quid inutile temptat? 'si dubitas' inquit 'litteras non modo somniis uitae beatae imaginibusque pulchritudinis nos sedare posse uerum etiam iniuriam uexationem omne genus illiberalitatem nobis expergefactis demonstrare, hoc unum te rogo, qua re omnes qui ciues ab incunabulis usque ad mortem comprimere atque coercere uelint adeo eas timeant ut censores instituant qui scriptores liberiores reprimendi causa animaduertent.' nonne enim Plato poetas expulsi?

hunc uero scriptorem facundissimum libertatisque defensorem assiduissimum quem iudices Nobelianis laureis coronauerunt, quem rex ipse Hispanorum praedicatione et nobilitate ornauit, hunc, ut dicam, Maeoniden meridionalem pallio pileoque nostro purpureo iam nobis placet honestare.

dignissime domine, Domine Cancellarie, et tota academia, praesento uobis illustrissimum hunc uirum palmis Nobelianis coronatum, Collegi Churchilliani honoris causa socium adscitum, quondam apud nos rerum Americanarum meridionalium in nomine Simón Bolívar professorem, Marchionem de Vargas Llosa,

MARIO VARGAS LLOSA,

ut honoris causa habeat titulum gradus Doctoris in Litteris.

¹ Ov., *Trist.* 4.19.21–2.

*'MY FATHER often used to say to me,' complains the poet Ovid, "Why do you follow this useless pursuit? It didn't even do Homer any good." Our final guest had a father no better disposed to his son's literary career than was Ovid's. He was sent away to the Leoncio Prado Military Academy in Lima to turn his mind to more martial thoughts, but he could not be deterred from his writing. The misdemeanours of the cadets and the hardships they endured became the subject of his first novel, *La ciudad y los perros*, and so candid was their depiction that the authorities, suspecting a foreign plot to discredit the Academy, tried to have the book burned. Ranging from his native Peru through the Congo to Ireland he fills the pages of his books, plays and essays with the innocence and foolishness of the good and the vices of the wicked. Young men, courtesans, aunts, writers, those reduced to servitude, those who strive for revolution, those who try to protect their vested interests: these are his subjects, and he treats them with wit and humanity. Always he holds up the cruelty of tyrants to censure; always he lends his voice to those who lack their own.*

A useless pursuit? Here is his answer to Ovid's father: 'Let those who doubt that literature not only submerges us in the dream of beauty and happiness, but also alerts us to every kind of oppression, ask themselves why all regimes determined to control the behaviour of citizens from cradle to grave fear it so much that they establish systems of censorship to repress it and keep a wary eye on independent writers.' Did not Plato cast out the poets?

We have before us a most eloquent author and a tireless champion of liberty. A Latin American Homer, if you will. Whom the Nobel judges have crowned with their laurels, and the King of Spain has raised to the nobility, to him now we offer our cap and gown.

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

MARIO VARGAS LLOSA,

Marqués de Vargas Llosa, Honorary Fellow of Churchill College and formerly Simón Bolívar Professor of Latin-American Studies, Nobel Laureate,

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