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DOCTOR IN SCIENTIIS

DAVID BOYD REDMOND CABOT

φοῖδα δ' ὀρνίχων νόμῳ
παντῶν

(Alcman, fr. 40C)

Non est, sodales sapientes, cur inane putetis illud poetae Graeci vetustissimi: 'φέπη τάδε καὶ μέλος Ἀλκμᾶν / εὔρε γεγλωσσαμένην / κακκαβίδων ὄπα συνθέμενος.' Nonne praepetes pennae pulcherrimae primo candidato lyrae quaedam alatae videntur? Nonne ipse alitum volatu euectus ferebatur eo, unde immensam naturae magnitudinem latius contemplaretur? Nonne ei primum litora Hiberniae appellanti cornix quaedam auspiciam prosperum dedit? Quam numquam vidit adulescens apud Dumnonos, ubi educatus erat oriundus urbe Bostoniana; inde quaerere coepit quare altera animalia alteram insulam inhabitarent, quo deinde modo ortae essent species omnes et animalium et herbarum insulares, an si eis mores alii ac terrestribus sororibus et fratribus esse viderentur. Nulla mora interposita iuvenis curiosus domum in Hibernia sibi constituit et studia philosophiae naturalis ingressus apud Collegium nostrum, Florae mysteriis initiatus a Davide Webb, a Guilelmo Watts didicit secreta antiquissima in lamis paludibusque latentia detegere. Inde factus est ipse philosophus naturalis egregius quem in conspectu habetis, DAVID BOYD REDMOND CABOT, cuius scripta ac simulacra moventia doctissima laudibus extolluntur, cuius consilia petuntur a consulibus ipsis praepositis incolumitati rerum naturae. Sed hoc antecellit candidatus noster, quod aves earumque mores remotos studio ardenti perscrutatus comprehendit. Postquam in dissertatione doctorali descripsit aves quasdam maritimas Galvienses, tum de avibus omnibus Hibernicis praeclarum volumen edidit. Nec minime aves neglegit in *Historia Naturali Hiberniae*, ut olim in *Topographia* Giraldus ille Cambrensis; utroque teste, ut scitis, insulam frequentavere accipitres, falcones, aquilae milvique, coturnices ac avis quam 'crex' vocem adhuc audimus ingeminare, nec iam defuerant pavones silvestres; grues bernacae martinetae ripas lambebant, cycni autem in regionibus septentrionalibus; ubique autem cornices persaepe videbantur, ut eis consuetudo adhuc est, conchosos pisciculos contra litorea saxa sursum in aera deferre et demittere. Deerant tamen gyrofalcones, perdices et phasiani, deerant picae, quae omnes serae Hiberniam petierunt. Quam mirabile carmen heroum elocutione subtili de avibus composuit! At fortasse quaeritis quid prosint volucres naturae locorum. Quid est chorus volucrum variorum, inquam, nisi celer imago amoenae salubritatis? Quam utinam nos observemus ut vigilanter observavit candidatus! Nunc enim bernacas, nunc cycnos canoros ab ultima Thule fugientes libenter visitat, illis obviam procedens in altum Oceanum transvectus, his hieme asyllum securum aperiens domo sua Mhagheensi, sicut Michaeli illi poetae praeclaro, quem iam condiscipulum, hospitem sibi iucundissimum aestate solet accipere. Viri magnanima alacritas spectatur a patria omnibusque gentibus ad universam incolumitatem respicientibus. Eum ornare laetamur Larem tutelarem opificis Naturae.

DOCTOR IN SCIENCE

DAVID BOYD REDMOND CABOT

And I know the tune of all birds

(Alcman, fr. 40C)

Why should we not believe the ancient Greek poet's claim that 'Alcman invented words and melody by putting together the tongued cry of partridges' (fr. 39C)? Our first distinguished guest sees lyric poetry even in the flight of birds. Birds guided him on a marvellous journey that revealed the immense beauty of nature to him. A special bird gave him the fortunate auspices of his life in Ireland, when on his arrival on the Rosslare ferry in August 1959, a hooded crow showed himself to him. What a surprise! The young Bostonian had not seen one of them in Devon, where he had spent his childhood. The bird set his mind reeling: 'why is the fauna different in this island?' How do islands acquire their flora and fauna? Do island plants and animals behave differently from their brothers and sisters elsewhere?' On that day Ireland became the young man's home. At Trinity College he studied zoology while-exploring Irish flora with David Webb and learning 'the secrets of ten thousand years of vegetational history contained in bogs and fens' from Bill Watts. But you have already recognised DAVID BOYD REDMOND CABOT, distinguished natural scientist, acclaimed writer and film-maker, Irish and European environmental advisor, and, first and foremost, irresistible ornithologist. Of the winged creatures he loves 'the mystery, the enigma, the distance.' His doctoral thesis at the National University of Ireland studied the wader birds of Galway Bay; the first of his numerous bestsellers was *Irish Birds* (1994). In *Ireland: A Natural History* (1999) he tells us of the birds observed by Gerald of Wales in twelfth-century Ireland, a fantastic parade of sparrowhawks and peregrine falcons, eagles and kites, quails and corncrakes; the woods hosted the now extinct capercallie, the waterways cranes, barnacle geese and kingfishers; swans were seen in the northern regions—and of course, everywhere, hooded crows were seen dropping shells from the air on to stones, as they still do today. No partridges nor pheasants, no nightingales nor magpies, all latecomers of future centuries. It is an epic catalogue, written with scientific precision and poetic passion. Birds preserve the harmony of a place and it is for us to preserve the harmony of their places, our candidate says. He has done that all his life. Every year he travels off the coast of Co. Mayo to the remote islands of Inishkea, the winter sanctuary of barnacle geese from Greenland. In his home and nature reserve near Carrigskeewaun, he welcomes the musical whooper swans from Iceland every winter, just as every summer he welcomes his old friend from Trinity, the poet Michael Longley. In his profound commitment to environmental protection he has accepted advisory and leadership roles in the highest agencies in Ireland and Europe. This University is proud to honour an indefatigable guardian of Nature's creative force.

DOCTORES IN LITTERIS

IVANNA FARRELL
&
MICHAELA MARIA McNAMARA
ARCHITECTAE DE GRAFTON

Credo equidem vos, Academici, mirari, quid sit quod a consuetudine discedens orationem faciam pro duabus candidatis. Tria, si quaeritis, argumenta vobis producam. Primum agitur de sodalitate ingeniorum indissociabili; alterum, de necessitate vivendi, ut vulgo dicitur, inter homines; tertium vero de sacris vinculis genus humanum et rerum naturam coniungentibus. Nec ineptum fuisse antelogium iam iam intelligitis dum summo cum gaudio ad vos produco IVANNAM FARRELL et MICHAELAM MARIAM McNAMARA, gemina ingenii lumina quae disciplinam architecturae in scientiam factam et chorographicam et physicam tandem vindicavere liberis spatiis Naturae. Nobis sunt salutandae Aosdanae adscriptae, sodales Regii Collegii Architectorum Hibernicorum nec non Anglorum honoris causa, discipulis autem professores doctissimae Academiae Architecturae Helveticae; Italica autem licentia reginae nuperrime appellatae sunt pro aedilibus praepositis ludis sollemnibus Venetianis de architectura. Memores originis suae ruralis urbana spatia puellae una petierunt, una exercitia academica feliciter excoluerunt apud sorerem Universitatem Dubliniensem; una officinam constituerunt a Grafton loco appellatam, medio in urbe positam, vel potius, ut eis placuit, medio in limine otii sibi sollertis ac multi negotii urbani. Etenim eis libet urbis faciem contemplari, qua inspiciantur, quasi aetates aedificatae, alternae vices civitatis hinc tectis hinc spatiis inter eos relictis, tamquam si modis ac moris carmina composuissent. Composita quidem, sed benigna ratio aedificandi, ut convenit respicientibus ad id commodum in compositionibus membrorum aspectum, quod Vitruvius ille architectus dicebat eurythmiam. Earum dum contemplo opera, seu pontes hos Dublinienses levissimo caemento instructos, seu universitatem illam Peruvianam celsam in vertice rupis, aedificata esse crederem ab ipsa Natura architecta. Dum autem aedes studiorum oeconomicorum Mediolanenses vel Londinienses aspicio, sistere mihi videor in basilica vetusta, non in schola recenti clarissima, tam magnificae sunt curvaturae suspensuraeque, tam apta spatia inter se geometrice conexas apricis intervallis. At quid ego vobis memorem, doctores Dublinienses? Nam iam diu mirati estis opus primum scholarium a candidatis extractum, additamentum magnificum dico aedificii arti ingeniariae dicati, quae candidatae conformaverunt quinque apertis exedris ac ceteris eiusmodi locis quo sol posset splendores et radios immittere, plintho novissimo aedes Universitatis cum tectis civitatis coniungente. Materiae quoque struendi apparandique mulierum virtutem benignam demonstrant; materia enim omnis, crystallina vel basanites, vel marmor vel caementum vel lapis subcaerulem, ducta est a sua origine locali. Venio postremo ad lumina capienda, quod praecipuum est architectoris sapientis: haec nostrae non solum capiunt, sed constructione modulantur, ut certantibus luminibus cum umbris, levitate cum gravitate, materia cum aere, arcana rerum naturae clarissime pateant. Architectae de Grafton, ut olim veteres, naturae vestigia persecutae sunt, vehementer hortantes ut recte utamur profuso partu naturae et abundante copia materiae; nam ‘Terra operamur.’ Sonore igitur plaudite mulieribus, quorum opera per ora sunt celebranda indicio rectae observantiae Naturae.

DOCTORS IN LETTERS

YVONNE FARRELL

&

MICHELLE MARY ‘SHELLEY’ McNAMARA

GRAFTON ARCHITECTS

With a break from tradition, I make this supplication on behalf of two candidates. If you ask for a reason, I’ll give you three. You will hear the story of an indissoluble partnership in craft and creativity, of the vital relationship binding the individual and the collective, and of the sacred connection between humanity and Nature. I am proud to introduce Grafton Architects YVONNE FARRELL and MICHELLE MARY ‘SHELLEY’ McNAMARA, the twinned genius of architecture as geography, physics, culture, *Freespace*. Members of Aosdána, Fellows of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland and Honorary Fellows of the Royal Institute of British Architects, Professors at the Swiss Academy of Architecture in Mendrisio, our candidates have been hailed ‘Queens of Venice’ at the Architectural Biennale 2018, of which they were Curator. Born respectively in Tullamore and Lisdoonvarna, they brought their sense of landscape to Dublin, their architectural home, where they graduated from UCD and established a firm named after its location, with only a door connecting their ‘reflective world’ and ‘the complex world’ of the city. ‘Cities,’ they say, ‘describe the fabric of time as layers of history; they are time made tangible.’ Their emphasis is always on space—even the void space, which is just as vital to the built landscape as silence is to the rhythm of words and music. Their creations are imposing but never aggressive, because they are born from a deep evaluation of the surrounding context. Whether you drive under the motorway bridges in Bray and Balbriggan, or marvel at the Lima New University Campus rising on the summit of ocean cliffs, you would believe that Nature built them there. Their buildings are a prodigy of curves, levels, voids that create an extraordinary sense of connection, monumentally perceptible in the cathedral-like Università Bocconi in Milan or in the interlocked geometry of the London School of Economics. Their first University project was our own Parsons’ Building, which was given a majestic addition, flooded with natural light from five sources, and a new plinth and plaza weaving the campus and the city together. Their materials – granite or basalt, concrete, marble or ceppo – are always local materials, because they have to belong to their space. No element is more important than light, which our candidates can modulate to the point of dematerialising structures. ‘Architecture is the play of light, sun, shade, moon, air, wind, gravity’, they say, ‘in ways that reveal the mysteries of the world.’ Just as the ancient architects followed in the footsteps of Nature (Vitruvius, *On Architecture* 5.3.8), Grafton Architects celebrate Nature’s generosity and remind us of our responsibility in using Her bountiful resources: ‘The Earth is the Client’, they famously say. May your loudest assent commend two extraordinary women for their contribution to the Earth and to the human realisation that architecture can be part of a cultural narrative for Climate Justice.

DOCTOR IN LITTERIS

CARMEL PATRICIA NAUGHTON

Libertate quamvis amissa, libenter tamen cives Graeci εὐεργετὰς benefactores a bene faciendo dicere solebant, quod liberaliter civitati ornamenta decernerent et artibus omnibus liberalibus munifice promoverent. Quo ardentius nos, cives liberae rei publicae, humanissimum quemque benefactorem laudamus nomine Graeco φιλόανθρωπον! Gratias agimus maximas CARMEL PATRICIAE NAUGHTON, largitori optimaе, operum publicorum renovatrici, custodi decoris venustatisque Hibernicae. In conspectu habetis mulierem doctam, sodalem utriusque Academiae Regiae Hibernicae; cuius e permultis honoribus liceat mentionem facere illius emblematis, quod Carolus Princeps ei tribuit pro meritis ad artes liberales in Hibernia Septemtrionali promovendas, ac tituli ΦΙΛΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΥ, quem paulo antehac res publica nostra iussit honorificentissime candidatae apponendum eiusque coniugi Martino dilectissimo bene merentibus. Tam studiosa quam munifica diutius operam dedit Pinacothecae Hibernicae, quam scita consiliaria, valida dux (eademque prima quae electa sit in summum fastigium), faulrix infatigabilis magnifice amplificari curavit et, novo ineunte millennio, inauguravit pompa pictorum Francogallorum illustrissima. Studia quoque artium omnium elegantiorum et architecturae Hibernicae mirabiliter auxit, adiuvantibus Regia Academia Hibernica Ministerio praeposito praeservandae venustati morum maiorum Hibernorum, cum monumentum fulgidum exigi curaret patriae architecturae et ceteris artibus elegantioribus. Admodum spectandum est templum illud, quod quinque columnis fultum CCLXXIV artifices sapientes aedificaverunt lustratis, ut ita dicam, MD annalibus Hibernicis. En frequentant omnes architecti pictores sculptores, fabri structores aurifices opifices, artium itemque curatores negotiatores magistri doctores, studiosi ac periti, nec non typographi aediles censores, et ceteri omnes ministri cultus artium elegantiorum. Vobis quoque, undecumque veneritis terrarum Hiberniae, porta templi illius libere patet. At non tantum opera publica, sed etiam aedes gentilicias D. S. P. refici curavit una cum coniuge dilectissimo. Exemplum praeclarum est domus Stackallen, qua antiquior vix potest inveniri in insula Hibernia, renovata egregia munificentia ac respectu veteris venustatis. Quod vero maxime iuvat nitorem antiquum eleganter concinnari pulchris novitatibus, mulier haec perurbana iussit non solum parietibus luculentis pictas tabellas aetatis recentioris affingi, sed etiam sumptuosos hortos adici silvis frondosis. Adeo (ut usurpem dictum quoddam expolitum) viget vetustas Hibernica! Saepissime legimus in titulis antiquis ordinem populumque civitatum ob munificentiam patronum statuas posuisse. Iure ego vos rogo, patres conscripti, ut concinentibus omnibus votis palmam detis academicam GRATANTI STUDIO PATRONAE PRAESTANTISSIMAE.

DOCTOR IN LETTERS

CARMEL PATRICIA NAUGHTON

The citizens of Hellenistic kingdoms revered their *euergetai* for ‘doing good deeds’ to the community by constructing public buildings and promoting the arts; with a different Greek word, the citizens of the liberal world of today give a benefactor the name of *philanthropist*, ‘lover of humanity.’ The splendour of Irish art and architecture owes an incalculable debt of gratitude to CARMEL PATRICIA NAUGHTON, revered member of the Royal Irish Academy and Honorary Member of the Royal Hibernian Academy. She is the deserving recipient of the Prince Charles Medal for Services to the Arts in Northern Ireland, and, among many prestigious awards, of the title ‘Philanthropist of the Year 2016’ together with her husband Martin. A profound expertise has informed her artistic passion and directed her munificent enthusiasm to the benefit of the community. Serving on the Board of the National Gallery of Ireland for over a decade, she was the first woman ever to be elected Chair of the Board in 1996. Under her vision and guidance the National Gallery acquired its magnificent Millennium Wing in 2000, which opened in January 2002 with a special exhibition of Impressionist paintings. Under her auspices, with the support of the Royal Irish Academy and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, a superb monument to Irish art rose to the sky of academic excellence: 1500 years of Irish art unfold through nearly 3000 pages of *Art and Architecture of Ireland*. The 274 contributors across the five volumes do justice not only to architects, painters, sculptors, but also to carpenters and masons, goldsmiths and craftsmen, gallery-owners and art dealers, educators and historians, collectors and curators, publishers and policy-makers. This invaluable reference work is democratic in concept, and in its free availability to readers in every library on the island of Ireland. Our candidate’s commitment to the celebration of the Irish artistic heritage extends to her country estate: Stackallen House in Co. Meath, built in 1710-12, is one of Ireland’s oldest surviving grand country houses, and bears witness to its owners’ renovating brilliance. With an exceptional sense of history and harmony our candidate has seen it restored to its classical glory, its interior adorned with a stunning collection of Irish twentieth-century paintings, and its exterior with a splendid contemporary garden: what feat can prove more remarkably that (if I may quote an authoritative source) ‘Ireland’s heritage is a living, breathing entity’? Ancient civic communities used to honour individuals whose generosity had granted them the construction of new buildings or the restoration of historic ones with a sculptural dedication. I am all the more confident in asking this academic Senate to manifest unanimous joy in the grateful recognition of an outstanding patron of Irish art and architecture.

DOCTOR IN LITTERIS

CORMAC Ó GRÁDA

Níl duine ar bith sách láidir ag an ocras ach aon lá amháin,
Scaipeann sé na cnámhaí agus leagann sé an fheoil.

(Versus populares Johannis Hibernici)

‘**Q**uem virum aut heroa lyra vel acri / tibia sumis celebrare, Clio?’ Imitanti mihi vatem Horatium Musa patrona historiae Hibernicae nunc digito demonstrat hunc virum impavidum, qui pallidissima quaeque spatia temporis acti ratione acerrima ausus est demetiri. Ipsam enim Clio metricis legibus subici maxime placuit CORMAC Ó GRÁDA, professori emerito scientiae oeconomicae apud sororem Universitatem Dubliniensem, socio Academiae Europaeae, sodali aurato Academiae Regiae Hibernicae, clarissimo inter claros qui populorum alternas vices ac fortunas mathematica ratione solent indagare. Dies deficeret si scripta eius numeratim commendarem, quibus quadraginta per annos causas casusque temporum elucidavit, quot et quales nunc gentibus Hibernicis, nunc Francogallicis, nunc Seribus multa per saecula accidissent. Nuper honesto certamine inito cum Jacobo scriptore nostro praeclaro, quis re vera fuisset pater illius Leopoldi, quae ei origo, qui mores quaerendo investigavit; Judaei enim advenae cives Dublinienses fuerunt, longe prius quam copia gentium et varietas immigraverit duce Tigre quadam superba. At vir obstinatus una praecipua cogitatione mentem pertractat, unde facta sit fames funesta, quibus causis atque rationibus diffundere videatur. De inopia patriae Hiberniae disseruit eiusque fame illa immani qua plerique cives aut miserrime enecti aut eiecti erant in exilium; annales quoque regessit Europae a famelica peste afflictatae et paene omnino confectae. Nihil negligens vel dissimulans rationibus exactis dilucida narratione omnia exposuit, sive auctoritatibus veridicis confidens, sive sapienter secutus sermones et versus populares Hibernicos, quippe qui tum memoriam doloris cum dolorem memoriae fideliter tradiderint. Sine ullo timore perscrutatur praeterita saecula tristia ubi totas gentes civitates nationes Europaeas Asiaticasque vastaverunt bella pravissima, fames funestae, clades calamitatesque, crudelitas denique et caeli et hominis. Aures tendite, sodales: nam homines quoque indicat, qui, fame atque inopia vix confecti, in feras mutantur, nisi pietate ac misericordia sustineantur. Hoc nefas, cum insolenter condemnantur parentes depravati, foedera rupta propinquitatis atque pudoris, ne dicam de atrocitate quadam infanda horribili. Heu nefas, cum verbum Domini usurpantur hypocritae maligni ut apocalyptico terrore solvantur vincula humanitatis dum ii scelesti minitantur equum pallidum et illum qui sedebat super eum mox habituros potestatem ‘interficere gladio, fame et morte et bestiis terrae.’ Immo potius credatur hospiti nostro sincero, qui omni censu eventaque diligenter examinato putat vim famis paulisper languescere dum hominum consensus utilitate communi sociatus liberaliter adducit alimenta atque auxilia, refugia exilii ac praesidia pacis. Etiam magis corroborandus est ille consensus, pii sodales, ut terra incalescente esurientibus subveniamus. Historiam vere magistram vitae esse monstravit vir doctus ac dignus sincero assensu.

DOCTOR IN LETTERS

CORMAC Ó GRÁDA

Nobody is strong enough to withstand hunger for more than a day,
It slackens the bones and dissolves the flesh.

(Seán Ó Guairim, Carna Ballad)

If I, in the manner of poets, were to ask the Muse of History what man or hero the lyre and sharp pipe should celebrate (Horace, *Odes* 1.12.1-2), Clio would have no hesitation in singling out the Irishman who dared explore the darkest regions of her realm with the powerful tools of statistics and econometric science. CORMAC Ó GRÁDA, Emeritus Professor of Economics at University College Dublin, Member of the Academy of Europe, Fellow of the Royal Irish Academy with Gold Medal distinction, is the most influential Irish economic historian of our times. In the space of forty years and more, of a dozen monographs, four co-authored collections and hundreds of research papers, he has thoroughly inspected areas as diverse as eighteenth-century France and twentieth-century China alongside the complexities of Irish history; in *Jewish Ireland in the Age of Joyce* (2006), he uncovered what social realities lay behind the imagined Leopold Bloom, casting light on one of the most significant immigrant communities in Ireland before the Celtic Tiger. His speciality is the history of famines, uncompromisingly scrutinised in the earlier economic history of *Ireland before and after the Famine* (1988), enlarged to the interdisciplinary *Black '47 and Beyond: the Great Irish Famine in History, Economy and Memory* (1999), finally to embrace *Famine in Europe since the Middle Ages* (2017). His analysis is as lucid as the figures and diagrams that complement his clear-thinking narrative. His method seeks hard data, but does not neglect the values of oral history and Irish-language folklore as significant carriers of memory and trauma. His undeterred gaze encompasses phenomena distant in place and time, from the Thirty Years War of the seventeenth century to the Great Irish Famine, to the twentieth-century catastrophes in Ukraine, Bengal, China. Each famine is unique, he has discovered, but factors leading to famine are common: war, plague, natural disaster, and—listen carefully—lack of compassion. ‘Famine brings out the best and the worst in people,’ he warns us. It is wrong to focus exclusively on the dehumanising effects of famine—the abandonment of children, the loss of self-respect and of communal loyalties, other horrors too unspeakable to be contemplated without shivering. It is wrong to fall prey to the powers of the pale horse’s grim rider, who ‘will kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth’ (Apoc. 6:8). In a Doomsday climate no room is left for solidarity. Our historian’s prediction is based on facts, which unquestionably expose wicked manipulations. Our demographer tells us that while food crises and famines are, sadly, still with us, evidence suggests that their scale is becoming smaller. Why? Because ‘there is a compact across the world that will help.’ We take comfort in what compassion has achieved through foreign aid, integration of migrants, joint efforts towards peace. Our economist urges us to create a common front of solidarity with the populations most severely affected by the impact of global warming. This lesson deserves all our attention and approving acclamation.

DOCTOR IN UTROQUE JURE

PATRICIA ANNA MARIA O'BRIEN

‘Societas est enim,’ ut placuit maioribus, ‘latissime quidem quae pateat, omnium inter omnes.’ Sic fatus Cicero ille patronus omnium fortissimus atque facundus fundamentis naturalibus leges firmavit quas ille ius gentium, nos dicimus iusta ac sancta foedera nationum. Nec minore observantia coluit iuris maiestatem ultima candidata, Praehonorabilis PATRICIA ANNA MARIA O'BRIEN. Quam laeti accipimus de patria bene meritam Hiberniae legationi in Francogallia constitutae praesidentem, decem fere abhinc annis consiliariam iuris peritissimam vidimus in summo fastigio Nationum Foederatarum, quo nulla mulier antea ascenderat. Quid est, Academici? Qua re tantae novitati adstantes minime obstupuistis? Iam pridem, credo, in hac aula puellam procedentem ad gradum magisterii in utroque iure agnovistis futuram esse custodem iustitiae fidelissimam. Nam a nobile patre causidico natam, multas per gentes vectam a prima aetate, discipulam egregiam legibus ac libertate docuit Kader Asmal, qui divisione illa civium iniusta acerrime repugnata viginti fere abhinc annos in hunc podium procedentem vidistis. Quaerenti viro iustissimo quid cursum puella sibi contenderet, mirabili audacia respondit se petituram esse Nationes Foederatas. Quod optaverat feliciter consecuta est. Cum Ban Ki-moon Procurator Nationum Foederatarum sibi consiliariam de rebus omnibus legalibus elegisset, quinque per annos mulier optima praestantiam ingenii ac consilii Procuratori collegiisque omnibus Nationum Foederatarum impertiebat, si iuribus neglectis aut foederibus violatis, sospiteretur tamen illa societas omnium inter omnes vel legationibus vel foederibus renovatis. Veluti gubernator classem ingentem ministrans ab omni parte orbis terrarum delectam, sapienter cursum iustitiae regebat quocumque incolumitas sociorum summum in periculum et extremum discrimen lata esset. Nonnulla verum discrimina tam gravia fuerunt, tam saevia in quae nullam viam certam, nullam rationem leges invenire possent; sed numquam (ne dubitetis) Fides ac Iustitia hanc mulierem destituerunt. Cuius eloquentiam cum diligenter audierimus, non dubitabimus quin, longo quamvis itinere atque arduo, de improbis opprobriisque denique triumphaturum sit, legibus iustis minaciter insequentibus. Ad illud vero Ciceronis cum animadvertero, haud dissimilem sententiam inveniam. ‘Sed nos veri iuris germanaeque iustitiae,’ inquit, ‘solidam et expressam effigiem nullam tenemus, umbra et imaginibus utimur. Eas ipsas utinam sequeremur! feruntur enim ex optimis Naturae et Veritatis exemplis.’ Nempe candidata nostra fidelis eas imagines semper secuta est. Nonne sequamur nos tantum exemplum, tam claram effigiem iustitiae? Nunc tempus est, Academici iusti, ut hospitem praehonorabilem plausu atque approbatione confirmetis.

DOCTOR IN LAWS

PATRICIA ANN MARY O'BRIEN

‘**T**here is a bond of fellowship which has the very widest application, uniting all human beings together and each to each’ (Cicero, *On Duties* 3.69). With these words the most eloquent advocate of all times explained the foundations, inherited from his ancestors, of civil law and universal law, or the Law of Nations. The rules that govern that natural bond we now call International Law. No less passionate a commitment to its sovereignty are we honoured to acknowledge in our last preeminent candidate, Her Excellency PATRICIA ANN MARY O'BRIEN. We greet her here today as Ireland's Ambassador to France and Monaco, appointed following her return to the Irish Public Service in 2013. Until recently she was Under-Secretary-General and Legal Counsel to the United Nations, the highest position which a lawyer can hold in an international organisation, and one to which a woman had never been appointed before. Why are you not surprised, Members of the University? Is it perhaps because you witnessed her earlier triumph in this Hall, when she graduated in Law at the age of twenty-one? Do you remember the confidence she had in walking into the world of international law and diplomacy? This exceptional Trinity student had the law running in her blood (her father was a barrister), had travelled the world from a very young age, and had been taught by no less than Kader Asmal, champion of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, who twenty-one years ago stood in the very spot where she now stands. When Asmal called her in to congratulate her and inquire about her future plans, ‘I am going to apply to the United Nations’ was the wonderful answer. Following her appointment to the United Nations by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, this intrepid lawyer managed an office of two-hundred people of sixteen different nationalities. During her five-year tenure as Legal Counsel, she had the enormous responsibility to advise on all legal issues faced by the Secretariat and all organs of the United Nations, in their responsibility to protect against all violations of international law and of human rights, through dialogue between nations, diplomatic action, international treaty obligations, peaceful resolutions. In the midst of the worst crises of the twenty-first century, she has been confronted with painfully frustrating cases, but never lost her faith in the power of the law, because ‘once the shadow of Justice is cast over the perpetrators of crimes and atrocities,’ she says, ‘Justice will triumph.’ If I turn back to that passage of Cicero, I find an entirely similar sentiment: ‘We possess no substantial, life-like image of true Law and genuine Justice; a mere outline sketch is all that we enjoy,’ and yet, we must be true to it, he continued, ‘for, even as it is, it is drawn from the excellent models which Nature and Truth afford.’ This woman has always been true to it. It remains for you, righteous members of the University, to declare your approval of her inspiring faith.

