



MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

GRADUATION CEREMONY - SEPTEMBER 1985

TRIBUTE TO EMERITUS PROFESSOR BRUCE MANSFIELD

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This is a ceremony of transition and not only for the new graduates. It is the 75th such ceremony of the University which has seen nearly twenty years of teaching, nearly 20,000 graduates and more than 500 graduate diplomas awarded in ceremonies such as this.

But it is a time of transition for the University itself. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Edwin Webb will be retiring at the end of next year. The Registrar, who with impeccable accuracy organises these ceremonies and the administration of the University as well - retires at the end of this year. I wish to pay a public tribute to Mr. John Ford for his devoted, efficient and honourable service to the University and to do so in the presence of his friends and colleagues.

But as well as this, our Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic Matters, Professor Bruce Mansfield, is also retiring at the end of this year. So it is a time of transition and change.

I have invited Professor Mansfield to deliver the occasional address to the graduates - the last of their lectures.

He was born in Brisbane, a fact upon which I will not dwell. He was educated at the University of Sydney where he graduated Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours and University Medal and Master of Arts with First Class Honours in History.

He joined the academic staff of Sydney University in 1949 as a temporary lecturer in History. He rose to be Associate Professor.

In 1965 he was appointed the first Professor of History of this University. Accordingly, he has been here since the creation. He has been successively the Head of the School of Historical, Philosophical and Political Studies, the Vice-Chairman of the Academic Senate, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Emeritus Professor of the University.

But Professor Mansfield's activities have taken him beyond the University's walls. He has been chairman and a member of the Council of the Mitchell College of Advanced Education. And I am very glad that Mr. Douglas Stace, Registrar of that College is with us today to do him honour. He has also been a member of numerous selection boards for the Rhodes and Fulbright Scholarships. He is presently a member of the New South Wales Higher Education Board.

Professor Mansfield's research in history has taken him into the neglected areas of Australia's early history. But he has also been a scholar of the great medieval thinker Erasmus. When he leaves us next year, he has been invited to take up a post of honorary visiting Professor of History in the University of Sydney. He will be conducting seminars and finishing the second volume of his study on the interpretations of Erasmus. So he will be returning to his first love - scholarship - history and reflections on the lessons for our time in the writing of past times.

As with Christopher Wren in London, we at Macquarie University can say of him:

"SI MONUMENTUM REQUIRIS, CIRCUMSPICE"

In Bruce Mansfield's case it is not a mere monument of stone or even concrete that he leaves. But a monument of rigorous scholarship, intellectual integrity and the highest standards.