UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND



ERIC GALTON SAINT

"MR. CHANCELLOR,

ERIC GALTON SAINT WAS BORN AT NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, EDUCATED AT NEWCASTLE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL AND DURHAM UNIVERSITY. AFTER GRADUATING IN MEDICINE HE JOINED THE ROYAL AIR FORCE AS A MEDICAL OFFICER AND SERVED WITH DISTINCTION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, INDIA, THAILAND AND BURMA. AFTER THE WAR, HE RETURNED TO DURHAM UNIVERSITY AND WAS A RESEARCH ASSISTANT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL HEALTH. THEN HE WENT TO PORT HEDLAND IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND SERVED IN THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE FROM 1948-1951. BETWEEN 1951 AND 1952, HE DEVOTED HIMSELF TO RESEARCH IN GASTROENTEROLOGY UNDER SIR MACFARLANE BURNETT AT THE WALTER AND ELIZA HALL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH. HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THIS FIELD LED TO HIS APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR OF THE CLINICAL RESEARCH UNIT AT THE ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL IN 1952 - A POSITION HE HELD UNTIL 1956 WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED TO THE POSITION OF FOUNDATION PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA. HE CAME TO BRISBANE IN 1968 AS THE FIRST FULL-TIME DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND. DURING HIS ENCUMBENCY OF THAT POST HE HAS SERVED ON MANY IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY, STATE AND NATIONAL COMMITTEES, INCLUDING THE PROFESSORIAL BOARD OF WHICH HE WAS PRESIDENT, THE NATIONAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL AND THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS. IN MID-1977, IN THE WORDS OF HIS ADMIRED PREDECESSOR, DOUGLAS GORDON, HE RELINQUISHED THE POST OF DEAN BECAUSE 'IN HIS VIEW, THOUGH MOSS GATHERING MAY PROVE HIGHLY DECORATIVE FOR STONES IT CAN BE DISASTROUS FOR HUMAN MINDS'. AT THE AGE OF SIXTY, HE IS NOW LOOKING FOR NEW AREAS OF SERVICE AND EXPERIENCE.

ERIC SAINT'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS UNIVERSITY AND ITS MEDICAL SCHOOL, AND TO THE MEDICAL SERVICES OF QUEENSLAND AND AUSTRALIA ARE IMMENSE AND ENDURING. WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY HE HAS BEEN THE GREAT FACILITATOR. HE HAS NEVER ATTEMPTED TO INFLUENCE THE COURSE OF EVENTS BY INVOKING THE PRESTIGE AND INFLUENCE OF HIS OFFICE BUT RATHER BY ASSISTING STAFF AND STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE THEIR LEGITIMATE AIMS BY FIRST OF ALL LISTENING TO THEIR VIEWS AND THEN SEEKING THE BEST AND MOST PROMISING MEANS OF ACHIEVING ATTAINABLE OBJECTIVES. HE WAS AND IS AN ELOQUENT ADVOCATE FOR A CAUSE HE BELIEVES TO BE RIGHT. LIKE JOHN STUART MILL HE BELIEVES THAT 'WHEN SOCIETY REQUIRES TO BE REBUILT THERE IS NO USE IN ATTEMPTING TO REBUILD IT ON THE OLD PLAN'. HE HAS A VISION OF THE SORT OF MEDICAL SERVICE WE REQUIRE AND THE SORT OF EDUCATION

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ERIC GALTON SAINT (continued)

THAT MEDICAL STUDENTS NEED TO PROVIDE IT. HIS ELOQUENCE ON THE SUBJECT HAS BEEN HEARD ALTHOUGH HIS IDEAS HAVE NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED TO THE EXTENT HE WOULD LIKE. BUT HE IS ALSO A REALIST AND PRAGMATIST AND ACCEPTS, AGAIN LIKE JOHN STUART MILL, THAT

'NO GREAT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE LOST OF MANKIND ARE POSSIBLE UNTIL A GREAT CHANGE TAKES PLACE IN THE FUNDAMENTAL CONSTITUTION OF THEIR MODES OF THOUGHT.'

ERIC SAINT HAS CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINED THAT LIFE HAS MEANING ONLY IF IT IS LIVED WITH ATTAINABLE VISIONS IN MIND, AND IF IT MOVES TOWARDS REALISTIC GOALS. HE HAS TOO A DEEP CONVICTION AND PASSIONATE COMMITMENT TO THE NEED FOR CHANGE IN THIS COUNTRY.

AN OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS OF THE LUCID EXPRESSION IN HIS SPEECH AND WRITING LEADS TO THE CONCLUSION THAT HE IS AN ADVOCATE WORTHY OF RECOGNITION BY THIS UNIVERSITY BY THE CONFERMENT OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LAWS 'HONORIS CAUSA'.

MR. CHANCELLOR, I PRESENT TO YOU ERIC GALTON SAINT, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, DOCTOR OF MEDICINE (DURHAM), FELLOW OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, FELLOW OF AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF MEDICAL ADMINISTRATORS, FOR ADMISSION TO THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LAWS 'HONORIS CAUSA'."

The Chancellor says -

"ERIC GALTON SAINT, BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AND UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, I ADMIT YOU TO THE RANK AND PRIVILEGES OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LAWS 'HONORIS CAUSA' IN THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND."