



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

2012 DECEMBER GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Friday, 7 December 2012 – 2pm
UQ Centre, Union Road, St Lucia
Faculty of Social & Behavioural Sciences / Faculty of Arts

CITATION

Award of Doctor of Letters *honoris causa* Emeritus Professor Robert Milns AM

Chancellor,

Emeritus Professor Robert Milns AM has helped elevate the profile and appreciation of classics and ancient history at The University of Queensland and throughout the wider community.

When he came to UQ as Professor of Classics in 1970, the University had a modest antiquities collection of a few artifacts in a professor's room.

Under Professor Milns' auspices, it grew to fill a small museum, and is now housed in a modern public facility named in his honour.

After achieving first class honours in classics at both the University of Leeds, and Cambridge (Pembroke College), Professor Milns worked for six years at the University of New England, New South Wales.

Moving to UQ, he was initially Professor of Classics and later added ancient history to his title. During a career that continued until he retired in 2003, he was Head of the Department of Classics and Ancient History for a total of twenty-three years, and served as Dean of Arts for two.

Professor Milns was also a UQ Senator for several years, served on numerous University committees, and has been an Honorary Research Consultant in classics and ancient history since 2004.

He continues to advise and lecture, giving talks to professional, cultural and school groups and chairing Greek and Latin reading groups. He has volunteered many times to lead tours to countries of the Greco-Roman world.

As Patron of the Queensland History Teachers' Association and a member and office-holder of other bodies devoted to the cultures ancient and modern Greece and Rome, his impact on education continues.

He helped found the Friends of Antiquity and the Queensland Friends of the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens and is Honorary Life Member and Patron of Friends of Antiquity. His several honours from the Brisbane Greek community include Honorary Life Membership. He is also an Honorary Life Member of the Dante Alighieri Society (Brisbane branch, of which he was formerly president), and Patron of the Brisbane Symphony Orchestra.

A fund established upon his retirement from UQ has enabled a series of visiting scholars and the growth of UQ's antiquities collection.

In 1997, Professor Milns became a Member of the Order of Australia for services to education, especially in the field of classics and ancient history, and to the community. He received a Centenary Medal for long service to education and the students of UQ in 2003, and he was made a UQ Emeritus Professor in 2004.

Chancellor, in recognition of his distinguished career, his service to Queensland and Australia, and his contribution to The University of Queensland, I present to you Emeritus Professor Robert Milns AM, Bachelor of Arts (Classics) from Leeds University and Master of Arts (Classics) from Cambridge University, for the award of Doctor of Letters *honoris causa* bestowed by the Senate of The University of Queensland.