

A black and white photograph of Professor Emerita Jane F. Gardner and a man examining a small vase in a museum. The woman, wearing glasses and a dark sweater, is holding the vase with both hands. The man, wearing a dark sweater, is looking down at the vase. In the background, several other vases are displayed on a shelf.

**A Memorial for**

**Professor  
Emeritus**

**Jane F.  
Gardner**

**1934–2023**

**26 April 2023**

## **Order of presentations**

*16:00 Van Emden Lecture Theatre*

**Professor Eleanor Dickey** Reading  
Encomium

**Professor Emma Aston** Reading  
Early life and closing months

**Mrs. Jackie Baines** Reading  
Remembering Jane as lecturer and colleague

**Professor Amy Smith** Reading  
Jane and the Ure Museum

**Professor Peter Kruschwitz** Vienna  
Jane's contribution to Roman History at Reading

**Professor Bruce Frier** Michigan  
The work of Jane Gardner in the field of Roman Law

**Dr. Michael Sharp** Editor of Classics, CUP  
Jane and Cambridge University Press

After the presentations please make your way down to the **Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology** to view the temporary exhibition created in Jane's honour (and the permanent collection, if you are not familiar with it).

From **18:00** please join us for refreshments in **G44**.

# Encomium

## Professor Eleanor Dickey

Feminae admirabili hodie vale dicimus. Professor Gardner intellectu acutissimo laboreque numquam tergiversanti scripta peperit quae iuri Romano et modis quibus familiae antiquae re vera se gessissent lucem spargebat novam, necnon opera auctorum Latinorum pluribus patefecit Anglice vertens. Eadem liberalis, bene faciens, cupida scientiae divulgandae discipulos innumerabiles adiuvavit ut litteras antiquas explorarent et ut eis gauderent et fruantur. Tandem facetiis acidissimis intolerantiaeque ineptiarum collegas propinquos et absentes ne laxaremus hortata est. Ergo per eius vitam disciplina nostra melior est facta.

Quam autem maeremus, ea nobis et amica habetur. Prope quinquaginta annos Jane robor collegii nostri Radingensis erat, ex quo tempore plurimi nostrum nondum nati sumus quoad ipsa officia iam dudum demiserat. Nam tam assidue colloquia nostra frequentabat ut absente ea sollicitaremus ne quid ei accidisset mali. Ac multi collegae qui hic sunt, inter quos et ego, illa iam dudum ex officio egressa Radingam advenimus, sed nihilominus consilio sapientiaeque eius, necnon timore vituperationis, fructi sumus maxime. Approbatio enim amicitiaeque eius pretiosissimae erant eo, quod non semper praebebantur sed virtute quaerendae erant, et ex incitamentis quae ad merendum dedit utilitatem omnes cepimus.

Illam gloriabatur se ortam esse e familia operariorum Glasguensium qui amore ducti eruditionem filiae commodis suis anteposuerunt, et usque ad finem vitae suae has radices agnoscebat libenter, nec umquam ostentationem tolerabat 'bono genere' natorum. Pariter gloriabatur se magistram artium primae classis factam esse et ab universitate Glasguensi et ab universitate Oxoniensi, necnon se doctorem litterarum honoris soli causa a universitate Oxoniensi in fine officiorum suorum esse factam. Atque gloriabatur se multis muneribus sine remuneratione functam esse in urbe sua, ut institutio bona omnibus praeberetur et ut optima esset institutio quae omnibus praeberetur. Sed verecunde de scriptis suis loquebatur, fortasse quia omnes iam sciebamus quanti aestimanda essent, nec opus erat nobis admonendis.

Today we bid farewell to a great woman. Professor Gardner's razor-sharp intelligence and unflinching hard work gave birth to scholarly books and articles shedding new light on Roman law and on the realities of family life in the ancient world, as well as translations that made Latin works widely accessible. Her generosity and desire to spread knowledge helped countless students discover, enjoy, and profit from the Classics. And her acerbic wit and total intolerance of nonsense encouraged colleagues near and far to keep their standards up. The field of Classics is significantly better as a result of her life.

We also mourn a friend. Jane was a pillar of our department for about half a century, starting before most of us were even born and continuing long after her retirement. Her attendance at Reading Classics events was so regular that on the rare occasions when she failed to show up, we worried that something had happened to her. Many of the colleagues assembled here, like me, arrived at Reading long after Jane's retirement, but we have nevertheless benefitted immensely from her guidance and wisdom, not to mention from the fear of her censure. Jane's warmth and approbation were valuable precisely because they could not be taken for granted but had to be earned, and we have all benefitted from the incentives she provided to earn them.

Jane was proud to come from a family of Glaswegian workers, who lovingly supported her education at the cost of personal sacrifices. She identified with these roots to the end and never had any patience for social pretension. She was equally proud of her first-class degrees from Glasgow University and from Oxford – and of the fact that her only doctorate was an honorary one, conferred by Oxford at the end of her career. And she was proud of her volunteer work in Reading, helping to make good education accessible and accessible education good. But she was modest about her scholarly contributions, perhaps because everyone already knew how superb they were and therefore there was no need to remind us.

Quae auctore mortuo nihilominus diu perguntur ita  
iuuare opera nostra posterorumque, ut meliora haec fiant  
omnia.

Tali collega amisso omnes solacio egemus, sed  
nefas esset nos consolari dicendo eam nunc volitare in  
caelo cum angelis: nam quamquam nihil nunc percipit,  
si nos audire posset, offenderetur profecto ullis nugis in  
praesente dictis. Fortasse nobis exponeret bonum esse  
neque caelum neque inferos exstare, quoniam  
secundum principia harum rerum a maioribus tradita,  
se non ad angelos ituram esse – de quo gloriaretur.  
Ergo hos versus T. Lucretii Cari ei potius praebeo:

Haud igitur penitus pereunt quaecumque videntur,  
quando alid ex alio reficit natura nec ullam  
rem gigni patitur nisi morte adiuta aliena.

(DRN 1.262–4)

Cum tamen incolumis videatur summa manere  
propterea quia, quae decedunt corpora cuique,  
unde abeunt minuunt, quo venere augmine donant,  
illa senescere at haec contra florescere cogunt,  
nec remorantur ibi. sic rerum summa novatur  
semper, et inter se mortales mutua vivunt.  
augescunt aliae gentes, aliae minuuntur,  
inque brevi spatio mutantur saecula animantum  
et quasi cursores vitae lampada tradunt.

(DRN 2.71–9)

Materies opus est ut crescant postera saecula;  
quae tamen omnia te vita perfuncta sequentur;  
nec minus ergo ante haec quam tu cecidere,  
cadentque. sic alid ex alio numquam desistet oriri  
vitaque mancipio nulli datur, omnibus usu.

(DRN 3.967–71)

Collegae nostri partem omnes intus habemus, etsi  
non sicut in animo habuit Lucretius. Cuius memoriam  
ut honoremus, illa hereditate digna faciamus.

#### **Musical accompaniments**

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

Piano Sonata No. 11 in A, 'Alla Turca', K. 331

Serenade No. 13 in G, *Eine kleine Nachtmusik*, K. 525

Symphony No. 29 in A, K. 201

Piano Sonata No. 16 in C, 'Facile', K. 545

Fortunately her death will not prevent them from  
continuing to enrich our work and that of future  
generations.

We are all in need of comfort at the loss of such a  
colleague, but it would be wrong to console ourselves  
with thoughts of her up in heaven with the angels;  
although now past caring, if she could hear us Jane  
would be offended by any nonsense offered at this  
event. She might point out that it is a good thing there is  
no afterlife, since according to its traditional principles  
she would not be ending up with the angels – a point of  
which she would be proud. So instead I offer her these  
verses from the Roman poet Lucretius:

Thus nothing perishes entirely, since nature makes  
one thing  
out of another and does not allow anything to  
be created  
except by the loss of something else.

And yet the sum total seems to remain the same,  
because  
while those who depart diminish their circles,  
those who  
arrive increase them, causing some to wax while  
others wane,  
but not actually staying put. Thus the world is always  
renewed, and mortals live by give and take.

Some groups  
increase, others are diminished, and soon the world is  
changed, as like relay runners we hand on the  
torch of life.

Your substance is needed for the growth of  
future generations,  
who eventually will all follow you in death; for just  
as you  
have fallen, those before you fell and those after you  
will fall.

Thus eternally one will always arise from another,  
since life is  
given to none as a freehold, but to all as a lease.

Even if not quite in the way Lucretius meant, we all have  
a bit of Jane inside us now. Let us honour her memory  
by being worthy of that inheritance.