

Clarissime Cancellari, tuque huius ciuitatis praeses nobilissime, uosque cuncti qui hanc celebrationem praesentia uestra honestatis,

cum nobis omnibus tum praecipue Vniuersitati nostrae iamdudum optata illuxit aliquando haec dies, qua permissum nobis est ut eos qui de patria bene meriti sint praemio quodam meritis tam insignibus non omnino indigno decoremus; usque enim adhuc omni iure caruimus eos in nostram societatem honoris causa adsciscendi qui uel patriae nostrae saluti uel communibus humani generis commodis inseruientes ut famam ita ciuium beneuolentiam sibi consecuti sint.

Nunc autem cum hoc ius sit nobis tandem concessum, adscitis his uiris eminentissimis cum centesimi anni feliciter peracti solemnia celebrare ingrediemur, tum Vniuersitatis nostrae famam atque amplitudinem splendore quodam nouo illustrabimus.

Distinguished Chancellor, and Your Excellency the Governor of this state, and all you who are honouring this gathering with your presence,

on all of us, and especially on our University, this long-desired day has finally shone on which we have been permitted to invest, with some not wholly unworthy reward, those who have contributed well to our country; for until today we were lacking all authority to coopt into our society, as a mark of honour, those who, by contributing to either the weal of our country or the common benefit of mankind, attained both fame and the goodwill of their fellow-citizens.

But now, since this authority has finally been granted to us, we have called together these most distinguished men and, when we embark upon celebrating the happy completion of our hundredth year, we shall likewise illuminate with a new splendour the fame and grandeur of our University.

Nam hi omnes 'insignes pietate uiri' sibi gloriam mille modis adepti sunt; alii inter forensem strepitum sibimet famam, beneficium patriae pepererunt; alii Naturam ipsam penitus abdita recludere coegerunt; pars iuris prudentia excellens, pars litteris, alii re militari, medicina alii nos omnes beneficiis deuinctos obstrinxerunt;

neque silendum de eis qui aut liberalitatis magnificentia hanc Vniuersitatem locupletauerunt, aut fines ipsius, ut ita dicam, orbis terrarum propagauerunt; aequae omnes, quacumque uia progressi, digni tamen ad quos uerba illa augusta referantur Mantuani uatis:

For all these 'men notable for their devotion to duty' have won renown in a thousand ways; some, amidst the uproar of politics have brought fame to themselves and benefit to their country'; others have compelled Nature herself to reveal her deeply hidden secrets; one group excelling in legal knowledge, another in literature, others in war, still others in medicine, have by their good deeds placed us all in their debt;

nor should we pass over those who, by the grandeur of their generosity, have enriched this University; or have extended, so to speak, the very boundaries of the earth; so too all those who, advancing by whatever path, are yet worthy of the august words of the Mantuan bard [*i.e.* Vergil]:

Inuentas aut qui uitam excoluere per
artes,
quique sui memores aliquos fecere
merendo.

all who found
New arts, to make man's life more blest or fair;
Yea! here dwell all those dead whose deeds
bequeath
Deserved and grateful memory to their kind.
[tr. John Dryden]

Vt tamen multa paucis absoluam, ars
et ingenium in his uiris incredibili
felicitate coniuncta in nostrum
commodum sunt; et cum ingeni fructus
ac laborum in communem usum ipsi
conferre non dubitauerint, maxime
decebit hanc Vniuersitatem, si honore
factis non impari eos affecerit.

Hoc enim modo stimulum aliorum
animis, populo nostro beneficia optime
comparabimus. Quo cum iudicio uestrum
quoque congruere gratulatio uestra atque
approbatio plausu magno significata
breui tempore, nisi fallor, aperte
demonstrabit.

But to compress much into a few words,
the skill and genius in these men have, by
unbelievable good fortune, joined together
to our benefit; and since they themselves
have not hesitated to donate the fruits of
their genius and toils to the common
good, it will be especially fitting for this
University to recognise them with an
honour not unequal to their deeds.

For by this means we shall best
encourage a stimulus to other souls, and
benefits to our people. With this decision
of yours, your congratulations and
approval, as shown by great applause, will
(if I am not mistaken) in a short time
openly agree.