

EMERITUS PROFESSOR BRUCE EDGAR MANSFIELD

Citation for the conferral of a Doctor of the University (*honoris causa*)

Mr Chancellor, I present Emeritus Professor Bruce Edgar Mansfield for admission to the degree of Doctor of the University (*honoris causa*).

Emeritus Professor Mansfield has had a long and honourable association with Charles Sturt University and with its predecessor, Mitchell College of Advanced Education. He first served on the Council of Mitchell College in 1970 and was the Chairman on two occasions, from 1979 to 1980 and again from 1988 to 1989. In 1985 Mitchell College recognised his services by making him an Honorary Fellow of the College. As Chairman of the College Council he played a vital role in steering the College towards university status as a constituent part of Charles Sturt University. In 1989, he was appointed to the Interim Board of Governors of the University and was created Deputy Chancellor a position which he fulfilled with dedication and distinction until the expiry of his term of office in 1992.

Bruce Mansfield was born in Brisbane in 1926 and educated at Knox Grammar School in Wahroonga. Some years later, he was to write a book entitled *Knox. A History of Knox Grammar School 1924-1974*. In recognition of his attachment to the school, he was appointed to its Council in 1975.

Bruce Mansfield attended the University of Sydney where he graduated with the degree, Bachelor of Arts, with First Class Honours and the University medal in History in 1949. Two years later he was awarded the degree, Master of Arts, again with First Class Honours. Forty years later, in 1991, the University of Sydney awarded him the degree, Doctor of Literature (*honoris causa*), to mark his contributions as a scholar, administrator and teacher at three of Australia's universities - Sydney, Macquarie, and Charles Sturt.

Bruce Mansfield started his postgraduate career as a temporary lecturer in History at the University of Sydney. Over the next fifteen years he was to serve as lecturer, senior lecturer and associate professor. With the founding of Macquarie University in 1965, he was appointed the first Professor of History bringing to that fledgling university a wealth of talent as both an administrator and scholar. His appointment in 1976 to the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) reflects his stature within that University. His commitment to the University is reflected in the book which he co-authored with Mark Hutchinson in 1992 entitled *Liberality of Opportunity; A History of Macquarie University 1964-89*. In its turn, Macquarie University honoured him in 1992 by awarding him the degree, Doctor of Literature (*honoris causa*).

Throughout this period, Bruce Mansfield was gaining international recognition as a scholar. He is a world authority on the 16th Century religious figure, Erasmus, having published numerous articles and a major study on his life and the many interpretations that exist of his power and influence, entitled *Phoenix of His Age. Interpretations of Erasmus circa 1550 - 1750*. Bruce Mansfield was initially drawn to the study of Erasmus by these widely divergent interpretations of Erasmus life and work: from revolutionary to pacifist depending on the writer's own particular perspective. Bruce Mansfield has devoted over 30 years to exploring the

complexities of Erasmus and is regarded as the definitive authority on his life and work. As a result, he was invited to deliver the 1993 Erasmus Lecture in Holland.

From 1959 to 1987, Bruce Mansfield was editor of the *Journal of Religious History* which was to recognise his scholarship by devoting an entire edition of the journal to his published works. In addition, Professor Mansfield served as President of the Australian Historical Association in 1977. He is also a member of the Fellowship Committee of the Royal Australian Historical Society.

Bruce Mansfield's contribution to Australian society has not been limited to his contributions to the field of history and university education. He has served as a member of the New South Wales Higher Education Board, was Chairman of the Committee to Review the Provision for Art and Design Education in New South Wales, has served on the Board of Dunmore Lang College of which he is an honorary Fellow, on the council of Knox Grammar School, on the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee Working Party on Staff Development, on the Fulbright Awards Committee, and on the New South Wales Rhodes Scholarship Committee. He has served as Chairman of the Police Education and Training Advisory Council and is currently Chairman of the Police Education Advisory Council. It has been while Chairman of that Council that police training in New South Wales has been changed significantly through the forging of strong links with the State's universities and especially with Charles Sturt University.

In the broader community Bruce Mansfield and his wife, Joan, are leaders in their Church, the Uniting Church of Australia. He is an Elder of the Church in the Gordon-Pymble Parish and on the Council of the United Theological College.

Bruce Mansfield's sharp intellect is accompanied by a wonderfully gentle and unassuming nature and keen sense of humour. He is admired and respected by his wide circle of colleagues. His pre-eminence as a scholar is acknowledged throughout the world. However, despite his international reputation, he remains essentially an Australian at heart. A man with a deep love for his country, its people, and its countryside. In his retirement, despite his many commitments, he has tried to spend some time enjoying the Australian bush.

Mr Chancellor, it is with great pleasure that I present to you Emeritus Professor Bruce Edgar Mansfield, Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts of the University of Sydney, Doctor of Literature (*honoris causa*) of the University of Sydney, Doctor of Literature (*honoris causa*) of Macquarie University, Honorary Fellow of Mitchell College of Advanced Education, Christian, scholar, and devoted friend to Charles Sturt University, for admission to the degree of Doctor of the University (*honoris causa*).

Dated this Eleventh Day of May One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Five