

H/02/02/02  
S: 7.12.05

The University of Edinburgh

Senatus

7 December 2005

Action requested

The Senatus is invited to adopt this Special Minute.

**Special Minute**  
**Professor Michael J Angold BA, DPhil, FR Hist S**

Professor Michael Angold has just retired after many years of service to the University in the School of History and Classics.

He has an excellent publications record. As a world-renowned scholar in the Byzantine field, he has published three major monographs, two valuable textbooks and a conference volume (on the Byzantine aristocracy). His work on the Comnenian period in particular and on the Late Byzantine church has been trail-blazing in demonstrating the dynamism and creativity of Byzantine culture in the period from the eleventh century on.

He has also published numerous important articles and a very large number of reviews. His publications have always been lively, balanced, lucid and concise (great MJA characteristics). He is not however a narrow Byzantinist. He has sought to bring the field to the attention of a broader audience and has always brought in other angles, including the Western one. He has also researched into other topics such as the history of travellers and biography.

Professor Angold has been an external examiner for a number of universities - most recently Glasgow (History) and Queen's Belfast (Byzantine Studies). He has been invited to attend numerous conferences and to give seminar papers both in this country and abroad. He has served as an active member of the British Byzantine National Committee and of the last RAE panel in Byzantine Studies.

He has organized a number of conferences, for example on the Byzantine aristocracy in 1982 and on biography (2001) and on medieval sanctity (2004) in honour of Professor Tony Goodman and Dr Gary Dickson respectively. For years he handled English bibliographical entries for the important Byzantine journal, *Byzantinische Zeitschrift*.

Professor Angold has taught with great enthusiasm and distinction across a wide range of undergraduate courses, not just in the Byzantine area, but extending to biography, travellers and the general concept of iconoclasm. He has attracted the fierce loyalty and admiration of students, especially the better ones. In medieval and Renaissance History 2 he has given a wide variety of lectures, in many areas - Byzantine and non-Byzantine - and taken his share of tutorials. He was an effective course organizer of Medieval and Renaissance History 2 for many years. He has supervised a number of postgraduate students at M.Sc and PhD level, run the History postgraduate seminar in methodology and served on the Faculty of Arts Postgraduate Studies Committee.

He has served as head of the medieval section for many years and proved a most pleasant and diligent colleague. He has taken on more of than his share of administrative duties, most notably that of Dissertation and Long Essay Coordinator (a particularly demanding and unheralded chore). He has also run the Denys Hay Postgraduate Seminar. He proved a patient and effective Director of Studies, and a vigorously bibliophile librarian of History's Kirkpatrick Collection.

Professor Angold's range of scholarly and linguistic powers made him one of the least Eurocentric of historians, a distinction that he has always worn with the modest cheerfulness that is his hallmark. His example of commitment and service was a beacon to new members of staff. All colleagues in History wish him health and happiness in a long retirement. We hope that he will continue, as Professor Emeritus, to sustain his long-standing attachment and contribution to History at the University of Edinburgh.