

SENIOR STAFF PARTY: 25 NOVEMBER 1981

THIS ANNUAL FUNCTION, WHICH MARKS THE APPROACH OF THE END OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR, ALSO HAS A SADDER SIDE TO IT, FOR THIS IS THE OCCASION WHEN WE TAKE LEAVE OF STAFF MEMBERS AND COLLEAGUES WHO WILL NOT BE RETURNING NEXT YEAR. TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN GIVEN A SEND-OFF BY THEIR OWN DEPARTMENTS, I CAN ONLY CONVEY THE THANKS AND GOOD WISHES OF THE REST OF THE UNIVERSITY, AND EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT YOUR PATHS MAY ONE DAY LEAD BACK TO RHODES.

AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE RESIGNED FROM THE STAFF ARE SOME VERY SENIOR AND LONG-SERVING MEMBERS. BUT THERE IS A TABOO AT RHODES AGAINST SUBJECTING THOSE WHO RESIGN TO LONG VALEDICTORY ORATIONS. THIS TABOO IS NOT EVEN REMOTELY SIMILAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS BLACK-LIST, AND WE ARE CERTAINLY NOT ANGRY WITH COLLEAGUES WHO RESIGN TO JOIN OUR RIVAL UNIVERSITIES, BUT THE RATIONALE IS SIMPLY THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE MOVING FROM RHODES TO CONTINUE THEIR CAREERS ELSEWHERE SHOULD NOT BE TREATED AS IF THEY HAVE COME TO THE END OF THE ROAD. I MERELY MAKE BRIEF MENTION, THEREFORE, OF SOMEONE LIKE PROFESSOR DE WET, WHO FILLED A HIGH POSITION AND CARRIED CONSIDERABLE RESPONSIBILITY DURING HIS BRIEF STAY AT RHODES.



FOR LONG SERVICE, I MENTION MRS GILBERT, WHO CAME TO US IN 1954, LOADED WITH VALUABLE EXPERIENCE GAINED AT LEIPZIG AND BERLIN, AND ALSO AS COACH TO AN OLYMPIC GAMES TEAM, WHO SERVED AS LECTURER, SENIOR LECTURER AND ALSO AS ACTING HEAD OF DEPARTMENT DURING HER 27 YEARS OF SERVICE. OUR SINCERE THANKS AND GOOD WISHES ACCOMPANY HER AND HER HUSBAND.

PROFESSOR HENNIE SCHUTTE BROUGHT TO RHODES IN 1965 THE KNOWLEDGE IMPARTED TO HIM BY THE UNIVERSITIES OF POTCHEFSTROOM, LEYDEN AND CAMBRIDGE, AS WELL AS THE EXPERIENCE GAINED AT POTCH, WITS, PRETORIA AND U.P.E. (WHERE HE ALSO SERVED AS VICE-PRINCIPAL). APART FROM HIS LENGTHY SERVICE AS DEAN OF OUR FACULTY OF ARTS, HE MADE A WHOLESOME AND ENRICHING CONTRIBUTION TO THE LIFE OF THE UNIVERSITY. WITH OUR THANKS, WE EXPRESS OUR BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE BOTH TO HIM AND TO MRS SCHUTTE.

A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE STAFF OF THIS UNIVERSITY WHO RETIRES AT THE END OF THIS YEAR, IS PROFESSOR HUGH SMITH, OUR PROFESSOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION. HE HAS BEEN HEAD OF HIS DEPARTMENT, PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FOR 21 YEARS. AFTER MATRICULATING FROM SELBORNE COLLEGE, HE HELD AN ADMINISTRATIVE POST IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN RAILWAYS FOR 8 YEARS, BUT DURING THAT TIME HE WAS ON ACTIVE SERVICE FOR 5 YEARS WITH THE S A MEDICAL CORPS, SERVING IN EAST AFRICA, NORTH AFRICA AND ITALY. IN 1947 HE COMPLETED THE B.COM. DEGREE OF UNISA, FOLLOWED BY THE B.COM. (HONOURS) TAKEN WITH DISTINCTION AT RHODES IN 1948, WHERE HE ALSO GAINED HIS M.COM. WITH DISTINCTION THE FOLLOWING YEAR. HIS DOCTORATE WAS COMPLETED IN 1958.

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NATAL HE SERVED AS A LECTURER FOR ONE YEAR BEFORE COMING TO RHODES AS SENIOR LECTURER IN COMMERCE IN 1950. HE WAS APPOINTED



TO THE CHAIR OF COMMERCE IN 1961, AND ALSO SERVED AS DEAN OF THE FACULTY FOR A CONTINUOUS PERIOD OF 15 YEARS. IN ALL, HE HAS SERVED THE UNIVERSITY FOR 31 YEARS, AND THE SPLENDID WORK THAT HE PERFORMED SO METICULOUSLY DURING THIS LONG PERIOD WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED WITH GRATITUDE.

PROFESSOR SMITH IS WELL-KNOWN, OF COURSE, FOR HIS EXPERT KNOWLEDGE OF HERALDRY AND FOR THE MONUMENTAL WORK THAT HE PUBLISHED IN THREE VOLUMES IN 1972, "ACADEMIC DRESS AND INSIGNIA OF THE WORLD". IN A RECENT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE HE WAS INVITED TO SERVE ON A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO OFFICIAL AWARDS OF HONOUR.

IN CONVEYING TO HIM AND ALSO TO MRS SMITH OUR BEST WISHES FOR THEIR FUTURE HAPPINESS, I BORROW FROM THE VERNACULAR OF HERALDRY TO EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT FOR THEM THE SKY WILL ALWAYS BE A "FIELD AZURE", AND THAT ANY OCCASIONAL CLOUDS WILL ALWAYS BE "CHARGED ARGENT" ("HAVE A SILVER LINING").

(AFTER A DISTINCT PAUSE TO INDICATE THAT THE VALEDICTION TO PROFESSOR HUGH SMITH IS ENDED AND TO ALLOW HIM DUE APPLAUSE)

I CAN THINK OF ONLY ONE THING WORSE THAN LOSING PROFESSOR SMITH, AND THAT IS TO LOSE TWO PROFESSORS SMITH ..... AND THAT, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, IS EXACTLY WHAT IS HAPPENING TO US. BUT FORTUNATELY, IN THE CASE OF PROFESSOR MARGARET SMITH, IT IS THE RELINQUISHING OF A POST IN THE UNIVERSITY AND NOT A COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL FROM HER FIELD OF WORK AT THE J L B SMITH INSTITUTE.

HER ASSOCIATION WITH RHODES GOES BACK TO HER STUDENT DAYS, WHEN SHE GRADUATED WITH A DISTINCTION IN CHEMISTRY AND COMPLETED, IN THE SAME YEAR, HER LICENCIATE IN MUSIC WITH A RECORD MARK FOR SINGING. IN HER EARLY CAREER AT RHODES SHE WAS A SENIOR DEMONSTRATOR, AND SUBSEQUENTLY A



TEMPORARY LECTURER, IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY, BEFORE BECOMING A RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN ICHTHYOLOGY - A POST THAT SHE HELD FOR 22 YEARS. FROM 1968 TO 1981 SHE SERVED AS DIRECTOR OF THE J L B SMITH INSTITUTE OF ICHTHYOLOGY, THE FOUNDING OF WHICH WAS SO GREATLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO HER UNTIRING EFFORT.

IN 1938, WHILE WORKING UNDER OUR RENOWNED PIONEER IN ICHTHYOLOGY, PROFESSOR J L B SMITH, SHE WENT ONE BETTER THAN THOSE WE READ ABOUT IN "SUCCESS STORIES", WHO MARRY THE BOSS' SON - SHE MARRIED THE BOSS HIMSELF. BUT MARRIAGE IS A PARTNERSHIP, AND HER TOTAL IMMERSION IN THE WORK OF HER HUSBAND MADE THEIRS A TRULY COMPLETE PARTNERSHIP, SO MUCH SO THAT THE WORLD, AFTER THE DEATH OF HER HUSBAND, SAW HER NOT SO MUCH AS HIS SUCCESSOR THAN AS THE SURVIVING MEMBER OF A GREAT AND MEMORABLE PARTNERSHIP. AND NOT EVEN THE DETERMINATION WITH WHICH SHE STROVE TO MAKE

HER SUBSEQUENT ACHIEVEMENTS A MONUMENT TO HER PARTNER COULD STOP THE WORLD FROM TRANSFERRING HIS MANTLE TO HER SHOULDERS, AND FROM SEEING THE INSTITUTE, PROUDLY STANDING THERE TODAY, AS A MONUMENT TO BOTH OF THEM. AND THE WEALTH OF AUTHORITATIVE PUBLICATIONS PRODUCED BY THIS HUSBAND-AND-WIFE TEAM TURNS THE MIND INEVITABLY TO THE GREAT PARTNERSHIP OF PIERRE AND MARIE CURIE.

OVER 4 DECADES PROFESSOR MARGARET SMITH HAS GIVEN DEVOTED AND GENEROUS SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY, AND SHE HAS ALSO SERVED SOCIETY-AT-LARGE IN CAPACITIES TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION HERE. BUT THE LIMITATIONS IMPOSED ON ME BY TIME AND OCCASION PERMIT ME ONLY TO THANK HER BRIEFLY BUT SINCERELY FOR ALL THIS, AND TO WISH HER THE VERY BEST FOR THE FUTURE.