JOCELYN TOYNBEE

With this volume the society offers its warm congratulations to Professor Jocelyn Mary Catherine Toynbee for her eightieth birthday on 3rd March 1977. It is to Roman studies that she has devoted the greater part of her working life, and we are in her debt both κοινῇ and ἰδίᾳ (to lift from the language of honorary inscriptions): in common we have enjoyed her contributions to our journal, her lectures for the Society, her services as a member of Council, a Vice-President and an invaluable consultant for the Editorial Committee; individually, as pupils or colleagues, or when, though previously unknown to her, we took to her our archaeological problems—and very many of us have had her help, given unstintingly (and often by return of post) from her learning and her experience.

Rome has indeed always been the main focus of her interest—and specifically Roman art and archaeology—but a lively concern with the whole classical world and a perception of the interconnections of all its aspects lie behind that. Continued study of the Greek as well as the Roman periods, of literature and history as well as of material remains goes to the creation of her characteristic strengths. It is pertinent to remember that she has written, thoughtfully and stimulatingly, on political as well as art history; that *The Hadrianic School*, her first book, was sub-titled *A Chapter in the History of Greek Art*; and that her treatment of any monument displays a sensitivity to the modes of thought current in the ancient world which is derived from her reading of ancient writers. Similarly her interpretation of early Christian monuments is the more understanding for her constant awareness of their pagan context; and while many of us think of her as pre-eminently an authority in the Romano-British field, she is that partly because she brings to the study of provincial monuments an intimate knowledge of metropolitan products (as well as of those of other provinces). It is surely significant that, of the great archaeological discoveries of her time, the cemetery beneath St. Peter's at Rome and the London Mithraeum are probably the two with which her name is most closely associated.

As Director of Studies in Classics at Newnham College from 1927 to 1951, and a University Lecturer at Cambridge from 1931, she taught with a combination of lucidity and learning which her students recall with the greatest appreciation; and her workload never prevented steady publication. When she became Lawrence Professor of Classical Archaeology at Cambridge in 1951 her productivity became the greater as her teaching programme was lightened; nevertheless she decided to retire from her chair a little earlier than was necessary in order to have still more time for writing. The bibliography published for her seventy-fifth birthday in *PBSR* XL (1972) shows how fully she carried out her intention between 1962 and 1971; but it is now badly out of date, for she has continued to work and to publish. Among her recent publications are several which illustrate how very successfully she can present learned material to a more general public, and can convey to a wide readership the interest of serious study of the ancient world clearly and without unreal simplification; *Death and Burial in the Roman World* and *Animals in Roman Life and Art* are particularly notable in this respect.

All her life she has been not only an indefatigable reader but also an indefatigable visitor of ancient monuments; and to travel with her is a stimulating experience. Her appreciation of what she sees is by no means confined to the classical. On a site or in a museum there is little that she willingly misses. But a long day is made light by her informed and vigorous comments, by the humour with which she so often expresses them and by the infectious quality of her own evident pleasure; and when the work is finished she is a delightfully humane and convivial companion, whether at an informal picnic by the ruins or a party in a more formal setting.

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J.M.R.