

MONASH UNIVERSITYMINUTE OF APPRECIATION : PROFESSOR W.A.G. SCOTT

W.A.G. Scott was appointed to the Foundation Chair of English in 1960. A graduate of Melbourne University and of Balliol College, Oxford, he quickly established one of the leading departments in Australia. His influence on the teaching of English language and literature at secondary as well as tertiary levels in Victoria was far-reaching. His commitment to the study of literature, both as an intellectual discipline and because of its civilising influence in broadening human perspectives, was a guiding force.

Bill Scott was elected the first Dean (part-time) of the Faculty of Arts and together with the present Dean (Professor J.D. Legge) drafted the initial regulations for the Faculty and much of the Faculty Handbook. He believed that English, Classics, History and Philosophy should form the cornerstones of the new Faculty, and on this basis encouraged its development along traditional lines over the next five years.

In 1972 Professor Scott became the University's second Pro-Vice-Chancellor, one of two full-time positions created to ease the heavy administrative burden carried by the Vice-Chancellor. He served as Vice-Chancellor in 1976 and became the University's first Deputy Vice-Chancellor in 1977, remaining in this office until his retirement in December 1981. It was in these challenging roles that his profound understanding of the ways of universities, his unshakeable commitment to the highest standards of scholarship and his sympathetic concern for staff and their problems, have been of such inestimable benefit to Monash. His experience and wisdom, his informed and intelligent judgment, ensured that the University was in seasoned hands during his tenure of these posts.

Bill Scott served this University with dedication and distinction. In this minute, the Board pays tribute to a scholar, wise administrator, humanist and friend.