

Professor Inga-Stina Ewbank
Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*

Citation

Despite the omnipresence of statistics today, no one here, I am sure, can answer the following question: "How many committees are there in Hong Kong's universities?" But the correct answer will immediately flash across everybody's mind - at least across the minds of those who are associated with local universities - if a slightly different question is asked: "Which committee in Hong Kong is the most vital, literally and metaphorically, to Hong Kong's universities?"

As all of us here know, the correct answer consists of three simple letters: U, G, C, which, when combined, become the abbreviation for the name of the most important committee to Hong Kong academics. The reason is as simple as the abbreviation: to the UGC (University Grants Committee) is owed eight local tertiary institutions' breath of life.

At Lingnan's first congregation following its achievement of university status, the mention of the UGC is especially appropriate, for this achievement marks the successful culmination of years of hard work on the part of both the Lingnan community and the UGC. In Professor Inga-Stina Ewbank, we see the UGC spirit bodied forth in most cogent terms.

As a member of the UGC from 1 September 1982 to 31 March 1997, Professor Ewbank played a significant role in the development of higher education in Hong Kong. To appreciate what a UGC member did during those years, one does not have to go through a detailed *curriculum vitae*; one has only to remember that, during this period, the number of UGC-funded institutions in Hong Kong increased from two to eight. The phrase "increased from two to eight" is made up of only five words, but to make it become a reality, a huge amount of work must have been done and thousands of hours spent by the UGC members. Like members of the tertiary institutions which were aspiring to become universities, racing against time in preparing for exercises like the Teaching and Learning Quality Process Review, the Management Review, and the Institutional Review, members of the UGC must have been "tyrannized" by an equally hectic schedule, for it is common knowledge that before an interview, the interviewer is no less busy than the interviewee.

In her capacity as a UGC member, Professor Ewbank also served on the Institutional Development Committee, the Quality Sub-Committee, and the Teaching and Learning Sub-Committee, all closely related to the most important aspects of higher education in Hong Kong, namely, teaching, learning, and research. However, it was in her capacity as a member and later chairman of the Lingnan College Sub-Committee under the UGC (the then UPGC) from 1989 to 1994 that Professor Ewbank endeared herself most warmly to the Lingnan community. During those five years, her hard work and dedication went far towards transforming Lingnan from a diploma-awarding to a degree-awarding tertiary institution, and helped to lay solid foundations for the years ahead, when the College had to rise to the challenge of going through the Institutional Review and, eventually, becoming a liberal arts university.

While Professor Ewbank's contribution to higher education in Hong Kong was largely made within some 15 years, her other achievements as an educationist, teacher, and scholar span a much longer period. After receiving her BA from Carleton College (USA), her Fil Kand from the University of Gothenburg, her MA from the University of Sheffield, and her PhD from the University of Liverpool, she was appointed to teaching positions in various universities, including some of the most prestigious in the world. She was Hildred Carlile Professor of English at Bedford College, University of London, from 1974 to 1984, Visiting Associate Professor at Northwestern University in 1966, Visiting Professor at Harvard University in 1974, at the University of Maryland in 1981, at Georgetown University in 1982, and at Columbia University in 1984 and 1987. Since 1985, she has been Professor of English Literature at the University of Leeds and since 1997 Emeritus Professor. She was elected member of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Arts in 1991 and made an Honorary Doctor

of Philosophy by the University of Oslo in 1997.

Professor Ewbank's publication record is impressive. After an early book on the Brontës (*Their Proper Sphere*, 1966) her main field of research and publication has been drama: Shakespeare and Elizabethan drama and theatre on the one hand, and Scandinavian drama, on the other. A large number of critical essays and studies in these areas include two co-edited volumes: *Shakespeare's Styles* (1980) and *The Arts of Performance in Elizabethan Drama* (1991). Translating plays by Ibsen and Strindberg for performance by the National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company, and others has led to the publication of texts and also to a growing interest in translation as linguistic and cultural transmission of literary texts. The most recent outcome of this is a co-edited volume, *Anglo-Scandinavian Cross-Currents* (1999).

Mr Chairman, for her contribution to higher education, for her distinction as a teacher, for her achievements as a scholar in more areas than one, and, above all, for the invaluable work she has done for Lingnan during the past years, may I present Professor Inga-Stina Ewbank to you for the award of the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.

英格絲蒂納·尤本克教授 榮譽法學博士

贊辭

今天，什麼都似乎有統計，但「全港大學共有多少個委員會」這問題，相信在座諸君都不能回答。當然，假如把問題稍加修改：「對全港大學而言，哪一個委員會至為重要，不能或缺？」那就人人都知道答案，至少大專界人士不會不知道。

在座各位都會知道，正確答案是三個很簡單的字：教資會，即「大學教育資助委員會」的簡稱。這個委員會之所以重要，原因和「教資會」三字一樣簡單：它掌管著本地八所大專院校的命脈。

在嶺南正名為大學之後的首屆學位頒授典禮上，尤應提及教資會，因為正名的工作，實賴教資會和嶺南員生多年努力，才能竟底於成。英格絲蒂納·尤本克教授正好有力地體現了教資會的精神。

尤本克教授一九八二年九月一日至一九九七年三月三十一日任教資會委員，在香港高等教育發展中責任重大。要了解她的工作，我們不必細讀她的履歷，只須想想上述期間本港獲教資會資助的院校由兩所增至八所就夠了。這「增加」二字，說來容易行來難，教資會成員不知付出了多少時間和心力才能實現。當年幾所大專院校為爭取大學資格，要日復日、年復年地從事準備工作，例如準備教與學素質過關評審、管理評審、院校評審等。而教資會成員亦同樣要爭分奪秒埋頭苦幹。我們都知道，任何測試之前，主試者和應試者一樣，要做大量工夫。

尤本克教授任職教資會期間，兼任院校發展委員會、質素小組委員會及教與學小組委員會成員，照顧到香港高等教育最重要的三大任務：教、學、研究。一九八九年至一九九四年，尤本克教授的參與教資會轄下的嶺南學院委員會的工作，初為委員，後為主席，其間贏得嶺南員生的由衷愛戴。她一心一德，孜孜不倦，在那五年之內，讓向來只辦文憑課程的嶺南更上層樓，開辦學位課程。同時，又為嶺南奠定固基礎，迎接未來院校評審的挑戰，終於成為一所博雅教育大學。

尤本克教授對香港高等教育的貢獻，主要是任職教資會十五年間的事；但她在教育上、學問上的成就，絕非這十五年所能概括。她取得美國卡爾頓學院文學士學位、瑞典耶特堡大學 Fil Kand 學位、英國雪菲爾大學文學碩士學位及利物浦大學哲學博士學位之後，曾於多所大學任教，包括名聞國際的學府。一九六六年，她出任西北大學萊爾英大副教授；一九七四至八四年任倫敦一大學貝得福學院希爾雷德卡萊爾英大文教授；此外，又屢任客座教授：一九七四年於哈佛大學，一九八一年於馬利蘭大學，一九八二年於喬治城大學，一九八四年於哥倫比亞大學。一九八五年後，她於里茲大學，任英國文學院教授，為藝術學院名譽教授。一九九一年，又獲奧斯陸大學頒贈名譽哲學博士學位。

尤本克教授著述非常豐富，早於一九六六年即有《她們的天地》一書，專論布朗蒂姊妹。其後的著述及研究則以戲劇為主：由英國莎士比亞及伊麗莎白時代戲劇以至挪威戲劇均屬她的專長。其研究及所撰論文數量繁多，質量驕人，曾與其他學者合編《莎士比亞的風格》（一九八零年）和《伊麗莎白時代戲劇的表演藝術》（一九九一年）二書。她為國家劇院、皇家莎士比亞劇團及其他劇團翻譯易卜生和斯特林堡的作品，以供演出。這些譯作不但先後付梓，而且引起人們對翻譯的重視，認為有利文化的傳播。最近尤本克教授與人合編的一本《英國與北歐之交流》（一九九九年），就是她這方面努力的成果。

主席先生，尤本克教授對高等教育貢獻不遺餘力，誨人不倦，學術上成就多端，歷年為嶺南所付心力尤足珍貴。謹請頒予榮譽法學博士榮銜。