



THE  
INAUGURATION OF  
LEEDS METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

Presentation of Honorary Awards

Friday 12th February 1993

Leeds Town Hall



LEEDS METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

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**Chair of the Board of Governors of the Higher Education Corporation**  
Leslie Silver OBE DTech

**Principal & Chief Executive of Leeds Metropolitan University**  
Christopher Price MA



LEEDS METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

Leeds Metropolitan University

History

Leeds Metropolitan University has a long history. Its origins can be traced back as far as 1824, the year in which the Leeds Mechanics Institute was founded. In 1868 this became the Leeds Institute of Science, Art and Literature. Later still the Institute gave birth to the **Leeds College of Technology**. Meanwhile, the **Leeds College of Art** had its origins in a government school of design founded in 1846. A third constituent part of the “proto-university”, **Leeds College of Commerce**, began in 1845, when it was known as the Mathematics and Commercial School. Finally, the Yorkshire Training School of Cookery was founded in 1874; by the 1960s it had been renamed the **Yorkshire College of Education and Home Economics**.

All four of these institutions - the College of Technology, College of Art, College of Commerce, and the Yorkshire College of Education and Home Economics - were typically nineteenth century responses to a perceived need for education in practical skills. They were the products of a utilitarian age and of an urgent need for young people trained in such skills as engineering, draughtsmanship, accountancy, cookery, and institutional management.

In the early 1950s the Leeds local education authority decided to house the four colleges on a central site, the present City Campus. Over the next fifteen years or so, the present buildings were erected on the central site. This concentration of provision proved prescient as the Robbins Report and the 1966 White Paper on the radical reshaping of post-compulsory education created the impetus for the establishment of the polytechnics. **Leeds Polytechnic**, which came into existence in 1970, maintained the tradition of practicality, capability and an emphasis on skills development.

In 1976 the Polytechnic was enlarged by the addition of the **James Graham College** and the **City of Leeds and Carnegie College**. The campus of the City of Leeds College now forms one of the University's two locations. The Polytechnic was a constituent part of the Leeds LEA until it became an independent Higher Education Corporation on 1st April 1989. On 15th September last year the Privy Council agreed that the Polytechnic could change its name to **Leeds Metropolitan University**.

Mission and Honorary Awards 1993

In our University Mission Statement we place great emphasis on people and their communities. We aim both to enable our students to contribute to the wellbeing of their communities and to respond to the changing social and individual needs of the wider community beyond the University.

In honouring individuals and organisations this evening we are proud to celebrate their achievements and their communities.

Leeds Metropolitan University is an institution with both a sense of place and of history and a sense of the democratic principle. Our principal honorary graduand today is the symbolic leader of Britain’s foremost democratic institution, the House of Commons; two others hold that position in the cities of Leeds and Lille.

Our honorary graduands today are individuals and organisations of distinction, whose contribution reflects what the University wishes to celebrate on the occasion of its formal inauguration.



INAUGURATION OF LEEDS METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

Conferment of Honorary Awards

Victoria Hall, Leeds Town Hall  
Friday 12th February 1993 at 5.00 pm

Honorary Degrees and Fellowships will be presented by Christopher Price, Principal & Chief Executive, on behalf of the University.

Order of Proceedings

Introduction  
Leslie Silver OBE  
Chair of Governors

Address  
Christopher Price  
Principal & Chief Executive

Conferment of Honorary Awards

Tim Birtwistle  
Principal Lecturer,  
Leeds Business School, will introduce for the award of an  
Honorary Doctorate of the University:

Rupert Huth  
Roger Mézin  
Ronald Mönch

Paul Corby  
a Governor of the University, will introduce:

Howard Wilkinson for the award of the Honorary  
Degree of Master of Business Administration; and

Peter Gilman who will receive an Honorary Fellowship  
on behalf of Leeds United Association Football  
Club.

Ralph Walker  
Professional Group Leader, Faculty of Cultural & Education  
Studies, will introduce:

Nicholas Payne for the award of an Honorary  
Doctorate of the University; and

Sir Gordon Linacre who will receive an honorary  
Fellowship on behalf of The Opera North Company.

The Right Honourable Lord Merlyn-Rees  
will introduce Pierre Mauroy for the award of an  
Honorary Doctorate of the University.

Jim Morgan  
Assistant Director & Dean of the Leeds School of the  
Environment, will introduce Councillor Denise Atkinson, who  
will, as the present incumbent, receive an Honorary Fellowship  
in perpetuum on behalf of the Lord Mayoralty of the City  
of Leeds.

Christopher Price  
Principal & Chief Executive, will introduce  
The Right Honourable Betty Boothroyd MP for the  
award of an Honorary Doctorate of the University.

Honorary award holders are invited to make a brief speech.

Music

Margaret McDonald, mezzo-soprano and Michael Cleaver,  
piano accompaniment, both of Opera North, will perform  
short pieces.

Close of Proceedings  
Leslie Silver OBE  
Chair of Governors

Guests are reminded to remain standing while members of the  
procession enter the Victoria Hall and are seated. They should  
stand when members of the procession leave at the end of the  
ceremony.



Heads of European Higher Education Institutions

**Rupert Huth** is Rektor of the Fachhochschule Pforzheim, with which this institution has enjoyed one of its longest and most fruitful partnerships. He has shown strong support for an ever-growing programme of student exchanges since the mid-seventies. Professor Huth has for many years been a senior member of the Committee of Fachhochschulen (the equivalent of the former Committee of Directors of Polytechnics in Britain).

**Roger Mézin** is Directeur of the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce Amiens, Picardie, with which Leeds Metropolitan University, in more than one guise, has had strong and productive links over a twenty-five-year period. Formal student and staff exchanges have taken place for the last ten years. A joint human resources management degree is at present being actively pursued. M Mézin is also a major political figure in Amiens and Picardie.

**Ronald Mönch** has been Rektor of the Hochschule Bremen since its foundation in 1982. He was instrumental in setting up the European Finance & Accounting Degree which has been operating, jointly with Leeds Polytechnic and latterly with the Metropolitan University, for over a decade. This pioneering scheme has been used as a model for numerous other initiatives between the Hochschule and partner European institutions. Ronald Mönch has been one of the leading figures on the Committee of Fachhochschulen in recent years.



Leeds United Association Football Club and Howard Wilkinson

**Leeds United** were the winners of the last Football League Championship in the 1991/92 season, when, with **Howard Wilkinson** as manager, the club experienced a long-awaited revival of the “glory years” of the sixties and seventies.

Leeds United has for many years been one of the ‘big clubs’, attracting interest and support from around the world. In Leeds and Yorkshire the sporting fortunes of the club are of daily interest to many people and of considerable importance to the image of Leeds. Leeds United, after an auspicious début season in the Midland League, were voted into the Second Division of the Football League in 1920.

In March 1961 Don Revie was appointed manager with a brief to establish the club in Division One. This he duly achieved, and from 1964, the year of their promotion, Leeds United embarked on an era of unprecedented success. Between 1965-74 the club appeared in four FA Cup finals, winning the trophy in 1972, seven FA Cup semi-finals, a successfully contested League Cup final, and three Fairs Cup finals, winning twice. They were Division One Champions twice during this period, runners-up on five occasions, appeared in a Cup Winners' Cup final and won the Charity Shield against Liverpool.

The late seventies and the eighties were not good years for the club but in 1988, with the club languishing at the foot of Division Two, Howard Wilkinson, a manager with a fast-growing reputation was brought in to revive the club’s fortunes.

Howard Wilkinson was born and educated in Sheffield, where he gained a BEd from Sheffield City College of Education. He played for Sheffield Wednesday in the mid-sixties. In the following years his career took him to a variety of clubs before he began to develop the skills of football management for which he is best known. He was an FA Regional Coach between 1978-81 before becoming manager at Notts County in 1981. His success with the club was immediate and he gained promotion for them to Division One. He then moved to Sheffield Wednesday, where he enjoyed success when the club won promotion to the First Division in 1984.

The decision of the Leeds United Board to appoint him in 1988 was vindicated when he made an immediate impact, pulling the club out of the relegation zone and finishing tenth in his first season. In the following season Howard Wilkinson took Leeds United back into Division One, winning the Second Division Championship. Their first season back in the top flight was another good year with the team finishing in fourth place and also reaching the semi-finals of the League Cup. The following year Howard Wilkinson brought enormous pride and celebration to the City of Leeds when the club won the League title for the first time in eighteen years.

He has received widespread and deserved praise for his successes. In 1992 he was named “Barclays Manager of the Year” and the “Football Writers’ Association Manager of the Year”. Howard Wilkinson is respected in the world of professional football as a modern manager who can not only motivate but analyse and plan strategies. It is not by accident that he became the first Chairman of the Football Managers' Association.

Opera North and Nicholas Payne

**Opera North** is one of the five full-time opera companies that form the basis of operatic provision in the United Kingdom.

It was founded in 1978 in Leeds, where it is still based, as a branch of English National Opera but on the model of the Welsh and Scottish companies. It became independent in 1981 and twelve years on, Opera North continues to achieve considerable success in fulfilling its major objective: to promote, foster and maintain an appreciation of operatic and other music for the education and benefit of the public of the North of England.

The existence, quality and profile of the company have created a large new audience for opera and its related activities throughout the region: the myth of opera as “high brow” has been successfully exploded and the operatic habit has become part of the array of mainstream cultural pursuits in the area.

Each year attendances reach between 150,000-200,000, drawn from a wide range of social constituencies. Opera North’s many achievements have received recognition through the Royal Philharmonic Society’s award for opera in 1990, a Laurence Olivier award in 1991, and the Prudential award for opera in 1992.

Instrumental to its success has been **Nicholas Payne**, General Administrator at the company since 1982. Educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, he embarked on a career in the 1960s focused entirely on the administration, promotion and funding of the performing arts, and opera in particular. His title does not, perhaps, describe adequately his key role at Opera North, where, in an economic environment in which hostile arts funding decisions are not infrequent, he has ensured the company’s financial buoyancy as a sound foundation for continued artistic development at the highest level.

Nicholas Payne is due to take up a new post later this year as Director of The Royal Opera. He will take with him to Covent Garden a reputation gained through the success of Opera North.



Pierre Mauroy

Pierre Mauroy is a former French Prime Minister and the current Mayor of Lille, with which Leeds is twinned.

Born in Cartignies he was educated at the Lycée de Cambrai and the Ecole Normale Nationale d'Apprentissage, Cachan, before becoming a history and geography teacher in the Paris area in the early 1950s. In 1951 he founded the Léo Lagrange Organisation, a network of youth clubs combining socialist ideals and continuing education.

A long and distinguished political career began in earnest when he was elected National Secretary of the Jeunesses Socialistes, an office which he held for eight years and combined with the top job in the French teachers' union. Following the Socialist Party's crisis in 1962/63, he was elected as a member of the General Committee, where he became a major force in the reshaping and revival of the party during subsequent years. He built an increasingly successful regional and national career both in the French Socialist Party and, with Mitterrand’s election as President in 1981, in the Government. He was Prime Minister of France between 1981-84. In 1992 he was elected as a senator and as President of Socialist International .

He has a longstanding association with Lille: he was elected as a municipal councillor in 1971 and became First Deputy Mayor in the same year. He has been the city’s Mayor since 1973.

Pierre Mauroy’s commitment to international integration and mutual cultural enrichment is indicated by his Presidency of the World Federation of Twinned Towns since 1984 and by the strong and developing links between Lille and Leeds.



**The Lord Mayoralty of Leeds**

The Lord Mayor, appointed annually, is the First Citizen of Leeds and the symbolic embodiment of local democracy and the civic authority of Leeds City Council, which has overseen the development of one of the hubs of the Industrial Revolution into a major European city and centre of commerce through its own efforts and often without help from central government.

The office of Lord Mayor has its origins in the foundation of the community of Leeds: by the first Charter of Incorporation granted to the Burgesses by King Charles I in 1626 “The Borough of Leedes in the County of York” was constituted and the corporate body was styled “The Alderman and Burgesses”.

A second Charter in 1661 gave Leeds its first Mayor, Thomas Danby, today remembered in the title of a local college of further education. Two hundred and forty Mayors later, in 1897, Queen Victoria in her Jubilee Year declared and ordained by letters Patent that the First Citizen should be “styled, entitled and called ‘Lord Mayor of Leeds’ ”. The title of city had been conferred four years previously, so that this year, on 13th February, Leeds celebrates its centenary as a city. One of the many success stories of the City Council was its establishment of colleges for vocational education and teacher training, culminating in the foundation of Leeds Polytechnic in 1970.

Councillor Denise Atkinson is the ninety-ninth incumbent. She was born and educated in Bramley where she has lived all her life, and which she has represented on Leeds City Council since 1971. She has served on a number of Council committees and is currently Chair of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities Emergency Planning Committee and Deputy Chair of the West Yorkshire Fire and Civil Defence Authority. She also sits on several Home Office committees relating to fire and emergency planning issues.

On the day of her election as Lord Mayor she invited the City of Leeds to accept the challenge of helping her to turn a 300-year-old derelict farm into a holiday centre for needy children. This major initiative of hers is characteristic of many of her predecessors including her late father Eric Atkinson MBE, who held the office of Lord Mayor in 1980/81 after thirty-five years as a councillor.



**The Right Honourable Betty Boothroyd MP**

Betty Boothroyd is the first woman Speaker of the House of Commons in the 700-year history of the “mother of democratic parliaments”.

Born in Dewsbury, Yorkshire, she was the daughter of active socialists who worked in the local woollen mills. After her education at Eastborough School and Dewsbury Technical College she followed them into politics by joining the Labour League of Youth. When she was a girl, her dancing rivalled politics as an interest. She appeared in local pantomime, took part in shows for the troops during the war and appeared professionally on the West End stage and outside London. Politics soon came to dominate her life however.

A sound schooling in the rudiments of democratic government was provided by personal assistance to some leading Labour figures, including Baroness (Barbara) Castle. This enabled her to accompany various Labour delegations to the former Soviet Union, China, Vietnam and European conferences in the 1950s. Her early political experience was enriched by a spell in the United States between 1952-62, when she worked in the Kennedy-for President campaign and later as a full-time assistant to a member of the House of Representatives.

Shortly after her return, in 1965, she became a councillor in the London Borough of Hammersmith for a term. After contesting a number of safe Conservative seats during the late fifties and the sixties, she fulfilled a long-cherished ambition by winning election as Member of Parliament for West Bromwich in 1973. She has represented West Bromwich West since 1974, when the constituency boundaries were reorganised.

Her parliamentary career has included membership of select and standing committees on Public Accounts, Abortion (Amendment) Bill, Sound Broadcasting, Foreign Affairs, the House of Commons Commission, and The Speaker’s Panel of Chairmen. She was on the Labour Party’s National Executive Committee between 1981-87, and held responsibility as Assistant Government Whip in the mid-seventies. During this period she also made time for her work as Member of the European Parliament and as a delegate to the United Nations Conference on Development and Population Activities.

Having served as Bernard Weatherill’s deputy for five years, she was elected by her peers as “Madam Speaker” on 27th April 1992. In November Betty Boothroyd was the most consensual name to emerge in the Highland Park-Spectator awards as “Parliamentarian of the Year ”.

The role of Speaker amounts to a great deal more than shouting “Order, order” to quell unruly Members. In the office is invested responsibility for guaranteeing the sovereignty of the democratic principle in the rule of government and the fundamental freedoms on which we base our lives; for the safeguarding of the ancient privileges of the House, as well as onerous daily duties concerning the conduct of the House’s business.

**Organ music performed by**  
Simon Lindley FRCO(CHM) FTCL GRSM ARCM LRAM ARSCM