Remembering the life and work of Elaine Fantham (1933-2016)

The six brief presentations on our panel remember, and honor, the life and work of Elaine Fantham, Giger Professor of Latin and Professor of Classics emerita at Princeton University, a revered member of our mid-Atlantic classics community who died at the age of 83 on July 11, 2016. Born Rosamund Elaine Crosthwaite in Liverpool, England, in 1933, she earned a first class B.A. in *Literae Humaniores* at Oxford as well as a master's degree before returning to Liverpool for her PhD in 1965. After teaching for several years at a girls' secondary school in St. Andrews, Scotland, where her mathematician husband, Peter Fantham, had taken an academic post, she emigrated with him to North America: first joining the classics faculty at Indiana University, then at the University of Toronto, where she taught for eighteen years, rising to the rank of Professor in 1978. Fantham arrived at Princeton in 1986, and remained there until her retirement in 1999, serving as chair of the Department of Classics, Director of Graduate Studies, and Director of the Program in the Ancient World. Upon retirement, she returned to Toronto, but remained active and visible on the US classics and cultural scene: as President of the American Philological Association in 2003, and as a regular contributor to National Public Radio's "Weekend Edition", conveying to its listeners her learned enthusiasm for the *tempora et mores* of the ancient Romans.

As the Princeton memorial resolution written by her colleagues Denis Feeney, Andrew Ford and Robert Kaster eloquently remarks, Fantham generously shared this learning and enthusiasm with scholarly audiences in seventeen books and over one hundred articles and book chapters. Her encyclopedic, widely-ranging command of Latin literature brilliantly displays itself in a volume surveying *Roman Literary Culture from Cicero to Apuleius*; her commentaries on Senecan tragedy, Lucan's historical epic, and Ovid's *Fasti* reintroduced these works to "the scholarly canon and the university curriculum"; as a feminist classicist, she delighted in recovering the women of classical antiquity, most notably in her co-authored 1994 book on *Women in the Classical World: Image and Text*. But she took special pride in her teaching and mentoring, especially of women students, and left an indelible imprint on numerous professional and avocational classicists at, and beyond, Princeton and Toronto. Our presenters include several such individuals, some of them leaders in the field of classics, others prominent figures in other walks of life.

Our first presenter, one of our country's most esteemed Latin literary specialists, met Elaine Fantham at a critical career point, shortly before a tenure decision, when finishing his first book. He will speak about how their acquaintance came about, and the multiple ways in which her generous and decisive intervention affected the course of his professional life. Our second, a distinguished researcher on Greco-Roman gender and Greek literature, studied with Fantham at the University of Toronto, and became a close friend after completing graduate school; she will describe the evolution of their mentoring relationship, from which she immensely benefited in her research and publications on Roman women. Our third, one of Fantham's Princeton Latin colleagues,

will discuss how her research, teaching and mentoring transformed the academic culture of the classics department during her thirteen years there.

Our fourth, an eminent Toronto Latinist and feminist scholar trained in both Canada and the US, will speak about Fantham's retirement years and the impact of her work during that period on both classical scholarship itself, and those engaged in Latin literary studies. Our fifth presenter, a storied Canadian journalist, will recall Fantham as his inspirational teacher in the 1970's; our sixth will share his experiences "conversing" with her on National Public Radio's "Weekend Edition".

Remembrances by Princeton colleagues and students as well as those from other US, Canadian, and European universities unable to be present on this occasion will also be read, and clips of Fantham's most memorable NPR interviews aired. This panel affords an important opportunity to reflect on major developments in research on Latin literature and ancient Greco-Roman gender studies over the past several decades, the changing demography of classics as a profession and discipline, and North American efforts to bring classics outside the confines of the academy to widely constituted audiences.