

Madam Chancellor:

It is a privilege and an honour to present to you Dr. Brenda Milner, B.A. and M.A. (Cantab.), Ph.D. (McGill), Sc.D. (Cantab.), LL.D. (Queen's), FRS, FRSC, Professor of Psychology at McGill University, Montreal.

Dr. Milner was born in Manchester, England, and attended Withington Girls' School. She began her University studies, at Newnham College, Cambridge, in Mathematics but changed fields to experimental psychology and graduated B.A., with a starred First Class Honours degree, in 1939. She was then awarded a research studentship, but with the outbreak of war her research thrust was diverted. She spent the early years of the war devising perceptual tasks that were used in the selection of air crew. From 1941 to 1944 she was an experimental officer for the Ministry of Supply, studying methods of display and control to be used by radar operators. In the latter year she married Peter Milner, and came to Canada, supposedly for a short while; in fact Canada has been fortunate to have Dr. Milner as one of its own ever since.

A fluent francophone, Brenda Milner's first academic post was at the then newly founded Institut de Psychologie at the Université de Montreal. There she set up a laboratory and taught comparative and experimental psychology from 1944 to 1952.

During part of this time, Milner also worked towards her Ph.D. degree at McGill University, under the direction of Dr. Donald Hebb. She began her long-time association with the Montreal Neurological Institute in 1950, and completed her doctoral dissertation, on "Intellectual Effects of Temporal-Lobe Damage in Man" in 1952, since which time she has held successive appointments at McGill University.

Dr. Milner's studies have made a major scientific contribution to our understanding of brain-behaviour relationships in humans. Through systematic investigation, she discovered that a global memory loss is associated with bilateral damage to the hippocampal regions of the human brain. This finding led her to focus much of her subsequent research on the analysis of brain function in memory and memory disorders. She has shown, for example, that an impairment of verbal learning and verbal memory is associated with damage to the left temporal lobe of the brain and its underlying structures. She and her students have also demonstrated the importance of the right temporal lobe in visual, auditory and tactual pattern perception.

Dr. Milner has played a leading role in several learned societies. She is the author or co-author of over 60 research publications. She has received awards for distinguished contributions to science from both the Canadian and the American Psychological Associations. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society, of the Royal Society of Canada, and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and is a Foreign Associate of the National Academy of Science of the United States. Since 1964, she has been a Career Investigator under the auspices of the Medical Research Council of Canada. She has been recipient of awards, prizes and fellowships, and has been asked to give a number of invited lectures to distinguished gatherings.

Madam Chancellor, in the name of the Senate, I request that you bestow upon Brenda Milner, scholar of high distinction and of personal modesty, the Degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.

A. Naimark
President

May 26, 1982