

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

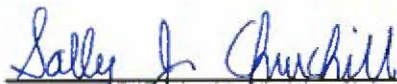
Ruth S. Scodel, Ph.D., D.R. Shackleton Bailey Collegiate Professor of Greek and Latin and professor of Greek and Latin in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2019.

Professor Scodel received her A.B. (1973) degree from the University of California, Berkeley and her Ph.D. (1978) degree from Harvard University. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor in 1984, and was promoted to professor in 1987.

Professor Scodel had an outstanding record of publication in the broad field of ancient Greek literature. Her six scholarly books range from Homer to Greek tragedy, with, in addition, a co-written book on how the novel *Quo Vadis* was interpreted in films and on television. Beyond this, she has also published several student- or popular-oriented books, plus dozens and dozens of articles, book chapters, and book reviews on almost every aspect of classical Greek literature. At every turn, her work has been characterized by her great care in citing and interpreting texts, often in ways that eluded earlier scholars; and this perspicacity is greatly aided by her phenomenal memory for literary texts, a memory that allows her to roam with great dexterity across a wide range of potentially valuable comparative material. Graduate students in classical studies, if they have, as many do, a particular interest in this literature, have found in her an invaluable resource both as a teacher and as dissertation advisor. In short, she has been the pivot around which the department has constructed its program in Greek literature for more than thirty years. Her scholarly work alone would have been enough for one teacher's lifetime, but Professor Scodel has also been tireless in her teaching and administrative work within the department (which she served as chair from 2007-13) and the college (where, in particular, she headed the LSA Honors Program from 1992-97). Outside the university, she has also served the profession in almost every capacity; she has been president of the Michigan Classical Conference, the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, and the Society for Classical Studies. From this last she received the SCS Distinguished Service Medal in 2019. There is virtually no aspect of classical studies that she has not left much improved by her indefatigable efforts on its behalf.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Ruth S. Scodel, D.R. Shackleton Bailey Collegiate Professor Emerita of Greek and Latin and professor emerita of Greek and Latin.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2019