

Professor Hermione LEE

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President of Wolfson College, Oxford, is a teacher, academic administrator, biographer, critic and broadcaster. She grew up in London (her father was a G.P. in central London) where she went to school at the French Lycée in London, the City of London School for Girls, and Queen's College. She took a First class degree in English Literature from St Hilda's College Oxford in 1968 and an M.Phil from St Cross College in 1970. She has taught at the College of William and Mary in Virginia, at the University of Liverpool (where she was given an Honorary DLitt in 2002) and at the University of York, from 1977 to 1998, where she had a personal Chair in the Department of English and Related Literature and received an Honorary DLitt in 2007.

From 1998 to 2008 she was the Goldsmiths' Professor of English Literature and Fellow of New College (the first woman to hold this Chair and the first Professorial Fellow of the College) at the University of Oxford. In 1998 she was elected President of Wolfson College, Oxford.

Her books include *The Novels of Virginia Woolf* (1977), her study of the Anglo-Irish novelist *Elizabeth Bowen* (1981, revised 1999), a short critical book, the first published in Britain, on *Philip Roth* (1982), a critical biography of the American novelist Willa Cather, *Willa Cather: A Life Saved Up* (1989, reissued by Virago in 2008), a major biography of *Virginia Woolf* (1996), a collection of essays on biography and autobiography, *Body Parts: Essays on Life-Writing* (2005) (published in 2005 by Princeton University Press in a shorter version as *Virginia Woolf's Nose*) and a biography of *Edith Wharton* (Chatto & Windus and Knopf, 2007, longlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize and for the American Quill Awards, shortlisted for the James Tait Black Award and winner of the English Speaking Union Ambassador Award.) Her most recent publication is an Oxford University Press "Very Short Introduction" on *Biography*. She has edited and introduced numerous editions and anthologies, of Kipling, Trollope, Virginia Woolf, Stevie Smith, Elizabeth Bowen, Willa Cather, Eudora Welty, and Penelope Fitzgerald. She is currently working on a biography of Penelope Fitzgerald.

She was one of the co-editors of the Oxford Poets Anthologies from 1999 to 2002. She is well known for her reviews and work in the media and from 1982 to 1986 she presented Channel Four TV's first books programme, "Book Four". She has reviewed regularly for *The Guardian*. She was Chair of the Judges for the Man Booker Prize for Fiction in 2006. She is a Fellow of the British Academy, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, an Honorary Fellow of St Hilda's and St Cross College, Oxford, and a member of the Athenaeum Club. In 2003 she was made a CBE for services to literature and became a Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In the USA, she has been a visiting teaching fellow at the Beinecke Library at Yale University, a Whitney J Oates Fellow at the Council for the Humanities at Princeton, and an Everett Helm visiting fellow at the Lilly Library at the University of Indiana at Bloomington, and the Mel and Lois Tukman Fellow of the New York Public Library's Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers in 2004-5. In 2012 she will give the Leslie Stephen Lecture at the University of Cambridge. She is married to Professor John Barnard, Professor Emeritus of the University of Leeds.