Dr. Margaret Ormsby is not only a distinguished student of the history of British Columbia, but also is an integral part of its history.

The granddaughter of pioneer settlers in this province, Margaret Ormsby grew up near Vernon and was educated in what might be called the "Sunny Okanagan School of History," in preparation for the University of British Columbia. Her career as a student at U.B.C. was followed in 1934 by an equally impressive career as a teacher at a time when women professors were few. In 1937 Miss Ormsby received her doctorate from Bryn Mawr. Since that time Dr. Ormsby has distinguished herself as a teacher, administrator, and author.

As a teacher, Dr. Ormsby shows tremendous concern for the history of British Columbia in the context of Canadian and Northwest history. In her presidential address to the Canadian Historical Association in 1966, Dr. Ormsby noted: "Of all men, the Westerner is the man who knows that he is on the edge of civilization and on the verge of something new." As a teacher, she has faced the challenge of conveying the Westerner's position to her students. Her graduate students have praised her warmth and personal concern for their work.

As an administrator, she has ably directed the Department of History at U.B.C. since 1965. Her service to that University over the course of her long career has helped to make it one of the finest in Canada.
As a writer and scholar, Margaret Ormsby commands respect from historians throughout the continent. Her articles consistently find their way into the most prominent historical journals. Her book British Columbia: a History, the definitive history of the province, received a well-deserved "top award in the category of local history" by a joint meeting of the American Association of State and Local History, the U.S. Historic Sites Administration, and the Society of American Archivists.

Dr. Ormsby has said that her habit as a historian is to "search for hidden meaning in the visible and invisible signs of the past." In her own past, the signs of her achievement are most visible. She may even be said to symbolize the possibilities and the compassion of the West about which she writes. Mr. Chancellor, in view of her outstanding accomplishments, I present to you Dr. Margaret Ormsby for the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.