

## Maximilian Lau Opening Remarks

- Welcome, thanks to all the teams, few logistical words – fire safety, lunch, etc.
- Open with Ida Toth’s words: the ripples of everything Mark did are still being felt, and that is in many ways why this all but unique event is being put together. To work out what it was about Mark as an historian, teacher and friend that was so unique and distinctive. This event will seek to combine analysis of his scholarship, his teaching style, and his character so that we can bring what we have learned and known from him forward in our own lives and careers.
- For my part, three anecdotes that I’m sure will be picked up in other papers as the day goes on:
- When traveling, if you’re not threatened with deportation you’re not doing it right, how to push the boundaries
- Apply to everything, and apply yourself to everything
- The Dodi’s baby school of history – that you can know every small detail about something, but still convey absolutely nothing about it. I can’t summarise Mark in an opening remark, but between all of us here today, hopefully we can. This is not the end, but the start.
- A quotation to finish from Eutathios Makrembolites:

So then, if Zeus will not place our story among the stars, if Poseidon will not imprint it upon the waters, if Earth will not nurture it in plants and flowers, then, as though in unfading timbers and in adamantine precious stones, with Hermes’ pen and ink and in language breathing the fire of rhetoric let our story be inscribed, and let some one of those who come after, turn it into rhetoric, and forge golden statues hammered out of words as our imperishable monument.

Curator’s Note: In further remarks as the conference part of the day concluded, Maximilian remarked on the quality of the speakers, how like Constantine XI defended the walls of Constantinople one last time with a bodyguard of the German, the Frank, the Italian and the best from the known world as a Byzantine A-team or Avengers. He then shared that for any

thanks he was given, really everyone was just thanking Mark: like many, Max was told he had to have a distinction, 70, to get in for the doctorate from his masters, and though scraping the mark the external moderator put him down to 69 due to his Greek. Mark had him round for lunch, not mentioning what would happen next, until just as he was at his most nervous he said not to worry, it goes to committee now and he was on the committee, and that his own language skills were more brute force and ignorance as he broke rocks to translate Attaleiates rather than skill. Therefore any thanks is entirely due to Mark.

As the wine reception concluded, Max wrapped up again by saying that the true loss of Mark as a head of house was that he could have gone into any school in the country or any other country, from any background, and he would have inspired people to go to Oxford. He then encouraged all present to talk to someone they didn't know, reach out and celebrate Mark, the historian, teacher, and friend.