

Clive Stannard, Hon DLitt

Friday 24th January 2025

Orator: Professor Suzanne Frey-Kupper, Department of Classics

Provost

Our honorary graduand today has had a distinguished career with the United Nations and has made an outstanding contribution to the study of ancient numismatics. I am delighted to introduce: CLIVE STANNARD.

Clive worked for many years in the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation, specifically in the area of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture – key to enabling the world to feed its growing population in the future. He was involved in the stocking of seeds from threatened plant species in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in Norway, the ultimate back-up of global crop diversity. He was Interim Secretary of the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, adopted in 2001, and represented its Genetic Resources Policy Committee on the UN Environmental Programme and UNESCO. This work was crucial for securing food for emerging nations, and in the context of refugee matters and global economic and environmental sustainability – Clive was an early pioneer in the struggle to combat climate change, perceiving its urgency long before this was generally accepted.

During his time at the UN, Clive continued to pursue his research in numismatics – an interest arising from his boyhood hobby of collecting ancient coins. This hobby developed into an important academic pursuit, leading to an Honorary Research Fellowship here from 2022. He has transformed our knowledge of the economy of Republican Rome and the discipline of numismatics. He has made ground-breaking discoveries, particularly in the production of non-state bronze coinages issued in Italy between the mid-second and the mid-first century BC. He has identified such coins produced in Pompeii and in Latium but also other groups of informal coins, and blocs of old and/or obsolete coins imported to Italy from elsewhere, sometimes overstruck, and put into circulation – establishing their importance in understanding the economy and society of the time. In a context of economic growth over the second century BC when more small bronze coin was needed, Rome did not provide such coins adequately even to its adjacent areas, unlike traditionally assumed. By his research, Clive highlights the role of local communities in taking *ad hoc* measures to provide the small coinage its markets needed. He has assembled an invaluable database of thousands of non-Roman and non-state coinages from Minturnae. He has an impressive record of numismatic articles and is currently working on a standard reference monograph.

At Warwick, we are uniquely positioned to appreciate both aspects of Clive's work. His UN work, emphasising sustainability and biodiversity, aligns with that of our School of Life Sciences, which curates our genetic resource 'GeneBank' collection. His work on numismatics enhances that of our

Department of Classics and Ancient History, internationally recognised as one of the strongest research hubs in the discipline. But it is perhaps the cross-disciplinary aspect of Clive's work that most resonates with our Warwick culture. Clive has worked between and across disciplines. His UN work included studies of modern economies, of multi-lateral systems of access and benefit sharing, and in provision of governance: he has applied this knowledge of complex economic structures and trade patterns to the study of the ancient world. He stands for the importance of interdisciplinary skills sets that can be used in diverse fields of study – an approach embedded in our own teaching and research, exemplified in the trans-disciplinary School for Cross-Faculty Studies.

Above all, Clive is a generous, kind and inspiring colleague, sharing his expertise with scholars and a wider audience alike, as he has done here on campus, always surprising by – in his own words – 'undisciplinary' approach. It is a great pleasure to welcome Clive today.

Provost: in the name of the Senate, I present to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, CLIVE STANNARD.