

*In God's laboratory, the chemistry of soil,
 Resurrection day for trees, for grass and flesh,
 For irises, daffodils and cherry plums
 And fragrant orange trees, the flesh and bones
 Of all the dead; for Lazarus, Donna Laura
 And her lover Petrarch and his Canzoniere,
 Donna Beatrice and the Vita Nova
 Of her worshipper Dante Alighieri.
 All flesh, all grass returns to dust,
 But all dust returns to life.
 As we say Amen to Life,
 And say Amen to Death
 Through the succession of Season and Years
 We say Amen also to the Resurrection
 Of all dead Grass and Flesh.*

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ON OUR REVIEW

We hope our readers will like this number containing articles by members of the Faculty of Arts and also guest contributors from abroad. Another university review may appear soon after this number and, for all we know, it may also appear before. That review will be dedicated to Mediterranean Studies towards which recent university reforms have been orientated. We feel, however, that the Faculty as such must retain its medium for the publication of Faculty contributions whatever the subject chosen by the contributors. We leave it to the editor of the review of Mediterranean studies to explain how useful and opportune is the new publication in a characteristically Mediterranean country which can be described as the historical cross-bridge between Europe and Africa. We limit ourselves to one statement about the need for the continued publication of this review. An active and articulate Faculty must have its own mouthpiece on a wider level of academic subject-matter than could be catered for by a publication with a strictly defined area of interest excluding Faculty contributions of a non-Mediterranean nature.

We hope our readers will agree with us that this Journal should continue its own existence which started in 1957 as an organ of the Faculty of Arts. We take this opportunity to welcome the publication of another university review on a subject of vital interest to Malta. We expect it to be complementary to the vast field of universal knowledge which is the scope of a liberal university education. In a progressive university there is scope for reviews of specialised or general interest.