Be it resolved that the Arts and Science Council deeply regrets the passing of John H. A. Munro, Professor Emeritus of Economics and Medieval Studies. To quote Munro’s friend and colleague Herman van der Wee of the University of Leuven, we mourn the loss of ‘an unrivalled master, a devoted teacher, and a faithful friend.’

John Munro was among the world’s leading authorities on late medieval and early modern monetary, financial, and industrial history, with over 150 publications during his fifty-year career. John was born in Vancouver, earning a combined honours BA in Economics and History in 1960 at the University of British Columbia before proceeding to Yale on a Woodrow Wilson Graduate Scholarship. There, he completed a PhD in medieval economic history under the supervision of Roberto Lopez in 1964. After an initial appointment in History and Economics at UBC, he was invited in 1968 to join the University of Toronto Department of Political Economy (from 1982, the Department of Economics), where he was tenured in 1970 and promoted Full Professor in 1973. From the moment of his appointment in Toronto, Munro also took a leading role at the Centre for Medieval Studies, supervising or co-supervising over twenty doctoral dissertations and influencing several generations of students through his graduate seminar on ‘The Dynamics of the European Economy, 1300-1750.’

John Munro’s research focused mainly on the Burgundian Netherlands and England in the later Middle Ages. His monograph, *Wool, Cloth and Gold: The Struggle for Bullion in Anglo-Burgundian Trade, ca. 1340-1478*, a revised version of his doctoral thesis, traced the complex relationship between high politics, monetary policy, and the textile industries during the Hundred Years War, and detected in the bullionist policies of the English kings an early manifestation of mercantilism. Munro subsequently elaborated these themes in a series of weighty studies collected as *Bullion Flows and Monetary Policies in England and the Low Countries, 1350 – 1500*, and *Textiles, Towns, and Trade: Essays in the Economic History of Late-Medieval England and the Low Countries*. Munro was above all an archival historian, and his studies are characterized by meticulous research in the manuscript sources and a mastery of the bewildering complexities history of medieval coinages. His interests, however, were not confined to monetary history, but extended to topics as diverse as the usury prohibition, medieval demographics, and international merchant law, to all of which he made original contributions that often challenged received wisdom. John was also a frequent collaborator on large-scale research projects in his field, most notably as co-editor of *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Economic History* (2003), as a contributor to *The Cambridge History of Western Textiles* (2003), and as editor of and contributor to *Money in the Pre-Industrial World: Bullion, Debasements and Coin Substitutes*, Financial History Series no. 20 (London, 2012).

John Munro was awarded many research grants and academic honours. Among the latter, he was proudest of his election in 1999 to the *ComitatoScientifico* of the *Istituto Internazionale di Storia Economica ‘Francesco Datini’* in Prato, and his appointment four years later to the
institute’s executive committee; of the recognition of his pioneering research on the economy of the late medieval Low Countries by election as a Foreign Member of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts in 2000; and of his election in 2011 to a Life-Time Fellowship of the Medieval Academy of America. In March 2004, several of John Munro’s former doctoral students organized an international workshop at the Centre for Medieval Studies to mark his retirement, the proceedings of which were published as a Festschrift under the title *Money, Markets, and Trade in Late Medieval Europe: Essays in Honour of John H. A. Munro*, L. Armstrong, I. Elbl, and M. Elbl, eds.

John Munro undertook his share of administrative duties, serving as Associate Director of the Centre for Medieval Studies from 1976 to 1979, as a member of many departmental and faculty recruitment, review, and advisory committees, and as Economics representative on the Council of the University of Toronto Faculty Association. A dedicated teacher, he continued to teach his popular undergraduate economic history survey and to advise graduate students even after his mandatory retirement in 2003, and through to his death in December 2013.

Thanks to the generosity of the family, friends and colleagues of John Munro, the University of Toronto has established an endowed fellowship in John Munro’s honour. The John Munro Doctoral Fellowship in Medieval Economic History will provide research support to a doctoral student working in the field of economic history, with a preference for students working in John’s own research field of medieval economic history.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be inscribed in the minutes of the Arts and Science Council.