

In Memoriam Anne Barton (1933-2013)

Bobbyann Roesen won an undergraduate prize at Bryn Mawr College for the essay “Shakespeare and the Idea of the Play.” This was to be the title of both her Cambridge Ph.D. thesis and her first book. The latter was published in 1962 under the name Anne Righter, which she took following marriage to her first husband.

Having studied under Muriel Bradbrook at Girton College, she became a lecturer and Fellow there. She went on to teach for two years as Hildred Carlile Professor of English and head of department at Bedford College, University of London. She then taught for ten years at New College, Oxford as its first woman Fellow. She eventually returned to Cambridge as Professor of English.

In 1969 she married John Barton and assumed the name by which she has been best known. Her theories of drama had great influence on her husband’s work as a theater director. John Barton was also co-founder, with Sir Peter Hall, of the Royal Shakespeare Company. She wrote many program notes for the RSC.

She was also the author of *Ben Jonson, Dramatist* (1982), *The Names of Comedy* (1990) and *Byron: Don Juan* (1992). Her introductions in the Riverside Shakespeare influenced generations of students and scholars. Her most important shorter pieces were collected as *Essays, Mainly Shakespearean* in 1994.

While teaching at Oxford she lived with her husband in an Elizabethan manor outside Stratford-upon-Avon. This was restored by Michael Reardon, the architect of the Swan Theatre. While teaching at Oxford she lived in a Jacobean manor house near Wisbech. In her later years she maintained elegant rooms in Trinity, overlooking Nevile’s Court.

There will be a Memorial Celebration of Anne Barton's life and work in Trinity College Chapel on Saturday 12 July 2014 at 2.30 p.m. Those wishing to attend are asked to inform the Fellows’ Secretary at fellows.sec@trin.cam.ac.uk