

## PROFESSOR PHILIP TOMLINSON

A former pupil of Leigh Grammar School for Boys, Philip Tomlinson took first-class honours in French Language and Literature at the University of Liverpool in 1971. He won a studentship to read for a PhD at the same institution and successfully presented a thesis on the career and work of seventeenth-century French dramatist Jean Mairet in 1979. In the meantime, in 1973, he had taken up a temporary lectureship in French in the Department of Modern Languages at the University of Salford, the appointment being confirmed as permanent the following year. Promoted to a senior lectureship in 1986, he went on to become Vice-Chairman, then Deputy Head of Department, then Associate Head of School (Teaching) in the renamed School of Languages, and finally Head of School from 2002 until his retirement in 2006. He was awarded a personal chair in 2001. Throughout his academic career he devoted much energy to syllabus development, as he did in his role as founder and artistic director of the Théâtre du Croissant. In 1987, he took his production of Sartre's *Huis clos* to the Institut Français d'Ecosse as part of the Edinburgh International Festival Fringe. But he is especially proud of his productions of Molière's *Le Bourgeois gentilhomme* (1988) and *Le Malade imaginaire* (1989), both realised with full musical score and ballets, which he believes to be unprecedented in the United Kingdom.

His research focused on the development of French theatre and dramatic literature under the ministry of Cardinal Richelieu, in particular the work of Jean Mairet, on whom he is acknowledged as a leading authority. His special interest is in the relationship between, on the one hand, dramatic literature, theatre(s) and performance, and, on the other, their socio-historical and socio-ethical contexts.

In retirement, he devotes much time to his four grandchildren, to travel, to cooking, to his garden, and to his beloved cricket club, of which he is currently chairman and where, until arthritis disabled his knees, he served as groundsman for over twenty years. In 2010 he was delighted to win an OSCA (Outstanding Services to Cricket Awards) from the Lancashire Cricket Board as Groundsperson of the Year, an achievement he rates as highly as any other.