

ESSAYS IN WESTERN CIVILIZATION

IN HONOR OF

Christian W. Mackauer

Edited by

LEON BOTSTEIN and ELLEN KARNOFSKY



Published by

THE COLLEGE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



Pictures by Richard Gordon

INTRODUCTION

This volume, honoring a great teacher, should include a word about the course he teaches. Students at the University of Chicago meet Professor Mackauer in "History of Western Civilization". This course establishes two Western traditions -- Greco-Roman and Judeo-Christian -- and follows their development and interaction through an examination of selected periods.

A year's study in "History of Western Civilization" offers insight into our own cultural origins. We reconstruct ourselves from unrecognized components; we first become Greeks, then medieval Christians, Renaissance men, and social revolutionaries. Our collective past becomes part of our individual conscious experience.

The contributors to this volume all have been associated with the course, as its creators, teachers, or students. The development of "History of Western Civilization", like its subject matter, has been a process of combination and re-evaluation, a microcosmic civilization. The creation and continued existence of such a dynamic institution are the finest tribute to Professor Mackauer.

Ellen Karnofsky

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