



Professor Robin Clark

**Harper House
1949–52**

**College No.
5742**



Professor Robin Jon Hawes Clark, CNZM FRS

A brilliant student who became an esteemed international scientist. Professor Robin Clark pioneered a dating technique that authenticated a Vermeer painting, and exposed an ancient map as a forgery.

From Rangiora, he won a scholarship to College, where he excelled academically. He went on to become a world authority on titanium. Much of his life was spent at University College, London, where his dogged, unflashy leadership was much admired. Robin joined the Chemistry department in 1962, was made Professor of Chemistry in 1982 and seven years later, Head of Chemistry.

His research was key to Raman spectroscopy becoming a practical tool for art historians and chemists. In 2002 it enabled him to expose the Vinland Map as a clever forgery.

Awarded countless international honours, he was made FRS in 1990. Ten bound volumes of his published papers are held in the College library. Robin passed away in 2018, aged 83 years.



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