

His death has removed another member of that distinguished company of scholars and administrators whose single-minded pursuit of scientific truth and devotion to Africa and its peoples first brought this Institute into being, and set the standard for its achievements. To the unfailing support and energetic labours of Édouard De Jonghe, and those who worked with him, the Institute owes a debt which cannot easily be measured.

PUBLICATIONS BY PROFESSOR ÉDOUARD DE JONGHE

*Ethnographie du Congo*, 1930.

'La famille chez les Congolais', *Semaine Internationale d'Ethnologie religieuse*, 1931.

*L'Enseignement des indigènes au Congo Belge*, 1931.

*Notes sur les institutions, mœurs et usages des Congolais*, 1933.

'Vers une langue nationale congolaise', *Inst. Roy. Col. Belge, Bull. des Séances*, 1935.

'Formations récentes de sociétés secrètes au Congo Belge', *Africa*, ix. 1, 1936.

'Les recherches ethnographiques en Belgique et au Congo Belge', *Man*, xlvii, 1946.

'Les formes de l'asservissement dans les sociétés indigènes du Congo Belge', *Inst. Roy. Col. Belge, Bull. des Séances*, 1948.

Numerous other papers.

PROFESSOR CONTI ROSSINI

WE regret to announce the death in Rome on 21 August last, in his seventy-eighth year, of Professor Carlo Conti Rossini. A member of the Executive Council of the Institute from 1929 to 1939, Professor Conti Rossini warmly supported and assisted the work of the Institute, especially in its formative period.

We are happy to quote below from an appreciation of his career by Professor V. L. Grottanelli, of the Museo Preistorico, Rome.

'In the early nineties, when Professor Conti Rossini's scientific career began, very little was known of many of the languages and cultures of north-east Africa, and the information available was confused and conflicting. It is largely to him that we are indebted for the progress which has since been made in this branch of studies. His unceasing activity in almost every field concerning Ethiopia for over half a century accounts for the vastness of his scientific production, which includes works on linguistics, ethnology, folk-literature, archaeology, native law and, above all, history. A profound philological grounding, long experience in the critical editing of ancient documents and inscriptions, ability in collecting oral traditions in the field and recording the laws and customs of a wide variety of peoples, together with a unique mastery of their history, are qualities seldom found in one scholar. This wide range of interests gave him the rare advantage of being able to view ethnic problems from more than one angle, and with a wider perspective than the average specialized student can command; yet this variety never affected the basic unity of his life-work.

'Alike in his detailed studies and in his large-scale works, the integrity of his scholarship, his caution in weighing and interpreting data and reaching conclusions convince the reader that he is walking on firm, well-tested ground. With these qualities—so characteristic of the man himself in everyday life, Conti Rossini combined the rarer gifts of deep historical insight and a capacity for far-reaching synthesis which enabled him to paint the ample fresco as well as the detailed miniature.

'An authority on the Semitic languages of Ethiopia, on which he lectured in the

University of Rome for twenty-nine years, and especially on Ge'ez and Tigrinya, he also made important contributions to the study of other linguistic families, extracting from the note-books of various explorers elements on hitherto unknown languages, both Hamitic and Nilotic. As a historian, his most important achievement is the *Storia d'Etiopia*, from its origins to the thirteenth century, the only work on the subject based on a critical examination of the sources, both classical and medieval, oriental and western. As a civil servant, from 1899 to 1903, he contributed to one of the initial stages of the pacification of Eritrea. The spirit in which he accomplished this task still lives in that remarkable treatise, *Principi di diritto consuetudinario dell'Eritrea*—a rich and accurate description of the laws and customs of many different tribes, informed by an intuitive understanding of the spirit of the indigenous culture.

'A member of many learned societies and academies, both Italian and foreign, he was for many years a member of the International African Institute, and served on its Executive Council. For his profound knowledge of African problems, his immense scientific production, and especially for his understanding and sympathy towards the Africans themselves, he will be remembered as one of the leading Africanists of our time.'

#### DR. THOMAS JESSE JONES

WE regret to announce the death on 5 January 1950 of Dr. Jesse Jones, whose work for education, and particularly that of African peoples, has been one of the great influences in the development of African societies. Dr. Jesse Jones was for thirty-three years connected with the Phelps-Stokes Fund, first as its Educational Agent, and from 1917 to 1946 as its Educational Director. He was head of the Phelps-Stokes Fund Educational Commission which in 1920, at the request of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America and the Conference of Missionary Societies of Great Britain and Ireland, visited West, South, and Equatorial Africa to study the educational, economic, social, and religious conditions of the African peoples of those areas. He edited the Commission's report which was published in 1922, and, as a result, was invited by the British Colonial Office to make a similar study in British East Africa. The report of this inquiry, *Education in East Africa*, was published in London in 1925. These reports were influential in the formation of the Colonial Office Advisory Committee on Education in the Colonies, of which Sir Hanns Vischer, the first Secretary-General of this Institute, was Secretary.