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PROFESSOR ÉDOUARD DE JONGHE

IT is with the deepest regret that we have to record the sudden death on 8 January 1950 of Professor Édouard De Jonghe, Secretary-General of the Institut Royal Colonial Belge and Consultative Director of this Institute.

Professor De Jonghe's long and distinguished career at the Belgian Ministry of Colonies, his notable achievements in the field of African ethnology, his ripe scholarship and his intellectual energy, were well known to a wide circle of colleagues and friends.

His association with this Institute dates from 1928, when he became a member of its Executive Council. He was always keenly interested in its activities and vigorously assisted in the promotion and organization of many schemes of linguistic and ethnological research; he also worked tirelessly to secure the interest and support of the Belgian Colonial Ministry and the Belgian Congo Government for the work of the Institute.

He first entered the Belgian Ministry of Colonies in 1908, visited the Congo in 1909, and in 1928 was appointed Director-General of Native Affairs, after undertaking a mission to the Congo in connexion with the organization of native education. From 1908 he occupied the Chair of Ethnology and Ethnography at the University of Louvain—where he also lectured on Native Policy. In addition to publishing a number of studies and monographs, mainly on the ethnology of the Congo, some of which are listed below, he was the founder and first editor of the *Revue Congolaise* and the review *Congo*, director of *Bibliothèque Congo* and chairman of the editorial committee of *Zaire*. He had the pleasure of seeing his study of slavery in the Belgian Congo published shortly before his death.

In 1944 he endured a period of imprisonment at the hands of the German occupying forces in consequence of his refusal to countenance collaborationist activities. On his release in 1945 he returned to Brussels and, with strength and energies apparently unimpaired, renewed his activities as Secretary-General of the Institut Royal Colonial Belge and chairman of the Commission d'Ethnologie. In 1946 he re-established contact with the International African Institute, and in 1947 attended the meeting of its Executive Council in London, when he was appointed Consultative Director.

'Africa', the Journal of the International African Institute, is published by the Institute, but except where otherwise stated the writers of the articles are alone responsible for the opinions expressed.

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