

were followed by "The Third Catechism," including an edition of *Nannūl*, "A Tamil Handbook for English Students," in three parts, "A Tamil Prose Reader," and "A Tamil Poetical Anthology." His Oxford appointment and his election to an honorary fellowship at Balliol College gave a fresh impetus to his literary labours. In 1886 he brought out an edition of the *Kural* with an English translation; in 1893, the *Nālaḍiyār*; and in 1900, his monumental work—a critical edition, with an English translation, of the *Tiruvāçagam*. These volumes do not represent even a tithe of his work, for besides a short history of India and contributions on Indian topics to various periodicals he left behind in MS. complete editions and English translations of the *Paramõri*, the *Çilappadigāram*, and the *Manimegalāi*, as well as a vast amount of material for a standard Tamil dictionary.

He received the triennial Gold Medal of the Society in June, 1906, in recognition of his distinguished services to Indian research, and in pp. 767–790 of the *Journal* for that year will be found a detailed account of his life-work.

M. DE Z. WICKREMASINGHE.

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HENRIK EMILE HERBERT BORGSTRÖM, M.R.A.S.

IN the death of Henrik Emile Herbert Borgström, of Turholm Park, and Trikant, Helsingfors, on the 19th of November, 1907, Finland lost one of her most accomplished sons, and the British Royal Asiatic Society one of its most promising young members. He was only in his 34th year, yet his acquirements as a philologist and deep philosophic thinker attracted and astonished all who met him and were capable of following his brilliant conversation and comprehending his field of thought. He spoke and wrote every literary language of modern Europe perfectly, and was a devoted student

of the classic tongues. In addition to which he was master of Sanskrit, Arabic, and Persian, but perhaps his great passion was Hebrew literature, which was as familiar to his lips as his mother tongues of Swedish and English. He would sit for an hour at a time reciting Hebrew poetry from memory to interest myself and others who had a similar appreciation of its sublime and pathetic verse in its native numbers, as manifested in its prophets, psalmists, and the philosophic Solomon. He was offered the Readership of Sanskrit in the University of Finland, but was prevented from accepting it by his broken health.

I soon found he was no ordinary intellect, or pedant, full of dead scholar cram, but a man of living and vivid talent, and an accomplished Orientalist, and who possessed a perfect command of English for both prose and poetical renderings. Some of the finest passages in my translation of the Book of Job into verse are his work, and amongst them I may point to chapters iv and the first seven verses of chapter v as his, except verses 19 to 21, inclusive, of chapter iv.

When I printed an edition of over 5,000 copies of the version of Job he wrote the preface. He was at the same time reading hard in the Greek classics and modern languages, and practising in mathematics and Ægyptology under the professor of that science at the University of France.

At last, in 1897-8, the break-down of his system came, after monitions of it in the previous years, when we were engaged upon the Hebrew historical books, and he was obliged to cease during the attacks of prostration from coadjuting in my work. But as soon as a little rested he would plunge in again, until after the collapse of 1897-8, which was accompanied by a severe seizure of influenza at Brighton, he was obliged to withdraw from active assistance, and to confine his efforts to reading the proofs as they were sent from my printers.

He was, however, not merely a philologist, but a student of historical philosophy, and a very profound thinker in the regions of metaphysics and psychology, and an extensive traveller. He went from land to land ranging from Lapland to Ceylon, and all the intermediate countries. He explored all Northern and Central Europe, North Africa, Egypt, Greece, Turkey, and Southern Europe, and, until his health broke down, he was also devoted to athletics and the study of art.

He was born in Finland on the 5th of June, 1874, and sprang from noble ancestry, his father being Herr Emile Borgström, of Helsingfors, in Finland, and his mother an English lady, a Miss Constance Herbert. His education was conducted partly in Finland and partly under tutors in England, and he early showed the remarkable talents which his mature manhood displayed. In 1883 he inherited, under the will of his grandfather, the Och Ritteren Henrik Borgström, of Turholm and Helsingfors, extensive estates and a large shipping and merchant's business, when about 9 years of age. The mercantile part of his fortune was conducted for him by an uncle, and he devoted himself to literature; and the actual and contemplated improvement of the lands, comprising, as he once told me, a large number of villages, he kept in his own hands.

With the sorrows of his native land he suffered deeply in mind and health, and they probably hastened him on to dementia and death by suicide in London, on the 19th of November last, at the age of 33 years—an age when men of great genius generally begin the productive period of their career in literature. In the last conversation we had together, three days before his death, he informed me that he had nearly got ready for the press a treatise upon a philosophic subject, and his MSS. will be published if sufficiently completed to justify this being done.

FERRAR FENTON.