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## MISCELLANEOUS

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- Obituary Notice of Major-General Sir A. Cunningham. *Id.* 1894, p. 1.
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- Presidential Address to the Asiatic Society of Bengal. *Proc. ASB.* 1898, p. 37. *Principal Contents*: Jainism and Buddhism, p. 39; Archaeology and Epigraphy, p. 55; Central Asian Antiquities, p. 63; Ethnographic and Linguistic Surveys, p. 71; History of Old Calcutta, p. 81.

## PROFESSOR JULIUS EGGELING, PH.D.

IN Julius Eggeling this Society has lost one who not only was an Honorary Member, but who began his connexion with it as Secretary just half a century ago.

He was born in the village of Hecklingen near the Hartz Mountains in the year 1842. Educated first at the *Gymnasium* (grammar school) of Bernburg, he then proceeded to study classical and Sanskrit philology at the Universities of Breslau and Berlin. He reached Breslau at the same time as another former Secretary of this Society, Professor Rhys Davids, both being bent on studying Sanskrit under Professor Stenzler. Being at the time the only pupils of that very sound scholar, they were naturally much thrown together. They thus became

very intimate for a period of nearly three years, till Rhys Davids had to return to London for a Civil Service examination, while his friend proceeded to Berlin for the purpose of continuing his Sanskrit studies under Professor Albrecht Weber. After taking his degree, Eggeling came to England in 1867 with a view to working at the Sanskrit MSS. in the libraries of the India Office and of this Society; but in the same year he migrated to Oxford in order to assist Max Müller in editing the fifth volume of his first edition of the *Rigveda*. Two years later he was appointed Secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society, and in 1872, when only just 30, also Professor of Sanskrit at University College, London. When in 1875 Professor Aufrecht vacated the Chair of Sanskrit and Comparative Philology at Edinburgh, Eggeling succeeded him. He held this post, for all but forty years, till 1914.

His labours in the sphere of Sanskrit took three directions: the compilation of catalogues of Sanskrit MSS., editions of Sanskrit grammarians, and the translation of a very extensive Brāhmaṇa.

His first published work was a catalogue of the Buddhist Sanskrit MSS. in the possession of the Royal Asiatic Society, compiled in collaboration with Professor Cowell in 1875. But his main labours in this line were connected with the India Office MSS., on which he was engaged for more than twenty years. In 1869 it had been decided, upon the proposal of the late Dr. Rost, to bring out a new catalogue of the Sanskrit MSS. in the India Office Library, the slip catalogue (in manuscript) by Sir Charles Wilkins and Professor H. H. Wilson being by that time out of date. The services of Dr. Haas and Dr. Eggeling, with whom Dr. Windisch was shortly after associated, were secured for the work, the palm-leaf MSS., in South Indian characters, being left to Dr. Rost. Seven parts of the catalogue (down to p. 1628) have appeared, the first coming out in 1886 and the last in 1904. All of

these were compiled or edited by Professor Eggeling alone, excepting the fourth, in which Dr. Windisch was associated with him. A considerable number of MSS. still remained to be dealt with,<sup>1</sup> but Professor Eggeling could not be prevailed upon to make progress with these, because he was occupied with other work, especially in connexion with the Edinburgh University Library.

During his residence in London Professor Eggeling had also begun working at the Sanskrit grammarians. The result of these studies was the publication in the *Bibliotheca Indica* (1874-8) of the *Kātantra* of Śarvavarman, who appears to have been one of the most influential of the later Sanskrit grammarians. This was followed in 1879-80 by an edition of Vardhamāna's *Gaṇaratna-mahodadhī* (A.D. 1140), a metrical arrangement of the *gaṇas* or word-groups contained in the *Gaṇapāṭha* which supplements the Grammar of Pāṇini.

After the publication of these two volumes and simultaneously with his cataloguing labours, Professor Eggeling was engaged for twenty years on his *magnum opus*, the translation of the *Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa*, the most important work of Vedic literature next to the *Rigveda*. It forms five volumes of the *Sacred Books of the East*, published respectively in 1882, 1885, 1894, 1897, and 1900. Beside Haug's version of the *Aitareya Brāhmaṇa* Eggeling's translation is the most valuable contribution yet made towards rendering the Brāhmaṇa literature accessible to students of the history of Indian religion. The completion of this work, which had absorbed his interest for so many years, filled him with regret, as causing a veritable blank in his life. His feelings must have been like those of Gibbon, who, writing of the night in which he penned the last lines of his *Decline and Fall*, says: "A sober melancholy was spread

<sup>1</sup> This remainder is being completed by Professor Keith, Professor Eggeling's successor at Edinburgh.

over my mind by the idea that I had taken an everlasting leave of an old and agreeable companion."

In addition to the works mentioned above Professor Eggeling contributed several valuable articles on Brāhmanism, Hinduism, and Sanskrit language and literature to the *Encyclopædia Britannica* and on the Veda and Sanskrit to *Chambers' Encyclopædia*.

During the last ten years of his occupancy of the Sanskrit Chair at Edinburgh, as Curator of the University Library he rendered very important services not limited to his own special line of studies. He also continued to take an active part in the business of the Senatus, serving on many of its Committees.

As senior member of the Senatus he represented the University at the centenaries of the Universities of Rome, Breslau, Berlin, and Leipzig. He also attended several of the Congresses of Orientalists which have been held for nearly half a century, generally in European capitals, at intervals of three years.

His interest in comparative philology, to lecture on which was one of the duties of his Chair, was of a somewhat old-fashioned type. He did not sympathize with the intricate and abstruse development of the science during the latter half of his life.

He was fond of modern English literature, Scott and Dickens, Burns and Tennyson being his favourites. He was also a devoted student of Goethe.

He was much attached to Scotland, where he had spent all but forty years of his life, and which he felt was his real home in the sense expressed by Goethe: "Wo du wirkst, da ist dein Vaterland." But he was also devoted to his native land, which he often revisited in the long summer vacations. Thus it came about that the outbreak of war surprised him on holiday in the German forests. This circumstance clouded the closing years of his life in quite a special manner. His German nationality had lapsed,

while he had never been naturalized in this country. He made determined efforts to return to Scotland, but could obtain neither a German nor a British passport. He accordingly sent in his resignation to the Principal of Edinburgh University, only a few months sooner than he had otherwise intended to do on completing forty years of service. He found a secluded refuge in the home of his daughter, a Westphalian village manse, among his beloved woods and surrounded by grandchildren. But he hoped to the last to be able to return and end his days at Brunstane House, his own home near Edinburgh. This hope was not to be fulfilled, for he died in Germany last March.

Professor Rhys Davids, who, as I have already shown, was intimate with Eggeling in his student days, and who continued to meet him occasionally in later years, writes about him as follows: "He was a man of unusual breadth of view, taking an enlightened interest in many things outside his special study. He was thoroughly loyal and true, and remarkably free from any thought of self-interest. The world has lost in him not only an eminent scholar, but a man of high character."

Others bear witness to his aversion from national chauvinism, his broad human sympathies, his kindness, his shrewd common sense combined with a strain of romantic sentiment. I myself first made his acquaintance in the early eighties, when he gave me some valuable help in solving two or three difficulties I met with in the course of editing my first Sanskrit text. Since then I saw and corresponded with him at intervals. The last time I met him was in 1912 at the Congress of Orientalists held at Athens in that year. He was then 70 years of age, but still quite alert and active. The impression he has left on my mind is, to use the words of a great writer of the land in which he was so long domiciled, that of "a wise old man rich in tolerance".

A. A. MACDONELL.