

## Notes and News

### *Professor Enno Littmann*

WITH the death, earlier this year at the age of 82, of Professor Enno Littmann, Emeritus Professor of Oriental Languages in the University of Tübingen, the last great representative of that school of Semitic studies which was still able to embrace the entire field of Semitic scholarship has disappeared. In recent years the vast accumulation of new material together with the general movement towards specialization have brought about the fragmentation into areas and languages, on one hand, and subject (linguistics, literary studies, archaeology, anthropology, &c.), on the other. Though Littmann had actively contributed to many diverse spheres of Oriental scholarship (attested by his election to membership of several internationally renowned academies) and his versatility had ranged from Ethiopian inscriptions to a translation of the *Arabian Nights* or from Turkish loanwords in Egyptian Arabic to the metrical origin of the Lord's Prayer, his significance *sub specie aeternitatis* will have to be sought principally in the field of Ethiopian studies. This estimate would have been approved by Littmann himself: from his doctoral dissertation (on the verb in Tigre) to the great Tigre dictionary (now being prepared by his pupil, Professor M. Hoefner; two fascicles have already been published) some of his most important work had been concerned with Ethiopian languages.

He was responsible for editions of Ethiopic texts and poetry; he worked on the traditional pronunciation of classical Ethiopic (Gə'əz); he wrote a history of Ethiopic literature and made contributions to the study of several modern Abyssinian languages. Here it was Tigre (the language of the Northern, Eastern, and Western lowlands of Eritrea) that engaged his attention first and foremost. He was in Eritrea and Northern Ethiopia in 1905-6 as leader of the German Aksum Expedition whose four heavy tomes remain the basis of Ethiopian archaeology and epigraphy. The tales, customs, names, and dirges of the Tigre tribes (Publications of the Princeton Expedition to Abyssinia) represent a truly monumental collection of linguistic and ethnological material. In the preparation and interpretation of this work Littmann had the assistance of a Tigre-speaking informant who stayed in Littmann's house at Strasbourg from 1907 to 1909 and thus contributed to Littmann's great proficiency in handling Tigre—the last fruits of which may now be studied in the, alas partly posthumous, Tigre dictionary.

Littmann's published work exceeds 500 items, but he was not given to writing for the sake of swelling his bibliography. Among the greatest *ethiopicists* of the present century, Guidi, Praetorius, Conti Rossini, Marcel Cohen, and Cerulli, Enno Littmann's name occupies a most honoured place.

[Communicated by EDWARD ULLENDORFF]

### *The Seventh C.I.A.O. Conference*

THE Government of Ghana has invited C.I.A.O. to hold its seventh conference in Accra early in 1959.

The sectional themes of the Conference are as follows:

Section I. Human migrations, ancient and modern, in West Africa.

Section II. Water in relation to population.

Section III. Ecology and management of wild life in West Africa. (Covering wild life and vegetation, wild life and domestic animals.)

Section IV. The humid forests of West Africa, their original and present extent.

Papers are invited, and must reach the Conference Secretary before 31 December 1958. Papers may be in either English or French, should not exceed 3,000 words, and must be prefaced by a brief summary. It is hoped to reproduce all papers for distribution during the Conference.

### *The African Studies Association in the United States*

THE African Studies Association in the United States formally came into being at a conference held in New York in March 1957 (see *Africa*, October 1957, p. 401). During the intervening year the Board has met at intervals and reached a number of important decisions on the future policies of the Association.

The first issue of the *African Studies Bulletin* appeared in April 1958, and is designed to gather together some general information on the opportunities for the study of Africa in the United States and to acquaint its readers with the background of the African Studies Association. African Studies Programs of the following universities are given: Boston University; University of California at Los Angeles; Duke University Commonwealth Studies Center; Duquesne University; Hartford Seminary Foundation; School of Advanced International Studies of the Johns Hopkins University; Northwestern University; Roosevelt University; Food Research Institute of Stanford University; Yale University. It is expected that subsequent issues of the *Bulletin* will contain articles on topics of general interest in the field. An attempt will be made to keep the members of the Association informed of future academic visitors from Africa with their schedule of travel in the United States. News items of general interest in the field of African studies will also be included. It is planned that the *Bulletin* should appear quarterly in October, January, March, and May.

### *The African Trade Development Fund*

THE Government of Uganda set up the African Trade Development Fund in 1955 with the object of assisting Africans in trade, particularly in townships and major trading centres, by providing premises for rental. By this method the traders would be saved the need to invest their capital in a building and would, therefore, be able to devote it all to the speculative business of trading. At the same time Government would have a well-secured investment over which it retained full control. If a tenant failed, the investment would not suffer because the premises could be let immediately to another trader.

The scheme value of the fund is £400,000 to be received in annual instalments of which three have been paid so far to a total of £171,000. The first phase of expenditure has been upon premises in the main townships. There are two reasons for this: (i) to encourage the integration of Africans and non-Africans in trade, and so help to dispel the idea held by many Africans that trading in townships was restricted to non-Africans; (ii) because capital assistance in respect of buildings is most needed in the townships where a premium has to be paid for a plot and buildings must be of a relatively high standard and value.

### *Studia Universitatis 'Lovanium'*

THE Lovanium University at Leopoldville has, since 1957, been publishing a series of scientific works under the title of *Studia Universitatis 'Lovanium'*. The series includes two