

# A F R I C A

JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN INSTITUTE

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VOLUME XXIII

JANUARY 1953

NUMBER I

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## OBITUARY

SIR REGINALD COUPLAND, K.C.M.G., C.I.E.

BY the death of Sir Reginald Coupland, which took place suddenly on 6 November 1952, the Institute has lost a friend and collaborator of long standing. As contributor to and then Editor of 'The Round Table', and as Beit lecturer in Colonial History (later Professor) at Oxford, Coupland early established his reputation in the field of Colonial studies, in which his earliest interest was Africa. He was a member of the Palestine Royal Commission and of the Cripps Mission to India, but his last published works marked a return to his African studies, and he was on his way to Africa again when he died.

Sir Reginald's connexion with this Institute dates from 1934; in 1938 he became Administrative Director and Editor of *Africa* and, with Sir Hanns Vischer and Lord Lugard, was responsible for guiding the policy and activities of the Institute until 1943. He remained a member of the Executive Council till 1948. His wisdom and knowledge were of particular value during the war years, when the office of the Institute was temporarily moved to Oxford and, through his intervention, was accommodated in Rhodes House, where he made himself personally responsible for the care of its records and documents.

To the many expressions of affection and admiration from the wide circle of those who knew him and the high quality of his work, we desire to add our appreciation of a singularly charming personality and a counsellor who mingled shrewd, clear-sighted wisdom with sympathy and humane understanding.

GÜNTER WAGNER

THE death of Günter Wagner on 21 August 1952 at the age of 44 is a source of real sorrow to the International African Institute and a severe loss to anthropological studies. Wagner graduated in social anthropology, psychology and linguistics at the Universities of Freiburg and Hamburg, and continued his ethnological and linguistic

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*'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.*

studies, as holder of a Rockefeller Social Science Research Fellowship, in Columbia University, New York, and Berkeley, California. He also studied with Professor Malinowski at the London School of Economics. From 1934 to 1939, as Fellow of the International African Institute, he carried out field studies of the Bantu of North Kavirondo in Kenya Colony. After considerable delay due to the war the first part of the results of his field-work was published by the Institute in 1949; two other volumes were planned, but unfortunately have not been completed.

In 1950 Wagner was appointed Ethnologist to the Native Affairs Department, Union of South Africa, and was stationed at Windhoek, South-West Africa. In 1952 he held a temporary lectureship in Social Anthropology at the Department of Bantu Studies, University of the Witwatersrand.

In spite of the interruption to his work caused by the war and post-war conditions in Germany, Wagner had established his reputation as a most capable field anthropologist and as one who combined conscientious attention to detail with a power of analysing and expounding theoretical problems. The unexpected curtailing of a promising career must be regretted by all concerned with African studies. We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife and family.