

## OBITUARIES

### PROFESSOR GEORG MORGENSTIERNE

The outward course of Professor Morgenstierne's life is in outline in the Norwegian *Hvem er hvem* to 1973. He was born in Oslo in 1892 and died at the age of 86 in March 1978. He was trained in the Universities of Oslo, Bonn, and Berlin in the years 1909–18, and while working with H. Lüders in Berlin wrote his first book on the Sanskrit dramas of Cārudatta and Mṛcchakaṭika in 1921. In 1924 he published in the *Acta Orientalia* a study of the Tibetan text of the drama *Nāgānanda*. From 1917 on he was teaching in a field requiring knowledge of all Indo-European languages, first at Oslo (1917–28), then at Göteborg (1930), and finally in Oslo (1937–63). He received wide academic recognition and was thrice President of the Vidensk Akademi. He was a member of the Academies in Norway, Göteborg, Stockholm, Denmark, and Afghanistan, and of the British Academy in London, and the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres of the Institut de France in Paris. He was a member of learned Asiatic Societies of London and Paris and elsewhere.

From the twenties he devoted himself to Iranian studies together with the Dardic languages of the Indian North-west frontier and the little-known tongues of Kafiristan (Nuristan). His work with unwritten languages testifies to an excellent phonetic competence such as is required to record these difficult mountain idioms. His published work in two volumes, *Indo-Iranian frontier languages* (Oslo: I, 1929, II, 1938), and many separate monographs on those dialects enriched a subject till then hardly touched.

A volume of studies presented to him in 1964, *Indo-Iranica* (Wiesbaden), contains a full bibliography to that date (pp. 189–95). In a reprint of older articles and some new articles, *Irano-Dardica* (Wiesbaden, 1973), reference is made to a more complete bibliography. In the volume *Indo-Iranica* a photograph is set at the front and in *Irano-Dardica* there is a copy of a pencil drawing; both recall him vividly to mind.

Georg Morgenstierne was fluent in English, German, and French and in the Asian languages, Persian and Pashto. He travelled widely, but his scientific work took him especially to Afghanistan. In his recent lecture to the Society for Afghan Studies in London he described the stratification of the many languages of that country. The lecture will appear in the Society's *Bulletin*. He also took great interest in the *Linguistic atlas of Afghanistan* now in preparation in the charge of G. Redard of Bern.

He was a welcome visitor each year to the Council of the *Corpus Inscriptio-num Iranicarum*. This visit gave him the opportunity to see his old friend R. L. Turner to whose work he had been able to give valued information on the Dardic languages. He came also regularly to us in Cambridge.

His service to the linguistic interpretation of Iranian was great, ranging from a study of Avestan ("Sound-system of the Avesta", *Irano-Dardica*, 31–83) to modern Afghan literature (as on Khushhal Khān in 1945). We can also expect a posthumous publication of a revision of his early work, the *Etymological vocabulary of Pashto* (Oslo, 1927). He was generous to younger Iranists in giving them his own collections of materials, as of Wanetsi to J. Elfenbein and of Kafiri to G. Fussman.

His passing has bereft us of a valued counsellor in Iranica and a fruitful source of important studies on Iranian and North-west-frontier languages. Personally he was a delight to meet.

H. W. BAILEY.

#### BERNHARD KARLGREN: IN MEMORIAM

With the death of Bernhard Karlgren on 20 October 1978, an era of Sinology, which began in the last year of the Chinese empire, has come to an end. Karlgren's scholarly activities spanned over seven decades. His first work, a phonetic transcription of folk tales from two districts in his native Swedish province, was published in 1908. His last work, "Moot words in some Chuang Tse chapters", appeared in the 1976 issue of the *Bulletin of the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities*. When I visited Karlgren on his 89th birthday, on 5 October 1978, I found on his desk preparatory notes for a paper on a philological problem in the *Book of odes*.

The truly awe-inspiring scholarly production of Bernhard Karlgren contains a long series of brilliant works which for all time will stand out as great landmarks in Western Sinology. His *Études sur la phonologie chinoise* (1915–26), which contains his reconstruction of Ancient Chinese, laid the foundation for the disciplines of modern Chinese dialectology and historical phonology. Basing himself on the impressive results achieved by the brilliant philologists of the Ch'ing period, Karlgren was able to formulate a reconstruction of Archaic Chinese. The results of his researches, which were presented in a series of works in the years 1925–40, were summed up in his *Grammata serica* (1940), *Compendium of phonetics in Ancient and Archaic Chinese* (1954), and *Grammata Serica recensa* (1957).

Bernhard Karlgren's reconstruction of Archaic Chinese opened up new approaches to the study of early Chinese texts. His glosses on the *Book of odes* (1942, 1944, 1946) and on the *Book of documents* (1948) are brilliant contributions in the field of classical Chinese philology. The monumental monograph *Loan characters in pre-Han texts* (1967) will necessitate considerable revisions in the field of Chinese lexicography.