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IN MEMORY
OF PROFESSOR AHMED MAHMOUD EL-BATRAWI



Professor Ahmed Mahmoud El-Batrawi in his office at the Anatomical Institute of the Cairo University in June 1964.

With deep regret we accepted the news that Dr. Ahmed Mahmoud El-Batrawi, Professor of the Cairo University, has left for ever the world society of anthropologists and students in the morphology of man.

Professor Batrawi was born on July 12th, 1902 at the village of Kesna in the Lower Egyptian province of Menufiya as a son of the local schoolmaster. He received his elementary education in his native village, later he went to Alexandria and Cairo. After taking his final examination he decided to study medicine at the Medical Faculty of the Cairo University. He completed his studies at this University in 1926.

After taking his degree he was active in the Public Health Service, however, theoretical research work attracted his interest more and more. In 1928 he was appointed assistant at the Anatomical Institute of the Cairo University in which he had already been active in previous years as a demonstrator. In this work he was strongly influenced by the Professor of anatomy and outstanding anthropologist Dr. D. E. Derry who roused his interest in the study of the anthropology of Ancient Egypt. Thus the continual research line of the Cairo Medical School and later Medical Faculty was completed after the famous names of G. Elliot Smith and D. E. Derry by the name of a research worker of native origin, Ahmed Mahmoud El-Batrawi.

The first tasks for Dr. Batrawi were not long in coming. The second stage of raising the Assuan Dam was begun in 1929. The water surface thus created was to extend as far as Adendan on the Egyptian-Sudanese frontier

after completion of work. The resulting danger to the archeological sites in the further parts of Nubia called for the necessity of systematic archaeological research, a task which was tackled by the English Egyptologist Prof. Dr. Walter B. Emery. Prof. Derry recommended his young co-worker Dr. Batrawi as an assistant-anthropologist and doctor of the expedition.

Research work in Nubia drew out over six exploratory seasons (1929–1934) owing to the wonderful finds of the tombs of the X-Group kings in the neighbourhood of the village of Ballana on November 3rd, 1931. From a number of investigated burial grounds professor Batrawi recovered valuable anthropological material which was described in a special volume on human remains, published in 1936. This volume constitutes the second fundamental work on Nubian anthropology and is a worthy continuation of the monograph written by G. E. Smith and F. Wood Jones during the time of the first Nubian survey, published in 1910.

In 1934, Prof. Batrawi attended for the first time the International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnographical Sciences held in London. A year later, he returned to England again for postgraduate studies in human anatomy and anthropology. The first scientific degree — Bachelor of Science — was taken in 1938 from human anatomy and morphology, the second degree — Doctor of Philosophy — in 1940 from anthropology. During his studies in London he went over to the biometric school of K. Pearson and G. M. Morant from where he, in addition to methodical training, carried off a well developed sense for accuracy and respect for measurable signs.

These principles are mirrored in Prof. Batrawi's thesis, which was published in 1941, and summarizes the hitherto available knowledge about the racial history of Egypt and Nubia. For the abundance of the material he proceeded from, and for the criticism of the author's methods it represents a reliable basis for all further studies in this field. Upto date, it has not been surpassed by any other paper. Typical of the scientific methods employed by Professor Batrawi is his effort to provide sufficient authenticity for his conclusions. He refuses unfounded hypotheses and theories and keeps to demonstrable facts only. Together with Derry he distinguishes in Egypt two basic anthropological types, the Upper Egyptian and the Lower Egyptian, discernible already in the Predynastic period. The Upper Egyptian type reached also Nubia, where it was negroidized in the course of the history of the period of the Middle Kingdom and again after decline of the New Kingdom. The Lower Egyptian type penetrated gradually also into certain regions of Upper Egypt.

After 1941, Professor Batrawi continued in his pedagogical and research work again at the Anatomical Institute in Cairo. Here he occupied himself with the treatment and evaluation of new finds from archeological excavations at Sakkara, Dahshur, Thebes and other localities; in addition he studied anatomical and morphological problems (e.g. studies of dugong kidneys).

In 1949, he was appointed professor of anatomy at the Medical Faculty of the Cairo University. This appointment

meant more pedagogical and organisational duties, followed by further trips to the Congress of Anatomists at Oxford in 1950 and Paris in 1955, journeys to the Sudan, Italy, Greece, Austria, Germany, Holland, and to Poland in 1958.

Together with Polish anthropologists, Prof. Batrawi organized two joint Arabian-Polish anthropological expeditions, the first in the years 1958/59 to the oases of the Western Desert, the second in 1962 to the region of Faiyum and the Western Delta. For his merits he was solemnly appointed honorary member of the Polish Anthropological Society on February 19th, 1962. This honour had already been bestowed upon him by a number of other foreign Anthropological Societies in former years.

In September 1962, Prof. Batrawi visited Poland for the second time on the occasion of the Africanist Anthropological Symposium, in the work of which he took an active part by his lecture on the morphological characters of the population of Sollum, Sidi Barrani, and Siwa in the Western Desert, and by frequent contributions to the discussions.

In the last years of his life, Prof. Batrawi devoted much effort to the creation of an Arabic anatomical and morphological nomenclature in connection with the transition of University courses in the United Arab Republic from traditional English to Arabic. For this reason he translated Gray's textbook "The Anatomy of Man". For this purpose he studied terms in the scripts of the ancient Arabian physicians.

In 1963, his health began to be undermined by a chronic cardio-vascular disease to which he succumbed in Cairo on November 28th, 1964.

It would be one-sided to speak only about the life and work of this great deceased man without mentioning a few words about his personal qualities. I had the great luck to meet Prof. Batrawi already during my first visit to the United Arab Republic on April 15th, 1961. Since that date I visited Prof. Batrawi's Institute very often. In 1962, I spoke repeatedly with Prof. Batrawi at the Symposium of African Anthropology in Białystok. In 1964 I visited him during my stay in Cairo in April and June, both at the Institute and at his cosy house in Gizeh. I also kept in touch with him by a lively correspondence however, since October 1964 he has not been heard of again.

Everybody who saw Prof. Batrawi even only once arrived quickly at the conclusion that he was speaking to an outstanding personality, a wise and at the same time amiable man with a kind heart and an immense humane interest in his fellow men. He was, without doubt, a master of his trade who was ready to share selflessly his knowledge with people in whom he saw genuine interest in some scientific problem. He knew how to support them and did his best to make their work easier. It was he who introduced me into the problems of Egyptian anthropology and followed with attention my activities during the entire time of our relations. Prof. Batrawi always drew my attention to the danger of premature conclusions in a population, whose genetic composition we frequently did not know, and absolutely disagreed with the exaggerated typology advanced by some anthropological schools.

Prof. Batrawi's great fancy was Nubia, a country where he spent his best young years. He liked to think of her sterns and wild beauty which likewise ravished the members of our expeditions. Here he did not fail to say a few words about the Nubians of today. He regarded them as a hybrid group with a high intensity of negroid admixture. He highly appreciated the refined character of these people, their honesty, straightforwardness, sense for purity, high intelligence and outstanding abilities. He emphasized, in spite of their different racial and ethnical characters, their absolute equality with the other inhabitants of Egypt. He refused to accept the racial theory of both old and new coinage also in his popular book on anthropology which appeared in Arabic.

Prof. Batrawi was a humanist, near to the spirit of European humanism, even though he did not deny his proud patriotic feelings which were not only Arabic, but also Old Egyptian. In him did not prevail the type of the conquering Muslim, but that of the wise Muslim, the descendant of the mediaeval sage and genial ancient Egyptian predecessors, the creators of one of the oldest civilizations of the world.

Professor Batrawi did not visit Czechoslovakia, but he displayed great interest in our life and in Czechoslovak anthropology. He knew Prof. Hrdlička personally and other outstanding scientists of ours from literature.

The activities of our egyptological and archaeological expeditions to Nubia always met with his full support. He helped us to complete the research instruments, permitted the study of the Institute's collections and cooperated intensively in the preparations of further anthropological research. For his merits about the development of the Czechoslovak Egyptological Institute of the Charles University his name was included in the list of those who were to be appointed its honorary members on the occasion of the successful completion of our tasks in Nubia. He was invited to visit Czechoslovakia. What a pity that these plans cannot be realized any more.

During my last visit to Prof. Batrawi on June 13th, 1964, I was very much alarmed at the further loss in weight shown by the patient. Despite lasting trouble and frequent coronal pains, he did not loose interest in what was going on around him. As an orthodox Muslim he could not help being a fatalist, decided to follow God's hint to leave this world. His rational spirit, however, refused to accept this decision. His friend, Dr. Ali Hassan, Professor of Medical Nutrition, invited him to spend the summer months at his villa on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea not far from the mouth of the Western branch of the Nile. Prof. Batrawi accepted the invitation, hoping that his state of health would improve so much as to enable him to set to full work again after the vacations.

We, too, shared this hope with him. Unfortunately in vain — the disease proved stronger than his will. Professor Batrawi died at the age of 62, on November 25, 1964, amidst his work, his interests and plans. However, what he has left in his work will secure him a permanent and unforgettable place in the history of anthropology. His undying memory will also live in the hearts of those whom fate has allowed to meet this rare personality.

Eugen Strouhal

Note

A list of Prof. Batrawi's anthropological works is contained in *Anthropology* I/2, 1963, p. 78.

LAJOS BARTUCZ (1885—1966)

Le professeur Lajos Bartucz, docteur ès sciences, doyen des anthropologistes hongrois, vient de décéder le 4^e juin 1966.

Il naquit le 1^{er} avril 1885 à Szegvár (Hongrie). Il a commencé ses études supérieures en 1904, mais en 1905 il travaillait déjà à l'Institut d'Anthropologie de l'Université de Budapest où il a été invité par le professeur Aurél Török, célèbre fondateur de cette chaire d'anthropologie. Bartucz s'est révélé élève brillant. Tandis que Török, théoricien, fit avancer dans son époque la craniologie et l'anthropologie générale, Bartucz s'est adonné à l'anthropologie spéciale de la Hongrie et des Hongrois: c'était le but scientifique qu'il s'était proposé. Il voulait connaître la composition des Hongrois vivants, ainsi que celle des anciens peuples du Bassin des Carpathes. C'est lui qui a commencé et développé les recherches en ce domaine, c'était son œuvre de vie avec laquelle il a contribué à l'anthropologie générale.

C'est en 1905 qu'il a soutenu sa thèse et en 1914, l'Université de Budapest l'a habilité privat-docent. Entre les deux guerres mondiales, il était conservateur de la Collection Anthropologique du Musée d'Ethnographie, puis partant de 1935, directeur de ce même Musée et en même temps professeur de l'Institut d'Anthropologie à l'Université de Budapest. En 1940, la chaire d'Anthropologie — nouvellement créée à Szeged — lui a été offerte, ainsi que la direction de l'Institut d'Anthropologie. Depuis l'année 1949, Bartucz était également professeur et directeur de l'Institut d'Anthropologie de l'Université de Budapest. A partir de 1959, il ne garde que la chaire et l'Institut de Budapest