

## EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY OF GEORG STEINDORFF

NOVEMBER 12, 1941 was the eightieth birthday of Professor Georg Steindorff, the senior living student of the late Adolph Erman and oldest member of the "Berlin School" of Egyptologists. At a simple birthday ceremony in his North Hollywood, California, home (4420 Ponca Avenue) he received a book of more than forty letters of tribute and congratulation from his colleagues throughout the world. He expressed his intention of attaining the ideal ancient Egyptian old age of 110 years.

For almost half a century Dr. Steindorff has brought his breadth of scholarship and great humanity to the threefold activities of being Professor of Egyptology at the University of Leipzig, of directing the Leipzig Ägyptologisches Institut, and of editing the renowned *Zeitschrift für Ägyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde*. Despite such heavy responsibilities, he produced the standard *Koptische Grammatik*. His discoveries relating to the vocalization of ancient Egyptian words are now universally accepted. His Libyan explorations and his excavations at Giza and in Nubia resulted in important archaeological publications. His popular *Die Blütezeit des Pharaonenreiches* was widely read in Germany, and will soon appear for the first time in English under the title *When Egypt Ruled the East*. Thousands of travellers to Egypt have had their way facilitated enormously by his superb Egyptian Baedeker, which is a model of clarity, accuracy and order. Both in Germany and in America Dr. Steindorff enjoyed a wide lecture audience. It is to be hoped that his unpublished, beautifully illustrated popular lectures may soon appear in English in printed form. His large body of unpublished papers, notes, and manuscripts will be bequeathed to the Griffith Archaeological Institute at Oxford University.

Dr. Steindorff has made important scientific contributions to each specialized subdivision of Egyptology, but of equal value has been his warm, sincere interest in the lives of all those around him. It is no accident that young and old affectionately refer to him as "Uncle George," and it is for his many admiring academic "nieces" and "nephews" that I have written this brief tribute to a giant from an age all but vanished, who combines the rare qualities of gentleman and scholar.

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