

The late
PROFESSOR ÅKE CAMPBELL

By the death of Professor Åke Campbell, on the 14th October 1957, students of both oral and material folk traditions suffered the loss of an eminent authority and a sympathetic champion. Nowhere must that loss be felt more keenly than in the Uppsala Institute for Dialect and Folklore Research, in whose development he took such a leading part. But his learning and his wise counsel will be missed in many institutes elsewhere, and not least in the School of Scottish Studies in the University of Edinburgh; for Åke Campbell's advice, encouragement, and support were always available, at no small cost to himself, wherever they were needed.

His active contribution to the organisation of such institutes as the School was but one manifestation of a mind that ranged widely and deeply over the many problems of European folk culture research. His early publications were on folk-medicine, omens, and prophecy; in his maturity he turned especially to the study of land-settlement, of farms and rural house-types, and of the activities and material products of daily life in country places. His achievement will be fully appraised by his fellow-scholars in other journals: here it is sufficient to say that his eminence as a scholar was matched by great gifts as a teacher and inspirer of others.

The descendant of an eighteenth-century Scottish emigrant to Sweden, Professor Campbell had an especial interest in the development of folk life studies in Scotland. He played a major role in the organisation of the Congress of the International Association for European Ethnology and Folklore held in Edinburgh in 1937. In 1939 and again in 1948 he spent some months on fieldwork in the Hebrides, and it is to be regretted that he was unable to publish more than a part of the material then collected. In 1955 Professor Campbell was invited to become the first visitor to the University of Edinburgh under a scheme for collaboration on cultural studies, sponsored by the University and the Governments of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. It is a source of great pride to the School of Scottish Studies that he accepted

Honorary Membership of the School after this visit, which was unhappily terminated by a recurrence of the illness to which, after a long and courageous fight, he finally succumbed.

In his research and in his teaching Åke Campbell created an enduring monument. He has a further memorial in the friendships he made with all manner of people; for he was a gentle, gay, warm-hearted man, and a welcome visitor in many households in many lands, both amongst students of his subject and amongst the country folk he loved. His pupils remember him with great respect, and his friends with deep affection.

S. F. S.