

Members of the Royal Asiatic Society do not need to be reminded of the prominent part which he took in its proceedings during the last twenty years of his life, and of the interesting papers which he published in this Journal (see October, 1903, January, April, July, 1912, January, April, 1914, April, 1918). But students of modern India may be glad to have their attention called to his article on the Mikirs (of Assam) in the eighth volume of the *Encyclopædia of Religion and Ethics* (1915).

A. A. B.

---

#### HENRI LOUIS JOLY

AFTER a long and painful illness, bravely suffered, M. H. L. Joly died in Chelsea on August 26. He was buried in Brompton Cemetery.

For more than twenty years M. Joly has been one of the most distinguished members of the French community in London. Born at Chartres in 1876, he received a scientific education and entered on the profession of electrical engineer and chemist. It is surprising that in spite of the exacting nature of his calling, which he followed through life, he yet found time and energy to acquire such an extensive knowledge of matters appertaining to Japanese art. M. Joly possessed an instinctive love and just appreciation of this aspect of Oriental culture, and to these qualities were added thorough and honest scholarship—a rare combination that led to his recognition as a leading authority on the subject.

*Legend in Japanese Art* is too well known to need comment ; but perhaps his most important work was in connexion with sword furniture. His technical knowledge of metals and craftsmanship placed him in a position of peculiar authority, and it is a sad loss to the world that his untimely death has cut short the completion of a *magnum opus* on the subject. It is to be hoped that someone may be found to edit and

publish the manuscripts he has left. The following have already appeared :—

*The Sword Book and the Book of Samé*, written in conjunction with Hogitaro Inada ; privately printed (200 copies), 1913.

*Tōban Shinpin Zukan*, being a copy and translation of an eighteenth century Japanese manuscript in Stockholm Royal Library, relating to sword-guards.

*Shosankenshū*, 1500–1880, which contains the names, collected from sword-mounts, of some 2,950 artist-craftsmen.

The two last works were written and drawn on tracing-paper by M. Joly, and reproduced in the manner used for engineering drawings. Only twelve copies were in 1912 published of the former, and about ten copies in 1919 of the latter.

M. Joly was also the author of a number of articles and reviews which appeared in the *Japan Society Transactions*, *Bulletin de la Société Franco-Japonaise de Paris*, and other journals. In collaboration with Mr. K. Tomita he published in 1916 two magnificent illustrated volumes (limited to 175 copies) entitled *Japanese Art and Handicraft*, being a record of the loan exhibition held at the end of 1915 in aid of the British Red Cross.

A number of catalogues of important collections owe their completeness and permanent value to M. Joly's wide scholarship, critical judgment, and accuracy in detail. The most notable are those of the following: Hawkshaw, 1910; Naunton, 1912; Seymour Trower, 1913; and Behrens, 1913–14.

During the War, ill-health precluded military service, but M. Joly volunteered for and carried out the arduous duties of Professor of Science at the Lycée franco-belge in London, in recognition of which he received the Belgian decoration of Chevalier de l'Ordre de la Couronne.

M. Joly was a member of the China Society, and for many years a member of Council of the Japan Society. It was largely owing to his devoted labours as hon. editor of the *Transactions*

of the latter Society that these reached their high standard of excellence. His place will be filled with difficulty.

W. P. Y.

---

### JOSEF RITTER VON KARABACEK

Josef Ritter von Karabaček, late Honorary Member, was born at Graz, September 20, 1845. He studied at the University of Vienna and at other academic institutions, and first made a reputation as a numismatist. Accompanying his father on a journey to Banat he used to come in with handfuls of the most varied coins, such as were current on the then Turkish-Austrian frontier. He was immensely attracted by all the types, inscriptions, and languages. Hence we find him in the second year of his university course already occupied with a numismatical work, concerning a collection placed at his disposal by a Russian lieutenant-general. This brought him into personal and professional connexion with a former ambassador at Constantinople and with distinguished Orientalists abroad. After obtaining the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Erlangen, he commenced a course of lectures on Arabic palæography at Vienna University, and in 1873 took part in the Exhibition, showing Oriental inscribed tablets, in which the Emperor took much interest. Oriental numismatics, Arabic palæography, and Islamic were the principal subjects of his varied researches. When the collection of papyri of El-Faijūm revealed unsuspected material for Arabic palæographical research between 1881 and 1883, he it was who brought this branch of Arabic learning into prominence. He did other valuable work in connexion with papyri. Meanwhile, after having refused an offer from Punjab University College at Lahore in 1873 of the highly paid position of Principal, he was appointed in 1885 Ordinary Professor of the history and sciences of the East, the duties of which he only relinquished in his 70th year, July, 1915. He was for several decades assistant editor