

fertilité humaine et animale. Ces classes sont associées par les Mbeere respectivement à la pluie et au soleil, ainsi elles émergent en groupes totémiques dans le sens Levi-Straussien. Le sacrifice rituel était contrôlé dans chaque classe par un ensemble de génération d'anciens chargé de pouvoir pendant trente ans pour assumer le contrôle des sacrifices périodiques. Lors de sa retraite, au cours de longues cérémonies pan-tribaux, l'ensemble de génération d'anciens investit le nouveau ensemble des responsabilités rituelles. Ainsi à un certain moment deux ensembles de génération, un pour chaque classe, maintenaient une division rituelle des travaux dans leurs sacrifices opposés complémentaires.

DR H. H. MEINHARD

WITH the death in October 1975 of Heiner Meinhard, social anthropology, in particular the social anthropology of East Africa, lost a scholar and teacher of unusual distinction. Not as widely known among his fellow Africanists as he deserved to be, he nevertheless played an important part in the development of African studies in Britain since the War. As Reader in Social Anthropology at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne for 16 years he inspired a generation of students by his erudition and his high scholarly standards, and others in the field of African studies besides myself have benefited informally from his exceptional ethnographic knowledge and his generosity in sharing it.

Heiner H. Meinhard was born in Westphalia, Germany, in 1900. He obtained his Doctorate, in Sanskrit studies, at Bonn in 1926, with the grade of *summa cum laude*. From 1926 to 1937 he worked in the National Museum of Ethnology at Berlin, latterly as curator of the Indian section. It is a mark of the respect in which he was held there that in 1970 he was designated Curator and Professor Emeritus at that institution. In 1938 he emigrated with his wife Alice to England, where during the war years he was employed at the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford. He also taught at the Institute of Social Anthropology there. In 1950 he was appointed to the post at Newcastle, where he remained until his retirement in 1966.

Before the War Meinhard had carried out field research in Angola and India, and during the years 1947-50 he undertook, under the auspices of the International African Institute, an extensive ethnographic survey in East Africa. This resulted in a valuable set of lectures on the peoples of the area: these although fairly widely circulated in typescript were never published. Regrettably, Meinhard's publications were few, owing largely to the very exacting standards of scholarship he set himself. Apart from some early writings in German arising from his Indian studies, the clearest indication of the high quality of his work is afforded by his contribution, 'The patrilineal principle in early Teutonic kinship', to the memorial volume for the late Professor Evans-Pritchard edited by Dr Godfrey Lienhardt and the present writer and published, under the title *Studies in Social Anthropology*, in 1975.