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Edgar Charles Polomé (31. 7. 1920 – 11. 3. 2000)

Když v březnu posledního roku 20. století téměř osmdesátiletý Edgar Polomé zemřel, zaskočil všechny své přátele i čtenáře, kteří přivykli jeho knihám a jím vydávaným sborníkům, originálním článkům i přehledům nové indoeuropeistické literatury, jež s mimořádnou pečlivostí a současně rychleji než kdokoliv jiný produkoval. Přibližme si život a dílo tohoto Texasana původem z Bruselu, jenž v jediné osobě spojoval vrcholnou úroveň několika lingvistických disciplín. Maturoval na Athéné Royal de Koekelberg v Bruselu. Vystudoval germanistiku na Svobodné universitě v Bruselu a Katolické universitě v Lovani. Vedle germánské filologie, v níž získal r. 1949 doktorát, se už během studia věnuje klasické filologii, indologii a srovnávací mytologii. Svou profesionální dráhu začíná jako středoškolský pedagog. Vyučuje nizozemštině, němčině a angličtině. V letech 1956–60 působí na Université Officielle v tehdejším Belgickém Kongu. Přednáší obecnou a indoevropskou jazykovědu, intenzívně se věnuje studiu afrických jazyků a sociolingvistiky. Na počátku 60. let odchází na Texaskou universitu v Austinu, kde na katedrách jazykovědy, germanistiky a orientálních & afrických jazyků působí až do své smrti. Vedle toho hostuje na universitách v Kielu (1968) a Dar-es-Salaamu (1969–70). Od roku 1943 publikuje více než 500 původních studií, recenzí a zpráv. Jako editor vydává celou řadu sborníků z konferencí, festschriftů aj. Od chvíle, kdy se stává šéfredaktorem nového indoeuropeistického časopisu *Journal of Indo-European Studies*, o nějž se rovnou měrou dělí lingvisté a archeologové spolu s antropology, mění jej v nejprestižnější indoeuropeistické fórum vydávané v anglofonních zemích. Edgar Polomé nesporně patří k nejvšestrannějším osobnostem na poli indoeuropeistiky druhé poloviny 20. století. V kontrastu k mnohým americkým kolegům byla pro něj typická schopnost naslouchat, vést dialog, hledat souvislosti. Dnes, když už E. Polomé není mezi námi (autorovi této vzpomínky se jej poštěstilo osobně poznat r. 1988), můžeme si připomenout alespoň jeho dílo, i když jen v podobě výběrové bibliografie (E. Polomé se dočkal dvou Festschriftů, první k 65. narozeninám byl s tříletým zpožděním publikován r. 1988; odtud čerpáme základní biografická i bibliografická data do r. 1987. Druhý, k autorovým sedmdesátinám, vychází v letech 1991–92. Jeho recenze se objevila v našem sborníku v čísle A 48[2000], 189–191).

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Zkratky

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