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## A. H. SALONIUS

The sudden death of Professor A. H. Salenius has deprived the classical studies in Finland of a fervent friend and an indefatigable scholar. He had issued important publications and his strenuous work promised further valuable results.

Professor Aarne Henrik Salenius was born on April 20th 1884 and died on August 16th 1930 only 46 years old. After serious studies in Helsingfors he continued them for a year at the University of Leipzig (1909–10), where he devoted his interest chiefly to comparative linguistics and Greek. For his Doctor's degree he published in 1911 a thesis « De dialectis Epirotarum, Acarnanum, Aetolorum, Aenianum, Phthiotarum » The epigraphic materials, on which it is based, are rather scanty, but Salenius' very thorough investigations had resulted in a somewhat lengthy but exhaustive description. A result of his epigraphic studies were also the « Varia de origine et sermone tabularum Dodonae effossarum » which appeared in 1915 as a supplement to the report of the public school in Viipuri (Viborg) and owing to this fact they have remained almost entirely unknown. After having passed his examination he became teacher of Greek and Latin in Viipuri (Viborg) where he stayed during 1911–1921 and from 1921 he was teacher at the Finnish Normal School of Helsinki (Helsingfors). On his return to the capital he also became lecturer (docent) at the University. In 1925 he became assistant professor of classical philology and in 1929 he was as successor of professor I. A. Heikel appointed professor in Greek at the University of Helsinki (Helsingfors).

Usually the appointment of young doctors of philosophy as teachers in schools outside Helsingfors means that their newly begun scientific career is closed for ever. Salenius however was not of those who desert science. His interest had been directed to the latin of the later periods, the study of which has so remar-



kable an exponent in professor E. Löfstedt in Lund (Sweden). Saloni-  
 us studied in Lund in 1916 and 1919 and soon became both a  
 pupil and a friend of Löfstedt. In 1920 appeared his great work on  
 the *Vitae Patrum* (« *Vitae Patrum. Kritische Untersuchungen über  
 Text, Syntax und Wortschatz der spätlateinischen Vitae Patrum*  
 (B. III, V, VI, VII) ») as the second volume of the Acta of the newly  
 founded Society for development of Humanistic Studies in Lund.  
 Although it has a grave defect in not being based upon the best  
 available texts and in neglecting the greek originals, it contains a  
 wealth of fine observations concerning the use of late latin. In his  
 following studies Saloni-  
 us directed his investigations specially on  
 the relations between greek and latin texts and published after his  
 return to Helsingfors several papers bearing on this and kindred  
 subjects, f. i. « *Passio S. Perpetuae. Kritische Bemerkungen mit  
 besonderer Berücksichtigung der griechisch-lateinischen Überlie-  
 ferung des Textes* » (Översikt av Finska Vetenskaps-Societetens  
 Förhandlingar LXIII, B, 2, 1921) and studies on the language of  
 Petronius and the occurrence of Greek in his *Satyricon* (« *Petro-  
 niana I. Vorläufige Mitteilungen über Petrons Cena Trimalchionis* »  
 [Commentationes Philologicae in honorem I. A. Heikel, Helsing-  
 forsiae 1926] and « *Die Griechen und das Griechische in Petrons  
 Cena Trimalchionis* » [Societas Scientiarum Fennica. Commenta-  
 tiones Humanarum Litterarum II, 1, 1927]). He had also the inten-  
 tion of preparing an annotated edition of the *Cena Trimalchionis*.

About 1926 he started afresh his greek studies, this time  
 concerning the κοινή and the vernacular use of the language in  
 hellenistic and Roman times. Thus his interest in papyrology was  
 aroused. In 1927 he studied papyrological methods and materials  
 in Berlin and Paris and had the opportunity of publishing some  
 new fragments in « *Die griechischen Handschriftenfragmente des  
 Neuen Testaments in den Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin* » (Zeit-  
 schrift für neutestamentliche Wissenschaft 26, 1927) and « *Ein  
 Thukydidespapyrus* » (Societas Scientiarum Fennica. Commentationes  
 Humanarum Litterarum II, 2, 1927). It is not possible to ascribe  
 to these papyri great importance but they have been published  
 with care and show that Saloni-  
 us was familiar with papyrological  
 research. A little later appeared his « *Zur Sprache der griechischen  
 Papyrusbriefe. I. Die Quellen* ». (Societas Scientiarum Fennica.  
 Commentationes Humanarum Litterarum II, 3, 1927). This first  
 part — and the only one which has appeared — contains a tho-  
 roughly drawn up programme for the studies of this kind. He sug-  
 gests, that if we really wish to acquire an exact knowledge of the

Greek language as used in the papyrus letters, we must always bear in mind, that the letters not only belong to chronologically different periods, but that their writers were not solely Greeks with some degree of education but belonged to different nations and classes, and had a greater or more defective education or even at the worst almost no education at all. So we must learn to discern between the typical features of the hellenistic and Roman greek language and its gradual development, and on the other side notice those occasional divergences which we owe to the writers' personal qualities. Salenius has given some well chosen illustrations of what he aimed at, and as far as I can see, the work promised to become one of great value and interest for all students occupied in papyrology and Greek philology. He had collected quantities of material for further studies, but it is as yet impossible to say if they are so important, so complete and so clear, that any one else could endeavour to continue his work.

Salenius was a fervent student and an indefatigable worker in the study room, but he was also an excellent teacher and obtained excellent results with his pupils. At the same time he passionately loved the open air life, shooting and the life of the woods. And in the war for the independence of Finland in 1918 he took part as a volunteer and did his duty with the same wholeheartedness as in all other phases of life.

The friends of A. H. Salenius — and of them he had many not only in Finland but also abroad — feel deeply the greatness of their loss. And Greek philology and papyrology have lost an earnest worker.

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