IN MEMORIAM

GEORGE CHARLES MARIUS ENGERRAND

Dr. George Charles Marius Engerrand, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at The University of Texas, died at the age of 84 in Mexico City on September 2, 1961. His long career as a scientist and teacher includes two disciplines (geology and anthropology), three languages (French, Spanish, and English), and four countries (France, Belgium, Mexico, and the United States). He was known for the breadth of his intellectual and professional interests, for his command of anthropological literature, and for his magnetic personality in the classroom. He had the respect of scholars, students, and laymen.

Dr. Engerrand was born on August 11, 1877, at Libourne near Bordeaux in southwestern France. He was of French Basque ancestry and was proud of being both Basque and Gascon. He exhibited the rugged independence of both but was too modest and self-effacing to be typically Gascon. He received no formal secondary education but was taught at home by private tutors who prepared him for the examinations required for the B. S. degree. In France at that time a B. S. degree entitled the student to enter a university.

In 1895, at the age of 18, Dr. Engerrand enrolled as a student in the Faculté des sciences of the University of Bordeaux. After three years of study in the natural sciences he received two degrees, at Licentiate in Geology (1897) and a Licentiate in Botany (1898). In the early part of his career as a student at Bordeaux, Dr. Engerrand's prime

interest was paleontology. Then he read Topinard's Élements d'anthropologie générale and acquired a new interest--anthropology. This was further stimulated by the sensational archaeological discoveries that were then being made in the nearby Dordogne region. He also began attending lectures by Émile Durkheim, the famous French sociologist, who at that time was teaching at Bordeaux.

During his last year at Bordeaux the Dreyfus controversy rocked France, and Dr. Engerrand aligned himself with a group of students who spoke out for Dreyfus. He decided that he could not voluntarily serve his term of military service until Dreyfus was returned from Devil's Island. In 1898 he went to Brussels, Belgium, and never lived in France again.

He chose Belgium because the great geographer, Élisée Reclus, also a Gascon, had invited him to teach at L'Institut Géographique de Bruxelles. Between the years 1898 and 1907 he held various research and teaching positions in Belgium, some of them concurrently. He was a geologist on the staff of the Service Geologique de la Belgique and eventually held professorships at a number of other Belgian institutions. During this Belgian period Dr. Engerrand published frequently, and he became more and more concerned with anthropology. His most important work was a book, Six leçons de préhistoire (1905), for which he received the Prix de Keyn from the Belgian Academy of Sciences. He was much in demand as a popular lecturer and became deeply interested in university extension work, an interest he retained throughout life.

His long dream of going to Mexico was realized in 1907 when the Mexican government invited him to serve as a geologist with the Mexican National Geological Survey. In time he became chief geologist, and his field work took him to many parts of Mexico. He always managed to do some anthropological work in connection with his geology. In 1908 he was also made Professor of Archaeology in the Museo Nacional de Arqueología, Historia y Etnología, a position he held until 1914. For the biennium 1912-1913 he was elected director of the International School of American Archaeology and Ethnology, succeeding the American anthropologist Franz Boas.

Political revolutions made it impossible for Dr. Engerrand to continue work in Mexico, and in 1917 he left for the United States. After teaching one year at the Gulf Coast Military Academy at Gulfport, Mississippi, he accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Geology at the University of Mississippi, where he also acquired an M. A. degree.

In 1920 Dr. Engerrand came to The University of Texas as Adjunct Professor of Anthropology. In 1923 he was made associate professor and in 1929 professor, a position he held until he became emeritus professor one day before his death. He became interested in the Wend colonists and their descendants in Texas and published a monograph on these people in 1934. He also received the Ph.D. degree from The University of Texas in 1935. During the summers of 1943-1946 inclusive he was a visiting professor at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico. In 1959 he was awarded La Croix de Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes, a French government decoration for distinguished teaching and scholarly publication. At the time of his death he was writing a biography of his friend, teacher, and associate, Élisée Reclus.

Dr. Engerrand is survived by his wife, five children, and eleven grandchildren. In 1898 he married Alice Delsaute, from whom he was separated in 1902. Two sons were born of this marriage--Élisée, now an attorney in France; and Gabriel, who teaches at North Georgia College. In 1904 Dr. Engerrand married Jeanne Richard, who survives him and lives in Austin. They have three children, one son and two daughters--Jacques of Kent State University in Ohio; Jeanne, wife of W. F. Helwig of the Department of Electrical Engineering at The University of Texas; and Anita, wife of F. H. Gafford of North Texas State University.

Dr. Engerrand's main contribution to The University of Texas was his forty years of successful teaching. Over these years he taught a variety of courses, each of which was carefully prepared on the basis of the latest and most reliable data. In the classroom he was dynamic and exciting, and his students felt compelled to do their best. His wit, his encyclopedic knowledge, and his cosmopolitan background made a fine antidote for Texas provincialism. Taking a course with Dr. Engerrand was, for most students, an unforgettable experience.

Joseph R. Smiley, President
The University of Texas

Eugene W. Nelson, Secretary
The General Faculty

These Resolutions were prepared by a Special Committee consisting of Professors T. N. Campbell, Chairman, A. P. Brogan and J. G. McAllister.