



STRAUBE, HELMUT (*1923; †1984)

Helmut Straube was born in Neisse (Upper Silesia) and attended school in Dresden, Berlin and Göttingen before finally graduating from high school in Munich in 1940. He served in the military in World War II and, after being released from captivity, he studied at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main. After attending classes in different fields and departments, he finally enrolled in anthropology, geography and history. Being a student of Leo Frobenius and Adolf Ellegard Jensen, he felt drawn to the cultural morphology that was taught at the Frobenius Institute. In 1952, Straube received his PhD in anthropology under the supervision of Jensen, with a thesis on

African religion *Die Tierverkleidungen der afrikanischen Naturvölker* [*Animal costumes of African primitive people*]. From 1952 to 1965, he held several positions at the Frobenius Institute and participated in the 1954–56 research expedition to southern Ethiopia with Jensen, Eike Haberland and Elisabeth Pauli. In 1967, he habilitated at the University of Cologne with a study on Nilotic people. Between 1973 and 1974 he went back into the field to southern Ethiopia and his analysis of divine kingdoms and research on awarding leading offices by feasts of merit are pioneering studies. In 1968, he had taken up a professorship at the University of Munich and he held the chair at the Institute of Anthropology and African Studies until his death in 1984.