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Vincenzo Arangio-Ruiz (1884-1964)

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Vincenzo Arangio-Ruiz
1884 — 1964

On February 2, 1964 died in Rome Professor Vincenzo Arangio-Ruiz. The science of Roman law, history and culture of antiquity lost one of the most distinguished scholars of our times.

Vincenzo Arangio-Ruiz was born in Naples on the 7th of May 1884. He studied law at Modena and Naples University. His first scientific research *Successione testamentaria secondo i papiri greco-egizi* was published in 1906. From 1907 he had lectures on Roman law at the Universities of Camerino, Perugia, Cagliari, Messina, Modena, Napoli, Cairo and from 1946 also at the University of Rome. In the years of 1952—58 he was a president of Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei and from 1958 till his last days he was a vice-president of this Academy. He was a member of many academies and scientific associations in Italy and in other countries. In the government which was formed in Salerno V. Arangio-Ruiz was the Minister of Justice. After transferring the government to Rome he was Minister of Education of two cabinets.

His scientific work is characterized by a great variety of interests and a deep knowledge of many complicated problems of the ancient world. Although he was a jurist all his scientific researches are based on a thorough knowledge of history, philosophy, the economy and social conditions. His broad knowledge, his originality and his true humanism range him among the successors of the great masters of the Italian Renaissance.

He has left a very great number of valuable works that will be the necessary and irreplaceable instrument of research studies in that field. We specially mean his synthesis of the institutions of the Roman law (*Istituzioni di diritto romano*) which had 14 editions, as well as his history of the Roman law (*Storia di diritto Romano*) which had 7 editions, and several monographs of various fields of the Roman law, among which the outstanding position is held by *Responsabilità contrattuale in diritto romano*, *Compravendita in diritto romano*, *Società in drit-*

to romano, *Mandato in diritto romano, Corso di diritto romano. Il processo privato*¹.

Besides the Roman law in the centre of his interests was the Hellenistic law and most of all the law of Greco-Roman Egypt. To this problem he devoted several essays throwing more light on the functioning of many legal institutions and deepening our knowledge about the process of the development of the law relationships in the ancient world.

Above all he claims our praise for the publication of the Latin as well as Greek sources, of the inscriptions, and first of all of the papyri. *Negotia* published in 1943 was the crowning of his assiduous research in this field. He continued preparing the second edition of this volume until the last days of his life.

V. Arangio-Ruiz was a great friend of Poland. He worked actively in the *Associazione per i rapporti culturali fra Italia e Polonia*. In 1961 he had been in Warsaw and Cracow taking part in the Xth Congress of the Papyrologists. He was decorated by a very high Polish order.

This volume of the *Journal of Juristic Papyrology* was planned as a tribute to Vincenzo Arangio-Ruiz on his 80th birthday. To day we dedicate it to his memory as an expression of our gratitude to the great scholar who devoted sixty years of his laborious life to the service of science.

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¹ Bibliography of the publications by Vincenzo Arangio-Ruiz is given in *Synthese Vincenzo Arangio-Ruiz* pp. XIX—XXVII.