OBITUARY – PAUL LENGRAND (1910–2003)

The death of Paul Lengrand on 30 January has deprived the world of education – in particular adult and lifelong learning – of one of its most inspiring and influential figures. For the UNESCO Institute for Education it has meant the loss of a much-respected guide, philosopher and collaborator.

Paul Lengrand was born in 1910 in the Pas-de-Calais in northern France. After teaching in Paris, Chambéry and Grenoble, he joined the Civil Service with responsibility for sport and adult education. In this capacity he helped to establish the *Peuple et Culture* movement, of which he became Honorary President at the end of his active career. He animated a large and active grass-roots movement of learning for social responsibility, political commitment and personal enlightenment and mission.

In 1948 he moved to UNESCO, where he became head of the Adult Education Section in 1962. He also created the unit on Lifelong Learning, which was taken over after his retirement by Ettore Gelpi, another important figure in the field. During his years at UNESCO, Lengrand was actively involved in all the International Conferences on Adult Education from the very first one, held in Elsinore, Denmark, in 1949. Various activities took him to McGill University in Montreal, Canada, and to Sardinia, where he headed the OECD Adult Education Programme.

Paul Lengrand was one of the pioneers of lifelong learning. It was he who defined the notion of lifelong continuing education. He was associated with the UNESCO Institute for Education from the outset and in 1952 took part in the very first seminar ever held by the Institute, on Adult Education as a Means of Developing and Strengthening Social and Political Responsibility. He subsequently contributed to many other UIE events and publications, including this journal. His numerous important books include: *L'éducation permanente* (Paris, Peuple et Culture, 1966); *An Introduction to Lifelong Education* (Paris, UNESCO, 1970); *L'homme du devenir* (Paris, Editions Entente, 1975); *Areas of Learning Basic to Lifelong Education* (Hamburg, UIE, and Oxford, Pergamon Press, 1986); and the volume of memoirs *Le métier de vivre* (Paris, Peuple et Culture, 1994).

In his article “L'homme de la réponse et l'homme de la question” in the *International Review of Education* (Vol. 40, Nos. 3–5, 1994) he spoke of the need to transform “education as transmission” into “education as creation”. This was the essence of Paul Lengrand's vision, and it remains his enduring legacy to the world of lifelong learning.

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