STUDIES IN BRETHEN HISTORY

Óli Jacobsen, Daniel J. Danielsen and the Congo: Missionary Campaigns and Atrocity Photographs (BAHN, 2014)

200 pp.+ 60 illustrations

“Óli Jacobsen has done a fascinating job of restoring a previously forgotten man to his rightful place in the 20th century’s first great humanitarian crusade. Adam Hochschild, author of King Leopold’s Ghost

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BAHN has published Daniel J. Danielsen and the Congo: Missionary Campaigns and Atrocity Photographs by Óli Jacobsen. This is the first of our subsidia volumes in our Studies in Brethren History.

Dr Neil Dickson, editor of Brethren Historical Review, writes:

This book makes three bold new claims for Daniel J. Danielsen (1871–1916):

- He took some of the most famous photographs of the atrocities in the Congo under the rule of King Leopold II of Belgium that were used by writers such as Mark Twain.
- He was the first to hold public meetings at which magic lantern slides were shown in the campaign which would stir the conscience of the public and force a change of regime in the Congo.
- As the first Faroese-speaking, full-time Brethren evangelist, he had a crucial role at a critical juncture in the spread of the movement within the Faroes.

A forgotten tombstone in an old island cemetery started Óli Jacobsen on his quest. Through painstaking original research, he persuasively makes a convincing case for each of the book’s central claims. It rescues Daniel Danielsen from the obscurity into which he had fallen and restores him to his rightful place in history. The book also paints a fascinating portrait of a man and his times, and how this ‘fearless soldier of the Lord’ campaigned tirelessly to change them.

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