

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR GERHARD DEETERS

Professor Gerhard Deeters, who died at Bonn on 19th February, 1961, was for many years the foremost German specialist in Georgian and Caucasian studies. Born on 8th August, 1892, at Lemburg, near Wenden in Latvia, then a province of the Russian empire, Deeters studied at Leipzig (1912–14), and after the war, at Jena and Munich. The thesis, *Das kharthwelische Verbum*, which he presented at his “Habilitation”, was published in 1930 and established his scholarly reputation. From 1927–32, he was an Assistant in the Seminar for Comparative Philology at Leipzig, and in 1930 succeeded Adolf Dirr as editor of the scholarly journal *Caucasica* of which eleven numbers appeared before the series ceased publication in 1934. In 1935, Deeters was elected Professor Ordinarius of Comparative Philology at the University of Bonn, and became Professor Emeritus in 1960. From 1937–60, he edited *Indogermanische Forschungen*; from 1952 until his death he was a member of the Comité International Permanent des Linguistes.

Professor Deeters had many contacts with Orientalists and linguists in Great Britain, and was always ready to place his knowledge and sound judgment at their disposal. It was truly stated by a colleague that “Deeters’s works are characterized by a critical restraint such as is rarely found in Caucasian comparative philology”. By his death, the small band of Caucasian scholars in the West is robbed of a valued mentor and friend.

D. M. LANG.