

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

HENRY BLAUTH (1904 – 1960)

Henry Blauth was born in Worms-on-the-Rhine, Germany, on January 28, 1904. He completed the Gymnasium in his home city in 1922 and from that year until 1927 he studied at the Universities of Heidelberg, Freiburg and Giessen. In 1927 he passed with great distinction the German secondary school teacher's examination; his major subjects were German language and literature and history, with philosophy as a minor subject. He continued specialized teacher's training in the following year and in 1928 was awarded the rank of "assessor."

Prof. Blauth began his active teaching career as director of the German School in Florence, Italy, in 1928 and remained in this position until 1934 when he resigned because of his opposition to the Nazi Party. He remained in Florence until 1939. During this time he was a freelance writer and a number of his articles and short stories appeared in both German and Italian journals, frequently under a pseudonym because of his active disagreement with the dictatorial governments. He also was employed from time to time by Italian research scholars and gave private lessons in German language and literature.

When in 1939 his Italian visa was about to expire and he knew that it would not be renewed and that he would be forced to return to Germany, he was able to find sponsorship for immigration to the United States. He came then directly to the George School in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, where he remained as teacher of German and French until 1944. From 1944 to 1946 he was an instructor in German at Harvard University and worked toward his degree in Master of Arts in Teaching German at this university. After receiving the MAT degree in the spring of 1946 he came to Stanford University as instructor of German. In 1950 he was promoted to the rank of Assistant Professor, in 1953 to Associate Professor. He was co-author of Erzähl mir was!, one of the most successful German textbooks to appear in the past 15 years.

Prof. Blauth died on October 16, 1960, after a long illness. He is survived by no close relatives in this country. His surviving family in Germany consists of an aunt, Mrs. Charlotte Hessemann, presently living in Stuttgart, and several distant cousins.

Prof. Blauth was a bachelor. Nevertheless he had a family consisting of the hundreds of students who had the privilege of having him as their teacher. For no matter whether he taught a class in elementary German, a graduate course in German Literature, or a Senior Seminar in the Humanities Honors Program, he applied himself to this task with rare devotion and energy. His death is a severe loss to Stanford, and especially to the Humanities Honors Program and to the Department of Modern European Languages.

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