

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

BRUNO BOEZINGER (1859 - 1939)

With the death of Bruno Boezinger, who died on April 11, 1939, Stanford and the Stanford community loses a genuinely original and colorful personality. He would have been eighty in October, but he retained to the end the vigor of mind and the essential vitality that had always characterized him.

Professor Boezinger's varied career bears eloquent witness to the unusual qualities of his head and heart. Born at Olten, Switzerland, in 1859, he ran away from home at the age of seventeen, enlisted in the French Foreign Legion, and served with French troops in northern Africa. Returning home from this adventurous escapade, he studied theology in Switzerland and Germany, at Frankfurt and Berlin.

In 1886, at the age of twenty-seven, he again yielded to the lure of the unknown and emigrated to the United States of America, working at first as a missionary in the slums of New Orleans. From there he moved to central Texas, where he spent twenty years as pastor of a German Methodist Church. During this time he laid the foundation of his acquaintance with the American educational system, getting his A.B. and A.M. degrees at Fort Worth in 1894 and 1895, respectively. Later he became a high school principal, teaching at both the North Texas Normal School and the University of Texas. He took his Ph. D. degree at Stanford in 1910.

It was in 1906 that Professor Boezinger came to Stanford University, and from the first he was an outstanding figure on the Stanford campus, as well as a driving force in the German Department. Endowed with a natural gift for teaching, it was as a teacher that he made his best contribution to the work of the department. Together with Professor W. A. Cooper, he was indefatigable in urging a reform of modern language, teaching along the lines of the direct method, and his Mündliche und schriftliche Übungen and his Erstes and Zweites Aufsatzbuch were among the earliest direct method textbooks published in this country. He was also instrumental in having scientific German introduced into the curriculum, a field in which Stanford continues to do important work.

He believed strongly in having the departments of the University grouped into schools, and saw his idea put into practice.

Retired from active teaching in 1926, Professor Boezinger continued to reside on Menlo Heights. Here he lived an active life of the spirit, rich in the love of his children, and indulging in his favorite hobbies: chess, farming, music, walking, and reading. For years he was a daily visitor to the Men's Faculty Club.

Professor Boezinger was a man of wide interests, and of strong likes and dislikes. Simple and genial, kindly and tolerant, he was at the same time keenly aware of the world about him, and deeply interested in the industrial and scientific progress of the age, and he loved to discuss such matters with persons actively engaged in the pursuit of them. Philosophically inclined, he was always disposed to espouse the cause of the underdog, and his home was a refuge for lonely

people. Men, in general, he accepted as they were, with all their shortcomings, but he spared no one in the expression of his opinions for he loved frankness and hated all sham and pretense. Love of nature and of beauty generally was one of his strongest traits.

Professor Boezinger is survived by his second wife, Laure Elise Jacot, whom he married in 1913, by seven children of his first marriage, and fifteen grandchildren.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That these words of appreciation be recorded in our minutes and a copy thereof be sent to the family of our colleague and friend.