

MORITZ A. GEIGER

1880 - 1937

The sudden and untimely death of Professor Moritz A. Geiger on September 9, 1937 has taken from the Vassar community one who for many years had been a distinguished figure in the world of Philosophy, and who, during his three years at Vassar College, won for himself a place of leadership in the intellectual life, and of admiration and affection among members of the faculty and students alike.

Professor Geiger was born June 26, 1880 in Frankfurt-on-Main. He received the Ph.D. degree at the University of Munich where he later began his teaching. In 1923 he was appointed to the Chair of Philosophy at the University of Göttingen where he remained until 1933, when he was called to Vassar College to assume the James Monroe Taylor chair of Philosophy and the chairmanship of the department. While Professor Geiger attained distinction in several highly specialized fields of Philosophy, the most characteristic aspect of his work was the wide scope of his interests and the high degree of familiarity he showed in all branches of Philosophy. He himself believed his contribution to the field of Aesthetics the one of most importance, but those who knew him best knew that he cherished the hope of working out a still more complete philosophy of Mathematics than has appeared heretofore. Already in his book on the science of Mathematics he had attained results which prompted Hilbert, the great German mathematician, to say that Professor Geiger was the first philosopher since Leibnitz to contribute importantly to the science of Mathematics.

In this college Professor Geiger's contributions were made quietly, gracefully and forcefully, always with a breadth of vision and a sense of proportion. In the class-room his lectures were both artistic and scholarly, displaying as did his private conversations a vast erudition, discipline and integrity of mind that were a constant stimulation to those who came in contact with him. In his human relations he showed a kindness, wisdom and sparkle that won for him an

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enduring place in the affections and respect of his fellows. He was a philosopher, in life as in study. His philosophy of life is epitomized in one of his letters when he wrote, "Philosophy is not worthwhile if it does not strengthen the ability of thinking and of self-control."

Margaret Rawlings Dey

Vernon Venable
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