

Bernard Dietrich was born in Berlin, and his parents had the foresight to give him the initials "B.C." that would later fit in so well with his career in Classics. He received his school education in Germany, and entered London University in 1947, to gain the B.A. Honours degree in Classics in 1951. To this he added the Ph.D. in 1959.

From 1952 to 1954, he was Woodhouse Fellow in Classics and Ancient History at St. Andrew's College, and also part-time lecturer in Greek and Latin at Sydney University. In 1955 he moved to Jamaica as Lecturer in Classics at the University College of the West-Indies, becoming a senior Lecturer in 1961. From there, he came to South Africa, in April 1963, as Professor of Classics at Rhodes University. Now, after nearly 15 years, he leaves us to accept the Chair of Classics at the University of Wales, in Aberystwyth.

Members of Senate, and those who have served with him on many committees, will be aware of his contribution to the life of the university in its widest sense. He is also at present acting Dean of the Faculty of Arts.

Professor Dietrich will be remembered at Rhodes, not only for his administration of the Classics Department, but also for his sustained scholarship and his publications. He leaves an enduring memorial in the museum that he worked so hard to build up, and which now contains a most valuable collection.

For someone who has his feet firmly on the ground, Professor Dietrich has displayed an amazing determination to get as high off the ground as possible. In the West Indies it was the high jump, in which he represented Jamaica at the Caribbean Games. In Grahamstown, of course, it was flying, and he will certainly be missed by the Flying Club.

We can only say to him, and to Mrs. Dietrich, how sorry we are to lose them, and we wish them all success and happiness in the future.

To-day we take leave of a man whose career at Rhodes started and ended with the most delightful problems imaginable.

Frank van der Riet was born and educated in Stellenbosch where he took the B.A. degree, cum laude, followed by the M.A., in French, which was also awarded with distinction. In 1932 he was chosen for the Webb Stipendium, which enabled him to undertake study and research at the University of Paris, leading to a doctorate, conferred in 1936, for his thesis on secular drama in the middle ages.

Returning to South Africa, Dr. van der Riet taught for a while at Michaelhouse, and lectured for varying terms at the Universities of Stellenbosch and Natal, before being selected for appointment as Librarian at Rhodes University College.

It was here that the first "delightful problem" cropped up. The conditions for appointment required the successful applicant to go overseas first, on a Carnegie Scholarship, for a year of study. Dr. van der Riet certainly did not allow this problem to deter him, and after an extended study tour abroad, he assumed duty at Rhodes in February, 1942.

The growth of the University in the past 36 years is clearly mirrored in the expansion of the library. In 1942 it had less than 50,000 volumes on its shelves, compared with its present holding of 250,000 volumes. Dr. van der Riet saw it outgrow its old accommodation in this building and move to its new quarters, and he has witnessed the development of some of its outstanding features, including the Cory Library of national renown. He will always be associated with these impressive developments and will be remembered, in particular, for his personal efforts in the building up of a magnificent photographic collection.

The institution of our Librarianship courses is also attributable to Dr. van der Riet's drive and insight. Through the years, his service to the University was evident in a wider field, including Senate and several of its committees, and he also gave valuable service to the local community, including a term as a City Councillor.

And now for the "delightful problem" affecting his retirement. You see, he now has the difficult task of deciding whether to retire in his property in Grahamstown, or to his seaside property at Kasouga, or to his other seaside property at Onrus-river, near Hermanus. I think it really unfair that one man should encounter all these problems, but I can offer no better wish to him, and also to Mrs. van der Riet, than the hope that all the problems they encounter will be equally delightful. May they have many happy years ahead of them.