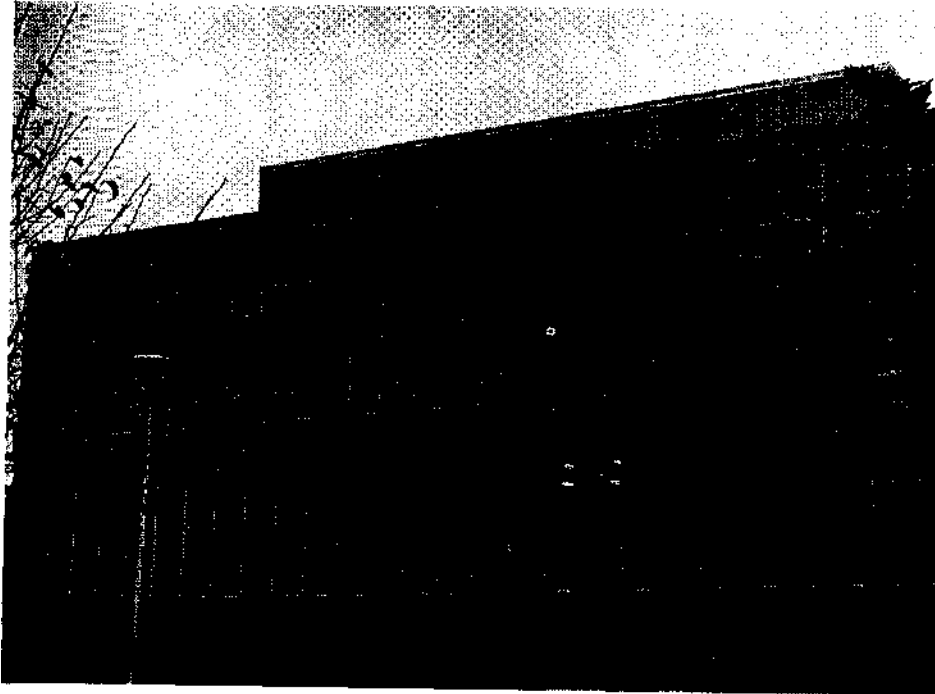
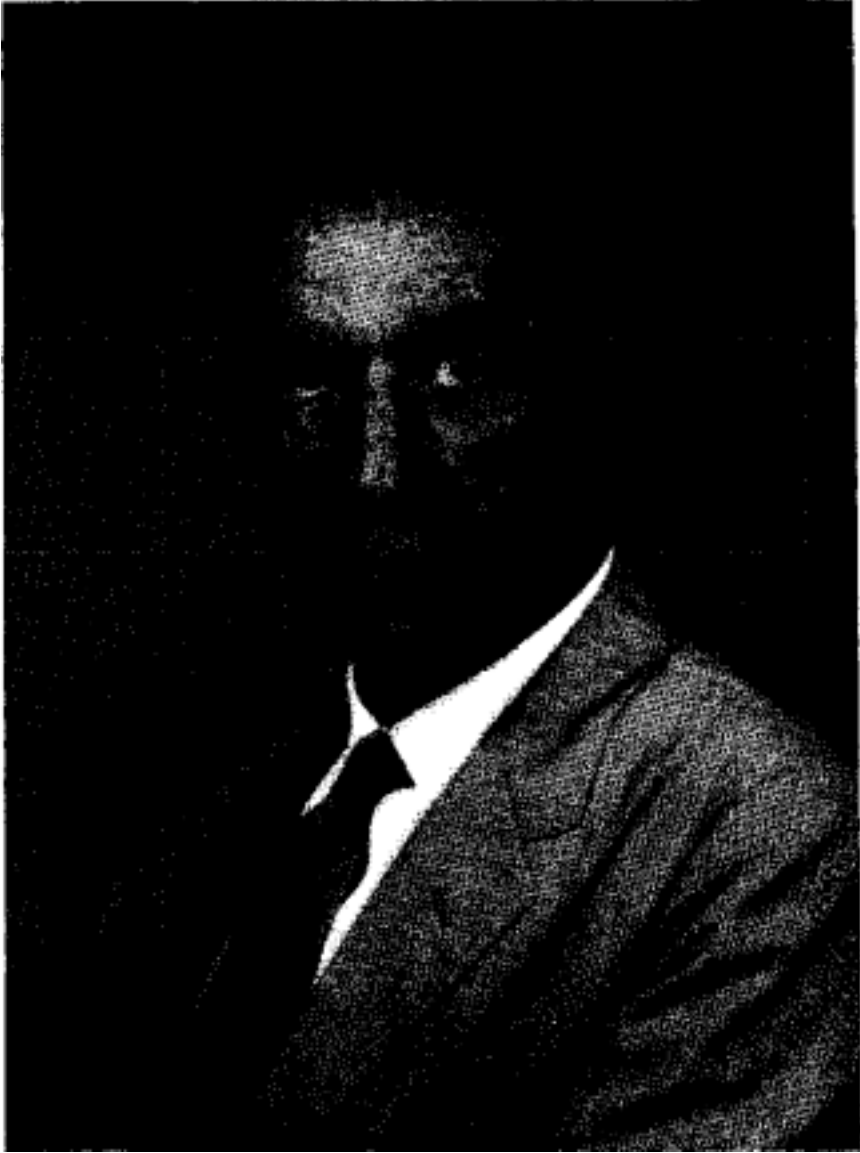


DIETER CUNZ HALL OF LANGUAGES IN COLUMBUS, OHIO



Courtesy: Ohio State Monthly

The Dieter Cunz Hall of Languages is one of the newest buildings on the Ohio State University campus. Located directly west of the William Oxley Thompson Library, it was erected at a cost of \$2,203,000. The four-story structure is designed to house the East Asian, Classical, Romance, German and Slavic language departments as well as the Linguistic and Comparative Literature departments.



DIETER CUNZ

(1910-1969)

TRIBUTES AND MEMORIES

The sudden death of Dr. Dieter Cunz, Professor and Chairman of the Department of German of Ohio State University, on February 17th, 1969, was a great shock for the members of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland. It left an irreplaceable gap in the ranks of the Society.

Dr. Cunz was born August 4, 1910, in Hoechstebach, Germany. He grew up and attended school in Wiesbaden. He studied at the universities of Munich, Leipzig, Koenigsberg and Frankfurt. From Frankfurt he received his Ph. D. in 1934 in the fields of German Literature and History.

A dedicated opponent of Hitler and his regime, he left his native country in 1934 and lived in Switzerland as a free lance writer and contributor to Swiss newspapers. In 1938 he emigrated to the United States. After a year in New York City, he moved to Baltimore, where he received a scholarship from the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation for work in the archives and the library of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland. In the same year he started his teaching career at the University of Maryland at College Park, where he rose within nine years from the rank of assistant instructor to professor. He taught at this institution until 1957, when he joined the Ohio State University as professor and chairman of its Department of German.

Dr. Cunz was a devoted teacher, who enjoyed the respect and love of his students. In 1961 the Arts College Student Council awarded him its Good Teaching Award, and in 1964 he received the Alfred J. Wright Award for "dedicated service to student activities and student organizations."

Dr. Cunz was a specialist in the field of 18th century German Literature, but his most important and lasting contribution to scholar-

ship was his work on the history of German immigration to the United States. His book *The Maryland Germans, A History* (Princeton University Press, 1948) established him as one of the two or three leading scholars in the field of immigration history both here and abroad. With the last of his many books he returned again to the field of German immigration history, a collection of literary portraits of famous German immigrants, *They Came from Germany* (Dodd, Mead, and Co., New York, 1966) for young readers. He contributed close to a hundred major articles and essays to periodicals and newspapers in this country as well as in Germany, Switzerland and France. He was also the co-author of *German for Beginners*, a textbook widely used in American and Canadian colleges and universities.

These scholarly activities earned him the highest recognition both here and abroad. He was on the board of directors of the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation (1961 to 1965) and an honorary member of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland, whose secretary he had been from 1944 to 1956 and whose publication *The Report* he had edited for many years. In 1959 the government of the Federal Republic of Germany bestowed upon him the Order of Merit, First Class " in recognition of his efforts on behalf of the German language instruction in the United States and his scholarly contributions in the field of German-American immigration history." In 1965 the Ohio State chapter of Phi Beta Kappa elected him to honorary membership.

Dr. Cunz was a member of the Modern Language Association of America, the American Association of Teachers of German, the Ohio Historical Society, the American Lessing Society and the Ohio College Association. He often held administrative positions in these organizations.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society for the History of the Germans on March 17th, 1969, the Board passed the resolution that the sincere expression of the Society's realization of the great loss sustained be inscribed upon the minutes of the Executive Committee.

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His youth falls in the difficult years of World War I. His secondary education—Gymnasium in Wiesbaden, 1920-1929—in the years of economic depression and political unrest of the twenties. During his university years the political sky grew " browner and browner " and ever more menacingly which was depressing and painful to anyone who like Dieter Cunz firmly believed in the democratic form of government.

When in 1933 the Nazi curtain descended upon Germany Dieter Cunz, whose political ideas were well known in university circles, received a " grace period " to enable him to bring his doctoral studies to completion. This he accomplished in 1934 and with it his stay in Germany drew to a close. An uncertain future had to be faced.

The departure from his native Germany was a sad and agonizing experience. Dieter Cunz was deeply attached to his family, particu-

larly to his mother, a very intelligent, hard working and deeply religious person, he had deep roots in his beloved Rhineland. It was a moving experience when, in 1953, Dieter Cunz drove me to Schierstein near Wiesbaden where his father had been pastor for many years. On this personally conducted tour I was introduced to many corners and nooks in the parsonage, to the surrounding garden and to the adjacent Rhine river. In the course of this visit Dieter Cunz related, in his charming way, fond memories of his youth and adolescence deeply embedded in his heart and mind.

The years of exile in Switzerland which followed were hard and bitter. The dreadful events in Nazi Germany were a source of permanent anxiety and depression. At the same time his own existence was most precarious and in never-ending danger. As a foreigner he never knew if the Swiss authorities would grant him the residence permit which had to be renewed every six months. His financial position was close to catastrophic. There was, for a German refugee, no hope at all that he would be allowed to accept a job that could provide even a minimum subsistence. He had to earn his living, and what meagre living it was!, as a free lance writer, contributing to Swiss newspapers, giving tutorial lessons to high school students who needed help in some subjects, publishing occasionally a short story that just brought in enough to pay for the next three meals. And still, he was undaunted. Actually, some of his most playful and carefree works were the result of these dark and insecure years, a collection of stories under the title *Um uns herum*, fairy-tales from everyday life. They were read with delight by adults and juveniles alike, and to him they meant regular meals for about four months.

By the end of 1937 it was obvious that his hopes to find permanent refuge in Switzerland would never materialize. And at this darkest moment something like a miracle occurred. A very remote relative in America, who had heard of Dieter's plight, came to his rescue and provided him with the necessary papers to emigrate to America. He arrived in New York in August 1938, financially just as insecure as he had been the last 4 years in Switzerland, but at least knowing that there was a place from which he could not be expelled, and the chance of a job if he were lucky enough to find one in these difficult post-depression years. He did practically anything that happened to come along, he wrote occasional pieces for the *New York Times Book Review*, he still reported on cultural happenings in the United States for some Swiss newspapers. And this in addition to learning and perfecting his English, spending long and patient hours in the reading room of the New York Public Library, where he could read English books, English periodicals without paying for it. It was already here, in the friendly shelter of the New York Public Library, that his interest in the interrelationship between the United States and Germany, in the German emigration to the shores of the New World, developed.

What he read and studied there in order to improve his English was, after all, his own story: the story of an exile who had had to leave his native land, and who found a home, a friendly place on the other side of the ocean. Whatever he did in the following years to the end

of his life, his great achievements as a scholar and a teacher he considered his paying back his debt to America, to the country which had received him gladly and permitted him to develop his extraordinary gifts.

AUGUSTUS J. PRAHL
University of Maryland

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The Germania Club of Baltimore celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1940. About the end of 1938 I wrote to Henry L. Mencken, who was a member of the Germania Club, to inquire whether he would be inclined to write a short history of this venerable organization. In his reply Mencken said that he would rather not write such a history and pointed out to me that this club represented only a very small part of the history of the Germans in Baltimore and Maryland which should soon be written by someone really competent. I gave this letter to Karl A. M. Scholtz who was then the chairman of the executive committee of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland.

Mr. Scholtz and I lunched together regularly and on occasion I had slightly criticised him for spending some of the income from the Ferdinand Meyer legacy for prizes given to high school students as a reward for German compositions. When I handed Mencken's letter to him, I commented: "There is your project for spending Ferdinand Meyer's legacy."

Somewhat later, Karl Scholtz informed me that Professor A. E. Zucker of the University of Maryland in College Park had reported to the executive committee meeting of the SHGM that a young German instructor in his department would be able and willing to do the necessary research for a comprehensive history of the Maryland Germans. Then I told Karl Scholtz that we could try out the ability of this German instructor by letting him write the history of the Germania Club first. This apparently appealed to Karl Scholtz and some weeks later he told me that Dr. Dieter Cunz would write the history of the Germania Club in time for the 100th anniversary and that the cost of the research and printing would be covered by the Ferdinand Meyer Fund.

Then this young teacher set to work. During the seven long years of his research in Baltimore all of us who were involved in German organizations and churches learned to know and appreciate this dedicated scholar: Dieter Cunz. As Professor Zucker wrote in a tribute in the *Washington Journal* last Spring: "The grant offered by the Society was meagre and the age of Zwingli quite distant from that of Mencken and Mergenthaler but Dr. Cunz accepted it gratefully. It is simply admirable how fast and how thoroughly this European became familiar with the history of the State of Maryland. And not alone with Maryland. He saw everything within the framework of the history of the State and of the Nation as a whole, never as isolated events."

That is how Dr. Dieter Cunz set out on his career as a historian in the United States. For him the slim booklet commemorating the

centenary of the Germania Club was, as he told Klaus Wust some years ago, his *Gesellenstück*. For us in Baltimore, in Maryland, the coming of Dieter Cunz was the fulfillment of the vision the founders of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland had long ago: a history of the German element which would place its achievements squarely into the background of our State at large.

OTTO H. FRANKE
Baltimore, Maryland

Dieter Cunz's contact with the National Carl Schurz Association (originally the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation) goes back at least as far as 1939, when the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland received a grant from the Oberlaender Trust of the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation to help finance his research for his pioneer work, *The Maryland Germans*. Over the years there were other grants because the Board of Directors was profoundly impressed by his ability as a historian, and his enthusiasm for and understanding of the broad field of Americana-Germanica. He was one of the first writers to describe the German immigration in the context of the sociological pattern of the country, appreciating the work of the "little" people as well as the great, in the interaction of all elements of the population. He did not distort the historical picture by treating his people as though they lived and worked in a sociological vacuum.

It was Dieter Cunz and A. E. Zucker who first told me about the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation in Philadelphia while I was still doing graduate work at the University of Maryland. Therefore, two years later, when I began to work on the staff of the *American-German Review*, naturally I turned to these two men for suggestions and material. Dr. Cunz had already written nine articles for the magazine, dealing mostly with early German settlers and craftsmen, and he wrote another seven while I was active on the editorial staff. Always they were informative and written in a readable style, evoking the atmosphere of the times.

But besides the articles he himself wrote, there were several that he inspired: I am thinking of one by Dr. Wolfgang Fleischhauer, and several by Klaus Wust. In addition to these there was, of course, the Bibliography Americana-Germanica which the *American-German Review* printed annually from the list compiled by Dr. Cunz.

Dieter Cunz was a dedicated historian and was not happy when the emphasis of our magazine shifted to the contemporary scene. I was sorry about his feeling that we had deserted his field, but had the impression in the last few months that he understood the reasons for the shift in emphasis, even though he may not have agreed with it.

When Dr. Cunz came to Philadelphia he often telephoned me and we would meet for lunch or dinner. He was interested in the development of the magazine and the organization, and tried to help us reach a wider group of people, for he was eager to document the contribution

the Germans made to our country. One of his special interests was Charles Follen, on whom he wrote an article for us commemorating the hundredth anniversary of his death. He had wanted to write an account of the years in Switzerland before this firebrand came to the U.S., but never had the opportunity to pursue the sources he had uncovered years before.

The year when I had the closest and most continuous contact with Dr. Cunz was just before the publication of his Maryland book. His humor, kindness, thoughtfulness and his thorough scholarship were never more in evidence than then, even though the pressure of deadlines was great. It was a real pleasure and a rich experience for me, and was the basis of our friendship and understanding.

ALICE H. FINCKH
National Carl Schurz Association
Philadelphia

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I was introduced to Dieter Cunz shortly after his arrival in the United States by my friend, Professor Ernst Feise of The Johns Hopkins University, who did so much to help scholars who left Germany during the Hitler years. I saw Dr. Cunz very seldom, but we corresponded rather frequently because of our common interest in the history of immigration. Though trained in German literature and culture in German universities, Cunz soon established a reputation in the United States by his publications in the field of immigration. At the time of his death he was chairman of the large department of German at The Ohio State University.

During his period of service as a professor of German at the University of Maryland, Dr. Cunz edited the annual publications of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland. The Society's publication *The Report* runs back over more than three quarters of a century. In the heyday of German immigration to the United States there were a large number of German-American journals. To-day the Maryland journal is the only one that has survived, and it is no exaggeration to say that in these later years which were particularly difficult for America's *Deutschtum*, much of the credit must be given to Dr. Cunz.

In addition to his editorial labors and short articles, Dr. Cunz was the author of three major works, *The Maryland Germans: A History*, *Egg Harbor City: New Germany in New Jersey*, and the third, and more popular, a collection of biographical essays on the careers of leading German-Americans, *They Came From Germany, the Stories of Famous German Americans* (New York, 1966).

The volume on the Maryland Germans was the product of long and painstaking research in genealogical and church records, newspapers, letters and other historical source material. The result is a "case history" of a single state which could serve as a model for studies of other states. It is entirely objective and while it does full

justice to the Germans it avoids the filio-pietistic exaggerations of many of the earlier books on ethnic elements in the American population.

The story of Egg Harbor deals with an experiment by a number of Germans to build a model German community in New Jersey. Here Germans were to transplant and enjoy the "gemütlich" social life of the old country, with German schools, newspapers, singing societies, lodges and Turnvereine. The United States once had scores of immigrant Utopias, but only a few survived into the present century. Egg Harbor was no exception. It developed, in the free atmosphere of the United States, into just another American bilingual community.

Dr. Cunz will be remembered in the profession as a careful, thorough scholar who made a significant contribution to the history of immigration. He was always ready to cooperate with other scholars. He was generous in his judgments and unduly humble about his own achievements.

CARL WITKE
Case Western Reserve
University

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The first time I met Dieter Cunz was in December of 1947 in Zurich, Switzerland, while I was studying as an independent student at the University. Little did I realize the significance of this meeting for my own future. Dr. A. E. Zucker, then Head of the Department of Foreign Languages at the University of Maryland, recommended that I get in touch with Dieter so that I might plan with him to fulfill the requirements for a Ph. D. in Germanics.

It was a propitious meeting. Dieter not only helped me immediately in planning a course of study, he also proposed a topic for the dissertation. In addition, as a friend, he helped to effect a smooth transition for me and my family from Zurich to College Park, even to the extent of permitting me to use his apartment in his absence from the campus.

The topic for my dissertation presented certain difficulties. Otto von Corvin, although a forty-eighter, did not appear in his best light as the author of *Der Pfaffenspiegel*, and copies of his other works were hard to come by. A perusal of *Die Geissler* did little to convert me. I demurred, but Dieter encouraged me to withhold judgment until some of Corvin's other works had been reviewed. He still thought it wise for me to limit myself to the examination of one man's life and works rather than attempt a study of the effect America had had on German literature! I learned my first lesson in research.

Actually, it turned out that *Der Pfaffenspiegel* was not so much a scurrilous work as it was an attempt to discredit certain forces which appeared to Corvin to uphold the established order and to oppose social and political progress. It is doubtful that the book would have been written had Corvin not had this conviction.

It was not always easy to please Dieter. He was an exacting teacher. Some chapters had to be revised and other rewritten, always for good cause. Each assertion required documentation. In the end, Dieter's tutelage had its effect. The dissertation was completed in near record time, and Otto von Corvin turned out to be not only a staunch supporter of the Revolution of 1848-49, but even more significantly for me, a forgotten friend of America. With Dieter's encouragement, an article in the *American-German Review* (XX, No. 6) followed the dissertation.

Somewhat later the article on Corvin was followed by a second article. This one, somewhat further afield, was on the German Teacher Exchange Program, a program conducted by the U. S. Office of Education in cooperation with the Department of State. By this time my own rediscovery of America through the eyes of Otto von Corvin had led me to accept a position with the Government which gave me an opportunity to arrange programs and activities designed to help interpret America to German teachers visiting the United States on the exchange program. Once started on this path, it was only a matter of time before my interest in interpreting America grew to include not only teachers from Germany, but also those from the developing countries. This brought me to the International Cooperation Administration, later the Agency for International Development. And still Dieter's example of research and publication inspired me. I wrote additional articles on subjects germane to international educational development.

Finally, using techniques of the master teacher, I undertook to chronicle the epic immigration in the early 1850's of an unknown, God-fearing German family. Although the story is not yet completed, the continuing influence of Dieter Cunz will, I am sure, help me to bring the work to a successful completion. The memory of Dieter Cunz for me transcends that of both friend and teacher.

MYRON H. VENT
Education and Human
Resources Division,
Agency for International
Development

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In the introduction of *The Maryland Germans* Dieter Cunz called his major work a "case history" of American immigration, "the story of a special group under special circumstances," but expressed the hope "that from this special case some broader conclusions may be drawn for immigration history in general." His hope was amply fulfilled. Not only did his "case study" spark a renewed preoccupation with German immigration in a number of States, it also provided guidelines for the study of linguistic and cultural transition and integration by researches of two decades. Considering the present state of the art

when ethnic distinctions are no longer viewed as being necessarily un-American and the history of immigrant groups has ceased to be the exclusive domain of ethnic apologists or grateful descendants, we begin to comprehend the pioneer work that was done by Dieter Cunz in the 1940's.

Leafing again through the pages of *The Maryland Germans* during the first days after his death when newspapers quickly demanded an appropriate *Nachruf* and the still incomprehensible news began to force itself upon my mind as an irrevocable fact, I found numerous passages revealing the character of the mentor and friend he had been over the years. Almost twenty years—ever since I hitchhiked as a student from Bridgewater to College Park for my first visit at 7501 Rhode Island Avenue. There is some of his guarded humor in examples he chose to illustrate certain points. There is ample evidence of his dogged determination to clear the historical records of legendary accessories. His occasional impatience with narrow-mindedness found expression in citing the name of the owner of a significant 18th century newspaper file who was hiding it from researchers. All through the book, he succeeded in maintaining historical objectivity without presenting colorless or uncritical series of events. The biographical sketches within the text, from Augustin Herrman to H. L. Mencken, are masterful as are, by the way, the concise biographies of noted German Americans which Dieter Cunz contributed to the *Brockhaus*. The reader is left with no doubt that the author personally felt much more akin to the intellectually alert Liberals among the Baltimore Germans than to the prodding, simple farm folks of Western Maryland. Yet, rarely had the settlers of the backwoods found such comprehending treatment by a historian.

And a historian Dieter Cunz remained at heart. He was ever on the alert for new material, a hint, an inkling of a source here or there—his friends all received notes from time to time on penny postcards or on the back of a used file card together with a word of encouragement when a long announced manuscript had not yet materialized.

His published writings contain little direct reference to himself. Only at a symposium of German-language teachers on "Articulation from High School to College" shortly before his death did he speak about himself, tongue in cheek, yes, but also well aware how inconvenient his counsel was to all who sought shortcuts in life and quick solutions:

"... others who know me will say, 'An old curmudgeon like you will see to it that all the Christmas spirit is thoroughly demolished. You will keep us aware that there are more difficulties than there are solutions.'"

Or this passage:

"I am sceptical by nature; I hold dim views about the solvability of the problem that is under discussion; I am the eternal sourpuss—flowers wilt when I enter the room and the milk of human kindness curdles."

To which Professor George Metcalf replied: " All this I know very well, and that is the very reason why I want you! " How true! With the solicitous friend we lost our incorruptible critic whose counsel we sought often and gladly. More than any verbose tributes, credit to Dieter Cunz in footnotes of articles and monographs of years to come will express what all of us owe him.

KLAUSWUST
Editor, *The Report*