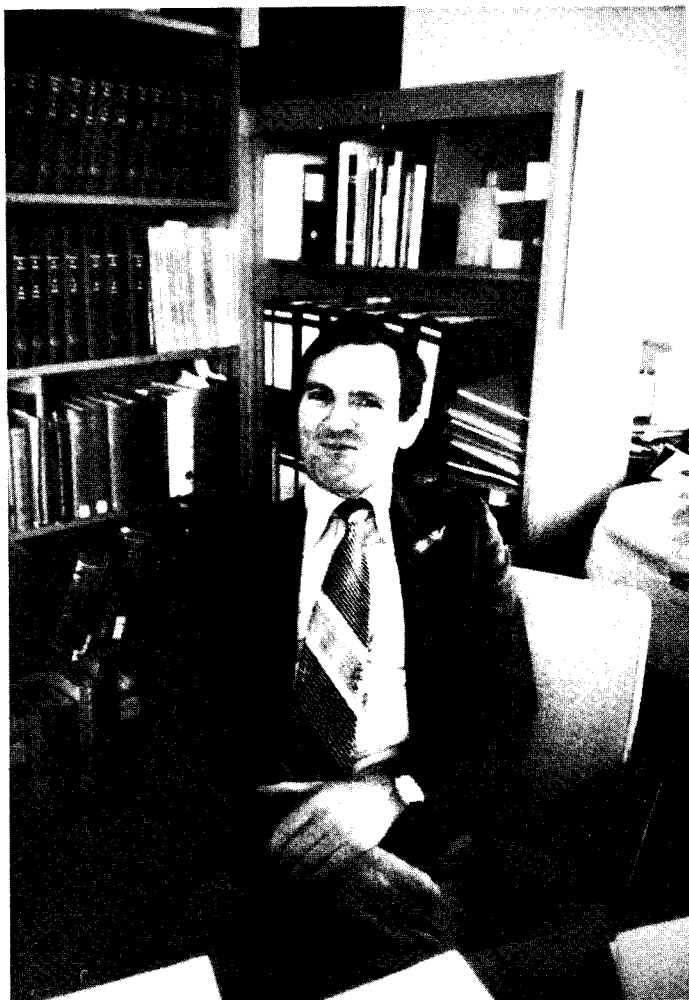


Dieter George, 1935-1985

An obituary notice by Klaus Schwarz



Dr. Dieter George, 1935-1985.

For the second time within a short period the Oriental Department of the Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kultur-Besitz in West Berlin has lost its Director through death. After the demise of Dr. Dr. hc. Wolfgang Voigt in 1982, the library has now to face the loss of Dr. Dieter George who died after a long and difficult illness on 8 September 1985, a few months before his fiftieth birthday.

Dieter George was born on 12 December 1935 in Frankfurt am Main. After graduating from secondary school in Hofgeismar he began a study of Indology in the summer of 1956 under Professors J. Nobel and W. Rau in Marburg an der Lahn. J. Nobel introduced him also to the study of Tibetan Philology, which, after the former's death, he continued under C. Vogel.

He studied Comparative Religion under E. Damman, K. Goldammer, F. Heiler, H. Jacobsohn and O. Wolff. During the years 1962-1965 he was able to continue his studies at the Government Sanskrit College in Calcutta with a research stipend from the Indian Government. In May 1966 he received his doctorate, with the presentation of his dissertation 'Saṅmukhakalpa. Ein Lehrbuch der Zauberei und Diebeskunst aus dem indischen Mittelalter'. In that very year he began a training as librarian. Two years later he was offered the Indology post at the Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz in Berlin. His great predecessor, Wolfgang Voigt, gradually taught him the workings of his new post. In 1976 he took over the direction of the Oriental Department, and in 1977 became First Director of the German Oriental Society. Ultimately he was given in 1982 the direction of the 'Cataloguing of the Oriental Manuscripts in Germany'. Thus he also took charge of the publication of the wellknown series of catalogues 'Verzeichnis der orientalischen Handschriften in Deutschland' (VOHD). Although he was an Indologist, he also demonstrated especial interest in manuscripts from the Islamic Far East. In 1980 he organised the exhibition 'The Art of the Islamic book over 1000 Years', which received wide public acclaim and of which a catalogue has been published.

Because of his willingness to assist, also in small matters, and his reserved, friendly character Dieter George was beloved and respected by both users of the library and his colleagues.

He will be remembered by many for a long time to come.