

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that the Editors of the *International Review of Education* inform readers of the death of

FRANZ HILKER and NICHOLAS HANS

two of its best-loved and respected contributors.

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Dr. Franz Hilker was born in April 1881 and died in January 1969. He was known to a wide circle of educationists for his work in Comparative and International Education.

His book *Vergleichende Pädagogik*, published in 1942, was the outcome of work in this field, undertaken by him between 1920 and 1933 and again from 1945 to 1960.

A man of calm disposition and wise advice, Hilker is well known for his work in the Documentation Centre in Bonn, and for his editorship of the periodical *Bildung und Erziehung*. He may be regarded, together with Friedrich Schneider, as one of the founder comparative educators in the Federal Republic of Germany. He was a Founder Member of the Comparative Education Society in Europe, and added much during the last years of his life to the deliberations and conferences of the Society. His knowledge of education in Russia, the Low Countries and England was extensive. He wrote frequently on these and other systems of education as well as on the theory of General Education. His contributions to many educational journals as well as to such publications as the Unesco *World Survey of Education* will be sadly missed.

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Dr. Nicholas Hans died in May 1969 after a long illness. He was born in September 1888 in Russia, and studied both there and in Germany. His work during the 1920's with Sergius Hessen gained him a reputation in the field of Comparative Education which was enhanced by his many contributions to the *Yearbook of Education* during the 1930's and again after the Second World War as Joint Editor from 1947 to 1953.

In 1948 he became Reader in Comparative Education at Kings College London. He worked closely with the London Institute of Education, Department of Comparative Education, and the lectures he gave there

were collected in his world famous book *Comparative Education* published in 1949.

This standard textbook, and his voluminous writings including *New Trends in Education*, and *The Russian Tradition in Education* made him a pioneer who shaped the minds and outlooks of successive generations of Comparative Education students.

As a lecturer he was superb. As a colleague he offered through his ideas instant and challenging stimulation.

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Friends and colleagues will always remember Franz Hilker and Nicholas Hans.

Our sympathy goes out to the widows and families, and our hope is that they will find some comfort in the fact that both men were respected and liked throughout the world as scholars devoted to the development of Comparative and International Education.

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