

Riefstahl, Rudolf Meyer

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IN MEMORIAM
RUDOLF MEYER RIEFSTAHL
1880-1936

Students and lovers of Islamic art have experienced a serious loss through the sudden death of Rudolf Meyer Riefstahl, scholar and teacher, admired by all who came in contact with his vast realm of knowledge and his stimulating personality. His name is known throughout the world as that of a leader, and the records of his research will be of incalculable value to others following in his footsteps.

Born in Munich in 1880, Dr. Riefstahl was educated at the University of Göttingen and the University of Strassburg, receiving his Ph.D. *magna cum laude* at the latter institution. Leaving Germany he lectured at the Sorbonne and École Normale Supérieure in Paris from 1903 to 1910. During this time he studied French art and published many articles in connection with his work. His interest in Islamic art was firmly established when he was elected Secretary-General of the Exposition of Muhammadan art in Munich in 1910. The following year he returned to Paris to specialize in Oriental art.

In 1915 Dr. Riefstahl established his residence in America, leaving it only for several expeditions in Anatolia and for study in Cairo, Syria, Transjordan, Palestine, and Italy. In the spring terms of 1927 and 1928 he lectured at Robert College in Istanbul. He first achieved recognition in this country through an exhibition of historic textiles at Paterson, New Jersey, and through articles published in American periodicals, chiefly on textiles. His first lectureship in America was at the University of California during the summer session and part of the fall term of 1916. He was appointed professor at New York University in 1924, where he remained until his death, save for a brief interim of study in Europe as fellow of the College Art Association. His teachings covered, in addition to courses in his special field of Islamic art, courses on Oriental rugs and on the textiles of Europe and the East, in both of which fields he was recognized as an authority.

He served as adviser of the Pennsylvania Museum, as a member of the advisory council of the American Institute for Persian Art and Archaeology, as a Fellow of the Research Institute of the College Art Association, as a corresponding member of the German Archaeological Institute, as a member of the American Oriental Society and of the Oriental Club of New York, as a Guggenheim Fellow for the study of Islamic influence in Italy, and as a member of the consultative committee of *Ars Islamica*.

Dr. Riefstahl's many publications include three well-known books, *The Parish-Watson Collection of Muhammadan Potteries* (New York, 1922), *Persian and Indian Textiles of the Late Sixteenth to Early Nineteenth Centuries* (New York, 1923), and *Turkish Architecture in Southwestern Anatolia* (Cambridge, 1931). Besides his works now available Dr. Riefstahl had three more volumes ready for publication and several articles and books in preparation. It is the hope of his colleagues and friends that the wealth of material in these unfinished and unpublished works may soon be made available to the many students who, in years to come, will turn to Dr. Riefstahl's written word for guidance.

Rudolf Meyer Riefstahl 1880-1936

A. Philip McMahon

Parnassus, Vol. 10, No. 1. (Jan., 1938), p. 23.

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RUDOLF MEYER RIEFSTAHL
1880-1936

DURING the closing hours of 1936, Rudolf Meyer Riefstahl breathed his last, ending all too early a career that had produced abundant good works of scholarship, and promised still further to attract the admiration of those who shared his interests and his friendship. He was held in honor by his colleagues for his great knowledge in many specialized studies; an able and inspiring teacher was followed by grateful students; his expert, impartial judgment was relied upon by museums and collectors; his learned volumes and many articles were welcomed by fellow-investigators; he was loved by all who knew him for his energetic enthusiasm, his courage, and his wit.

He studied at the University of Göttingen where his father was a celebrated scholar, and he took his Ph.D. *magna cum laude*, at the University of Strassburg. During 1903-1910, he lectured in Paris at the Sorbonne and at the Ecole Normale Supérieure. His interest in Islamic art was stimulated by his appointment as Secretary-General of the Exposition of Muhammadan Art in Munich, in 1910. On his return to Paris, he devoted himself to oriental studies for the next five years, coming to the United States in 1915. During his first few years in this country, he was concerned chiefly with textiles, becoming in 1917 the expert for the Anderson Galleries in New York, where for seven years his erudition was increased by the examination of innumerable objects, yet he still found time for research and publication. After his appointment to a professorship at New York University, in 1924, he engaged in numerous expeditions to the Near East, to Anatolia in particular. During 1927-1929, he resided in Constantinople, and again in Rome for several years thereafter. Beginning with 1932, he devoted his whole time to study and teaching in New York. In addition to his posts in Paris and in New York, he had also taught at the University of California and at Roberts College, Constantinople.

He was a member of many organizations concerned with advanced scholarship: advisor of the Pennsylvania Museum, Philadelphia; member of the advisory council of the American Institute of Persian Art and Archaeology; Fellow of the Research Institute of the College Art Association; corresponding member of the German

Archaeological Institute; Guggenheim Fellow for the study of Islamic influences in Italy; member of the consultative committee of *Ars Islamica*. He was also a member of the New York Oriental Club, the American Oriental Society, the College Art Association, and the American Association of University Professors.

Among the books that he published were: *The Parish-Watson Collection of Mohammadan Potteries* (1922), *Persian and Indian Textiles of the Late Sixteenth to Early Nineteenth Centuries* (1923), and *Turkish Architecture in Southwestern Anatolia* (1931), as well as a translation of Bode-Kühnel, *Ancient Carpets of the Near East*. His numerous periodical contributions appeared in: *Die Kunst unserer Zeit*, *The Burlington Magazine*, *Art et Decoration*, *L'Art et les Artistes*, *Art in America*, *The Art Bulletin*, *Parnassus*, *Der Islam*, *Dedalo*, *Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts*, and elsewhere.

In addition, he left manuscripts of several books and articles, some of which have appeared during the past year, and it is hoped that eventually all will be published. During his latter years, he worked and taught also in the fields of Far Eastern and Byzantine art, an interest which would doubtless have led to excellent publications.

A general article on *Chinese Painting*, of a kind which is all too rare, appears in this issue of *Parnassus*. In a recent issue of *Ars Islamica*, there was an important contribution on *Early Turkish Tile Revetments in Edirne*, prepared for publication by his widow, Elizabeth Riefstahl, with the assistance of Dr. Richard Ettinghausen. In the monumental *Survey of Persian Art*, edited by A. U. Pope, to be published by the Oxford University Press, there will be his article on *Persian Influence in Seljuk Art*. His work on the famous early mediaeval manuscript of *Manasi al-Haywan*, in the collection of the Morgan Library, is also scheduled for early publication.

During his life, Rudolf Meyer Riefstahl pursued an honorable, brave, and distinguished career. Those who knew him and worked with him appreciated the range of his knowledge and his attainments. Those who must carry on without him realize their irreparable loss.

A. PHILIP McMAHON.

colotype illustration shows a lustre-painted plate which came from Khar but which is again typical of the Rayy school of the end of the twelfth or beginning of the thirteenth century, although it might have been made at Khar where so much faience has been found. It has much in common with the famous lustre-painted plate in the Art Institute of Chicago, dated 1191 (587 H.).

No first issue of any journal can hope to escape trifling defects. Though M. Godard has succeeded in avoiding them better than most, it would be useful in subsequent issues if a uniform method of giving dates were adopted. In this fasciculus the dates, while sometimes in both calendars, are

often only in the Hijra year. It is also a little disconcerting to find Figure 123 inserted between Figures 51 and 52, and it is a little baffling to have no underlines on the colour plates and no clue to where the relevant text may be.

But these are largely exigencies of manufacture, too trifling to have any effect on the substantial merits of this important publication, which, if it has any real defect, errs on the side of brevity. For the descriptions and the comments are of such a character that every scholar in the field will wish that they had been amplified, and will look forward to the next issue with eager interest.

OBITUARY

Professor Rudolf M. Riefstahl

In the death of Professor Riefstahl, Near Eastern studies lost one of the pioneer figures. Born in Munich in 1880, he concerned himself at the outset of his career with philological studies. As a member of the Administrative Staff of the great Exhibition of Muhammadan Art in Munich in 1910, he came in contact with all the outstanding scholars of the day and laid the foundations for nearly thirty years of productive scholarship, principally in the field of Muhammadan art.

The outbreak of the Great War found him teaching in Paris in a post no longer tenable for a German scholar. Coming to America he at once found scope for his versatile talents and wide experience. Art scholarship was still young in America and interest in Muhammadan art—thanks to the pioneer work of Dr. Denman Ross and Dr. Valentiner—was just beginning.

Dr. Riefstahl was increasingly in demand as an expert, writer and lecturer, and in 1924 was appointed Professor in New York University, the first appointment of its kind in the country. Between 1925 and 1929 he concentrated his attention principally on problems of Turkish architecture, and his *Turkish Architecture in Southwestern Anatolia* will per-

haps remain his most serious and original accomplishment. His volume on the Persian potteries in the Parish-Watson collection was a model of precise and careful cataloguing and will long remain a very important source-book in the field. He published many articles on various aspects of Near Eastern art in American and foreign journals. He was an outstanding expert in the field of Oriental carpets and made a specially valuable contribution to the study of Asia Minor rugs.

His versatility was exceptional and he commanded an immense range of information in a surprising variety of subjects in the history of art, which included various arts of Europe, both in classical and modern times, as well as a wide general acquaintance with the whole field of Oriental art—Near Eastern, Far Eastern and Indian—a range of experience that fortified and enriched all his judgments.

There are literally hundreds of people who owe to him their first acquaintance with the field of Near Eastern art and he did a great deal to establish standards of scholarship in a new field.

He is a serious loss to the field of Near Eastern studies. He leaves a wide circle of friends both here and abroad.

ARTHUR UPHAM POPE

Elizabeth Titzel Riefstahl
Author: Diane Guzman

Breaking Ground: Women in Old World Archaeology
Martha Sharp Joukowsky and Barbara S. Lesko, ed.
www.brown.edu/breakingground

ELIZABETH TITZEL RIEFSTAHL by Diane Guzman

Elizabeth Riefstahl was born in Butler, Pennsylvania on March 8, 1889, to Doctor Walter Randolph Titzel and Molly Davis Titzel. Both of Elizabeth's parents were graduates of Thiel College in Pennsylvania. Elizabeth, and her two brothers, Walter R. and Vance grew up in Chicago where their father practiced general medicine for 55 years.

Elizabeth attended the Chicago Public Schools until 1904, and completed her elementary education at Saint Clara's Academy in 1905. She boarded at the Maryland College for Women, a finishing school, from 1905 to 1908 before enrolling at the University of Chicago, from which she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Classics, Summa cum Laude in 1911. She became a member of Phi Beta Kappa in her junior year in 1910.

After graduation, Elizabeth began teaching English composition, which she called "English zero", on a temporary basis at the University of Chicago. After a single academic quarter, she abandoned teaching to follow her true calling, writing. Her first assignments were varied, writing for a diversity of publications such as *The Contractor*, a trade-paper, the *Chicago Evening Post*, *The Dial*, and little stories for the *Chicago Daily News*. She occasionally published verses in one newspaper or other and once managed to place an article in *The Delineator*. During World War I, she went to Washington D.C. to do publicity for the United States Children's Bureau.

Shortly after the end of World War I, probably in 1919, Elizabeth found the job that would set her on the track of her life's work. She joined the editorial staff of *Asia: the American Magazine on the Orient*, and in 1922 she went to the Near East for the first time on assignment for that periodical. At that time, she was a single woman, 33 years old, traveling unchaperoned

Museum, Halle. He also supported other explorations and sent his travel companion C. W. Rosset to the Maldive Islands. He died in Feldkirch, Austria, 22 June 1885 before he could realize a journey around the world. His writings include *Die Hügelstämme von Chittagong; Erlebnisse einer Reise im Jahre 1882* (1885), and its translation, *The Chittagong hill tribes* (1885). Meyers

Rieck, Jürgen, fl. 1975, he was a lawyer, and a joint editor of *Internationales Ehe- und Kindschaftsrecht* (Frankfurt am Main, 1980).

Riedel, Wilhelm, born 1 July 1871 at Schwartau, Germany, he studied theology at the universities of Tübingen, Halle, and Kiel where he received a Dr.phil. in 1898 with a thesis entitled *Die Auslegung des Hohenliedes in der jüdischen Gemeinde und der griechischen Kirche*. He served as a lecturer in theology at the Universität Greifswald from 1902 to his resignation in 1906. His writings include *Kirchenrechtsquellen des Patriarchats Alexandrien* (1900), and *Kataloger über Kungliga Bibliotekets orientalis-ka handskrifter* (Stockholm, 1923). *Wer ist's*, 1909

Riederer, Josef, born 29 December 1939, he received a Dr.rer.nat. in 1964 at München with a thesis entitled *Die Kalifeldspate der moldanubischen Granite*. He later headed the Rathgen Forschungslabor at the Staatliche Museen, Berlin. His writings include *Kunst und Chemie; das Unersätzliche bewahren* (1977), and *Archäologie und Chemie* (1987). Kürschner, 1987-1992]

Riedl, Helmut, born 22 June 1933 at Wien, he received a Dr.phil. in 1958 at Wien with a thesis entitled *Beiträge zur Morphologie des Gebietes der Waschbergzone*. In 1969 he was appointed a professor of geography at Salzburg, specializing in Greece. Since 1990 he was successively a deputy dean and dean of the Naturwissenschaftliche Fakultät in the Universität Salzburg. He edited *Beiträge zur Landeskunde von Griechenland* (1976). Kürschner, 1983-1992]; *WhoAustria*, 1996

Riedl, John Orth, born 10 June 1905 at Milwaukee, Wisc., he graduated in 1927 from Marquette University where he also received his Ph.D. in 1930. After post-doctoral study at Toronto, N.Y.C., and Breslau, he became a professor of philosophy at his alma mater from 1930 to 1946, and later served until his retirement as a professor and dean at Queensborough Community College, Bayside, N.Y. His writings include *The university in progress* (1965). *ConAu*, P-2, 21-22; *DrAS*, 1969, 1974, 1978 P; *LEduc*, 1974; *Master* (4)

Riefstahl, Rudolf Meyer, born Rudolf Adalbert Meyer on 9 August 1880 at München, he adopted his mother's surname. He studied at Göttingen and Straßburg where he received a Dr.phil. in 1904 with a thesis entitled *Französische Lieder aus der Florentiner-Handschrift Strozz-Magliabecchiana*. In the same year, he became a lecturer at l'École normale supérieure and the Sorbonne, Paris. As a member of the administrative staff of the exhibition of Islamic art in München in 1910, he came in contact with the outstanding scholars of the day and laid the foundations for many years of productive scholarship, mainly in the field of Islamic art. The outbreak of the first world war found him teaching in Paris in a post no longer tenable for a German scholar. He went in 1915 to the U.S. where he at once found scope for his versatile talents and wide experience. He was increasingly in demand as an expert, writer and lecturer, and in 1924 was appointed a professor in New York University. His writings include *Parish-Watson Collection of Mohammadan potteries* (1922), *Persian and Indian textiles of the late sixteenth century to the early nineteenth century* (1923), and *Turkish architecture in southwestern Anatolia* (1931). He died "during the closing hours of" 1936. *Bulletin of the American Institut of Persian Art* 4 (1935/36), p. 235; *Parnassus* 10 i (1938), p. 23; *WhAm*, 6

Rieger, Renate, 1921- see Wagner-Rieger, Renate

Riemer, Carlton Lester, born 15 September 1941 at Mequon, Wisc., he was a graduate of Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, Ind., and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. He became a Lutheran minister who also served as a missionary for a year in India, and for two years in the Philippines. *WhoRel*, 1985

Riesman, Paul Hastings, born 7 March 1938 at Buffalo, N.Y., he graduated from Harvard with the class of 1960 and then studied from 1964 to 1969 at Paris where he gained a doctorate in 1970. In 1971 he was appointed a professor of anthropology at Carleton College, Northfield, Minn. His writings include *Société et liberté chez les Peuls djelgôbé de Haute-Volta* (1974), and its translation, *Freedom in Fulani social life* (1977). *AmM&WS*, 1973 S, 1976 P

von Rieß, Richard, born 19 March 1823 at Schwäbisch-Gmünd, Germany, he studied theology and geography at Tübingen. He was ordained and gained a doctorate in 1846. He was a clergyman and a school administrator. His writings include *Die Länder der Heiligen Schrift* (1846), its translation, *The lands of the Holy Scripture* (1880), and *Biblische Geographie* (1872). He died in Rottenburg, 6 October 1898. *ADIB*, v. 53, pp. 384-385; *DiBilnd* (2); *Kosch*

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ريفستال

مستشرق ألماني ، ولد عام ١٨٨٠
وعنى بالفنون الإسلامية وصنف فيها
عدة رسائل تشمل : فن المنمنمات ،
النحت الفارسي في العصر الإسلامي ،
(نشره عام ١٩٣١ م) ، العمارة
الإسلامية ، جامع الفاتح باسطنبول ،
توفي عام ١٩٣٦ .

Riefstahl

يقراً :

Kamusu'l- Islami. c. II. s. 622, 1966 (KAHIRE)