

**Interview conducted June 13, 1985, for the German Historical Institute by Gabrielle Simon Edgcomb.  
(Audio only, 46:46)**

*Walter Fales was a professor of philosophy at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania from 1946 until his death from cancer on April 18, 1953.*

SUMMARY: After 2½ years in the Army, George Carter in 1946 enrolled as a philosophy major at Lincoln University, where he took many courses from Walter Fales, a German-Jewish refugee. Carter came late to the recognition that Fales was Jewish but his thought patterns, his culture, his attitude was that of a German. Fales had spent the year before coming to Lincoln at the Yale Divinity School and spoke to his students at Lincoln about the architecture there. Carter discusses the great deal of respect he had for Fales' aesthetic sense. He describes an incident in the classroom involving a white moth that showed Fales' incredible sensitivity. Carter talks of Fales' impact on him, his teaching of Kant and Toynbee, and how people's differing cultural assumptions affect the conclusions they come to; his influence on Carter's own philosophic point of view and graduate work at Harvard, his broadening of Carter's love of music into other art forms. Carter describes Fales as a modern-day German idealist, and Fales told Carter his thinking was most like that of the Swiss educator Pestalozzi. Fales taught a course on the philosophy of history but never talked about European history or mentioned Hitler.