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*Interview at Howard University, Washington, D.C., conducted July 27, 1988, by Gabrielle Simon Edgcomb for the German Historical Institute*

**Summary**

Dr. Alphonso Frost, a professor in the German and Russian Department at Howard University, was an undergraduate student in 1960 when he was taught by two European refugee scholars, Dr. Wolfgang Seiferth and Dr. Karl D. Darmstadter. Frost recalls having several courses with Seiferth, an "avid" scholar of Goethe, who introduced his students to the Goethe Society in Washington; his "kind, warm, gentle" demeanor; a book Seiferth wrote on the synagogue in Germany; and his role in developing a key course on the humanities at Howard. Frost relates a few memories of Darmstadter, similar in personality to Seiferth and also possessed of an impressive breadth of knowledge. Neither man spoke of their experiences in Germany, and Seiferth remained focused on Goethe and the 18th and early 19th centuries in his literature classes. Both "were very proud" to be teaching at Howard and of the students, and for Seiferth, "there was probably a certain identification, having been persecuted abroad," with Black people "who were second-class citizens," Frost says, based on Seiferth's commitment to the "ideals that associated with the Weimar and Goethe and Schiller" and his ability "to transfer those ideals to a predominantly Black community." Frost makes reference to German professor Maria Wilhelm Alter, Dr. Logan, department chairman Dr. David Korn and secretary Lea Wagner, and Gabrielle Edgcomb relates her effort to obtain an interview with Darmstadter before his death. Frost closes with a story about Seiferth's sense of humor and gentle reprimands.