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## Patterns of Aging

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# Contributions to Human Development

Vol. 3

Series Editors

*K. F. Riegel*, Ann Arbor, Mich. and *H. Thoma*, Bonn



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# Patterns of Aging

Findings from the Bonn Longitudinal Study of Aging

Volume Editor

*H. Thomae*

Department of Psychology, University of Bonn, Bonn

12 figures and 51 tables, 1976



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## Preface

This is the first report on a longitudinal study of aging which was started in 1965 at Bonn University. 220 men and women, born 1890–1895 and 1900–1905, coming from different parts of Western Germany, were observed during a period of 7 to 8 years. Findings point to a very complex pattern of variables correlated to consistency and change of behavior in old age. Socio-economic status, education, health, and perceived life situation are involved in the structuring of the aging process to at least the same degree as calendar age. Therefore the findings demonstrate the relevance of a differential gerontology, which defines different patterns of aging and the variables correlated with these patterns.

The editor should like to thank to all those who contributed to this study. In the first instance he should like to thank our subjects, those men and women who participated in the study. Next to this he should like to thank his co-workers, those who are represented in this book as authors, but also those who were most decisive for the success of this study as interviewers and research psychologists like Dr. *Maria Renner*, Dr. *Ingrid Tismer-Puschner*, Dr. *H. G. Tismer*, Dr. *Ursula von Langermann und Erenkamp*, Prof. Dr. *N. Erlemeier* (now at Münster/W.), the late Dr. *Manfred Schreiner*. We also should like to thank Dr. med. *Klesper* who joined our staff as a specialist for internal medicine and Prof. Dr. med. *Kessler* who provided a medical checkup at the last measurement point.

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Bonn, December 16, 1975

H. Thomaе