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R. L. Turner

Professor Sir Ralph Turner, who was Director of the School of Oriental and African Studies from 1937 to 1957, first became interested in Indian languages while still a pupil at the Perse Grammar School during the headmastership of W. H. D. Rouse. After graduating with first class honours at Cambridge in both parts of the Classical Tripos, he joined the Indian Educational Service and, after serving with the Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles during the first world war, became Professor of Hindu Linguistics at Benares Hindu University in 1920. In 1922 he was appointed to the first full-time Chair of Sanskrit in the University of London, at the recently founded School of Oriental Studies, an appointment which he held until 1954. From 1937 to 1957 he was Director of the School of Oriental and African Studies. Among the major works of scholarship produced both during his tenure of the Chair and after his retirement from the directorship of the School are his *Comparative and Etymological Dictionary of the Nepali Language* (1931) and the *Comparative Dictionary of the Indo-Aryan Languages* (1966) including a volume of Indexes and a volume containing a phonetic analysis of the headwords in the Dictionary.

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