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Properties of confocal quadrics were established by the beginning of the  $XIX^{th}$  century (Dupin, Ivory, Monge). However, as shown by Jacobi (the geodesic flow on quadrics in 1838) and Bianchi (isometric deformations of quadrics in 1906), most of these properties are essentially metric, and carry out to and influence surfaces isometric to quadrics and surfaces geometrically linked with these (for example constant mean or Gauß curvature surfaces).

We shall present an outline of Bianchi's deformations of quadrics. (Received August 10, 2005)