

GERMAN MINERALOGISTS AND GEOLOGISTS

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During a recent tour of duty with the Military Government in Berlin, the writer had occasion to have a number of visits with German mineralogists and geologists remaining in the city. One of the by-products of these visits was a set of notes representing the best available information on the present location and status of German mineralogists and geologists from nearly all of the leading German universities and mineralogical laboratories. Professor Paul Ramdohr of the Mineralogy-Petrology Institute, University of Berlin, was the principal source of the notes. Neither he nor the other German mineralogists visited claim their news to be complete, entirely accurate, or current. However, American mineralogists may be interested in learning something of the whereabouts of Germans with whom they may have had professional contact or personal acquaintance, even though some of the news is little better than gossip. It must be appreciated that the German postal system is even yet entirely inadequate to permit normal intercity correspondence and that the long-distance telephone is still a thing of the past for 99 per cent of the German population. Indeed the writer considers it remarkable that contacts have been established and news passed along to the extent that these notes indicate.

As a generalization, Germany has comparatively few younger mineralogists to replace those dead, retired or "inactivated" as a result of Nazi party membership. Many of those men who were professors before the Nazis came into power succeeded in holding their positions without joining the party, but younger aspirants found in general that they would have to become party members if they were to become professors. If they did so, they cannot be employed as educators and in professional positions now under Military Government, and if they did not, they generally left the field and entered industry or went into military service from which many of them have not returned.

If it is shown later that any of the following statements are both inaccurate and damaging, particularly any that brand a man as having belonged to the Nazi party, it is deeply regretted by the writer. On the other hand other men mentioned may well have had party membership without the writer hearing of it.

Professor Walter Schmidt of the Berlin Technical High School died during the Battle of Berlin in May 1945 on active duty with the Volksturm. Professor Bernauer, his assistant, died then, likewise, from infection in an arm wound suffered from a bomb fragment. Bernauer lived for fourteen days without food and medical care after he was struck. He was

known for his volcanology and hot springs studies, while Schmidt was known for his work on the metamorphics and petrofabrics.

Professor Belowsky died August 1945 in Berlin in an automobile accident a few days before his 80th birthday. He had bad hearing and did not notice the approach of an American military vehicle. Professor Von Zur Mühlen is living in Berlin but is no longer connected with the Technical High School because he was a Nazi party member. The Technical High School building itself is in utter ruin. The buildings housing the Prussian Geological Survey and the Mineralogy-Petrology Institute on Invalidenstrasse are damaged, but largely in use. The Kaiser Wilhelm Silicate Research Laboratories are also damaged but in use. Professor Wilhelm Eitel, the former director, was removed as a Nazi party member, but like many others so affected by Military Government law No. 8, he has appealed and his future status is uncertain. Professor Hans Stille of the University of Berlin, well known for his book on the structural geology of the Americas and other works, is in good health, as is Mrs. Stille.

Professor Schneiderhöhn remains at Freiburg and is well. The institute there was mostly destroyed but it has a new roof now and Schneiderhöhn can work a little. Professor Erdmannsdorfer is still at Heidelberg and is well, though aging. The Heidelberg institute was undamaged. Professor Steinmetz is well in Munich, but the institute there is destroyed. The institute in Frankfurt was also destroyed and Professor Nacken has gone to Tübingen where the institute was not damaged. Professor Weigel of Marburg died of cancer and has been succeeded by a metallographer; the Marburg institute is in good condition. At Giessen the institute was destroyed, and Professor Lehmann is well but inactive; Professor Hummel committed suicide in May 1945. The institute at Erlangen is undamaged but Professor Christa has retired and his successor has not yet been chosen.

Professor Chudoba at Bonn was a Nazi and has been detained. Professor Hans Cloos remains at Bonn and is well, but the institute is half destroyed. Professor Philipp of Cologne and his wife died when a train on which they were riding was strafed by aircraft. Professor Ehrenberg at Aachen is detained in Hanover as a Nazi, and Professor Dannenberg died in March 1946 at 80, to be succeeded by Professor Rohde. The Aachen institute is half destroyed—the mineral collection is undamaged, but the ores are gone. Professor Beger of Hanover, known especially for his post-mortem silicosis mineralogy, is well and is recognized as an anti-Nazi, but the Hanover institute is destroyed. Professor Correns is well and remains at Goettingen where the institute was not damaged, but Professor Schriel of that institute was a Nazi party member. The institute

in Hamburg is in good condition in the center of devastation and Professor Rose remains there, but was a Nazi; Professor Brinkmann has gone to Halle. At Kiel the institute was largely destroyed; Professor Gripp remains, but Professor Leonhardt was a Nazi party member and his status is not known to the writer.

In the Russian Zone of Occupation, the institutes at Leipzig and Dresden were completely destroyed. Professor Scheumann of Leipzig has gone to Bonn to replace Chudoba. Professors Schiebold and Heinz of Leipzig were both Nazi party members and their present status is not known to the writer. Professor Rimann of Dresden died of cancer in 1944 and his successor has not yet been appointed. Professor Tröger, Dresden petrographer, was a Nazi party member and is at present a laborer in the Bavarian forests. At Jena the institute is undamaged; Professor Linck is well at 90 but has retired and has been succeeded by Professor Heide, meteorite specialist released from the Wehrmacht. Professor Seifert has left Jena for Munster where the institute is partly destroyed. The institute at Halle is undamaged and Professor Von Wolfe, the volcanologist, remains, but Professor Weigelt, the vertebrate paleontologist well known in the United States, was a friend of Herman Goering and is now in Goettingen working as a receptionist.

From the parts of Germany now incorporated in Poland, Professor Schlossmacher of Königsberg has gone to Freiberg but is not connected with the Freiberg institute. Professor Spangenberg of Breslau, known especially for studies on crystal growth and on nickel silicates and serpentine minerals, is now in Jena, and Professor Bederke of Breslau has gone to Goettingen to succeed Schriel.

In Austria Professor Sander is well and the institute at Innsbruck is not badly damaged by the medium bomb that fell near it. Professor Machatschki is now at the Vienna institute working on silicate structures. Professor Angel of Graz, known especially for Alpine minerals, textures and metamorphism, is in an Austrian prison and may have been succeeded by Professor Heritsch.

ADDENDA

The following additional information is from a report in *Nature*, May 11, 1946, on "The present state of some German museums" by F. J. Griffin.

J. Wanner, N. Tillman, E. Jaworski and W. Berthier are reported safe at Bonn. W. Kleber and C. Troll are reported well.

Herman Schmidt and Dr. Kremp are on the staff at Goettingen. Dr. Thienhaus was a Nazi and has been dismissed. Dr. W. von Engelhardt was a Nazi and is a prisoner.