



1880 – 1959

KARL ANDRÉE

Head of the Geophysical Observatory
of the University of Königsberg

Karl Erich Andrée was born on March 10, 1880 in Bad Münster. His father's interest in natural sciences and his passion for collecting fossils in the Teutoburger Forest awakened his enthusiasm for geosciences at an early age. From 1898 to 1904, he therefore studied chemistry, geology, mineralogy, paleontology and zoology at the universities of Hannover and Göttingen. He received his doctorate in 1904 at the University of Göttingen with a thesis on the geology of the Teutoburger Forest. After several years as an assistant for mineralogy and geology in Clausthal and Karlsruhe, Karl Andrée habilitated in 1910 at the University of Marburg with a paleontological paper on the crustacean class *Arthropleura*.

After a call to the Albertus University of Königsberg in East Prussia in 1915, he devoted himself in particular to sedimentary petrography, mountain building, the geology of East Prussia and the then still young scientific field of marine geology. Eventually he became director of the local Institute of Geology and Paleontology, head of the amber collection, and director of the Geophysical Observatory for Earthquake Research of the University of Königsberg. In the latter function, Karl Andrée was also involved in the founding of the DGG, and from 1922 he belonged to the DGG's Macroseismic Commission, where he contributed his geological expertise. However, his time at the University of Königsberg came to a sudden end in 1945, during World War II, when Karl Andrée, a convinced pacifist, was forced to flee East Prussia. Before his escape, he managed to have the most valuable pieces of the Königsberg Amber Collection be brought to Göttingen. After his escape he returned to the University of Göttingen, where he again devoted himself to teaching.

After the end of the war, the amber collection was initially confiscated by the British government, but through his negotiating skills Karl Andrée ensured that it was returned to the University of Göttingen in 1958. Today the "Königsberg Amber Collection" consisting of 16,000 exhibits is held in trust for the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation (*Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz*) by the University of Göttingen and is exhibited e.g. in the permanent exhibition "Amber" in the Geosciences Museum in Göttingen.

After a short and serious illness Karl Erich Andrée died on August 18, 1959 at the age of 79.

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