



1885 – after 1952

RUDOLF BERGER

Head of the Seismological Service
at the Geodetic Institute in Potsdam

Born in Leipzig on May 20, 1885, Rudolf Berger studied mathematics, physics and astronomy at the University of Leipzig from 1906 to 1912 after graduating from secondary school. After completing his studies, he obtained a position at the Prussian Meteorological-Magnetic Observatory on the Telegrafenberg in Potsdam. The Telegrafenberg remained his workplace until retirement, interrupted by his service in the Army Infantry between 1915 and 1919.

In 1922, Rudolf Berger moved to the Geophysics Department of the Geodetic Institute to work as a research assistant. The director of the Geodetic Institute Ernst Kohlschütter (later chairman of the DGG for more than nine years), combined various geophysical activities on the Telegrafenberg in his institute. Berger became head of the Seismological Service. His tasks included ensuring the continuous registrations and the functioning of the measuring instruments, which included the Wiechert horizontal pendulum and three Galitzyn-Wilip seismometers. Besides these activities, however, he still had enough time for his scientific research and publications in the field of seismology. Thus, he published several papers on seismometric observations in Potsdam. Kohlschütter also assigned him to study earlier recordings of the two Zöllner horizontal pendulums in the Freiberg shaft in order to verify deformations of the earth by air pressure changes.

In 1946, the Prussian Geodetic Institute was renamed as Geodetic Institute of Potsdam, and from then on it belonged to the German Academy of Sciences (*Deutsche Akademie der Wissenschaften* - DAW). Berger was able to continue his scientific tasks until his retirement in 1953. Unfortunately, a request on his part to continue his employment was not granted.

Although Berger did not become famous for any particular research findings, his meticulous and reliable work was an important cornerstone for later scientific advances in geosciences.

The date of death of Rudolf Berger is unknown.

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