



1886 – 1970

JULIUS WAGNER

Founder and Publisher of the
Journal „Geologische Rundschau“

Julius Wagner was born in Helda in northern Hesse on March 21, 1886. After completing school, he attended the teacher training seminar in Homburg/Hesse and became a teacher in 1910. He practiced teaching with great passion and recognized that a good basic knowledge of natural sciences was required to transfer knowledge in geography. Therefore, parallel to his employment as a teacher, Wagner completed studies in geography, physics and chemistry at the newly founded University of Frankfurt, where he also attended lectures in education and psychology. In 1918 Wagner received his doctorate with a topic on experimental psychology, and in 1919 he successfully passed the state examination in geography, physics and chemistry.

In 1920 he got a teaching job at the *Helmholtz-Oberrealschule* in Frankfurt and he also worked several times in a part-time position for the University of Frankfurt in the field of youth studies. During the time of the National Socialist regime Wagner was politically persecuted, as he was married to a "half-aryan", which is why he was denied several teaching positions and memberships in examination boards from 1933 onward. In 1945 he was awarded the title of *Oberstudiendirektor* as reparation. In 1948, at the age of over 60, he received a call for a professorship at the Pedagogical Institute in Weilburg an der Lahn, which had been founded by U.S. occupation authorities after the World War to promote the education of school teachers. Wagner also received an honorary professorship in economic geography at the University of Frankfurt in 1951.

During his activities Julius Wagner was committed to reforming geography classes at school. He published several geography books (e.g. *Didaktik der Erdkunde* in 1928) and in 1949 he re-established the *Verband Deutscher Schulgeographen e.V.* (VDSG - Association of German School Geographers). Since 1977, the VDSG has awarded the Julius Wagner Medal for outstanding achievements in the scientific and pedagogical foundation and promotion of geographic education. Furthermore, Wagner was also committed to the distribution of the discipline of geography to the general public and founded the journal *Geologische Rundschau* in 1949, of which he remained editor until 1960. Nowadays, the journal is published by Westermann Publishing covering topics and research results in geography and related disciplines.

Julius Wagner retired in 1964 and died on November 6, 1970 in Frankfurt at the age of 84.

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