

WILHELM LÖHR

Department head of Mine Surveying
& Geophysics at the WBK in Bochum



1885 – 1964

Wilhelm Löhr was born in Hinsbeck in the Ruhr region on May 25, 1885. After graduating from school in 1903, he began a mining apprenticeship in various coal, iron ore, potash and salt mines. This training was a prerequisite for his studies in mine surveying, which he completed from 1905 to 1910 at the Technical University in Aachen under the supervision of Karl Haussmann. During his studies, Löhr also got to know Ludger Mintrop, who gave numerous lectures there at the time.

After completing his studies, Löhr followed his former fellow student Gottfried Schulte to the *Westfälische Berggewerkschaftskasse* (WBK; today's DMT GmbH & Co. KG) in Bochum, where he became assistant to Ludger Mintrop, who had meanwhile taken up a leading position there. Together they were engaged, among other things, in seismological observations at the Bochum earthquake observatory. During the 1st World War, however, Wilhelm Löhr had to interrupt his activities because of his military service. Thus, in 1916, he was assigned to the Ottoman War Coal Center in Constantinople, where he became director of a lignite mine in Suma near Smyrna.

After the war, Löhr returned to Bochum and became the new head of the geophysics department in 1921 after the departure of Ludger Mintrop. However, he remained closely connected to his former teacher, boss and mentor and so he repeatedly helped Mintrop by lending him the Bochum photographic recording 3-component apparatus for his ground vibration measurements in Breslau. Based on their extensive experience, Wilhelm Löhr and Gottfried Schulte jointly published a handbook on mine surveying in 1932, which in the following decades became the most important reference work in this field. After Schulte's death in 1944, Löhr also became head of the department of mine surveying and observatories, including cartography. Within the scope of his activities he was substantially involved in the creation of a new tectonic map of the Rhenish-Westphalian coal district. In addition, he was responsible for the expansion of the mine surveying collection of today's Mining Museum in Bochum, and he was committed to the German Mine Surveyors Association (*Deutscher Markscheider Verein - DMV*). Wilhelm Löhr repeatedly took over the chairmanship of the DMV and he was also the editor of the journal "Mitteilungen aus dem Markscheidewesen". In 1951, he received the honorary title of Doctor of Engineering from the RWTH Aachen. In 1953 he went into well-deserved retirement. Wilhelm Löhr died on November 10, 1964 in Witten/Ruhr at the age of 79.

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Modified after Jacobs F. & Börngen M. (2019): Wiechert, Mintrop & Co. – Die 24 Gründungsväter der Deutschen Geophysikalischen Gesellschaft. Publisher EAGLE.