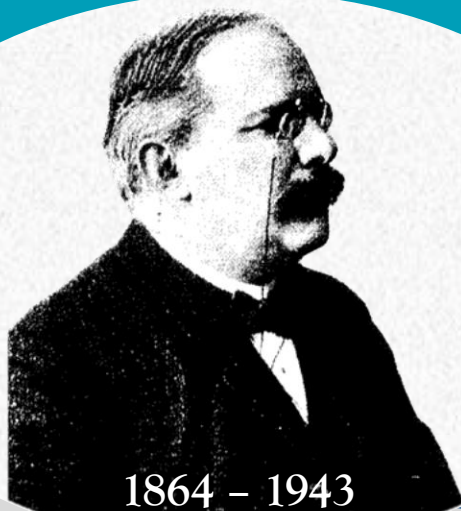


## RICHARD SCHÜTT



1864 – 1943

Donor of two earthquake observatories in Hamburg

Richard Schütt was born on the Caribbean island of Saint Thomas on October 18, 1864. In contrast to all other founding fathers of the DGG, he did not pursue an academic career, but spent his life as a successful merchant in Hamburg.

Privately, however, Richard Schütt showed great interest in geosciences, especially geophysics, which he supported financially, among other things, through various foundations. Thus, in 1898, he opened an earthquake observatory station on his private property in Hamburg-Hohenfelde equipped with a Rebeuer-Ehlert horizontal pendulum, which came from his private collection. From 1900 Schütt published the seismograms of the station in the journal *Mitteilungen der Horizontalpendel-Station Hamburg*. The earthquake station also gained recognition among renowned seismologists, for example Emil Wiechert visited the station in 1901, and in 1903 it was appointed as a main station and was from then on under state management. Thereupon, Richard Schütt had a new station, equipped with a horizontal pendulum, a Wiechert seismograph and two astronomical Riefler clocks, built on the grounds of the State Physical Laboratory (*Physikalisches Staatslaboratorium*) in Hamburg and handed it over to the city of Hamburg as free state property in 1905. He also took over the personnel and operating costs and became head of the earthquake station, demanding no salary. After the foundation of the University of Hamburg, the station belonged to the university's geophysics department from 1919, where it was still used for earthquake registrations until the 1980s.

In 1903, as a reward for his commitment, Richard Schütt was appointed to the advisory board of the Imperial Main Station in Strasbourg and remained a member until 1914.

In the founding year of the DGG, Schütt was elected as treasurer, and he held this office with great financial skill from 1922 to 1938.

During the 1<sup>st</sup> World War he had to witness how his house was destroyed by an air attack. Richard Schütt died in Hamburg on May 16, 1943 at the age of 78 and was laid to rest in the Hamburg-Ohlsdorf cemetery.

*DGG PRO – Public Relations & Outreach, Hannover*

Modified after **Tams E. (1924)**: Die Hauptstation für Erdbebenforschung zu Hamburg. Sonderdruck Nr. 28 und 29, Deutsche Uhrmacher-Zeitung; **Jacobs F. & Börngen M. (2019)**: Wiechert, Mintrop & Co. – Die 24 Gründungsväter der Deutschen Geophysikalischen Gesellschaft. Publisher EAGLE.