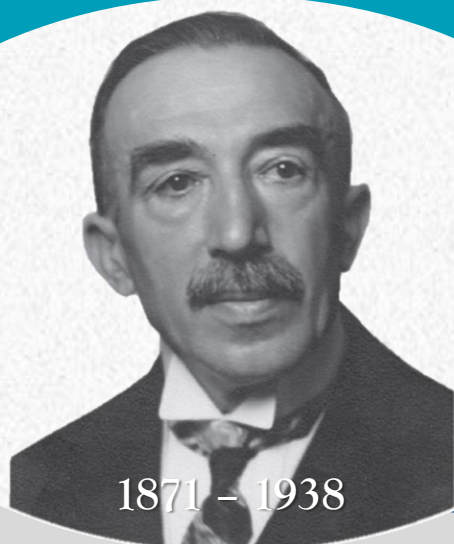


FRANZ KOSSMAT



1871 – 1938

Establisher of the subdivision of the
Central European Variscides

Franz Kossmat was born in Vienna, Austria, on August 22, 1871. His great interest in natural sciences led him to study geology and paleontology at the University of Vienna in 1890. He completed his studies in 1894 with a doctoral thesis on the Cretaceous of southern India. Subsequently, Kossmat obtained a position at the Austrian Geological Survey, where he traveled through Austria and abroad, including Finland, Southern France, Russia, Hungary, Southern Arabia and Central Asia, in the course of numerous geological mapping projects.

In 1911, Franz Kossmat received a call to the Technical University of Graz as professor of mineralogy and geology. But already in 1913 he was offered the chair of geology and paleontology at the University of Leipzig. There he succeeded Hermann Credner and at the same time he also became director of the Geological Survey of Saxony. During his time in Leipzig, Kossmat made many important scientific contributions, for example, he worked intensively on Variscan mountain building and the structural geology of Europe, but he also continued the work begun by Credner on the regional survey of Saxony and in 1930 published the Geological Map of Saxony at a scale of 1:400000.

Franz Kossmat also made important contributions in the field of geophysics. From 1913 to 1923 he was head of the earthquake observatory in Leipzig and in 1920 he published the first gravity map of Central Europe which also contained large geological structures. In 1922, in his function as temporary director of the Geophysical Institute, he also participated in the foundation of the later DGG. He took over this function temporarily, as the geophysics chair was vacant at that time. From 1924 he was also co-editor of the journal *Zeitschrift für Geophysik*, and in 1930 he became chairman of the committee for the production of a magnetic map of Germany; a forerunner of the later Geophysical Survey of the German Empire (*Geophysikalische Reichsaufnahme*).

During his life, Kossmat also received numerous honors, like becoming a member of the Academies of Sciences in Austria, Prussia, Bavaria, and Saxony, becoming an honorary member of the German Geological Society, and receiving an honorary doctorate from the Technical University of Vienna.

Franz Kossmat was prematurely retired in 1934 due to illness and died in Leipzig on December 1, 1938, at the age of 67.

DGG PRO – Public Relations & Outreach, Hannover

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