



LUDGER MINTROP

On July 18, 1955, the friends and neighbors of Dr. Mintrop joined with him in celebrating his 75th birthday. They did so with enthusiasm and considerable fanfare. They were joined by representatives of various professional and civic organizations in which the celebrant had been, and continued to be, an active participant. Some of these representatives came from considerable distances to pay their tribute to a grand old man. The people of Werden, Germany, were honoring their most outstanding citizen.

On January 1, 1956, Ludger Mintrop died, mourned by his family, an unusually wide circle of friends and by a globe circling profession to which he had contributed much and by which he was greatly esteemed.

Dr. Mintrop's education was obtained at the Bergakademie in Berlin, at the Technische Hochschule in Aachen, and at the University of Goettingen. At the University he became a student of Wiechert under whose auspices Mintrop performed some experiments on the recording of artificial earthquakes and made some effort to deduce from them the structure of the terrain traversed. This work with Wiechert was apparently decisive in orienting his subsequent career.

After a spate of teaching at the Technische Hochschule at Aachen and the Bergschule at Bochum, Dr. Mintrop founded, in 1921 at Hannover, the Seismos Gesellschaft which is probably the first geophysical contracting organization to be established anywhere. Initially this organization utilized the seismic refraction

technique almost exclusively, but later included others also, for example, the gravity-pendulum as developed for Seismos by Berroth. The first work done by Seismos in the western hemisphere was the refraction work for the Mexican Eagle Oil Company in Mexico, begun in early 1923. Later that same year a refraction crew began operations in the United States for the Marland Oil Company and early the following year (1924) a second crew began work in the Gulf Coast area for Gulf Oil Corporation. The Orchard dome (Moore's Field) was the first discovery made. This was promptly followed by a considerable increase in the number of crews and in the number of oil field structures found.

In 1928 Dr. Mintrop was appointed to the newly established professorship of mine-surveying and geophysics at the Technische Hochschule at Breslau and in 1938, additionally, to membership in the Department of Natural Sciences at the University of Breslau. As a result of the Russian occupation, Dr. Mintrop left Breslau in 1945 and returned to his birthplace. After several semesters as substitute and guest professor at Aachen, he retired at the end of 1948 to his paternal farm.

In 1949 Mintrop attended the St. Louis meeting of the S.E.G. and presented a paper on the geological implications of seismic recordings made at the time of the huge planned explosion on Helgoland in 1947 and of other data from large earthquakes.

Since that time he has been active on various German and International geophysical agencies. These included the constituting session of the European Seismological Commission at Verona in 1950, the Congress of the International Union for Geodesy and Geophysics in Rome in 1953 and the International Committee for the seismic investigation of the deep underground of the Alps. He was present at the International Petroleum Congress in Rome in June, 1955, and a number of our members who were also there reported having stimulating visits with him.

All told Dr. Mintrop made 19 visits to the United States. Those of his friends who were fortunate to be visited by him will remember the cigar invariably clenched between his teeth, and remaining there throughout the conversation. This did not help the intelligibility any, but the good doctor always made up by friendly gesture whatever was lacking in the enunciation.

Dr. Mintrop was the recipient of an honorary degree from the Montanistische Hochschule in Leoben (Austria) and an honorary member of no less than six of the numerous scientific, professional, and civic organizations of which he was a member and in which he took an active part.

In 1930 DeGolyer and Mintrop were elected as the first honorary members of our Society in recognition of their efforts in establishing geophysics in petroleum prospecting. It was an honor well deserved. Dr. Mintrop has left a stamp on seismic prospecting which will be recognized by many who never saw him. Those of us who were privileged to know him will remember him as an outstanding colleague and a wonderful person.

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March 19, 1956