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Dr. Alfred Paul Werenfels

1895-1968

ALFRED WERENFELS was born October 2, 1895 as citizen of Basel, where he went to school, and 1914 entered the university. He studied natural history and those other subjects required for the acquisition of a diploma for teaching at a higher school, for in those days to be geologist was not yet considered a profession. As former boy-scout and excellent mountaineer he was interested in geology and mineralogy taught by professors C. SCHMIDT, H. PREISWERK and A. BUXTORF. WERENFELS terminated his academic years with a Ph.D. thesis on the geology of the valley of Visp, Canton Wallis. It was only natural that he was equally interested in solving problems concerning the geology of the Jura Mountains. The list of his publications is a proof.

In 1921 WERENFELS explored on behalf of the Bataafsche Petroleum Maatschappij the geology of the coastal region of Colombia, south of Cartagena and subsequently the region of the Illescas Mountains in Northern Peru. His findings were published in two papers of fundamental importance.

Symptoms of an incurable illness ended the overseas exploration activity of ALFRED WERENFELS. In 1932 he offered his services as honorary assistant to the Geological Department of the Natural History Museum Basel, where he worked at collections and helped younger colleagues in various ways until 1948, when his illness forced him to

submit to treatment in a nursing home. Up to the last moment he maintained an interest in the affairs of the world though he was fully conscious of the deterioration of his health.

On February 28, 1968 our science lost in ALFRED WERENFELS a geologist who already in early years promised to become outstanding. His dreams and hopes were shattered in a tragic way.

In his will he left appreciable sums to the excursion-fonds of the Mineralogical-Petrographical and Geological-Palaeontological Institutes of the University, to the Geological Department of the Natural History Museum, and to the Swiss Palaeontological Society.

H. G. K.

Publications of A. Werenfels

- 1923: *Geologische und petrographische Untersuchung des Vispertaales*. Beiträge der geol. Karte der Schweiz. XXVI. Lieferung, III. Teil, p. 81–123, 15 Figuren, mit 3 Tafeln.
- 1924: *Exploration for Petroleum in the Limagne, France*. Trans. Am. Inst. Mining & Metall. Eng. No. 1385-G, Dec. 1924, 7 pages, 3 figs.
- 1926: *Zur Tektonik der Umgebung von St. Ursanne*. Eclogae geol. Helv. Vol. XX, p. 290–295.
- 1926: *Diatomeenerde im Eocän von Peru*. Eclogae geol. Helv. Vol. XIX, No. 3, p. 630–631, 1 Fig.
- 1926: *A stratigraphical Section through the Tertiary of Tolwiejo, Columbia*. Eclogae geol. Helv. Vol. XX, No. 1, p. 79–83, 2 figs.
- 1927: *Geology of the Illescas Region, Northern Peru (South America)*. Eclogae geol. Helv. Vol. XX, No. 4, p. 473–486, 1 plate and 4 figs.
- 1933: *Berichtigung zu Prof. O. A. WELTERS «Bemerkungen über die Geologie der Illescaregion» (Nord Peru, Südamerika)*. Eclogae geol. Helv. Vol. 26, No. 1, p. 101–103.
- 1939: *Das Gasvorkommen im obern Lago Maggiore*. Eclogae geol. Helv. Vol. 32, No. 2, p. 221–227, 1 fig.
- 1939: *Das Gasvorkommen im obern Lago Maggiore*. Verh. Schweiz. Naturf. Ges. p. 46–47.