

## The geological work of Franz Lotze in Spain

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Schroeder, R. & Perejón, A. (2006): The geological work of Franz Lotze in Spain.[Die geologischen Studien Franz Lotzes in Spanien.] – Z. dt. Ges. Geowiss., 157: 517–528, Stuttgart.

Professor Franz Lotze (1903–1971), the former director of the Institute of Geology and Palaeontology of the University of Münster (Germany) and one of the most important German geologists in the last century, was considered to be an authority on the geology of Spain over many years. In his own words, he considered Spain to be his second fatherland. His research on the Paleozoic Celtiberian Ranges, the Spanish Cambrian, the Iberian Massif, and the geology of the Mesozoic in the Basque-Cantabrian region was the basis for many subsequent studies. Of his more than 150 doctoral students, 45 worked on Spanish themes.

The commencement of the geological studies of Professor Lotze in Spain was directly related to the impact of the Fourteenth International Geological Congress held in Madrid in 1926, organised by the Geological and Mining Institute of Spain. The Congress was superlative: 277 delegations, over 1.100 registered members, more than 700 members attending, numerous excursions throughout the Peninsula, Morocco, the Balearic Islands, and the Canary Islands.

Among the members of the German delegation was Hans Stille (Fig. 1), one of the most eminent geologists of his era, who at that time held the Chair at the Institute of Geology of the University of Göttingen. He participated as the official delegate of the Prussian Ministry of Sciences and Arts. As he was so impressed by Spanish geology and its outcrops, Stille decided to study the structural relationships between the mountain chains (especially those of the Alpidic era) with those already recognised in other European regions. In addition, he was interested in comparing the “Saxonian” tectonic style in northern Germany and in the North of Spain. In order to carry out this ambitious project, Stille sent numerous students from his team to Spain (H. Ashauer, R. Brinkmann, H. Gallwitz, C. Hahne, J.S. Hollister, H. Karrenberg, P. Misch, G. Richter[-Bernburg], W. Schriell, E. Schröder, G. Selzer,

R. Teichmüller, J. Trikkalinos), most of whose works were published in German and subsequently translated into Spanish under the direction of Professor M. San Miguel de la Cámara and published by the Board of Scientific Research (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas).

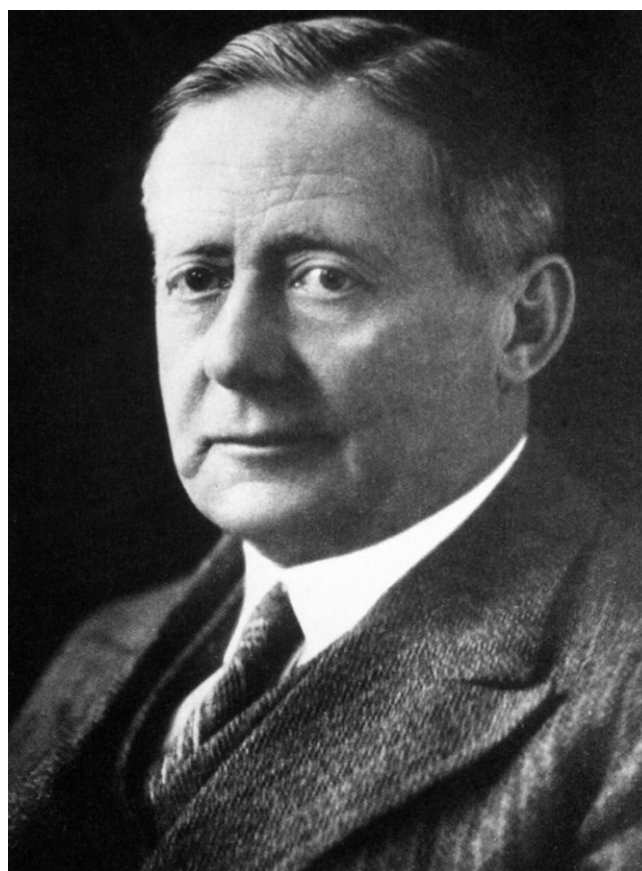


Fig. 1: Hans Stille (1963).

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