

## Eduard Suess – the foreign member of the Russian Academy of Sciences

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The Russian (Saint-Petersburg) Academy of Sciences was founded in 1724 by Peter the Great (1672-1725). Foreign members were accepted by the Academy as honorary and corresponding members. The Academy widely followed the tradition to elect distinguished persons who were meant to represent scientific centers all over the world.

Eduard Suess (1831-1914) was appointed corresponding member in 1887 being the 37<sup>th</sup> Austrian and the 7<sup>th</sup> geologist (the first one was Ignaz Edler von *Born* – honorary member in the range of mineralogy, 1776).

In 1901 the Russian academicians F. Schmidt, F. Beilstein, A. Kovalevsky, A. Karpinsky and F. Tchernyshev suggested to elect Ed. Suess honorary member of the Academy. This was at once approved by the Academy General Meeting.

Ed. Suess devoted about 50 years of his life to the Imperial Academy of Vienna (1860-1911) and as a result of intensive correspondence, perfect command of language and sociability he was able to maintain worldwide contacts. Both, personal encounters and correspondence connected the Austrian geologist with the Russian Academy and its members.

### *Personal meetings.*

Vienna was an internationally acclaimed geological center in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Museums, university, prominent scientists as well as Austrian geology attracted Russian scientists. A. Inostrantsev (1871, 1872), N. Andrussov (1885, 1892) and V. Vernadsky (1894) visited the Austrian capital. Pavlov came more than once and V. Obruchev was invited by Ed. Suess in 1898.

Ed. Suess participated in the International Geological Congress and Russian representatives used these opportunities for scientific contacts and discussions of all kinds.

### *Correspondence:*

Ed. Suess corresponded with the Academy and Russian geologists. Exchange of scientific information was very important for both sides and the Russian Academy was very well informed

about its foreign member's activities. Ed. Suess received highly valuable information from the Academy and even studied Russian in order to be able to read original scientific publications. About 70 Russian references can be found in the 3<sup>rd</sup> volume of "The Face of the Earth". This extensive geological compilation introduced Russian geology and its geologists all over the world.

I. Mushketov, A.T. Chernyshev and V. Obruchev corresponded with Ed. Suess. A. Karpinsky (the first President of the Academy, 1917) appreciated Suess' letters so much that he even mentioned this correspondence in his last will.

Ed. Suess' membership in the Russian Academy of Sciences extended its international relations considerably. His scientific heritage had influenced the Russian geological way of thinking for a long time. Unfortunately "The Face of the Earth" has never been translated into Russian, but nevertheless Ed. Suess is still one of the most often cited foreign geologists in our country.

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