

*Essays From Earth's History* was written for all readers interested in the earth sciences, geology, Goethean Science, and Rudolf Steiner's anthroposophy. It builds and adds to what I wrote about in *The Mutual Evolution of Earth and Humanity: Sketch of a Geology and Paleontology of the Living Earth*. I compare and contrast the research results of geology and paleontology with those of Anthroposophical Spiritual Science. The earth's history is an encompassing process that has sense-perceptible and suprasensible sides. The results of spiritual-scientific research can be tested on nature's phenomena and the Goethean path of knowledge. This way leads through the observations to concepts and ideas which are experienced as true. Thus the geological connections down to the details of rock, a fossil, or a landscape, have proved to me to be an astonishingly faithful image of the suprasensible development of the human being, as Rudolf Steiner describes it. In *Essays from Earth's History*, I explore how these topics and methods intersect with our modern lives.

My destiny brought me to the natural sciences and anthroposophical knowledge. In 1940, I was born in Weimar, Germany, the city of Goethe. I grew up there and started collecting stones at the age of twelve. Since then, it was clear that I would become a geologist. I read the philosophical books of Guenther Wachsmuth (1950), Walter Cloos (1958), and Helmut Knauer (1961) even before my geological studies. At the Freiberg University of Mining and Technology in the Ore Mountains in Central Europe, I received focused training in geology, mineralogy, tectonics, geophysics. I wrote my thesis in 1968 in paleontology under Professor Arno Hermann Müller. From the beginning, my goal was to critically examine the mutual relations between anthroposophy and geology.

A third field was added to these. As a Weimar citizen, I read Goethe's geological writings from a young age. A synopsis of his basic ideas, which I presented in a first manuscript in 1976, was published in 1994 under "Die Metamorphose des Granits" (The Metamorphosis of Granite). I saw an important starting point for a new idea in Goethe's thoughts, the evolution and development of the earth as a living being. Goethe's hunches can become a link between the spiritual side of evolution, as presented by Rudolf Steiner, and the sense-perceptible side described by modern geosciences. Thus the geosciences, anthroposophy, and Goetheanism became the three points of departure for this work – both methodologically and in content. For the first time in 35 years, I have had the opportunity to devote a large part of my working time to these topics.

The company for which I worked is dedicated to its customers. During the 21 years of activity at the Central Geological Institute in Berlin, I worked mainly on questions about the regional geology and tectonics of Central Europe and worldwide comparisons, and I had first-rate specialty libraries at my disposal. I had the opportunity to study a wide variety of geoscientific research.

I scrutinized Rudolf Steiner's representations and compared them with that research. I was also able to continue working while studying anthroposophy. Also, there were numerous excursions during which thousands of handpieces were struck and rock sequences compared. The contrasting ideas were again and again brought to the images of the rocks and landscapes. A comprehensive view slowly developed from the details, but it deviates from the concepts we had learned in some respects. I want to thank very much all of the friends who helped me through the years, through lectures and seminars, in geology classes at Waldorf schools, on excursions, and in conversations.

Dankmar Bosse, 2021