

## **CIRCUMSTANCES OF CARL FERDINAND PETERS' GEOLOGICAL WORK IN DOBROGEA (ROMANIA).**

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Carl Ferdinand Peters, born on August 13<sup>th</sup> of 1825 in Libčeves (Bohemia), studied medicine in Prague and Vienna. Having started a medical career after finishing his studies, he was not satisfied to practise this profession. During the summer months of 1850 he accompanied his uncle, August Emanuel Reuss, mapping the Gosau of Gams (Styria) by order of the 'Geologische Reichsanstalt' (Austrian Geological Survey). Peters was deeply impressed by the geological field work and considered to change his profession. On the very same year he joined the staff of the 'Geologische Reichsanstalt'. Between 1855 and 1861 he held a Professorship at the University of Pest (Budapest); later, from 1861 to 1863 he was Professor at the Vienna University.

In 1864 he received a call of a Professor for Mineralogy and Geology at the Graz University. Before starting with his new employment in Graz he carried out geological investigations during May to September in the Dobrogea by order of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. This work was very effective. Peters had collected many new data (including geographical, ethnological and social aspects) on this region, which was poorly known in central Europe. Unfortunately the evaluation of his journey and investigation on the samples happened under an unlucky star: Back in Austria some heavy blows afflicted Peters. His wife, Anna von Blumfeld, died some weeks after his return. She left 5 children, the youngest 5 month old. At this time he had to establish the geological branch of study at the University in Graz (this branch did not exist before). Neither a specialised library nor a geological and mineralogical collection existed. In the same year an enigmatic disease probably tracing back to a bad fall in the Dobrogea affected Peters. From year to year the paralysis of his muscles intensified up to his early death in 1881.