

Ballenegger Róbert

(1882–1969)



A young scientist at the birth of a new science

Hungary was at the end of an extraordinary development that lasted more than half a century. And he was a teacher of chemistry and physics graduated from the University of Budapest in 1904. And he was native speaker of three languages but learnt three more during his education and a fourth one in the early years of his career. And he got advanced degree in chemistry and worked as chemist between 1905 and 1910. Then he got a job in the Royal Geological Institute of Hungary Agrogeology Department at age of 28 and a scientific career began.

1. CHEMIST FOR THE AGROGEOLOGY

His field work locations and dates are shown in Figure 1.

Lead publications:

On the classification of soils. Budapest. 1913. 16 p. (in Hungarian)

Über die chemische Zusammensetzung ungarischer Bodentypen.

Jung. Geol. R. Anst. 1916. 596-614. 1917.

2. SYNTHESIS OF THE FIRST TEN YEARS

The fertile land. Ethika. Budapest. 1921. 191 p. (in Hungarian)

The nutritive salts of soil. Herba. 225-260; 372-378. 1921. (in Hungarian)

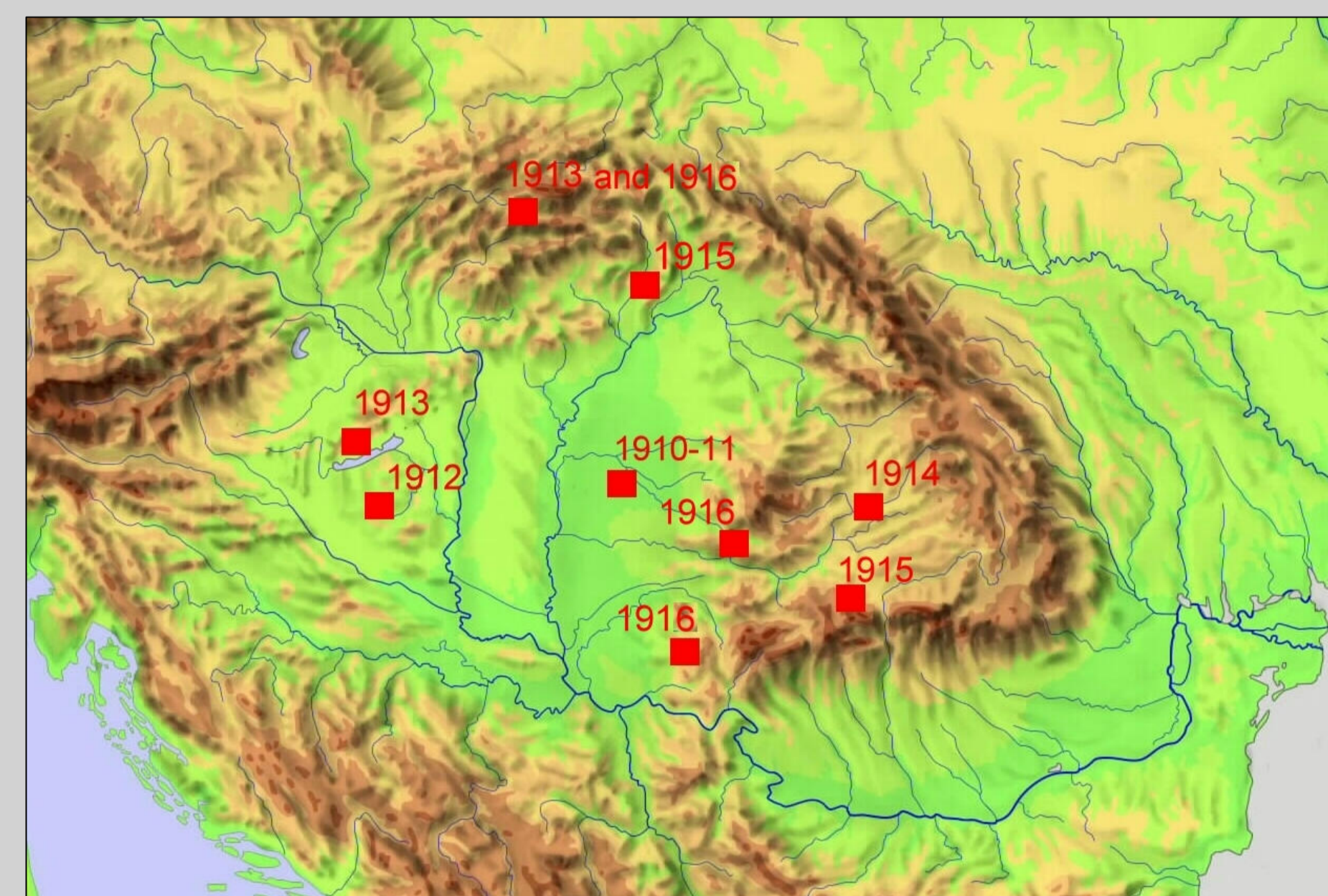


Figure 1 Field studies of Ballenegger between 1910 and 1916



Figure 2 The panel of the special commission II (chemical investigations) of the International Soil Science Society. Standing: R. Ballenegger (Budapest), G. Wiener (Zurich) and B. Aarnio (Helsinki) sitting: D.J. Hissink (Groningen), Simond (Budapest) O. Lemmermann (Berlin) and J. Hendrick (Aberdeen) 1929

4. READER, PROFESSOR AND DEDICATED RESEARCHER OF SOIL SCIENCE

He got teaching position after 1919 in the ancestor institute of the University of Horticulture (now part of the Corvinus University) and he was head of the Department of Soil Science and Chemistry between 1939 and 1940 until his retirement. He was reactivated between 1945 and 1949. He was member of the editorial board of the Hungarian journal Agrochemistry and Soil Science (Agrokémia és Talajtan see in references) until his death (Figure 3)

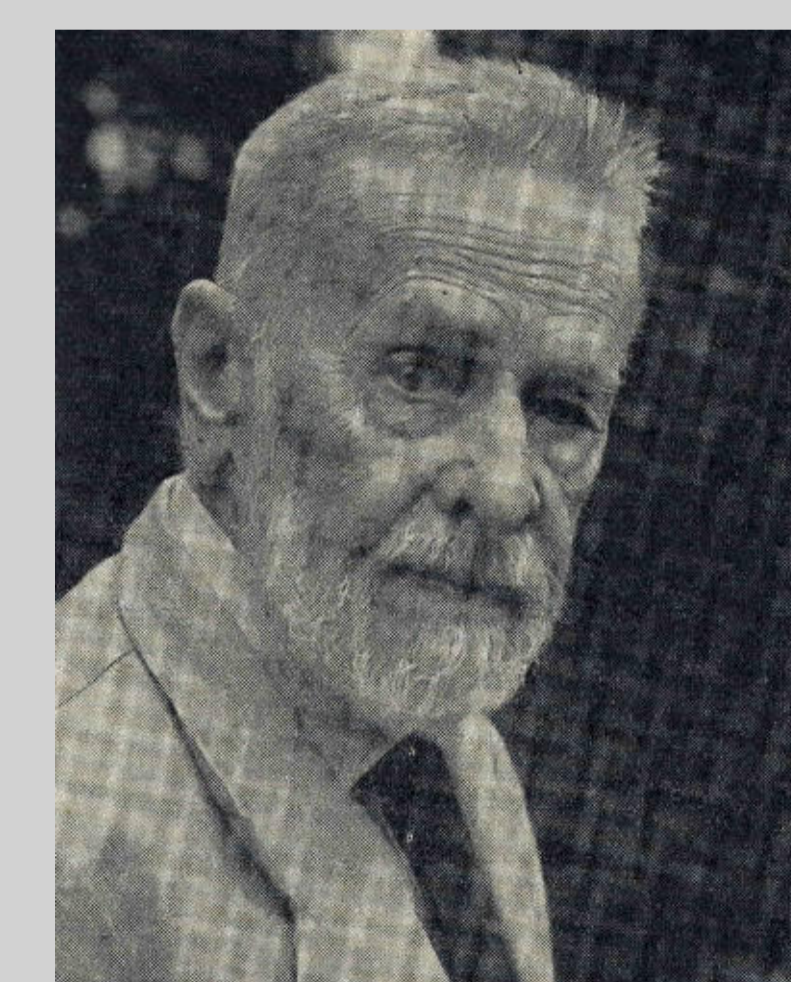


Figure 3 Ballenegger at age of 85

Lead publications: Les méthodes de la cartographie de sols alcalins (salins). C. R. Sous-Comm. Sols Alcalins de l'Association Internat. Sci Sol. Budapest. Vol. A. 9-12. 1929. // Bodenkundliche Betrachtungen über den Obstbau Ungarns. Die Gartenbauwirtschaft., Berlin. (22) 18. 1938. // Soil investigation methods (Ed.) Magy. Áll. Földtani Int. Budapest. 1944. 302 p. (in Hungarian with Mados L.) // History of soil research in Hungary until 1944. Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest. 1963. 318 p. (in Hungarian with Finály I.)

REFERENCES: Ballenegger 1955. Agrokémia és Talajtan. 4. 279-285. // Ballenegger and Finály 1963. Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest. 318 p. // Máté 1967. Agrokémia és Talajtan. 16. 293-294. // (Editorial) 1969. Agrokémia és Talajtan. 18. 341-348. // Várallyay 1983. Agrokémia és Talajtan. 32. 609-610. // Fekete 1983. Agrokémia és Talajtan. 32. 611-613. // Szabolcs 1983. Agrokémia és Talajtan. 32. 614-622. // Stefanovits 1983. Agrokémia és Talajtan. 32. 623-627. // Hargitai 1983. Agrokémia és Talajtan. 32. 628-633. // Rónai 1983. Agrokémia és Talajtan. 32. 634-636. (all in Hungarian)

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