



**Emer. Prof. Dr. phil. Erich Thenius**

Erich Thenius, Paläontologe, wurde am 26.12.1924 in Opatija, Istrien, geboren. Er studierte Paläontologie, Zoologie und Geologie an der Universität Wien, wo er 1946 promovierte. Ab 1957 war er Professor der Paläontologie und Paläobiologie an der Universität Wien, ab 1962 stellvertretender Leiter des Instituts für Paläobiologie. In seinen Forschungen konzentrierte er sich auf die Fauna des Tertiärs und der Eiszeiten. Seit 1961 ist er korrespondierendes, seit 1979 Ehrenmitglied der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften (ÖAW). Außerdem ist er Mitglied der Deutschen Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina, Halle, und korrespondierendes Mitglied der Kroatischen Akademie der Wissenschaften.

(after Anonymous)

Erich Thenius has been member of "Kosmos" since 1940. Born on December 26, 1924 in Abbazia (presently Opatija) in Istria, he spent his school years in Baden, near Vienna. After his studies in palaeontology, zoology and geology he was promoted in Vienna in 1946 to PhD. Five years later he became Associate Professor of palaeontology in Vienna. In 1957 he was named professor, and in 1962 Professor for mammalian paleontology and co-director of the Paleontological Institute of the University of Vienna.

He concentrated his studies on the fauna of the Tertiary and Glaciation periods.

He has published numerous popular articles and several books such as: the "History of the Earth" (Vienna, 1955), "Austria during the Ages" (2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Vienna, 1962), "Geology of Lower Austria" (Vienna, 1962), "Fossilized Records" (Heidelberg, 1963) and, with H. Hofer, "Origin of Mammals" (Heidelberg, 1960).

In the Handbook of Statisgraphic Geology, Thenius wrote on the mammalian fauna of the Tertiary. The result was his great renown that led to his becoming a "corresponding member" of the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

(after K. Benirschke, 2004)

