



MATILDA

EFFECT



Pionierinnen der Forschung Female Pioneers
of Research

Pt.41

Inge Lehmann





Inge Lehmann (1888-1993)

Geodeist & Seismologist

At a progressive school where boys and girls were taught together, she showed an early interest in the natural sciences and mathematics.



She had to interrupt her studies in mathematics in Copenhagen and Cambridge several times due to health problems.

After working as an actuary, she began in 1925 to set up seismological stations in Denmark and Greenland for the *Danish Geodetic Institute*. In 1928, she became head of the seismological department.

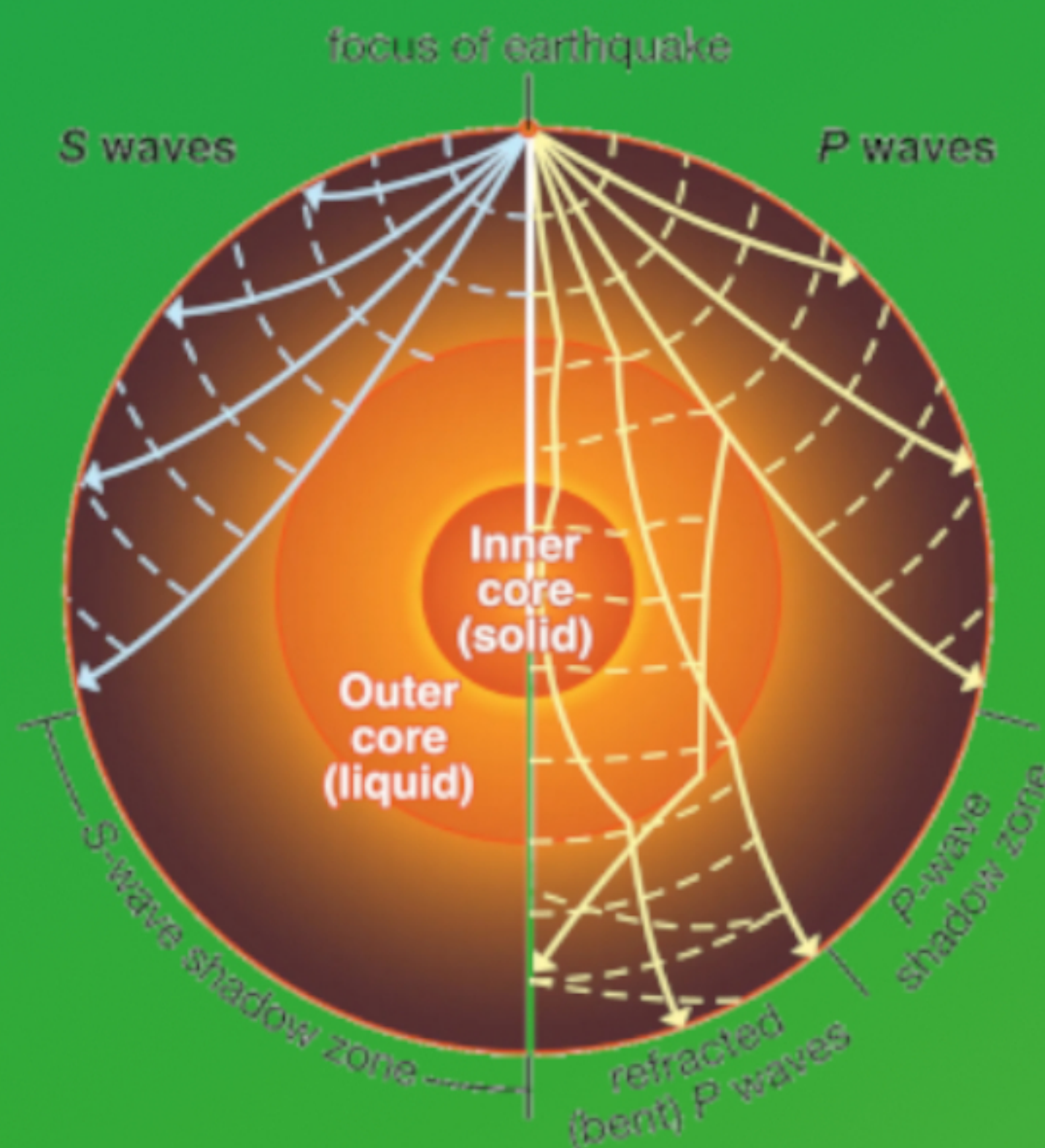


Her most groundbreaking discovery was published in 1936:

The detection of a solid inner core within the Earth's liquid outer core.

She achieved this through the analysis of earthquakes, their epicenters, and wave propagation.

The boundary between the solid inner and liquid outer core is now known (after her) as the *Lehmann Discontinuity*.



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Despite her groundbreaking discovery, her work was largely ignored or even questioned – especially by her male colleagues .

Her name is also rarely mentioned in representations of geophysics and seismology. A typical feature of the Matilda Effect.





'You should know how many incompetent men I had to compete with – in vain.'

„Du solltest wissen, mit wie vielen inkompetenten Männern ich mich messen musste – vergeblich.“

Über die Anerkennung ihrer Arbeit/
About the recognition of her work

