



Robert Roy Coats

1910–1995

Robert R. Coats began his Alaskan career at the University of Alaska in 1937. In 1939 he joined the U.S. Geological Survey, and over the next 10 years he studied a wide variety of mineral deposits across Alaska. He and J.C. Reed published their seminal work on the prolific Chichagof Mining District in 1941. During World War II, Coats focused his geological talents on the Aleutian Islands and Alaska Peninsula. His efforts along the Aleutian Arc were some of the first to recognize currently accepted tenets of plate tectonics, including the relationships between seismicity and the location and geochemical composition of volcanic activity along a megathrust above the underthrusting oceanic crust.

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