

Julia Eulenstein, Frühe meteorologische Messungen in Österreich. Herausforderungen und Gestaltungsrahmen fachlich auf sich alleingestellter Forscher am Beispiel der Aufzeichnungen aus dem Stift Admont 1814–1818

Abstract: Early meteorological measurements in Austria. Challenges and operational limitations of independent amateur researchers. The example of the records from Admont abbey, 1814–1818

Around 1810 in Austria, pioneering researchers working mainly alone conducted meteorological measurements. One of these was the monk and physicist Gotthard Wisiak (1783–1840). Equipped with only the most basic instruments, he recorded air pressure, air temperature, air humidity and observations of wind and weather three times a day (at 8 am, 3 pm and 10 pm) and on 1,576 days from 1814 to 1818. An orientation towards contemporary technical literature is just as hard to overlook as the individual design of central measurement contents, the pursuit of personal interests and the sole overcoming of difficulties. The latter mainly related to the reading of the barometer and the implementation of new meteorological findings in his measurement scheme. Most likely due to lack of peer group and professional exchange, Wisiak was not always able to live up to his claim of verifiability of his scientific work.

Keywords: meteorology – science – monastic erudition – methods of measurement

Schlagworte: Meteorologie – Naturwissenschaft – Klösterliche Gelehrsamkeit –

Messmethoden