

Contributions by scientists of the Central Institute of Meteorology and Geodynamics in Vienna on observing, analyzing and predicting since the foundation in 1851 to 1938

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ABSTRACT: With the Imperial Resolution of the 23 of June 1851, Emperor Franz Joseph authorised the establishment of "*a central institute for meteorological and magnetic observations*", to become the Central Institute of Meteorology and Geomagnetism in Vienna.

Karl Kreil (1798-1862), first director of the newly founded Central Institute and simultaneously professor of Physics of the Earth at the University, established a meteorological observation system for the entire territory of the Austrian Empire, and carried out the first national geomagnetic survey for the same.

The Institute began issuing daily weather charts in 1865, the issue of daily telegraphic weather reports, with a synoptic chart and forecast for the following day, was undertaken from 1877.

Outstanding scientists followed Kreil in his function as director, among them Julius Hann, Josef Maria Pernter, Wilhelm Trabert, Felix Maria Exner, Wilhelm Schmidt and Heinrich Ficker.

When Hann's importance in the world of meteorology was worldwide - he compiled the comprehensive "Lehrbuch der Meteorologie" and in his era people began to speak of a "School of Austrian Meteorology"- then by Exner we are reminded of a great theoretician and his excellent work "Dynamic Meteorology". Among many others, researchers like Max Margules (1856-1920), co-founder of theoretical meteorology, worked at the Institute.

Only once the tradition of the Central Institute was interrupted: after the annexation of Austria to the German Third Reich the climate and weather service was transferred to Berlin and subordinated to the Reich Weather Service; the Central Institute in Vienna was turned into a research centre, the original status was restored after the Second World War.