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Comment on hess-2021-427

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Community comment on "The Thiem team – Adolf and Günther Thiem, two forefathers of hydrogeology" by Georg J. Houben and Okke Batelaan, Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-2021-427-CC1>, 2022

An excellent paper, which reveals and inspires.

a) New historical facts and Thiems' papers (in German) in subsurface mechanics, commingled with the history of science- hydrologic engineering in Europe, are super-interesting. In particular, I was amazed to learn about the "battle of ideas", related to the Darcy law and its applications to groundwater hydrology- well hydraulics. Before reading this review, I had a misconception that this law is a mathematically derived approximation, which followed from a relation between the hydraulic gradient and Darcian velocity.

b) The fate of the Thiems is tragic. In the Nietzschean sense: around the hero everything turns into a tragedy. The tragedy of oblivion of the Thiem's legacy is now converted by HESS into revelation. How? By meticulous revisiting Thiems' work. And by the spirit of the authors, viz. Houben and Batelaan. Scientific texts are forced to be written distilled, viz. "neither hot nor cold". In the Houben-Batelaan paper, I feel that they heard the message of the Angel of Laodicea.

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