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Comment on hgss-2023-2

Gregory Good (Referee)

Referee comment on "History of the Potsdam, Seddin and Niemegek geomagnetic observatories – Part 2: Seddin" by Hans-Joachim Linthe, Hist. Geo Space. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/hgss-2023-2-RC1>, 2023

Referee's Report, Hans-Joachim Linthe, History of the Potsdam, Seddin and Niemegek Geomagnetic Observatories – Second Part: Seddin

I have only read this submission, part 2 of 3, relating to the history of geomagnetic observatories near Berlin over 130 years, from 1890 to now. This part focuses on the period of Seddin Observatory, 1907-1932. I have been familiar with the outlines of the history of this observatory, and I am happy to find the opportunity to learn much more about it in this article. The period is significant in the history of geomagnetism, with a rise in national interest in many countries in geomagnetism, and in growth in international interactions, Potsdam (etc.) was long a crucial node in the network of geomagnetic research. The main characters in this story – Max Eschenhagen, Adolf Schmidt, etc. – should be better known in the history of geophysics generally and this article provides some background. I especially appreciate the short appendix on the instrument makers involved.

I have only a few small corrections to recommend:

p. 2 line 3: "required" should be "acquired" perhaps.

p. 2 line 23: "temoral" should be "temporary"

Corrections to standard English usage are possible in a number of places, but the meaning was always clear to me. Light copy editing would help.

I look forward to reading part 1, already available in preprint, and part 3 soon. I look forward to the illustrations. Lastly I recommend that there be a short discussion of sources (mainly published but perhaps there are archives?). I hope these articles contribute to a continuing interest in the history of geophysics generally.