

## **23 JULY 2009 – ONE YEAR BEFORE ADOLF SCHMIDT'S 150<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

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Adolf Schmidt was besides Alexander von Humboldt, Carl Friedrich Gauß, Wilhelm Weber and Johann von Lamont one of the top-ranking geomagnetism scientists in Germany. He was of excellent abilities in mathematics, physics and old and new languages. Adolf Schmidt was born on 23 July 1860 and died on 17 October 1944. Originally being a school teacher, he attracted very soon the attention of terrestrial magnetism community by high-level publications before 1900. So he became the director of the Royal Prussian Magnetic Observatory of Potsdam in 1902. He remained in this position until his retirement in 1928. Adolf Schmidt contributed fundamentals to the mathematic description of the Earth's magnetic field, but further more during his time in Potsdam he proved his experimental talent by constructing a magnetic theodolite and a field balance. Even after his retirement he directed the movement of Potsdam observatory to Niemegk, which became necessary due to anthropogenic noise. Besides his professional scientific activities he was engaged in the Esperanto League and stood up for human rights. The geomagnetic observatory of Niemegk was named from the beginning after him.

theoretical abilities, experimental talent, observatory movement

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