



A historical climatological point: rebuilding the snow fluctuations from narrative sources, in the XVIIth - XVIIIth centuries, in the Netherlands and neighboring regions.

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Since the basic works of Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, the history of climate has known a rise in France and abroad. To reconstitute the climate of the last millenary, several indirect markers have been found such as the vintage dates, the ex-voto, the climate processions...

This presentation is dealing with one element of the climatic history, rarely explored in Western Europe: SNOW. Though we have more and more information on the past winters temperature, the lack of markers makes it difficult to reconstitute the great snow fluctuations in times past. The recent snowy winters showing their high impact on societies confirms it is not a secondary subject. Knowing the snowfalls recurrence and the snowmantle duration in the past could be very useful at present.

This attempt of historical climatology on a synoptic scale in the Netherlands and neighbouring regions depends on available sources, their pertinence and their use. At a period when the instrumental readings barely existed, Jan Buisman compiled a lot of weather notes in several volumes, giving abundant, though partial, available narrative sources. Their contribution and the limits of such a thought process will be studied as this presentation will try to turn qualitative information into quantitative series.