



Hidden behind Magdalena: extreme floods in Europe in 1342 and 1343

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Concerning flood and precipitation extremes, 1342 was an extraordinary year: the July 1342 (known as the most famous 'Magdalena') flood event in large parts of Central Europe is known as the millennial flood event. This flood, caused by excessive rainfall, attracted great attention: causes and consequences (e.g. soil erosion, short-term impacts on society) were discussed in a number of studies. Nevertheless, this great flood event was also preceded and followed by extraordinary wet conditions. Due to the overwhelming importance of the most famous 'Magdalena flood', the events (partly also responsible for the Magdalena flood) received generally somewhat less attention.

In our presentation we would like to draw the attention to the extraordinary character of the entire year of 1342, and also of 1343 with providing an overview of the flood and sea surge events and flood waves occurred during these two extraordinary years in Europe. In many parts of Europe not only 1342, but also the year of 1343 was rather humid and wet with a great number of flood events: in these two years floods were reported from northern Greece through North-Italy, the Carpathian Basin (almost in every season) to the south German territories. 1342 and 1343 were rich in floods even in some of those areas where the July 1342 event could not be detected.

The results of this first comprehensive European overview show that at least 3 (but maybe even 4) flood waves occurred were of millennial level, and repeated extreme floods occurred especially in Central Europe, but parts of West-Europe as well as the North-Mediterranean were also badly hit by extreme floods or sea surges in these two years.