



Chronology of strong winds in the Czech Lands from AD 1501

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Because of relatively short series of wind-speed measurements in the Czech Lands starting in the first half of the 20th century, documentary evidence represents an important source of information about strong winds in the pre-instrumental period. Documentary sources are presented particularly by chronicles and memories, weather diaries, economic and financial sources, special prints, letters, newspapers, scientific papers and communications, and early meteorological observations. Although the earliest credible report of strong winds in the Czech Lands concerns of the tornado in Prague on 30 July 1119 (Cosmas, the Chronicle of Czechs), the density of records about strong wind events, usually related to any damage caused, increases significantly from the early 16th century. Strong winds, detected from documentary sources, were used to create a database which was significantly extended for further events in 2015–2017. They were classified on squalls, tornadoes, blizzards, gales and windstorms when information of the duration, extent and the type of the damage caused was taken in account. Based on these criteria, various long-term chronologies of strong winds for the Czech Lands from AD 1501 were compiled. They allowed identify periods of higher and lower storminess over the Czech Lands in the past. (This work was supported by Czech Science Foundation, project no. 15-11805S “Windstorms in the Czech Lands during the past 500 years”.)