



J. Felbiger and his meteorological observations at Bratislava, Slovakia in early 1780s

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Johann Ignaz von Felbiger (born 1724 at Glogau in Silesia, now Głogów – died 1788 at Pressburg, now Bratislava) was a German educational reformer, pedagogical writer, Catholic theologian and scientist. His valuable meteorological book, entitled *Anleitung, jede Art der Witterung genau zu beobachten, in Karten zu verzeichnen, zu vergleichen, und daraus, besonders für die Landwirtschaft, nützliche Folgen zu ziehen*, issued by Johann Christoph Lauhen in Sagan, of 1773, which dealt with meteorological observations methods and some records of the weather in Sagan (now Żagań in SW Poland) in 1770-1772, was published even in new reprint lately. His meteorological activities continued during his stay in Bratislava. Two brochures of an anonymous author, issued in Pressburg, about winters in 1783/4 and 1784/5 are accredited to him.

According to Slovak meteorological literature, a first meteorological station in Bratislava was situated at the castle above the town. We do not know any more details about it. In this contribution we bring in new interpretation of localization of the meteorological station in the early 1780s. Based on information from Felbiger's brochures and 1765 Marquart map of Bratislava, which was georeferenced into the National Grid Map it follows that the station could be rather situated in the inner town, in the Chapter street near the St. Martin's Cathedral. Measurements were probably made in the same building, where Felbiger from 1778 onward lived as a Pressburg Provost. On the other hand, wind direction was observed by a pennant placed on a tower of the castle where it was good visible from the town. More precise location of meteorological observations at Bratislava in the 18th century based on Felbiger's data contributes to the knowledge about the development of meteorological observations in Slovakia. The study was supported by the Grant Agency SR under the projects VEGA No. 1/0063/10 and APVV-0015-10.