



Preface

In the framework of the project “Swiss Early Instrumental Meteorological Data” (CHIMES), funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, and the subsequent project “Long Swiss Meteorological Series”, funded by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) Switzerland, we compiled, imaged, and digitised large amounts of historical weather data. The data were subject to quality control using software produced through Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) Data Rescue Services. All data are publicly available and can be used to study the past variability of weather and climate in Switzerland.

The digitised data enter several national and global data repositories and will be curated by the corresponding institutions. The inventory in table form is published as an electronic supplement to a journal article where it will be available for future researchers, and it is incorporated into C3S databases. The tens of thousands of images taken in numerous archives were uploaded to a repository, where they can be accessed publicly. However, there is more than that. The measurement data are accompanied by a large amount of additional information, so-called metadata. This comprises information on stations, instruments, observers, context of observation, observation times, format and accessibility of original data, reporting practices and many other aspects. This information is important to understand the series. It should be made available in a way that allows researchers 50 or 100 years from now to use it, but posting imaged sources alone is not sufficient. What is required is a short summary of the metadata for each series in electronic form, with guaranteed long term archiving and open access.

Geographica Bernensia provides this service and therefore is the ideal platform for this kind of publications. This volume collects short papers on the most relevant series compiled during the two projects. Each paper summarises the station history and observation context; each also contains a short description of the data. Eight papers are published initially, covering important series from the over 300-year long history of meteorological measurements in Switzerland. The volume will be complemented in the future with additional papers. The work of searching and compiling the metadata and analysing the data was to a large extent performed by students in the framework of their Bachelor or Master theses. They also helped in preparing this publication and are first-authors of the papers. I express my sincere thanks to the students as well as to the 18th and 19th century observers who dedicated many years of their lives to perform these measurements.

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