



Physics from Seismology to Atmospheric Electricity - a Balancing Act: Hans Benndorf

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The work of *Hans Benndorf* (1870-1953) is characterized by his broad interests in different branches of physics. After having studied physics in Vienna (his teachers being *Franz Exner*, *Josef Stefan* and *Ludwig Boltzmann*), he worked at the Physical-Chemical Institute of the University of Vienna from 1893. He was appointed adjunct professor of physics at the University of Graz in 1904 and promoted to full professor in 1910, where he worked till his retirement in 1936. His pioneering experimental work in atmospheric electricity was complimented by his interest in seismology, where he did not only contribute theoretical studies but he also set up a seismological station at the University of Graz. Hans Benndorf during his career as a university teacher was well known for his considerable support of his students and colleagues (i.a. *Alfred Wegener*) and their scientific undertakings.