

The Russian-Scandinavian Meridian Arc Measurements 1816 - 1852.

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Abstract.

The longest Meridian Arc observed prior to the 20th Century was measured between 1816 and 1852. The Arc was some 25 degrees of latitude in length, and ran approximately along the 25th meridian of east longitude from the Danube (Donau) River Valley in Ukraine northward through Russia, Finland and Sweden to the North Norwegian Coast. Given the absence of modern conveniences, this was clearly an enormous undertaking, involving a great deal of complicated fieldwork and computations, where geodesists from both Russia, Finland and Scandinavia participated. This paper, prepared jointly by Norway and Russia, gives a historical review of this 36 year project, and comments on its contribution towards the geodesy of this area in the 20th Century.

Under the name of Struve Meridian Arc about 30 stations included in this scientific work, covering 10 Nations, is considered to be on a UNESCO world heritage list.