

2.17 *The Danish astronomer Theodor Brorsen (1819–1895) at the observatory in Senftenberg*

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Danish astronomer Theodor Brorsen (1819–1895)
Wikipedia

Theodor Ambders Brorsen (1819–1895), born in Nordborg (Als), attended schols of Moravian Brethren in Christiansfeld (1826–1829), Latin school in Flensburg (1830–1839), and later studied law at universities in Kiel (1839), Berlin (1840), Heidelberg (1841). When he decided to enter the career in astronomy, he returned to study it in Kiel (1842–1844). Before he accepted the invitation by John Parish (1774–1858) to the East-Bohemian town Senftenberg, he was employed at observatories in Kiel (1846) and Altona (1847). Brorsen's work at the well equipped observatory brought interesting results which were published in the journal *Astronomische Nachrichten*: discoveries of two comets and some nebulae, observations of asteroids, zodiacal light and gegenschein. Brorsen, regardless that he did not speak Czech, participated on the life of scientific community of Bohemia – he was member of the *German scientific society Lotos* in Prague and of another society like that in Senftenberg. When John Parish died in 1858, the heir released Brorsen from his position despite the fact that he offered to work without pay. The instruments and books were sold, the observatory building was destroyed. Brorsen bought some books and small instruments and remained in Senftenberg another 12 years, continuing the observations from his house. After the death of his sister in Als (1870) he moved to Nordborg and never returned to astronomy.