

Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers

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Thiele, Thorvald Nicolai

Born Copenhagen, Denmark, 24 December 1838

Died Copenhagen, Denmark, 26 September 1910

Thorvald Thiele was an observatory director and mathematician. He was the son of Just Thiele and Hanne Aagesen. In 1875, he was appointed professor of astronomy and director of the Copenhagen University Observatory, positions he held until 1907. Apart from his work in astronomy, Thiele contributed to statistics and the actuarial sciences. Thiele, who had poor eyesight, worked mostly in celestial mechanics. In his analyses of double star systems, he developed what became known as the Thiele-Innes method. His most original work was in the mathematical theory of observations, published in 1903 as *Theory of Observations*

Helge Kragh

Selected Reference

Lauritzen, Steffen L. (2002). *Thiele: Pioneer in Statistics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press