



Contribution ID: 41

Type: **not specified**

## **An imperial total solar eclipse: 8th July 1842.**

*Thursday, 7 September 2023 10:15 (20 minutes)*

In the early morning of 8th July 1842, a total solar eclipse ran across Europe, passing through the major cities of the Habsburg Empire: Milan, Venice, Gratz, Wien, Bratislava, Budapest, Lemberg (Lviv). The eclipse received a great attention from the astronomers given the many observatories present along the path. At the Astronomical Observatory of Padua the Director Santini was ready to observe it together with his assistant Pietropoli, Prof Conti and Capt. Von Biela, the discoverer of the famous comet 3D/Biela. We will relive the eclipse in the reports of Santini and in the rediscovered original drawings of the eclipsed Sun made by Biela. The scientific impact of the observations will be discussed.

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**Session Classification:** Da Poleni a B. Rossi e oltre / From Poleni to B. Rossi, and Beyond

**Track Classification:** SISFA 2023