From checkerboard antiferromagnets to skyrmion lattices

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In this personal slice through the last third of "60 years of magnetism" I'll try to draw a line from the early density functional theory calculations of 3d transition metal layers to the two-dimensional topological solitons that are in the focus of research right now. This gives an opportunity to acknowledge many individual contributions that emanated from our jubilarian and his institute, trace methodological developments and experimental input on the way. In the last twenty years, the investigation of low-dimensional magnetic systems by relativistic *ab-initio* theory not only opened the view on the field of "chiral magnetism", but also led the way for successful experimental realizations. So, sixty years after the discovery of antiferromagnetic exchange interaction by Dzyaloshinski we can still hope for many new surprises in this field and some solutions of old puzzles.