

May 22, 1965
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE - CENTENARY

METEOROLOGICAL STAMPS

(100th Anniversary of the Philippine Weather Bureau)
 (1865 - 1965)

A set of commemorative stamps that the Bureau of Posts issues today, marks a Century of Meteorological Service in the Philippines.

The stamps, a mute testimony to the glorious past and the present importance to the Weather Bureau of the Philippines, was designed by philatelic artist Antonio Chiudian, Jr. It measures 22.5 x 37.9 mm along the border lines of the design, excluding marginal space, horizontally composed and heliogravure processed by the Government Printing Bureau of Japan in four colors.

A total of twenty million has been printed, divided into 10,000,000 of the 6-centavos; 7,000,000 of the 20-centavos and 3,000,000 of the 50-centavos denomination. There are 50 stamps in a sheet.

A hundred years ago, on January 1, 1865, the Superior of the Jesuits in the Philippines, Rev. Juan Vidal, founded a private institution known as "Observatorio del Ateneo Municipal" whose work dealt with meteorology . . . a branch of science that treats on the atmosphere and its phenomena, especially of its variations of heat and moisture, of the wind and so forth.

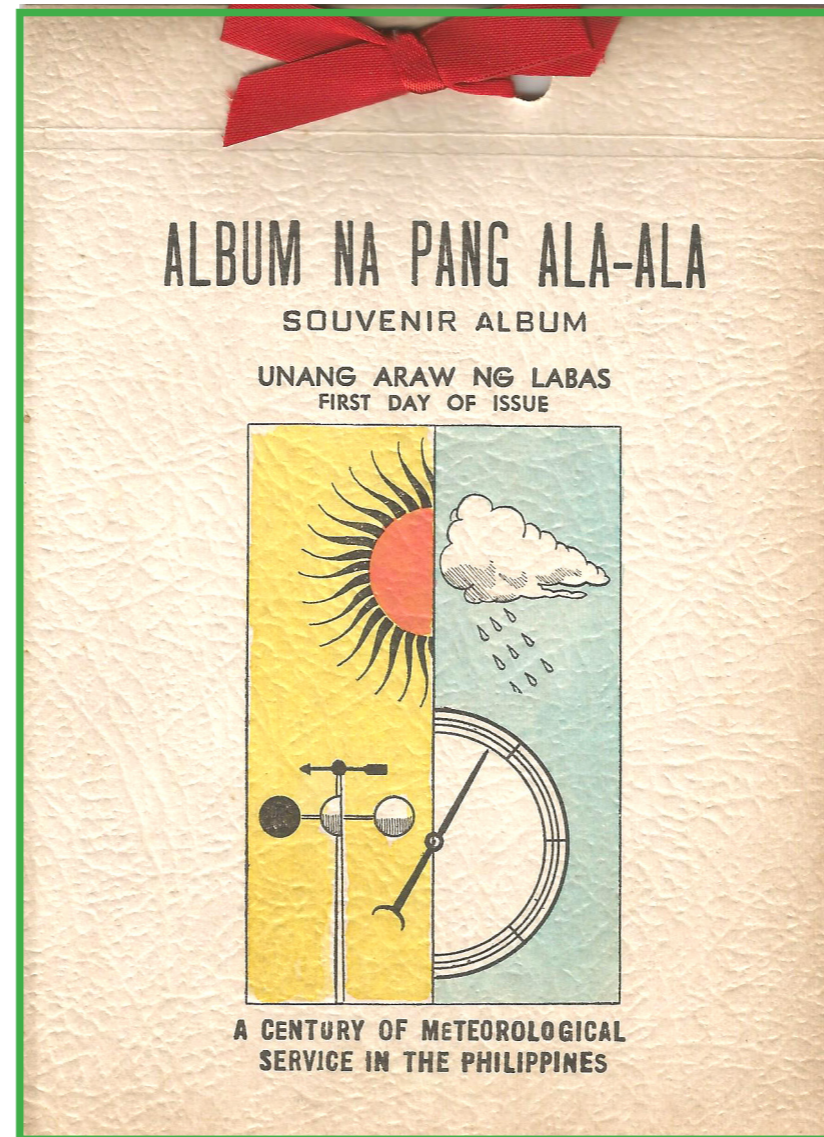
Together with the progress of its work on meteorology, those of seismology, terrestrial magnetism and astronomy were also developed.

Before the end of the 19th century, the observatory had already won the admiration and acclaim, not only to the general public in the Philippines, but also of shipping men throughout the Far East and scientific institutions throughout the world.

The directors who guided the institution through its years of growth and development were Rev. Francisco Colina, its first director in 1865; Rev. Federico Faura in 1867; Rev. Jose Algue in 1897 and Father Miguel Selga in 1926, who incidentally was the last of the Jesuit directors.

By Royal Decree in 1884, it became a government institution and its name was changed to "Observatorio Meteorologico de Manila." In 1897, from Spanish, it became an American organization.

On May 22, 1901, under Act No. 131 of the Philippine Commission, it was reorganized under the new name "Weather Bureau" and placed under the administrative control of the Department of Interior.



World War II found the Weather Bureau completely devastated. On July 24, 1945 with Mr. Edilberto Parulan as Officer-In-Charge, it was reestablished. Prof. Casimiro del Rosario succeeded Mr. Parulan.

Although reconstruction was slow and almost hopeless, by the end of World War II and in pursuance to a provision of the Philippine Rehabilitation of 1946, great changes were brought to the Bureau.

Today, as organized by virtue of Executive Order No. 94, implementing Republic Act No. 51, the Bureau carries out its functions and activities through five division: the Synoptics, Climatological, Geophysics and Astronomical, each charged with special technical functions and a coordinating office to take care of all the administrative affairs of the Bureau, the Administrative Division. It is now functioning under the administrative control of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

