

A Science Service Feature

Released on receipt
but intended for use
August 10, 1928.

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed August 3, 1928.

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

A FAMOUS WEATHER MONUMENT

A well-known landmark in Athens is an ancient octagonal building of marble now usually called the Tower of the Winds, though it was originally known as the Horologion (timepiece) of Andronicus Cyrrhestes. Authorities differ about its age. According to one account it was erected in the year 159 B.C. Its builder, Andronicus, was an astronomer, and the structure served the double purpose of a time-keeper and a wind-indicator.

The time was shown by sun-dials on the walls and by a clepsydra, or water-clock, inside the building. The roof was originally surmounted by a weather-vane, which has long disappeared. It was in the shape of a bronze Triton, who pointed with a wand to the direction from which the wind was blowing. Running around the top of the wall may still be seen a series of eight panels, each of which bears, in relief, a symbolic figure representing one of the eight winds, as recognized by the ancient Athenians. The names of the winds are inscribed over the figures. The series runs as follows:

Boreas (north): An old man very warmly clad, holding a conch shell.

Kaikias (northeast): An old man with severe countenance, holding a shield with what appear to be hailstones in it.

Apeliotes (east): A young man with flowing drapery, bearing fruits, ears of grain and a honeycomb.

Euros (southeast): An old man with morose countenance, well wrapped up, his mantle concealing his right hand and held up by the left to protect his face.

Notos (south): A young man emptying a jar of water.

Lips (southwest): A man of middle age bearing an aplustre, which was the ornamental finial of the stern of a Greek ship, under which the helmsman stood.

Zephyros (west): A youth, nude except for a loose mantle, the folds of which are filled with flowers.

Skiron (northwest): An old man holding a large inverted jar, which may be a brazen fire-pot.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

SCIENCE SERVICE,
21st and B Sts.,
Washington, D.C.