

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed January 30, 1934

CLOUD PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION

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The period of 13 months ending August 31, 1933, was best known to the scientific world as the International Polar Year, but as one of the principal items on its varied program was an intensive study of clouds it was also known to meteorologists as the International Cloud Year. A previous International Cloud Year began in 1896 and ended in 1897.

An interesting contribution to the program of cloud observation was a prize competition in cloud photography held under the auspices of the National Meteorological Office of France. All photographs entered in this contest were taken on prescribed days; viz., April 12 and 13 and July 12 and 13, 1933. Fortunately clouds were both abundant and varied on these dates in French skies, so that a remarkably rich collection of pictures was obtained from the numerous competitors.

The first prize, of 1,000 francs, was won by M. Quenisset, astronomer at the Flammarion Observatory, at Juvisy, and the second was awarded to three competitors, who received 500 francs each, one of them being M. Lucien Rudaux, director of the Observatory of Donville. M. Quenisset has long been celebrated as a cloud photographer, while M. Rudaux, whose photographs frequently appear in the Illustrated London News and other journals, is perhaps the most skillful photographer of meteorological phenomena in the world.

Upwards of 7,300 photographs were received from competitors in France and a good many came from surrounding countries.

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