



 **Republic of Mauritius**  **Mauritius Meteorological Services** 


National Archives of Mauritius


THE MAURITIUS PROJECT


Recovering, imaging, digitising, archiving and preserving of old weather observations extracted from ship logbooks in 188 volumes of Charles Meldrum's 'anemological' journals from 1853 to 1914 and terrestrial weather observations for Mauritius (including data from Colonel Lloyd's Colonial Observatory at Port Louis) from the late 18th to the early years of the 20th century held by the Mauritius Meteorological Services, National Archives of Mauritius and the Mauritius Sugarcane Industry Research Institute.

 **University of Brighton**

 **ACRE**
Atmospheric Circulation Reconstructions over the Earth

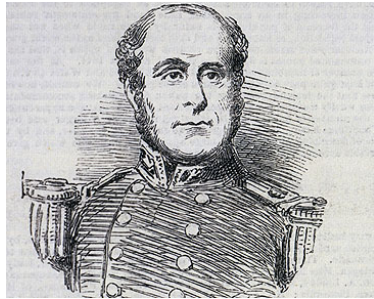
 **MSIRI**
MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

 **IEDRO**
INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL DATA RESCUE ORGANIZATION

 **Met Office Hadley Centre**




Old weather data records in Mauritius – 2014



'Colonial Observatory' at Port Louis

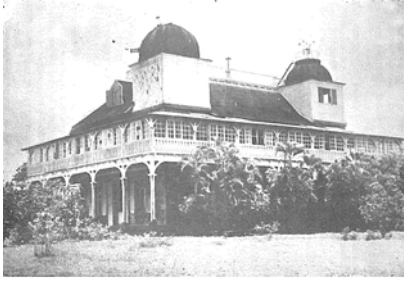
Lt.-Col. John Augustus Lloyd From 1831-1849, he was Surveyor-General of Mauritius, and build the 'Colonial Observatory' at Port Louis in 1831. Said to be the first meteorological observatory in the Indian Ocean, it was used for cyclone warnings and astronomical observations. When the Royal Engineer's Observatory started to operate, the old Observatory was sold in October 1866 to the New Mauritius Docks Company.

Observations recorded in 1833 at the Port Louis observatory



38 - Observatoire Royal Alfred (Pamplemousses) Edition des Magasins Réunis Reproduction gratuite


www.delcampes.net




Royal Alfred Observatory, Pamplemousses

Royal Alfred Observatory, Mauritius

The Meteorological Society of Mauritius, with a small government grant, established an observatory in 1851, some 200 yards away from the Colonial/Government Observatory.



DR. CHARLES MELDRUM, C.M.G., F.R.S., M.A., LL.D.
From a Photograph in the possession of the Meteorological Society of Mauritius.



The Royal Alfred Observatory at Pamplemousses was opened in 1874, with **Dr Charles Meldrum** as its first Director.

Sources of Charles Meldrum's 'anemological' journals from 1853 to 1914

“The objects which the Meteorological Society laid down for itself were: to procure instruments of the best description; to provide for meteorological observations being made in Mauritius and its dependencies; to tabulate meteorological observations taken daily on board vessels in the Indian Ocean and to encourage these to be made on a systematic basis ” [Only the January to March charts over the Indian Ocean for 1861 were ever published]

“A clerk was employed by the Society to visit every ship anchoring in Port Louis harbour. He used to present a letter from the Secretary of the Society to the master to obtain access to the ship’s log, and copy the meteorological observations it contained. It is interesting to note that the Meteorological Service continued this practice right up to the 1960s.”

Source: Mülnier, K. and Padya, B.M. (1974): Mauritius: Two Hundred Years of Meteorology. *WMO Bulletin*, XXIII, 4, Pg 228.

The practice of extracting weather observations from ships in harbour was at least also undertaken by:

- Georg von Neumayer: Flagstaff Observatory, Melbourne, Australia - 1850s-1860s
- Indian Meteorological Department: Calcutta, Bombay and Madras – 1890s=>
- Hong Kong Observatory: 1890s-1940 at least
- Jesuit Observatory’s: Shanghai and Manila

