



## Meteorology in times of Philip II.

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Philip II was king of Spain from 1556 until 1598 ruling over vast territories in four continents. During the last two decades he spent most of his time at the monastery-residence built by him in El Escorial where EMS / ECAM conference is being held. The second half of 16<sup>th</sup> century was the period just before instruments were developed and scientific background started to be applied to meteorology. It was a time of increasing interest for understanding the atmosphere with particular concern for the influence of weather in navigation. King Philip promoted the observation and studies on weather throughout his vast kingdom. This paper gives account of some of the campaigns and the pioneers of that time such as the experiences that Leonardo Torriani, an Italian engineer at the service of Philip II, carried out in the Canary Islands and the studies of winds and tropical storms in the Tropics by the Jesuits and particularly father José de Acosta.