

### Notes on 35-mm Cloud Photography at Manila

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In his Cloud Year at Manila, March 16th, 1946 to March 15th, 1947, the writer had quite an ambitious program; some ten to twenty pictures of clouds were taken each day, making a total of almost 5,000 pictures for the year. For such a project there are certain advantages in using a 35-mm camera. In the first place the camera, in our case a *Contax*, is very handy to carry, and one can snap the pictures in an instant. This is quite important, for some clouds like the cumulonimbus cap and cirrocumulus do not last long at all. With at least one picture of the phenomenon thus clinched, one can without much expense keep on taking shots as long as the interesting cloud lasts. The best of the series can then be selected at leisure for enlargement and publication. In the second place, there is the obvious matter of expense, handling and preservation of such a large number of pictures; in all these the 35 mm is economical in money and in

space. Finally, as we shall see better as we go on, while an enlargement of the 35 mm negative is being made, it can very easily be "dodged."

But there are certain technical difficulties to be overcome precisely in the enlarging. The best for publication purposes is a glossy print of size 5" x 7". Since, however, enlarging cuts down contrast, the original 35-mm negative should possess initially strong contrast. Furthermore, for scientific purposes it is essential that as much detail be brought out in the cloud picture as possible. No special care is needed for the ordinary bright cumulus, but for delicate cirrus types and drab storm clouds, the original rather small contrast must not only be preserved religiously but enhanced. Now, in cloud pictures there are usually two kinds of contrast: (a) that between one large portion of the picture and another large portion (—this is very often greater than one not acquainted with cloud photography might suspect), and (b) the fine soft details in the smaller cloud units.

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