

Scholastics of the Pre-1945 Manila Observatory
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Scholastics founded the Manila Observatory (MO). MO was one of the institutions to which a scholastic could be missioned. Their only preparation was their formation in the early years in the Society. Scholastics came from various Provinces. Assignment to MO meant a long and difficult sea journey from the sending Province to the Philippines, and back. Some scholastics teaching at Ateneo worked part-time at MO until MO moved to Padre Faura in 1887. For some, Observatory activities was a phase in their formation process. For others, it was the initiation into a lifelong scientific apostolate. The Table below lists, in chronological order, the scholastics that could be identified.

scholastic	start	end	field	return	end	death
Colina, Francisco	1865	1867	meteorology			1893
Nonell, Jaime	1865	1870	meteorology			1922
Ricart, Juan	1868	1870	astronomy			1915
Faura, Federico	1866	1871	meteorology	1878	1897	1897
Doyle, Juan	1885	1891	geomagnetism	1896	1901?	1918
Cirera, Ricardo	1888	1894	geomagnetism			1932
Saderra-Maso, Miguel	1890	1896	seismology	1901	1932	1939
Tsuchihachi, Yachita	1894	1895	geomagnetism			1965
Coronas, Jose	1894	1900	meteorology	1907	1931	1938
Sola, Marcial	1897	1903	seismology			1960
Stanton, William	1901	1904	entomology			1910
Brown, Robert	1902	1906	entomology	1912	1915	1947
McGeary, James	1904	1906	astronomy			1945
Doucette, Bernard	1925	1927	meteorology	1933	1974	1974
Welch, Leo	1930	1932	astronomy			1990
Heyden, Frank	1931	1934	astronomy	1971	1991	1991
Guzman, Pablo	1942	1943	seismology			

The notes below give the activities and achievements of some of the scholastics. The post-Observatory activities, mainly of those who did not return to MO, are also included. That there is no write-up of the other scholastics does not mean that their contributions were not important or significant. The work and achievements of those who returned as priests are not within the scope of this essay.

In 1865 Jaime Nonell correlated the passage of a typhoon with the atmospheric pressure data gathered by Francisco Colina with homemade instruments. Colina was his fellow member of the physics department of the Ateneo in Intramuros. To have timely warning of approaching typhoons, Manila citizens asked the Superior to let the scholastics continue their observations and publish them. They even supplied the funds to buy needed instruments. Nonell became an authority on the Spiritual Exercises. He died in Manresa.

In 1866, Federico Faura arrived. He was given the task of organizing and operating MO. Because of his foundational