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Meteorological Observations in Naples in the 19th Century: The Data Collection of the Real Gabinetto Fisico

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A historical account of the meteorological observations carried out in Naples in the XIX century is here presented. After a brief overview of the institutions operating in the Neapolitan area and of the corresponding scientific activity, a preliminary report is given of a little-known observational activity pursued within the Real Gabinetto Fisico of the King of Two Sicilies, as testified by archival documents. As a result, a broad activity emerges, ranging from measurements of pressure, temperature, humidity, wind (direction and strength), rain and atmospheric electricity to observations of the status of clouds, and other phenomena related to the climate of Naples. A discussion of instruments as well as observation protocols is also highlighted, as inferred from original sources.

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