The modern meteorologist

Maarten Ambaum and **Giles Harrison**

Janet Barlow (piano)

With apologies to the *Pirates of Penzance*. (All of them.)

What is the proper model for a modern meteorologist?

For skies with graupel burdens large and clouds engorged and drizzle- kissed

Portending futures quizzical not ultimately unphysical

The harbingers of urban floods are best not too statistical

Instead they leapfrog forward calculus in different-see-als

For solving some equations oh so complex they're numerical

With entropy that's not conserved as everything gets worse and worse —

Until the disarray extends beyond the whole known universe

I am the very model of a modern meteorologist

In matters mathematicist, a strident theoreticist

My graphs are more enig-matic than just another tephigram

Skew-T, log-p, hodo-, kilo, histo, plani- or nomogram

I understand equations, both dynamical and physical

With parametrizations for the subgrid interstitial

I can predict the precip rate so accurate at every date —

Because I know to find the thickness line of 5 and 2 and 8

Prognosis once depended on a bi-o-logic chemical

As seaweed damp or dry was thought to offer the prophetical

But really for a forecast it turned out to be despicable

As weather isn’t maritime and instantly explicable

Coronal mass ejections flung out far into the he-lios-phere

Are seen on solar im-ag-es but At them you must caref’lly peer

Though climate change from solar flares and other stuff magnetical —

Can only be described as now most def’nitely heretical

I know my enthalpy, internal energy and entropy

Immerse the masters students in thermodynamic revelry

Out of these the entropy must be my fav’rite entity

For the second law prescribes it has increasing tendency

I am very good at integrating diff'rent schemes numerical

Compiled and linked in fortran, python, basic, C, or Pascal

But to an undergraduate this is a very hard sell ——

Just to stop a student making plots using b***dy *Excel*

Yet lightning may not be the in-ex-tric-ab-ly e-phem-e-ral

Striking minister roofs in York or - if they had one - Hatfield Peverel

When solar winds bring morsels of embedded field delectable

You have to briefly wonder if it ain’t just all electrical

I haven't even started on potential vorticity

It artfully combines rotation, heat and inverse density

At ev'ry viva exam it stumps students one by one by one—

As no-one ever wants to read McIntyre, Hoskins and Robertson

My true passion surely is the *Thermal Physics of the Atmosphere*

It's about the tropo, strato, meso, and the thermosphere

Obligatory reading matter, students must not be deprived —

It retails at a very reason'ble discounted thirtyfive

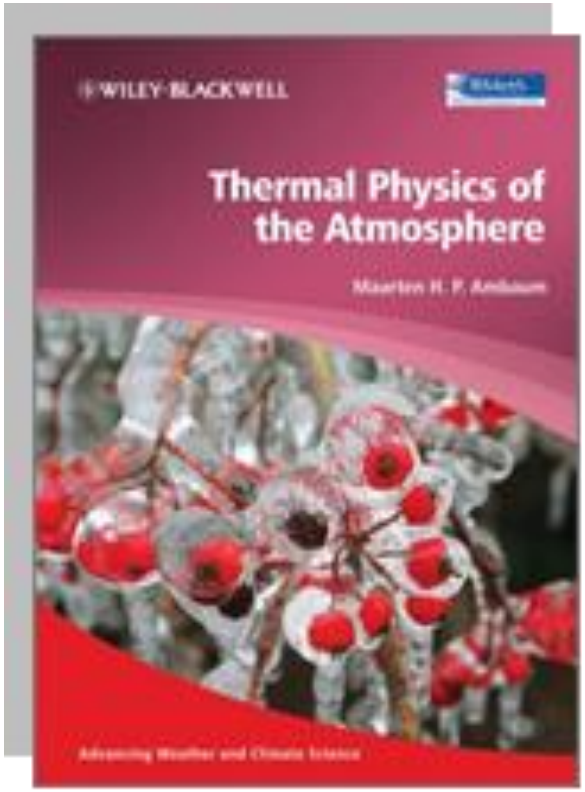
And on endeavours long which are in-ev-it-ably personal

I should mention my new tome that's just so florid – it's not terse at all

called *Measurements and Instruments* (for Ye Olde Meteorolo-*jay*)

Available on Amazon from first thing this next Boxing Day

But my book really has a lovely cover illustration



But read mine for powerful and splendid inspiration

But still in matters physical, dynamical,….and drizzle kissed

We are the proper model of a modern meteorologist!