

INFORMATION:
TEL:
06 04 811030

PRODUCTION:
ANNE HURST.

The Astronomer

Founded 1964

1978 May 24

Comet Meier (1978f)

Following the report in TA EWC No. 26, the following precise positions have been measured by Peter Birtwhistle from exposures by B Manning with the 26.5cm reflector at Stakenbridge:

	1978 UT	R.A. (1950)	DEC (1950)	m ₁
May	17.9208	7 ^h 44 ^m 22. ^s 36	+48°49'20".7	10
	17.9306	7 44 23.39	+48 49 10.9	10

Using 8 precise positions from 1978 Apr. 27 to May 17, Peter Birtwhistle has calculated the following improved elements and ephemeris:

T= 1978 Nov. 10.590 ET w = 231.689)
n = 348.881) 1950.0
i = 43.660)
q= 1.12404 AU

	1978 ET	R.A. (1950)	DEC (1950)	Earth	Sun	m ₁
May	24	7 ^h 53 ^m .0	+47°18'			
	26	7 56.0	+46 48			
	28	7 58.9	+46 18			
	30	8 02.0	+45 47			
June	1	8 05.0	+45 16	3.165	2.613	9.7
	3	8 08.1	+44 45			
	5	8 11.2	+44 14			
	7	8 14.4	+43 42			
	9	8 17.5	+43 11			
	11	8 20.8	+42 38	3.140	2.500	9.5
	13	8 24.0	+42 06			
	15	8 27.3	+41 33			
	17	8 30.5	+41 00			
	19	8 33.9	+40 27			
	21	8 37.2	+39 53	3.106	2.385	9.2
	23	8 40.5	+39 19			
	25	8 43.9	+38 45			
	27	8 47.3	+38 10			
	29	8 50.7	+37 34			
July	1	8 54.2	+36 59	3.061	2.271	9.0

Recent visual results: May 11.10 UT, 10.3 (C.S. Morris, Harvard College Observatory, 23-cm refractor; tails 3' long in p.a. 0°, 5' in 45°, 3' in 90°); 12.09, 9.8 (Morris, Prospect Hill Observatory, Harvard, Massachusetts, 20x80 binoculars); 14.11, 10.1 (P. Maley, Houston Texas, 15-cm refractor); 15.12, 10.1 (Maley). IAUC 3222

V3876 Sagittarii

Using the 26cm reflector, Earls Barton, Northampton, G.M. Hurst successfully observed this variable star previously reported as Nova Sagittarii 1978. The identification was made using the IBVS discovery chart and the magnitude was reduced using the AAVSO preliminary (d) chart: 1978 May 10 02.06 UT: 10.6.

No additional stars brighter than magnitude 12 were observed in the vicinity other than those on the Stamford Observatory photographs thus suggesting that the variable and the 'nova' are the same object as suggested in the report appearing in the May TA.

Nova Serpentis 1978

Recent visual results suggest a rapid decline: Apr. 13.51 UT, 10.7 (J. Morgan, Prescott, Arizona); 15.07, 10.2 (G. Hurst, Earls Barton, Northampton); 15.49, 10.3 (Morgan); 17.50, 10.9 (Morgan); 18.47, 10.6 (Morgan); May 10.06, 13.1 (Hurst). Observations are urgently required by large aperture observers using the latest chart in TA May. G.M. Hurst.