

INFORMATION:

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# The Astronomer

PRODUCTION:

ANNE HURST.

Founded 1984

1978 MAY 3

## Comet Meier (1978f)

Following the preliminary announcement in TA Early Warning Circular No. 25, further details of this discovery are now available:

Discoverer: Rolf Meier, Ottawa, Ontario.

Instrument: 40-cm f/5 reflector, at x56.

The undermentioned precise positions have been telexed or telephoned to us:

| 1978 UT       | R.A.(1950)   | DEC. (1950)  | m1                    |
|---------------|--|--------------|-----------------------|
| Apr. 27.24167 | 7 <sup>h</sup> 18 <sup>m</sup> 41. <sup>s</sup> 38 | +53°50'13".5 | 10 Giclas             |
| 28.18889      | 7 19 42.05   | +53 36 38.8  | 10 Giclas             |
| 30.90375      | 7 22 43.45   | +52 57 35.3  | approx 8½ Waterfield. |

Peter Birtwhistle, TA, has calculated the following preliminary elements based on the above three precise positions:

$$T = 1978 \text{ Sep } 24.655 \quad \begin{aligned} w &= 233.06 \\ \Omega &= 6.75^\circ \quad 1950.0 \\ i &= 37.897^\circ \end{aligned}$$

$$q = 0.7124 \text{ AU}$$

The following ephemeris is also by P. Birtwhistle:

*Correct for Parallax*

| 1978  |   | Earth | Sun   | Mag |
|-------|---|-------|-------|-----|
| May 2 | 7 <sup>h</sup> 24. <sup>m</sup> 0 <sup>00</sup> +52°42' 0 | 2.731 | 2.524 | 8.7 |
| 4     | 7 26.4 52 13  |       |       |     |
| 6     | 7 28.9 51 44  |       |       |     |
| 8     | 7 31.4 51 14  |       |       |     |
| 10    | 7 34.1 50 45  |       |       |     |
| 12    | 7 36.8 <sup>-03</sup> 50 15 <sup>+</sup>                  | 2.711 | 2.393 | 8.5 |
| 14    | 7 39.6 49 45  | +22.0 | +2.05 |     |
| 16    | 7 42.5 49 15  |       |       |     |
| 18    | 7 45.4 48 44  |       |       |     |
| 20    | 7 48.5 48 14  |       |       |     |
| 22    | 7 51.5 <sup>-07</sup> 47 43 <sup>+</sup>                  | 2.681 | 2.260 | 8.2 |
| 24    | 7 54.7 47 11  |       |       |     |
| 26    | 7 57.9 46 40  |       |       |     |
| 28    | 8 01.1 46 08  |       |       |     |
| 30    | 8 04.4 45 35  |       |       |     |
| Jun 1 | 8 07.8 45 02  | 2.641 | 2.125 | 7.9 |

In view of the initial variation in magnitude results and the apparent 'bright' value for 'absolute magnitude', the Editor would appreciate early telephone notification of observations, any evening before 10.30pm please.