

IN FORMATION

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The Astronomer

Founded 1964

1978 APRIL 28

PRODUCTION:
ANNE HURST.

COMET MEIER (1978f)

Marsden telexes that Meier has discovered a new comet as follows:

UT

1978 April 27.08 R.A. 7h 18m.7 +53°47' (1950).

The comet was described as diffuse with central condensation and of total magnitude 10.

The discovery has been confirmed by Everhart/Giclas and the comet is apparently moving south, perhaps 24 arc minutes daily.

NOVA SAGITTARII 1978= IRC- 20494 = V3876 SAGITTARII.

This discovery, apparently confirmed by a spectrogram obtained by Kosai which showed Balmer lines, now appears to be probably identical with an existing variable star: V3876 Sgr.

H. Kosai has measured the following precise position:

UT

1978 April 14.79633 R.A. 18h 30m 14s.75 DEC -20°08'07".7 (1950).

Recent visual results suggest that the star is of approximately mag 9.5 visual.

The variable star, V3876 Sgr, is catalogued in the GCVS as a Mira variable with a photographic magnitude range: 11.6-(14.2).

Visual observations with estimates in full should be despatched to the Editor immediately for reduction. Photographic work is urgently required both to determine a sequence and to obtain valuable data whilst the star is near maximum particularly in view of the doubt concerning its present classification.

NOVA SEARCH PROGRAMME MEETING

The opportunity is taken to remind all TA readers of the announcement in the latest issue of this proposed meeting. Anyone who has even a casual interest in novae is welcomed and I shall be grateful if the advice slip could be returned as soon as possible.

TA COVER 1978 APRIL

The Editor wishes to express regret concerning the appalling reproduction of the photograph of the Crab Nebula and Comet Wild taken by A Potts. Once again, the Editor intends to take up this matter with our cover printers.

GUY. M. HURST.