

Mr. Jim Low,
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(62)

Quebec 2nd March 1963

My Dear Mr. Low, Please forgive me if it took me so long to let you know that I'm still alive... but don't forget the proverb "Better Late Than NEVER" and here I'm TODAY. It is just too bad that you were not home last September when I give you a phone call while I was in Montreal... because I wanted to meet you in person to discuss the main reason why why I did not answer you sooner... but I hope to meet you one of these days... so I'll let you know why... (Are you back in Montreal?)

First I want to congratulate you for your "Comets Display" I saw at the Annual Meeting in Edmonton... it was perfect especially for "Comet Mrkos" and "Grand Roland" ^{and Seki-Suzuki} according to my observations of these two Comets. Also thanks for everything received from you up to date and please continue to do so and send me some reports forms with little details how you want them filled because I hope to interest some of my friends this next summer.

Now I'm giving you an idea of my activities in "Comet Observing" since April 1960 up to date.

COMET BURNHAM (1959K) My 1st observation was April 6th 1960 and the position was about 7° South of η (eta) Aquarius with magnitude +3 and visible to the naked eye. After more than 50 observations, the last one I made June 10th 1960 after which it disappeared at about 5° South East of γ (gamma) Ursa Major and was about Mag. +10.

COMET WILSON (1961d) My 1st observation was July 26th 1961 and the position was about 14° South of θ (theta) Gemini with mag. +4, visible to the naked eye with a tail of about 10°. After about 10 observations August 24th 1961 it disappeared at about 8° North of μ (mu) Perseus and was about mag. +7.

COMET SEKI (1961f) My 1st observation was October 15th 1961 and the position was about 1° East of the star No. 88 Leo let's say about half way between β (beta) Denebola and θ (theta) Leo with mag. +7. After about 20 observations the 13th of November 1961 it disappeared at about 4° North East of α (alpha) Antlia with mag. +3.

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COMET SEKI-LINES (1962c) My 1st observation was March 1st 1962 at about 37 days before perihelion and it was about 3° above the southern horizon and about 2° north east of δ (delta) Eridanus with mag. +6. On April 17th just after perihelion, it was nearly mag. -1 with a tail about 20° and extending almost as far as β (beta) Perseus "Algol" with the head of the comet at about 3° south east of γ (gamma) Aries. After more than 60 observations, it disappeared on May 28th at about 2° north west of ϵ (epsilon) Gemini and was about mag. +10.

COMET HONDA (1962d) My 1st observation was on May 7th 1962 and the position was about 3° south of δ (delta) Cassiopeia with mag. +7. After 15 observations it disappeared on June 8th at about 1° north of η (eta) Draco with mag. about +9.

P-COMET TUTTLE-GIACOBINI-KRESAK. My 1st observation was on May 1st 1962 with position about 2° west of χ (chi) Ursa Major very weak (faint) of mag. +11. I made only 4 observations and the last one was on May 10th in lanes Venatici perhaps with mag. +11.5.

COMET HUMASON (1961e) My 1st observation was on May 5th 1962 with position about 2° south west of ω (omega) Pisces with mag. +10. After more than 60 observations it disappeared on September 23rd 1962 at about 2° south west of the globular M-55 in Sagittarius with mag. about +6.

P.S. Please note that from May 7th to May 10th I could observe 4 COMETS on the same night... that is to say: "Comets; Seki-Lines, Honda, P/Tuttle-Giacobini-Kresak and Humason."

I received your announcement #6 about the NOVA on February 28th (Thank you very kindly) and I had made my 1st observation on February 14th and by comparisons of other near stars my estimate was about mag +4.4 and I observed it the 15-16-bloody-21-22-23-25-26-27-28 and March 1-2-3-4-5-bloody-7-bloody-8-9-10-bloody-11-12+13. Please let me know if you observed it as early as I because on Feb. 25th it was about mag. ~~4.4~~^{5.3} and I noticed that it became brighter each day up to mag. 5.0 on the 28th then it lost about .9 mag each day and on March 10th it was about mag. 6. I saw it with the naked eye for at least 3 weeks. Today I verified on an atlas map which I can see stars up to mag. 10 and no star was there which means that before the explosion the nova was much fainter than mag.

If it happen you get some information, such as what mag. it was before the explosion, and the distance in light years etc. please let me know all about it.

As for comet IKEYA 1963a I made my 1st observation on Feb. 23rd at 1800 E.S.T. it was very low - at the south western horizon in FORNAX, and the 27th up to date I made my observations at 1900 E.S.T.

Here are the dates and coordinates of my observations

Date	a	d	Notes
23 Feb.	a = 2h 13m 12s	d = 24° 43' 10"	On the dates you see
26 "	a = 2h 10m 58s	d = 18° 07' 26"	no observations it
27 "	a = 2 9 08	d = 13° 41' 12"	was cloudy or a
28 "	a = 2 7 39	d = 11° 42' 16"	snow storm... Ah!
1 st March	a = 2 5 03	d = 10° 18' 43"	As for the mag. I
2 "	a = 2 3 04	d = 8° 36' 12"	think the brightness
3 "	a = 2 2 22	d = 6° 51' 14"	was on March 5 th
4 "	a = 2 1 05	d = 5° 26' 11"	with mag. 1.6 with
5 "	a = 1 59 11	d = 3° 48' 34"	a tail at least 5°
7 "	a = 1 59 02	d = 1° 17' 41"	My observations are
8 "	a = 1 57 08	d = 0° 58' 49"	done with a 20x10
9 "	a = 1 56 03	d = 0° 07' 12"	binocular, Carl'sault
11 "	a = 1 54 21	d + 1° 26' 04"	of very high quality.

Thanking you in advance, I hope you'll be glad and satisfied of my first report for quite a long period and besides the NOVA + IKEYA I have been observing for the last two months "CERES" VESTA, PALLAS + JUNO, and also URANUS + NEPTUNE... the only two planets I haven't yet seen in a telescope are 1st PLUTON and 2nd the EARTH... Ah... Ah...!

Thanks again and please let me know what you think of my 1st report.

Sincerely yours,
 Jos. Matte
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