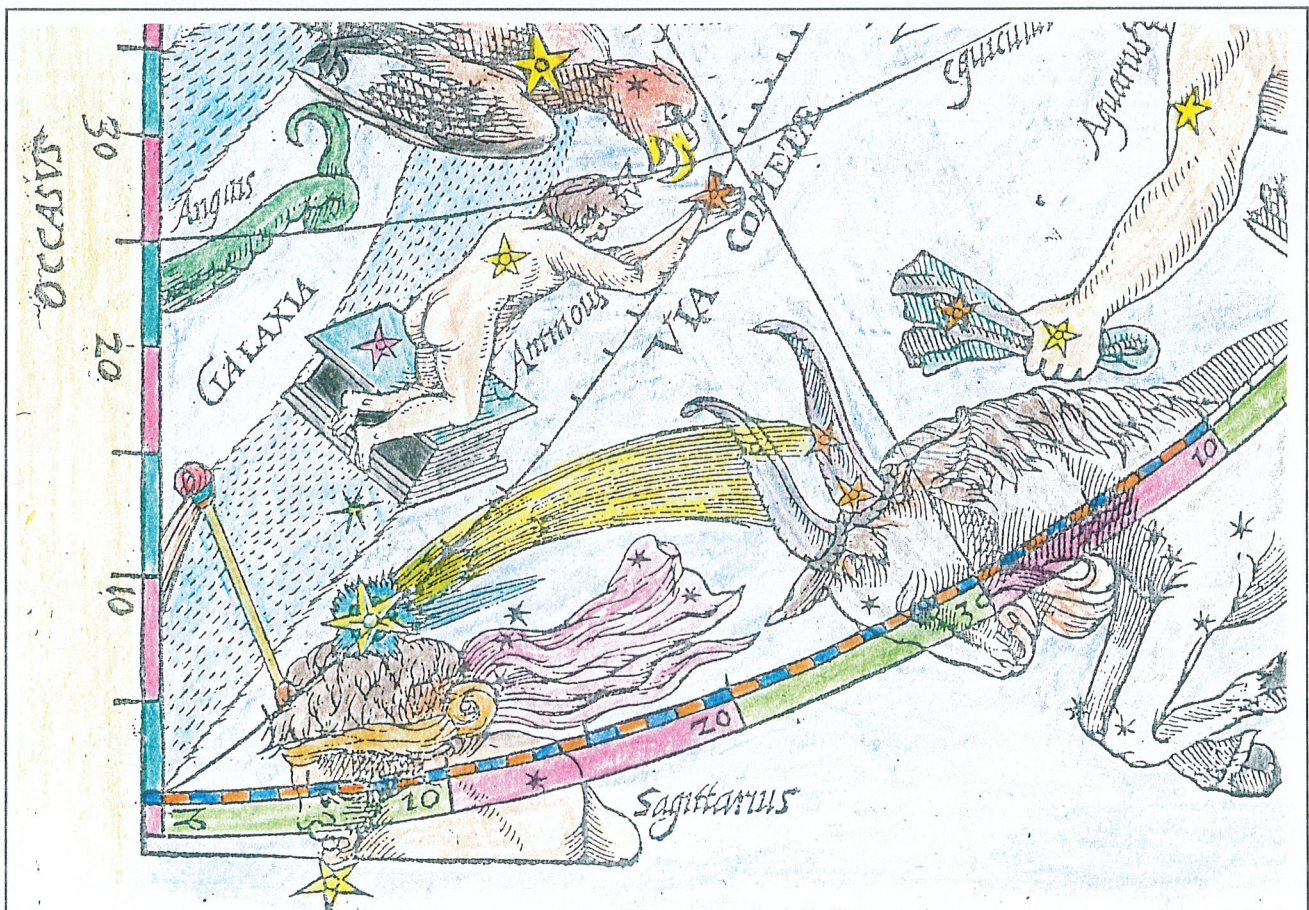


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The gas and dust tails of the great comet of 1577, with its path from Sagittarius to Pegasus, as depicted by Gemma (1578); see also footnote 2 on page 123 of this issue.



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CORRIGENDA.

- On the cover of the April 2008 issue, the second line, for 1838 read 1836
- In the April 2008 issue, page 80, tabulated key to observers, the asterisk was inadvertently left off of the two new observers: SOM and VAS06.
- In the introductory information on the second page of each issue of the *ICQ* for a long time now, we have inadvertently put the wrong telephone number for subscriptions (it changed several years ago when we changed secretaries); for 617-495-7280 read 617-495-7281

Palestinian Observations of the Comet of 1577

S. M. Silverman

Lexington, MA, U.S.A.

The comet of 1577, discovered and widely observed in the first week of November, was one of the intrinsically brightest comets of the past 500 years (*e.g.*, Kronk 1999). It was also important in the history of astronomy (see, *e.g.*, Hellman 1944; Christianson 1979; Schechner Genuth 1997; Nouhuys 1998; Granada 2006). This note calls attention to observations from Safed, Palestine (long. 35°30' east, lat. +32°58'), by Chaim Vital (b. 1542 October 11, d. 1620 April 24). In *The Book of Visions* (translated by Faierstein 1999), a collection of Vital's (and others') dreams and omens, he relates the following:

“Rosh Hodesh, Kislev, 5338, after sunset,¹ a large star with a long tail, pointing upward, was seen in the southwestern part of the sky. Part of the tail was also pointing eastward. It lingered there for three hours. Then it sank in the west behind the hills of Safed. This continued for more than fifty nights.”

The date, the first of Kislev in the Jewish year 5338, converts to the Julian date 1577 November 11. Since the Jewish day begins at sundown, the observation was made on the evening of November 10, consistent with European observations of the comet in the southwestern part of the sky. Vital's description of a double tail — or, more accurately, of a part of the tail pointing in a different direction — was well noted by Cornelius Gemma (1578), who also published a sketch of the comet clearly showing a long, curving dust tail and a shorter, straight gas tail.² The duration of visibility of the comet by Vital — some fifty nights — is supported by the European observations, in which the comet was seen from November into January 1578 before it faded from naked-eye visibility.

Vital's description of the comet is straightforward — in contrast to the remainder of *The Book of Visions*, which consists of dreams and omens, and Vital's interpretation of them. It might be expected that he would also have provided a comment on the significance of the comet as a portent. Faierstein (1999, p. 8) notes that Vital had intended for some time to move from Safed to Jerusalem, and suggests that the comet, as a portent of great change, was the omen that precipitated his move. Certainly he left for Jerusalem two weeks after his view of the comet. Another possibility for this omission of interpretation is that comets usually, though not always, were represented as a harbinger of evil events. Such interpretations can be found throughout the descriptions cited by Hellman (1944).

More pertinent to Vital, perhaps, was the interpretation of comets in Jewish tradition. Josephus noted both a sword and a comet hanging over Jerusalem for almost a year, as a portent of the destruction of Jerusalem.³ Schechner Genuth (1997, p. 32) also discusses other Jewish texts that allow for descriptions or inferences of apparitions as comets. In view of this general perception of comets as portending various evils, including destruction, it is quite possible that Vital was afraid to acknowledge the possible significance of the comet, and felt it more comfortable to simply note its appearance.

Acknowledgements. I am indebted for comments and helpful remarks from David Trilling, Sara Schechner, John Huchra, and Brian Marsden.

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¹The printed version here says “before sunset”. In a personal communication with the translator, on rechecking this point, he states that this should be “after sunset”, and that the correction will appear in any subsequent editions.

²One of Gemma's depictions (his Fig. 2) of this two-tailed comet appears on the cover (p. 121) of this issue of the *ICQ*; the hand-coloring was not contemporary (and so has no bearing on whether Gemma saw coloration in the comet). Another, more-detailed version was reproduced in the January 2001 issue of the *ICQ* (23, 4). — Ed.

³*The Wars of the Jews*, Book 6, Ch. 5, section 3; *e.g.*, translation by Whiston (1736).

- Nouhuys, T. van (1998). *The Age of Two-Faced Janus: The Comets of 1577 and 1618 and the Decline of the Aristotelian World View in the Netherlands* (Leiden: Brill).
- Schechner Genuth, S. (1997). *Comets, Popular Culture, and the Birth of Modern Cosmology* (Princeton, NJ, U.S.A.: Princeton University Press).
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Φ Φ Φ

Tabulation of Comet Observations

Regarding the descriptive information that has appeared in every issue of the *ICQ* for the last couple of decades, complementing the tabulated data, we are planning to remove information that is generally uninteresting to read to a database and make it available at the *ICQ* website (and by request) instead of printing it. Until this new format is fully developed, we begin in this issue with removing (a) the names of amateur software packages used to extract comparison-star magnitudes (i.e., non-primary sources that are flagged by the special-notes letter 'x' in the tabulated data), and (b) routine comparison-star magnitudes and colors away from print and into plain-ASCII text data; these types of data will be both archived in a standard manner and posted at the *ICQ* website as soon as the tabulated data are posted; however, comparison-star data for very red stars ($B-V > +1.0$) will continue to be published in print.

Descriptive Information, to complement the Tabulated Data (all times UT):

See the July 2001 issue (page 98) for explanations of the abbreviations used in the descriptive information.

- ◊ *Comet 6P/d'Arrest* \Rightarrow 2008 July 26.98: nearby field stars checked via Digitized Sky Survey; motion checked during a 60-min period; mountain location, very clear sky [GON05].
- ◊ *Comet 7P/Pons-Winnecke* \Rightarrow 2008 May 16.9: from aperture photometry by Gustavo Muler (Lanzarote, Spain), Cesar Piret (Lanzarote, Spain), and Jose Maria Ruiz (Malaga, Spain), mean R -band magnitudes in 10", 20", and 30" apertures were 18.4, 18.2, and 17.2, respectively [report communicated by Mark Kidger (European Space Agency, European Space Astronomy Centre, on behalf of the "Observadores cometas" group)]. May 17.9: presumably using a 30-cm T, comet was of magnitude $R = 18.5$ in a 10" aperture, 18.3 in a 20" aperture, and 17.9 in a 30" aperture (each mag being a mean of two measures) [Gustavo Muler (Lanzarote, Spain), via Mark Kidger]. May 23.9: presumably using a 30-cm T, comet was of magnitude $R = 16.0$ in a 10" aperture, 15.4 in a 20" aperture, and 15.2 in a 30" aperture (each mag being a mean of three measures); this appears to be a significant outburst of at least 2.5 mag in six days (see notes for May 17.9, above); outburst had already caused the comet's coma to fill a 60"-diameter aperture and was decaying at this stage [Gustavo Muler (Lanzarote, Spain), via M. Kidger]. May 24.0: presumably using a 20-cm $f/6.3$ T in challenging obs. conditions (determined to be poorer-quality data than those of May 23.9, above), comet was of mag $R = 15.9$ in a 10" aperture, 15.1 in a 20" aperture, and 14.8 in a 30" aperture (each mag being a mean of six measures) [Cesar Piret (Lanzarote, Spain), via M. Kidger, on behalf of the "Observadores cometas" group]. May 24.9: from aperture photometry by Gustavo Muler (Lanzarote, Spain), Cesar Piret (Lanzarote, Spain), and Jose Maria Ruiz (Malaga, Spain), mean R -band magnitudes in 10", 20", and 30" apertures were 16.6, 15.8, and 15.4, respectively; "images show a rapidly expanding coma that is now more extended than a $1/R$ profile, w/ a faint, straight tail visible to the SE" [report comm. by Mark Kidger, on behalf of the "Observadores cometas" group]. May 25.9: from aperture photometry by Gustavo Muler (Lanzarote, Spain), Cesar Piret (Lanzarote, Spain), and Jose Maria Ruiz (Malaga, Spain), mean R -band magnitudes in 10", 20", and 30" apertures were 16.9, 15.8, and 15.4, respectively [report comm. by M. Kidger]. June 23.91: alt. 19° [PAR03].
- ◊ *Comet 15P/Finlay* \Rightarrow 2008 June 14.80: enhanced through Swan-band filter [SEA]. July 8.11 and 15.13: mountain location, very clear sky [GON05]. July 8.11: alt. 9° [GON05]. July 15.13: alt. 12° [GON05].
- ◊ *Comet 17P/Holmes* \Rightarrow 2008 Feb. 8.77: still visible to the naked eye, but very difficult, as a faint glow just above the sky background [BOU]. Feb. 9.18: CCD images w/ 62-cm $f/5.1$ L yield mag $R = 15.6$ –15.8 (ref: USNO-A2.0 catalogue) in a 10" circular aperture centered on nuclear cond.; a 200-sec exp. shows a 35" tail in p.a. 86°; a 600-sec exp. w/ a Canon 20Da camera on a Takahashi Epsilon-180 telescope (aperture 180 mm; f.l. 500 mm; hyperbolic flat-field astrograph) shows a coma of size 1.6×1.3 elongated toward p.a. 330° [James McGaha, Tucson, AZ, U.S.A.]. Feb. 10.97: comet still faintly visible to naked eye as a large, ill-defined glow, possibly as large as 2° [BOU]. Mar. 5.00: also seen w/ naked eye [DIJ]. Mar. 7.81: large elliptical structureless cloud, very difficult to est. [COM]. Mar. 7.84: comet seen w/ averted vision as a very faint, large, diffuse glow [BOU].
- ◊ *Comet 26P/Grigg-Skjellerup* \Rightarrow 2008 May 5.03: difficult obs. (comet involved w/ two stars of 13th and 14th mag) [BOU]. May 8.02: difficult object — just a faint glow in rich star field [BOU].
- ◊ *Comet 29P/Schwassmann-Wachmann* \Rightarrow 2008 Jan. 14.78: in outburst; bright, round, inner coma w/ dia. 30"; faint outer coma w/ dia. > 1.5 [BRE03]. Feb. 28.86: difficult obs.; comet appears as a very diffuse glow in rather crowded

star field [BOU].

◊ *Comet 46P/Wirtanen* \Rightarrow 2008 Feb. 7.76: enhanced w/ Lumicon SB-Filter [MEY]. Mar. 3.81: comet close to star of mag 9.8 [MEY]. Mar. 31.83: dense star field [BRE03].

◊ *Comet 85P/Boethin* \Rightarrow 2008 June 12.70: Guide 8.0 software used for comp.-star mags; searched near position derived from orbital elements on MPC 54171 [TSU02].

◊ *Comet 144P/Kushida* \Rightarrow 2007 June 18.51: w/ Keck II telescope (+ LRIS), images obtained by K. Meech and J. Pittichova (measured by Meech); “don’t know about rotational amplitude” [MEE].

◊ *Comet C/2006 OF₂ (Broughton)* \Rightarrow 2008 July 3.99: twilight [PAR03].

◊ *Comet C/2006 S5 (Hill)* \Rightarrow 2008 Feb. 11.95: comet close to star of mag 14 [BOU/DIJ]. Mar. 31.88: stellar appearance [BRE03].

◊ *Comet C/2006 W3 (Christensen)* \Rightarrow 2008 Feb. 9.84: fairly well visible as a small diffuse object w/ some cond., next to a star of mag 14; position checked via Digitized Sky Survey; comp. stars taken from Henden photometry near FT Cam [BOU/DIJ]. Feb. 10.98: position checked Digitized Sky Survey; comp. stars taken from Henden photometry near FT Cam [BOU/DIJ]. July 8.03: nearby field stars checked via Digitized Sky Survey; comp. stars taken from Henden photometry near BL Cam; comet close to star of mag 11.6 (ref: Tycho-2) [GON05].

◊ *Comet C/2007 B2 (Skiff)* \Rightarrow 2008 Feb. 11.01: small, diffuse object w/ some cond.; position checked via Digitized Sky Survey [BOU/DIJ].

◊ *Comet C/2007 G1 (LINEAR)* \Rightarrow 2008 May 12.09: mountain location, very clear sky; comp. stars taken from Henden photometry of ‘K3.9’ field; after moonset [GON05].

◊ *Comet C/2007 N3 (Lulin)* \Rightarrow 2008 May 12.13: after moonset [GON05]. July 8.06: “comet clearly fainter than it was ten days ago” [GON05].

◊ *Comet C/2007 W1 (Boattini)* \Rightarrow 2008 Mar. 31.94: comet close to second-mag γ Corvi [BOU/DIJ]. May 2.57: LONEOS sequence H1101-232 used for comp.-star mags [YOS02]. May 3.80: obs. from Etna, Italy [PAP04]. May 4.42: “probably glimpsed w/ naked eye using averted vision” [SEA]. May 7.46: glimpsed via naked eye using averted vision [SEA]. May 8.45: comet fairly close to stars of similar brightness, but relatively confident of naked-eye obs. [SEA]. May 10.92, 12.02, 17.05, 17.93, 19.89, 20.94, 21.98, June 10.89, 11.87, 14.88, and 15.88: moonlight [AMO01]. May 11.93: difficult estimate in 10 \times 50 B, due to moonlight interference and low alt. (12 $^\circ$) [GON05]. May 22.93: comp. stars have $V = 5.48$ ($B-V = +1.36$) and 5.91 (+0.02) [AMO01]. May 24.35 and July 9.78: faintly visible w/ naked eye [SEA]. May 29.36: obs. in between drifting cloud [SEA]. June 4.92: light pollution [AMO01]. June 10.93: light pollution interference [DES01]. June 11.87, 14.88, 15.88, and July 8.38: nautical twilight [AMO01]. June 15.88: comet’s and comp.-stars’ alt. 7 $^\circ$ [AMO01]. June 16.37: alt. 5 $^\circ$ including comp stars [AMO01].

July 1.22: appears round and nebulous, grey, and w/o any structure or central cond.; no tail visible; seen w/ direct viewing in binoculars (but easier to see with indirect viewing); alt. 12 $^\circ$; ref. stars for mags were HIP 17856 and 17120; obs. for about 12 min (towards the end, the comet was difficult to see due to the light of dawn); no clouds but strong wind; the Moon, at 5% phase w/ prominent earthshine, stood about 30 $^\circ$ from the comet [NYH]. July 1.22, 4.21, 5.21, 6.18, 10.19, and 11.20: obs. from the site of the Swedish Solar Telescope at La Palma, Canary Islands [NYH]. July 4.21: appears round and nebulous, grey, and w/ some central cond. of a lighter hue; ref. stars for mags were HIP 17103 and 16226 [NYH]. July 4.21 and 5.21: low alt. (< 15 $^\circ$); no clouds and no moon [NYH]. July 4.21, 5.21, 6.18, 10.19, and 11.20: no tail visible; easily seen in binoc. [NYH]. July 4.34, 5.34, and 6.37: comp. stars have $V = 5.25$ ($B-V = -0.10$) and 5.55 (+1.42) [AMO01]. July 5.21, 6.18, 10.19, and 11.20: appears nebulous, slightly elongated, and grey in the 9.0-cm $f/11$ M (40 \times) [NYH]. July 5.21: central cond. of a lighter hue in the 9.0-cm $f/11$ M (40 \times), which also yielded coma dia. 5'; ref. stars for mags were HIP 16086 and 16226 [NYH]. July 6.18: star-like central cond. in the 9.0-cm $f/11$ M (40 \times), which also yielded coma dia. 6'; low alt. (< 10 $^\circ$); ref. stars for mags were HIP 15807 and 15687; a few thin clouds at the E horizon, but not at the comet, and no moon [NYH]. July 8.12: alt. 8 $^\circ$ [GON05]. July 8.38: comp. stars have $V = 5.56$ ($B-V = +1.08$) and 5.69 (+0.97) [AMO01]. July 10.19: star-like central cond. in the 9.0-cm $f/11$ M (40 \times), which also yielded coma dia. 6'; low alt. (< 20 $^\circ$); ref. stars for mags were HIP 15279 and combined mag for binary star HIP 15304; no clouds, but slightly reduced transparency due to atmospheric dust, and no moon [NYH]. July 11.20: star-like central cond. in the 9.0-cm $f/11$ M (40 \times), which also yielded coma dia. 5'; ref. stars for mags were HIP 14804 and 14600; no clouds, no moon, and reduced transparency due to atmospheric dust [NYH]. July 20.00: moonlight; alt. 13 $^\circ$ [PAR03].

◊ *Comet C/2008 A1 (McNaught)* \Rightarrow 2008 May 7.44: very diffuse, but clearly visible; not seen using Swan-band filter [SEA]. July 10.90: comp. stars have $V = 9.78$ ($B-V = +1.14$) and 10.21 (+0.42) [AMO01]. July 10.90, 11.90, 13.90, and 14.90: alt. 15 $^\circ$; moonlight [AMO01]. July 11.90: comp. stars have $V = 9.35$ ($B-V = +0.29$) and 9.89 (+1.16) [AMO01]. July 14.90: comp. stars have $V = 9.44$ ($B-V = +1.28$) and 10.08 (+1.09) [AMO01]. July 24.90 and 25.90: alt. 14 $^\circ$ [AMO01]. July 24.90: comp. stars have $V = 9.05$ ($B-V = +1.05$) and 10.00 (+0.38) [AMO01]. July 25.90: comet very close to GSC 7668-0616 [AMO01]. July 26.90: alt. 15 $^\circ$ [AMO01].

◊ *Comet C/2008 C1 (Chen-Gao)* \Rightarrow 2008 Feb. 6.82: difficult obs. (comet next to star of mag 11.8) [GIL01]. Feb. 8.83: comp. stars taken from nearby Henden sequence of BB Cas [BOU]. Mar. 25.85: slight enhancement w/ a Lumicon Swan Band filter [MEY].

◊ *Comet C/2008 G1 (Gibbs)* ⇒ 2008 May 1.34: four co-added 30-sec CCD exposures w/ 1.5-m L show a tail 2' long in p.a. 0° and "little coma" (mag 19.0) in 4"-5" seeing [R. E. Hill, Mt. Lemmon, AZ, U.S.A.].

◊ *Comet C/2008 J1 (Boattini)* ⇒ 2008 May 10.01: interference from 9.7-mag star [PAR03]. May 12.11: faint outer coma difficult to obs. w/ higher magnifications; after moonset [GON05]. May 31.68: LONEOS NSV 13578 sequence used for comp.-star mags [YOS02]. June 23.94: moonlight; interference from 10.2-mag star [PAR03]. July 2.01: almost no enhancement w/ a Lumicon Swan Band filter [MEY].

◊ *Comet P/2008 J2 (Beshore)* ⇒ 2008 May 12.07: after moonset [GON05]. May 31.58: LONEOS V805 Sco sequence used for comp.-star mags [YOS02].

◊ *Comet C/2008 J4 (Hill)* ⇒ 2008 May 20.76: CCD image taken w/ 25-cm f/5 L yields total mag 14.8 (ref. Tycho-2 catalogue) and coma dia. 0'.7; moderate cond.; faint tail 1' long in p.a. 237° [K. Kadota, Ageo, Japan]. May 25.74: CCD image taken w/ 25-cm f/5 L yields total mag 14.3 (ref. Tycho-2 catalogue) and coma dia. 1'.3; very diffuse and faint, w/ quite-weak cond. and faint tail 3' long in p.a. 246° [K. Kadota, Ageo, Japan]. June 5.00: twilight; alt. 17° [PAR03]. June 6.99: twilight; alt. 16° [PAR03]. June 7.10: nearby field stars checked via Digitized Sky Survey; motion checked during a 30-min period; faint, very diffuse coma, w/o central cond. [GON05]. June 8.98: twilight; alt. 15° [PAR03]. June 14.93: moonlight; alt. 10°-11° [PAR03]. June 18.97: moonlight; alt. 9° [PAR03].

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Key to observers with observations published in this issue, with 2-digit numbers between Observer Code and Observer's Name indicating source [16 = Japanese observers (via Akimasa Nakamura, Kuma, Ehime); 32 = Hungarian observers (via Krisztián Sárneczky, Budapest); etc.]:

AM001	Alexandre Amorim, Brazil	NAG04 16	Kazuro Nagashima, Nara, Japan
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CER01 23	Jakub Černý, Praha, Czech Rep.	*NYH 21	Anders Nyholm, Sweden
COM 11	Georg Comello, The Netherlands	*PAP04	Giuseppe Pappa, Sicily, Italy
DES01	Jose G. de Souza Aguiar, Brazil	PAR03	Mieczyslaw L. Paradowski, Poland
DIJ	Edwin van Dijk, The Netherlands	PILO1	Uwe Pilz, Leipzig, Germany
GIL01 11	Guus Gilein, The Netherlands	QVA 24	Jan Qvam, Horten, Norway
GON05	J. J. Gonzalez, Asturias, Spain	RAE	Stuart T. Rae, New Zealand
HAS02	Werner Hasubick, Germany	SAL03	Raul Salvo, Montevideo, Uruguay
HOR02 23	Kamil Hornoch, Czech Republic	SEA	David A. J. Seargent, Australia
JON	Albert F. Jones, New Zealand	SHU	Sergey E. Shurpakov, Belarus
KAM01	Andreas Kammerer, Germany	SOU01	W. C. de Souza, Brazil
KOU 23	Jakub Koukal, Czech Republic	TSU02 16	M. Tsumura, Wakayama, Japan
LAB02	Carlos Labordena, Spain	YOS02 16	Katsumi Yoshimoto, Hirao, Japan
MEE	Karen J. Meech, HI, U.S.A.	YOS04 16	Seiichi Yoshida, Kanagawa, Japan
MEY	Maik Meyer, Germany		

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NOTE: The tabulated CCD data summary begins on page 130 of this issue.

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Tabulated Visual-Data Summary

As begun the July 2007 issue, we now publish summaries of contributed tabulated data instead of publishing each line of observation that is contributed to the *ICQ* (with rare exceptions, as with comets C/2006 P1 and 17P in the last couple of years); the following format serves the purpose of summarizing all the comets that had data reported with their observational arcs for each observer. The full 80-character observation records are posted at the *ICQ* website (<http://www.cfa.harvard.edu/icq/icqobs.html>), and are available upon request by e-mail to the *ICQ* Editor.

The tabulation below lists, for each comet, the first and last observation (with associated total visual magnitude estimate) for each observer, listed in alphabetical order of the observers within each comet's listing (the usual 3-letter, 2-digit observer code coming under the column Obs., whose key is provided above). The final column (separated by a slash, /, from the observer code) provides the number of individual 80-character observation records entered into the *ICQ* archive from that observer for the particular comet for this issue; when only one observation was submitted by a specific observer for a given comet, the last column is left blank (with no slash mark after the observer code).

Comet 6P/d'Arrest

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 07 23.07	12.6:			AMD01
2008 07 26.98	12.7			GON05
2008 07 31.87	12.0			NEV
2008 07 03.95	13.2			PAR03
2008 07 26.91	11.7			PILO1

Comet 7P/Pons-Winnecke

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 06 23.91	13.5:			PAR03

Comet 8P/Tuttle

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2007 12 03.78	9.2	2008 01 06.89	5.7	KOU / 7
2008 02 26.38	7.2	2008 05 01.42	10.5	RAE / 6

Comet 15P/Finlay

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 07 08.11	9.7	2008 07 15.13	9.2	GON05/ 3
2008 06 14.80	10.7			SEA

Comet 17P/Holmes

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 02 04.85	4.2	2008 03 07.84	4.9:	BOU / 9
2007 11 01.84	2.7	2007 11 02.82	2.8	CER01/ 2
2008 03 07.81	5.5:			COM
2008 02 01.82	4.0	2008 03 07.90	5.3	DIJ / 12
2008 02 26.77	4.4	2008 02 27.77	4.5	HOR02/ 2
2007 12 03.77	3.3	2008 01 06.88	3.7	KOU / 11
2008 02 02.75	4.2:	2008 03 05.82	4.7:	MEY / 4

Comet 26P/Grigg-Skjellerup

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 05 05.03	12.5:	2008 05 08.02	13.0	BOU / 2
2008 05 08.01	12.8:			CER01
2008 05 05.04	12.6	2008 05 08.01	12.6	DIJ / 2
2008 05 31.95	13.3	2008 06 06.95	12.8	PAR03/ 3

Comet 29P/Schwassmann-Wachmann

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2002 02 04.86	11.7	2008 02 26.86	12.6	BOU / 6
2008 04 07.81	12.5:			CER01
2008 02 04.86	11.6	2008 02 26.86	12.5	DIJ / 4

Comet 46P/Wirtanen

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 02 02.76	8.7	2008 05 04.92	12.6	BOU / 11
2008 04 07.83	11.5	2008 05 09.91	12.0	CER01/ 2
2008 03 07.81	10.0			COM
2008 02 02.76	8.8	2008 05 04.93	12.6	DIJ / 7
2008 05 07.84	12.4			HAS02

Comet 46P/Wirtanen [cont.]

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 02 26.76	9.2	2008 03 31.81	10.2	HOR02/ 3
2008 02 02.74	8.7	2008 03 05.81	9.0	MEY / 8

Comet C/2005 L3 (McNaught)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 05 03.01	13.2	2008 05 07.94	13.3	BOU / 3
2008 05 03.01	13.0	2008 05 07.95	13.4	DIJ / 3
2008 05 09.93	13.3			GIL01
2008 07 07.99	12.7			GON05
2008 05 06.18	12.7			HAS02
2008 04 26.92	13.7			SHU

Comet C/2006 OF_2 (Broughton)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 06 28.02	11.9	2008 07 15.10	11.7	GON05/ 2
2008 06 07.11	12.4			LAB02
2008 07 31.88	12.1			NEV
2008 07 02.95	11.6	2008 07 03.99	11.5:	PAR03/ 2

Comet C/2006 Q1 (McNaught)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 07 21.92	12.0:			AM001
2008 05 07.84	11.6			HAS02
2008 05 02.52	11.6			SEA
2008 05 03.51	11.7	2008 05 31.51	11.8	YOS02/ 2
2008 05 03.52	10.8			YOS04

Comet C/2006 S5 (Hill)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 02 06.89	13.6	2008 02 11.95	13.7:	BOU / 4
2008 02 06.90	13.8	2008 02 11.95	13.6:	DIJ / 2

Comet C/2006 W3 (Christensen)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 02 09.84	14.2	2008 02 10.98	14.2	BOU / 2
2008 02 10.99	14.1			DIJ
2008 07 08.03	13.2			GON05

Comet C/2007 B2 (Skiff)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 02 11.01	14.0	2008 05 07.93	13.3	BOU / 4
2008 05 07.90	13.5	2008 05 09.92	13.6	CER01/ 2
2008 02 11.02	13.9	2008 05 07.93	12.7	DIJ / 4
2008 05 07.85	13.1			HAS02
2008 05 02.53	13.1			SEA
2008 04 26.89	13.8			SHU

Comet C/2007 G1 (LINEAR)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 07 23.04	12.0:			AM001
2008 07 05.89	11.8			DES01

Comet C/2007 G1 (LINEAR) [cont.]

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 05 12.09	13.0	2008 06 27.95	11.3	GON05/ 3
2008 05 07.97	13.2			HAS02
2008 06 07.05	12.2			LAB02
2008 05 31.99	11.2:	2008 06 06.97	11.6	PAR03/ 4
2008 05 08.63	13.2			SEA
2008 07 05.91	11.7			SOU01

Comet C/2007 N3 (Lulin)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 07 21.97	11.0	2008 07 27.03	11.5	AM001/ 5
2008 05 12.13	13.8	2008 07 26.93	11.0	GON05/ 6
2008 07 26.88	11.5	2008 07 31.88	11.2	NEV / 2
2008 07 02.98	12.3			PAR03
2008 06 14.79	12.7	2008 07 24.50	11.5	SEA / 4
2008 06 30.72	11.5			YOS02

Comet C/2007 T1 (McNaught)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 03 31.83	12.0			BOU
2008 03 31.83	12.2			DIJ

Comet C/2007 W1 (Boattini)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 05 03.98	7.0	2008 07 08.38	5.6	AM001/ 40
2008 03 31.94	10.6	2008 05 07.89	7.2	BOU / 3
2008 05 07.88	7.8			CER01
2008 06 01.95	5.6	2008 07 24.35	7.1	DES01/ 39
2008 03 31.94	10.4	2008 95 04.89	7.4	DIJ / 3
2008 05 02.94	6.9	2008 07 15.11	5.8	GON05/ 4
2008 05 03.86	7.7	2008 05 07.87	7.6	HAS02/ 2
2008 04 23.85	9.2	2008 05 06.84	7.6	HOR02/ 7
2008 07 16.07	6.0			KAM01
2008 05 20.85	6.7			LAB02
2008 04 29.56	8.5	2008 07 12.75	6.4	NAG04/ 3
2008 07 31.94	7.2			NEV
2008 07 31.91	7.1			NOV01
2008 07 01.22	6.3	2008 07 11.20	6.9	NYH / 6
2008 04 30.79	7.7	2008 05 03.80	7.4	PAP04/ 3
2008 07 20.00	6.2:			PAR03
2008 05 01.40	6.9	2008 05 03.43	7.0	RAE / 3
2008 06 08.95	5.6	2008 06 30.35	6.0:	SAL03/ 4
2008 04 28.42	7.0	2008 07 09.78	5.7	SEA / 15
2008 04 26.84	9.5			SHU
2008 05 03.06	7.3	2008 06 06.93	5.5	SOU01/ 6
2008 05 03.53	7.2	2008 07 19.78	6.1	YOS02/ 6
2008 05 03.52	7.8			YOS04

Comet C/2007 W3 (LINEAR)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 07 05.96	[14.5			PAR03

Comet C/2008 A1 (McNaught)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 07 10.90	9.8	2008 07 26.90	9.4	AM001/ 7
2008 04 29.46	12.8	2008 07 09.81	9.3	SEA / 6

Comet C/2008 C1 (Chen-Gao)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 02 04.85	13.2	2008 03 31.84	9.9	BOU / 10
2008 04 07.80	11.6			CER01
2008 02 04.85	13.3	2008 03 31.85	9.6	DIJ / 7
2008 02 06.82	12.4	2008 02 09.80	12.5	GIL01/ 2
2008 04 23.83	10.0	2008 04 24.84	9.9	HOR02/ 2
2008 03 23.83	9.8	2008 03 29.83	9.5	MEY / 3

Comet C/2008 H1 (LINEAR)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 06 08.96	14.1:			PAR03

Comet C/2008 J1 (Boattini)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 05 05.06	12.8	2008 05 08.03	12.8	BOU / 2
2008 05 05.05	12.7	2008 05 08.04	12.6	DIJ / 2
2008 05 12.11	12.3	2008 07 26.96	10.3	GON05/ 7
2008 06 07.06	12.5			LAB02
2008 07 02.01	10.8	2008 07 04.99	10.7	MEY / 2
2008 07 31.89	10.5			NEV
2008 05 10.01	11.9	2008 07 03.97	10.1	PAR03/ 7
2008 07 26.92	11.2			PIL01
2008 06 30.69	10.9			YOS02

Comet P/2008 J2 (Beshore)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 05 08.04	12.9			BOU
2008 07 05.90	12.6	2008 07 05.92	12.5	DES01/ 2
2008 05 08.05	12.9			DIJ
2008 05 12.07	12.7			GON05
2008 05 09.97	13.0	2008 06 01.94	12.8	PAR03/ 2
2008 07 05.92	12.5			SOU01

Comet C/2008 J4 (McNaught)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 06 07.10	11.7			GON05
2008 06 05.00	11.1:	2008 06 18.97	[10.3	PAR03/ 5

Comet C/2008 J6 (Hill)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 07 05.94	[14.5:			PAR03

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Tabulated CCD-Data Summary

The tabulation below lists, for each comet, the first and last observation, with associated CCD magnitude measurement and "passband" (the one-letter code following the magnitude being the "magnitude method", which for CCDs has C = unfiltered CCD, k = Cousins R-band, etc.) for each observer, listed in alphabetical order of the observers within each comet's listing (the usual 3-letter, 2-digit observer code coming under the column Obs., whose key is provided above). The final column (separated by a slash, /, from the observer code) provides the number of individual 129-character

observation records entered into the *ICQ* archive from that observer for the particular comet for this issue; when only one observation was submitted by a specific observer for a given comet, the last column is left blank (with no slash mark after the observer code). The complete observations in their 129-column form are posted at the *ICQ* website and can be obtained directly by request from the *ICQ* Editor. See the remarks on pages 96 and 105 of the July 2007 issue, and page 126 of this issue, for additional information on this new summary tabulation.

Comet 6P/d'Arrest

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 05 28.94	17.9 C	2008 07 02.91	15.5 C	NEV / 2
2008 07 02.96	14.9 C	2008 07 11.95	14.7 C	SHU / 4

Comet 7P/Pons-Winnecke

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 05 27.53	[15.8:C	2008 06 13.54	[17.2:C	TSU02/ 2
2008 05 31.53	17.2 C			YOS02

Comet 22P/Kopff

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 05 27.49	17.6 C			TSU02
2008 05 31.51	17.8 C			YOS02

Comet 26P/Grigg-Skjellerup

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 05 30.96	16.8 C	2008 07 25.87	18.5 C	NEV / 2
2008 04 14.95	13.9 C	2008 05 04.99	14.0 C	SHU / 2
2008 05 15.78	15.5 C			TSU02
2008 05 02.73	15.9 C			YOS02

Comet 29P/Schwassmann-Wachmann

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 01 14.78	11.2 k	2008 01 14.78	12.7 k	BRE03/ 6
2008 02 24.77	13.5 V	2008 03 26.87	15.2 V	QVA / 4
2008 04 14.81	14.2 C			SHU

Comet 46P/Wirtanen

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 03 31.83	13.6 k	2008 04 24.92	[16.6 k	BRE03/ 4
2008 04 14.84	13.0 C	2008 04 26.86	13.6 C	SHU / 4
2008 04 29.47	12.5 C			TSU02

Comet 68P/Klemola

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 05 28.91	17.8 C			NEV

Comet 79P/du Toit-Hartley

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 04 29.49	17.4 C	2008 06 13.47	16.6 C	TSU02/ 3

Comet 85P/Boethin

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 06 12.70	[20.6:C			TSU02

Comet 86P/Wild

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 05 15.77	[17.8:C	2008 06 12.58	[17.2:C	TSU02/ 3

Comet 93P/Lovas

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2007 11 12.99	13.4 V	2008 03 29.89	17.4:V	QVA / 2

Comet 124P/Mrkos

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 04 29.53	17.6 C	2008 05 03.48	17.2 C	TSU02/ 2

Comet 144P/Kushida

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 06 18.51	24.6 R			MEE

Comet 183P/Korlevic-Juric

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 05 03.53	18.2 C			TSU02

Comet 187P/LINEAR

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 05 30.91	18.0 C			NEV

Comet 197P/LINEAR

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 05 02.78	16.1 C			YOS02

Comet C/2005 L3 (McNaught)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 07 02.91	13.3 k	2008 07 02.91	15.4 k	BRE03/ 4
2008 05 28.89	14.1 C	2008 07 02.88	14.4 C	NEV / 2
2008 04 14.90	13.7 C	2008 07 18.88	13.4 C	SHU / 23

Comet C/2006 OF_2 (Broughton)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 06 28.93	13.6 C	2008 07 18.94	13.0 C	SHU / 11
2008 05 02.80	13.5 C	2008 05 31.79	12.9 C	YOS02/ 2

Comet C/2006 Q1 (McNaught)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 05 03.46	12.2 C			TSU02

Comet C/2006 S5 (Hill)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 03 31.88	14.3 k	2008 03 31.88	16.4 k	BRE03/ 3

Comet C/2006 W3 (Christensen)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 04 14.83	13.9 C	2008 07 18.92	13.1 C	SHU / 18

Comet C/2007 B2 (Skiff)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 04 24.89	13.4 k	2008 04 24.89	15.5 k	BRE03/ 4
2008 04 14.87	14.9 C	2008 05 09.90	13.9 C	SHU / 8

Comet C/2007 G1 (LINEAR)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 04 15.03	14.5 C	2008 05 07.90	13.0 C	SHU / 5
2008 05 02.76	14.2 C			YOS02

Comet C/2007 N3 (Lulin)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 07 02.98	12.6 C	2008 07 11.94	12.1 C	SHU / 6
2008 05 31.75	14.1 C	2008 07 11.75	12.6 C	YOS02/ 2

Comet C/2007 W1 (Boattini)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 04 14.80	11.4 C	2008 07 18.99	10.2 C	SHU / 6
2008 05 02.54	8.2 C	2008 07 11.77	7.3 C	YOS02/ 5

Comet C/2008 C1 (Chen-Gao)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 04 24.85	[15.9 k			BRE03
2008 04 14.77	12.2 C	2008 04 22.83	12.8 C	SHU / 4
2008 04 29.45	14.0 C			TSU02

Comet C/2008 J1 (Boattini)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 07 02.94	12.4 k	2008 07 02.94	14.4 k	BRE03/ 4
2008 05 28.96	14.4 C			NEV
2008 05 04.98	13.9 C	2008 07 18.91	11.8 C	SHU / 11
2008 05 31.68	13.5 C	2008 05 31.69	13.3 V	YOS02/ 3

Comet P/2008 J2 (Beshore)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 05 30.94	14.5 C			NEV
2008 05 09.93	12.9 C			SHU
2008 05 31.56	14.3 C	2008 05 31.59	13.3 H	YOS02/ 3

Comet C/2008 J6 (Hill)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 07 26.95	18.1 C			NEV

Comet P/2008 L2 (Hill)

First Date UT	Mag.	Last Date UT	Mag.	Obs. / No.
2008 07 25.96	17.1 C	2008 07 31.96	16.7 C	NEV / 2

DESIGNATIONS OF RECENT COMETS

Listed below, for handy reference, are the last 45 comets (non-spacecraft) to have been given designations — with the notable exception of P/2008 S2 = 2001 D1 = 2004 X7 (SOHO), an apparent short-period comet observed only via the SOHO spacecraft. The name, preceded by a star (*) if the comet was a new discovery (compared to a recovery from predictions of a previously-known short-period comet) or a # if a re-discovery of a 'lost' comet. Also tabulated below are such values as the orbital period (in years) for periodic comets, date of perihelion, T (month/date/year), and the perihelion distance (q , in AU). Four-digit numbers in the last column indicate the *IAU Circular* (4-digit number) containing the discovery/recovery or permanent-number announcement. [Update of list in the Oct. 2007 issue, p. 150].

	<i>New-Style Designation</i>	P	T	q	<i>IAUC</i>
*	C/2008 A1 (McNaught)		9/29/08	1.07	8909
*	C/2007 VO ₅₃ (Spacewatch)		4/26/10	4.85	8911
*	P/2008 A2 (LINEAR)	5.71	6/12/08	1.31	8912
*	P/2007 VQ ₁₁ (Catalina)	12.6	2/13/08	2.69	8914
*	C/2008 C1 (Chen-Gao)		4/16/08	1.26	8915
	196P/2008 C2 (Tichý)	7.34	2/7/08	2.14	8917
*	C/2008 E1 (Catalina)	34.9	8/11/08	4.83	8923
#	197P/2008 E2 (LINEAR)	4.85	5/19/08	1.06	8924
*	C/2008 E3 (Garradd)		8/2/08	5.53	8927
#	198P/2006 B7 (ODAS)	6.78	5/3/05	1.98	8929
*	C/2008 G1 (Gibbs)		1/12/09	3.99	8932
*	C/2008 H1 (LINEAR)	364	3/16/08	2.76	8938
#	199P/2008 G2 (Shoemaker)	14.6	4/9/09	2.94	8939
*	C/2008 J1 (Boattini)		7/13/08	1.72	8940
*	P/2008 J2 (Beshore)	6.49	3/20/08	2.41	8941
*	P/2008 J3 (McNaught)	7.68	3/10/09	2.29	8942
*	C/2008 J4 (McNaught)		6/19/08	0.45	8943
*	C/2008 J5 (Garradd)		4/1/08	1.96	8944
*	C/2008 J6 (Hill)		4/10/08	2.00	8945
*	200P/2008 L1 (Larsen)	10.9	8/25/08	3.27	8952
*	P/2008 L2 (Hill)	14.7	8/18/08	2.32	8953
*	C/2008 L3 (Hill)		4/22/08	2.01	8954
*	C/2008 FK ₇₅ (Lemmon-Siding Spring)		9/29/10	4.51	8958
*	C/2008 N1 (Holmes)		9/25/09	2.78	8959
*	P/2008 O2 (McNaught)	9.53	4/21/09	3.80	8963
*	P/2008 O3 (Boattini)	23.6	6/3/08	2.50	8964
*	C/2008 P1 (Garradd)		7/22/09	3.90	8965
*	C/2008 Q1 (Matičič)		12/30/08	2.96	8966
*	P/2008 Q2 (Ory)	5.84	10/19/08	1.38	8967
*	C/2008 Q3 (Garradd)		6/23/09	1.80	8968
*	P/2008 R1 (Garradd)	4.50	7/25/08	1.79	8969
	201P/2008 Q4 (LONEOS)	6.44	8/4/08	1.35	8970
	202P/2008 R2 (Scotti)	7.34	2/7/09	2.53	8971
*	C/2008 R3 (LINEAR)	78.3	11/22/08	1.91	8973
#	203P/2008 R4 (Korlević)	10.0	2/8/10	3.18	8974
#	204P/2008 R5 (LINEAR-NEAT)	7.02	12/9/08	1.94	8974
#	205P/2008 R6 (Giacobini)	6.66	9/10/08	1.53	8975
*	P/2008 S1 (Catalina-McNaught)	6.76	10/1/08	1.19	8978
*	P/2008 QP ₂₀ (LINEAR-Hill)	6.52	11/2/08	1.72	8979
#	P/2008 S2 (SOHO)	3.78	9/17/08	0.047	8986
*	C/2008 S3 (Boattini)		6/5/11	8.01	8986
*	P/2008 T1 (Boattini)	8.70	2/26/08	3.04	8988
*	C/2008 T2 (Cardinal)		6/12/09	1.20	8993
#	P/2008 T3 (Barnard-Boattini)	5.83	10/25/08	1.15	8995
*	P/2008 T4 (Hill)	9.34	12/21/08	2.51	8994