

NOTATION AND NOMENCLATURE OF ASTEROIDS.

The numeration of recently discovered small planets has been assigned as follows by the Berlin *Rechen-Institut*:

Planet	Discoverer	Date	No.	Planet	Discoverer	Date	No.
<i>CE</i>	CHARLOIS,	1895 Dec. 9	(409)	<i>CN</i>	CHARLOIS,	1896 Jan. 16	(414)
<i>CH</i>	"	1896 Jan. 7	(410)	<i>CO</i>	WOLF,	Feb. 7	(415)
<i>CJ</i>	"	Jan. 7	(411)	<i>CS</i>	CHARLOIS,	May 4	(416)
<i>CK</i>	WOLF,	Jan. 7	(412)	<i>CT</i>	WOLF,	May 6	(417)
<i>CL</i>	"	Jan. 7	(413)				

CM (CHARLOIS, Jan. 16) proved to be identical with (332) *Siri*. The asteroids of 1896, *CP*, *CQ*, *CR*, have not been sufficiently observed to permit determination of their orbits.

The planet (352) = 1893 *B* has received from its discoverer, Prof. WOLF, the name *Gisela*.

NEW ASTEROIDS.

Prof. KREUTZ has transmitted notice of the discovery by WOLF of a small planet, *CU*, Sept. 3, to which are to be added five more, found upon a plate of Sept. 7.

<i>CU</i>	12	Sept. 3	10 ^h 42 ^m 28 ^s	Heidelberg M.T.	$\alpha = 22^{\text{h}} 45^{\text{m}} 28^{\text{s}}$	$\delta = +2^{\circ} 32'$	Daily motion, -40^{s} and $4'$ southward.
<i>CV</i>	12	Sept. 7	10 39	"	22 49 52	+5 30	" " -52^{s} " 5 "
<i>CW</i>	11	"	"	"	23 9 0	+1 19	" " -56^{s} " 6 "
<i>CX</i>	11	"	"	"	23 13 40	-0 23	" " -52^{s} " 5 "
<i>CY</i>	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	"	"	"	22 44 28	+2 4	" " -40^{s} " 5 "
<i>CZ</i>	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	"	"	"	23 2 28	+0 25	" " -40^{s} " 10 "

NOTE FROM DR. L. SWIFT.

On the evening of Sept. 20, I turned to look out of the window, some 20 feet distant, to see the sun descend behind a spur of the Sierra Madre range, about one-quarter of its diameter having disappeared. Instantly I noticed a luminous object about one degree above the sun. Thinking it was caused by refraction from a knot in the glass, I moved my head, but found the object remained stationary. Going out on the veranda the object was seen more distinctly. At first it occurred to me that it might be a small fire on the mountain, but this idea was quickly dispelled, as one-half of the sun's disk was still above the mountain, and the object still higher. Seizing an opera-glass I saw that it had a very much fainter companion some 30' north, but it could not be seen without the glass. In about four minutes after the sun had set the two objects also disappeared behind the mountain.

Both objects were seen by some fifteen people. Yesterday morning I attempted to refind the bright one with the *Echo Mountain, Cal.*, 1896 Sept. 22.

4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch comet-seeker, but failed, as the sun is not visible from the Observatory until 15° above the horizon. Last evening I began a search with the comet-seeker with the sun 10° in altitude, but nothing was seen until fully one-half of the sun had disappeared when I caught sight of it, but its faintness surprised me, for it was less bright through the telescope than with the naked eye the previous evening, though it is possible, and, perhaps probable, that it was the companion that was seen.

I only saw it for 5 seconds, and rushing into the Observatory to get a view of it with the 14-inch which I had previously set to near the place, I found the eye-piece was beyond my reach. Repairing to the comet-seeker I found both sun and object had set. I estimate that the object disappeared simultaneously with the sun's upper limb.

The only thing that perplexes me about this strange affair is, that the sun, object, and companion, were not in line, but must have deviated from it by 30° or more.

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OBSERVATIONS OF COMET α 1896 (GIACOBINI),

MADE AT THE U.S. NAVAL OBSERVATORY,

BY PROF. STIMSON J. BROWN.

[Communicated by Prof. WM. HARKNESS, U.S.N., Astronomical Director.]

Greenwich M.T.	*	No. Comp.	$\Delta\alpha$	$\Delta\delta$	α 's apparent	δ	log $p\Delta$	
							for α	for δ
Sept. 8.5602	1	. .	-3 ^m 50.09	-3 ['] 39.66	17 ^h 18 ^m 36.54	-8 [°] 10 ['] 47.8	9.4172	0.7986
9.5770	2	. .	-0 34.45	+2 25.67	20 37.61	-8 20 35.9	9.4761	0.7947
10.5521	3	. .	-0 13.00	+4 18.68	22 36.17	-8 29 59.3	9.3866	0.8016
11.5453	4	. .	-0 20.84	+1 50.80	17 24 38.67	-8 39 33.8	9.3621	0.8038

Mean Places for 1896.0 of Comparison-Stars.

*	α	Red. to app. place	δ	Red. to app. place	Authority
1	17 ^h 22 ^m 23.60	+3.025	-8 [°] 6 ['] 59.6	-5.57	$\frac{1}{2}$ (Radcliffe 1890 + Greenw. 1880)
2	17 21 9.06	+3.000	-8 22 55.83	-5.54	From *1, $\Delta\alpha$ -1 ^m 14 ^s .54; $\Delta\delta$ -15' 56".22
3	17 22 34.67	+2.990	-8 34 12.2	-5.81	From *3a, $\Delta\alpha$ +2 ^m 24 ^s .20; $\Delta\delta$ + 0' 30".62
3a	17 20 10.47	+2.990	-8 34 42.8	-5.81	$\frac{1}{4}$ (2 Schj. + M. I + M. II)
4	17 24 56.51	+3.000	-8 41 19.0	-5.50	From *4a, $\Delta\alpha$ +0 ^m 15 ^s .44; $\Delta\delta$ +6' 9".6
4a	17 24 41.07	+3.000	-8 47 28.6	-5.50	$\frac{1}{2}$ (Weisse's Bessel + Munich I)

Magnifying power 200. The following corrections have been applied to reduce to a common epoch: Sept. 8, $\Delta\delta$ -3".0 for +7^m.8; Sept. 9, $\Delta\delta$ -0".2, for +0^m.5; Sept. 10, $\Delta\alpha$ -0".19 for -2^m.2; Sept. 11, $\Delta\delta$ -0".1 for +0^m.3.

ELEMENTS AND EPHEMERIS OF COMET α 1896 (GIACOBINI),

BY PROF. STIMSON J. BROWN,

U.S. NAVAL OBSERVATORY.

[Communicated by Prof. WM. HARKNESS, U.S.N., Astronomical Director.]

A comparison of my observations with the ephemeris of Prof. SEARES (*Science Observer Circular*, Sept. 12, 1896), showed a rapidly-increasing deviation, amounting Sept. 11 to -40" in right-ascension and +2' in declination. An ephemeris which I computed from the elements of HUSSEY and PERRINE was still more rapidly divergent.

The following elements were derived from the observations of the Lick Observatory Sept. 5, and my own Sept. 8 and 11. An attempt to use OLBERS's method showed it in this case to be quite unserviceable, and recourse was had to OPPOLZER's method. The orbit is so evidently elliptical that no parabolic orbit can be expected to represent the comet's position for a period longer than a few days. A comparison of the present ephemeris with those computed from observations of Sept. 5, 6 and 7, shows a deviation Sept. the 29 of 11" in right-ascension and 45' in declina-

Washington, D.C., 1896 Sept. 29.

tion. The comet's position is probably still more to the west than shown in my ephemeris.

ELEMENTS.

T = 1896 October 21.537

ω = 145[°] 26' 34"

Ω = 191 58 3

i = 11 14 59

$\log q$ = 0.13368

For middle observation,

$\Delta\beta$ = +0".3 , $\Delta\lambda \cos \beta$ = -1'.9

EPHEMERIS.

Gr. Midnight.	α	δ
	^h ^m ^s	[°] ['] ["]
Sept. 17.5	17 38 18	- 9 37.1
23.5	17 53 43	-10 33.9
29.5	18 10 48	-11 27.6
Oct. 5.5	18 29 28	-12 16.6
11.5	18 49 41	-12 59.5

NOTICE.

Mr. R. G. AITKEN of the Lick Observatory requests that any unpublished observations of the Comet b 1896 (SWIFT) be sent him, as he desires to compute definitive elements for this comet, employing all observations which have been made.