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PRE-MAXIMUM BRIGHTNESS OF NOVA Sgr 1969

Bateson (1969) announced the discovery of Nova Sgr 1969 (R.A. = $18^{\text{h}}28^{\text{m}}3$; Dec. = $-32^{\circ}38'$). On September 20, 1969 the photoelectric magnitude and color of the nova became $V=11.3$ and $B-V=-0.061$. Candy (1969) observed that the star does not appear of the Perth Astrophographic Plates taken in 1902, 1904, 1910 and 1914. These plates reached the limiting magnitudes between 13 and 14. His recent estimate (1969) for the magnitude of the nova yields $m=9.7$.

Recently, Knight (1972) used the Nantucket plates to obtain the light curve of the Nova. Her light curve indicates that by the end of 1969 the star remained at magnitude of approximately 12. Using the Nantucket plates collected between 1957-1968 she found that the star's brightness remained constant at $m \sim 13$.

The purpose of our present note is to provide the information on the magnitudes of the star in 1965 and 1966. The photographic material used here are those that have been described by Hidayat and Radiman (1973). The following presents are the magnitudes:

1965, August 20	V=	12.78	B=	13.57
1966, June 17		12.07		14.06
Sept. 8		12.92		14.13
Sept. 16		12.52		13.65

The data may indicate little variation of the magnitudes. Another evidence for a possible variation in B is obtained from the spectral plates taken on August 27, 1965. A faint, but distinct, spectrum on the position of the star appears similar to that described by Stephenson and Herr (1963) for Nova Her 1963. Since the spectral plates record stars with $B < 12.8$, the brightness of the Nova at the epoch must have been brighter than the plate limit.

We are grateful to Mr F. Bateson who has kindly sent us his preprint of his identification chart for the nova.

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M.P. Candy, 1969, IBVS 408
B. Hidayat and I. Radiman, 1973, Contr. Bosscha Obs. No. 46
P. Knight, 1972, IBVS 694
C.B. Stephenson and R.B. Herr, 1963, P.A.S.P. 75, 253