

COMMISSION 27 OF THE I. A. U.
INFORMATION BULLETIN ON VARIABLE STARS

Number 2222

Konkoly Observatory
Budapest
1982 November 4
HU ISSN 0374-0676

ANNOUNCEMENT

Appended, in toto, is a letter relating to the planned reconstitution of a
WG on Supernovae

Commission 28 is planning to reinstitute a Working Group on Supernovae. The previous one formed in 1961, moved under the auspices of Commission 27 (Variable Stars) in the early 70's and largely ceased to function with the death of its founder, Fritz Zwicky, in 1974. Vera Rubin, as president of Commission 28, has asked me to act as Interim Chairman of the revived working group until formal arrangements can be made at the 19th General Assembly in New Delhi.

It seems to me that the working group could serve two major functions, roughly parallel to those of other IAU WG's:

1. To act as an advocate of supernova searches and supernova researches both within the astronomical community and with respect to the external powers that control observing time, computing time, and funding. The automated searches operating or soon to be operating in Cambridge (UK), New Mexico, Berkeley, and probably other places I do not know about will naturally much increase the demand for observing time to obtain follow-up data and for computing power to analyze and interpret it.

2. To provide a coordinating service among those programs currently and soon to be engaged in supernova searches and those individuals and institutions equipped to provide light curves, spectra, and other data at radio, infrared, X-ray, and ultraviolet - not to mention optical - wavelengths.

Both your advice and your assistance would be very much appreciated. If you are involved, in any way, in supernova research, or if you can think of specific ways that a working group could facilitate your activities, or if you are willing to be an active member of the group, please let me know. I will try to reach members of other relevant commissions (High Energy Astrophysics, etc.) with messages similar to this one. But do, please, share this with anyone you think might be interested and let me know if there are people or institutions involved in supernova work that I may not know about.

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