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V 404 Cyg - A FURTHER OUTBURST IN 1956

V 404 Cyg had been known as Nova Cyg 1938 (Wachmann, 1948) until a second outburst in 1989 (several authors, see IAU Circ. Nos. 4782, 4783, 4786, 4787, 4790, 4793, 4794, 4796 and 4797) showed that it is the optical counterpart of the X-ray nova GS 2023 + 338.

1462 Sonneberg plates from 1928 to 1989 have been examined in order to search for further historical eruptions. As a result the 1938 and 1989 outburst could be confirmed, and a further outburst in 1956 was found. The dates are as follows:

		JD	blue mag
1938	242	9193.34	13 ^m 7:
		9194.36	13.5
		9216.28	13.3
1956	243	5685.40	14.1::
		5691.41	14.3
		5694.52	14.5:
1989	244	7706.43	16.2
		- 44	16.3
		.45	16.3
		.47	16.2

There is a slight indication that another eruption might have occurred in 1979 (244 4142.93; 13.4?).

It cannot be excluded that there were more eruptions during time intervals not covered by plates (winter months, infavourable weather).

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Reference:

Wachmann, A.A., 1948, Erg. Astron. Nachr., 11, No.5.