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ON THE NEW CATAclysmic VARIABLE STAR IN CRATER

Recently Maza et al. (1992) announced the spectrophotometric discovery of a new cataclysmic variable J 05.23, which the authors, on the basis of their objective-prism photographic survey, at first considered to be a Seyfert 1 galaxy candidate (position 1950.0:  $11^{\text{h}}01^{\text{m}}09^{\text{s}}.4$ ,  $-21^{\circ}21'36''$ ).

I inspected the locality of this object on several hundred Sonneberg Sky Patrol plates taken mainly by C. Hoffmeister, P. Ahnert, H. Huth and B. Fuhrmann from 1928 to 1983 and centred near  $11^{\text{h}}-20^{\circ}$ . 392 exposures reached a threshold of  $12^{\text{m}}.5$  or deeper, and half of these showed a limiting magnitude of  $13^{\text{m}}.0$  or fainter.

One distinct eruption has been found. It is characterized by the following data, which have been gained by comparison with Harvard Selected Area 127 and corrected to the international system:

1953	March	6.9	UT	invis.	$>13^{\text{m}}.0$	pg
		15.0			12.6	
		15.9			12.9:	
		17.0			12.6	
		18.0			12.4	
		18.9			12.6	
	Apr.	5.9		invis.	$>13.2$	

On a number of exposures further faint traces of the object at the limit of detectability could be seen, for instance at 1965 March 29.9 and 31.9 ( $12^{\text{m}}.0$ ). To draw statistical conclusions as regards the mean cycle length of the eruptions is not possible, because it cannot be ruled out that a part or all of these traces are caused by accidental grain accumulations.

However, even if we take into account the bad conditions of the visibility of that sky region in central Europe, we can conclude that bright maxima are intrinsically rare and that this star might be either a long-cycle dwarf nova or of SU UMa type. Amplitude: 5.0 mag pg.

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W. WENZEL  
Sternwarte O-6400 Sonneberg, FRG