

THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA  
STANDING COMMITTEE FOR OBSERVATIONAL ACTIVITIES

COMET AND NOVA SECTION

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT  
for 1966.

NOTE:

This annual report includes a summary of the section since it formed in 1961.

1. SEARCHES FOR COMETS AND NOVAE:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	No. Obs.
1962	74	90	121	67	59	75	196	298	325	244	245	160	1954	27
1963	172	175	215	235	180	143	225	227	214	236	112	165	2299	21
1964	No monthly figures												2222	13
1965	116	151	208	168	171	180	225	178	189	178	93	86	1943	16
1966	164	261	207	134	132	177	295	276	222	250	176	182	2476	19
TOTAL SEARCHES FROM 1962 to 1966 (5 years)													<u>10894</u>	

Most members searched  $10^{\circ} \times 10^{\circ}$  areas with binoculars, usually to about sixth magnitude. During 1966, one member made numerous other searches. Of the 2476 searches during 1966, David Levy made 1271, or over half.

2. OBSERVATIONS OF COMETS AND NOVAE, 1966.

During the past year, the following observations were made of comets:

	Number Observatns.	Number Observers	Number Centres
Kilston, 1966b	57	7	4
Barbon, 1966c	3	2	2
Ikeya-Everhart, 1966d	1	1	1

The Coordinator of this section has not studied these observations yet, but hopes to analyse the Kilston reports in the near future.

Mr. H.N.A. Maclean made two more observations of Nova Herculis, 1963 during 1966, and it appears to be near a steady 14th magnitude.

3. BULLETINS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

In 1966, two Bulletins and one Announcement were issued. The following is a list of all Bulletins and Announcements that were issued since the formation of this section:

Bulletin	Date	Subject
1	15 November 1961	Introduction to C&N Section.
2	1 Mar. 1962	Request for reports of searches.
3	18 June 1962	Report on searches and observations.
4	19 Mar. 1963	Summary of searches and observations for 1962.
5	15 Mar. 1964	Summary of searches and observations for 1963.
6	Aug. 1965	Re-introduction of section, summary for 1964.
7	July 1966	Report on observations of Comet Ikeya-Seki.
8	21 Sep. 1966	Summary of searches for 1965, notes on 3 comets.

Fourth Annual Report of C&N Section (cont'd.)

3. BULLETINS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, cont'd.

Announc.	Date	Subject
1	Dec. 1961	Comet Seki.
2	Mar. 1962	Comet Seki-Lines, 1962c.
3	23 Mar. 1962	Comet Seki-Lines, 1962c.
4	18 June 1962	Comet Humason, 1961e.
5	19 Feb. 1963	Comet Ikeya, 1963a.
6	26 Feb. 1963	Nova Herculis, 1963.
7	7 Apr. 1963	Comet Alcock, 1963b.
8	5 July 1964	Comet Tomita-Gerber-Honda, 1964c.
9	21 July 1964	Comet Ikeya, Comet Tomita-Gerber-Honda.
10	30 Sep. 1965	Comet Ikeya-Seki, 1965f, and Comet Alcock, 1965b.
11	7 Oct. 1965	Comet Ikeya-Seki, Comet Alcock, Nova Herculis 1963, etc.
12	29 Nov. 1966	Comet Rudnicki, 1966e, and five other comets.

4. OTHER INFORMATION, AND SUMMARY.

One member (David Levy, Montreal) made telescopic searches for comets. He searched for a total of 59 hours and 20 minutes during 1966. As this report was being prepared, five more 1966 observations of Comet Kilsten were reported, bringing the total to 62.

Eight of the seventeen Centres were represented in this section in one way or another, last year; either in searching or observing comets. They were: Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton, Niagara Falls, Windsor, Quebec, and Victoria. One unattached member took part.

Of the many comet observations made last year, only a few gave detailed reports. Most gave little more detail than "I saw it." Although even these reports are welcome, the Coordinator would like to receive more detailed reports so that a study could be made of them. However, it is difficult to encourage observer's to spend the time required to fill out duplicate reports. Possibly, if a comet observation report form were printed, it would help. The Coordinator of this section would like the opinion of the National Chairman and Committee.

Although a record number of searches were made during 1966, there has been some falling-off in activity. More than half of these searches were made by only one member. The high number of observations of Comet Kilsten are also largely responsible to another single member. However, the Coordinator hopes to stimulate interest among more members during 1967.

April 20, 1967

Respectfully submitted,

Box 172, AMF Postal Station

Jim Low, National Coordinator