VARIABLE STAR NOTES

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Peculiarities, behavior, and activity of some of the more prominent variables* for 1976 are given in the notes below, which are in three parts. Part I summarizes the behavior of the different types of stars except U Geminorum variables. Part II lists the dates and brightness of the outbursts of some prominent U Gem stars in our observing program, and Part III is a list of variables in the Notes in order of constellation.

SS Cygni has been included in both Parts I and II due to the special interest of amateur and professional astronomers. Activities stated in the Notes are for 1976, unless otherwise indicated. AAVSO light curve of SS Cygni using the new format of computer plotting of individual observations accompanies the Notes.

PART I

PECULIARITIES IN AAVSO LIGHT CURVES IN 1976

000451 SS Cas. (M). Three bright maxima: 9.5^{m} on January 20, 9.0^{m} on June 20, and 9.2^{m} on November 7 were observed following the faint maximum of 1011 of September, 1975.

001032 S Scl. (M). On October 27 a bright maximum of magnitude 6.2 was observed following the 7.0 maximum in October,

001726 \underline{T} And. (M). The brightest maximum since the 8.0 maximum of $\underline{1967}$, was observed on June 30 at 7.9, which followed the 9.3 maximum of 1975.

004047 U Cas. (M). A bright 8.2 maximum on 3 July followed

the 9.1 maximum of 4 October, 1975.

004132 RW And. (M). An 8.1 maximum in October followed the the 10.2 maximum of August, 1975.

 $_{\rm m}^{005840}$ RX And. (Z). It varied between 10.6 and 13.9 with 10 to 15 day intervals between maxima until November. Then its amplitude decreased to 1.5 magnitudes and the interval of variation shortened to 6 to 9 days. At the beginning of December, it resumed variability between 10.9 and 13.4 with 12 days between the last two maxima of the year.

010940 <u>U And</u>. (M). A 9^m 6 maximum was observed at the end of July following the two faint maxima of 10^m . and 10^m . of 1974 and 1975, respectively.

013050 KT Per. (Z). Varied from $11^m.5$ to $15^m.5$ with intervals between 25 and 31 days. There were twelve outbursts.

020657a TZ Per. (Z). Varied between 12^{m} 6 and 13^{m} 9 until mid-July when it entered into a stillstand for about

four months. From mid-November until the end of the year the variation was from 12.8 to 14.2.

02124 R Ari. (M). Two bright maxima in mid-February and mid-August at 8.0 and 8.2, respectively, followed the 9.0 maximum of mid-August, 1975.

021403 o Cet. (M). After a long minimum in October, 1975, where the variable was fainter than $9^{\text{m}}_{\cdot}0$ for about 90 days,

^{*}Key to variable types in the Notes:

I = Irregular, associated with Nebulae; M = Mira Ceti type; N = Nova; NL = Nova-like; NR = Recurrent Nova; QSO = Quasar; RCB = R Coronae Borealis; S Dor = S Doradus; SR = Semiregular; UG = U Geminorum; Z = Z Camelopardalis; Z And = Z Andromedae (Symbiotic).

the 418th maximum was observed on February 12 at magnitude 4.6. The following minimum was 9^m 1 on September 10. The magnitude for maximum and minimum is given as 3^m 4 and 9^m 3,

respectively, in the <u>General Catalog of Variable Stars (GCVS)</u>.

021558 <u>S Per. (SR)</u>. This semiregular variable faded from 8.8 in the beginning of 1975 to 11.8 by April, 1976. It reached minimum at about 12.0 in mid-April, 700 days after the minimum of May, 1974. It then started to brighten in May and continued to brighten the rest of the year. It reached 9.7 by the end of November. In the <u>Third Supplement</u> to the third edition of \underline{GCVS} , this member of h and χ Persei cluster is reported to have two oscillations which are superimposed, with periods of 825 and 940 days.

030046 $\underline{\text{V400 Per}}$. (Nova 1974). (N). It was 13^{m} 5 in the beginning of the year. It faded very slowly, reaching 14^m0 by the end of March. J. Bortle reported it to be fainter than 14.0 on 22 September. Observers with large aperture telescopes are urged to monitor this nova.

032443 GK Per. (Nova 1901). (N). It fluctuated between 12.9 and 13.5 during the year, with a very short (a few days) and small scale brightening to 12.6 in the middle of November.

040053 \underline{XX} Cam. (RCB). This R Coronae Borealis star was at

maximum, at mean magnitude 7.4 during the year. 043274 X Cam. (M). Another bright minimum at 11...9 was observed on April 16 between two maxima, both of 8...0 on 23 January and 17 June. The following minimum was 12...8 on September 5.

043322 VY Tau. (I). This ${\tt T}$ Tauri type nebular variable with outbursts, like SS Cygni, with one to several years apart varied between 13.2 and 14.2 during the year.

053326 RR Tau. (I). This nebular variable had amother active year. In the beginning of January it was 13. when it started to brighten, with fluctuations, reaching about 11.0 by February. It fluctuated between 10.5 and 11.7 until April and then it started to fade, reaching 13.4 by late April. It was at minimum until the end of that month, when it_started to brighten again. L. Peltier reported it at 12.0 on May 4, and at its next visibility season he had it at 11.0 on July 31. It fluctuated between 10.4 and 11.7 until the end of the year.

054319 SU Tau. (RCB). It started the year at about 10.7; it reached average magnitude 10 by February and then fluctuated between 9.4 and 10.4 until May. At its next visibility season in August it had faded to minimum. L. Peltier, C. Hurless and E. Mayer observed it between 14.9 and 15.7through November. The minimum was continuing at the end of the year.

054705 CN Ori.(Z). The brightness ranged from 11.9 to 14.7 with 14 to 22 day intervals between maxima.
060450 X Aur. (M). A bright minimum of magnitude 11.9

was observed in the beginning of April following a maximum of magnitude 8.5 at the end of January. The previous minimum of November, 1975 was 12^{m} .

061700 V606 Mon (Nova 1975). (N). This interesting nova was about 13\mathbb{m}0 in the beginning of the year. It varied between 12\mathbb{m}8 and 13\mathbb{m}2 until mid-March, then J. Bortle and R. Ariail observed it fading, reaching 14\mathbb{m}1 by the end of March. J. Bortle observed it fainter than 14\mathbb{m} in the beginning of May. It was too faint to be observed by A.A.V.S.O. observers the rest of the year. Observers should be cautioned in identifying this variable, due to a very close star of about $14^{\rm m}$, D. Ya. Martynov at Sternberg Astronomical Institute reports the following photographic observations by S. Y. Shugarov: March 29, 15.7; 31, 15.9; April 1, 16.1; 2, 16.5;

3, 16.9; 4, 17.2; plus a visual magnitude April 23, 17.5 (IAU Circular 2953).

081473 Z Cam. (Z). This variable, prototype of its kind, was at the peak of an outburst when the year began. It was active between January and mid-June undergoing eight outbursts with intervals from 20 to 32 days between maxima and varying between 10^{m} 2 and 13^{m} 9. From mid-June until the end of the year it was at a standstill with a mean magnitude of 11.5.

085518 SY Cnc. (Z). Varied between 10.4 and 13.8 with intervals of 24 to 30 days between outbursts.

094211 R Leo. (M). A long, flattop maximum of 6^{m} 0 was observed during May and the first half of June.

104814 W Leo. (M). Following two faint maxima, both of about magnitude 10.5, in January, 1974, and February, 1975, a bright, 9.2 maximum was observed at the end of February, 1976.

122402 3C-273 Vir. (QSO). Observations ranged from 12 m 5 to 12 m 9.

122532 $\underline{\text{T}}$ $\underline{\text{CVn}}$. (M). A bright minimum of 11.3 in mid-April was followed by a 10.1 maximum in August. The mean magnitudes for maximum and minimum given in the $\underline{\text{GCVS}}$ are 9.6 and 11.9, respectively.

123307 R Vir. (M). A bright minimum of $10^{m}_{...}$ 7 was observed on April 6 between two maxima of brightness $6^{m}_{..}$ 8 and $6^{m}_{..}$ 7 on January 23 and June 19, respectively. The preceding minimum of November, 1975 was also bright, at 10.7. The mean maximum and minimum magnitudes in the GCVS are 6.9 and 11.5.

124238 U CVn. (M). A 9^m0 maximum in mid-February followed the 11.2 maximum of 1975, which was the faintest recorded maximum since 1969 when A.A.V.S.O. observations started on this variable.

131546 <u>V CVn</u>. (SR). It continues its periodicity, favoring a period of 191 days, as given in the <u>GCVS</u>. Two maxima were observed, 7.0 at the end of January and 6.8 in early August.

132262 RR UMa.(M). This variable, soon to be added to our regular observing program, had a maximum at 9.0 in mid-June following the two faint maxima of 10.1 and 9.8 in March and

November, 1975, respectively. 142539 $\frac{V}{1}$ Boo. (SR). A sharp maximum was observed in mid-July at 7.7 and was followed by a long standstill. This semiregular variable was at 8.7 from the end of August until mid-November. It then gradually faded, reaching 9.5 by the end of the year.

143227 $\overline{\text{P}}$ Boo. (M). A bright 6.8 maximum on July 3 followed the 7.7 maximum of November, 1975.

150605 Y Lib. (M). A faint maximum of 9^m3, observed at the end of May, followed the 8^m5 maximum of August, 1975.

154428 R CrB. (RCB). In the beginning of the year it was at 9^m0, recovering from a November, 1975 minimum. It reached 8^m1 by mid-January, 1976, faded to 8^m5, and then continued to brighten again, reaching 6^m3 by late March, and the maximum brightness of 6^m by late May. It stayed at maximum the rest of the year mum the rest of the year.

154615 R Ser. (M). The last three maxima have been of decreasing brightness: September, 1974, 5.9; September, 1975, 6.4; and September, 1976, 7.7.

155526 T CrB. (NR). Observations scattered between 9.06

and 10.4 with the mean of the observations at 10.4 m. 160118 R Her. (M). A faint maximum of 9.5 on March 22 followed the bright 8.0 maximum of 28 April, 1975.

164025 AH Her. (Z). Varied between 10.8 and 15.0 with

17 to 31 day intervals between outbursts.

1744<u>06</u> RS Oph. (NR). It had a slow overall decline in brightness from 10.5 in January to 11.5 by mid-June. It then started to rise slowly, reaching mean magnitude 10.3 by August and abruptly fading to 11 within fifteen days. It stayed at mean magnitude 10.8 with observations varying from 10.4 to 11.6 until the end of November.

180222 VX Sgr. (SR). This semiregular variable reached minimum in February, and then slowly brightened during the rest of the year, reaching 8.2 by mid-November.

180445 DO Her. (Nova 1934). (N). Scattered observations between $14\overline{72}$ and $14\overline{78}$.

18065 W Dra. (M). A 10.2 maximum in mid-August followed the faintest recorded maximum for this variable at 11.3 in 1975.

180666 X Dra. (M). The last three maxima observed have been of increasing brightness: 12^M3 on 27 November, 1974; 11^M8 on 7 August, 1975; 10^M9 on 13 April, 1976.

182502 FH Ser. (Nova 1970). (N). E. Mayer observed it at 14.7 on May 4 and 15.00 on August 15. Observers with large aperture telescopes are urged to follow this nova.

182529 V1017 Sgr. (Z And?). This possible Z And type, varied between $14^m_{..}5$ and $14^m_{..}7$, according to T. Cragg.

184300 V603 Aql. (Nova 1918) (N). Nearly constant at mean magnitude $\overline{11.4}$ with observations scattered between 11.0 and 11.0

185007 V373 Sct.(Nova 1975). (N). It slowly declined from 12.0 to 14.5 through the year. Observers with large aperture telescopes are urged to monitor this nova.

185213 V446 Her. (Nova 1960). (N). R. Kolman reported it at 14.8 in July. This nova also needs better coverage by observers with large aperture telescopes.

191033 RY Sgr. (RCB). It was at maximum, varying between 6^{m} 1 and 6^{m} 5 until May, when it faded to 7^{m} 4; by the end of May, it was at maximum, and it stayed at maximum fluctuating between 5^{m} 9 and 6^{m} 6 the rest of the year.

192420 NQ Vul (Nova 1976). (N). It was discovered visually by G.E.D. Alcock in England on October 21 at magnitude 6.5. It faded to 7.5 by the end of October with significant short term (minutes) oscillations of about 1 in amplitude. It then brightened to 6 in three days and then showed an abrupt decline in brightness on the evening of November 2-3, reaching 8. It gradually brightened to 7.5 and then started to fade again. By December 25 it was 9.5, when it showed another sharp decline, reaching 11.0 by the end of the year. Fluctuations (within minutes and days) have been a significant feature of this nova.

193449 R Cyg. (M). The maximum observed on May 6 at 9^{M}_{\cdot} 0 was the faintest maximum since the 9^{M}_{\cdot} 5 one of 1944. It was preceded by a long minimum where the variable was fainter than 13^{M} for about 160 days. This minimum, which was observed on November 12, 1975 at 14^{M}_{\cdot} 0, followed the brightest recorded maximum for this variable observed in February, 1975 at 6^{M}_{\cdot} 2

194048 RT Cyg. (M). Another pair of maxima increasing in brightness was observed in April 8 at 7.8 and October 18 at 7.4.

194635 CI Cyg. (Z And.). This interesting symbiotic star was at maximum at 9^{m} 3 in the beginning of the year. It stayed at maximum until mid-May and then it started to fade very slowly, reaching 10^{m} 2 by the end of the year.

194632 χ Cyg. (M). A 5 m 5 maximum in the beginning of July followed the 4^{m} 4 maximum of late May, 1975.

195377 AB Dra. (Z). Variations between 11.5 and 14.6 with 14 to 30 day intervals between maxima.

14 to 30 day intervals between maxima. 195656 RR Tel. (NL). Scattered observations between 9^m . and 10^m .

201437 P Cyg. (S Dor). This interesting variable had scattered observations between 4.7 and 5.1.

201520 <u>V Sge</u>. (NL). This unique variable had an active year, starting it at 11.3. It brightened to 10.3 on January 6, according to C. Sullivan. On January 31, J. Bauer reported it at 11.8. It stayed around 12 until mid-February and slowly brightened, reaching 10.5 by the beginning of April. It then slowly faded to 11.6 by May and fluctuated between 11.7 and 10.5 until mid-June; it again faded to 12.5 by the end of June. It brightened to 10.5 in July; faded with fluctuations to 11.5 by the end of August. It then again brightened to 10.5 by mid-September and oscillated between 10.7 and 11.8 the rest of the year. R. Adams reported "real flickering" between November 17 and 21.

203718 <u>HR Del.</u> (Nova 1967). (N). A very slow overall decline from mean brightness 11^m4 to 11^m6 throughout the year. 204016 <u>T Del.</u> (M). A 9^m0 maximum on 24 June followed the fainter 9^m8 maximum of August, 1975.

205543 <u>V1057 Cyg</u>. (I). This T Tauri variable, associated with the North American Nebula, had a sudden rise of brightness from 16 to 10 photographic magnitude in 1969. When it was placed on our observing program in 1971 it was at visual magnitude of 9.8. Since then, it has been fading very slowly. It was at mean magnitude of 10.9 at the end of 1976.

210868 T Cep. (M). A $6^{M}_{\cdot}4$ maximum in July followed the brighter $5^{M}_{\cdot}8$ maximum of June, 1975.

210847 V1500 Cyg. (Nova 1975). (N). This remarkable nova with an amplitude of $19^{\rm m}$ when it had its outburst last year, had reached $10^{\rm m}$ in its decline in the beginning of the year. It continued its slow rate of decline throughout the year,

reaching about 12^m at the end of the year.

210812 R Equ. (M). A faint, 10^m maximum was observed on May 22 following the 9^m1 maximum of September 4, 1975.

213843 SS Cyq. (UG). This year a record high of 4360 observations have been recorded on SS Cygni. This total includes the 3522 observations by observers of A.A.V.S.O.; 319 by eight members of Astronomisk Selskab, kindly made available for us by Ole Klinting; 48 by five members of Variable Star Section of the Netherlands Association of Astronomy and Meteorology (Report 30, Kapteyn Astronomical Laboratory); and 409 by members of the Variable Star Section of the Scandinavian Union of Amateur AStronomers (Report 1976, 1 and 2). All outbursts were very well observed and there were only 6 nights throughout the year with no observations. SS Cygni underwent eight maxima in 1976. At the end of the year SS Cygni underwent its 591st outburst. Each maximum has been numbered consecutively since its discovery in 1896 by L.D. Wells of Harvard Observatory. All outbursts of this year were of Class A which is characterized by a very rapid rise to maximum. The numerical subdivisions within each class stand for the widths of the maxima. The mean interval between outbursts of the year was 45.96 days and the mean interval for the 591 outbursts since discovery is 49.55 days. The accompanying light curve is a computer plot of all the observations of SS Cygni for 1976. Data is plotted Julian Date versus magnitude, with each dot representing one observation. This light curve has been prepared for publication by Robert S. Hill using the plotting program written by Richard Strazdas.

215717 U Agr. (RCB?). This interesting variable started to fade at the end of August. It faded about 3^{m} in 3 months. It was fainter than 14^{m} 5 in mid-December.

215841 <u>BL Lac.</u> (QSO). This compact extragalactic (?) source had observations varying between 14.1 - 14.8.

PART II
OUTBURSTS OF U GEMINORUM VARIABLES

DATE OF OUT BURSTS	:-		DATE OF OUT BURSTS	г–	
2440000+	Magn.	Comments	2440000+	Magn.	Comments
012031 TY P	sc	064128 LR Gem			
2819 2954	12.3 12.5		2823	12.3	single obs. by E. Mayer
3069	11.1	broad, brighter than 12.5 for 11 days	2837 2858 2886	11.7 11.5 11.5	1 1
3116	12.9	One obs. by C. Scovil	3020 3083	11.3	
012457 KU C	Cas	<u>.</u>	071628 AW (
3017 3116	12.9 13.0		2868	12.7	well observed
013937 AR A		<u>.</u>			
2795	12.7		2837	9.3	brighter than 10 ^m
2819 2844 3026	12.8 12.0 11.1	broad, brighter than 12 ^m for 5	3055	9.6	for 3 days
			080362 SU 1	UMa_	
3054 3077	12.9 12.0		2806	12.2	
3102	11.5	broad, <u>brighter</u>		12.3	
		than 12 ^m for 6	2854	12.0	
3129	11.7	days	2877 2896	12.0 11.7	
3129	11.7		2923	11.7	
060547 SS Aur			2938	12.6	one obs. by
2810	10.7	broad, brighter than 11 ^m for 6	2996 3040	12.1 11.2	T. Cragg broad, brighter
2876	10.9	days	3040	11.2	than 13.0 for 12 days
2929	10.9		3061	12.6	12 days
2983	11.2		3085	12.8	
3035	10.8		3107	11.7	
3081	10.7	broad, brighter than 11 [™] 5 for 8 days	3124 3143	12.4 12.4	
3140	10.8		080428 YZ (Cnc	
061115 CZ Ori			2784 2798	11.6 12.1	
2781	11.9		2806	12.0	
2806	12.3		2813	11.8	
2823	12.3		2827	11.8	
2844 2872	12.3 11.5		2834 2842	12.0 12.5	
3043	11.7		2858	11.6	
3100	12.0		2870	10.5	broad, brighter
3134	11.9				than 12 ^m 0 for 10 days

DATE OF OUT-		DATE OF OUT-			
BURST	Magn	Commonts	BURST 2440000+	Magn	Commonts
2440000+	Magn.	Comments		Magn.	Comments
YZ Cnc, con	tinued		1140 <u>03</u> TW V	<u>ir</u>	
2885	12.2		2801	13.5	single obs.
2891	12.1				by T. Wilson
2897	12.1		2832	11.2	
2906	12.4		2865	12.0	
2922	12.3		2888	12.2	
2929	12.0	single obs. by P. Steffey	2914	13.0	by N. Taylor, A. Jones of
3059	12.4	suspected by R. Annal	2952	12.5	RASNZ, VSS N. Taylor,
3069	12.1	single obs. by R. Annal			O. Hull of RASNZ, VSS
3076	12.1		2982	13.3	single obs.
3083	12.1				by N. Taylor
3095	12.3		3103	12.6	
3104	12.2		3129	12.4	
3111	11.7				
3128	11.6		180514 UZ S	er	
3139	10.6	broad, brighted than 12\mathbb{M}0 for	r 2866	13.5	one obs. by
		6 days			D. Overbeek
094512_X Le	:O		2903	13.6	single obs. by D. Overbeek
			2936	13.0	
2797	12.0		2948	13.2	single obs.
2820	12.2				by D. Overbeek
2833	12.0		2984	13.6	
2849	12.0		3013	12.8	
2864	12.1		3034	13.4	
2876	12.1		3044	13.4	
2888	12.3		3069	13.4	
2901	12.0				
2916	12.0	broad, brighte: than 13\mathbb{m}0 for days			
2932	12.8	single obs. by			
	12.0	B. Szegedi	184137 AY I	vr	
2944	12.9	one obs. by	2779	12.5	broad,b <u>righter</u>
		R. Annal			than 13.5 for
2952	12.0	one obs. by			9 days
		R. Thomas	2811	13.5	single obs. by
2978	12.1	single obs. by			R. Annal
		N. Taylor of	2899	13.2	
		TASNZ, VSS	2925	13.2	
3053	12.0		2942	13.1	
3069	12.3	one obs. by	2965	13.0	
		R. Annal	2984	12.6	broad, <u>brighter</u>
3083	12.1				than 13 ^m 5 for
3103	12.6				12 days
3116	12.7		3012	13.3	
3131	12.0	broad, brighten than 13 ^m 0 for	r 3039	13.6	one obs. by A.C. Montague
		7 days	3048	13.3	-
			3074	13.0	
095968 CH UMa			3108	13.0	
2889	10.7	br <u>i</u> ghter than			
2009	10.7	12.0 for 10			
		days			•
		.4 -			

DATE OF OUT- BURST			DATE OF O BURST			
2440000+	Magn.	Comments	2440000+	Mag	n. Comments	
184826 CY Lyr			CY Lyr, continued			
2811	13.8		3091	13.3		
2845	12.5		3103	13.3		
2873	13.1		3120	13.3		
2898	13.2	broad, brighter				
		broad, brighter than 14 ^m for	195109 UU	Aal		
		5 days	***************************************			
2916	13.2	-	2921	11.2		
2933	13.0		2973			
2945	13.8		3027			
2958	12.8	broad, brighter than 14 ^m for	3081	11.8		
		7 days	220912 RU	Peq		
2974	13.4	•				
2987	13.0		2790	10.1		
3002	13.3		2874	10.1	reported by	
3019	12.8	broad, brighter			T. Wilson	
		broad, brighter than 14 ^M for 6 days	3032	10.2	broad, brighter than ll for	
3040	13.8	4			10 days	
3056	13.2					
3072	12.9	broad, brighter than 14 ^m for 8 days				

PART III

LISTS OF STARS MENTIONED ABOVE IN ORDER OF CONSTELLATION

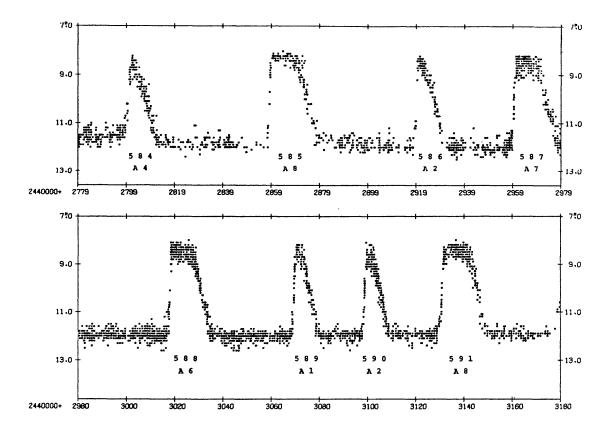


Figure 1. Computer plotted AAVSO light curve of SS Cygni for 1976. Each dot represents one observation.

The observations for the stars given above have been the contributions of AAVSO members and observers which include some members of the Albireo Amateur Astronomy Club of Hungary, the Astronomical Society of South Africa, the Japanese Astronomical Study Association, Variable Star Section of B.A.A. of New South Wales of Australia, Werkgroep Variable Stars of Belgium, Astronomisk Selskab, and M. Duruy of the Association Francaise d'Observateurs d'Etoiles Variables. Some observations of outbursts made by members of the Variable Star Section of the Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand and reported in AAVSO Circular have also been included to make the data more complete. Many thanks to all our contributors for their valuable astronomical data.