

with various government officials of these countries. After months of frustrating efforts they were permitted to leave, but sadly enough, only after the Cuban Revolutionary Government had seized all of the Ruiz assets and property.

John and his sister, Consuelo, then moved to Sunrise Village, a suburb of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, but he never got around to setting up another observatory. Instead, he donated his 12.5-inch reflector and all his photoelectric photometry equipment to Broward Community College in Sunrise, Florida, not far from where he lived.

John died in August, 1978, at his home in Sunrise, Florida. John will always be remembered as a humble but warm human being, with an independent, inquiring personality, spiced with gentle humor. We shall all miss him but always think of him as we flip the switch on the D.C. amplifier and make the first observation of the evening.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Three Stars with Flashy Futures

I am writing to alert AAVSOers to the importance of observing 3 cataclysmic variables of exceptional interest.

(1) 010359 HT Cas: This star erupts from magnitude 17 to ~12 with an unknown period (probably between 25 to 400 days). The star shows deep eclipses (1 to 2.5 magnitudes) which recur at the orbital period of $1^{\text{h}}47^{\text{m}}$. When the star is in eruption, these eclipses may be easily seen in small telescopes, but you must observe very frequently (~30 seconds) since they only last about 10 minutes. Careful observations and timing of HT Cas eclipses will enable the luminosity of the system to be mapped, and will address the most fundamental questions about dwarf novae. Equally importantly, the eruption period needs to be ascertained by diligent monitoring. (Warning: the eruptions last only 1 to 3 days).

The elements for the mid-eclipse are: J.D. minimum (heliocentric) = 2,443,727.937 + 0.07364722E.

(2) 170225 V2051 Oph: This star is very similar to HT Cas, but is not known to be a dwarf nova. Normally m_v is 15.8, but the system would be of comparable importance to HT Cas if it would ever erupt (and for the same reason; it's an eclipsing binary with $P = 1^{\text{h}}30^{\text{m}}$).

(3) 203501 AE Aqr: This star has fallen out of popularity with visual observers, but the recent discovery of strictly periodic 33 second oscillations in its light (with an amplitude of less than 1%) has produced a new wave of interest. The nature of its eruptive activity is still unknown, and it is not likely that professional astronomers will ever find it out. It will require intense visual coverage, preferably with good time resolution since there are flares lasting only ~5-15 minutes. The system generally varies between visual magnitude 12.5 and about 11. The photographic range is much higher (13 to about 10.5), suggesting the possibility of studying the variations through consecutive short-exposure photographs.

If anyone out there would like to help out on these projects, their valuable contributions would be much appreciated.

Joseph Patterson
Harvard-Smithsonian
Center For Astrophysics
60 Garden Street
Cambridge, MA 02138