

REPORT OF THE COMET MEDAL COMMITTEE

The list of comets found in 1939 is a long one. It is as follows:

1. Comet 1939*a*, a new comet discovered by Mr. Kozik of Tashkent, on January 17, and found independently by Leslie C. Peltier of Delphos, Ohio, on January 20.

2. Comet 1939*b*, a new comet discovered by Y. Väisälä of Turku, Finland, on February 8. It was first taken to be a minor planet, but a few weeks later the discoverer identified it as being really a comet.

3. Comet 1939*c*, a return of the Pons-Winnecke periodic comet. It was found by H. M. Jeffers of the Lick Observatory, on March 17.

4. Comet 1939*d*, a new comet discovered by several observers. The notes below contain a list of the independent discoveries of this bright comet; so far as we know the list is complete.

5. Comet 1939*e*, a return of Kopff's periodic comet. It was found by G. Van Biesbroeck of the Yerkes Observatory, on April 22. Five days later it was independently found by Hirose in Japan.

6. Comet 1939*f* is the Schwassmann-Wachmann comet 1925 II. It was observed by C. Jackson at Johannesburg on June 12, and within a few days by Bobone and Dartayet in South America, and by Van Biesbroeck at the Yerkes Observatory. The latter also identified it on some plates taken at the McDonald Observatory in May, by Seyfert and Greenstein.

7. Comet 1939*g*, a return of Brooks Second periodic comet. It was found by H. M. Jeffers and Miss Betty Adams, of the Lick Observatory, on June 17.

8. Comet 1939*h*, an unexpected comet discovered by Roger Rigollet, of Lagny, France, on July 28.

9. Comet 1939*i*, an unexpected comet announced as having been discovered by Mr. Kaminsky at Tashkent, on July 24. Although three approximate positions, from Tashkent and Pinerose, Italy, were published, no orbit was calculated. The

comet was searched for, but not found, at the Harvard, Yerkes, and Lick observatories.

10. Comet 1939*k*, a return of Tuttle's periodic comet. It was located by H. M. Jeffers, of the Lick Observatory, on August 12.

11. Comet 1939*l*, a return of the Giacobini-Zinner periodic comet. It was rediscovered by G. Van Biesbroeck of the Yerkes Observatory, on October 15.

12. Comet 1939*m*, a return of Faye's periodic comet. It was found by H. M. Jeffers of the Lick Observatory on November 3.

13. Comet 1939*n*, an unexpected comet discovered by Clarence L. Friend, of Escondido, California, on November 1.

On April 12 an announcement from La Plata indicated the finding of an object with a peculiar motion, not like that of the usual asteroid, which might have been a comet. The announcement was later withdrawn. Information concerning three other objects suspected to be of cometary nature was less formally communicated to the Lick Observatory. The existence of none of these three objects could be confirmed, although careful search was made for them.

So far as we are aware, Comet 1939*d* was discovered independently by ten different observers. The names of the discoverers, the places and times of the discovery, to the best of our knowledge, are as follows:

Discoverer	Place	Time
1. Jurlof	Votkinsk, U.S.S.R.	April 15
2. Achmarof	Balesino, U.S.S.R.	April 15
3. Lewis V. Smith	Segewick, Alberta	April 16, 4 ^h 5 U.T.
4. Olaf Hassel	Hokksund, Norway	April 16, evening
5. E. W. Barlow	England	April 18
6. E. Buchar	Prague	April 18, 19 ^h
7. Kozik	Aschabad, U.S.S.R.	April 19, 15 ^h
8. C. L. Friend	California	April 19
9. Roger Rigollet	France	April 20, 21 ^h
10. Okabayasi	Tokyo	date unknown, but probably after April 20

The announcement of Hassel, through Oslo and Copenhagen, was the one first distributed. A slower communication, through Beljawsky and the Pulkovo Observatory, made known the

claims of Jurlof and Achmarof. The communication from Lewis V. Smith, sent *by mail* to Professor J. W. Campbell of the University of Alberta, and by him, also *by mail* to the Harvard College Observatory, was obviously subjected to an unfortunate delay. According to the Statutes governing the awards of the Donohoe Comet Medal "the discoverer is to make known his discovery in the usual way," without being more specific on the point. By more or less general consent, a comet shall have no more than three discoverers' names as part of its formal designation, and naturally those three names first reaching a central astronomical bureau will receive the preference. On this basis Comet 1939*d* is now known by the names "Jurlof-Achmarof-Hassel." It seems, though, that Mr. Smith's discovery is likewise worthy of recognition. After these four, two days elapse before there was another independent discovery of the comet. In the judgment of the committee, the Donohoe Comet Medal should be awarded to Messrs. Jurlof, Achmarof, Smith, and Hassel.

It is of interest to note that Comet 1939*h* (Rigollet) is identical with Comet 1788 II discovered by Caroline Herschel. This fact was announced by L. E. Cunningham of the Harvard College Observatory. The return of Caroline Herschel's comet was not predicted or expected, however.

Further remarks concerning the comets of 1939 are to be found in the "Comet Notes" published from time to time in these *Publications*.

In accordance with the Statutes, the Donohoe Comet Medal has been awarded to S. Kozik and to Leslie C. Peltier for the discovery of Comet *a*; to Y. Väisälä for the discovery of Comet *b*; to Messrs. Jurlof, Achmarof, Lewis V. Smith, and Olaf Hassel for the discovery of Comet *d*; to Roger Rigollet for the discovery of Comet *h*, and to Clarence L. Friend for the discovery of Comet *n*.

The awards for Comets *a* and *b* have been announced in the June issue of these *Publications*. Those for Comets *d*, *h*, and *n*, follow herewith.

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