

Box 172, AMF Postal Station
Montreal International Airport
Dorval, P.Q.

April 22, 1967

Dear Mr. Joensen,

Thank-you for your letter of April 19. I am pleased that you are interested in nova search, and hope that you will make reports to this section.

Enclosed are copies of the instruction and report forms used by this section. Although this programme is prepared for the visual observer, you could still use the report form (C&N form #2) to list your negative photographic searches. You are probably better qualified than I on how to set up a photographic search programme, but here are some ideas:

(1). Compare the stars on the photograph with a star atlas, checking off each star to a limiting magnitude. With a 11 x 16 degree photo showing stars to ninth magnitude, this would be rather time-consuming! However, it is practical down to sixth magnitude.

(2). Take photographs of the same area several days apart. Compare by superimposing negatives in such a way that the star images appear as close doubles. Any star that does not appear as double should be checked as a possible nova. One problem with this method is that there may be a delay of several days in reporting the nova.

(3). Compare the negative with a star atlas on the same scale. Place the negative on the atlas in such a way that all stars should appear as close doubles. For best results, the photograph and star atlas should show stars down to about the same magnitude.

Remember, you will probably run into variable stars and photographic flaws during your search. You should have a list of variable stars that can reach the limiting magnitude of your photographs, or possibly your atlas will show them. Besides discovering novae, you may also discover new variable stars and comets.

However you decide to search, I hope that you will fill out the negative search report form. A negative report can be useful in the event of a future discovery, to help pinpoint the date of outburst. Just ask for more forms when you need them.

Enclosed are some recent Announcements and Bulletins issued by this section.

Best regards, and good observing!