QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY ASTRONOMY CLUB Jan 10, 1977
AND THE
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

1st MEETING OF 1977:

TUES. JAN. 18 at 8:00 pm

ELLIS HALL, QUEEN'S.

I'm not sure what's on the agenda, but am sure that Chris has something cooked up.

Astronomical Phenomena (from the Journal)

	d.	h.	m.	
Mon	17	20		Mercury 2° S. of Moon
Tues	18	07		Mars 6° S of Moon
Wed.	19	09	11	New Moon
Fri.	21	02	04	Appulse: SAO 176953 and Pallas *
		11	52	Appulse: SAO 176943 and Pallas *
Sun.	23	04		Pluto stationary
		06		Venus 3° S. of Moon
Thurs.				
→ ~~Mon.~~	~~27~~	00	11	First quarter Moon
→ ~~Thurs.~~ Mon	24	07		Venus greatest elong. E. (47°) •
Fri.	28	01		Moon at apogee (404,350 km) +
		05		Jupiter 1° N of Moon
		19		Mercury greatest elong. W. (25°)

* "A planetary appulse is a close approach of a star and a solar system object as seen from the earth" There will be only 7 major appulses in 1977 and these two are on the same day! SAO 176953 + 43 are stars; Pallas is the name of an asteroid.

• "Elongation is the difference in longitude between an object and a second object." In this case, the sun.

+ Apogee means the moon is farthest away from the earth.

Thanks to Leo Enright for the rest

I apologize for the type of type that follows. I'm not the best typist around and my machine is almost old enough to be the one referred to in the stanza I once read:

With this old machine of mine,
With damage to their palms,
King Solomon typed the Proverbs,
And King David typed the Psalms..

SOME HINTS FOR JUPITER PHENOMENA OBSERVERS.

I know there are some members of the club who are new to observing and are anxious to pick up some tips that might be helpful. To all those people, I would like to say that there is probably nothing to compare with observing the Phenomena of Jupiter's satellites, and Jupiter itself for that matter. Even if you are using a very small telescope, or are planning on buying a fairly inexpensive one, you will actually be amazed at what you can see and learn about the Giant Planet. here are some things that I Have learned, sometimes the hard way, whichmight be helpful:

I. Buy the Handbook, if you have not done so already. You'll see what I mean later!

2. Plan your observing sessions. Using the Handbook, pick out times in the evening and early night over the coming month when certain phenomena suchas the transits of eclipses of the satellite,Io, are to be observed.
For example: Let' assume that you do not want to be out later than midnight. (You turn into a pumpkin or for whatever reason.) On glancing at the Handbook you find out that for January I977, you may observe on the following nights, see a complete start to finish eclipse, transit, or occultation of at least one Galilean satellite, and still meet your time requirement: Jan. 7, Jan.11, Jan.12, Jan.14, Jan.15, Jan.127, and Jan.30. There are 7 for you. Even if the weather does not cooperate on all of them, you will know when you will next be observing.
Keep a personal observing -calendar for this purpose, and mark such upcoming dates.

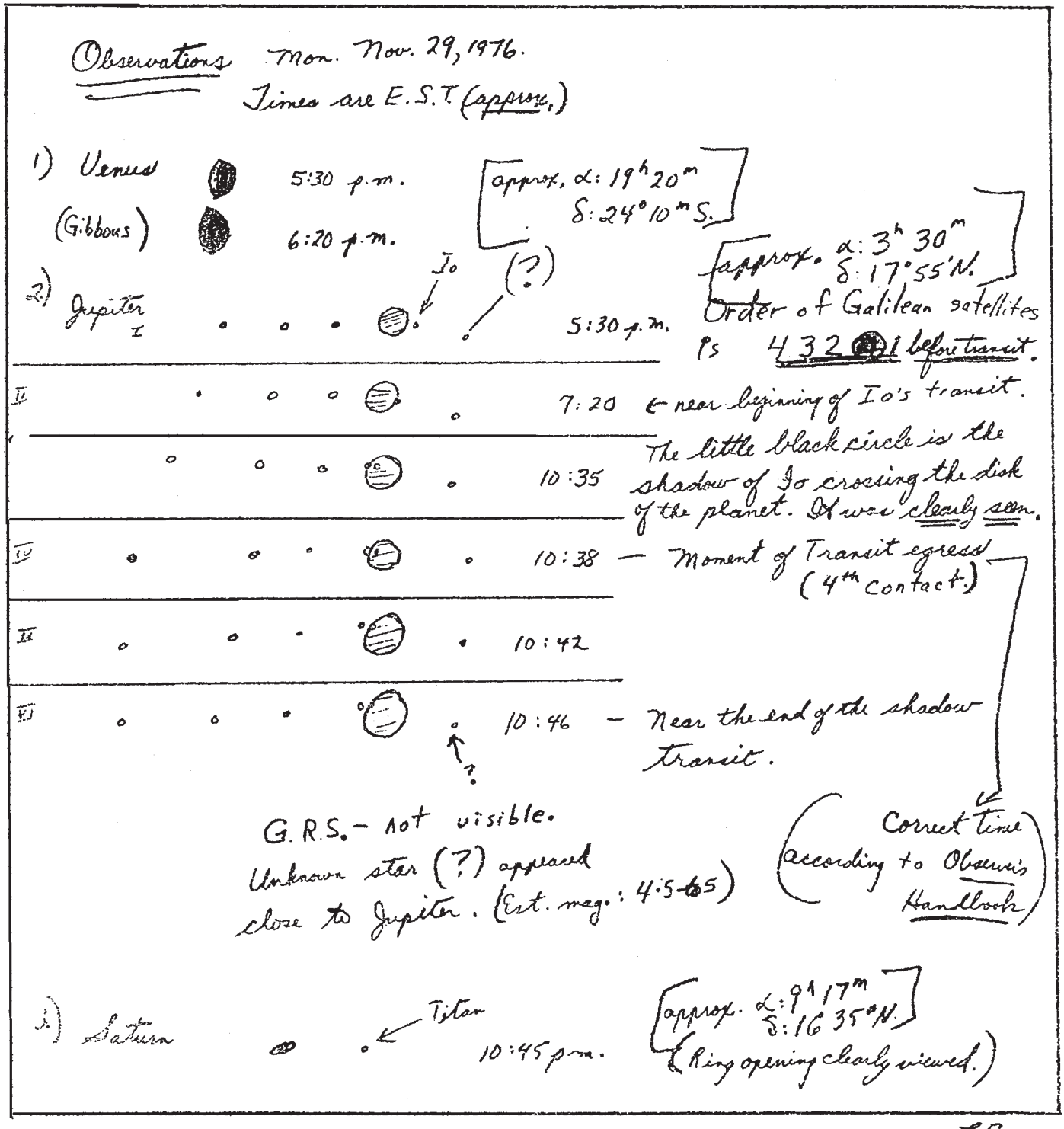
3. keep an Observations Sketch Pad, and in make little sketches at appropriate times of satellite positions, etc.. Believe me!-It's much easier than trying to remember later. Over a night a lot of changes occur. Record also the time of each sketch, and (from your Handbook) the order of the satellites in the sketch, and the position (coordinates) of the planet.

4. Make G. R. S. Recordings i.e. whether or not you saw the Great Red Spot. (I have seen it but wish I could say precisely how many times or on what percentage of observing occasions I have seen it.

5. Record any observed variations from predicted times of phenomena occurrence according to the Handbook. If accurate timepieces are used,and reports are made, this can be useful to the professionals. (Remember how Io's Occultation Reappearance "deked us"out by a full minute the night of our last meeting. - or was it our watches???)

6. Study the diagram on page 35 of the new 1977 Handbook for the order of occurrence of the phenomena of a particular satellite. For Io, the order is according to the inner circle; for Ganymede and Callisto, it is according to the outer circle in the diagram.

Here is an example of my sketch pad for a night of observation not long ago. (- Hope I followed my own rules!!)



THE COMPENDIUM OF ESOTERIC FACTS COLUMN

In our column this week we ask you:
Did you know that

a) The satellites of Jupiter have been observed with the naked eye. It's true. It takes ideal conditions and an extremely sharp set of eyes.

b) Ganymede, therefore, may have been discovered, not by Galileo, but thousands of years ago by some nameless peasant.

c) Speaking of discovering, the record for comet discovering is held by Jean Louis Pons of Marseilles, France, who between 1801 and 1827 discovered 45 comets.

d) Famed astronomer, Tycho Brahe, had a nose made of gold and silver. He lost his original one in a duel at the University of Rostock, and he constructed a metallic one in its place.

??? ??? ??? ??? ???
TO BE CONTINUED ** NEXT ISSUE

The ** BUT I DON'T USUALLY READ THEIR LITERATURE ** Column

Most serious astronomers regard most UFOlogists with a lot of skepticism. A few astronomers show some interest in some of the claims that are made and are somewhat intrigued and/or amused by them.

Currently, it seems, some of the UFO-folk are very interested in Mars -- no less!! (You'll get a laugh out of this one!)

The front cover of one of their recent publications, which I came across, shows a Viking 'photograph'(?) of the Martian Landscape with what looks like the shape of a human face seen 'face-on' in the shadows and landscape features of the Red Planet. The 'photo' also 'shows' ''circular sunken features " and a "raised Platform area" in the surface features. Of course, the accompanying story says that it looks like a place of assembly, and, of course, the story drops numerous "hints" that the landscape appears to be the work of intelligent creatures.

It is this kind of "hint-dropping", or persuasive writing-- the kind that almost shouts at you between every line trying to convince you that so many of their 'exhibits' are the works of super-intelligence -- that cause so much of this kind of writing to be rejected by serious thinkers. This type of writing often simply insults the intelligence. I think that if I wanted to examine the Martian landscape in detail, I would need a large number of extensive photos such as have been published in the scientific journals and magazines, and then examine all of them in detail. I would not be interested in "special effects" in one area.

The periodical I refer to is called the Canadian U. F. O. Report -- Yes, it's ever truly Canadian, and I suppose there are times when we might like to be diverted to something totally 'different', or see things from a completely different perspective, or have something to react to in the duller moments of life. If there are, this publication might fill the bill.

Meanwhile, as for the big job of separating the "claims into the two big categories into which they seem to fall,--I'll leave that to someone else --for the moment, at least.....

My List Of Wishes For 1977: - that Susan will get lots of club members to contribute to the newsletter.(Let's make it3 or4 pages.)
- lots of clear nights for observing.
- TO BE CONTINUED LATER.