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INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

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COMET P/2008 U1 = P/2000 S7 (McMILLAN)

S. Nakano, Sumoto, Japan, reports his identification of two nights of previously unpublished observations (here designated P/2000 S7), obtained with the Lowell Observatory 0.59-m Schmidt telescope in the course of the LONEOS project (astrometry given below), with comet P/2008 U1 (cf. *IAUC* 8997).

2000 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Sept. 23.20248	$23^h09^m38^s.53$	$-9°03'32''.6$	18.1
23.21798	23 09 37.84	−9 03 39.7	
23.23342	23 09 37.45	−9 03 43.4	
23.24886	23 09 36.96	−9 03 50.6	
Oct. 2.18685	23 05 32.41	−9 50 41.0	18.3
2.20628	23 05 32.03	−9 50 44.1	
2.22565	23 05 31.36	−9 50 51.9	
2.24506	23 05 31.00	−9 50 57.4	

These observations required a correction of $\Delta T = +1.19$ days in 2000 from an orbit utilizing astrometry from 2008 Sept. 20–Nov. 21. Nakano provides the following orbital elements linking 103 observations, 2000–2008 (mean residual $0''.66$). The comet passed 0.18 AU from Jupiter in 2004 July 8.

Epoch = 2000 Dec. 2.0 TT

$$\begin{array}{lll} T = 2000 \text{ Dec. } 8.9745 \text{ TT} & \omega = 217°.3768 & \\ e = 0.350672 & \Omega = 152.9971 & \}\,2000.0 \\ q = 2.693367 \text{ AU} & i = 7.1433 & \end{array}$$

$a = 4.147928$ AU $\quad n° = 0.1166695 \quad P = 8.45$ years

Epoch = 2008 May 14.0 TT

$$\begin{array}{lll} T = 2008 \text{ May } 13.2573 \text{ TT} & \omega = 310°.4836 & \\ e = 0.374407 & \Omega = 36.4178 & \}\,2000.0 \\ q = 2.524827 \text{ AU} & i = 4.4128 & \end{array}$$

$a = 4.035895$ AU $\quad n° = 0.1215610 \quad P = 8.11$ years

COMET C/2006 W3 (CHRISTENSEN)

Visual total-magnitude estimates: Sept. 7.81 UT, 10.4 (K. Yoshimoto, Yamaguchi, Japan, 25-cm reflector); Oct. 18.81, 10.5 (A. Diepvens, Balen, Belgium, 15-cm refr.); Nov. 16.74, 10.3 (B. Granslo, Fjellhamar, Norway, 20-cm refl.); 30.80, 10.0 (M. Meyer, Limburg, Germany, 15-cm refr.).

  Daniel W. E. Green