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INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

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COMET P/2006 U3 (NEAT)

R. Stoss, Astronomisches Rechen-Institut, Heidelberg, and Observatorio Astronomico de Mallorca, reports the recovery by J. L. Ortiz and A. Mora of P/2001 K1 (NEAT) on CCD images obtained with the 2.5-m Isaac Newton Telescope at La Palma, the object appearing asteroidal on 300-s *R*-band frames. The astrometric observations provided below were measured by Stoss. The indicated correction to the prediction on *MPC* 54169 is $\Delta T = -0.4$ day. The recovery positions appear to confirm the proposed identification of this comet with an object found by Stoss on Palomar Sky Survey plates from 1955; the 1955 astrometry falls within $15''$ of the position predicted from an orbit linking the 2001 and 2006 observations.

Date	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
1955 May	14.22084	14 ^h 18 ^m 41 ^s .81	+ 6°22'39".7	
	14.22778	14 18 41.50	+ 6 22 38.0	
	14.26250	14 18 40.12	+ 6 22 27.3	
2006 Oct.	23.13259	4 53 18.59	+14 46 16.3	22.4
	23.13672	4 53 18.52	+14 46 16.2	22.2
	24.03318	4 52 59.72	+14 46 22.4	22.5
	24.03727	4 52 59.64	+14 46 22.5	22.2

Orbital elements by B. G. Marsden, linking 1955 to 2006:

Epoch = 1954 Dec. 4.0 TT

$$\left. \begin{array}{ll}
 T = 1954 \text{ Dec. } 22.7570 \text{ TT} & \omega = 93.0505 \\
 e = 0.345814 & \Omega = 86.3172 \\
 q = 2.564300 \text{ AU} & i = 16.6409
 \end{array} \right\} 2000.0$$

$$a = 3.919835 \text{ AU} \quad n^\circ = 0.1269996 \quad P = 7.761 \text{ years}$$

Epoch = 2000 Oct. 23.0 TT

$$\left. \begin{array}{ll}
 T = 2000 \text{ Nov. } 6.8998 \text{ TT} & \omega = 94.6503 \\
 e = 0.357232 & \Omega = 84.8386 \\
 q = 2.470580 \text{ AU} & i = 16.9125
 \end{array} \right\} 2000.0$$

$$a = 3.843656 \text{ AU} \quad n^\circ = 0.1307938 \quad P = 7.536 \text{ years}$$

Epoch = 2008 May 14.0 TT

$$\left. \begin{array}{ll}
 T = 2008 \text{ May } 26.7064 \text{ TT} & \omega = 94.9130 \\
 e = 0.357635 & \Omega = 84.7534 \\
 q = 2.468702 \text{ AU} & i = 16.9133
 \end{array} \right\} 2000.0$$

$$a = 3.843143 \text{ AU} \quad n^\circ = 0.1308200 \quad P = 7.534 \text{ years}$$