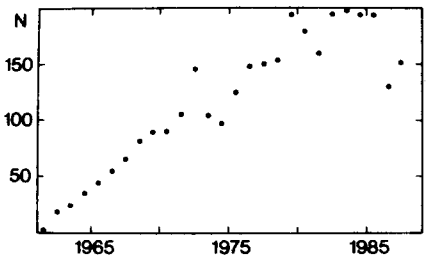
COMMISSION 27 OF THE I. A. U.
INFORMATION BULLETIN ON VARIABLE STARS

Konkoly Observatory
Budapest
24 August 1988
HU ISSN 0374-0676

EDITORIAL NOTE

When the first issues of the IBVS were published more than 25 years ago, nobody suspected that the Bulletin would be so popular among readers and authors. The original intention was to provide astronomers with the rapid means of obtaining important observational data, announcements, etc. In the meantime the attractive features of the IBVS (promptness of publication, no page charge, no external referees) resulted in an unexpected increase in the number of annually published issues (see Figure below).



The fact that Konkoly Observatory is unable to publish more than 200 issues per year, and the intention of the editors not to allow the scientific level of IBVS to decrease has the consequence that we impose stricter requirements on the submitted manuscripts. We do not wish the manuscripts to be refereed by external experts because this system would cause unnecessary delay in the publication. The editors of the IBVS undertake the thankless work of judging scientific level and validity of the manuscripts submitted for publication. About a quarter of the manuscripts were rejected lately either because objections were made against the scientific level, or the form of the manuscript did not meet the requirements.

In order to facilitate the editorial work, the contributors to the IBVS are kindly requested to take into account the following instructions.

Manuscripts should be short and concise; an upper limit of four pages is desirable (including tables and figures). Correctness of grammar and style is the author's responsibility. Manuscripts should be submitted in camera-ready form. Any type-face can be used provided that the text is typewritten using a

carbon-ribbon or, the word-processor has an output to a laser printer or other periphery and the printed pages contain homogeneously black letters and characters. The line width is 15-16 cm, and one page consists of 36-38 lines. The original figures or good quality photographs (maximum width 16 cm) should not be inserted in the text. Lettering and symbols in the figures should give clearly visible reproduction after photographic reduction (to cca. 2/3 original size). Too big figures are not appropriate, either. The IBVS does not have an editorial office, the personnel is a part-time secretary only, and two volunteering astronomers who perform the editorial work in addition to their own research work. Therefore we cannot replace the poor quality figures frequently sent to us with good drawings in Indian ink. Figures plotted by computers can be produced very easily but their quality is not camera-ready in most cases. Any correspondence regarding the rejected figures would take about two weeks while a good quality figure can be drawn in less than one hour. Our aim is to speed up the publication procedure.

The IBVS is not the appropriate journal for detailed discussions that do not require immediate publication. Such discussions should be sent to any regular journal. The advantage of these latter journals is the bigger circulation (the circulation of the IBVS is just over 600, and we can hardly increase this number). Lengthy tabular material of photoelectric observations should also be avoided. Unpublished photoelectric data should be sent to the Archives (see the relevant chapter in the report of IAU Commission 27 in the most recent volume of "Reports on Astronomy", IAU Trans., Reidel). We do not support the "preliminary" publications in the IBVS either, that is to say notes ending with the stereotyped sentence "a more detailed analysis will be published elsewhere". These notes will either cause some redundancy if the "final" publication contains the same results, or will be perfunctory, if the final results differ from the preliminary ones. Our tradition not to publish visual observations or their analysis is to be continued. Finally, references should be given at the end of the text according to the IAU rules. Each reference in the text should have its counterpart in the list of references and vice versa.

Strict adherence to the above mentioned requirements will facilitate the editors' work and contribute to the further rapid publication of the Information Bulletin on Variable Stars. We are convinced that this is the interest of all astronomers working in the field of variable star research.

Editors