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*CYGNUS X-1*

L. Piro, Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale (IAS), CNR, Frascati; R. C. Butler, Agenzia Spaziale Italiana; G. Boella, Istituto di Fisica Cosmica e Tecnologie Relative (IFCTR), Milan; L. Scarsi, Istituto di Fisica Cosmica e Applicazioni dell'Informatica (IFCAI), Palermo; J. A. M. Bleeker, Space Research Organization of the Netherlands (SRON), Utrecht; A. Parmar, Space Science Department, European Space Agency, Noordwijk; L. Chiappetti, IFCTR; B. Sacco, S. Giarrusso, and A. Santangelo, IFCAI; F. Frontera and D. Dal Fiume, Istituto Tecnologie e Studio delle Radiazioni Extraterrestri, Bologna; E. Costa, IAS; R. Jager and J. Heise, SRON; and P. Giommi, SAX Scientific Data Center, Rome, report on behalf of the SAX Team: "BeppoSAX successfully performed its first scientific observation by pointing at Cyg X-1 from June 22 to 25. All of the instruments performed nominally and showed that the source remains in its high state with a soft spectrum in the energy band 0.1–10 keV with an intensity of  $\sim 1$  Crab. Below 10 keV, the spectral shape is similar to that observed by ASCA (*IAUC* 6415). A hard component with a flux of  $\sim 0.3$  Crab is visible in the energy range 10–300 keV. The source intensity is variable with a peak amplitude of  $\sim 40$  percent at low and high energies. Typical intensities observed by the different instruments are: LECS (0.1–10 keV), 350 counts/s; MECS (1–10 keV), 430 counts/s; HPGSPC (4–120 keV), 140 counts/s; PDS (15–300 keV), 65 counts/s; WFC (2–30 keV), 170 counts/s. Corresponding fluxes, in units of  $10^{-8}$  erg  $\text{cm}^{-2}$   $\text{s}^{-1}$ , for various ranges are: 0.1–2 keV, 1.3; 2–10 keV, 1.1; 4–34 keV, 1.1; 15–300 keV, 0.9; 2–30 keV, 1.6."

*DN GEMINORUM*

A. Retter and E. M. Leibowitz, Wise Observatory, Tel Aviv University, write: "We performed CCD *R* photometry of the classical nova DN Gem during 14 nights in 1992 and 1993, and *I* photometry during 17 nights in 1995–1996. The light curve is modulated with the period  $0.12785 \pm 0.00005$  day, with a peak-to-peak amplitude of 0.06 mag."

*COMET C/1996 N1 (BREWINGTON)*

Visual  $m_1$  and coma-diameter estimates: July 6.21 UT, 9.2, 4'.5 (C. S. Morris, Pine Mountain Club, CA, 0.26-m reflector); 6.92, 9.1, 6' (J. M. San Juan, Ciudad Real, Spain, 0.44-m reflector); 7.40, 10.0, 5' (P. Camilleri, Cobram, Victoria, Australia, 20×80 binoculars); 8.18, 9.6, 3'.5 (A. Hale, Cloudcroft, NM, 0.41-m reflector).