

5 Fisherville Road  
 Apt. 202  
 Willowdale, Ontario  
 20 February, 1971

Dear Mr. Rohde,

Thank-you for your letter of 24 December. I am sorry for the delay of this reply, but work just piled up about that time.

Here is some of the information you requested on the two supernovae of 1572 and 1604. Because these stars exploded before the invention of the telescope or spectroscope, some of the information is not available.

Nova Cassiopeiae, 1572:

Max. Magnitude: about minus five, at discovery in 1572.

Variations in magnitude: Nov. 1572 -5 (?)

Jan. 1573 -2

Mar. 1573 1

May 1573 2

not visible after Feb. 1574 6

Position (approx, 1950.0): R.A. 0h 22m, Dec. 65° 53' North

Discoverer: Tycho Brahe, and others

Present Status: Unknown. Stated position is not accurate enough to identify. Probably fainter than twelve magnitude.

Nova Ophiuchi, 1604:

Max. Magnitude: about minus three, at discovery in ~~March~~ 1604.

Variations in magnitude: ~~Feb.~~ 1604 -3 (?) October

Mar. 1606 6

Position (approx 1950.0): R.A. 17h 28m, Dec. 21° 27' south

Discoverer: Kepler, and others

Present Status: Small very faint red nebula, discovered in 1941 by Baade, Mt. Wilson Observatory.

Probably the brightest supernova on record is the one recorded in Taurus in the year 1054. The Crab nebula is all that is left of this object now, at magnitude eleven. It may have reached magnitude minus sixteen in 1054, which is about 40 times brighter than the full moon!

Best regards, and good observing,

Jim Low