

29 Doradus

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At IAU Symposium 190 on the Magellanic Clouds held in Victoria BC, 12-17 July 1998, I challenged the assembled multitude with the question:

“What is 29 Doradus?”

You give me:

- 1) kind of object it is
- 2) coordinates (preferably J2000)
- 3) a reference so I can check it.

I give you:

A bottle of Dickel Tennessee Sipping Whiskey. [editors note: due to the stress the preparation of these proceedings induced on several of the editors, the actual prize runs the risk of being reduced to a fraction of a bottle of whiskey. The remains may be claimed on your next visit to Victoria.]

After several false leads, I am pleased to report on 29 July 1998 –

Congratulations to Jim Kaler assisted by Al Calder who took me over to the Rare Book Room of the University of Illinois and showed me page 90 of the publication “General Description and Information on the Stars” by Johann Bode 1801.

29 Doradus, RA=84°15'33", Dec=−66°40'04" (1801), and m=6

Precession to J2000 gives RA=05^h37^m01.7^s, Dec=−66°33'24.7" = HR1960 which is a B9.5Ve star with a magnitude of 6.3.

Second prize goes to Ed Olszewski and Ron Webbink who steered us to the correct publication.

Third prize goes to Doug Welch who steered Ed in the right direction.

Many thanks to all and I hope others had as much fun in the search as I did.