

at Versailles who passed on the information to his colleague: Messier then reobserved them and established their precise positions.

The table which follows gives the Messier Objects in order of the date of their discovery, together with the identity of their probable first discoverer. Not all of this information can be established with certainty but most of it has been obtained from original sources.

TABLE 9

**The Messier Objects in Order of Date of Discovery**

<i>M. No.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Discoverer</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
45	—	—	Known from earliest times. Mentioned by Hesiod about 1,000 B.C.
44	—	—	Known to Hipparchus in 130 B.C. Galileo saw it as a cluster, 1609.
7	About A.D. 138	Ptolemy	(Pt. No. 567) 'Nebula following sting of Scorpius.'
31	Before A.D. 905	—	Known to Al-Sufi as 'A little cloud'. S. Marius, telescope description, 1612.
42	1610	N. Pieresc	Cysatus observed in 1618. Huyghens rediscovered in 1656.
22	Aug. 26th, 1665	A. Ihle	De Chéseaux (No. 17) 1745-46. Le Gentil observed in 1747. Lacaille observed 1751-2 (Lac. I. 12).
8	About 1680	Flamsteed	(Flam. No. 2446) (Cluster NGC.6530 only. Le Gentil disc. neb. 6523 in 1749.)
11	1681	G. Kirch	First resolved by W. Derham, c. 1733.
41	Feb. 16th, 1702	Flamsteed	(Flam. No. 965) 'Cluster near 12 C.Ma.'
5	May 5th, 1702	G. Kirch	
13	1714	Halley	
43	before 1731	De Maivan	Part of Orion Nebula.
1	1731	J. Bevis	Messier rediscovered, Sept. 12th, 1758.
6	1745-46	De Chéseaux	(De Ch. No. 1) (Lac. III. 12).
16	1745-46	„	(De Ch. No. 4) Messier, June 3rd, 1764.
25	1745-46	„	(De Ch. No. 5) Messier, June 20th, 1764.
35	1745-46	„	(De Ch. No. 12) On Bevis' Atlas of 1750.
71	1745-46?	„	(De Ch. No. 13) Koehler, 1772-78.
4	1745-46	„	(De Ch. No. 19) (Lac. I. 9).
17	1745-46	„	(De Ch. No. 20) Messier, June 3rd, 1764.

*Biographical and Historical*

<i>M. No.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Discoverer</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
15	Sept. 7th, 1746	J.-D. Maraldi	Messier, June 3rd, 1764.
2	Sept. 11th, 1746	„	Messier, Sept. 11th, 1760.
32	Oct. 29th, 1749	Le Gentil	Messier, Aug. 3rd, 1764.
36	1749	„	Messier, Sept. 2nd, 1764.
38	1749	„	Messier, Sept. 25th, Bode (No. 9) 1764.
55	1751-52	Lacaille	(Lac. I. 14) Messier, July 24th, 1778.
69	1751-52	„	(Lac. I. 11) Messier, Aug. 31st, 1780.
83	1751-52	„	(Lac. I. 6) Messier, Mar. 18th, 1781.
3	May 3rd, 1764	Messier	
9	May 28th, 1764	„	
10	May 29th, 1764	„	Bode (No. 33) Aug. 14th, 1774.
12	May 30th, 1764	„	Bode (No. 32) Aug. 14th, 1774.
14	June 1st, 1764	„	
18	June 3rd, 1764	„	
19	June 5th, 1764	„	
20	June 5th, 1749	„	
21	June 5th, 1764	„	
23	June 20th, 1764	„	
24	June 20th, 1764	„	Part of M.W. $1\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ diam. (Not 6603).
26	June 20th 1749	„	
27	July 12th, 1764	„	
28	July 27th, 1764	„	
29	July 29th, 1764	„	Bode (No. 69) Dec. 5th, 1774.
30	Aug. 3rd, 1764	„	
33	Aug. 25th, 1764	„	
34	Aug. 25th, 1764	„	Bode (No. 7) Sept. 2nd, 1774.
37	Sept. 2nd, 1764	„	Bode (No. 13) Nov. 2nd, 1774.
39	Oct. 27th, 1764	„	
46	Feb. 19th, 1771	„	
47	Feb. 19th, 1771	„	'Missing' Object. Identified by Oswald Thomas, 1934.
48	Feb. 19th, 1771	„	'Missing' Object. Identified by T. F. Morris in 1959.
49	Feb. 19th, 1771	„	Obs. B. Oriani, April 22nd, 1779.
62	June 7th, 1771	„	
50	April 5th, 1772	„	Bode (No. 16) Dec. 2nd, 1774. Possibly discovered by G. D. Cassini before 1711.
51	Oct. 13th, 1773	„	Main portion, N.G.C. 5194, only. Companion neb. disc. Méchain in 1781.

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<i>M. No.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Discoverer</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
52	Sept. 7th, 1774	Messier	
81	Dec. 31st, 1774	Bode	(Bode No. 17) Koehler (No. 8A) 1772-78.
82	Dec. 31st, 1774	"	(Bode No. 18) Koehler (No. 8B) 1772-78.
53	Feb. 3rd, 1775	"	(Bode No. 26) Messier, Feb. 26th, 1777.
92	Dec. 27th, 1777	"	(Bode No. 76) Messier, Mar. 18th, 1781.
54	July 24th, 1778	Messier	
67	Before 1779	Koehler	(K. No. 19) Messier, April 6th, 1780.
57	Jan. 1779	Darquier	Messier, Jan. 31st, 1779.
56	Jan. 19th, 1779	Messier	
64	April 4th, 1779	Bode	Bode, No. (77) Messier, March 1st, 1780.
59	April 11, 1779	Koehler	Messier, April 15th, 1779.
60	April 11th, 1779	"	Oriani, April 12th, 1779. Messier, April 15th, 1779.
58	April 15th, 1779	Messier	
61	May 5th, 1779	Oriani	
63	June 14th, 1779	Méchain	
78	Beginning 1780	"	
65	March 1st, 1780	"	
66	March 1st, 1780	"	
68	April 9th, 1780	"	
75	Aug. 27th, 1780	"	Messier, Oct. 5th, 1780.
72	Aug. 30th, 1780	"	Messier, Oct. 4th, 1780.
70	Aug. 31st, 1780	Messier	
76	Sept. 5th, 1780	Méchain	Messier, Oct. 21st, 1780.
74	End Sept. 1780	"	Messier, Oct. 18th, 1780.
73	Oct. 4th, 1780	Messier	Asterism of 4 stars.
79	Oct. 26th, 1780	Méchain	Messier, Dec. 17th, 1780.
77	Oct. 29th, 1780	"	Messier, Dec. 17th, 1780.
80	Jan. 4th, 1781	Messier	Méchain, Jan. 27th, 1781.
97	Feb. 16th, 1781	Méchain	Messier, March 24th, 1781.
85	March 4th, 1781	"	Messier, March 18th, 1781.
98	March 15th, 1781	"	Messier, April 13th, 1781.
99	March 15th, 1781	"	Messier, April 13th, 1781.
100	March 15th, 1781	"	Messier, April 13th, 1781.
84	March 18th, 1781	Messier	
86	March 18th, 1781	"	
87	March 18th, 1781	"	
88	March 18th, 1781	"	
89	March 18th, 1781	"	
90	March 18th, 1781	"	

## *Biographical and Historical*

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<i>M. No.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Discoverer</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
(91)	March 18th, 1781	Messier	'Missing' Object. Not identified.
93	March 20th, 1781	„	
95	March 20th, 1781	Méchain	Messier, March 24th, 1781.
96	March 20th, 1781	„	Messier, March 24th, 1781.
94	March 22nd, 1781	„	Messier, March 24th, 1781.
101	March 27th, 1781	„	Messier, March 27th, 1781.
103	1781	„	
104	May 11th, 1781	„	Messier, May 11th, 1781.

(Not included: M.40, M.102.)

On the basis of this table the 'Score' is as follows: Messier 42, Méchain 22, De Chéseaux 7, Bode 5, Le Gentil 3, Lacaille 3, Koehler 3, Flamsteed 2, Kirch 2, Maraldi 2 and 1 each to Ptolemy, Al-Sufi, Pieresc, Ihle, Bevis, Halley, De Mairan, Darquier, Oriani.