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Esta fotografía del cometa Kohoutek fue obtenida por la cámara del Skylab-3 el 25 de diciembre de 1973; es la fotografía más próxima que se ha hecho del cometa.

JOHNSON SPACE CENTER, HOUSTON, TEXAS

SKYLAB 4 S201 PHOTO -- The hydrogen halo of the Comet Kohoutek was photographed by the S201 Far-UV Camera on EVA, December 25, 1973, from Skylab 4, above the Earth's atmosphere. This derivation from the original photograph was enlarged by Robert Goodding at the Johnson Space Center on Agfa contour film in four steps, then colored to show the four levels of brightness. The sky (density 0.4 on the negative) is colored blue, the next brightest level (density 0.86) red, the next brightest (density 1.32) green, and the brightest level (density 1.78) colored yellow. The mottling in the sky background records graininess in the original Kodak NTB-3 emulsion. Red streaks and spots are similar photographic defects. During the original exposure, the spacecraft was rolled so that one of the Apollo Telescope Mount solar panels shielded the camera from the Sun, just off the left edge of the 20 per cent circular field of view. NASA photo number SL4-183-6453 shows the whole field in black and white, exposure one second. Analysis of this, and similar photographs in light of 1216 angstroms wavelength, will show the growth and collapse of the comet's hydrogen halo as it approached and receded from the Sun. This photograph, taken three days before perihelion passage, is the closest view of the comet (19 million miles) from the Sun, when its halo was about one degree (1,600,000 miles) in diameter. The S201 Camera was designed and built at the U. S. Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D. C., by Dr. George Carruthers. Dr. Thornton Page at JSC is the principal investigator, and William H. Conway is the project manager.