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document The Discovery of an Outburst and Pulsed X-ray Flux from SMC X-2 from RXTE Observations R.H.D. Corbet1, 2, F.E. Marshall1, M.J. Coe3, S. Laycock3, & G. Handler4

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abstract Rossi X-ray Timing Explorer All Sky Monitor observations of SMC X-2 show that the source experienced an outburst in January to April 2000 reaching a peak luminosity of greater than $\sim 10^{38}$ ergs s⁻¹. RXTE Proportional Counter Array observations during this outburst reveal the presence of pulsations with a 2.37s period. However, optical photometry of the optical counterpart showed the source to be still significantly fainter than it was more than half a year after the outburst in the 1970s when SMC X-2 was discovered.