

Collecting Astronomy Related Books, Prints, Periodicals, or Ephemera

David Kolb
Northeast Kansas Amateur Astronomers' League
March 26, 2026

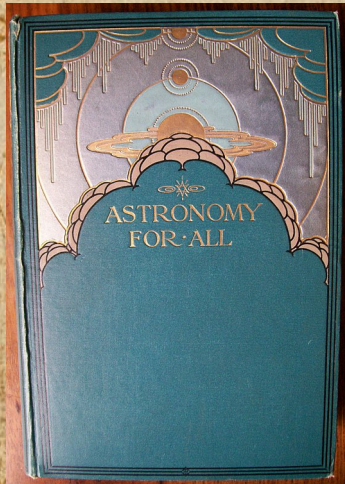
What to Collect



J. F. W. Herschel

Books

- **Specific Topics**
- **Art Nouveau Covers**
- **Atlases**
- **A Particular Author**
- **Signed/Inscribed Copies**
- **Bookplates of Well Known Individuals**



What to Collect

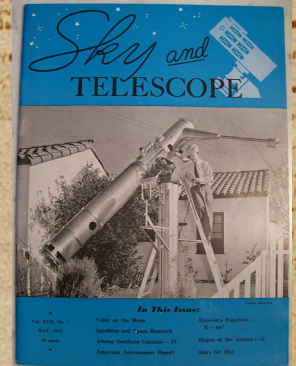
Prints

- **Star Charts**
- **Book Plates**
- **Constellation Cards**
- **Stereo Cards**

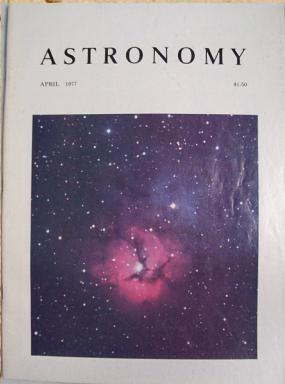


What to Collect

Periodicals



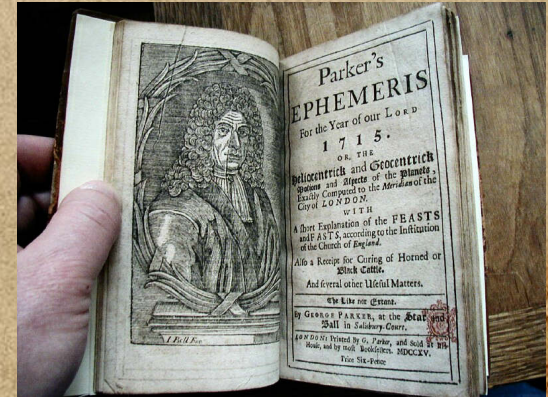
- **Sky Magazine** (published between 1935 and 1941)
- **Telescope Magazine** (published between 1931 and 1941)
- **Sky and Telescope** (published since 1941)
- **Astronomy** (published since 1973)
- **Popular Astronomy** (published between 1893 and 1951)



What to Collect

Ephemera

- **Almanacs**
- **Trade Cards**
- **Postcards**



Where To Find Items

- **Yard Sales**
- **Antique Shops**
- **Book Stores**
 - **Physical**
 - **Online**
- **Book Fairs**
 - **www.BookFairs.com**
- **Auctions**
 - **Local Estate Auctions**
 - **eBay**
 - **Major Auction Houses**

Condition

➤ **Strive for the best Possible Condition**

- **Clean**
- **Not torn or cracked**
- **Tight binding**

➤ **Dust Jackets - Up to Half the Value of a Book**

- **No tears or chips**
- **Not clipped**



How to Keep Your Collection



- ***Avoid Sunlight and Fluorescent Lights***
- ***Avoid Extremes in Temperature***
- ***Avoid Extremes in Humidity***
- ***Keep Books in Bookcases with Doors***
- ***Keep Prints Flat***
- ***Use Archival Quality Holders***
- ***Avoid Stacking Books***
- ***Never Grab a Book by the Head or Tail of the Spine***



To Repair or Not to Repair



- ***Do Not Use Tape or Glue***
- ***Let a Qualified Book Conservator do Repairs***
- ***Consider the Value of a Book Before Doing Repairs***



Useful Resources

➤ www.ABEBooks.com

- **Worldwide marketplace for thousands of book dealers**
- **Good place to get an estimate of what a book sells for**

➤ www.WorldCat.org

- **How common is a book**
- **What edition do I have**

➤ www.LiveAuctioneers.com

- **Online auction site for over 5,000 auction houses from around the world**
- **Searchable database of past auctions**
- **Set up alerts for items that you want to add to your collection**

➤ www.RareBookHub.com

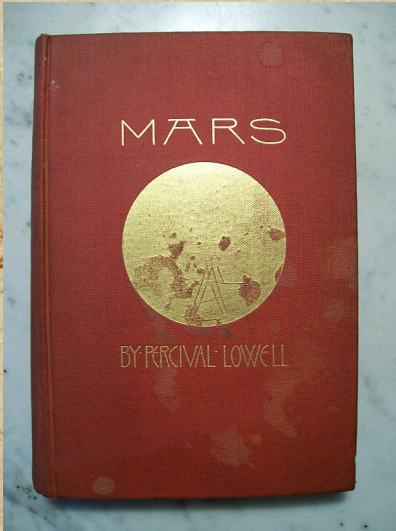
- **Lists upcoming auctions**
- **Searchable database of past auctions**
- **Requires a subscription**

Keep Track of Your Collection

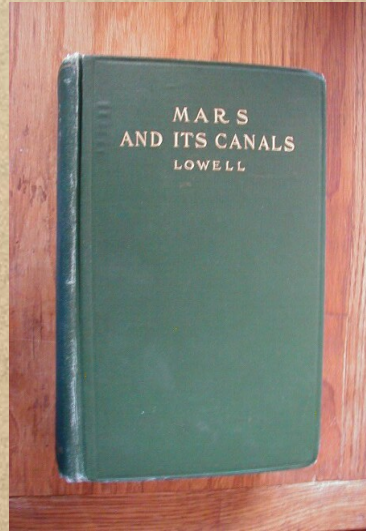
- **Keep a Record of Each Item**
- **Track the Purchase Price**
- **Track When the Item was Purchased**
- **Track the Item's Condition**
- **Track the Item's Replacement Value**
- **Cloud Based Apps Such as www.libib.com**
- **Book Collection Spreadsheet or Database**

From My Collection

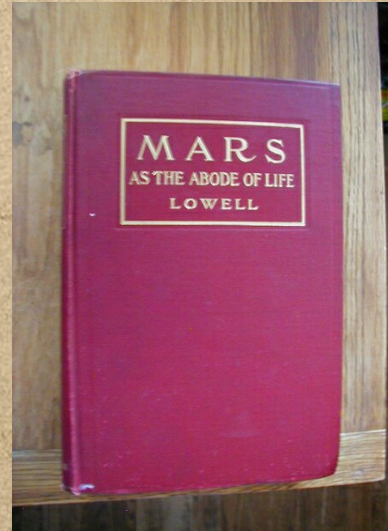
Percival Lowell and Mars



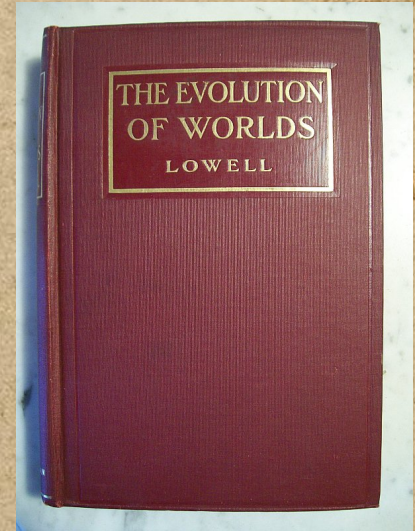
Mars, 1895



**Mars and Its
Canals, 1906**



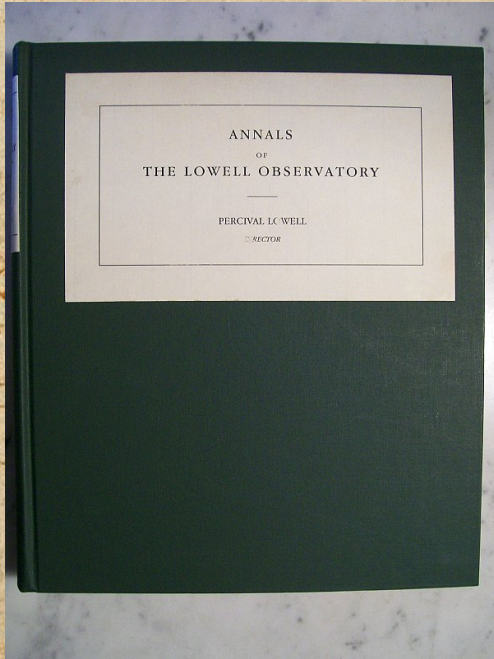
**Mars as the Abode
of Life, 1908**



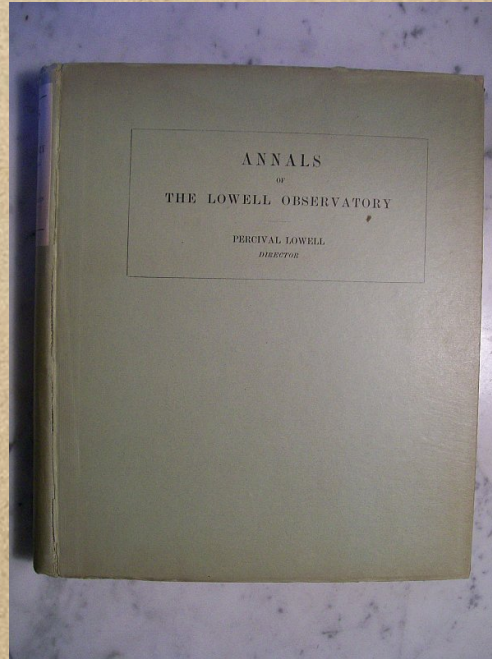
**The Evolution
of Worlds, 1909**

From My Collection

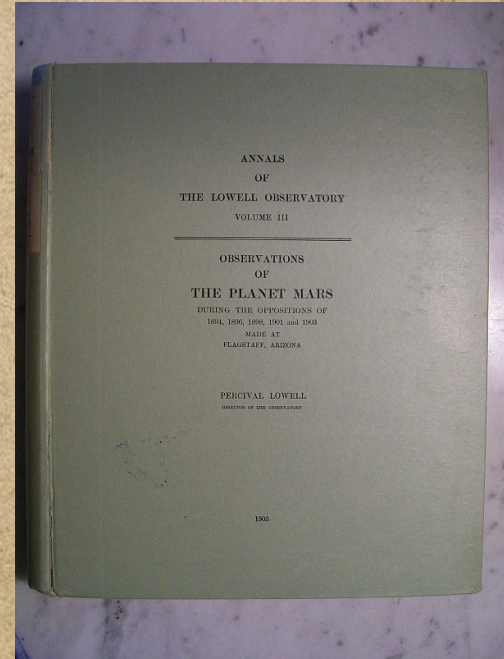
Percival Lowell and Mars



Volume 1, 1898



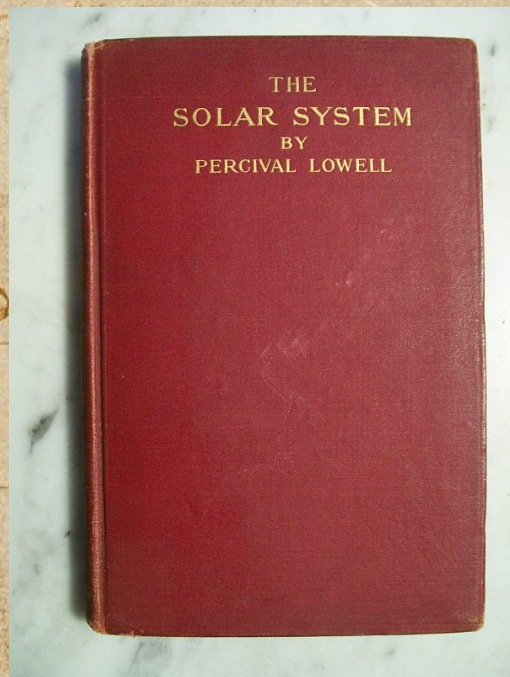
Volume 2, 1900



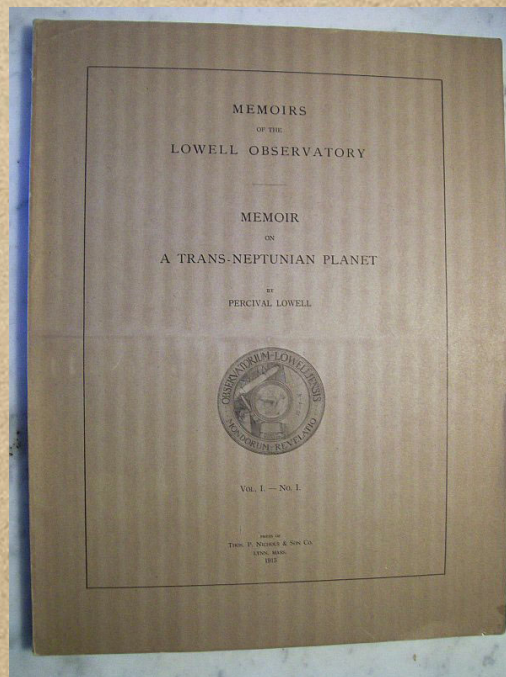
Volume 3, 1905

From My Collection

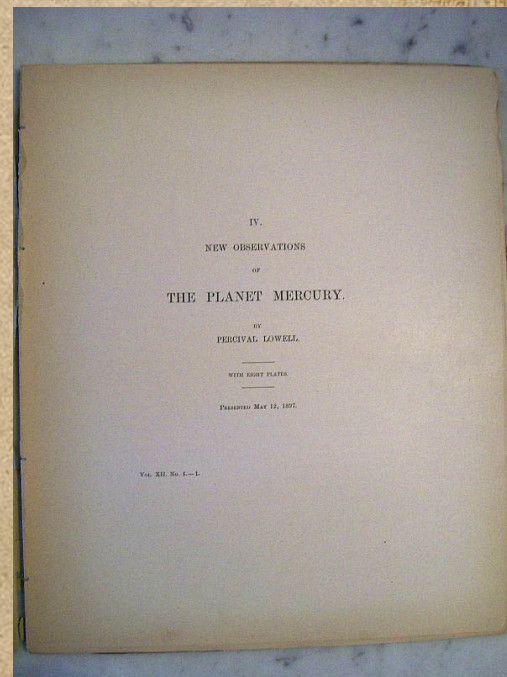
Other Percival Lowell Items



The Solar System, 1903



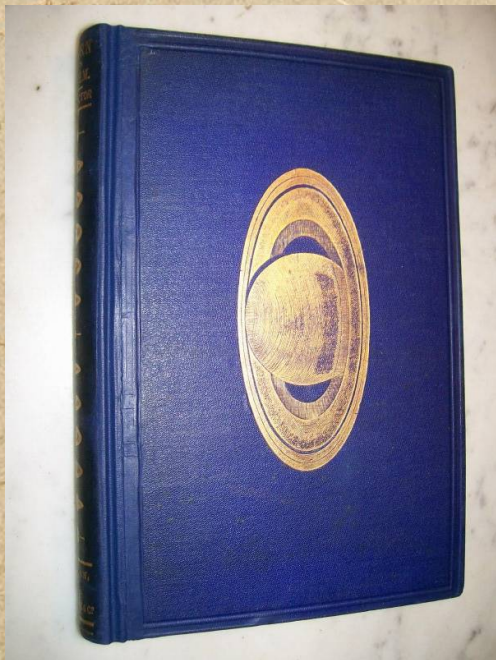
**Memoir on a
Trans-Neptunian Planet,
1915**



**New Observations
of the Planet Mercury,
1898**

From My Collection

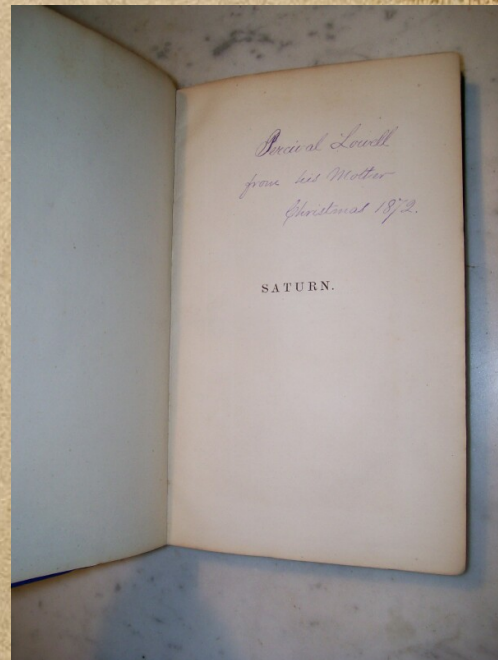
Other Percival Lowell Items



Lowell's personal copy of
"Saturn and Its System"
by Richard Proctor, 1865



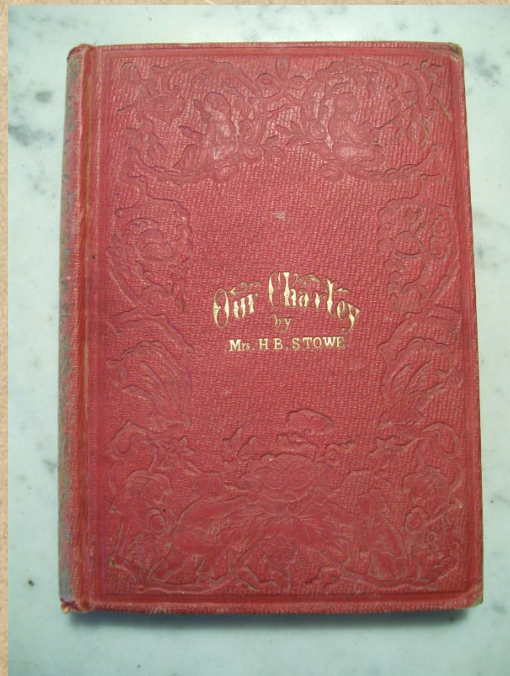
Book Plate



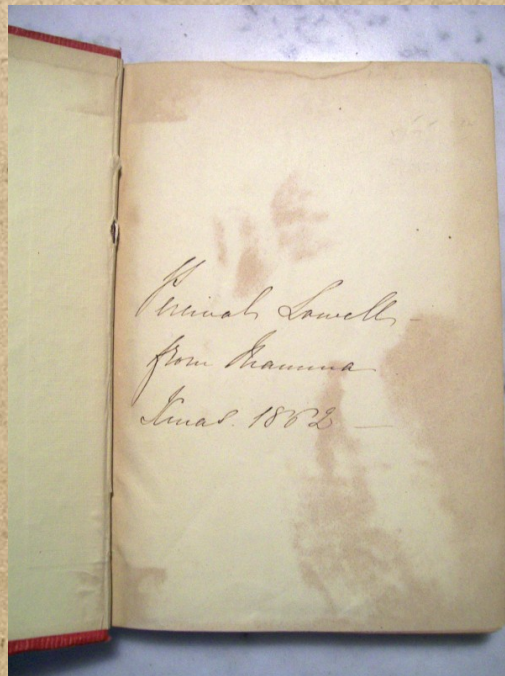
Inscription from his Mother
"Percival Lowell from his
Mother Christmas 1872"

From My Collection

Other Percival Lowell Items



Possible childhood copy of "Our Charley" by Harriet Stowe, 1858



Possible inscription from his Grandmother "Percival Lowell from Gramma Xmas 1862"

From My Collection

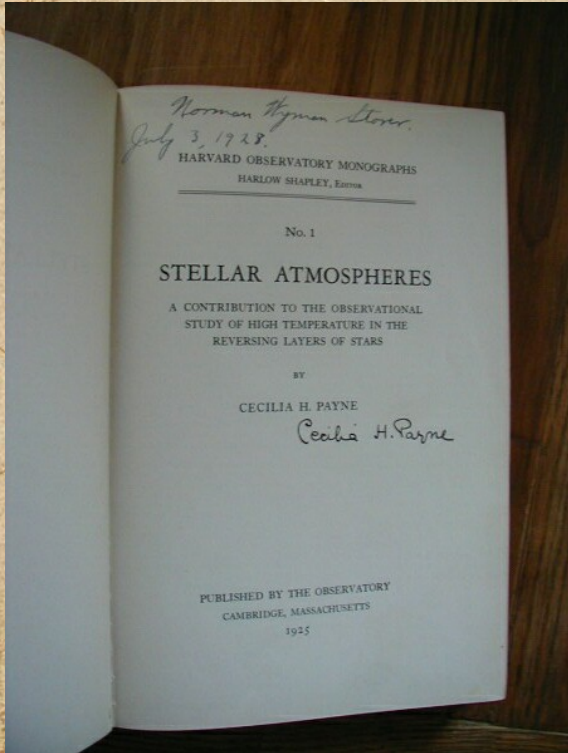
"The Moon" by Richard Proctor, 1873



Two of the three albumen silver prints taken by Lewis Rutherford in 1870

From My Collection

Signed Copy of “Stellar Atmospheres” by Cecilia Payne, 1925



In this book (the published version of her doctoral thesis at Radcliffe College) Cecilia Payne established that the Sun and other stars are composed primarily of hydrogen and helium. Only 600 copies were printed.

“...the most brilliant PhD thesis ever written in astronomy.”

Otto Struve - 1962

“Her discovery of the true cosmic abundance of the elements profoundly changed what we know about the universe. The giants - Copernicus, Newton, and Einstein - each in his turn, brought a new view of the universe. Payne’s discovery of the cosmic abundance of the elements did no less.”

Richard Williams

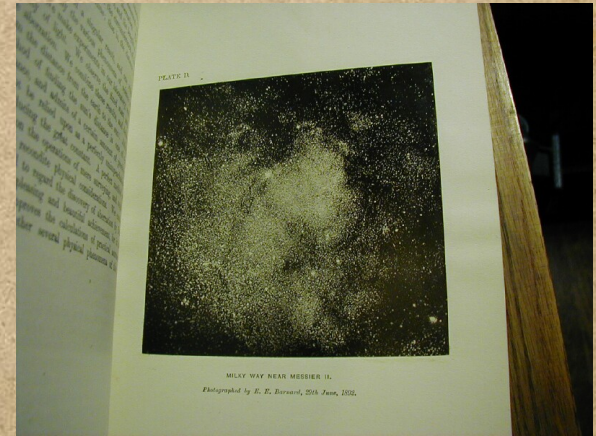
American Physical Society - 2015

This volume was used by Voyager Pictures, LLC in episode eight of the 2014 Cosmos TV series.

From My Collection

1913 Serial Edition of "The Story of the Heavens"

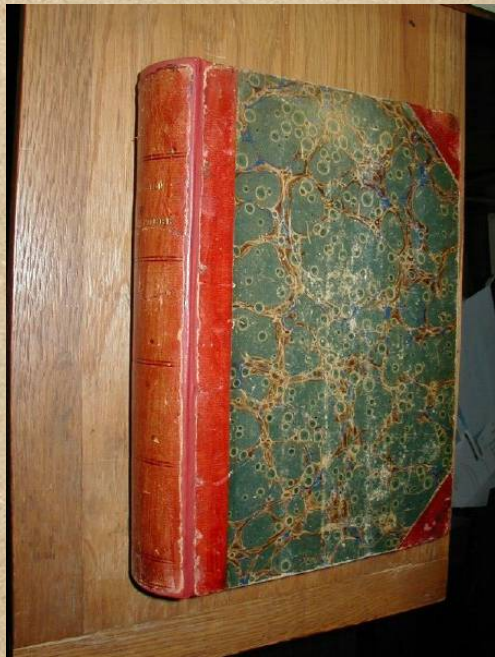
by Sir Robert Ball



Advertisements and tipped in prints add cross collector appeal

From My Collection

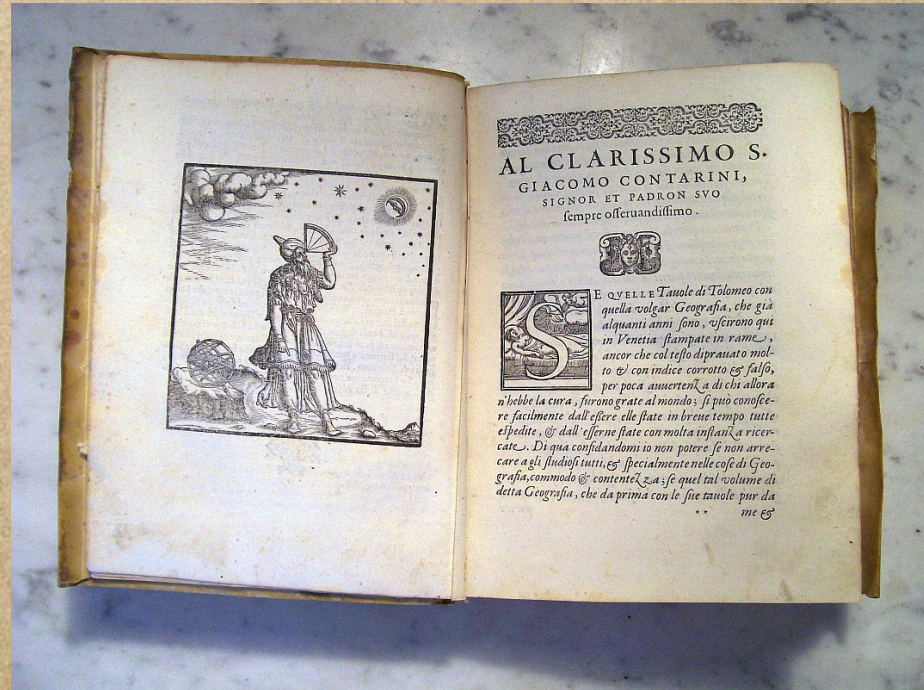
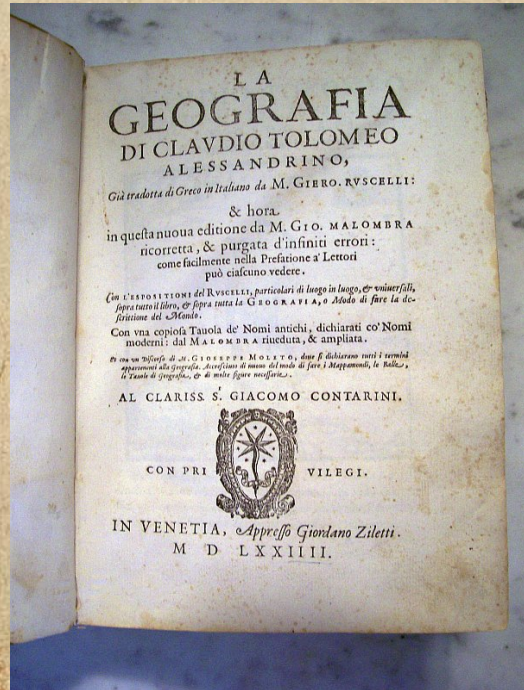
1888 Edition of "L'Atmosphere" by Camille Flammarion



The famous woodcut of the traveler peering through the celestial sphere first appears in the 1888 (4th) edition

From My Collection

1574 Edition of “La Geografia di Claudio Tolomeo Alessandrino” by Claudius Ptolemaeus

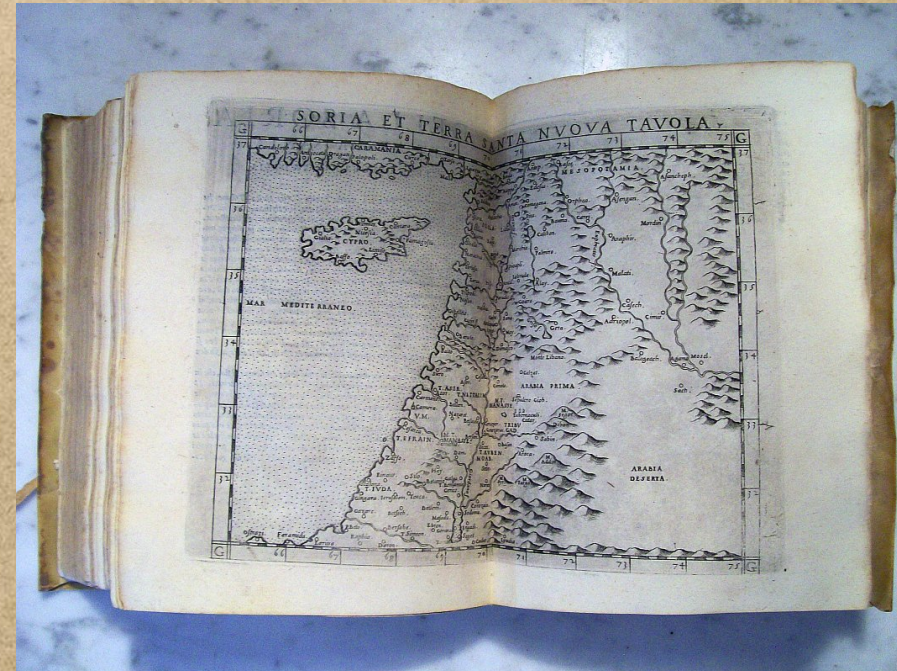


From My Collection

1574 Edition of "La Geografia di Claudio Tolomeo Alessandrino" by Claudius Ptolemaeus



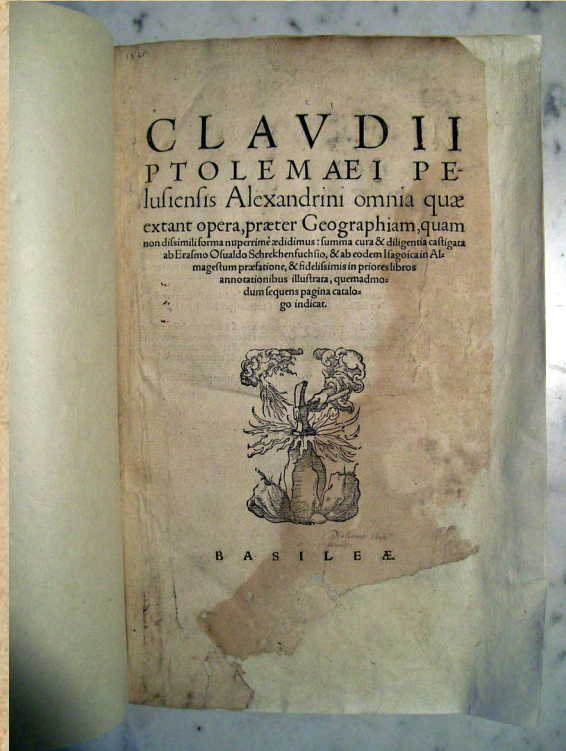
Greece



Eastern Mediterranean

From My Collection

1551 Edition of "Almagest" by Claudius Ptolemaeus



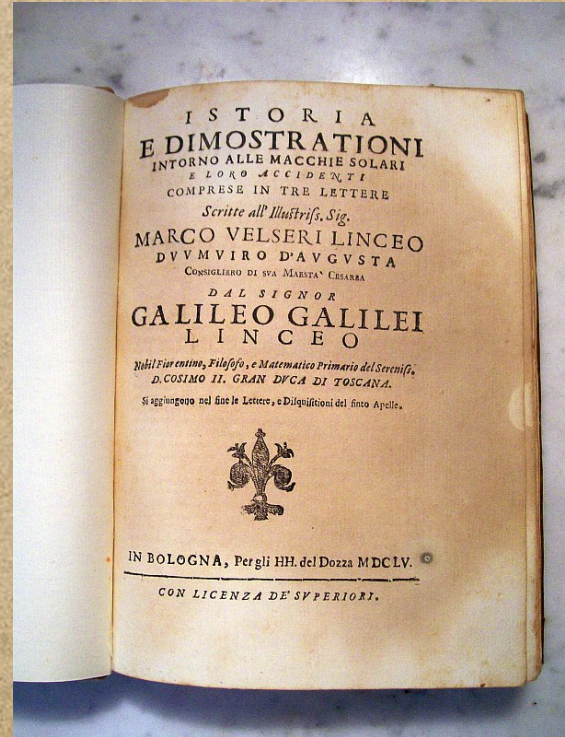
Title Page



Schreckenfuch's Commentary

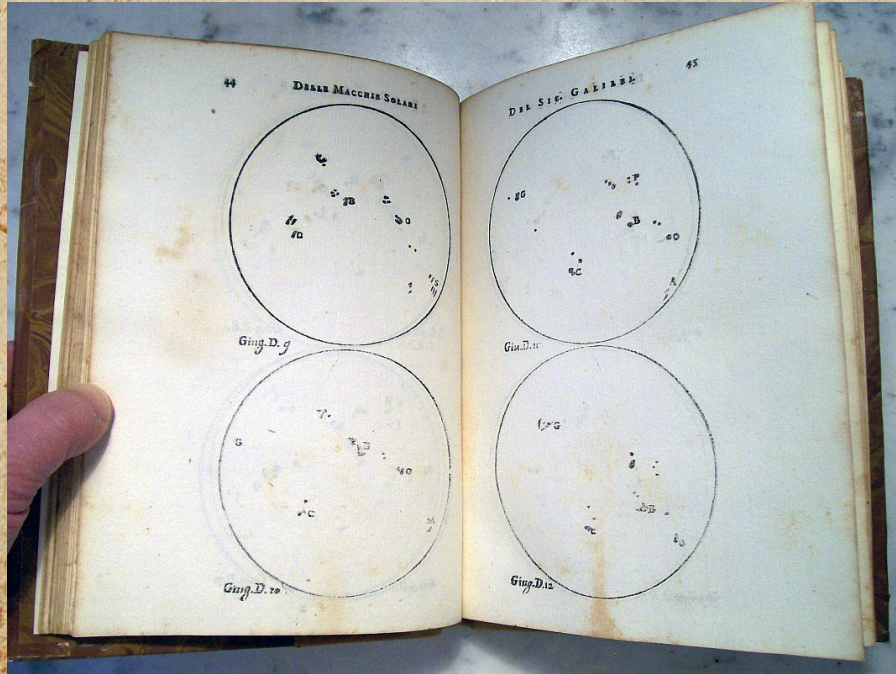
From My Collection

1655 (2nd) Edition of “Le Macchie Solari” by Galileo Galilei

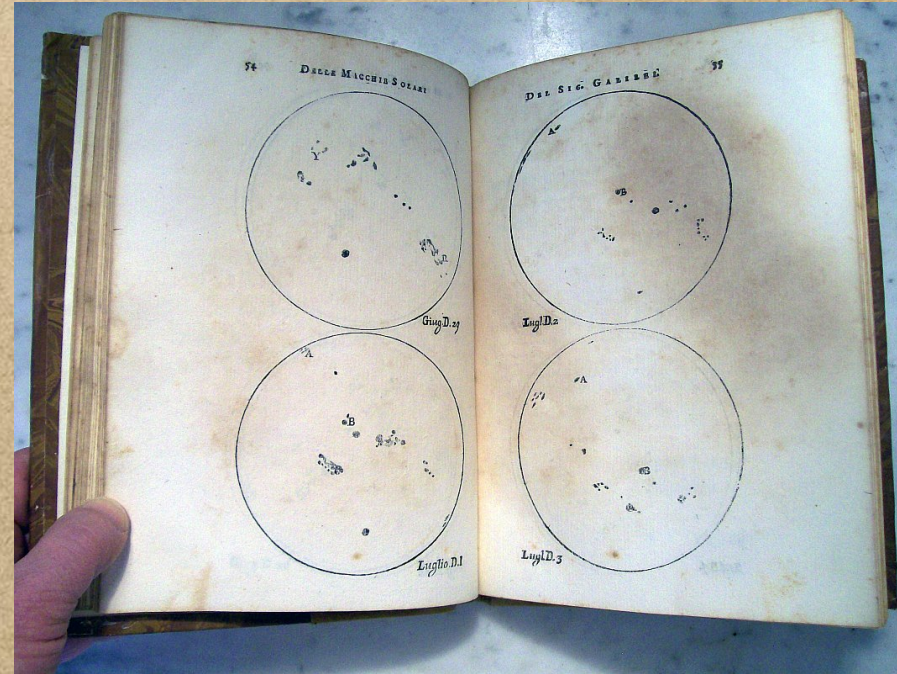


From My Collection

1655 (2nd) Edition of "Le Macchie Solari" by Galileo Galilei



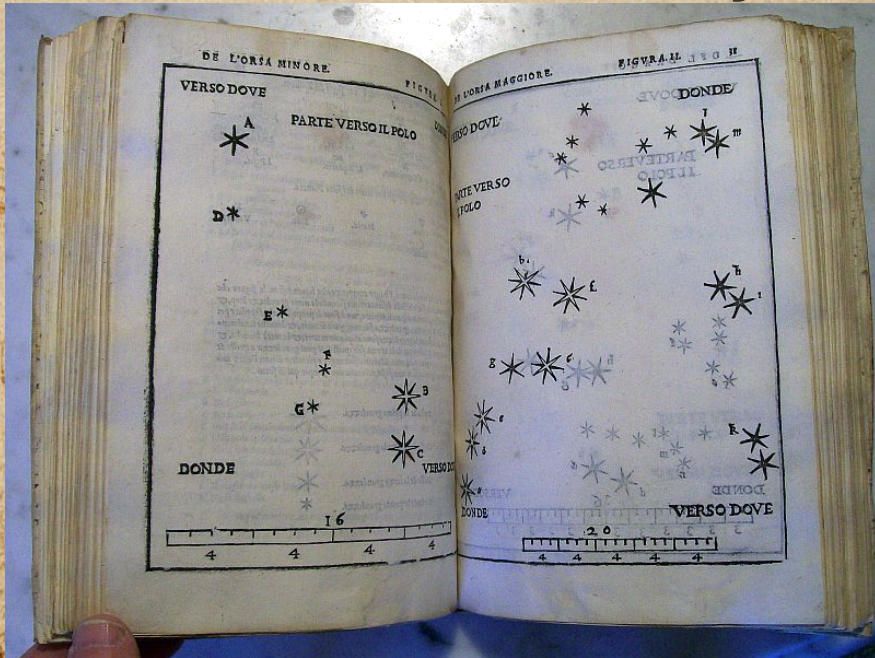
June 9 - 12, 1612



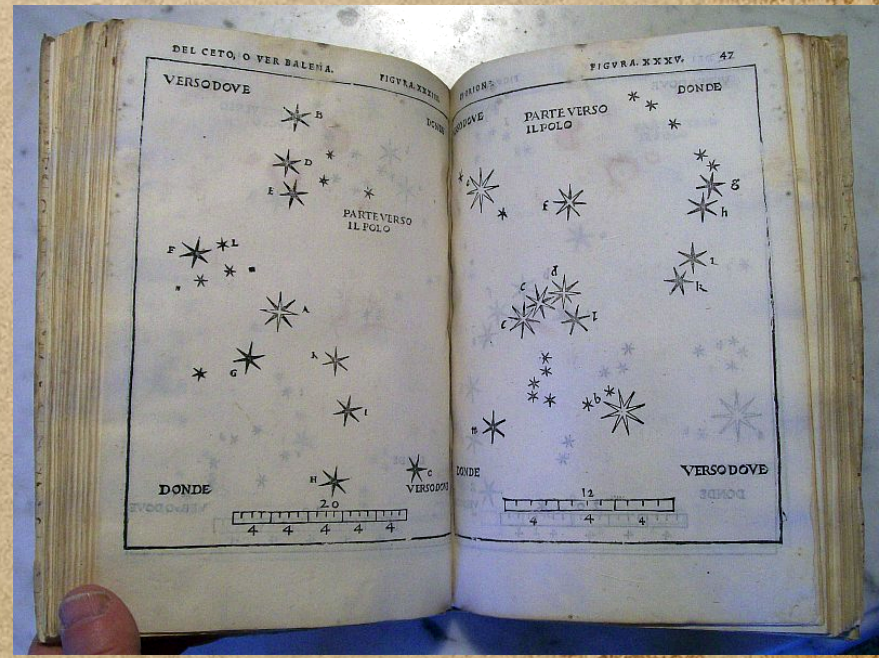
June 29 - July 3, 1612

From My Collection

1552 Edition of "Della Sfera Del Mondo" and "Delle Stelle Fisse Libro" by Alessandro Piccolomini



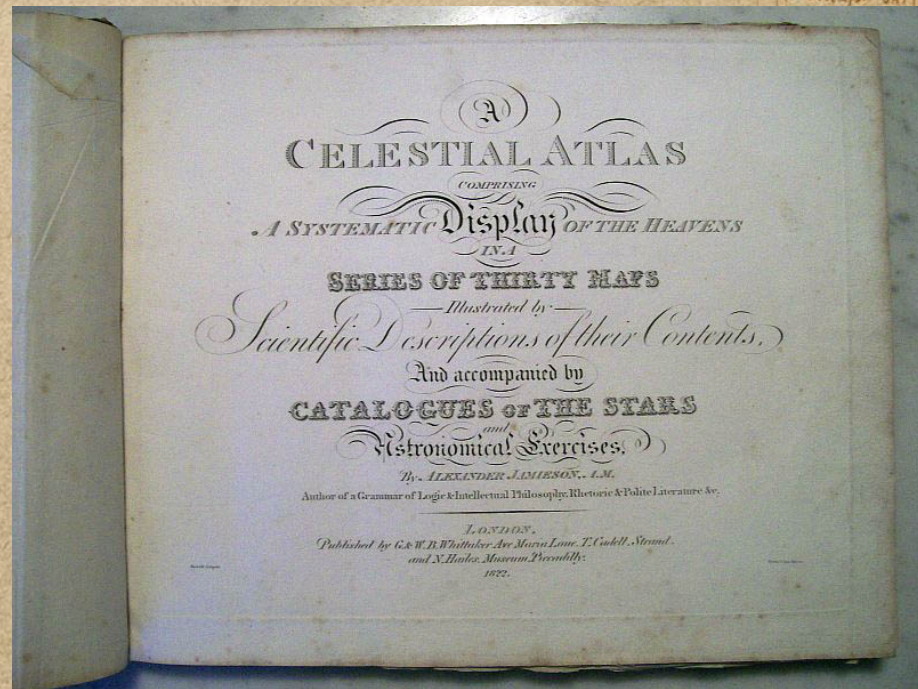
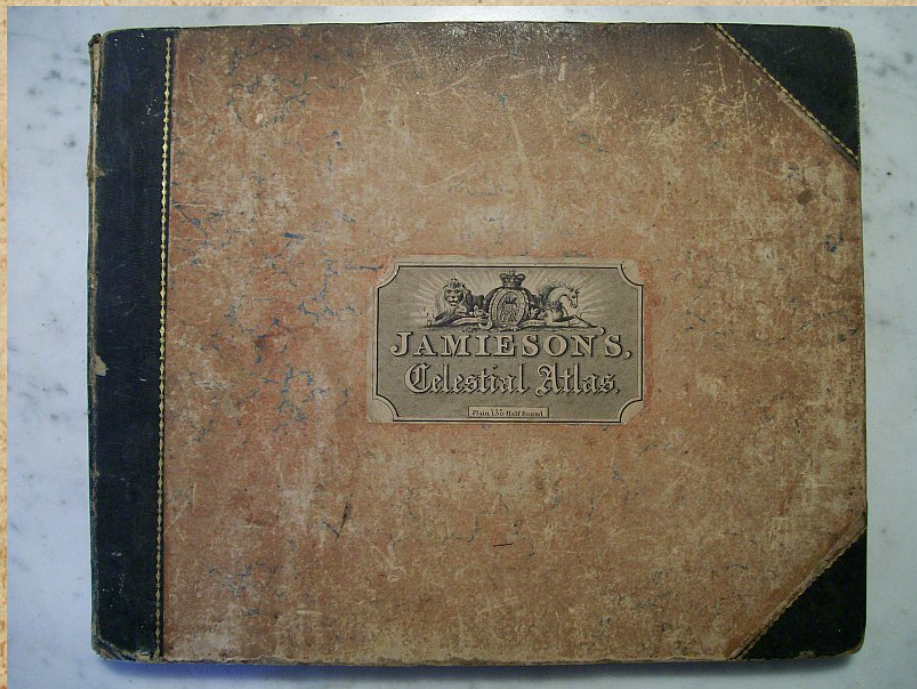
Ursa Minor and Ursa Major



Cetus and Orion

From My Collection

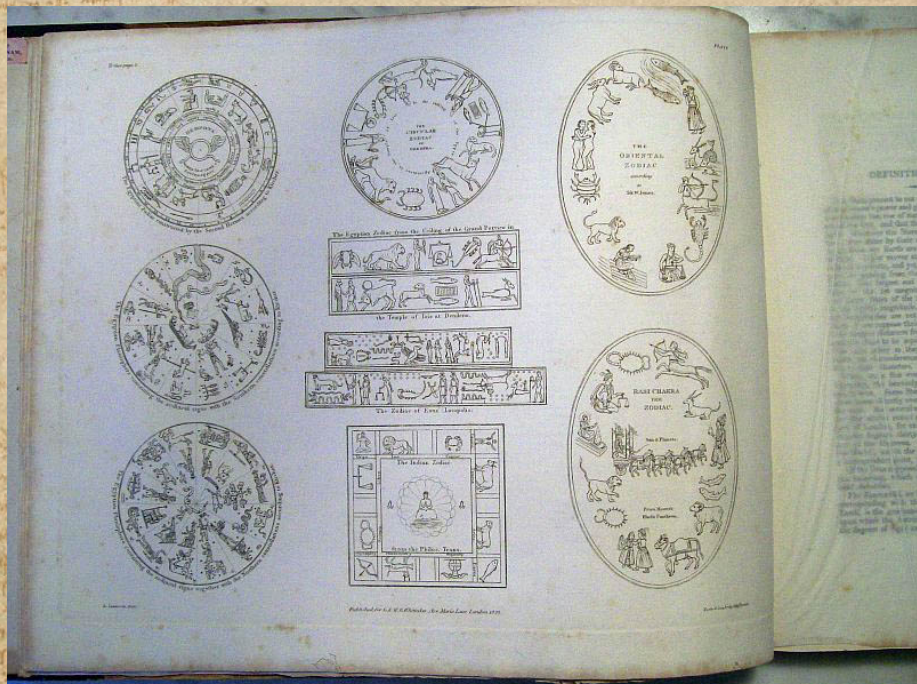
1822 (2nd) Edition of "A Celestial Atlas" by Alexander Jamieson



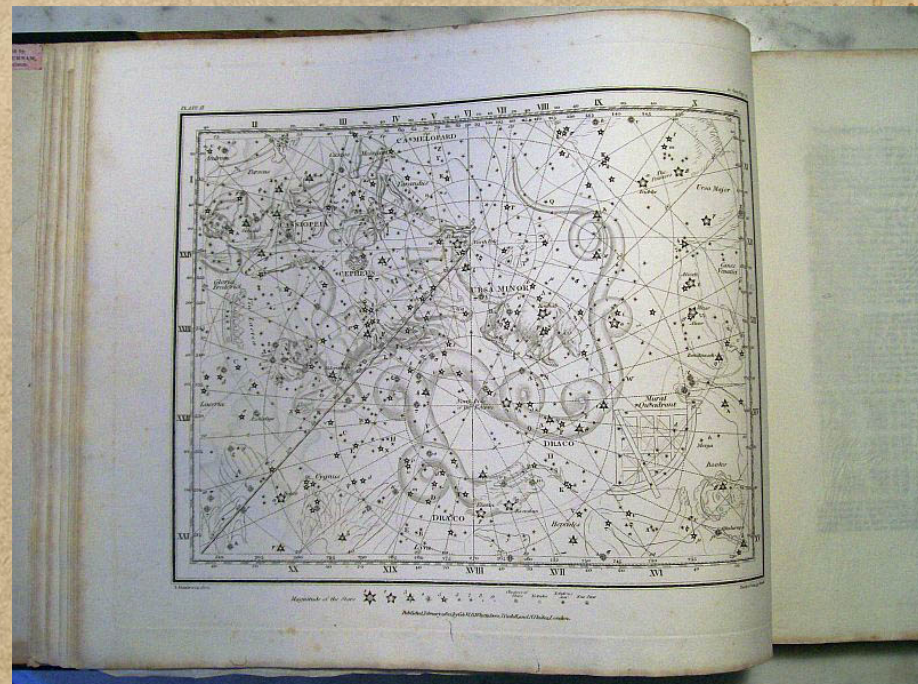
This atlas was intended as a textbook and has numerous exercises throughout the text

From My Collection

1822 (2nd) Edition of "A Celestial Atlas" by Alexander Jamieson



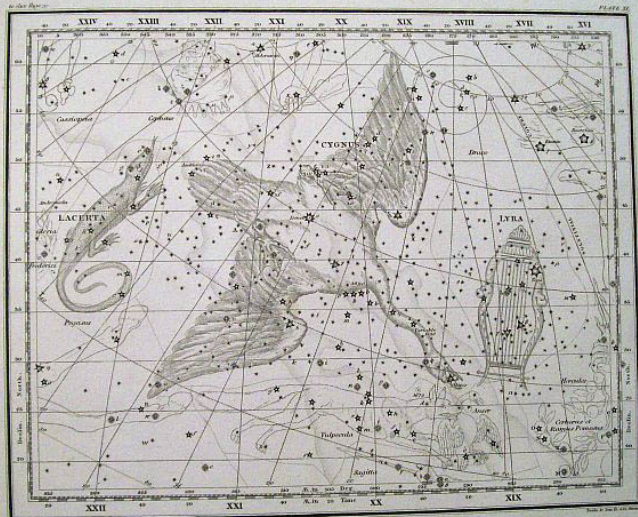
Ancient Constellations



North Polar Constellations

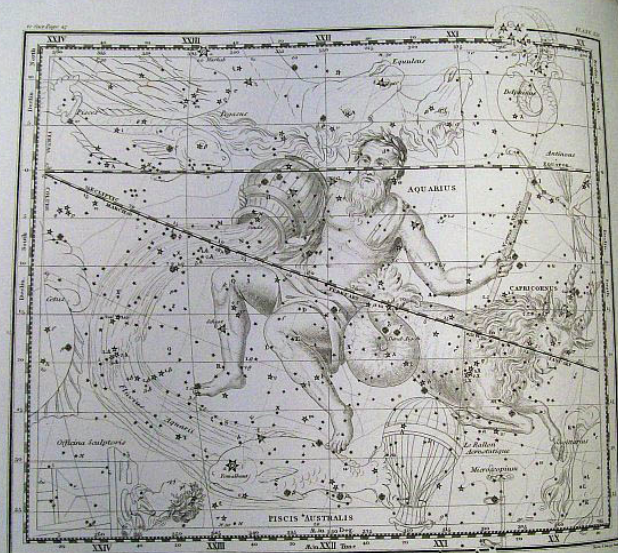
From My Collection

1822 (2nd) Edition of "A Celestial Atlas" by Alexander Jamieson



Published & engraved by G. & R. B. Wood, 21, Strand, London.

Cygnus

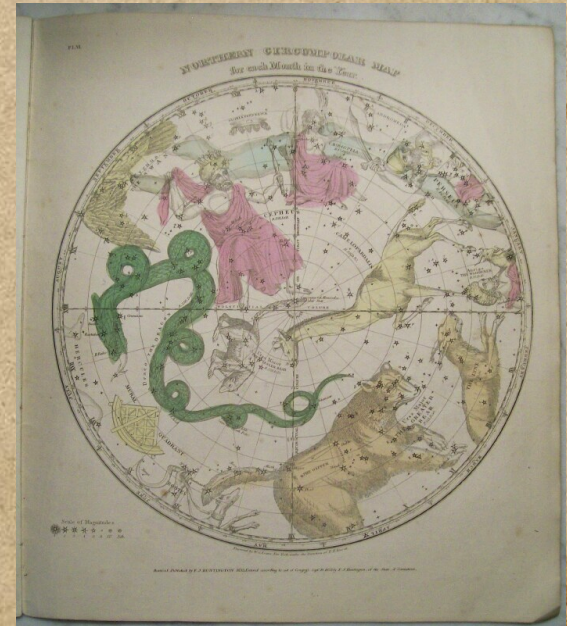
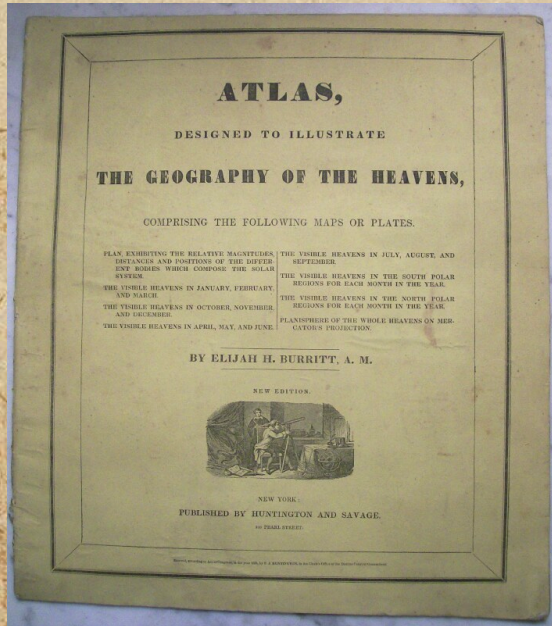


Published & engraved by G. & R. B. Wood, 21, Strand, London.

Aquarius

From My Collection

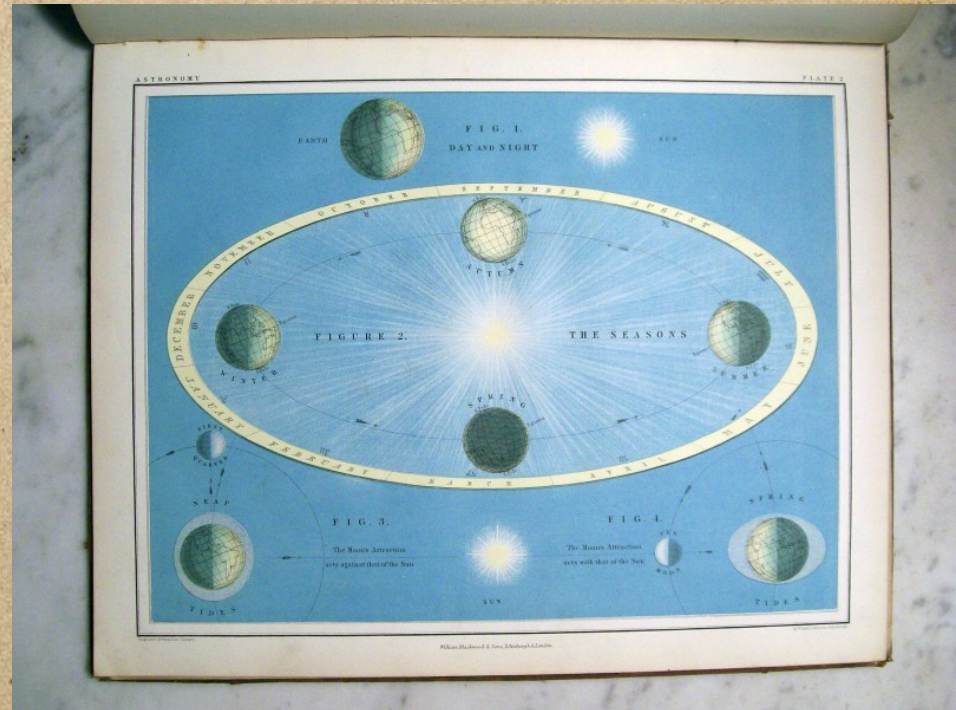
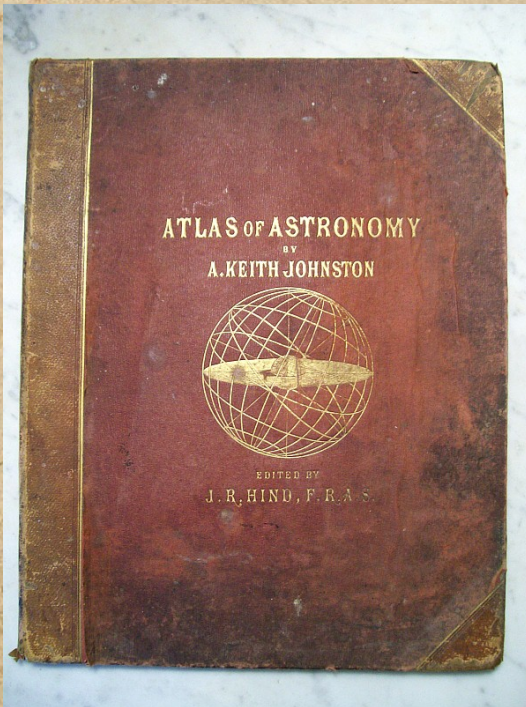
1835 Edition of "Atlas Designed to Illustrate the Geography of the Heavens" by Elijah Burritt



This atlas was intended as a less expensive alternative to the celestial globes being used at that time

From My Collection

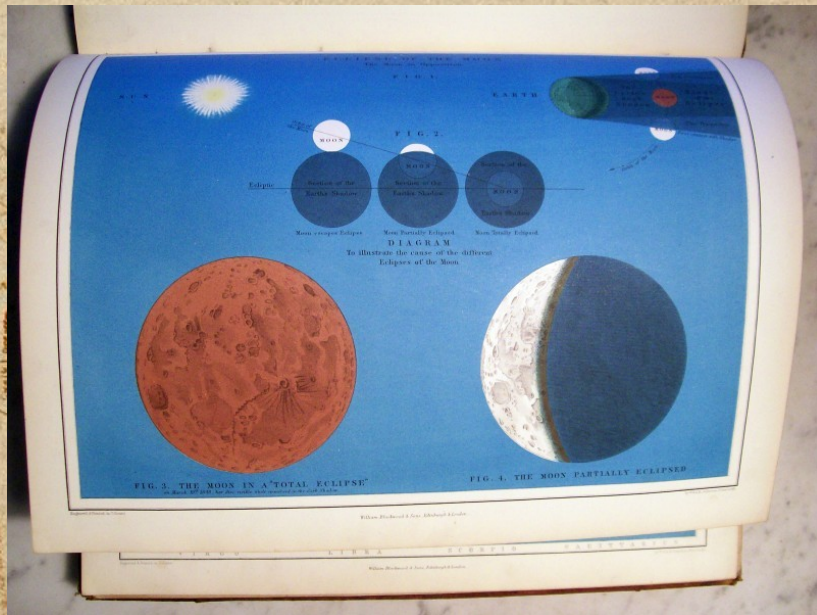
“Atlas of Astronomy” by Keith Johnson, 1855



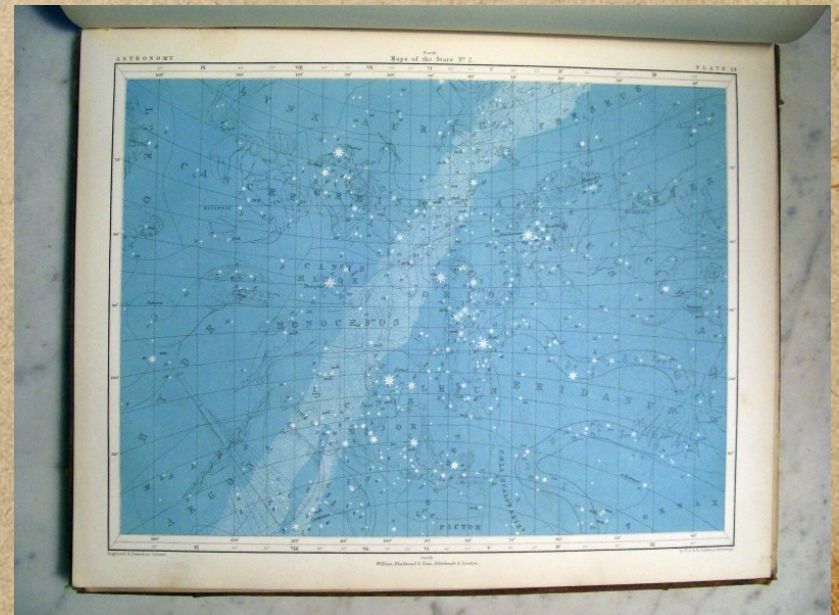
This atlas was designed to accompany a textbook written by John Russell Hind

From My Collection

“Atlas of Astronomy” by Keith Johnson, 1855



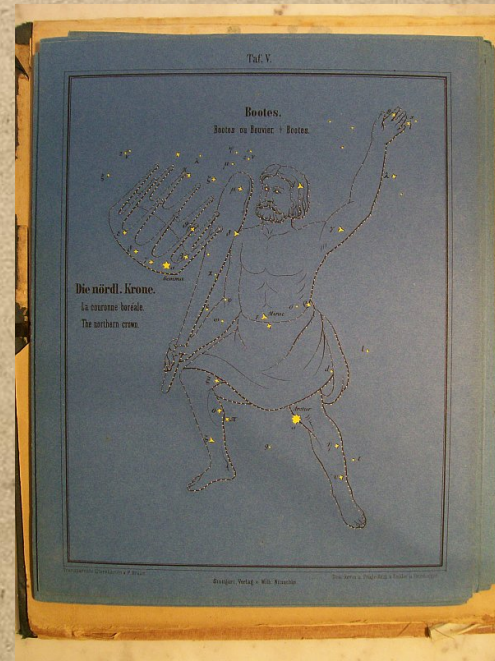
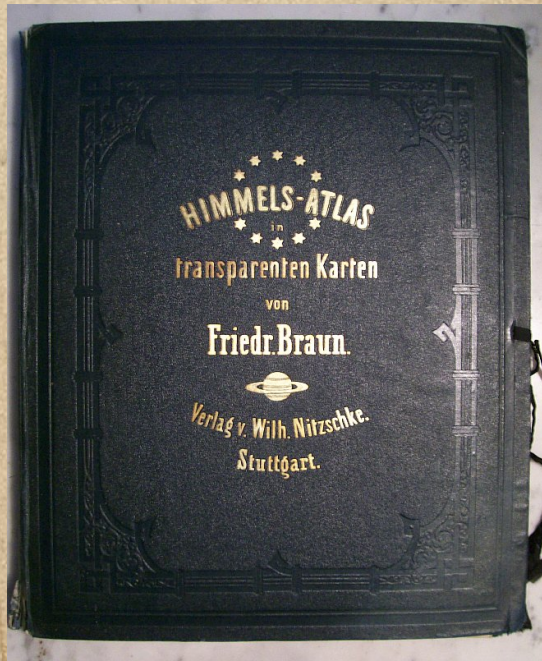
Lunar Eclipse



Winter Milky Way Chart

From My Collection

1860 Edition of "Himmels-Atlas in Transparenten Karten" by Friedrich Braun



Consists of 30 constellation cards and one polar chart designed to be held up to a light source

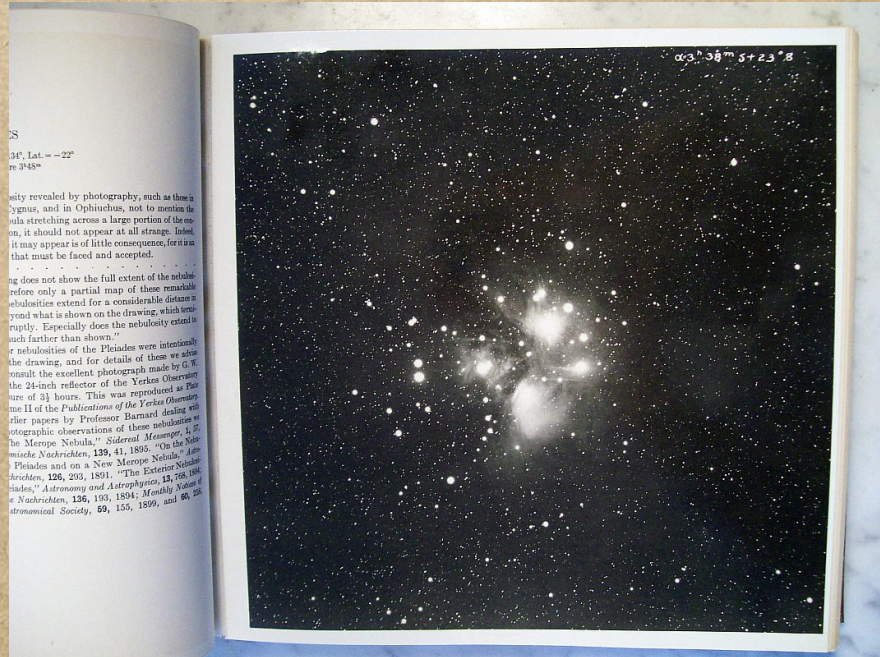
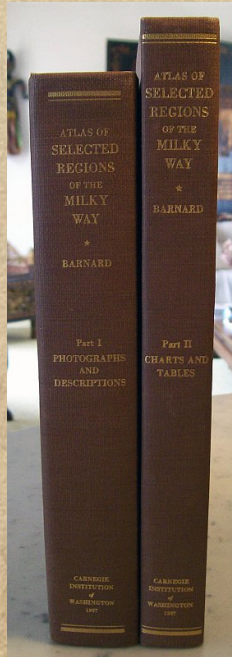
From My Collection

**1860 Edition of "Himmels-Atlas in Transparenten Karten" by
Friedrich Braun**



From My Collection

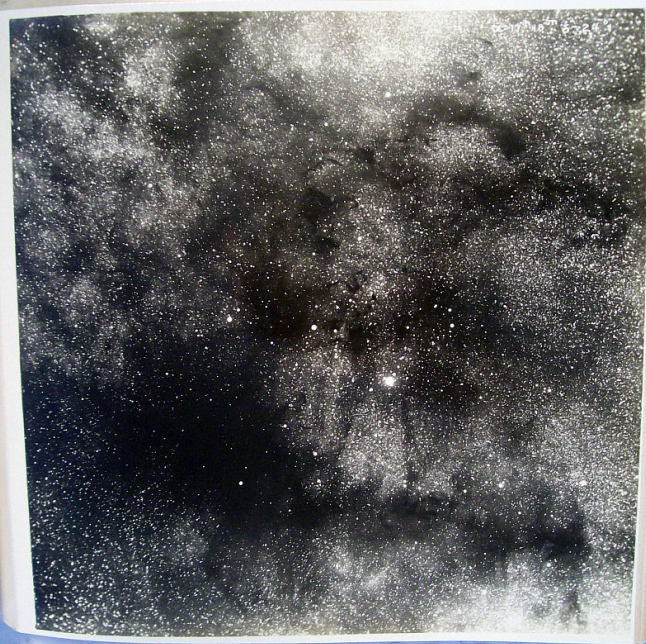
“A Photographic Atlas of Selected Regions of the Milky Way” by Edward Emerson Barnard, 1927 (700 copies printed)



From My Collection

"A Photographic Atlas of Selected Regions of the Milky Way" by Edward Emerson Barnard, 1927 (700 copies printed)

ta. Near it are several
B 75, is, perhaps, as
here in the sky. In the
it curved dark marking
B 63 are at the eastern
3 and 14) which extends
of Rho Ophiuchi. Ge-
e and curious regions in
three asterisk. The first
 $\alpha = 17^{\text{h}}24^{\text{m}}$, $\delta = -22^{\circ}25'$,
and 2.95 inches (7.5 cm),
the second trail (No. 407),
is 7.4 cm) from the left
upper edge of the picture.
(No. 418), in $\alpha = 17^{\text{h}}28^{\text{m}}$,
from the left edge and 4.4
of the print.
are, B 75, in $\alpha = 17^{\text{h}}17^{\text{m}}10^{\text{s}}$,
is photograph which looks
another small defect on the
the right of Theta Ophiuchi,
lar spots, very small, is 9 mm
other small, bright lines in
 $\alpha = 17^{\text{h}}14^{\text{m}}49^{\text{s}}$, $\delta = -20^{\circ}35'$,
right edge and 1.8 inches (4.6
213, was made at Mount



Ophiuchus Region

TAR CLOUD

-2"

a smaller group of nebulous stars
nebulosity is an abrupt, dark bay
which the planet Uranus happened
see also Plate 30). The structure of
Messier 8 and the Trifid, which are
al negative, are lost on the print,
in which considerable stars are ap-
al ellipses of smaller stars. A semi-
altitude star B.D. = 21498 (No. 32),
e center of the print) which, though
t focus of the ellipse, is near α . Still
ar, B.D. = 2874017, magnitude 6.6,
nebulous stars east of Messier 8, which
at appears to be a parabola of small

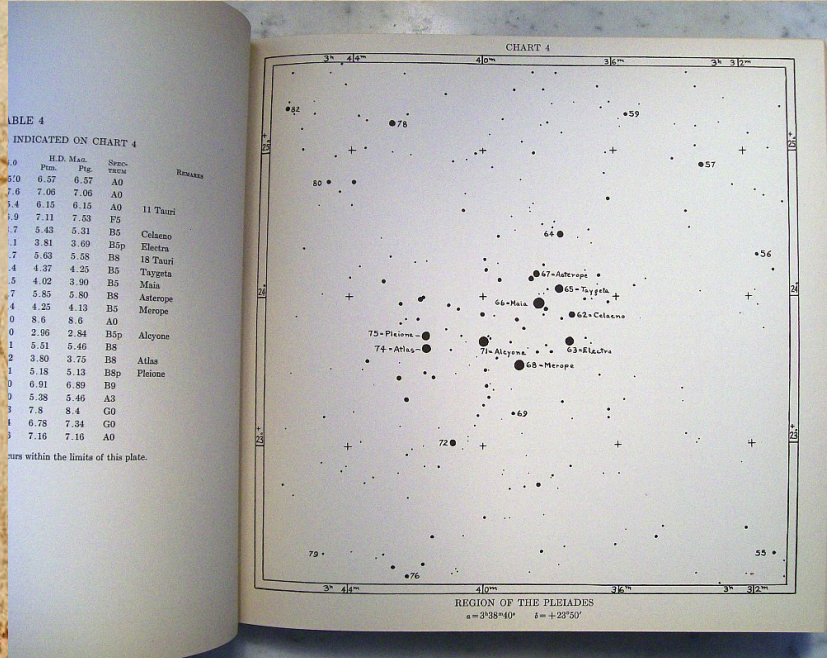
a of stars are easily picked out on the
erly from the immediate vicinity of
several striking lines. One of these can
for at least $11''$, from about $\alpha = 18^{\text{h}}19^{\text{m}}$
 $\delta = -20^{\circ}25'$. Some 25' to the south of
with it, is a similar but shorter line of
traced northeast, nearly to the picture
are best seen by holding the picture
one the line of stars. There are two
brighter stars running west and south,
in $\alpha = 18^{\text{h}}16^{\text{m}}10^{\text{s}}$, $\delta = -18^{\circ}20'$ (7 inches
edge and 1.3 inches, or 3.4 cm, from the
They do not quite join at their outer
these striking lines of stars see Plate
ory, 11, Plate 54.
e, No. 256, was made at Mount Wilson.
e same object, with an error in the right ascen-
2 and 177, 231, 1908.
220, 1892 and 177, 231, 1908.



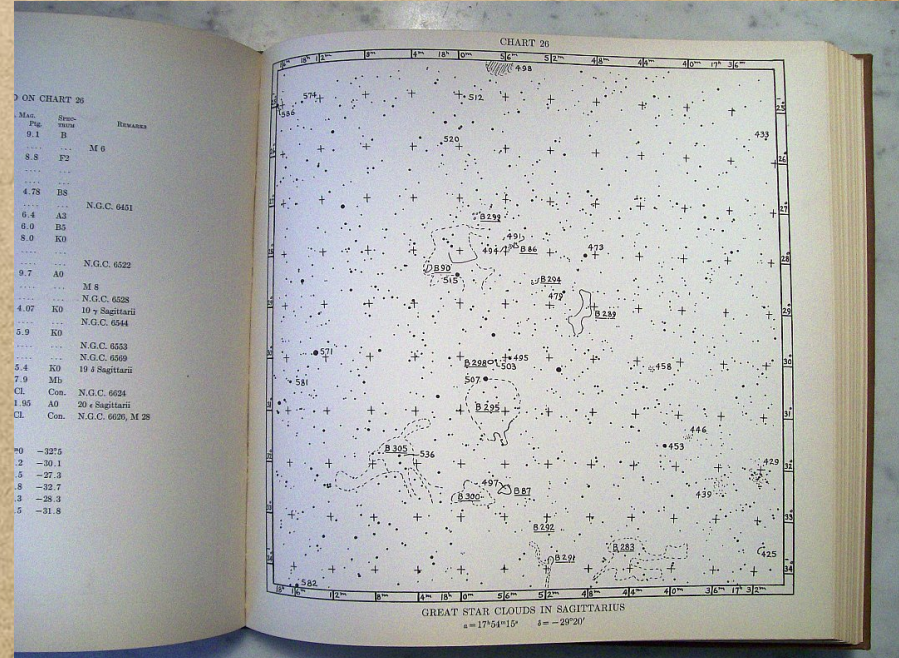
Sagittarius Region

From My Collection

"A Photographic Atlas of Selected Regions of the Milky Way" by Edward Emerson Barnard, 1927 (700 copies printed)



Pleiades Chart



Sagittarius Chart

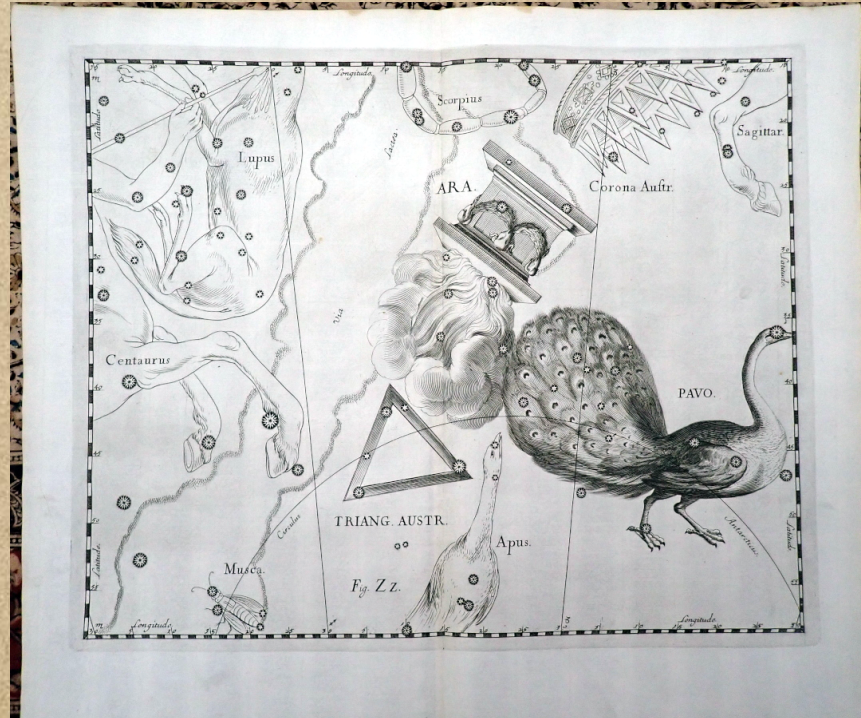
From My Collection

Print from "Uranometria" by Johann Bayer, 1603



From My Collection

Print from “*Firmamentum Sobiescianum sive Uranographia*” by Johannes Hevelius, 1687



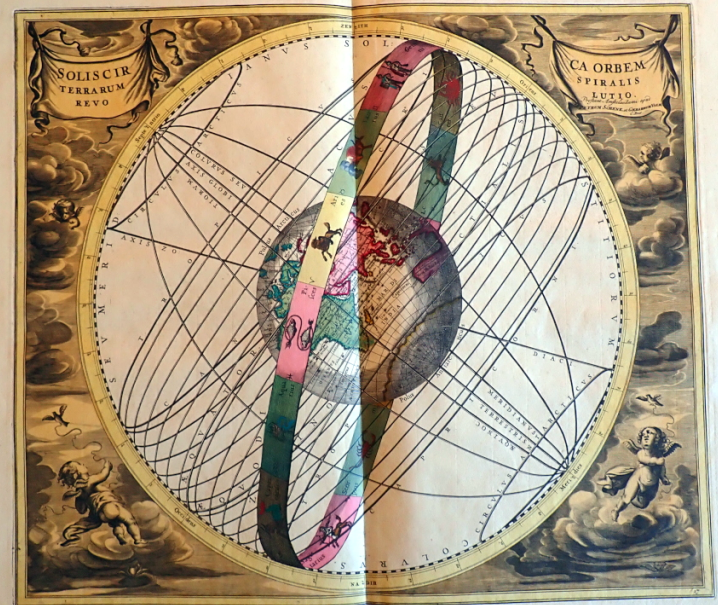
From My Collection

Northern Hemisphere Print from “Planisphere Céleste” by Philippe de La Hire, 1705



From My Collection

Prints from "Atlas Coelestis seu Harmonia Macrocosmica" by Andreas Cellarius, 1708



From My Collection

Prints from "Uranometria Britannica" by John Bevis, circa 1750



From My Collection

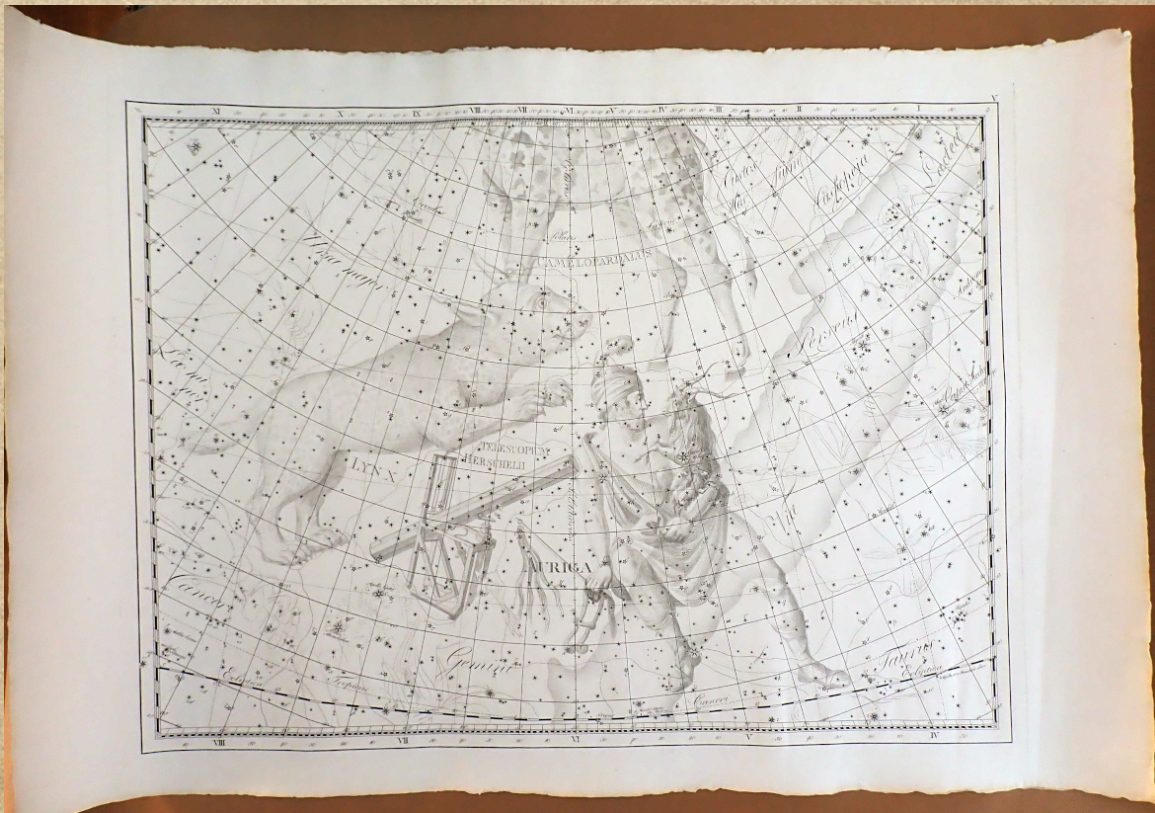
Print from the 1753 edition of John Flamsteed's "Atlas Coelestis"



20.5 x 25.5 inches

From My Collection

Prints from Johann Elert Bode's "Uranographia" - 1801



26.5x39.5 inches

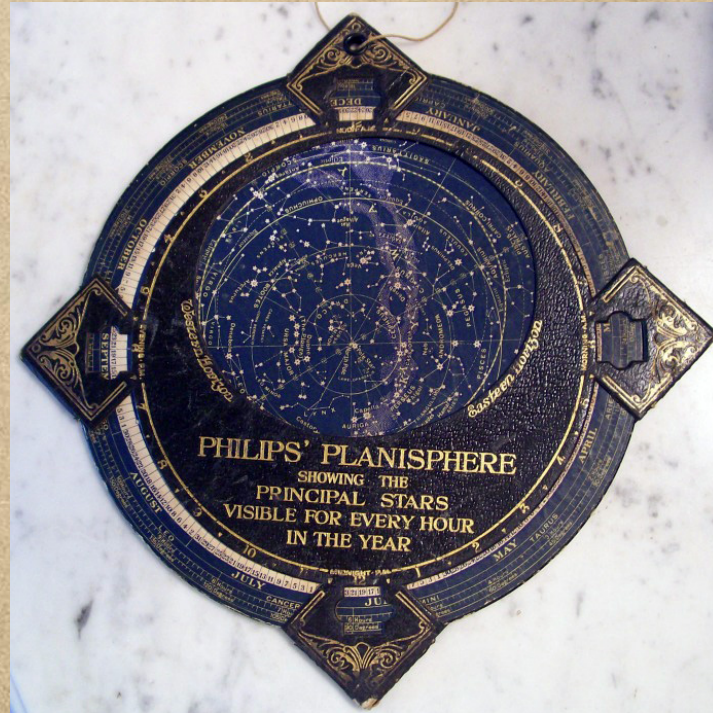
From My Collection

Prints from Johann Elert Bode's "Uranographia" - 1801



From My Collection

Planispheres



Philip's Planisphere, circa 1900

From My Collection

Planispheres

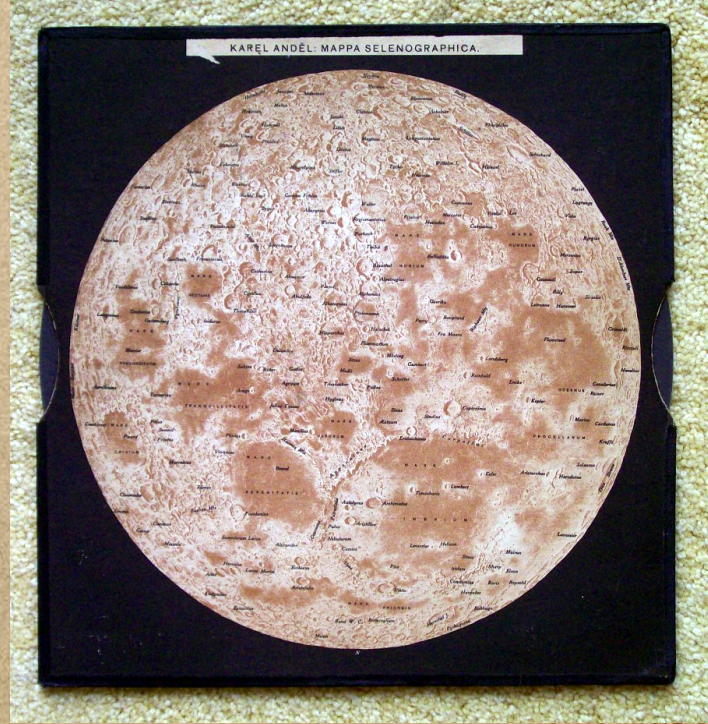


Mang's Drehbare Sternkarte (Rotating Star Map), circa 1908

From My Collection Planispheres



Mapa Severni Oblohy (Northern Sky Map), circa 1950



From My Collection

Planispheres



A Moveable Planisphere by Henry Whittall, 1862

From My Collection

Planispheres



20.5 x 18.9 inches

Obzor Hvezdny (Starry Horizon) by Czech astronomer František Nábělek, circa 1900

From My Collection

Postcards



10391 Scott Observatory, Park College

**Scott Observatory,
Parkville, MO, circa 1908**



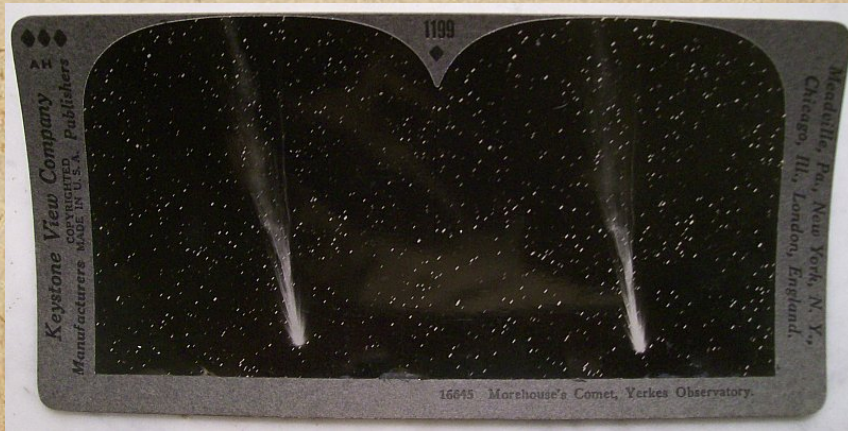
Observatory, Topeka, Kan.

4811-121-7

Crane Observatory, Topeka, KS, circa 1915

From My Collection

Stereoviews



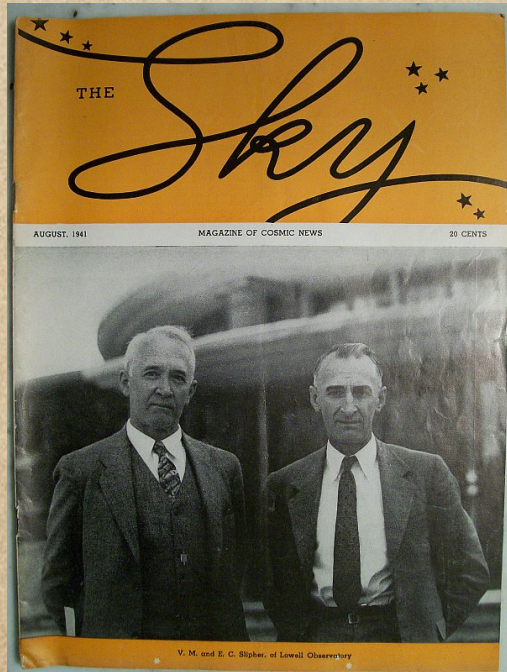
Morehouse Comet, circa 1910



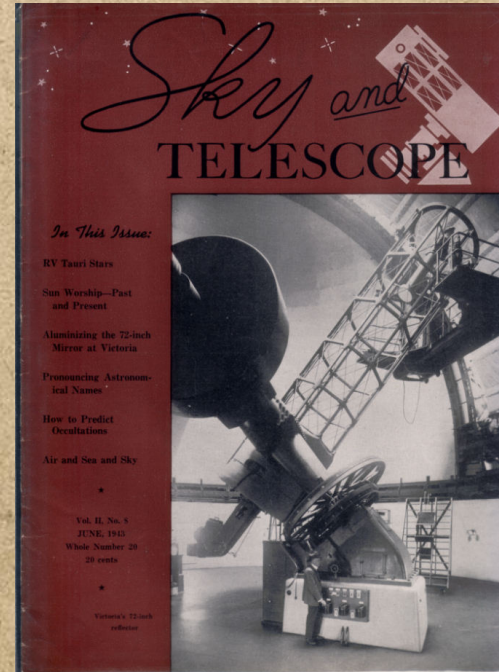
Meteor in Orion, circa 1910

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Periodicals



August 1941



June 1943

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Astronomy (426 Titles)

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A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P R S T U V W Y Z

Title	Author	Printing Year	Publisher	Edition	Pages	Cover	Notes
<i>A Catechism of Astronomy</i>	anonymous	1833	Whitaker, Treacher, and Co.	15th	72	Quarter Cloth	
<i>A Catechism of Astronomy</i>	C. Irving	1835	Collins and Hannay	5th	90	Paper	
<i>A Companion to the Globes</i>	R. T. Linnington	1820	G. & W. B. Whittaker	2nd	214	Half Leather	Dedication page has William Talbot inscribed on it.
<i>A Compendious Treatise on the Use of the Globes, and of Maps</i>	John Lathrop	1812	J. W. Burditt and Co.	1st	183	Leather	
<i>A Compleat System of Astronomy</i>	Charles Leadbetter	1728	J. Wilcox	1st	448	Leather	Volume one of two.
<i>A Dipper Full of Stars</i>	Lou Williams	1944	Follett Publishing Company	1st	170	Cloth	
<i>A Field Book of the Stars</i>	William Tyler Olcott	1914	G. P. Putnam's Sons	2nd	163	Cloth	
<i>A General Catalogue of 1290 Double Stars</i>	S. W. Burnham	1900	The University of Chicago Press	1st	296	Cloth	Publications of the Yerkes Observatory. Volume 1.
<i>A Handbook of Descriptive and Practical Astronomy, Vol II: Instruments and</i>	George F. Chambers	1890	Oxford at the Clarendon Press	4th	558	Cloth	Volume II. Frontispiece is a tipped in silver print of a telescope. The fold up chart is

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