

Spash Astronomy

Week 9

Mythology of the constellation Pisces

The constellation PISCES represents Aphrodite and her son, Eros, who changed themselves into fishes and jumped quickly into the Nile in order to escape from the dreaded monster Typhon.

1. Alrisha(alpha) – 4 – pale green – means: The cord

Mythology of the constellation Aquarius

This is the eleventh zodiacal sign and one which has always been connected with water. Greek legend, tells of Ganymede, an exceptionally handsome, young prince of Troy. He was spotted by Zeus, who immediately decided that he would make a perfect cup-bearer. Then Zeus sent his pet eagle, Aquila, to carry Ganymede to Olympus, , once Ganymede arrived, he had to contend with the wrath of Hera, wife of Zeus. She was annoyed on two counts - firstly, that her husband should have such strong feelings for a mere boy and, secondly, that Ganymede was to occupy the favoured position previously held by her own daughter Hebe, goddess of youth. But Zeus was not to be thwarted and Ganymede, often riding on Aquila and always carrying the golden cup, accompanied the great god on his travels, impressing him with his kindness. This was made manifest when, realising how in need of water the people on earth were, he pleaded with Zeus to be allowed to help them and was given permission to send down rain. Eventually he was glorified as Aquarius, god of rain, and placed amongst the stars.

1. Sadalmelek(alpha) – 3.2 – pale yellow – means: The Lucky One of the King

2. Sadalachbia(geamma) – 4.1 - greenish – means: Hiding Place

Mythology of the constellation Triangulum

To the Greeks TRIANGULUM, The Triangle, represented their triangular-shaped letter delta, and eventually it came to symbolize any river delta, but especially that of the Nile. Similarly, because of its shape, it was said to represent the island of Sicily, which was sacred to Demeter, and from whence her daughter Persephone was taken to Hades.

1. Ras Al Metallah(alpha) – 3.49 – means: Head of the Triangle

Mythology of the constellation Aries

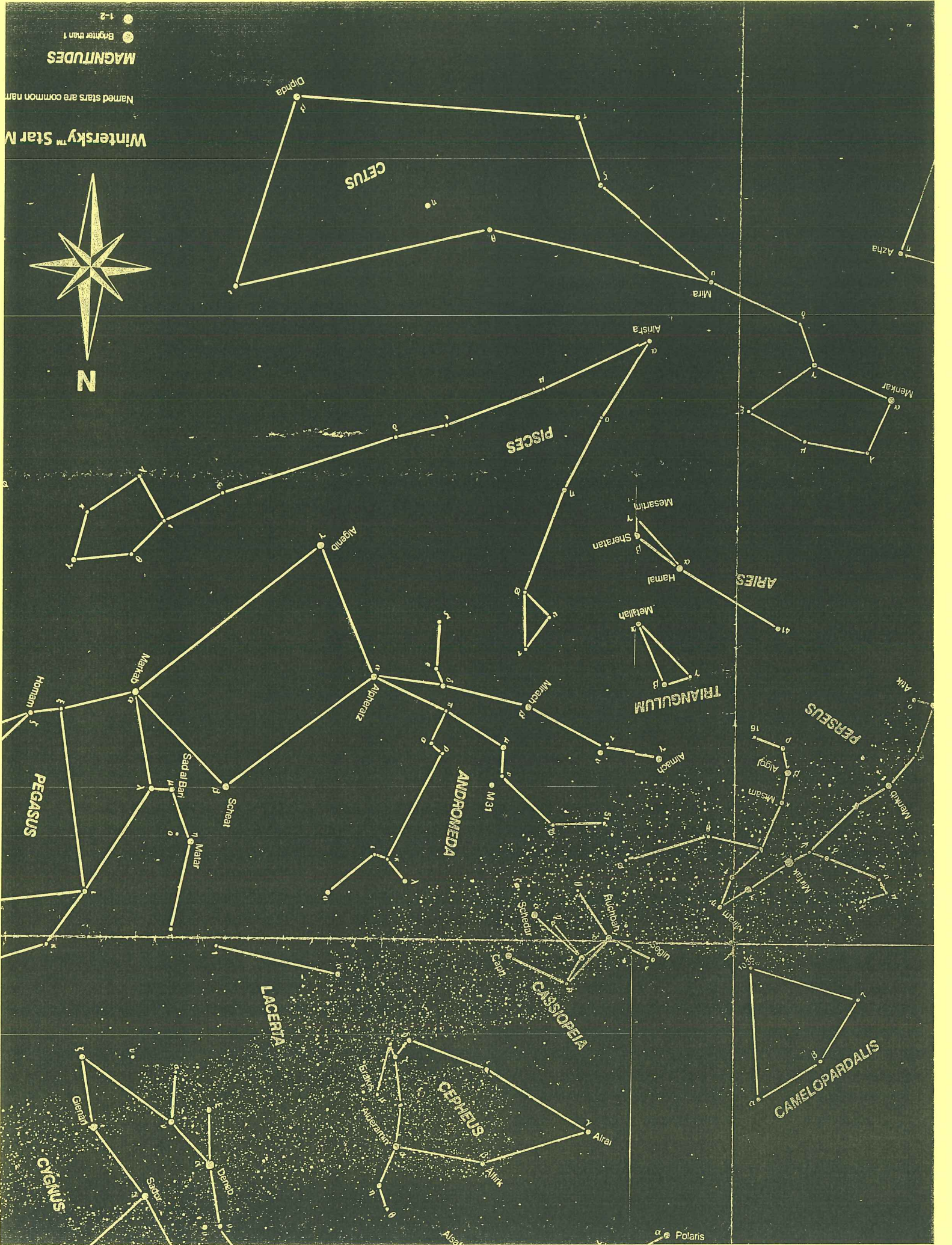
Aries, The Ram, is the first of the twelve zodiacal constellations, and in Greek myth represents the animal whose fleece was sought by Jason and the Argonauts. Legend has it that when King Athamus of Boetia took a second wife, Ino, she was extremely jealous and resentful of his existing children, especially his son, Phrixus. She therefore deviously plotted the failure of the corn crop, intercepted and bribed the messenger sent by her husband to consult an oracle on the matter, and instructed him to say that he had been told that Phrixus had to be sacrificed if the people were to escape starvation. Despite pleadings from the boy's mother, Nephele, King Athamus agreed to the sacrifice but, at the very last minute, the boy and his sister, Helle, were saved by a magnificent ram with a golden fleece, sent by Zeus in answer to their mother's prayers. Unfortunately, as the ram crossed the narrow stretch of water between Europe and Asia, Helle fell to her death (the straits are still known as Hellespont) but Phrixus was carried safely to the land of Colchis. He gave thanks for his deliverance by sacrificing the ram to Zeus and giving its golden fleece to King Aeetes. The king had the fleece placed in a sacred copse, guarded by a fearsome dragon which never slept. Phrixus later married the king's daughter and remained in exile for the rest of his life, but the fleece was eventually stolen by Jason.

1. Hamal(alpha) – 2.3 – yellow means: Head of the Sheep

2. Sheratan(beta) - 2.9 – pearly white – means: a Sign

Mythology of the constellation Lacerta

Another "modern" constellation, The Lizard, was created by Johannes Hevelius in 1687.



Named stars are common names

MAGNITUDES

● 1-2

● Brighter than 1

Wintersky™ Star N



CETUS

PISCES

ARIES

TRIANGULUM

PERSEUS

ANDROMEDA

PEGASUS

LACERTA

CEPHEUS

CASSIOPEIA

CAMELOPARDALIS

CYGNUS

α Polaris