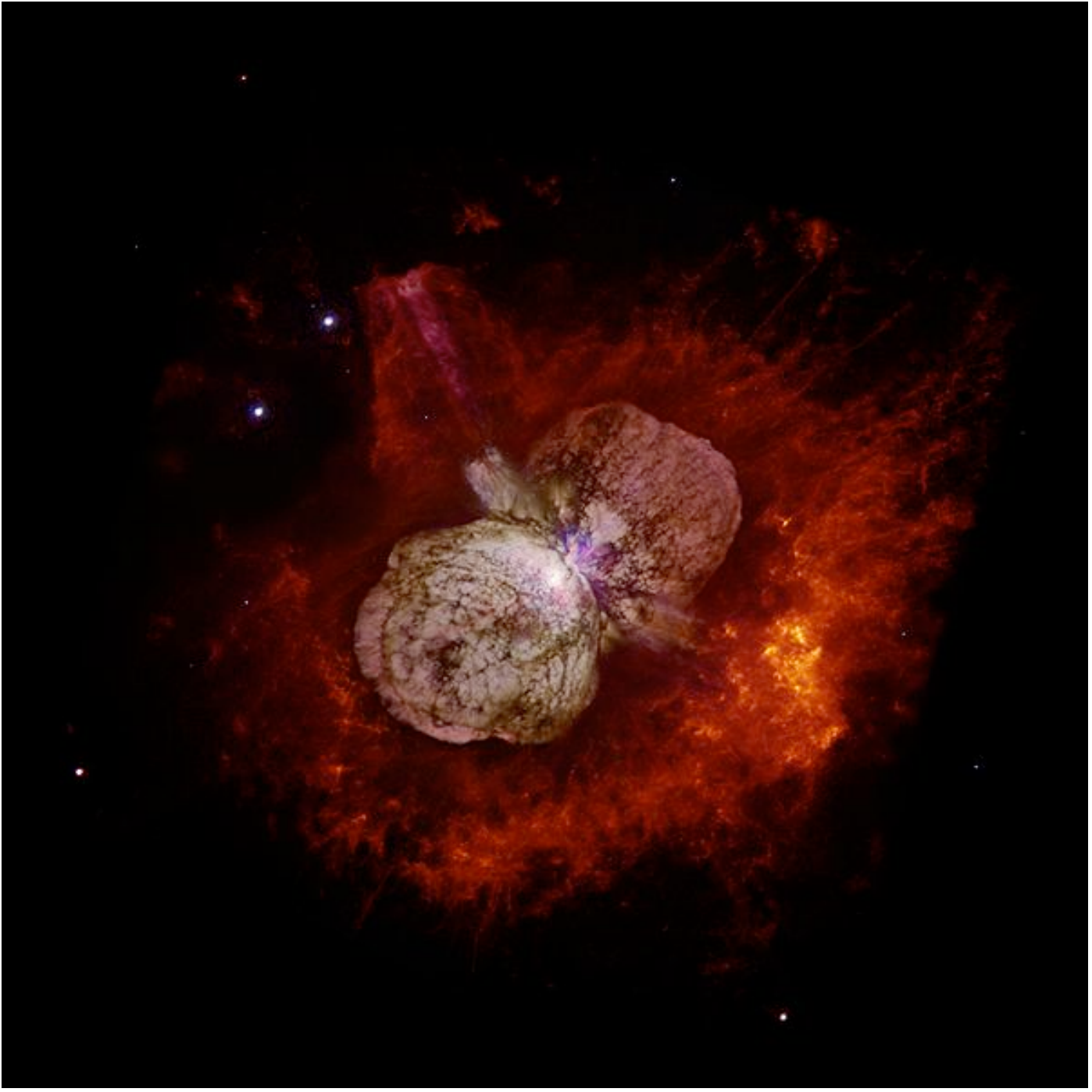
light echoes of η-Carinae

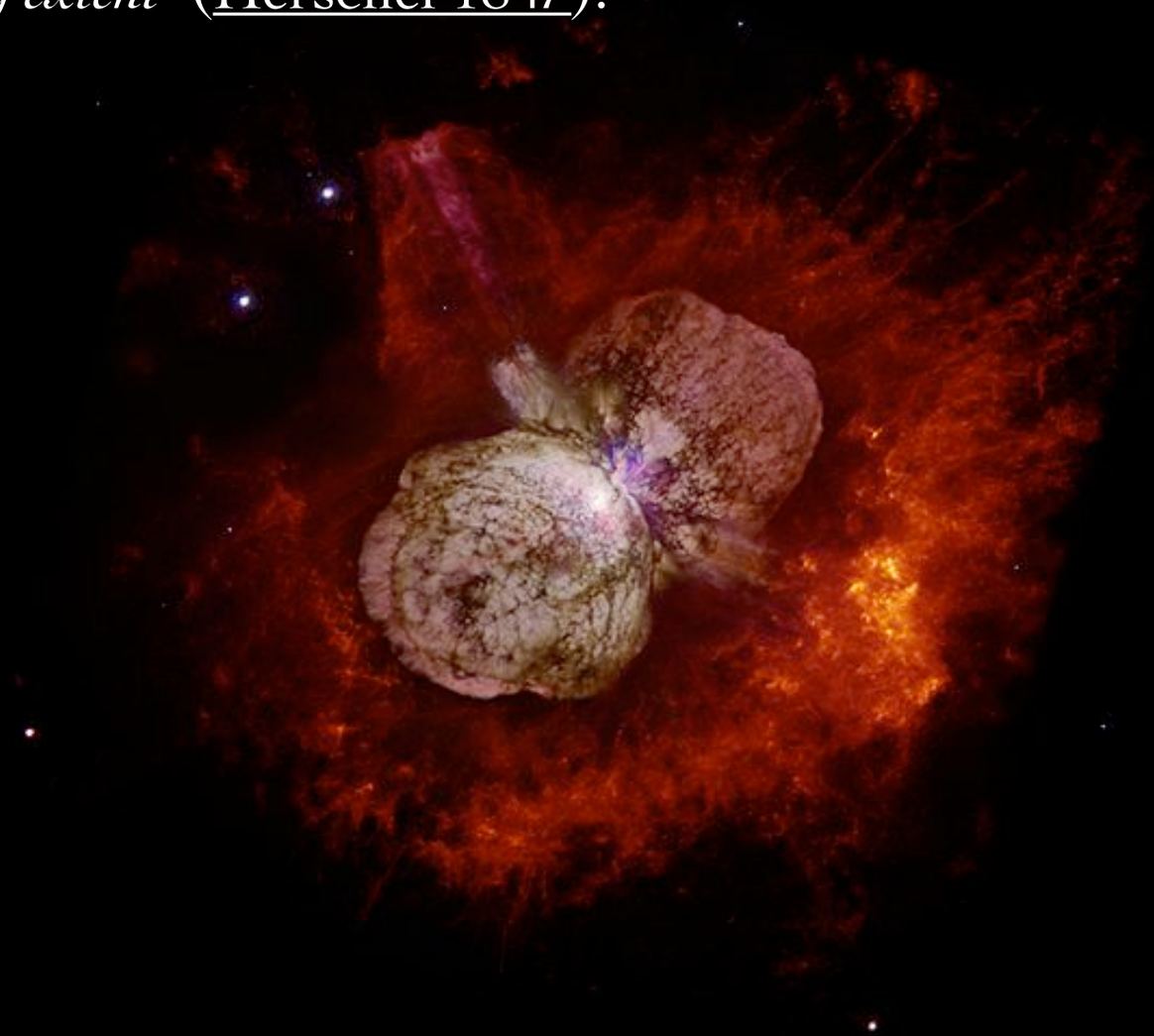
federica b. bianco



historical records

historical records

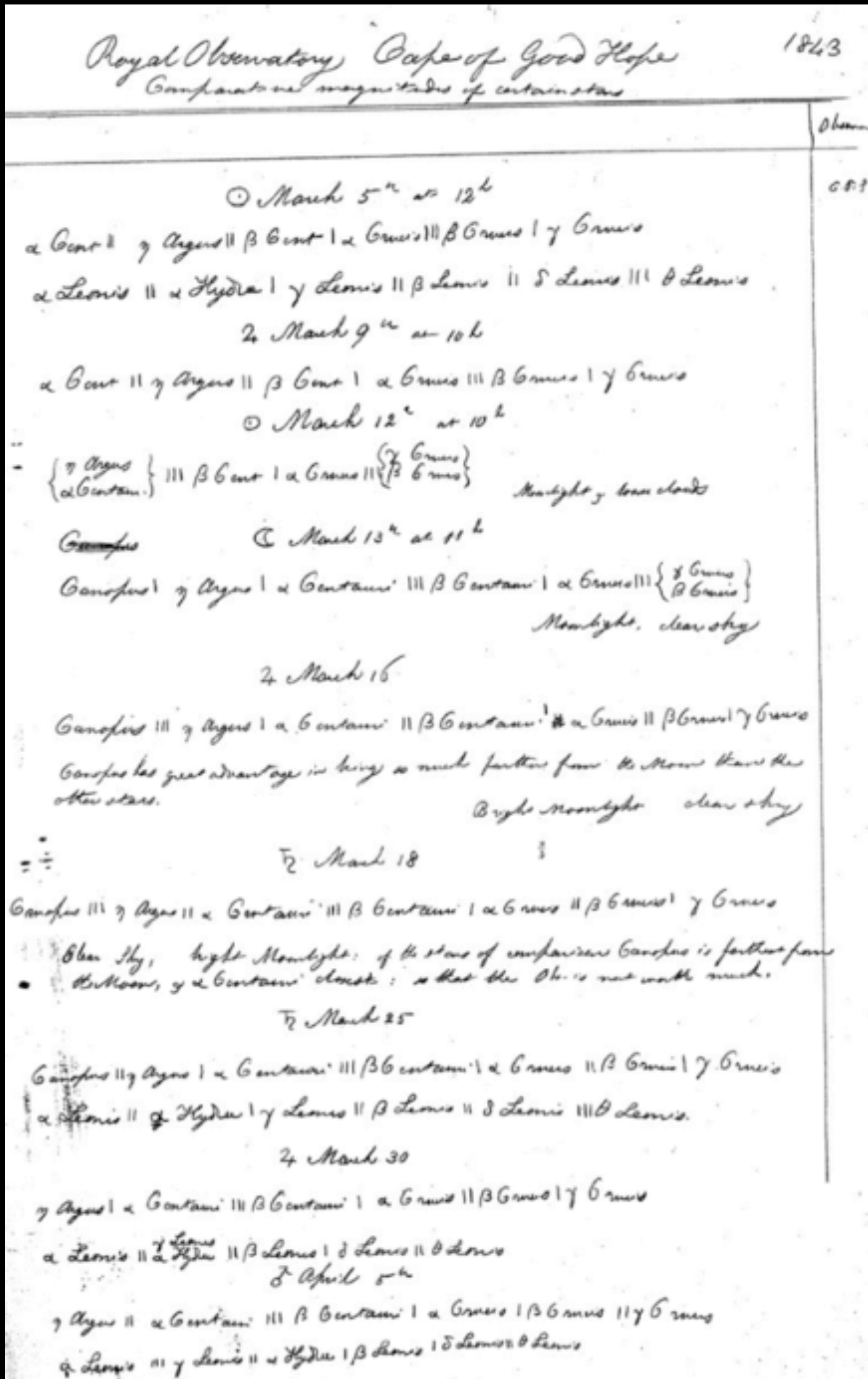
Sir John Herschel noticed it in the southern sky while conducting a survey from Cape Town, South Africa and described its 'sudden flashes and relapses'... this star is ... *'fitfully variable to an astonishing extent'* (Herschel 1847).



federica b. bianco

light echoes of η-Carinae

historical lightcurve of η-Car


Royal Observatory Cape of Good Hope 1843
Comparative magnitudes of certain stars

☉ March 5th at 12h
α Cent || η Argus || β Cent | α Crucis ||| β Crucis | γ Crucis
α Leonis || α Hydra | γ Leonis || β Leonis || δ Leonis ||| θ Leonis

♃ March 9th at 10h
α Cent || η Argus || β Cent | α Crucis ||| β Crucis | γ Crucis

☉ March 12th at 10h
{η Argus / α Centauri} ||| β Cent | α Crucis || {γ Crucis / β Crucis}
Moonlight, some clouds

☾ March 13th at 11h
Canopus | η Argus | α Centauri ||| β Centauri | α Crucis ||| {γ Crucis / β Crucis}
Moonlight, clear sky

♃ March 16
Canopus ||| η Argus | α Centauri || β Centauri | α Crucis || β Crucis | γ Crucis
Canopus has great advantage in being so much farther from the Moon than the other stars.
Bright moonlight clear sky

♄ March 18
Canopus ||| η Argus || α Centauri ||| β Centauri | α Crucis || β Crucis | γ Crucis
Clear sky, bright Moonlight: of the stars of comparison Canopus is farthest from the Moon, & α Centauri closest: so that the Obs is not worth much.

♄ March 25
Canopus || η Argus | α Centauri ||| β Centauri | α Crucis || β Crucis | γ Crucis
α Leonis || α Hydra | γ Leonis || β Leonis || δ Leonis ||| θ Leonis

♃ March 30
η Argus | α Centauri ||| β Centauri | α Crucis || β Crucis | γ Crucis
α Leonis || γ Leonis α Hydra || β Leonis | δ Leonis || θ Leonis

♂ April 5th
η Argus || α Centauri ||| β Centauri | α Crucis | β Crucis || γ Crucis
α Leonis || γ Leonis || α Hydra | β Leonis | δ Leonis || θ Leonis