

One hundred and seven are catalogued by Gould as being visible to the naked eye.

$\alpha$ , marking the body of the bird, is the conspicuous 2d-magnitude south-west from Fomalhaut when the latter culminates in autumn evenings, itself coming to the meridian on the 11th of October. It was Al Tizini's **Al Nā'ir**, the Bright One, *i. e.* of the Fish's tail, when that constellation extended over the stars of our Grus. The Chinese knew it as **Ke**.

$\beta$ , a 2.2-magnitude red star, was Al Tizini's Rear One at the end of the tail of his Fish, thirty-five minutes of arc to the eastward from  $\alpha$ . It is in the left wing of the Crane.

$\gamma$ , a 3d-magnitude, was the same author's **Al Dhanab**, the Tail itself, but now marks the eye in the bird's figure.

$\pi^1$ , a 6.7-magnitude deep crimson star, and its somewhat brighter white companion,  $\pi^2$ , are like "little burnished discs of copper and silver, seen under strong illumination."

The alternative title for the stars of Grus,

### **Phoenixopterus, the Flamingo,**

is now seldom, if ever, used, nor can I find any record of its inventor, or date of its adoption as a constellation name. Chilmead's *Treatise* contains this reference to it:

*The Phoenixopterus we may call the Bittour [the old English word for Bittern].*

*The Spaniards call it Flamengo: and it is described with the wings spread abroad, and as it were striking with his bill at the South Fish, in that part where he boweth himself. This Asterisme consisteth of 13 Starres: of which, that of the second magnitude in his head is called, the Phoenixopters Eye: and it hath two other Stars also of the same magnitude, one in his backe, and the other in his left wing. And those two which are in the middle of his necke, Paulus Merula in his first booke of his Cosmography, calleth his Collar or Chaine.*

The absence of our titles in the foregoing description would show that the **Bittern**, or **Flamingo**, was the popular English figuring and title in the early part of the 17th century.

★

Hercules with flashing mace.

Bryant's *The Constellations*.

### **Hercules,**

stretching from just west of the head of Ophiuchus to Draco, its eastern border on the Milky Way, is one of the oldest sky figures, although not