

Near this star Sir William Herschel discovered the planet Uranus on the 13th of March, 1781. He thought it a comet, and its discovery as such was communicated to the Royal Astronomical Society on the 26th of April. Its true nature, however, first suspected by Maskelyne, was announced in the succeeding year by Lexell of Saint Petersburg and by La Place ; and Herschel then published it on the 7th of November, 1782, as the *Georgium Sidus*, thus following Galileo, who, till he knew their true nature, had named Jupiter's satellites *Sidera Cosmiana* and *Sidera Medicea*, after his patron the 2d Cosmo di Medici, and Tardé, who had called the sun-spots *Borbonica Sidera*. Continental astronomers designated the planet as Herschel, and this in a much varied orthography, strangely erroneous considering the fame of its discoverer. We find it thus with La Lande in 1792 ; indeed, Herschel appeared as an alternative title in our text-books as late as fifty years ago ; but Bode suggested the present Uranus to conform to the mythological nomenclature of the other planets, and because the name of the oldest god was specially applicable to the oldest — as the most distant — body then known in our system.

Uranus, however, had been observed and noted as a star twenty-two times previously by various observers ; these are called “ the ancient observations ” ; and Miss Clerke writes : “ There is, indeed, some reason to suppose that he had been detected as a wandering orb by savage ‘ watchers of the skies ’ on the Pacific long before he swam into Herschel's ken.”¹

The 4th-magnitude θ , and ι , ν , τ , and ϕ , collectively were **Woo Chow Shih**, or **Woo Choo How**, the Seven Feudal Princes of China.

ι is **Propus** in the *Standard Dictionary*, although it lies between the shoulders of the Twins.

μ , Double, 3.2 and 11, crocus yellow and blue,

occasionally has been known as **Tejat posterior**, and sometimes as **Nuhātai**, from the *manzil* of that title of which it formed a part.

The *Century Dictionary* and *Cyclopedia* apply to it the **Pish Pai** seen for η , yet appropriate enough for this similarly situated star ; but in Flamsteed's edition of Tycho's catalogue we distinctly read of it, *dicta Calx*, the Heel.

It marked the 9th ecliptic constellation of Babylonia as **Arkū-sha-pu-u-mash-mashu**, the Back of the Mouth of the Twins.

¹ The Burmans, too, thought that there was an 8th planet, Rahū, but invisible ; and the Hindus named other imaginary planets Kethu, Rethu, and Kulican ; and figured Sani, their god Saturn, with a circle around him of intertwined serpents ages before Galileo's day ; although this has had a very different explanation.

In China it was included with Castor and others in the *sieu Tsing*.

The components are 80'' apart, at a position angle of 79°.

ξ, a 4th-magnitude, was Al Birūnī's **Al Zirr**, the Button.

χ, a 5th-magnitude, with μ Cancrī, was the Chinese **Tseih Tsing**, Piled-up Fuel.



Globus Aerostaticus, vel Aetherius, the Balloon,

was formed by La Lande in 1798, but, like most of his stellar creations, seems to have passed out of the recognition of science.

It lay east of the Microscope, between the tail of the Southern Fish and the body of Capricorn.

Bode published it in his *Die Gestirne* as the **Luft Ballon**, Ideler's **Luft Ball**, with twenty-two stars; and Father Secchi still had it in his maps as the Italian **Aerostáto**. With the French it was the **Ballon Aérostatique**.



Proxima sideribus numinibusque feror.

Flavius Avianus' 15th Fable.

Grus, the Crane,

is one of the so-called Bayer groups, **la Grue** of the French and Italians, **der Kranich** of the Germans; and the title is appropriate, for Horapollon, the grammarian of Alexandria, about A. D. 400, tells us that the crane was the symbol of a star-observer in Egypt, presumably from its high flight as described in our motto.

Caesius, who carried his biblical symbols even to the new constellations, imagined this to be the **Stork in the Heaven** of *Jeremiah* viii, 7, although the Crane occurs in the same verse; but Julius Schiller combined it with Phoenix in a representation of **Aaron the High Priest**.

The Arabians included its stars in the Southern Fish, Al Sufi giving its α, β, δ, θ, ι, and λ as unformed members of that constellation.

The components, with the exception of the *lucida*, form a gentle curve southwest from this Fish, and among them are stars noted in astronomy.