

The symbol of the sign, \uparrow , shows the arrow with part of the bow.

Sagittarius contains 54 naked-eye stars according to Argelander, and 90 according to Heis, although none is above the 2d magnitude.

The sun passes through the constellation from the 16th of December to the 18th of January, reaching the winter solstice¹ near the stars μ on the 21st of December, but then of course in the sign Capricorn.

A noticeable feature in the heavens lies within the boundaries of Sagittarius, an almost circular black void near the stars γ and δ , showing but one faint telescopic star; and to the east of this empty spot is another of narrow crescent form.

An extraordinarily brilliant *nova* is said to have appeared low down in the constellation in 1011 or 1012, visible for three months. This was recorded in the Chinese annals of Ma Touan Lin.

α , 4.

This is **Rukbat**, but variously written **Rucba**, **Rucbah**, **Rukbah**, and **Rucbar**, from Ulug Beg's **Rukbat al Rāmi**, the Archer's Knee; in some early books it is **Al Rāmi**, the Archer himself. The *Standard Dictionary* has **Ruchbar** or **Ranich**.

The Euphratean **Nibat Anu**, already alluded to, may be for this, or for some other of the chief components of the constellation; perhaps for ϵ if, in early days, that star was comparatively as bright as now.

β^1 , Double, 3.8 and 8, and β^2 , 4.4.

Arkab and **Urkab** are from **Al 'Urḳūb**, translated by Ideler as the Tendon uniting the calf of the leg to the heel, and this coincides with their location in the figure on modern maps, as well as with their Euphratean title **Ur-nergub**, the Sole of the Left Foot; but Al Sufi and the engraver of the Borgian globe assigned these stars to the rear of the horse's body.

Kazwini knew α and the two *betas* as **Al Ṣuradain**, the two Surad, desert birds differently described,—by some as “larger than sparrows” and variegated black and white (magpies?); by others as yellow and larger than doves.

γ , 3.1, yellow.

Al Naql, the Point, is Al Tizini's word designating this as marking the head of the Arrow; but Hyde cited **Zujj al Nushshābah** of similar meaning.

¹ The solstices are first mentioned by Hesiod in three different passages of his *Works and Days*.

The Borgian globe termed it **Al Wazl**, the Junction, indicating the spot where the arrow, bow, and hand of the Archer meet.

This star, with δ and ϵ and with β of the Telescope, was the *sieu* **Ki**, but in the worship of China the three were **Feng Shī**, the General of Wind.

δ , Double, 3 and 14.5, orange yellow and bluish.

Kaus Meridionalis, or **Media**, is Arabic and Latin for the Middle (of the) Bow. It marked the junction of the two Ashādhā; and, with γ and ϵ , was the Akkadian **Sin-nun-tu**, or **Si-nu-nu-tum**, the Swallow.

The companion was 26'' away in 1896, at a position angle of $276^{\circ}.4$.

ϵ , Double, 2 and 14.3, orange and bluish,

is **Kaus Australis**, the Southern (part of the) Bow.

In Euphratean days it may have been **Nibat Anu**.

ϵ comes to the meridian on the 8th of August.

The companion is 32''.5 away, at a position angle, in 1896, of 295° .

A comparison of the magnitudes of α , β , γ , δ , and ϵ in Sagittarius, each one being brighter than the preceding, goes far to show that Bayer was not guided in his star-lettering by any such rule of alphabetical arrangement in order of brilliancy as has been attributed to him.

ζ , Binary, 3.9 and 4.4.

The *Latin Almagest* of 1515 gives this as **Ascella**, *i. e.* **Axilla**, the Armpit of the figure, still its location on the maps.

The two components have the rapid orbital revolution of $18\frac{1}{2}$ years.

With σ , τ , and ϕ it formed a portion of the 18th *manzil*, **Al Na'ām**, or **Al Na'ām al Šādirah**, and the whole of that *nakshatra*; but the corresponding *sieu* included λ and μ , with ϕ as the determinant.

λ , 3.1, yellow.

Kaus Borealis, the Northern (part of the) Bow, was Al Tizini's **Rāi al Na'ām**, the Keeper of the Na'ams, the uncertainty as to the meaning of which has already been noticed; but Kazwini evidently understood by it Ostriches, for in his list it is, with the stars μ , **Al Thalimain**, plainly meaning these desert birds.