

Jacob Bryant insisted that its title came to Greece from the Egyptian **Pur Cahen**.

Euphratean scholars identify it with the **Kakkab Paldara, Pallika, or Palura** of the cylinders, the Star of the Crossing of the Water-dog, a title evidently given with some reference to the River of Heaven, the adjacent Milky Way; and Hommel says that it was the **Kak-shisha** which the majority of scholars apply to Sirius.

Dupuis said that in Hindu fables it was **Singe Hanuant**; and Edkins that it, or Sirius, was the Persian **Vanand**.

Reeves' Chinese list gives it as **Nan Ho**, the Southern River, in which  $\beta$  and  $\eta$  were included.

With the natives of the Hervey Islands it was their goddess **Vena**.

In astrology, like its constellation, it portended wealth, fame, and good fortune. Procyon culminates on the 24th of February.

Elkin determined its parallax as  $0''.341$ , making its distance from our system about  $9\frac{1}{2}$  light years; and, according to Vogel, it is approaching us at a speed of nearly six miles a second. Gould thinks it slightly variable.

Its spectrum is on the border between Solar and Sirian.

It is attended by several minute companions that have long been known; but in November, 1896, Schaeberle of the Lick Observatory discovered a 13th-magnitude yellowish companion, about  $4''.6$  away, at a position angle of  $318^\circ.8$ , that may be the one predicted by Bessel in 1844 as explaining its peculiar motion,—a motion resembling that of Sirius, which astronomers had found to be moving in an oval orbit entirely unexplained until the discovery of its companion by Alvan G. Clark in 1862. Barnard, at the Yerkes Observatory in 1898, makes the close companion of Procyon  $4''.83$  away, at a position angle of  $326^\circ$ .

The period of revolution of this most magnificent system is about forty years, in an orbit slightly greater than that of Uranus, the combined mass being about six times that of our sun and earth, and the mass of the companion equaling that of our sun. Its light is three times greater.

$\beta$ , 3.5, white.

**Gomeisa** is from the Ghumaisā' of the constellation, changed in the *Alfonsine Tables* to **Algomeyla**, and by Burritt to **Gomelza**.

Occasionally it has been **Al Gamus**, from another of the Arabians' titles for the whole; and **Al Murzim**, identical with the name of  $\beta$  Canis Majoris, and for a similar reason,—as if announcing the rising of the brightest star

of the figure. The Arabs utilized this, with Procyon, to mark the terminal points of their short Cubit, or Ell, **Al Dhirā'**, their long Cubit being the line between Castor and Pollux of Gemini. This same word appears in the title of one of the moon stations in that constellation.

$\beta$  has some close companions of the 10th and 12th magnitudes.

$\zeta$ ,  $\theta$ ,  $\phi$ , and  $\pi$  were the Chinese **Shwuy Wei**, a Place of Water, a designation that may have been given them from their nearness to the River of Heaven, the Galaxy.

Thy Cold (for thou o'er Winter Signs dost reign,  
Pull'st back the *Sun*, and send'st *us* Day again)  
Makes Brokers rich.

Thomas Creech's translation of Manilius' *Poeticon Astronomicon*.

## Capricornus,

next to the eastward from Sagittarius, is our **Capricorn**, the French **Capricorne**, the Italian **Capricorno**, and the German **Steinbock**,—Stone-buck, or Ibex,—the Anglo-Saxon **Bucca** and **Buccan Horn**.

The common Latin name was varied by the **Caper** of Ausonius, **flexus Caper** of Manilius, **Hircus corniger** of Vergil, **hircinus Sidus** of Prudens, **Capra** and **aequoris Hircus**, the Sea Goat; while Minsheu's "**Capra illa Amalthea**" indicates that it was identified by some with the goat usually assigned to Auriga. All this, doubtless, was from oriental legends, perhaps very ancient, which made Capricorn the nurse of the youthful sun-god that long anticipated the story of the infant Jupiter and Amalthea. The Latin poets also designated it as **Neptuni proles**, Neptune's offspring; **Pelagi Procella**, the Ocean Storm; **Imbrifer**, the Rain-bringing One; **Signum hiemale**, and **Gelidus**, because then at the winter solstice, the equivalent  $\text{'Αθαλ-πής}$  appearing with the Greeks, which Riccioli repeated as **Athalpis**.

Aratos called it  $\text{'Αγροκέρας}$ , the Horned Goat, to distinguish it from the  $\text{'Αε}$  of Auriga, as did Ptolemy, but Ionic writers had  $\text{'Αγροκέρενς}$ ; and this word, Latinized as **Aegoceros**, was in frequent use with all classical authors who wrote on astronomy. The *Arabo-Latin Almagest* of 1515 turned this into **Alcaucurnus**, explained by *habens cornua hirci*; and Bayer mentioned