

still remains as T Coronae, a pale yellow, slightly variable star. Although called a *nova*, Argelander had already mapped it on the 18th of May, 1855, and again noted it on the 31st of March, 1856, probably at its normal magnitude. It was the first temporary star to be "studied by the universal chemical method"—the spectroscope.

Near its place the **Variabilis Coronae**, now lettered R, was discovered by Pigott in 1795, still varying from 5.8 to 13, but with much irregularity.

Professor Young repeats the *βαγδελ* of Cassiopeia as a help to the memory in locating the stars of this constellation. The extreme northern one is θ , but then follow in order β , α , γ , δ , ϵ , ι . They form an almost perfect semi-circle 20° northeast of Arcturus.

Argelander gives a total of 27 stars visible to the naked eye; and Heis, 31.

One plac'd i' th' front above the rest displays
A vigorous light, and darts surprising rays —
The Monument of the forsaken Maid.

Creech's *Manilius*.

α , 2.4, brilliant white.

Alphecca, the **Alphaca** of Burritt's *Atlas* of 1835, was Ulug Beg's **Al Na'ir al Fakkah**, the Bright One of the Dish, this Nā'ir being equivalent to the Latin word *lucida*.

Bayer asserted that the Arabs knew this star as **Pupilla**, which also appears in the nomenclature of the constellation, with a possible clue to its derivation; but as the word belongs to Lyra, and is certainly not Arabic, we may have to recur to first principles for its origin in the classical *Papilla*.

Munir, found with Bayer as of the "Babylonians,"—by whom he probably intended those gifted in astrology,—is from the Arabs, and synonymous with their Nā'ir. Chilmead gave this as **Munic**.

In Vergil's *Georgics* it was **Gnosia Stella Coronae**.

Gemma and **Gemma Coronae** were not used in classical times, but are later titles, perhaps from Ovid's *gemmasque novem* that Vulcan combined with his *auro* to make Ariadne's Crown; but Spence said, in his *Polymetis*, that the word should be taken in its original meaning of a Bud, referring to the unopened blossoms and leaves of the floral crown, thus agreeing with the early idea of the figure. The **Gema** occasionally seen unquestionably is from an early type omission.

Alphecca is the central one of the seven brightest members of the group, and in modern times has been **Margarita Coronae**, the Pearl of the Crown,

occasionally transformed into **Saint Marguerite**. It marks the loop, or knot, of the ribbon along which are fastened the buds, flowers, or leaves of the wreath shown in early drawings with two long out-streaming ends.

The spectrum is of Secchi's Solar type; and the star is receding from our system at the rate of about twenty miles a second. It has a distant 8th-magnitude companion, and culminates on the 28th of June.

It marks the radiant point of the **Coronids**, the meteor shower visible from the 12th of April to the 30th of June.

β , a 4th-magnitude northwest from Alphecca, is **Nusakan** in the 2d edition of the *Palermo Catalogue*, derived from the Masâkin of the constellation.

γ , η , and σ , although unnamed, are all interesting binary stars.



Till, rising on my wings, I was preferr'd
To be the chaste Minerva's virgin bird.

Joseph Addison's translation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*.

Corvus

was the **Raven** in Chaucer's time, and the Germans still have **Rabe**; but the French follow the Latins in **Corbean**, as the Italians do in **Corvo**, and we in the **Crow**.

Although now traversed by the 20th degree of south declination, 2000 years ago it lay equally on each side of the celestial equator. It contains only 15 naked-eye stars according to Argelander,—26 according to Heis,—yet was a noted constellation with the Greeks and Romans, and always more or less associated with the Cup and with the Hydra, on whose body it rests. Ovid said of this combination in his *Fasti*:

Continuata loco tria sidera, Corvus et Anguis,
Et medius Crater inter utrumque jacet;

but while always so drawn, the three constellations for a long time have been catalogued separately.

The Greeks called it *Kόραξ*, Raven; and the Romans, Corvus. Manilius designating it as **Phoebo Sacer Ales**, and Ovid as **Phoebeius Ales**, mythology having made the bird sacred to Phoebus Apollo in connection with his prophetic functions, and because he assumed its shape during the conflict of the gods with the giants.