

ε, Double, 3.4 and 9.5, brilliant white and cerulean blue.

**Mebuta** is from **Al Mabsūtāt**, the Outstretched, from its marking the extended paw of the early Arabic Lion, but now it is on the hem of Castor's tunic. Burritt had it **Melucta** in his *Geography*, and **Mebusta** in his *Atlas*; Professor Young, following English globes, has **Meboula**; and elsewhere we find **Menita**, **Mesoula**, and **Mibwala**.

ε, δ, λ, and others near by, were the Chinese **Tung Tsing**.

ζ, Variable, 3.7 to 4.5, pale topaz.

**Mekbuda** is from **Al Maḵbūdāh**, Contracted, the Arabic designation for the drawn-in paw of the ancient Asad; but some, with less probability, derive it from **Al Mutakabbidah**, a Culminating Star.

Its variations, discovered by J. F. Julius Schmidt at Athens in 1847, have a period of about ten days, but Chandler says that definitive investigations are not completed. Lockyer thinks it also a spectroscopic binary.

η, Binary and variable, 3.2 to 3.7, and 9.

**Propus** is from the *Πρόπους* of Hipparchos and Ptolemy, indicating its position in front of Castor's left foot, and is its universal title, with the equivalent **Præpes**. Riccioli wrote it *Πρόπος*, and Flamsteed gave both *Πρόπους* and **Propus**; but Tycho had applied this last to the star Fl. 1 among the *extras* of Gemini. This position of η similarly made it the **Pish Pai** of the Persians.

Bassus and Hyginus said **Tropus**, Turn, referring to the apparent turning-point of the sun's course at the summer solstice, which now is more precisely marked by the star γ just eastward from η; and Flamsteed also had *Τρόπος*.

Flammarion's assertion that Hipparchos knew η as a distinct constellation, **Propus**, does not seem well founded.

**Tejat prior** is from **Al Taḥyī**, an anatomical term of Arabia by which it was known in early days; a name also applied to stars in the head of Orion. The Arabs included it with γ and μ in their **Nuḥātai**; the Chinese knew it as **Yuē**, a Battle-ax; and in Babylonia it marked the 8th ecliptic constellation, **Maru-sha-pu-u-mash-mashu**, the Front of the Mouth of the Twins.

It portended lives of eminence to all born under its influence.

The variability of η was discovered by Schmidt in 1865, and its period is now considered as 229–231 days; in 1881 Burnham found it double, the components 1".08 apart, and likely to prove an interesting binary system.

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.”<sup>1</sup>

The 4th-magnitude  $\theta$ , and  $\iota$ ,  $\nu$ ,  $\tau$ , and  $\phi$ , collectively were **Woo Chow Shih**, or **Woo Choo How**, the Seven Feudal Princes of China.

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

$\mu$ , 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  $\eta$ , 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.

<sup>1</sup> 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.