

Urania's Mirror Constellation Cards

Learning Leaflet: Women in Science

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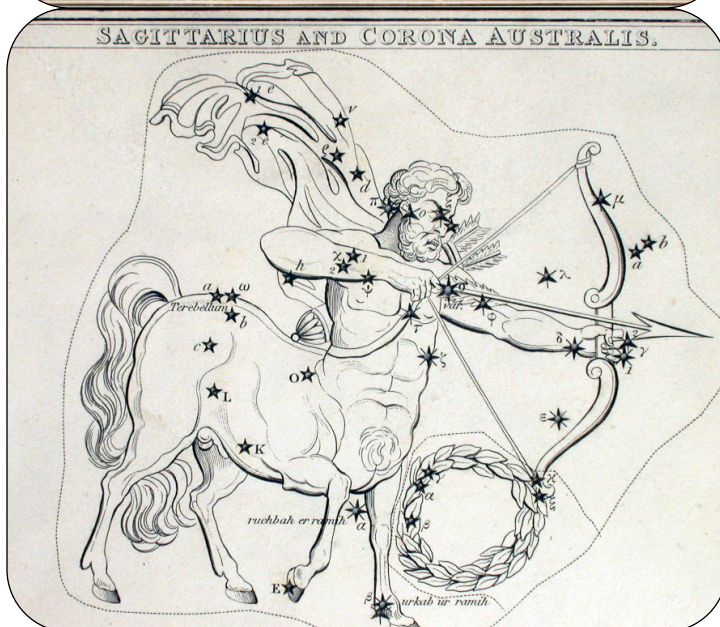


Urania's Mirror (London 1825), a boxed set of 32 cards

Exhibit: Galileo's World | Gallery: The Sky at Night | No.: 20

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What are your favorite constellations?



Urania's Mirror: Constellation Cards

Constellation figures, as sketched on these constellation cards, make learning the constellations easy. This set includes 32 cards, each focused upon one or a few constellations. Holes punched in the positions of bright stars allow one to hold any card up to a light and compare the star pattern with the constellation figure.

The 80 cards include several constellations no longer recognized today, such as the Glory of Frederick, the Telescope of Herschel and the Harp of King George III.

Urania, the Muse of Astronomy, appears on the cover of the box.

This is the first edition; subsequent editions included stars outside the boundaries of the featured constellations.

The creator of the cards remains a mystery. In a companion book providing a simple introduction to the night sky, Jehoshaphat Aspin explains only that the constellation cards “were designed by a lady.”

Kerry Magruder

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