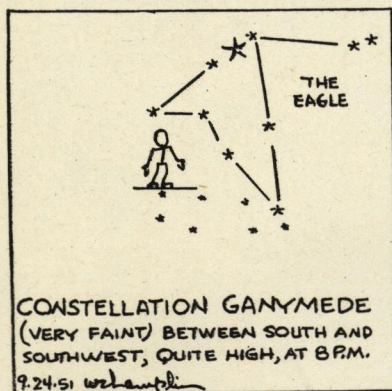


TONIGHT'S STARS

BY WARREN CHAMPLIN

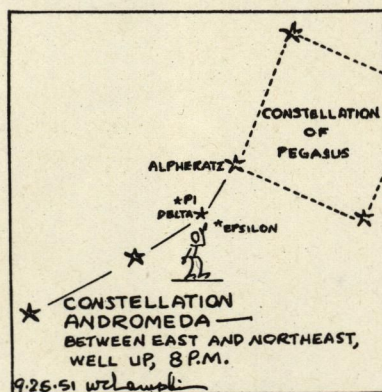


(Time given is Standard; add one hour
for Daylight Saving Time)

According to the legend of the ancient writers, Ganyমে was the most beautiful of all mortals. Zeus, chief of the ancient gods, took the form of an eagle (Aquila, the roughly triangular constellation above Ganyমে) and carried him off to the heavens, where he served as cup-bearer to the gods. Some say that the eagle was not Zeus himself, but only his messenger. At any rate, Ganyমে was the son of Tros and Callirrhoe, who were given a pair of divine horses in exchange for their child. These legends vary a great deal—some say that the constellation Aquarius (between Capricorn and Pegasus) is Ganyমে.

TONIGHT'S STARS

BY WARREN CHAMPLIN

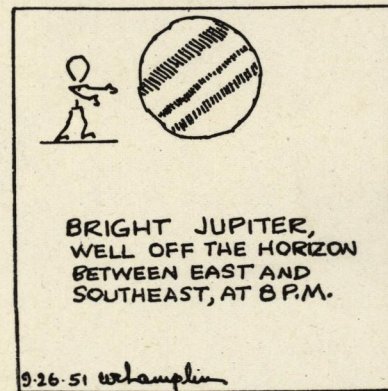


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Notice that the easily recognized Great Square of Pegasus contains one of Andromeda's stars (Alpha Andromedae, Alpha of Andromeda, or Alpheratz). The ancient figures showed this star at the top of Andromeda's head. Delta of Andromeda is accompanied by Epsilon and Pi, two fourth magnitude stars. North of Andromeda you can see another beautiful woman of the skies, Queen Cassiopeia. Her constellation is changing in our early evening skies from a "w" to an "m" as she rises higher and higher. Each evening at the same time, she is one degree farther along her circle around the Pole Star.

TONIGHT'S STARS

BY WARREN CHAMPLIN

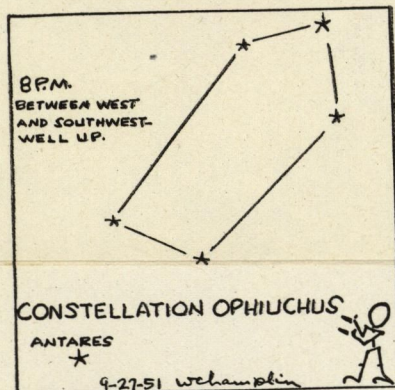


(Time given is Standard; add one hour
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You won't have any trouble finding Jupiter tonight. The planet has a magnitude of minus 2.5. Sirius, the brightest star in our skies, has a magnitude of only minus 1.6—remember that the lower the magnitude number, the brighter the star. A first magnitude star is brighter than a third magnitude star, and stars with minus magnitudes are the brightest lights of our sky. Jupiter, a planet, is bright only with the reflected light of the sun. Therefore, its relatively short distance from us is the cause of its outshining the stars. Jupiter is another name for Zeus, the chief of the ancient gods.

TONIGHT'S STARS

BY WARREN CHAMPLIN

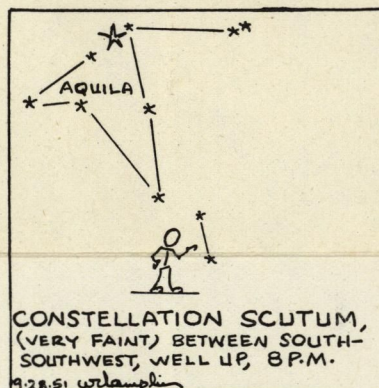


(Time given is Standard; add one hour
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The bright star at the feet of Ophiuchus is Antares, the red Heart of the Scorpion. Only if you live in the South will this bright star be visible to you at eight o'clock tonight. From the North, Antares will be beneath the horizon. Also notice that the farther your viewing position is to the north, the more upright will the great "house" shape of Ophiuchus become. It will be nearly upright for northern Maine observers, well over on its side for Key West observers. This is because we are on the surface of a globe, and our "overhead" points are quite different.

TONIGHT'S STARS

BY WARREN CHAMPLIN

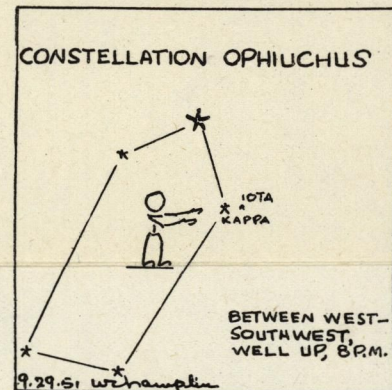


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The constellation Scutum (the Shield) is one of the faintest of our star groups. Its brightest stars are only of fourth magnitude—compare them with the first magnitude Altair, the brightest star of the constellation Aquila (the Eagle), above and to the left of Scutum's stars. In the diagram the upper star is Beta (Beta Scuti, or Beta of Scutum), and the lower is Alpha. You will note that, as is usually the case, Alpha is brighter than Beta. There are exceptions to this general rule. Remember that Beta Geminorum (Pollux) is brighter than Alpha Geminorum (Castor, his brother).

TONIGHT'S STARS

BY WARREN CHAMPLIN



(Time given is Standard; add one hour
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Pick out the fainter star just northwest of Kappa Ophiuchi—this is Iota Ophiuchi. It is so dim, fourth magnitude compared to Kappa's third magnitude, you can get new meaning from the old expression of "not worth an iota." The meaning of the expression comes, however, from the insignificant shape of the Greek letter Iota, not much more than a reverse comma. Kappa and Iota are in the left shoulder of the giant constellation Ophiuchus, which represents the ancient god of healing and medicine, Aesculapius. His art was so great that he raised the dead to life.

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