

CONSTELLATION TELESCOPIUM THE TELESCOPE

Telescopium is a minor constellation in the southern celestial hemisphere, one of the twelve created in the 18th century by French astronomer **Nicolas Louis de Lacaille** and one of several depicting scientific instruments. Its name is a Latinized form of the Greek word for telescope. **Nicolas-Louis de Lacaille** originally called this constellation *Tubus Astronomicus*, in honour of Galileo's 1610 invention. **Galileo**, when he built his own telescope in 1609, called it *perspicillum*, but in 1610 he adopted the word *telescopio*. The constellation *Telescopium* is depicted as a simple refracting mirror telescope in **Urania's Mirror**, as shown in a boxed set of 32 constellation cards first published by **Samuel Leigh of the Strand**, London, in November 1824.

Telescopium, or *Tubus Astronomicus*, was formed by La Caille between *Ara* and *Sagittarius* on the edge of the Milky Way, but in such irregular form that it encroached upon four of the old constellations; *eta Sagittarii* having been taken as *beta* to mark the Telescope's stand; *delta Ophiuchi* for its *theta*; *sigma* was in *Corona Australis*; and *gamma* was the *nu* of *Scorpius*. **Johann Bode** had it in his "Gestirne of 1805" as the 'Astronomische Fernrohr', crowding it in between *Sagittarius* and *Scorpio*; but **Francis Baily** and **Benjamin Gould** restricted it greatly to the south of *Scorpius*, *Sagittarius*, and *Corona Australis*. Gould assigned 87 naked-eye stars' to it, the brightest being of 3½-magnitude.

The word Telescope comes from the Greek *tele*, far off, and *skopeo* or *skeptomai*, to look at or view. It is an optical instrument for making distant objects appear nearer and larger. It consists of tubes with an arrangement of lenses, or of one or more mirrors and lenses, by which the rays of light are collected and brought to a focus and the resulting image magnified. It is usually designed for observing objects in the night sky. There are two major types of optical telescopes: **refracting telescopes**, in which the image is formed by passing through a lens, and **reflecting telescopes**, where the image is formed bouncing off a curved mirror. Modern variants can employ both reflecting and refracting elements

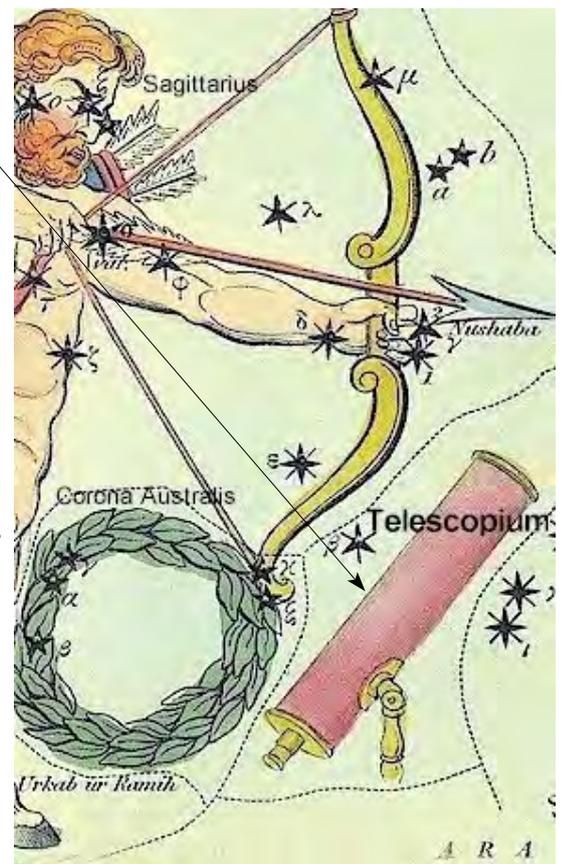
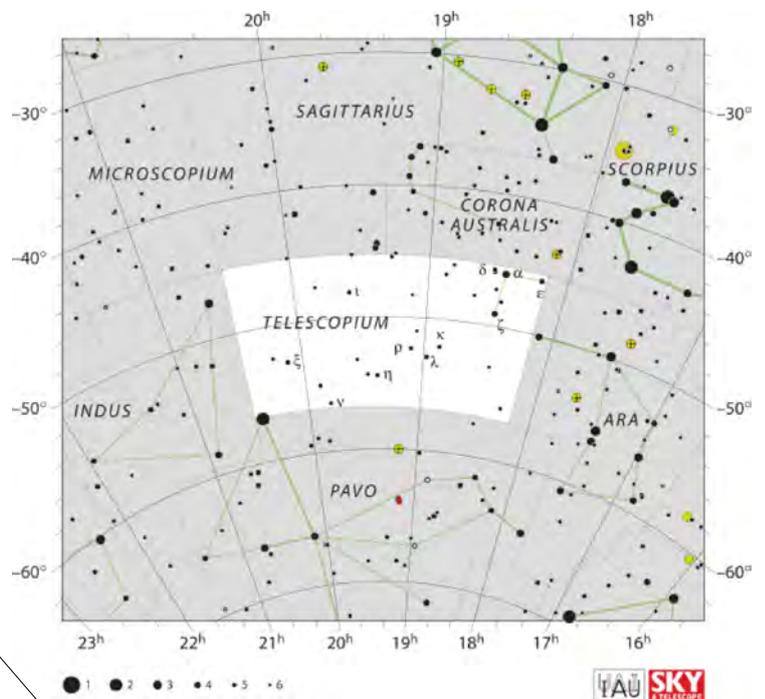
For Telescopium the starry sky is represented by the adjacent constellation Pavo, the Peacock, with the 'eyes' on its tail symbolizing the starry firmament.

STARS

The brightest star in the constellation is *Alpha Telescopii*, a blue-white subgiant with an apparent magnitude of 3.5, followed by the orange giant star *Zeta Telescopii* at magnitude 4.1. *Eta* and *PZ Telescopii* are two young star systems with debris disks and brown dwarf companions. *Telescopium* hosts two unusual stars with very little hydrogen that are likely to be the result of two merged white ferrous: HD 168476, also known as *PV Telescopii*, is a hot blue extreme helium star, while *RS Telescopii* is an R Coronae Borealis variable. *RR Telescopii* is a cataclysmic variable that brightened as a nova to magnitude 6 in 1948.

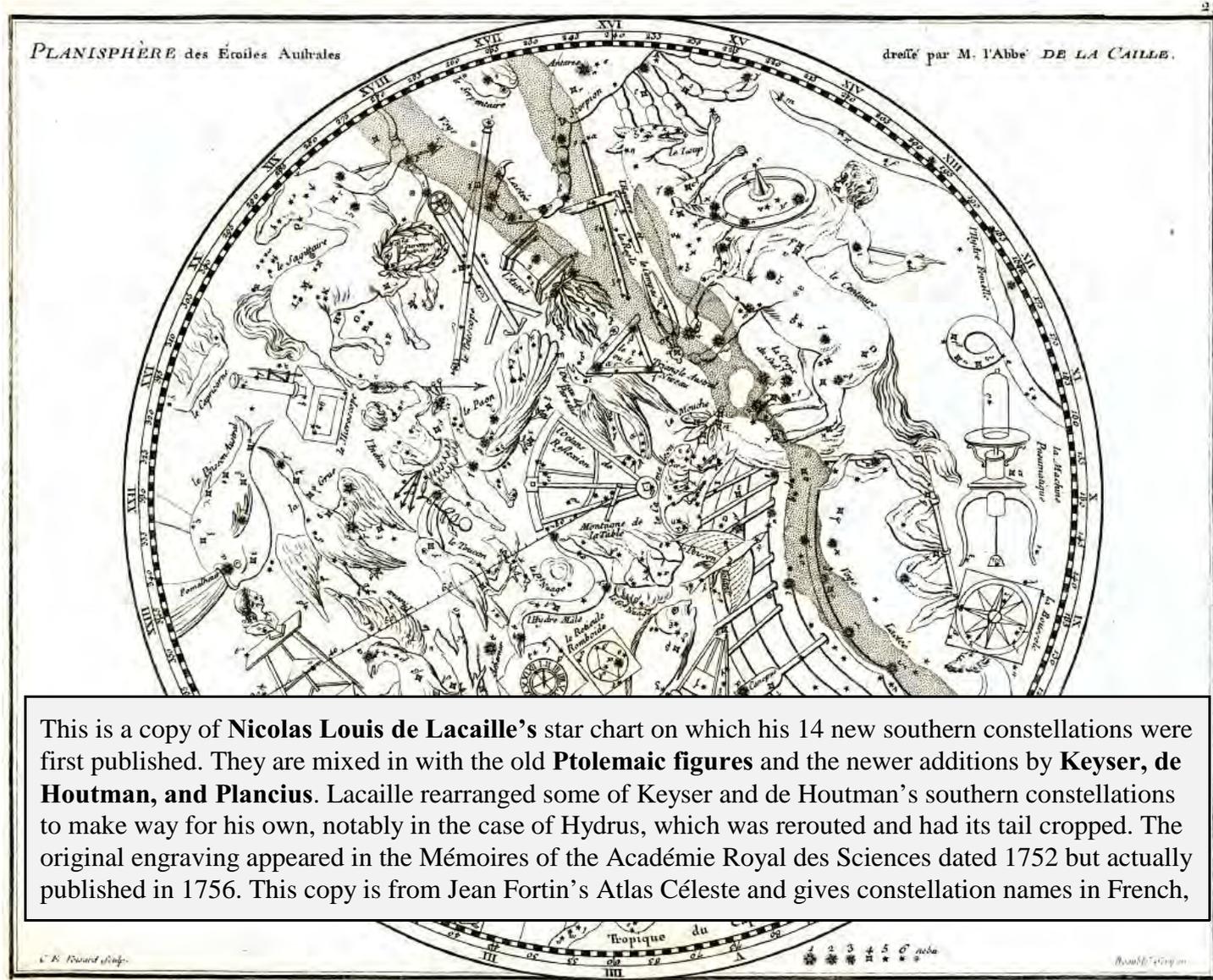
MYTH

In a round-about way the myth of Achilles wounding *Telephus* ('far-shining' + *phusis*, growth, nature) in the thigh with his lance or spear is related. The wound would not heal and *Telephus* asked the oracle of Delphi which responded in its usual mysterious way that 'he that wounded shall heal'. *Telephus* convinced Achilles to heal his wound in return for showing them the way to Troy, thus resolving the conflict. Achilles healed him by scraping off the rust of his Pelian spear and wiping it onto the wound [homeopathy, 'like with like']. *Asklepios*



son *Telesphoros*, was in charge of recovery. He symbolizes recovery from illness, as his name means 'bringing fulfillment' in Greek. His father *Asklepios* is identified with the constellation *Ophiuchus*.

Geologically on Earth the *Paleoproterozoic* era (2500 to 1600 mya) is known for "Rusting of earth, depletion of oceanic iron in banded ferrous formations".



This is a copy of **Nicolas Louis de Lacaille's** star chart on which his 14 new southern constellations were first published. They are mixed in with the old **Ptolemaic figures** and the newer additions by **Keyser, de Houtman, and Plancius**. Lacaille rearranged some of Keyser and de Houtman's southern constellations to make way for his own, notably in the case of *Hydrus*, which was rerouted and had its tail cropped. The original engraving appeared in the *Mémoires of the Académie Royal des Sciences* dated 1752 but actually published in 1756. This copy is from Jean Fortin's *Atlas Céleste* and gives constellation names in French,

Telescopium constellation lies in the southern sky, to the south of *Sagittarius* and *Corona Australis*. It represents a telescope. The constellation culminates on the 13th of August, at the same time as *Wega* (Vega) of the *Lyre* (*Lyra*). *Telescopium* is the 57th constellation in size, occupying an area of 252 square degrees. The constellation is a relatively faint one, with no stars brighter than fourth magnitude and relatively few notable deep sky objects.

The neighboring constellations are *Ara*, *Corona Australis*, *Indus*, *Microscopium*, *Pavo* and *Sagittarius*. *Telescopium* does not have any stars with confirmed planets nor does it contain any *Messier* objects. There are no meteor showers associated with the constellation.

Telescopium belongs to the *Lacaille* family of constellations, along with *Antlia*, *Caelum*, *Circinus*, *Fornax*, *Horologium*, *Mensa*, *Microscopium*, *Norma*, *Octans*, *Pictor*, *Reticulum* and *Sculptor*.

Nicolas Louis de Lacaille created it when mapping the southern skies from the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa in 1751-1752. It represents an aerial telescope, a type of refractor that was used by **J.D. Cassini** at the time at the Paris Observatory.

As defined by Lacaille, the constellation originally extended to the north between *Sagittarius* and *Scorpius*, but what used to represent the top of the telescope's tube and mounting was cut off later. The official boundaries of the constellation were set by the **Belgian astronomer Eugène Delporte in 1930**.

NGC 6850 is a spiral galaxy in *Telescopium*. It was discovered by the English astronomer **John Herschel** in June 1836 and has an apparent magnitude of 12.6. AK

