

# CELESTIAL MAP

This map, supported by the University of California, Berkeley and the American Museum-Hayden Planetarium, New York City, is a graphic rendering of the entire heavens visible to the naked eye, measuring six and a half feet by three and a half feet. This celestial map was begun at the University of California using the astronomy department's bright star sifting computer. The computer can project the co-ordinates of any star into the past or into the future. The date for this map is 1973.50 (June 30, 1973). This date is significant in two ways: It will be the date of the longest total solar eclipse visible on Earth and the year of the 500th birthday of Copernicus. This information, however, is secondary to the main values of this map over all other existing celestial maps.

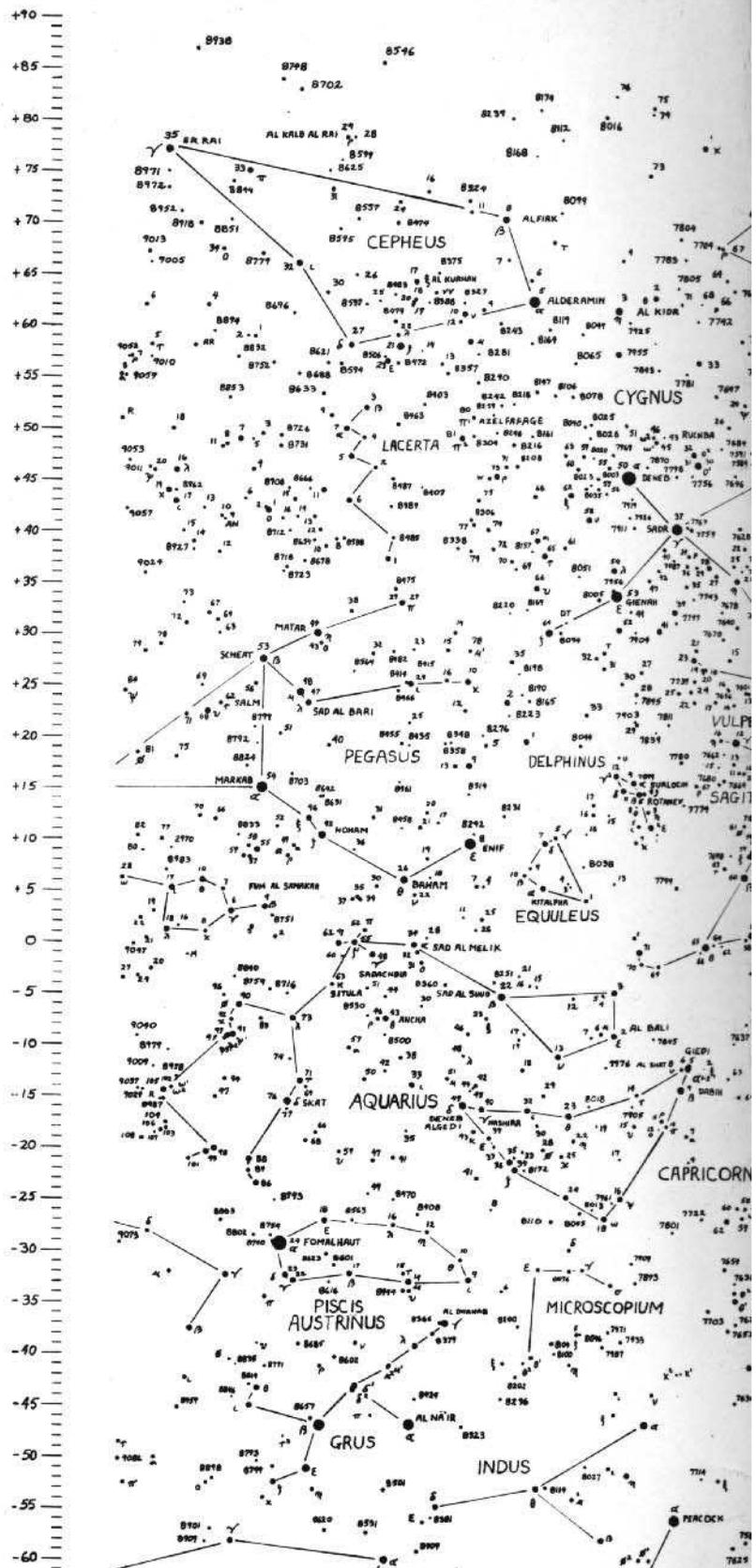
The rectangular mercator projection of the sky affords the viewer a straight on, all encompassing, sight of the heavens. One does not need to twist nor turn his head to see the stars in the relation he views the heavens most often. Even though the poles are stretched, northerners need not worry about the southern hemisphere which has more constellations elongated. The seven constellations in the north are well enough known and easily enough recognized as are Greenland and Alaska in similar projections of the earth.

Another advantage of the rectangular projection is the direct flow from the north to the south with the equator in the middle unlike circular maps which have the equator at its circumference.

The size of this map also affords a great teaching opportunity with the stars visible 50 feet away. This map is the largest single printed map with the most designated stars in the given area: 5,179 stars to and including visual magnitude +6.00.

The first edition is being printed by hand pulled silkscreen on paper. The stars are circular white spots of varying diameters corresponding to visual magnitude. A glossy relief is used in printing all the designations from the Yale Catalogue: Bright Star Numbers (assigned to each star as it rises or appears on the star map, moving from right to left, irregardless of its vertical position); Flamsteed Numbers (assigned from right to left within each constellation); Greek letters (originally intended to indicate order of brightness within constellations, but for the most part assigned arbitrarily). Also indicated are over 250 star names, all 88 constellation names with standard constellation lines (i.e., the least number of lines needed to connect the brighter stars in a shape suggesting the object named), and a degree scale around the entire area. This affords the opportunity of seeing the stars from afar as well as their names on close inspection.

With the Space Age over 15 years old this map has been long needed as a fundamental tool for education and will be increasingly useful as time goes on. This map will never become obsolete.



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