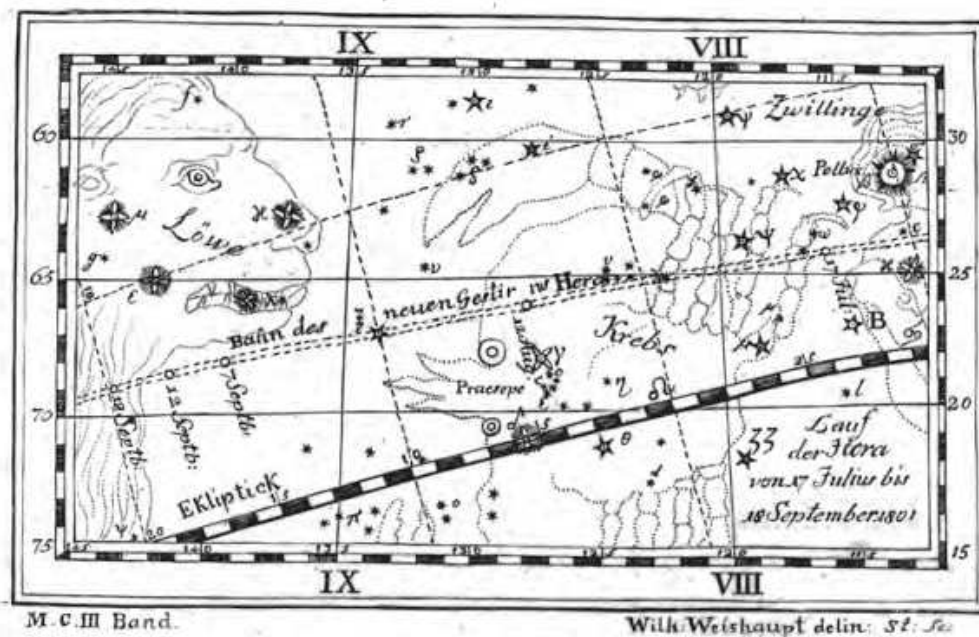


# Ongoing News

concerning the  
long suspected new primary planet  
of our Solar-System.

SEPTEMBER, 1801.



At last we may make our reader familiar with the so long concealed and undisclosed observations of PIAZZI's new star. After PIAZZI had communicated several mistaken transcriptions, which, according to his testimony, arose out of an erroneous reduction of the right ascensions by his assistants; thus, finally, does this present authentic copy result, which we here communicate, faithful and quite true. Only the second and fourth columns, namely the *right ascension* of the star in time, and the *northern declination*, are sent in from PIAZZI, while all the remaining columns are calculated by myself. For the calculation of the geocentric longitudes and latitudes, I have used an obliquity of the ecliptic of  $23^{\circ} 28' 12''$ , and for the calculation of mean Sun times, the Sun positions and distances, I used my revised Sun tables.

Prof. PIAZZI's Observations of the New Star from Palermo beginning January 1st, 1801.

| 1801   | Mean Sun-Time |     |      | Right Ascension in Time |     |       | Right Ascension in Degrees |     |      | Northern Declination |     |      | Geocentric Longitude |     |     |      | Geocentric Latitude |     |      | Sun Position + 20'' Aberration |     |     |      | Log of Distance $\odot\delta$ |     |
|--------|---------------|-----|------|-------------------------|-----|-------|----------------------------|-----|------|----------------------|-----|------|----------------------|-----|-----|------|---------------------|-----|------|--------------------------------|-----|-----|------|-------------------------------|-----|
|        | H             | '   | ''   | H                       | '   | ''    | °                          | '   | ''   | °                    | '   | ''   | s                    | °   | '   | ''   | °                   | '   | ''   | s                              | °   | '   | ''   |                               |     |
| Jan. 1 | 8             | 43  | 17.8 | 3                       | 27  | 11.25 | 51                         | 47  | 48.8 | 15                   | 37  | 43.5 | 1                    | 23  | 22  | 58.3 | 3                   | 6   | 42.1 | 9                              | 11  | 1   | 30.9 | 9.9926156                     |     |
| 2      | 8             | 39  | 4.6  | 3                       | 26  | 53.85 | 51                         | 43  | 27.8 | 15                   | 41  | 5.5  | 1                    | 23  | 19  | 44.3 | 3                   | 2   | 24.9 | 9                              | 12  | 2   | 28.6 | 9.9926317                     |     |
| 3      | 8             | 34  | 5303 | 3                       | 26  | 38.10 | 51                         | 39  | 36.0 | 15                   | 44  | 31.6 | 1                    | 23  | 16  | 58.6 | 2                   | 58  | 9.9  | 9                              | 13  | 3   | 26.6 | 9.9926324                     |     |
| 4      | 8             | 30  | 42.1 | 3                       | 26  | 23.15 | 51                         | 35  | 47.3 | 15                   | 47  | 57.6 | 1                    | 23  | 14  | 15.5 | 2                   | 53  | 55.6 | 9                              | 14  | 4   | 24.9 | 9.9926417                     |     |
| 10     | 8             | 6   | 15.8 | 3                       | 25  | 32.10 | 51                         | 23  | 1.5  | 16                   | 10  | 32.0 | 1                    | 23  | 7   | 59.1 | 2                   | 29  | 0.6  | 9                              | 20  | 10  | 17.5 | 9.9927641                     |     |
| 11     | 8             | 2   | 17.5 | 3                       | 25  | 29.73 | 51                         | 22  | 26.6 | ...                  | ... | ...  | ...                  | ... | ... | ...  | ...                 | ... | ...  | ...                            | ... | ... | ...  | ...                           |     |
| 13     | 7             | 54  | 26.2 | 3                       | 25  | 30.30 | 51                         | 22  | 34.5 | 16                   | 22  | 49.5 | 1                    | 23  | 10  | 37.6 | 2                   | 16  | 59.7 | 9                              | 23  | 12  | 13.8 | 9.9928490                     |     |
| 14     | 7             | 50  | 31.7 | 3                       | 25  | 31.72 | 51                         | 22  | 55.8 | 16                   | 27  | 5.7  | 1                    | 23  | 12  | 1.2  | 2                   | 12  | 56.9 | 9                              | 24  | 14  | 13.5 | 9.9928809                     |     |
| 17     | ...           | ... | ...  | ...                     | ... | ...   | ...                        | ... | ...  | 16                   | 40  | 13.0 | ...                  | ... | ... | ...  | ...                 | ... | ...  | ...                            | ... | ... | ...  | ...                           | ... |
| 18     | 7             | 35  | 11.3 | 3                       | 25  | 55.00 | 51                         | 28  | 45.0 | ...                  | ... | ...  | ...                  | ... | ... | ...  | ...                 | ... | ...  | ...                            | ... | ... | ...  | ...                           |     |
| 19     | 7             | 31  | 28.5 | 3                       | 26  | 8.15  | 51                         | 32  | 2.3  | 16                   | 49  | 16.1 | 1                    | 23  | 25  | 59.2 | 1                   | 53  | 38.2 | 9                              | 29  | 19  | 53.8 | 9.9930607                     |     |
| 21     | 7             | 24  | 2.7  | 3                       | 26  | 34.27 | 51                         | 38  | 34.1 | 16                   | 58  | 35.9 | 1                    | 23  | 34  | 21.3 | 1                   | 46  | 6.0  | 10                             | 1   | 20  | 40.3 | 9.9931434                     |     |
| 22     | 7             | 20  | 21.7 | 3                       | 26  | 49.42 | 51                         | 42  | 21.3 | 17                   | 3   | 18.5 | 1                    | 23  | 39  | 1.8  | 1                   | 42  | 28.1 | 10                             | 2   | 21  | 32.0 | 9.9931886                     |     |
| 23     | 7             | 16  | 43.5 | 3                       | 27  | 6.90  | 51                         | 46  | 43.5 | 17                   | 8   | 5.5  | 1                    | 23  | 44  | 15.7 | 1                   | 38  | 52.1 | 10                             | 3   | 22  | 22.7 | 9.9932348                     |     |
| 28     | 6             | 58  | 51.3 | 3                       | 28  | 54.55 | 52                         | 13  | 38.3 | 17                   | 32  | 54.1 | 1                    | 24  | 15  | 15.7 | 1                   | 21  | 6.9  | 10                             | 8   | 26  | 20.1 | 9.9935062                     |     |
| 30     | 6             | 51  | 52.9 | 3                       | 29  | 47.14 | 52                         | 27  | 2.1  | 17                   | 43  | 11.0 | 1                    | 24  | 30  | 9.0  | 1                   | 14  | 16.0 | 10                             | 10  | 27  | 46.2 | 9.9936332                     |     |
| 31     | 6             | 48  | 26.4 | 3                       | 30  | 17.25 | 52                         | 34  | 18.8 | 17                   | 48  | 21.5 | 1                    | 24  | 38  | 7.3  | 1                   | 10  | 54.6 | 10                             | 11  | 28  | 28.5 | 9.9937007                     |     |
| Feb. 1 | 6             | 44  | 59.9 | 3                       | 30  | 47.20 | 52                         | 41  | 48.0 | 17                   | 53  | 36.5 | 1                    | 24  | 46  | 19.3 | 1                   | 7   | 30.9 | 10                             | 12  | 29  | 9.6  | 9.9937703                     |     |
| 2      | 6             | 41  | 35.8 | 3                       | 31  | 19.06 | 52                         | 49  | 45.9 | 17                   | 5   | 57.5 | 1                    | 24  | 54  | 57.9 | 1                   | 4   | 10.5 | 10                             | 13  | 29  | 49.9 | 9.9938423                     |     |
| 5      | 6             | 31  | 31.5 | 3                       | 33  | 2.70  | 53                         | 15  | 40.5 | 18                   | 15  | 1.0  | 1                    | 25  | 22  | 43.4 | 0                   | 54  | 28.9 | 10                             | 16  | 31  | 45.5 | 9.9940751                     |     |
| 8      | 6             | 21  | 39.2 | 3                       | 34  | 58.20 | 53                         | 44  | 37.5 | 18                   | 31  | 23.2 | 1                    | 25  | 53  | 29.5 | 0                   | 45  | 5.0  | 10                             | 19  | 33  | 33.3 | 9.9943284                     |     |
| 11     | 6             | 11  | 58.2 | 3                       | 37  | 6.54  | 54                         | 16  | 38.1 | 18                   | 47  | 58.8 | 1                    | 26  | 26  | 40.0 | 0                   | 36  | 2.9  | 10                             | 22  | 35  | 14.4 | 9.9945823                     |     |

Until now (Aug. 26), neither the circumstances, nor the weather have favored the locating of this star; also, we have heard nothing yet of successful results from other regions; perhaps the coming month will bring this eagerly desired and hoped for discovery. Even so, we here recoup [with] a judgment of one of the great northern astronomers regarding this peculiar star. The standing secretary of the Swedish Royal Academy of the Sciences, Sir MELANDERHIELM, in a writing from Stockholm on July 22, explains himself concerning this subject as follows: “It also seems to me more probable that PIAZZI’s new star is a proper planet between Mars and Jupiter, rather than LEXELL’s comet of the year 1770. Myself and LEXELL, who was my friend as well as a student of PROSPERIN and I in Upsal in 1763, corresponded very much at that time on the nature of this comet and whether it could well be a planet. Furthermore, from the present calculations and elements I believe, however, the more probable conclusion that PIAZZI’s star could rather be the missing planet. Whether it is by the attractions, and Kepler’s laws are the same, in which distance from the Sun moves the planet, since these laws should be able to hold sway everywhere: thus, the harmonic progression of these planetary distances, among other reasons, is more cause to believe in the existence of these planets; I honestly admit that this is at least the case for me. I still, moreover, find in the minuteness of this new planet a certain economy of nature, if I might express it so myself. This small planet occupies with Mars, which likewise belongs to the small planets, a place right in the middle of our planetary solar system; therefore it causes no great perturbations [*Störungen*] for this system. Moreover, it is admittedly difficult to venture a certain conclusion and decision regarding the new heavenly body from the present data; one must await further observations. Also, I would like not to finalize whether LEXELL’s comet could not be the supposed planet. As you quite rightly noted, the difference between a few elements of the orbit is not sufficient to constitute them, therefrom, as two different world bodies [*Weltkörper*] with certainty; they could still well be one and the same body - the perturbations [*Störungen*] from Jupiter could certainly be great enough in order to generate such a difference and variation. Also, the alteration of the form of these world bodies [*Weltkörper*] (their visibility and invisibility), could decide nothing here; since, as you well marked, we know still too few of the physical constitutions of the heavenly bodies [*Himmelskörper*] in order to thereupon form any foundations. Banished to a northern corner of the world, it is not our Loos<sup>1</sup> to discover the *Mirabilia Coeli*; thus we will scarcely have the luck to rediscover this star.” “Our NICANDER is of very poor health and weak; both our other astronomers, SVANBERG and OSVERBOM, are now in Finland for geodesy;<sup>2</sup> I have also sent the most excellent instruments of our observatory therewith.”

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<sup>1</sup>[Translator’s note] 1) Loos is one of the months in the Macedonian calendar. 2) Chaucer uses it in the *Cantebury Tales*: (2828-2835)

And therefore seith seint Augustin: that ”ther been two thinges that arn necessarie and nedesulle, and that is good conscience and good loos; that is to seyn, good conscience to thyn owene persone inward, and good loos for thy neighebores outward.”

and (3035-3038)

for it is written, that “the olde good loos or good name of a man is sone goon and passed, whan it is nat newed ne renouelled.”

3) *Loos*, according to the Grimm Brothers, evolved from the word *Hlaut* (Gothic), which was the blood of the sacrificial animal from which the future could be told. It later became *Los* which translated becomes *destiny, fate, or fortune*.

<sup>2</sup>[Translator’s note] Lapland, or Finland, at the time was known for the work in geodesy done in the region. Maupertuis had led geodetic surveys there in the first half of the 18th century.