

PHILOSOPHICAL  
TRANSACTIONS:

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**Observations Made at Rome, by the Late  
Reverend Mr. John Ray, of the Comet Which  
Appeared Anno 1664. Communicated to the  
Publisher by Mr. Samuel Dale**

John Ray and Samuel Dale

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I. *Observations made at Rome, by the late Reverend Mr. John Ray, of the Comet which appeared Anno 1664. Communicated to the Publisher by Mr. Samuel Dale.*

December the 20th 1664, S. N.

ABOUT three of the Clock this Morning, I observed the Comet ; it was in the Constellation of *Hydra*, not far from the Foot of *Crater*. It appeared about the bigness of a Star of the first Magnitude, but nothing so lucid and bright. It had a very long Tail, which pointed almost directly towards the Heart of *Hydra* : The Tail shew'd somewhat like Rays of a Candle burning in a Mist : The Figure of it was Conical ; the Length of it 5 or 6 Degrees ; the Breadth at the Base not above a Degree and half. The Body of this Comet was about 3 Degrees to the South-East of the most Southerly Star in the foot of *Crater* ; it stood very near in a Right Line with the two lowermost Stars in the Foot of *Crater*, which are common to it and *Hydra*. See the *Figures*.

December 21. In the Morning, about the same Hour, it was removed about a Degree and half from the Place where it stood, Westward, and a little to the South. The Tail

Tail pointed still towards the Heart of *Hydra*, and appeared 10 Degrees long at the least.

*December 22.* At the same time it was removed from the Place where it stood the Day before, to the same Point, and about the same distance as the Night before. The Tail of it still pointed to *Cor Hydrae*, or a little thought above it, as the two former Days, and was rather longer than shorter: It also, to my thinking, appeared brighter and larger; the Body of it being bigger than any Fixt Star, except *Sirius*.

*December 23.* It was removed to the same Point, and about the same Distance as the Day before; the Tail of it was as long as ever, and the *Comet* brighter. The Tail pointed almost directly to *Cor Hydrae*.

*December 24, 25, 26.* All these 3 Nights were Cloudy, so that I could make no Observations.

*December 27.* We found it strangely removed from the Place where it was: It was still Westward, and a little to the South, as before. The Body of the Star was still brighter, and the *Cauda* about it greater, and more bushy, and yet as long as before; it pointed almost directly against *Canis major*. The Body of it was among the Stars of *Argo*.

*December 28.* The same time it was removed above 2 Degrees towards the same Point, and come within 4 or 5 Degrees of the most Eastern Stars in the bright Triangle in the Buttocks of *Canis major*. The Moon shining we could not so well judge, either of the Bigness of the Body, or the length and Bushiness of the Tail.

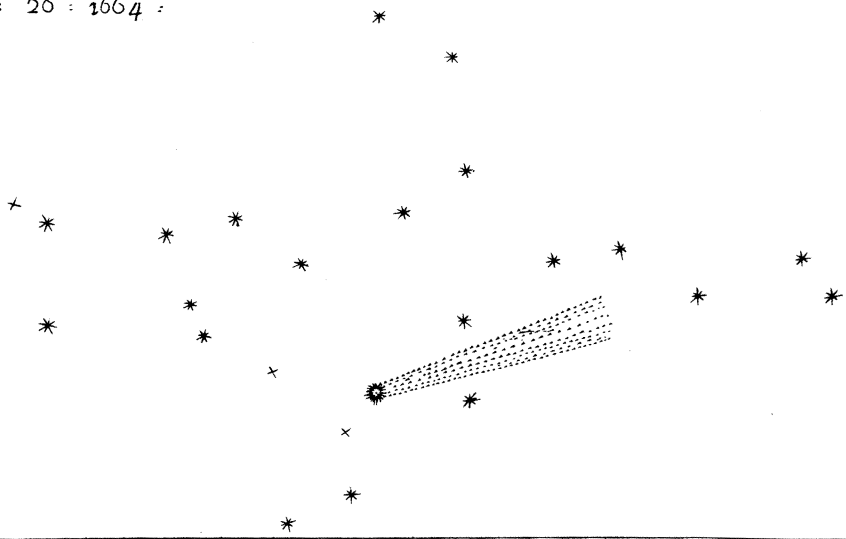
*December*

December 29. It was strangely removed, and got before, not the Eastern Star only of the mentioned bright *Triangle*, but also the most Northern. I think, at least, in this last 24 Hours, it had moved 4 Degrees. The *Moon* shining bright, the Tail could not well be observed, yet still it seemed to point directly to *Canis minor*.

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II. *Æquationum*

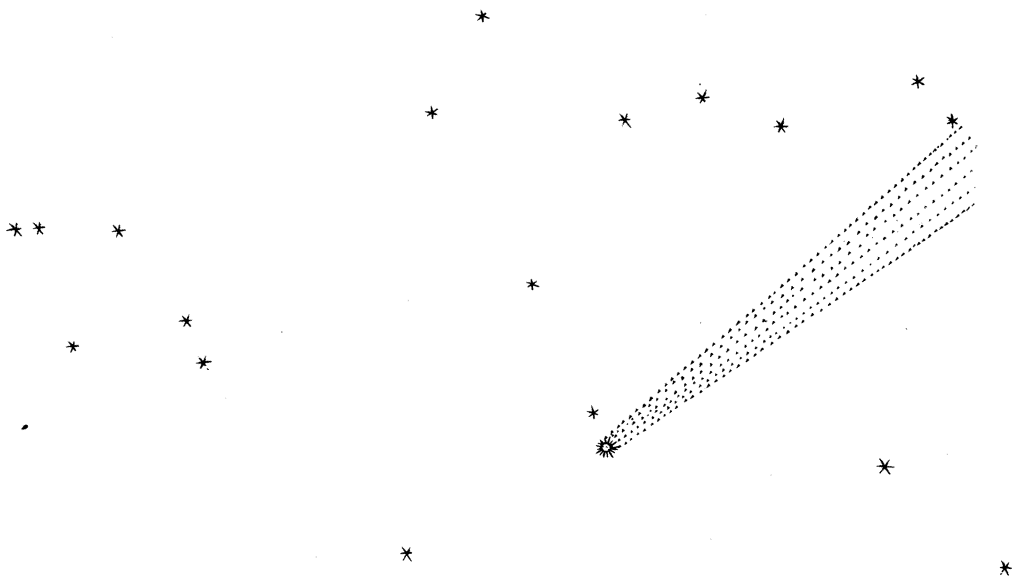
Decem: 20 : 1664 :



Dec: 21



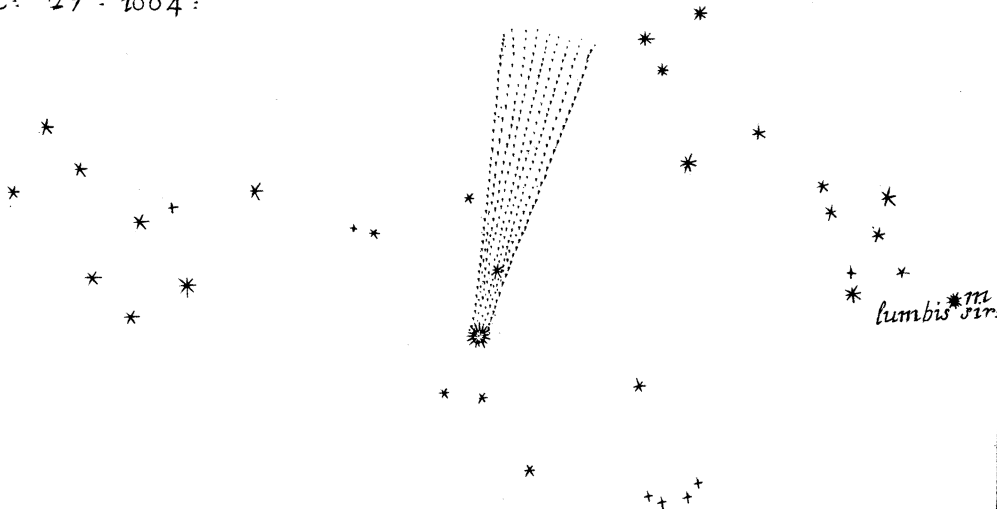
Decem: 22 = 1664:



cor-Hy:



Dec: 27 = 1664:



Dec: 28 = 1



lumbis <sup>III</sup> sir.

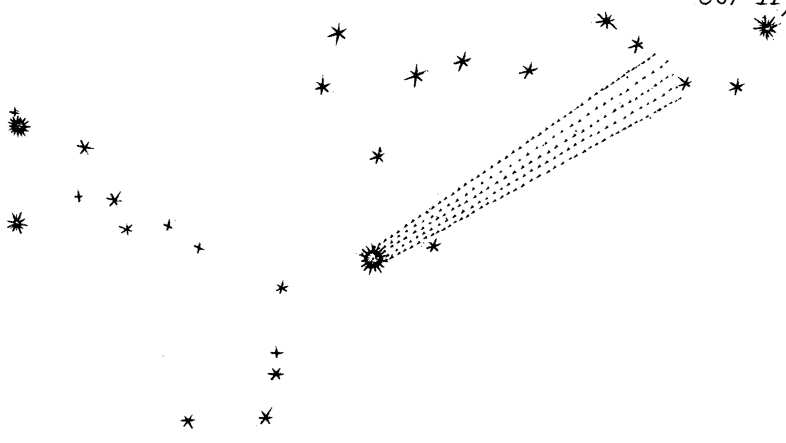
Decem<sup>br</sup>: 29 :

sirius

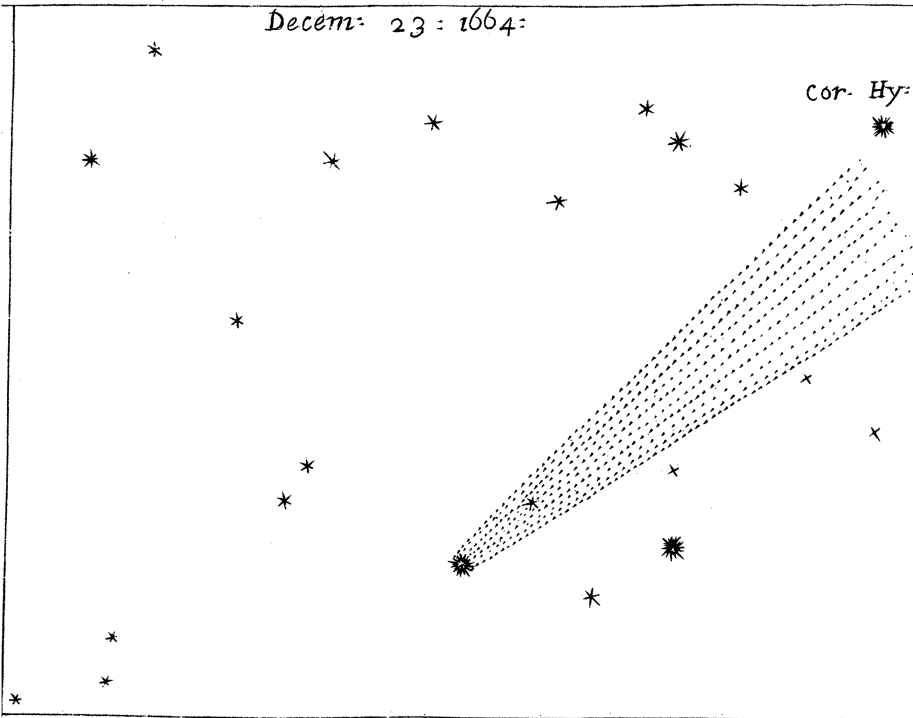


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Ph. Transac: № 309 -  
Cor. Hydra



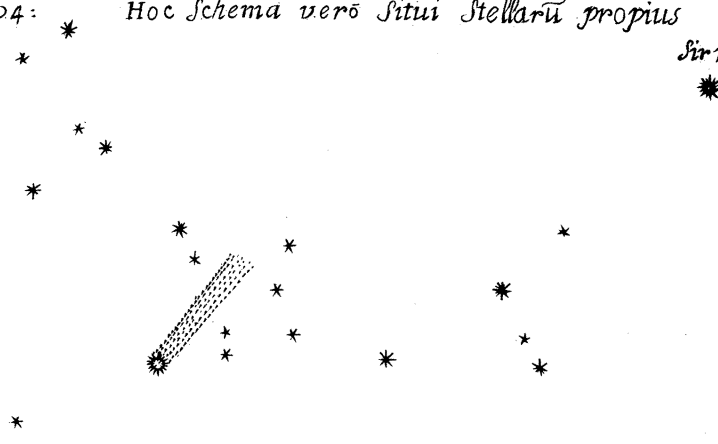
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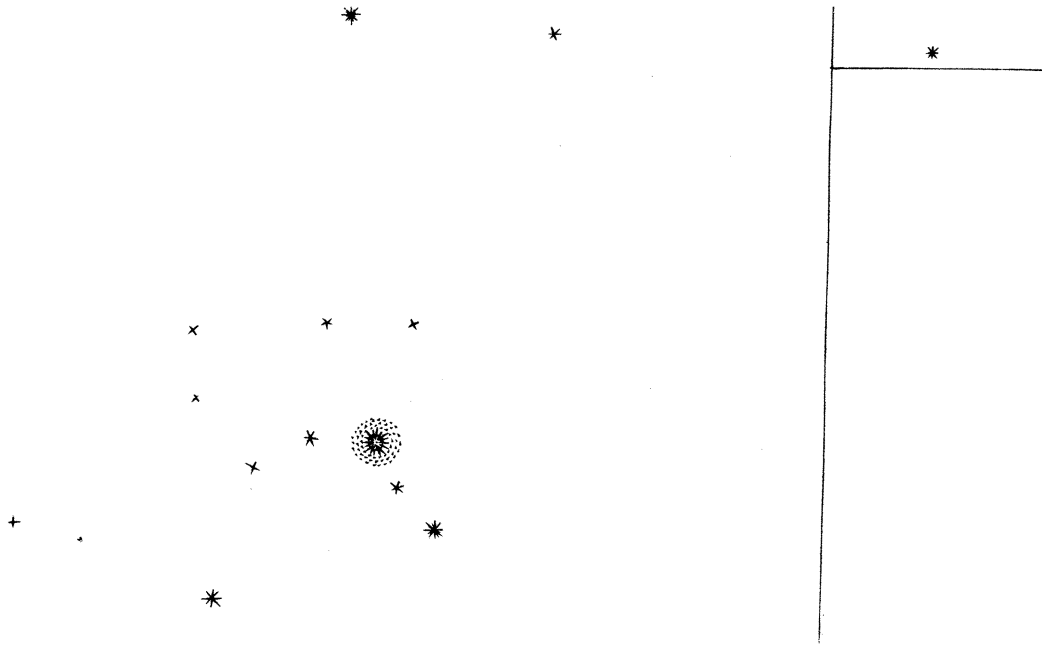


28 = 1664 =

Hoc Schema verò Situi Stellarū propius

Sirius

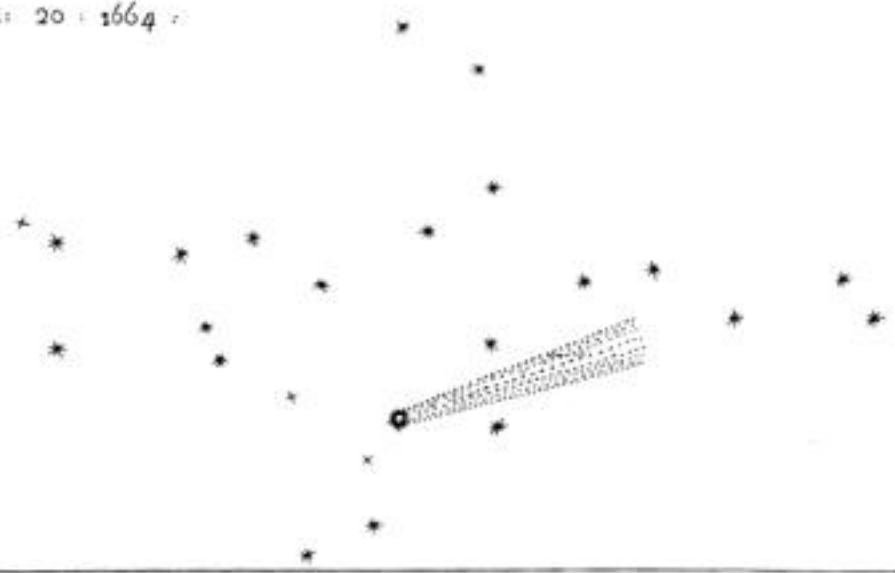




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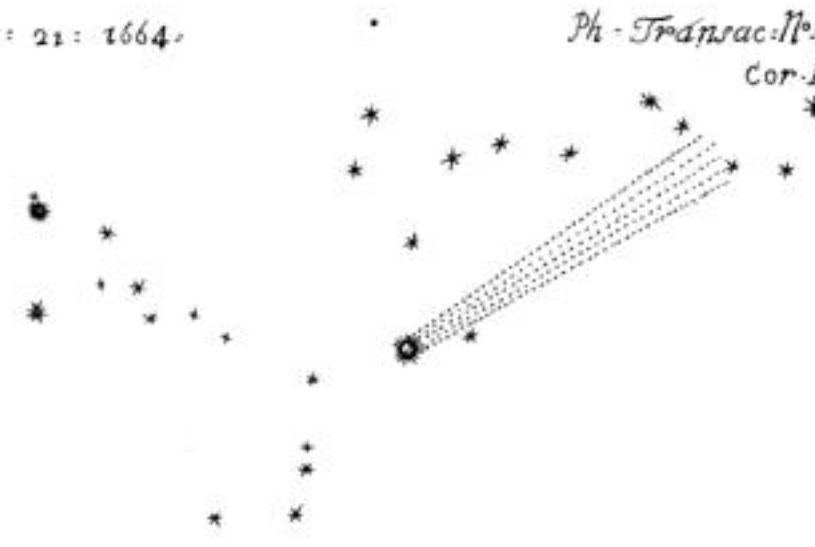


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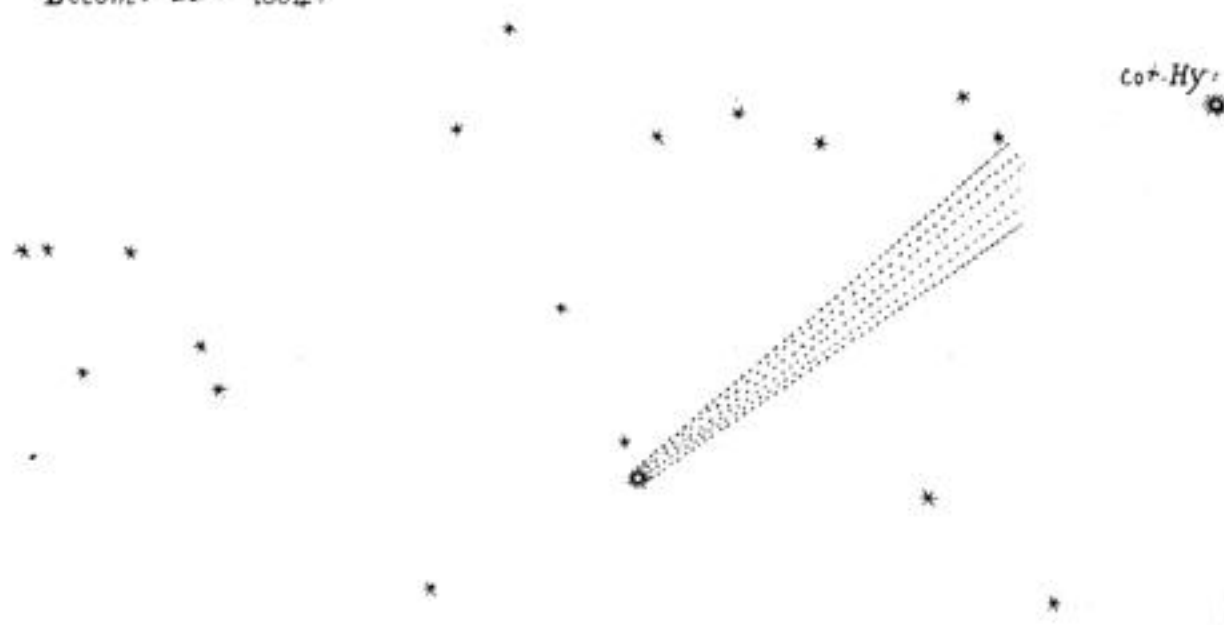


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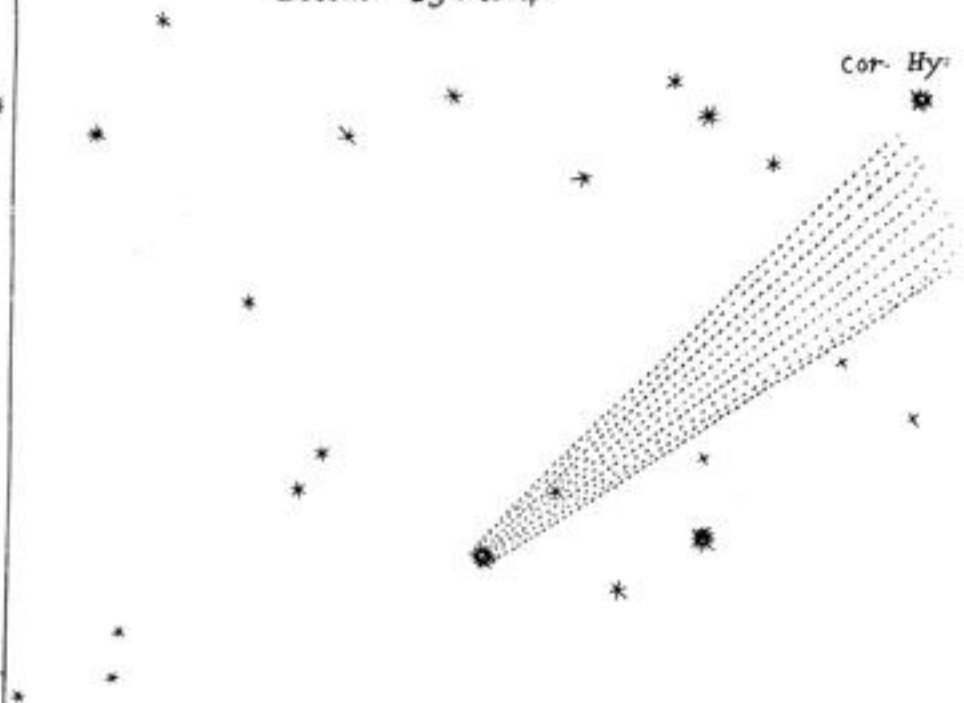
Ph. Transac. N<sup>o</sup>. 309.  
Cor. Hydra



Decem: 22 : 1664:



Decem: 23 : 1664:

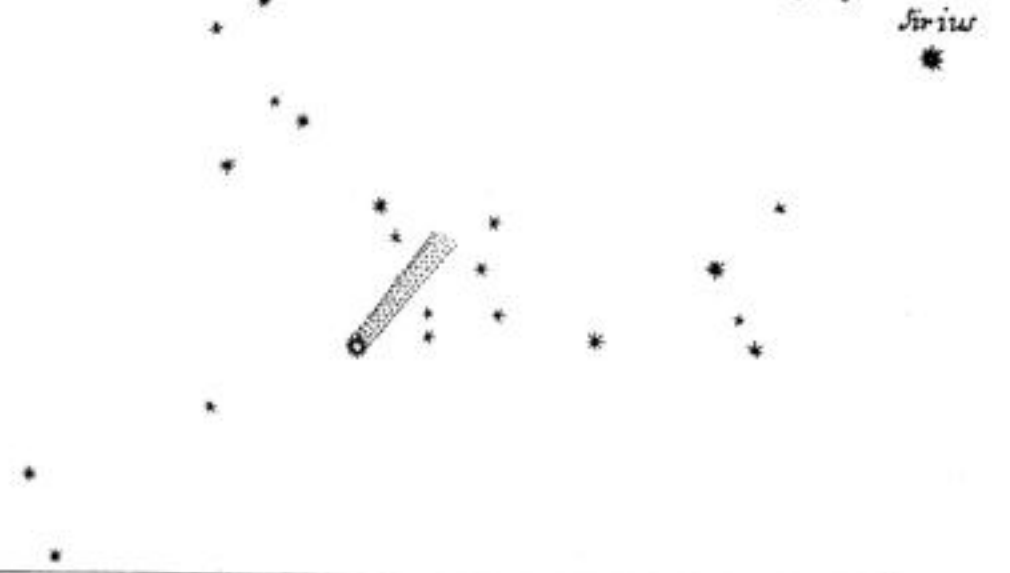


Dec: 27 : 1664:



Dec: 28 : 1664:

Hoc Schema vero Situs Stellarū propius



Decem<sup>o</sup>. 29 :

