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Astronomy Bulletin - The Night Sky: April 21 to June 29, 1994

P. Steven Leiker
Harvard College Observatory

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The Night Sky
April 21 to June 29, 1994

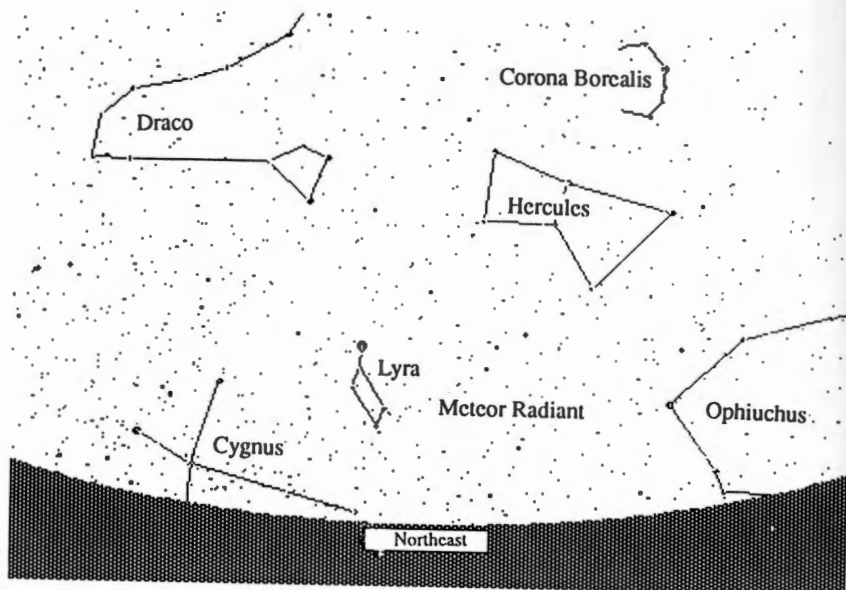


Figure 1
April 21, 1994
11:00 PM

Figure 1: On the night of April 21, meteors of the Lyrid meteor shower may be seen. The meteors will appear to originate from the constellation Lyra. This meteor shower usually produces approximately 15 visible meteors per hour. Unfortunately, the Moon rises at 3:24 PM and will be illuminated 81 percent. All but the brightest meteors may be difficult to see until 3:41 AM, when the Moon will set.

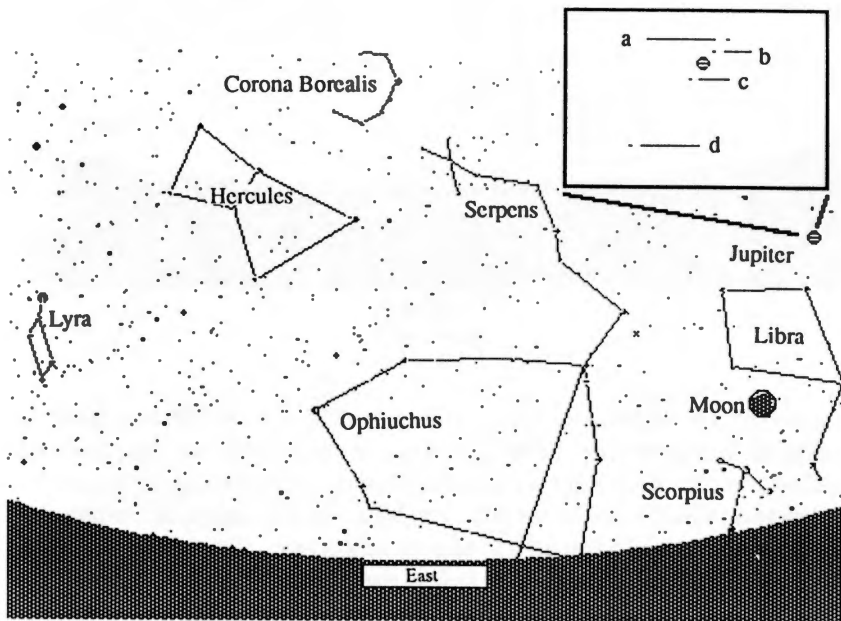


Figure 2
 April 26, 1994
 11:00 PM

Figure 2: During the night of April 26 *Jupiter* and some of its moons may be visible. *Jupiter* is located 16° to the upper right of the Moon. The insert shows how *Jupiter* would appear if viewed through a small telescope. The four star-like images marked “a,” “b,” “c” and “d” are the bright satellites *Ganymede*, *Europa*, *Io* and *Callisto*, respectively.

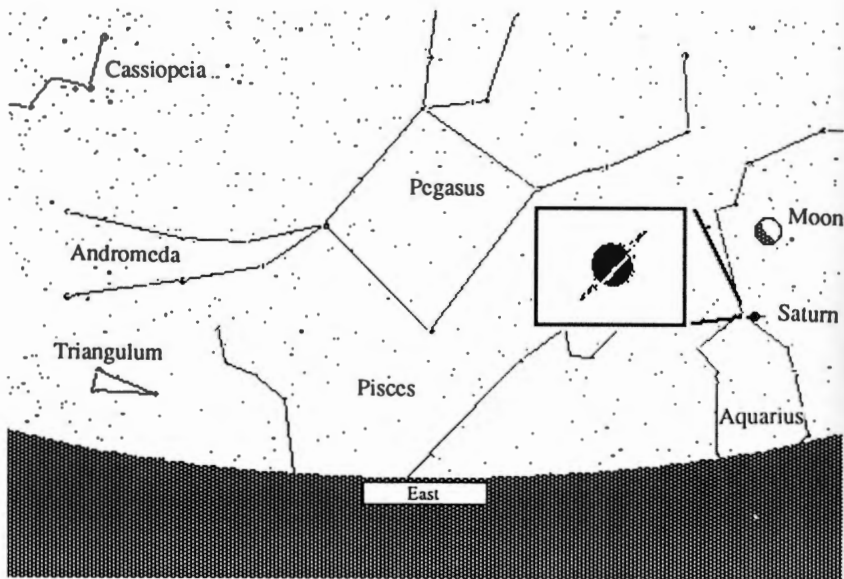


Figure 3
 May 4, 1994
 5:00 AM

Figure 3: The Moon and *Saturn* will be visible at 5:00 AM on May 4. In addition, a few meteors of the Eta Aquirid meteor shower may be seen. Unfortunately, the radiant for this shower will be close to the Moon, so that only a few meteors will be visible. The Moon on this date is illuminated 32 percent and is located about 23° above the horizon. The Moon will set at 2:50 PM. *Saturn* is located 8° below the Moon. The insert shows the orientation of *Saturn* and its rings as they would appear if viewed through a small telescope. The Sun rises at 6:07 AM and will set at 8:15 PM.

Figure 4: On May 13 the Moon and *Venus* may be seen. The Moon will appear to be a thin crescent illuminated 10 percent and will set at 11:09 PM. *Venus* will appear as a bright star illuminated approximately 87 percent. It will be located 8° above the horizon and about 10° to the right of the Moon. The insert shows how *Venus* would appear if viewed through a telescope.

Figure 5: At 9:30 PM on May 26, the planets *Mercury* and *Venus* will be visible in the evening twilight. *Venus* will appear as a bright star-like object 16° above the horizon. *Mercury*, illuminated only 44 percent, will be located 9° to the lower-right of *Venus*. The insert shows how the planet would appear if viewed through a small telescope.

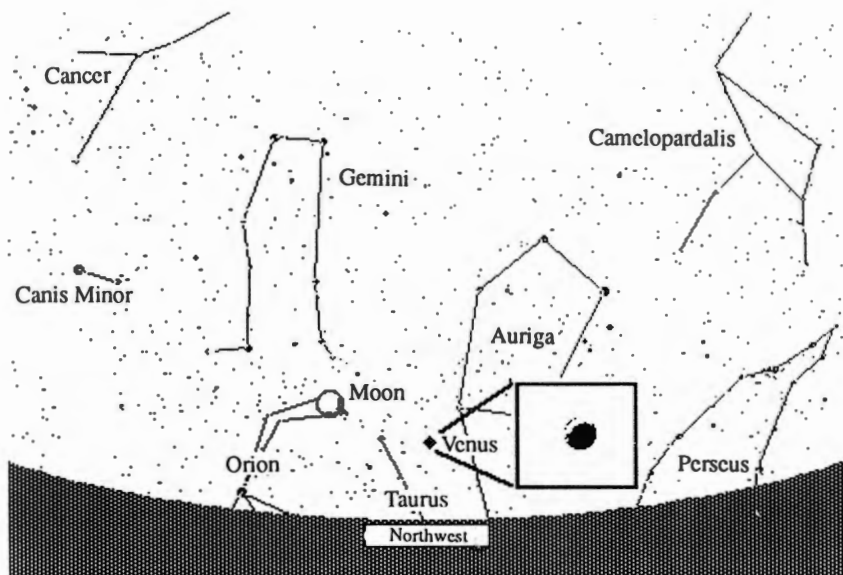


Figure 4
 May 13, 1994
 10:00 PM

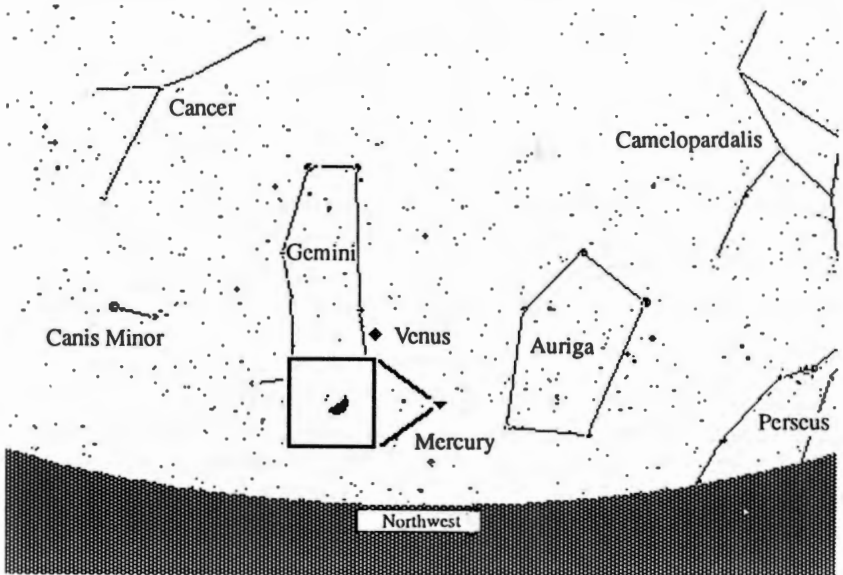


Figure 5
 May 26, 1994
 9:30 PM

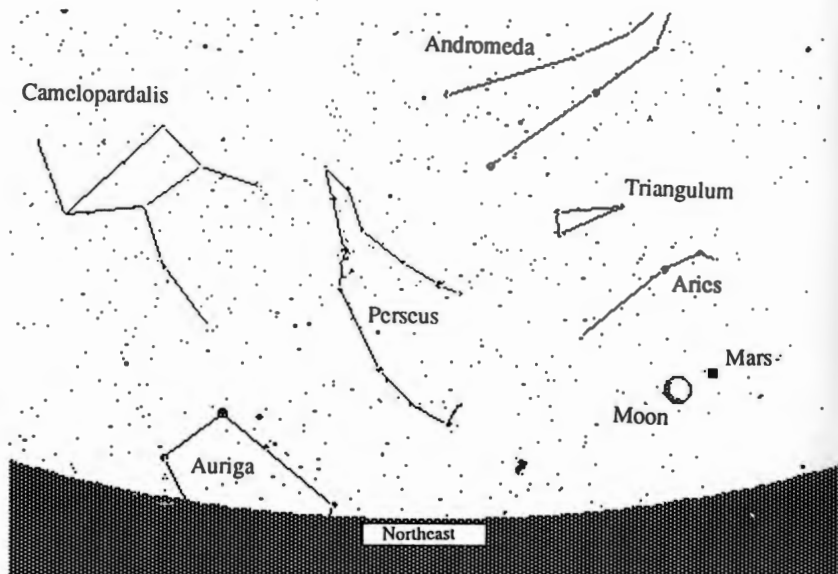


Figure 6
 June 6, 1994
 5:00 AM

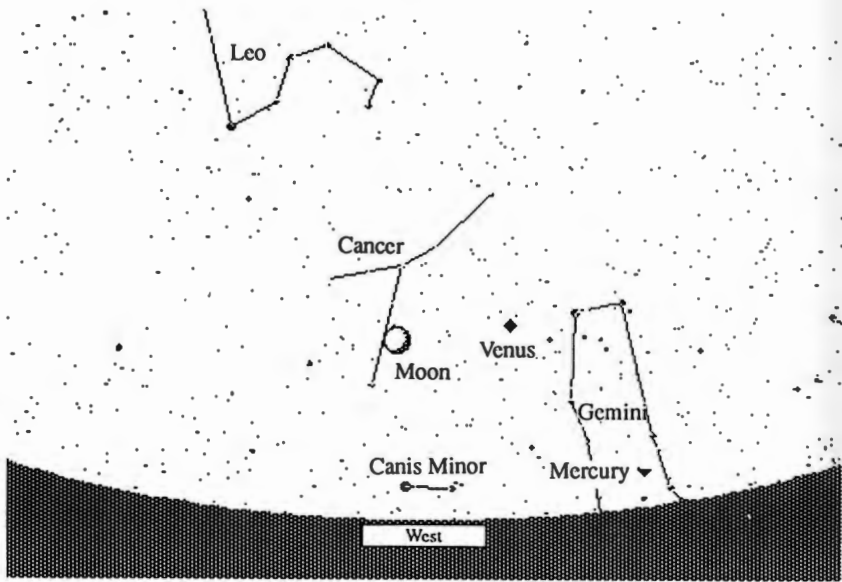


Figure 7
 June 12, 1994
 9:30 PM

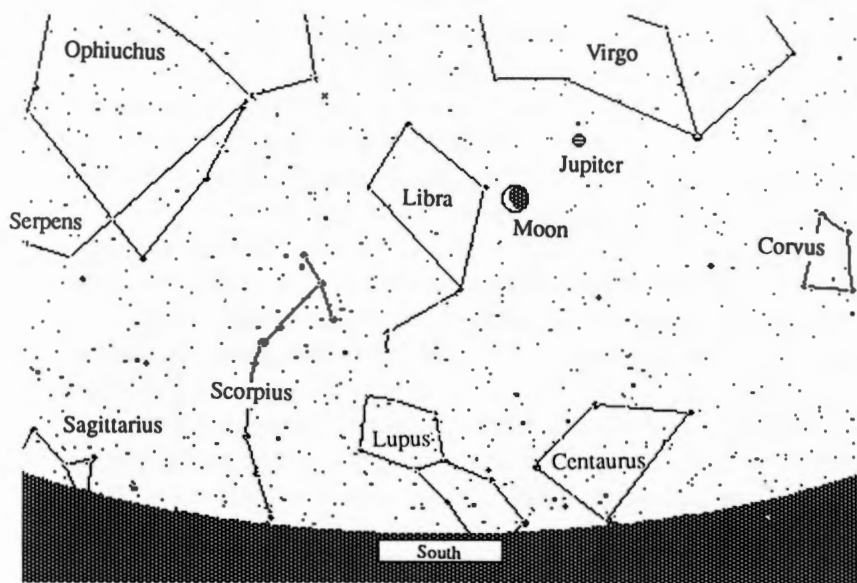


Figure 8
 June 19, 1994
 10:00 PM

Figure 6: Early in the morning on June 6, the Moon and *Mars* will be visible. The Moon will be illuminated 8 percent in a very thin crescent and therefore may be difficult to see. *Mars* will be visible only 4° to the right of the Moon. A pair of binoculars may be helpful to see these objects in the bright sky.

Figure 7: At 9:30 PM on June 12, the Moon, *Venus* and *Mercury* will be visible. The Moon will appear as a thin crescent 17° above the horizon. *Venus* is 10° to the right of the Moon. *Mercury* is low on the horizon to the right of the Moon and *Venus*.

Figure 8: On June 19, the waxing gibbous Moon will be in the South about 30° above the horizon. *Jupiter* will be just 8° to the upper-right of the Moon.

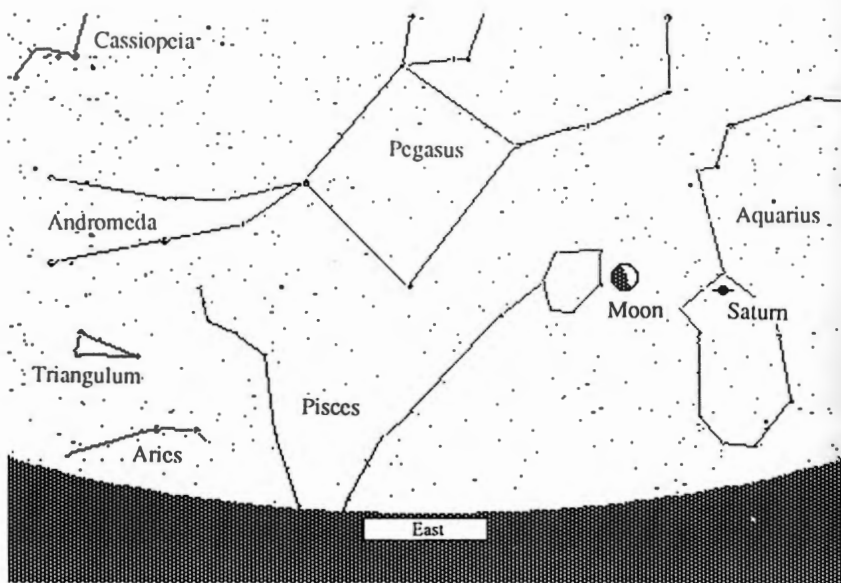


Figure 9
 June 29, 1994
 2:00 AM

Figure 9: At 2:00 AM on June 29, *Saturn* and the Moon will be visible. The Moon will be located about 21° above the horizon. The Moon is a waning gibbous illuminated 65 percent. *Saturn* is located 10° to the right of the Moon.

P. Steven Leiker
 Harvard College Observatory
 Science Education Department
 60 Garden Street
 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138