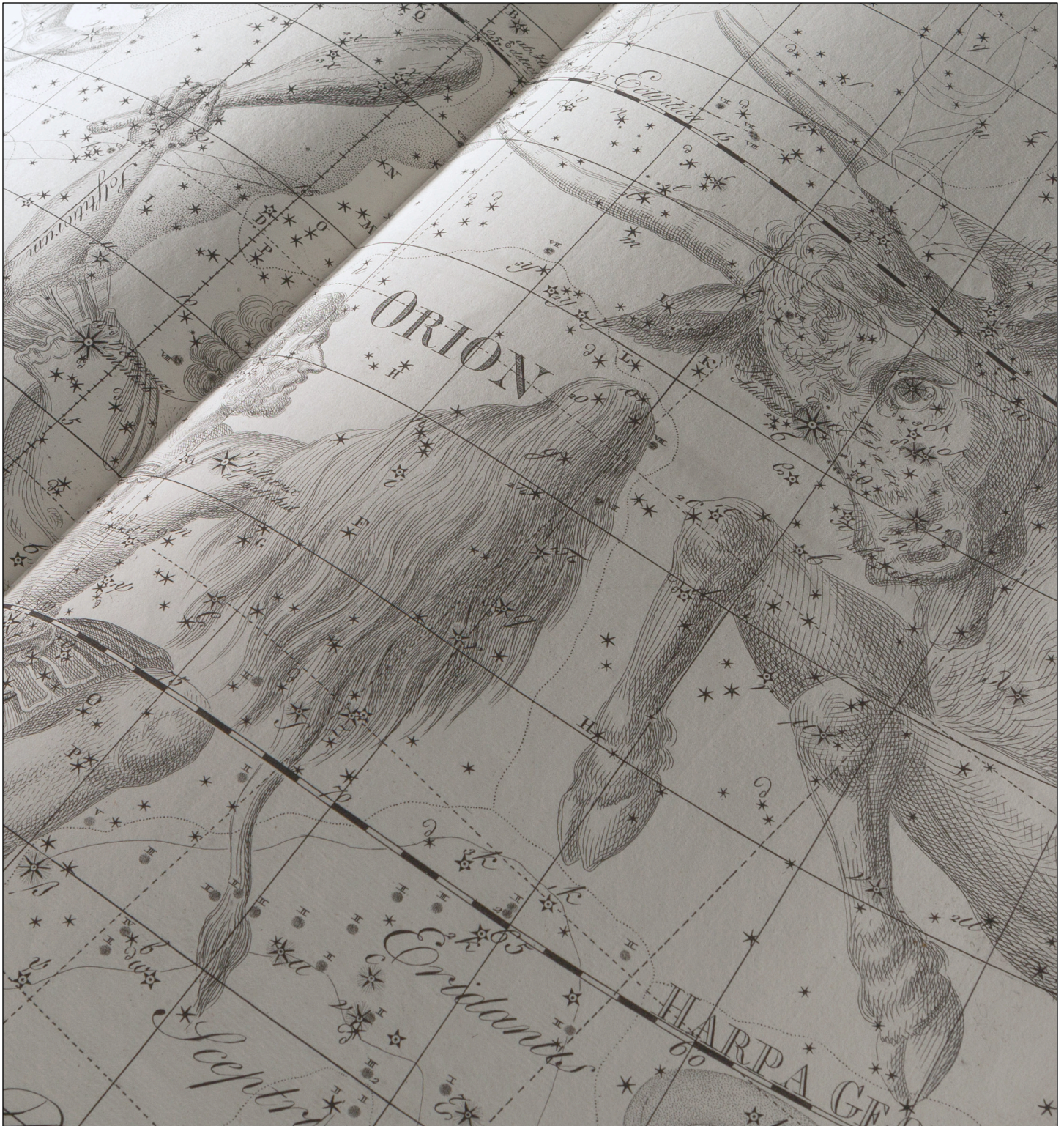


# Bode's Star Atlas Uranographia, 1801

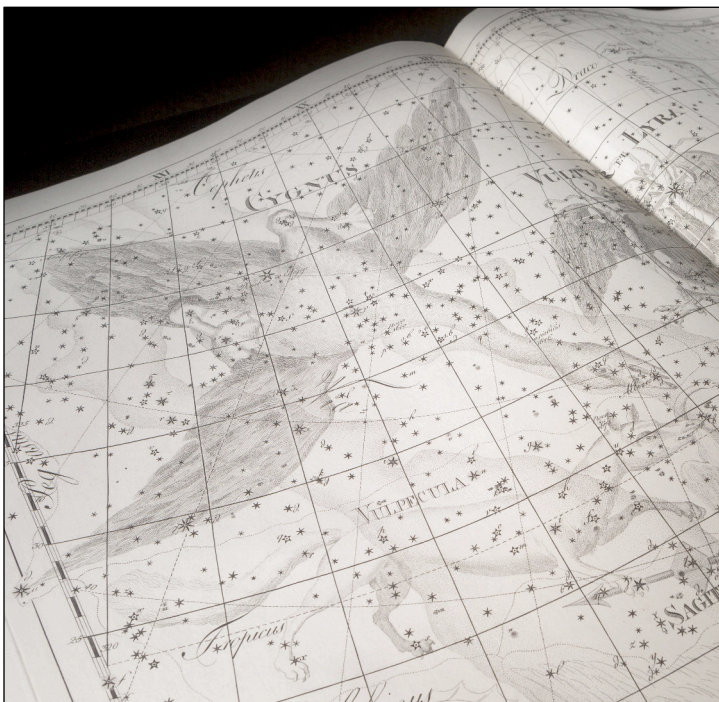
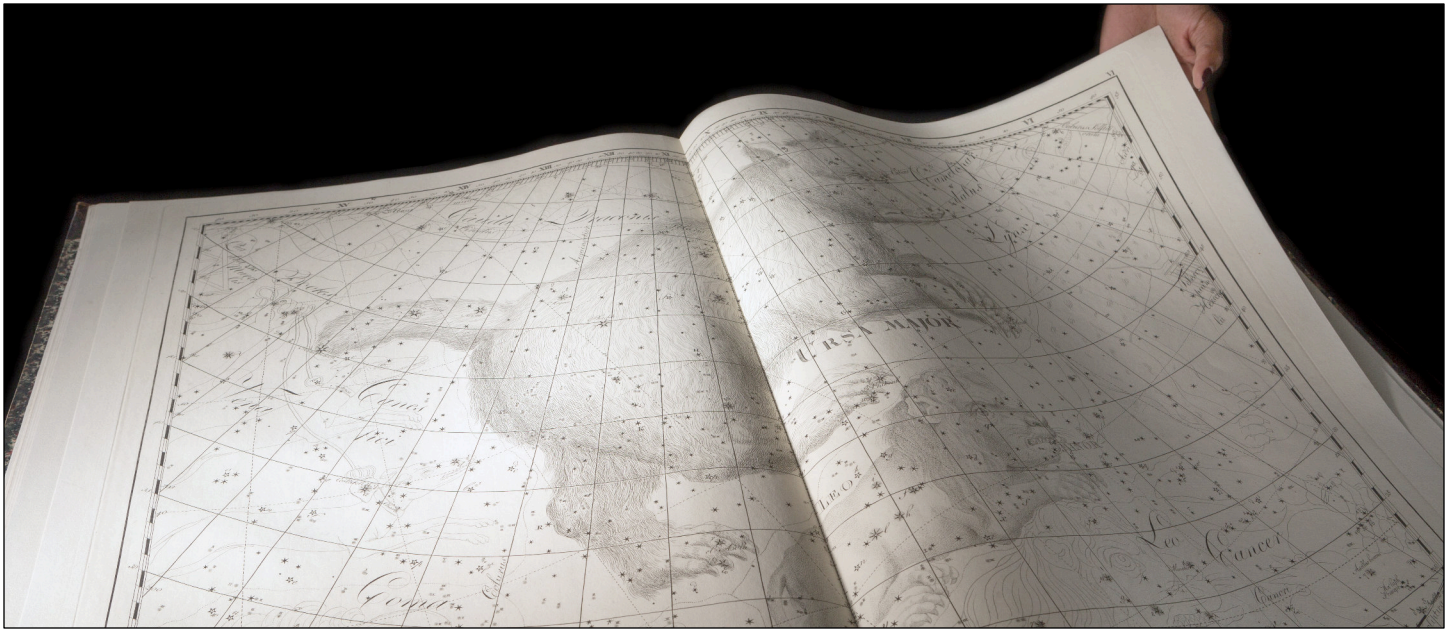
Learning Leaflet: Constellations  
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Johann Bode, *Uranographia* (Berlin, 1801)



What are your favorite constellations?



### A fusion of art and science

This beautiful star atlas fused artistic beauty and scientific precision, the last of the four major star atlases in which artful depictions of constellation figures appear alongside the most up-to-date scientific information. Bode was director of the Observatory of the Berlin Academy of Sciences.

20 large copperplate engravings plot more than 17,000 stars, far more than any previous atlas. Bode included new stars for the southern hemisphere, along with constellations recently invented by Hevelius and Lacaille. Bode depicted more than 100 constellations, compared with 88 officially recognized today. Some which appeared in this atlas for the first time, but are not officially recognized today, include the Cat, the Printing Press, the Montgolfier Balloon, and the Electric Generator. Bode also included 2,500 cloudy patches, or “nebula,” cataloged by William Herschel.

The four great celestial atlases of Bayer, Hevelius, Flamsteed and Bode were each distinctive in their artistic style as well in their scientific importance. After Bode, this fusion of art and science in celestial atlases ceased, as scientific atlases no longer held room to include artistic constellation figures.

Kerry Magruder and Brent Purkapple

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