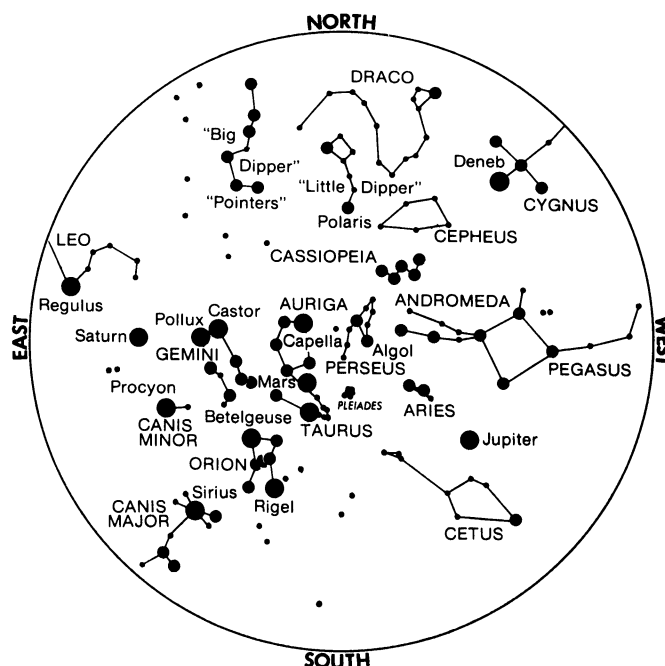


STARS OF JANUARY

CELESTIAL TIME TABLE

Jan. 1	9:40 am EST	New Moon
4	6:00 am	Earth nearest sun, distance 91,140,000 miles
6	midnight	Mercury farthest east of sun
7	11:00 pm	Algol (variable star in Perseus) at minimum brightness
8	noon	Moon farthest from Earth, distance 251,300 miles
9	7:00 am	Moon passes north of Jupiter
9	7:40 am	Moon in first quarter
10	7:50 pm	Algol at minimum
13	10:00 pm	Moon passes south of Mars
15	11:47 pm	Full Moon
17	8:00 am	Moon passes south of Saturn
20	6:00 am	Saturn opposite sun
20	8:00 am	Moon nearest, distance 228,000 miles
23	1:00 am	Mercury between earth and sun
23	6:04 pm	Moon in last quarter
28	3:00 am	Moon passes north of Venus
30	9:30 pm	Algol at minimum
31	1:20 am	New Moon



BY JAMES STOKLEY

The region of the sky that we see in the south on January and February evenings is only a small fraction of the whole celestial sphere yet it contains more first-magnitude stars than any other area of similar size. That's what makes the winter evening skies so brilliant. In addition, the early sunsets at this time of year give us ample opportunity to see them.

This month we have the added attraction of three bright planets which add to the display. One is red Mars, which shines overhead in the constellation Taurus. It's gradually dimming, following a relatively close approach to earth of less than 53 million miles in mid-December. In mid-January it will be about 65 million miles

away. However, it's still brighter than any of the stars except Sirius, the "dog star," toward the south in Canis Major.

To the west in Pisces stands Jupiter, usually even brighter than Mars, but its low altitude dims it.

The third and faintest of our planets is Saturn, toward the east in Cancer, and also brighter than any star except Sirius.

Not only are the planets very bright—they shine with a steadier glow than the stars with their characteristic twinkling. This is due to the bending of their rays by irregularities in our atmosphere, which affect the stars because they are so far away that they appear as points of light. The planets, being closer, are spread out

into tiny discs, too small, however, to be discerned with the naked eye.

Above Sirius and to the right you'll see Orion with two first-magnitude stars: Betelgeuse, above, and Rigel, below and brighter. Still higher you come to Taurus with Aldebaran. This star, like Mars, is noticeably reddish but it's less than half as bright as the planet.

On Jan. 6, Mercury will be the farthest planet east of the sun. For a few evenings around this date you may be able to see it low in the southwest as the sky begins to darken after sunset.

Venus is still a conspicuous morning star, shining low in the east for more than an hour before sunrise. □

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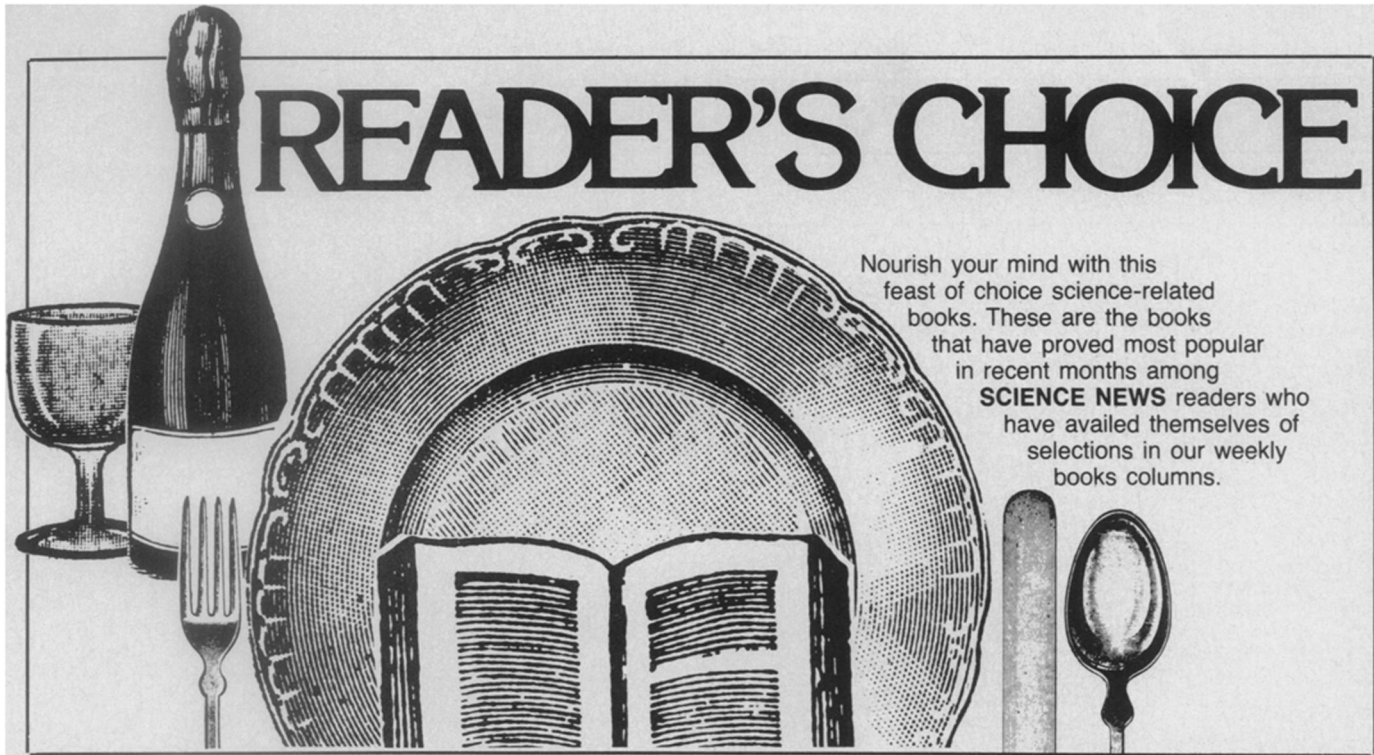
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THE BIBLE DATES ITSELF—Arthur Earle—Earle, 1974, 288 p., illus., tables, \$12.50. Intricate and intriguing exploration of numerals, dates and counting systems in the Old Testament, correlated with historical dates from Egypt, Sumer, Syria and Assyria. Author's linguistic-mathematical probing throws light on inconsistencies in chronological framework. [B]

COMMUNION WITH EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE (CETI)—Carl Sagan, Ed.—MIT Pr, 1975, 428 p., photographs, diagrams, paper, \$6.95. Reprint (1973), scientists discuss the possibilities of life on other planets, interstellar communication. [C]

EYES ON THE UNIVERSE; A History of the Telescope—Isaac Asimov—HM, 1975, 284 p., photographs, drawings, \$8.95. Narrative tells the story of the progression of man's comprehension of the universe with the help of instruments he developed to probe ever greater distances. [D]

HERB IDENTIFIER AND HANDBOOK—Ingrid Gabriel—Sterling, 1975, 256 p., color plates, drawings by author, \$6.95. Identifies 114 medicinal plants, their families, popular names and range; describes characteristics, organic substances, medicinal value, and culinary uses. [E]

HOW THE BRAIN WORKS: A new Understanding of Human Learning, Emotion and Thinking—Leslie A. Hart—Basic Bks, 1975, 260 p., drawings, \$10.50. Introduces in a lively manner the anatomy of the human brain and shows how it functions, how we learn, think, remember, and feel in our distinctively human way. [F]

OF TIME, PASSION AND KNOWLEDGE: Reflections on the Strategy of Existence—J. T. Fraser—Braziller, 1975, 542 p., illus., \$20. An encyclopedic inquiry into the major integrative levels in the study of time—the electromagnetic universe, the world of atomic particles, of aggregate matter, of cyclic and aging orders of life, of mind, and of society. [G]

PAIN: Why It Hurts, Where It Hurts, When It Hurts—Richard Stiller—Nelson, 1975, 162 p., illus., \$6.95. Explains how the pain system works, areas and levels of sensitivity, biological, chemical and other methods of pain relief. [H]

RADIO CONTROL FOR MODELS—R. H. Waring—TAB Bks, 1975, 348 p., photographs, diagrams, \$9.95; paper, \$6.95. From single-channel to modern true proportional systems, handbook covers installation and operation of remote control systems for model planes, boats, cars and helicopters. [I]

THE SIEGE OF CANCER—June Goodfield—Random Hse, 1975, 254 p., \$8.95. A well-researched report about what is going on in modern cancer research, and about the scientists who have devoted their lives to its pursuit. [J]

SKY AND SEXTANT: Practical Celestial Navigation—John P. Budlong—Van Nos Reinhold, 1975, 157 p., illus., tables, \$7.95. Provides basic, practical methods for finding position from the sun, plotting lines of position at sea, as well as methods for applying hand-held calculators to the mathematical calculations. [K]

SOCIOBIOLOGY: The New Synthesis—Edward O. Wilson—Harvard U Pr, 1975, 10x10, 707 p., photographs, drawings, tables, \$20. Outlines the concepts underlying the systematic study of the biological basis of all social behavior. See story: SN 11/29/75. [L]

THE STORY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DECIPHERMENT: From Egyptian Hieroglyphs to Linear B—Maurice Pope—Scribner, 1975, 216 p., photographs, drawings, map, \$12.50; paper, \$4.95. Story focuses on the decipherers and how they proceeded, from the Renaissance to the present day, to penetrate the mysteries of unknown texts from remote past. [M]

STRETCHING A POINT—Mitch Struble—Westminster Pr, 1974, 128 p., 500 diagrams and drawings, \$4.95. A Franklin Institute book, presents a step-by-step introduction to topology. [N]

TEXTBOOK OF MEDICINE—Paul B. Beeson, M.D. and Walsh McDermott, M.D., Eds.—Saunders, 1975, 14th ed., 2,024 p., illus., single vol.: \$34.50; two-vol. set: \$40. Fully updated basic text for the study of clinical medicine. New emphasis is given to therapy, with chapters ranging from antimicrobial therapy to diet therapy in acute and chronic diseases. [O]

THE TIMETABLES OF HISTORY: A Horizontal Linkage of People and Events—Bernard Grun—S&S, 1975, 670 p., tables, \$24.95. From 4241 B.C. to A.D. 1974, this encyclopedic chronology tabulates mankind's concurrent achievements in political history, literature, religion and philosophy, the visual arts, music, science and technology, and events of daily life. Indexed. [P]

YOU CAN BEAT THE ODDS ON HEART ATTACK—Irving M. Levitas, M.D. with Libby Machal—Bobbs, 1975, 160 p., tables, \$7.95. Physician tells how to combat heart disease by eliminating the crisis factors, by adopting a prudent policy following the specific guidelines discussed in this book. [Q]

YOUR PET'S SECRET LANGUAGE: How to Understand it and Speak it—Jhan Robbins—Wyden, 1975, 213 p., \$6.95. About communication, both verbal and non-verbal, between owners and dogs, cats, horses and birds. [R]

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