

◊ * ○ • SYMBOLS FOR STARS IN ORDER OF BRIGHTNESS

symbols used by the Babylonians for their great dragon, Tiamat.

Under Lepus is the little constellation of Columba, the dove, which first appeared in the 17th century, and was intended to represent the dove that Noah sent out from the Ark. Farther to the left, under Canis Major, is Puppis, not conspicuous to us, but actually part of the largest of all the constellations, and one of the most prominent.

The most brilliant parts, unfortunately, are not visible from most of the United States; one has to go farther south to see it. This is Argo, the ship, which is so big that it is subdivided into four constellations, of which the most northern is Puppis, the stern, shown on the map. The star alongside it is part of Pyxis, the compass, another section of Argo.

Still farther south, and now prominent to people in the southern hemisphere, are Carina, the keel, and Vela, the sail. In Carina is the brilliant star Canopus, second in brightness only to Sirius of all the stars seen in the nighttime sky.

Celestial Time Table for February

Feb.	EST	
3	10:55 a.m.	New moon.
6	1:00 a.m.	Moon nearest—distance 226,600 miles.
10	3:29 a.m.	Moon in first quarter.
12	12:24 a.m.	Moon passes Jupiter.
	2:25 a.m.	Algol (variable star in Perseus) at minimum.
	6:00 p.m.	Pluto nearest—distance 3,187,000,000 miles.

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- 13 3:00 p.m. Mercury farthest east of sun—visible for a few days around this time low in west just after sunset.
- 14 11:14 p.m. Algol at minimum.
- 17 2:17 p.m. Full moon.
- 8:04 p.m. Algol at minimum.
- 20 4:53 p.m. Algol at minimum.
- 22 2:00 a.m. Moon farthest—distance 251,900 miles.
- 23 4:33 p.m. Moon passes Saturn.
- 25 11:53 p.m. Moon passes Mars.

Subtract one hour for CST, two hours for MST, and three for PST.

Science News Letter, January 23, 1954

ELECTRONICS

Language Translation By Electronic "Brain"

► DEVICES THAT can "read" a printed page automatically will be needed before translations from one language to another by electronic "brains" will be of any practical value, many computer specialists believe.

Although scientists now know how to instruct giant "brains" so that the translations they do make sensible reading about 85% of the time, many of them believe it will be a long time before the machine replaces a human translator. Two reasons for this are that many words have two or more meanings and that there are wide variations in grammatical structure of sentences from one language to another.

In a public demonstration at the International Business Machines world headquarters in New York, Russian was translated into English by an electronic "brain." Dr. Leon Dostert of Georgetown University, Washington, cooperated with IBM mathematicians in preparing the instructions required by the machine to do its translating.

About two years ago, Dr. Harry Huskey and two colleagues at the University of California at Los Angeles worked out the instructions necessary to translate German to English, using SWAC, the National Bureau of Standards' Western Automatic Computer. The same methods they used could, however, be applied to translation of other languages, including Russian.

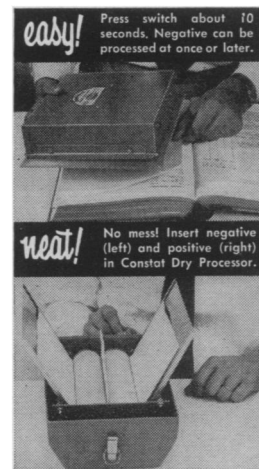
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