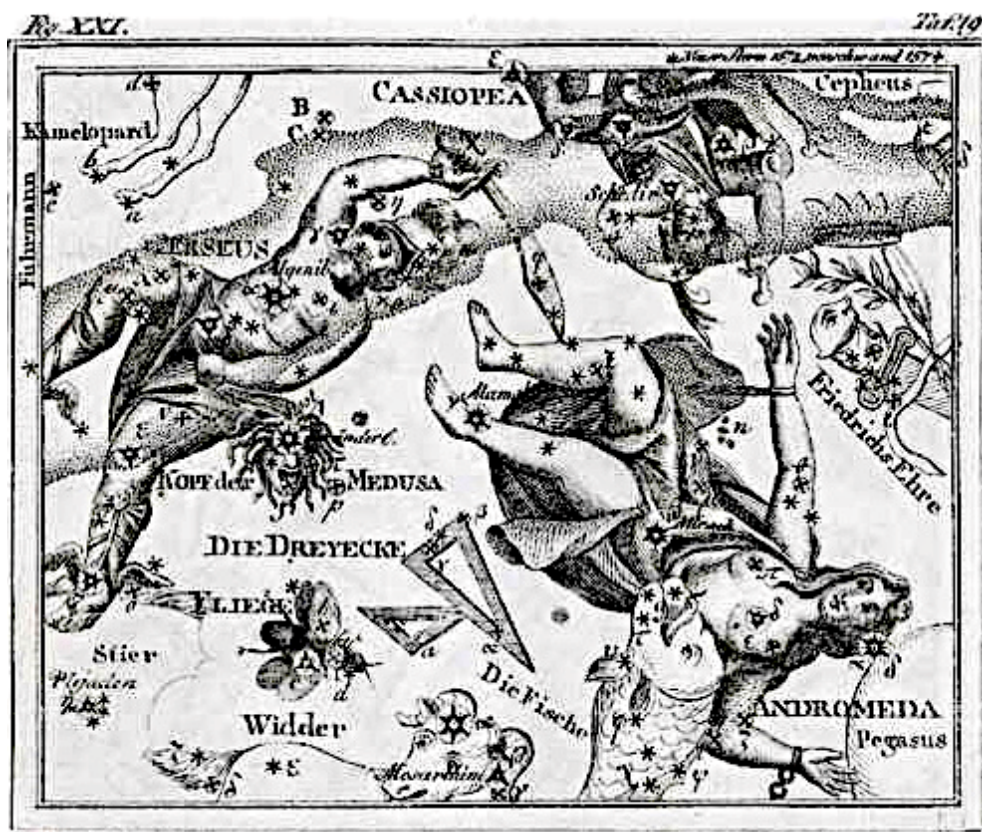


The father of the German detective story, August Gottlieb Meissner (1753-1807), compiled a small celestial atlas as a companion to Christian L. Rüdiger's guide to the heavens. It contains seventy five numbered engravings of astronomical illustrations and diagrams, with lots of sundials, which were all drawn by Meissner. They include a series of thirty one scarce miniature constellation charts with average dimensions of 130 x 100 mm:



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Ursa Minor & Ursa Major; Pisces & Pegasus; Aries & Triangulum; Taurus & Orion; Gemini & Canis Minor; Cancer & Canis Minor; Leo & Sextans; Virgo; Libra & Scorpio; Sagittarius; Aquarius & Capricorn; Draco & Cepheus; Perseus & Andromeda; Perseus & Auriga; Ursa Major; Lynx & Leo Minor; Bootes & Coma Berenices; Lyra & Hercules; Cygnus & Lyra; Ophiuchus & Serpens; Aquila & Antinous; Pegasus & Delphinus; Orion & Lepus; Scorpio & Centaurus; Cetus; Monoceros & Canis Major; Hydra & Sextans; Virgo & Hydra; Argo Navis; Southern constellations; Ursa Minor & Ursa Major.

There were also thirteen titled topographical maps of similar dimensions:

Die Oestliche halbkugel; Die Westliche halbkugel; Nordliche halbkugel der Erde; Südliche halbkugel der Erde; Obere halbkugel der Erde auf den horizont von Leipzig; Untere halbkugel der Erde auf den horizont von Leipzig; Europa; Asien; Afrika; Amerika; Nord Amerika; Süd Amerika; Australien.



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It is possible that there was an earlier edition than 1805. One line of the title-page of a copy which was broken up in the early 1990s had a slightly different type setting. It was dated 1790 but the date appeared to be in manuscript.

*Astronomischer hand-atlas*, Leipzig, Siegfried L. Crusius, 1805.

