***Texts and translations***

**1. Vincenzo Coronelli, *Epitome Cosmografica*, I, *Del Toro* (ed. Köln, 1693, pp. 94-95)**

Il Toro, o Tauro ♉, è la seconda Costellatione del Zodiaco, chiamata *Bubulum Caput*, *Bos*, *Portitor Europae*, *Isis*; dagli Arabi *Altaur*, & *Attauuro*, e da’ Greci *Ταυρός*. Fu, conforme alle favole de’ Poeti, trasportato da Giove in Cielo, in memoria di quando convertito in Toro, gli riuscì di godere Europa; ma perché si vede solo nella Testa, e nel Petto, alcuni vollero dar questo honore ad Iò, figliuola d’Inaco, pur dallo stesso Giove goduta in forma di Vacca, e dagli Egittij adorata col nome d’Iside; mentre anche Ovidio [*Fasti*, 4, 717-718] disse:

*Vacca sit, an Taurus non est cognoscere promptum;*

*Pars prior apparet, posteriora latent*.

Riceve la forma da 53 Stelle, 21 Settentrionali, fra le quali sono celebri le Pleiadi, e 32 Australi, che comprendono le Hiadi, più riguardevoli. Le Pleiadi sono chiamate altrimenti *Septistellium*, e *Vergiliae* dalla parola *Ver*, che significa Primavera, perché compariscono nel fine di quella; sei si vedono chiare, l’ultima non si osserva mai; perciò il medesimo Ovidio scrisse nel terzo de’ Fasti [4, 170]:

*Quae septem dici, sex tamen esse solent*.

Et i nomi di queste furono Elettra, Alcione, Celene, Taigeta, Asterope, Maia, e della settima Merope, la quale favoleggiarono, che si nasconda, perché si sposò a Sisifo, huomo mortale, mentre erano figlie d’Atlante, e della Ninfa Pleione, con la quale hebbe commercio Giove, e dal nome di essa furono dette Pleiadi. Altri vogliono, che fossero figliuole di Licurgo, e di Nasso Ninfa, poi convertita in Isola, e che pe ’l merito d’haver allevato Bacco, e Giove le habbia unite alle Stelle. Nel mezzo di queste ve ne sono altre 40 quasi invisibili; mà il Galileo nella sua Carta del Cielo le numerò solamente 36. Mastelino ne hà scoperto sin à 14. Gio: Battista Zuppo le calcolò 50 col Cannocchiale del Fontana. Michiel Langreno alle sei ne aggiunse due, cioè il Padre Atlante, e la Madre Pleione; tutte 8 sono state collocate nel nostro Globo unite con l’altre all'Epoca 1700. Altre sette sono le Hiadi, vicine al Palilicio, detto Aldebarano, & all’occhio Australe del Toro, figliuole anch’esse d’Atlante, et Etra, Sorelle d’Hiante, il quale per essere stato lacerato da un Leone, si rilasciarono in così continuo disperato pianto, che si ridussero vicine all’estremo; impietositosene perciò Giove, le trasferì nel Cielo, e dal nome del Fratello furono Hiadi chiamate, benché i loro nomi distinti fossero Ambrosia, Eudora, Pasitoe, Coronis, Plexauris, Pitho, e Tiche.

Taurus *is the second Constellation of the Zodiac, called* Bubulum Caput*,* Bos*,* Portitor Europae*,* Isis*; by the Arabs* Altaur *and* Attauuro*, and by the Greeks* Ταυρός*. It was, as the fables of the Poets say, transported by Jupiter to Heaven, in memory of when, converted into a bull, he succeeded in possessing Europa; but because it is seen only in the Head and Chest, some wished to give this honor to Ios, daughter of Inachus, also possessed by the same Jupiter when she had the form of a Cow, and by the Egyptians worshipped under the name of Isis. Ovid [Fasti, 4, 717-718] also said:*

Whether it is cow or bull, it is not known.

The front part is clearly visible; the back part is hidden.

*It receives its form from 53 Stars, 21 Northern, among which the Pleiades are famous, and 32 Southern, which include the more valuable Hiades. The Pleiades are also called* Septistellium *and* Vergiliae *from the word* Ver*, meaning Spring, because they appear at the end of that season; 6 are visible, the last one can never be seen. Therefore, Ovid himself wrote in the third book of the* Fasti *[4, 170]:*

They are said to be seven, but they are only six.

*And the names of these were Electra, Alcyone, Celene, Taigeta, Asterope, Maia, and of the seventh Merope, who some narrate is hidden, because she married Sisyphus, a mortal man, although they were daughters of Atlas and the nymph Pleione, with whom Jupiter had dealings, and from her name they were called the Pleiades. Others tell that they were the daughters of Lycurgus and the Nymph Naxos, later converted to the Island, and that for the merit of having raised Bacchus and Jupiter she united them with the Stars. In the middle of these are another 40 almost invisible; but Galileo in his Chart of the Sky counted only 36. Mastelino discovered as many as 14; Giovanni Battista Zuppo counted 50 with Fontana's Cannocchiale. Michiel Langreno to the previous six added two, namely Father Atlas and Mother Pleione; all 8 were placed in our Globe along with the others. There are seven others, called Hiades, near the* Palilicium*, called Aldebaranus, and the Southern eye of* Taurus*, daughters also of Atlas et Etra, Sisters of Hiante, who for being torn by a Lion, gave themselves up to a despairing and uninterrupted weeping, that they strayed to the extremity; therefore Jupiter, moved by the situation, transferred them to Heaven, and by the name of the Brother they were pitied Hiadi, though their names were Ambrosia, Eudora, Pasitoe, Coronis, Plexauris, Pitho, and Tiche.*

**2. Hyginus, *Astronomica*, II, XXI**

*Taurus*. Hic dicitur inter astra esse constitutus, quod Europam incolumem transuexerit Cretam, ut Euripides dicit. Nonnulli aiunt, cum Io in bovem sit conuersa, ut Iuppiter ei satisfacere videretur, inter sidera constituisse, quod eius prior pars appareat ut tauri, sed reliquum corpus obscurius videatur. Spectat autem ad exortum solis; cuius oris effigiem quae continent stellae, Hyades appellantur. Has autem Pherecydes Atheniensis Liberi nutrices esse demonstrat, numero septem, quas etiam antea nymphas Dodonidas appellatas. Harum nomina sunt haec: Ambrosia, Eudora, Pedile, Coronis, Polyxo, Phyto, Thyone. Hae dicuntur a Lycurgo fugatae et praeter Ambrosiam omnes ad Thetim profugatae, ut ait Asclepiades. Sed ut Pherecydes dicit, ad Thebas Liberum perlatum Inoni tradiderunt. Quam ob causam ab Iove his gratia est relata, quod inter sidera sunt constitutae. Pliades autem appellatae sunt, ut ait Musaeus, quod ex Atlante et Aethra Oceani filia sint filiae XV procreatae, quarum V Hyades appellatas demonstrat, quod earum Hyas fuerit frater, a sororibus plurimum dilectus. Qui cum venans a leone esset interfectus, quinque, de quibus supra diximus, lamentationibus assiduis permotae, dicuntur interisse; quare eas, quod plurimum de eius morte laborarent, Hyadas appellatas. Reliquas autem decem sorores deliberasse de sororum morte et earum septem mortem sibi conscisse; quare quod plures idem senserint, Pliadas dictas. Alexander autem Hyadas ait dictas, quod Hyantis et Boetiae sint filiae; Pliadas autem, quod ex Plione Oceani et Atlante sint natae. Hae numero septem dicuntur, sed nemo amplius VI potest videre; cuius causa proditur haec, quod de septem sex cum immortalibus concubuerint, tres cum Iove, duae cum Neptuno, una cum Marte, reliquia autem Sisyphi fuisse uxor demonstratur. Quarum ex Electra et Iove Dardanum, ex Maia Mercurium, ex Taygete Lacedaemona procreatum; ex Alyone autem et Neptuno Hyriea, ex Celaeno Lycum et Nyctea natum. Martem autem ex Sterope Oenomaum procreasse, quam alii Oenomai uxorem dixerunt. Meropen autem Sisypho nuptam Glaucum genuisse, quem complures Bellerophontis patrem esse dixerunt. Quare propter reliquas eius sorores inter sidera constitutam; sed quod homini nupserit, stellam eius obscuratam. Alii dicunt Electram non apparere ideo, quod Pliades existimentur choream ducere stellis; sed postquam Troia sit capta, et progenies eius quae a Dardano fuerit, sit eversa, dolore permotam ab his se removisse, et in circulo qui arcticus dicitur, constitisse, ex quo tam longo tempore lamentantem capillo passo videri; itaque e facto Cometen esse appellatam. Sed has Pliadas antiqui astrologi seorsum a Tauro deformaverunt, ut ante diximus, Pliones et Atlantis filias. Quae cum per Boetiam cum puellis iter faceret, Oriona comitatum voluisse ei vim afferre; illam fugere coepisse, Oriona autem secutum esse annos VII neque invenire potuisse. Iovem autem puellarum misertum, iter ad astra constituisse, et postea a nonnullis astrologis caudam Tauri appellatas. Itaque adhuc Orion fugientes eas ad occasum sequi videtur. Eas stellas nostri Vergilias appellaverunt, quod post ver exoriuntur, et hae quidem ampliorem ceteris habent honorem, quod earum signo exoriente aestas significatur, occidente autem hiems ostenditur, quod aliis non est traditum signis.

*The* [*Bull*](https://topostext.org/people/10955) *was placed among the stars because it carried* [*Europa*](https://topostext.org/people/13860) *safely to Crete, as* [*Euripides*](https://topostext.org/people/75) *says. Some say that when* [*Io*](https://topostext.org/people/389) *was transformed into a heifer,* [*Jupiter*](https://topostext.org/people/1)*, to seem to make amends, put an image among the constellations which resembled a* [*bull*](https://topostext.org/people/10955) *in its fore parts, but was dim behind. It faces towards the East, and the stars which outline the face are called* [*Hyades*](https://topostext.org/people/1564)*. These,* [*Pherecydes*](https://topostext.org/people/13010) *the Athenian says, are the nurses of* [*Liber*](https://topostext.org/people/5)*, seven in number, who earlier were nymphae called Dodonidae. Their names are as follows:* [*Ambrosia*](https://topostext.org/people/2563)*,* [*Eudora*](https://topostext.org/people/4796)*, Pedile,* [*Coronis*](https://topostext.org/people/1380)*,* [*Polyxo*](https://topostext.org/people/2474)*,* [*Phyto*](https://topostext.org/people/8176)*, and* [*Thyone*](https://topostext.org/people/2018)*. They are said to have been put to flight by* [*Lycurgus*](https://topostext.org/people/78) *and all except* [*Ambrosia*](https://topostext.org/people/2563) *took refuge with* [*Thetis*](https://topostext.org/people/202)*, as* [*Asclepiades*](https://topostext.org/people/14903) *says. But according to* [*Pherecydes*](https://topostext.org/people/13010)*, they brought* [*Liber*](https://topostext.org/people/5) *to Thebes and delivered him to* [*Ino*](https://topostext.org/people/311)*, and for this reason* [*Jove*](https://topostext.org/people/1) *expressed his thanks to them by putting them among the constellations. The* [*Pleiades*](https://topostext.org/people/16638) *were so named, according to* [*Musaeaus*](https://topostext.org/people/905)*, because fifteen daughters were born to* [*Atlas*](https://topostext.org/people/190) *and* [*Aethra*](https://topostext.org/people/1063)*, daughter of Ocean. Five of them are called* [*Hyades*](https://topostext.org/people/1564)*, he shows, because their brother was* [*Hyas*](https://topostext.org/people/3299)*, a youth dearly beloved by his sisters. When he was killed in a* [*lion*](https://topostext.org/people/10960) *hunt, the five we have mentioned, given over to continual lamentation, are said to have perished. Because they grieved exceedingly at his death, they are called* [*Hyades*](https://topostext.org/people/1564)*. The remaining ten brooded over the death of their sisters, and brought death on themselves; because so may experienced the same grief, they were called* [*Pleiades*](https://topostext.org/people/287)*.* [*Alexander*](https://topostext.org/people/13) *says they were called* [*Hyades*](https://topostext.org/people/1564) *because they were daughters of* [*Hyas*](https://topostext.org/people/3299) *and* [*Boeotia*](https://topostext.org/people/18067)*,* [*Pleiades*](https://topostext.org/people/287)*, because born of Pleio, daughter of Ocean, and* [*Atlas*](https://topostext.org/people/190)*. The* [*Pleiades*](https://topostext.org/people/16638) *are called seven in number, but only six can be seen. This reason has been advanced, that of the seven, six mated with immortals (three with* [*Jove*](https://topostext.org/people/1)*, two with* [*Neptune*](https://topostext.org/people/25)*, and one with* [*Mars*](https://topostext.org/people/24)*); the seventh was said to have been the wife of* [*Sisyphus*](https://topostext.org/people/531)*. From* [*Electra*](https://topostext.org/people/388) *and* [*Jove*](https://topostext.org/people/1)*,* [*Dardanus*](https://topostext.org/people/650) *was born; from* [*Maia*](https://topostext.org/people/525) *and* [*Jove*](https://topostext.org/people/1)*,* [*Mercury*](https://topostext.org/people/33)*; from* [*Taygete*](https://topostext.org/people/2562)*and* [*Jove*](https://topostext.org/people/1)*,* [*Lacedaemon*](https://topostext.org/people/7066)*; from* [*Alcyone*](https://topostext.org/people/1805) *and* [*Neptune*](https://topostext.org/people/25)*,* [*Hyrieus*](https://topostext.org/people/2476)*; from* [*Celaeno*](https://topostext.org/people/1974) *and* [*Neptune*](https://topostext.org/people/25)*,* [*Lycus*](https://topostext.org/people/398) *and* [*Nycteus*](https://topostext.org/people/1764)*.* [*Mars*](https://topostext.org/people/24) *by* [*Sterope*](https://topostext.org/people/2275) *begat* [*Oinomaus*](https://topostext.org/people/901)*, but others call her the wife of* [*Oinomaus*](https://topostext.org/people/901)*.* [*Merope*](https://topostext.org/people/1431)*, wed to* [*Sisyphus*](https://topostext.org/people/531)*, bore* [*Glaucus*](https://topostext.org/people/12585)*, who, as many say, was the father of* [*Bellerophon*](https://topostext.org/people/807)*. On account of her other sisters she was placed among the constellations, but because she married a mortal, her star is dim. Others say* [*Electra*](https://topostext.org/people/388) *does not appear because the* [*Pleiades*](https://topostext.org/people/16638) *are thought to lead the circling dance for the stars, but after Troy was captured and her descendants through* [*Dardanus*](https://topostext.org/people/650) *overthrown, moved by grief she left them and took her place in the circle called Arctic. From this she appears, in grief for such a long time, with her hair unbound, that, because of this, she is called a comet. But ancient astronomers placed these* [*Pleiades*](https://topostext.org/people/16638)*, daughters of* [*Pleione*](https://topostext.org/people/4012) *and* [*Atlas*](https://topostext.org/people/190)*, as we have said, apart from the* [*Bull*](https://topostext.org/people/10955)*. When* [*Pleione*](https://topostext.org/people/4012) *once was travelling through Boeotiawith her daughters,* [*Orion*](https://topostext.org/people/297)*, who was accompanying her, tried to attack her. She escaped, but* [*Orion*](https://topostext.org/people/297) *sought her for seven years and couldn't find her.* [*Jove*](https://topostext.org/people/1)*, pitying the girls, appointed a way to the stars, and later, by some astronomers, they were called the* [*Bull*](https://topostext.org/people/10955)*'s tail. And so up to this time* [*Orion*](https://topostext.org/people/18122) *seems to be following them as they flee towards the west. Our writers call these stars* [*Vergiliae*](https://topostext.org/people/8483)*, because they rise after spring. They have still greater honour than the others, too, because their rising is a sign of summer, their setting of winter — a thing is not true of the other constellations.*

**3. Hyginus, *Astronomica*, III, XX**

Taurus ad exortum signorum dimidia parte conlocatus, ut incipere genua defigere ad terram, caput eodem habens attentum. Genua eius a reliquo corpore dividit circulus aequinoctialis. Cornu sinistrum, ut supra diximus, coniungitur cum dextro pede eius, qui Auriga appellatur. Inter huius finitionem corporis et Arietis caudam stellae sunt VII quas Vergilias nostri, Graeci autem Pliadas appellaverunt. Hic aversus occidit et exoritur. Habet autem in cornibus singulas stellas, sed in sinistro clariorem; utrisque oculis singulas, in fronte media I; ex quibus locis cornua nascuntur, singulas. Quae VII stellae Hyades appellantur, etsi nonnullis quas duas diximus novissime, stellas negaverunt esse, ut omnino Hyades essent V. Praeterea in sinistro genu priore habet stellam I et super ungulam I, in dextro genu I et in interscapilio III, novissimam earum ceteris clariorem; in pectore I. Quae sunt omnino, praeter Vergilias, XVIII.

*Taurus, stands facing east, in the central part of the sky occupied by the zodiac signs: his knees point toward the ground, his head is slightly raised. The equinoctial circle divides his knees from the rest of his body. The left horn, as we mentioned above, touches the foot of the so-called “Auriga.” Between the end of the body of Taurus and the tail of Aries are 7 stars: those that the Romans named “Vergilie” and the Greeks “Pleiades.” Taurus sets on the opposite side where it rises. It presents, at the height of each horn, 1 star: but the one on the left is brighter; 1 at the height of each eye; 1 in the middle of the forehead; 1 on each side at the attachments of the horns on the forehead. These 7 stars (just enumerated) are called “Hyades,” although, according to some, the last two just described [i.e., those at the attachments] are not properly stars, such that in all the Hyades would, indeed, amount to 5. Taurus, moreover, presents, at the height of the left knee, most advanced, 1 star; 1 at the height of the hoof; 1 at the height of the right knee; 3 at the height of the interscapular area, the last of which is brighter than the others; 2 at the height of the chest. A total of 18, excluding the Pleiades.*

**4. Martialis, *Epigrammata*, IX, 71**

Massyli leo fama iugi pecorisque maritus

Lanigeri mirum qua coiere fide.

Ipse licet videas, cavea stabulantur in una

Et pariter socias carpit uterque dapes:

Nec fetu nemorum gaudent nec mitibus herbis,

Concordem satiat sed rudis agna famem.

Quid meruit terror Nemees, quid portitor/proditor Helles,

Vt niteant celsi lucida signa poli?

Sidera si possent pecudesque feraeque mereri,

Hic aries astris, hic leo dignus erat.

*It is astonishing with what attachment this lion, the glory of the Massylian mountains and this husband of the fleecy flock, are united. Behold with your own eyes; they dwell in one stall, and take their social meals in company. Nor do they delight to feed on the brood of forests, or the tender grass; but a small lamb satisfies their joint appetites. What were the merits of the terror of Nemea, or the bearer/betrayer of Helle, that they should shine among brilliant constellations in the high heaven? If cattle and wild beasts are worthy of a place m the heavens, this ram and this lion deserve to become stars.*

**4. *Anthologia Latina*, 616 R**

Proditor est Helles et proditor Europaeus

Et Gemini iuvenes et pressus ab Hercule Cancer,

Horrendusque Leo sequitur cum Virgine sancta

Libraque lance pari et violentus acumine caudae,

Inde sagittiferi facies senis et Capricornus,

Et qui portat aquam, puer urniger, et duo Pisces.

*He is the betrayer of Elle (Aries) and that of Europa (Taurus),*

*And the two young Gemini and Cancer pushed by Hercules,*

*Followed by the hirsute Leo with the holy Virgo.*

*And Libra with the balancing scales and then the violent pointed-tailed (Scorpio),*

*Then the figure of an old archer (Sagittarius) and Capricorn,*

*And the one carrying water, the urn-bearing child, and - finally - the two Pisces.*