

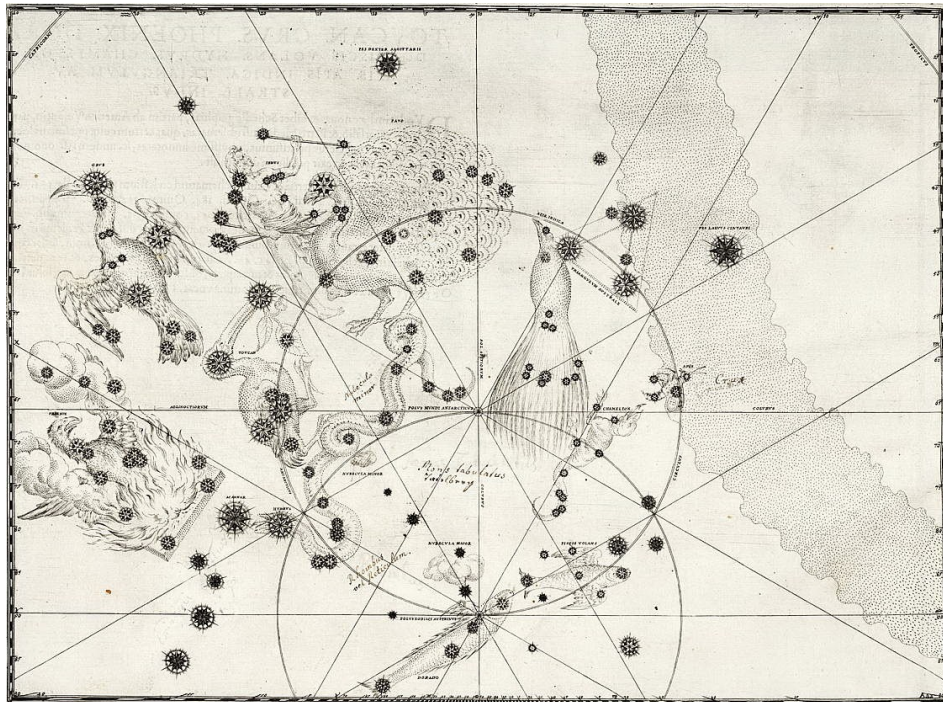
## 2.1 Session A1: Astronomie im Ostseeraum in Renaissance und Barock – 16. bis 18. Jahrhundert

### 2.2 *Pieter Dircksz Keyser and the Mapping of the Southernmost Constellations*

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Plancius' constellations from Bayer's *Uranometria* (1603)

In the fall of 1597 the Dutch cartographer Petrus Plancius created 12 new constellations centred around the celestial south pole which, from lack of reliable data, had until then been left blank on the celestial globes. The stellar data which made it possible to fill this uncharted region was supplied by Pieter Dircksz Keyser from Emden, who had sailed as chief navigator with the first Dutch commercial enterprise to the East Indies (1595–1597).

In my talk I will summarize what is known of the life of Pieter Dircksz Keyser and his survey of the southern constellations and supplement this with some recently discovered information.