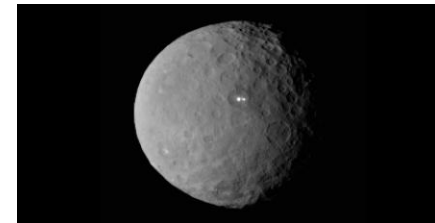


PIAZZI and the 'PLANETOID'
CERES: How the Discovery and
Scientific Study was Reported in
the Press



Clifford J. Cunningham PhD
University of Southern
Queensland

SEPP
GIU
PIAZZI

D. P.



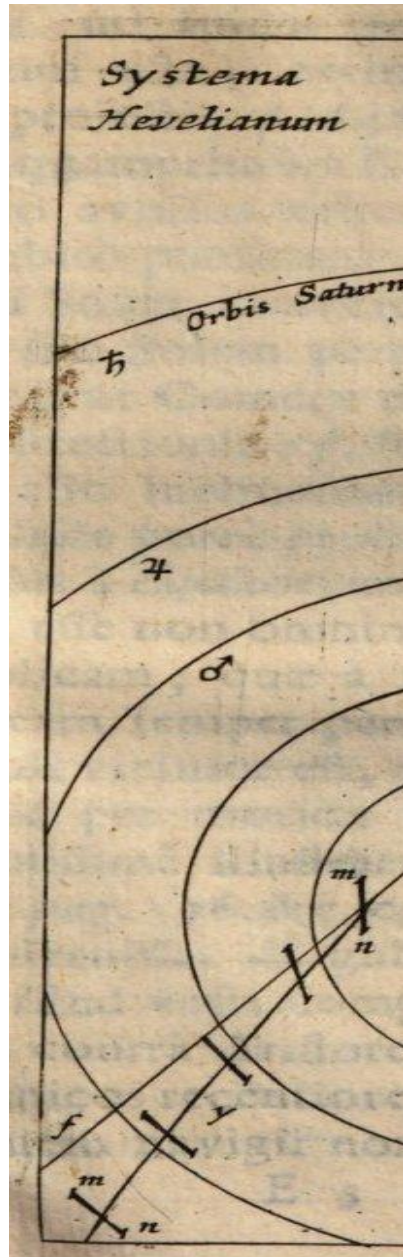
CERES: The Most Anticipated Planet(oid)

Ceres was discovered in 1801, but its orbital elements were published in 1681 by this man: Jacob Bernoulli





Bernoulli first wrote in High Dutch in 1681, then in this Latin book of 1682. He was convinced there was a “missing planet” between the orbit of Mars and Jupiter.



"The point f is without doubt occupied by another primary planet. But this, both because of the extreme smallness of its body and because of its immense distance from us, perpetually escapes our gaze."

In this diagram from Bernoulli's book, "f" at lower left marks the spot between the two planetary orbits that seemed to require another planetary body. He gave its distance from the Sun = 2.583 AU, with a period of revolution = 4 years, 157 days; actual values for Ceres: 2.77 AU; 4 years, 222 days.

Baron Franz von Zach



In 1785, 2 years after meeting William Herschel in England, Zach wrote down the orbital elements of what he termed “the supposed planet between Mars and Jupiter.”

The Astronomical Congress of 1798:
FIRST NEWSPAPER REPORT
relating to the subsequent Discovery of Ceres



This is the first newspaper report in the history of Ceres studies: 31 July 1798.

Franz von Zach organised the world's first international meeting of astronomers, reported in the Gotha newspaper.

The meeting prompted him to found a society to search for the Unseen Planet.

How to Classify Ceres?



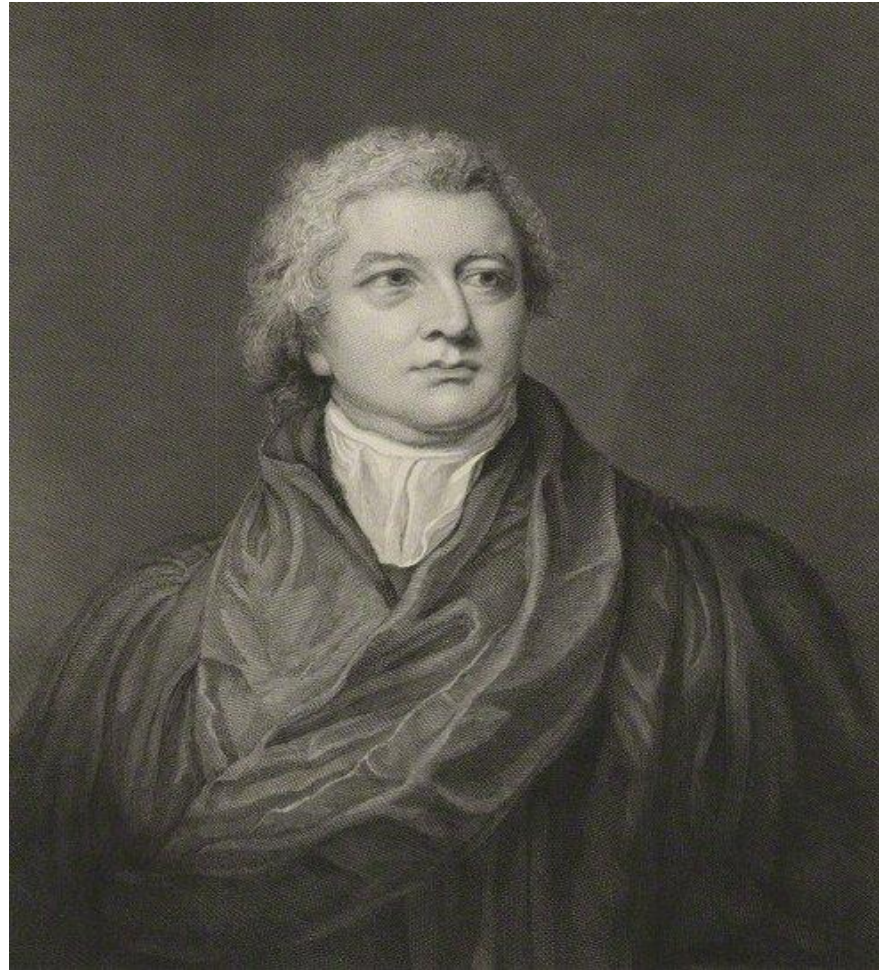
"We watched for the transit of the disputed star with great anxiety," said Cacciatore. "It was again wide of the place it had occupied in the heavens on the preceding and all other nights."

"Oh, Oh!," cried Piazzi. "We have found a planet." (Jan. 4, 1801) Piazzi followed the object until mid-February, but he did not publicly declare it a planet.

The word 'Asteroid' was created by Charles Burney Jr.

In 1802 fewer than a dozen scholars in England were experts in ancient Greek. Burney Jr. was one of them, and he was actually nicknamed 'The Greek.'

On May 4, 1802, Burney Jr. created the word 'asteroid.' Two days later, Herschel's landmark paper on Ceres and Pallas was read to *The Royal Society* in London. It introduced 'asteroid' to the world.



Piazzi vs Herschel

“Could we not establish as a distinctive mark between the planets and comets the intersection of their orbits reduced to the ecliptic? And for naming, could one not call the little planets Planetoids? Because I confess the name asteroids seems to me more appropriate for the small stars.”

Letter from Piazzi to Herschel, 4 July 1802

THE FIRST NEWSPAPER REPORT ON THE DISCOVERY OF CERES: Feb. 1801

in the *Journal de Paris*, the first daily French newspaper

* SICHEL. — *Palermo, 15 janvier. Le 1.^{er}* de ce mois, il a été découvert de notre observatoire, une nouvelle comète dans l'épaule du Taureau, près la 19.^{me} étoile de Mayer. On l'a observée les 1, 2, 3 & 4, à son passage au méridien. Quoiqu'elle ne soit couverte d'aucune espèce de tache nébuleuse, cependant on ne peut l'apercevoir à la simple vue. Son mouvement est rétrograde; elle s'avance vers le nord.

mine de poursuivre l'effort, il survint un détachement tomba sur les voleurs, du butin, & s'éloigna des ne crut voir en eux leurs

ne, 21 février. Le C.^{en} France, avait fait relatif une note relative à la helvétique. On croit la fait à cette note une ré- sistance.

ut, entend & prétend main- ligue helvétique, comme le principal fondement de la constitution; en conséquence, il est disposé à travailler toujours sincèrement de tout son pouvoir à réunir tous les habitants des ci- devant cantons en un seul & même corps de nation, régie par une même volonté & autorité, formant une haute souveraineté; il donnera aux autorités ad- ministratives, municipales & judiciaires des cantons, plus ou moins de compétence, selon que les circon- stances l'exigeront, mais sous la réserve expresse & formelle que l'unité de la souveraineté de l'Helvétie ne sera point partagée entre elles, & que toute l'au- torité donnée aux cantons découlera de la puissance centrale comme de sa source, & y retournera comme à son centre.

Le conseil législatif a donné cette déclaration à l'unanimité. Tous les membres se sont levés dans le même moment, & nus par le même enthousiasme. On fera connoître au ministre cette unanimité précieuse, en lui notifiant que le con- seil exécutif gardera copie, tant de sa note adres- sée au corps législatif, que de cette déclaration solennelle.

* SICHEL. — *Palermo, 15 janvier. Le 1.^{er}* de ce mois, il a été découvert de notre obser- vatoire, une nouvelle comète dans l'épaule du Taureau, près la 19.^{me} étoile de Mayer. On l'a observée les 1, 2, 3 & 4, à son passage au méridien. Quoiqu'elle ne soit couverte d'aucune espèce de tache nébuleuse, cependant on ne peut l'apercevoir à la simple vue. Son mou- vement est rétrograde; elle s'avance vers le nord.

ACTES DE L'AUTORITÉ CONSULAIRE.

Arrêt du 2 vendôme. — Les consuls de la république arrêtent:

Art. 1.^{er}. Il sera établi sur le Simplon & le Mont-Cenis un hospice pareil à celui qui existe sur le grand Saint-Bernard: ce hospice seront servis par les reli- gieux du même ordre que ceux du grand Saint- Bernard: Il ne pourra y avoir moins de 15 personnes dans chaque hospice, & les religieux seront soumis à la même discipline, & tenus à observer les mêmes

devoirs envers les voyageurs que ceux du grand St.- Bernard.

II. Les hospices du grand St.-Bernard, du Simplon & du Mont-Cenis, ne formeront qu'une seule maison, sous les ordres du même supérieur.

III. Chacun des gouvernements piémontais & cisal- pin doteront l'ordre du grand Saint-Bernard de biens- fonds, rapportant 20,000^f de revenu, cet ordre en- trera en jouissance de ces biens le 1.^{er} germinal pro- chain.

IV. Le ministre de l'intérieur de la république fran- çaise fera verser dans la caisse de cet ordre 20,000^f dans le courant de germinal, & 20,000^f dans le cou- rant de messidor prochain, époque à laquelle ces deux hospices devront être en pleine activité. Les sommes seront employées à la construction & établissement de ces deux hospices.

V. Le général Turrau, chargé d'ouvrir une com- munication entre le Simplon & la Cisalpine, les pré- fets du Léman & du Mont-Blanc donneront à l'ordre toutes les facilités nécessaires pour la construction & l'organisation de ces deux hospices.

VI. Les ministres de l'industrie & des relations exté- rieures sont chargés, chacun en ce qui le concerne, de l'exécution du présent arrêté.

Le premier consul, Napoléon BONAPARTE. Par le premier consul, le secrétaire d'état, signé H. B. MAREY.

TRIBUNAT. — Séance du 12 vendôme.

PRÉSIDENCE DE SAYOYE-ROLLIN.

Sur les rapports des tribuns Legonides & Ré- nières, le tribunal vote l'adoption de deux pro- jets de loi, concernant des échanges 1.^o entre l'hospice de St.-Chamond, département de la Loire & le C.^{en} Roux; 2.^o entre l'hospice de Valenciennes & le C.^{en} Anselme.

On renvoie à une commission un projet de loi, transmis par le corps législatif, concernant la partie saisissable des traitemens des fonction- naires publics & employés civils.

On procède à un scrutin d'élection pour la présentation d'un candidat au sénat conserva- teur. Grégoire a réuni 30 suffrages; le général Harville 30, Desmeuniers 10, Treillard 7; personne n'ayant obtenu la majorité, il sera pro- cédé à un second tour de scrutin.

La séance est ajournée au 14.

CORPS LÉGISLATIF. Séance du 11 vendôme.

PRÉSIDENT DE LECLERC (de Maine-&-Loire.)

Le conseiller d'état Emery vient présenter un projet de loi, tendant à déclarer que les trai- temens des fonctionnaires publics & employés civils seront saisissables jusqu'à concurrence du 5.^{me} sur les premiers mille francs & au-dessous; du quart sur les 5000^f suivans, & du tiers sur la partie excédant 6000^f, à quelque somme

The Journal de Paris article: first example of misinformation about Ceres

“Sicily – Palermo, January 15. On the 1st of this month, a new comet in the shoulder of Taurus, near the 19th star of Mayer, was discovered from our observatory. It was observed on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th, as it passed the meridian. Although it is not covered with any kind of nebulous spot, it still cannot be seen with the naked eye. Its movement is retrograde; it goes forward toward the north.”

A critical point to note about the content of the announcement is the identification of the object as being near the 19th star of Mayer. Mayer 19 was in fact some 45 degrees away from the position of Ceres! Mayer 109 was meant.

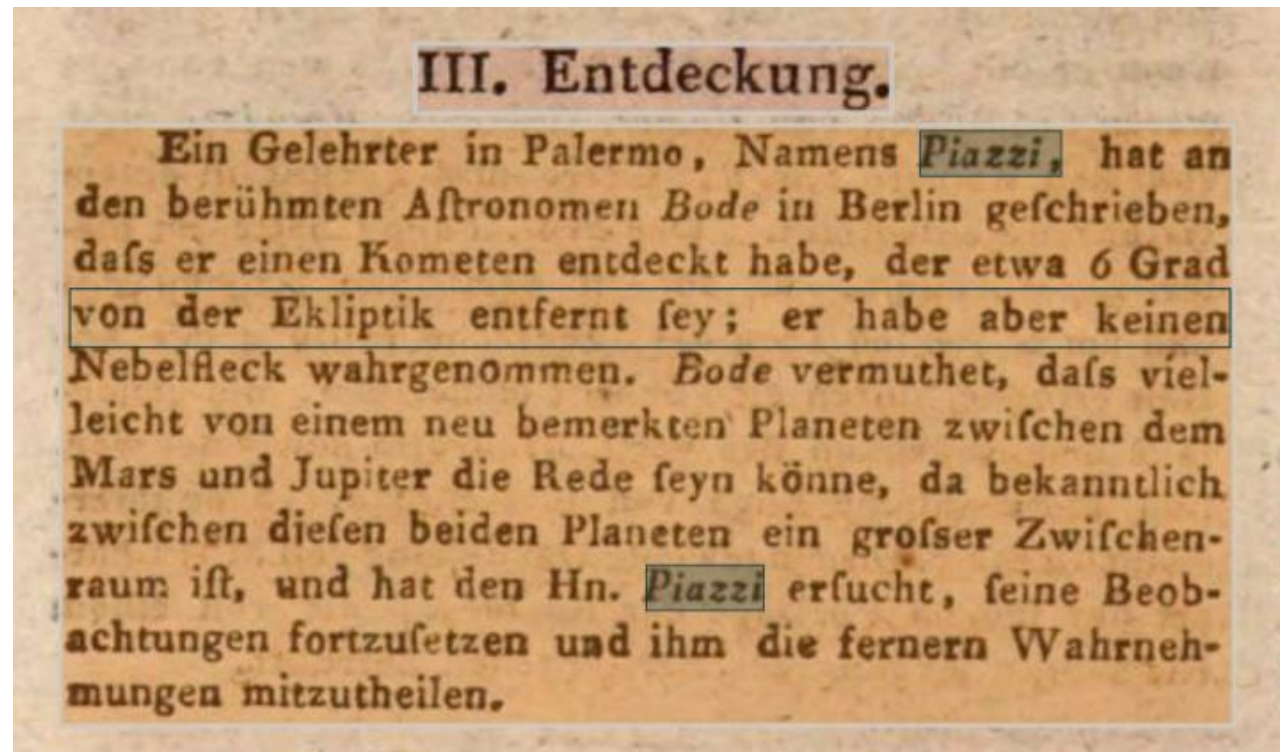
May 6, 1801: First German Newspaper report Allgemeine Literatur-Zeitung, founded in 1785

Published in Jena

Bode wants to describe

it as a

planet



Bode's Gambit

Bode was the
first astronomer
to use the
power of the
press to
advance a
personal
agenda.



Zach admonishes Bode & the German newspapers: the first engagement of a science journal with the press.

Bode declared Piazzi's discovery to be a planet, not a comet. “He wanted to steal the glory from Piazzi,” Zach wrote.

Bode also preempted Piazzi's right to name his discovery, calling it in every German newspaper “Juno”. The feud between Bode, Piazzi and Zach reverberated across Europe.

Monthly Correspondence, June issue.

Zach lists the newspapers in which Bode planted stories
“Zach and Bode are now not friends” : letter from Olbers to Gauss, 19 Sept. 1802.

Zach wrote: “Professor Bode had news of it printed in the *Berlin newspaper* no. 57 of May 12, in the Intelligensia page of the *General Literary Newspaper* of Jena no. 90 of May 6 [the one we just read] and in the *Hamburg Impartial Correspondence* no. 76 of May 13. Out of this, it came to the general public through several other political newspapers.”

Monthly Correspondence, June issue.

May 15, 1801, reporting on a letter written May 9

Schreiben aus Berlin, vom 9 May.
Die von Herrn Prof. Bode seit dem 20sten März aus
Berechnungen gefolgerte Vermuthung, daß der von
Herrn **Piazzi** zu Palermo am 1sten Januar d. J. ent-
deckte bewegliche Stern 8ter Grösse ohne Nebel, kein
Comet, sondern höchstwahrscheinlich der zwischen Mars
und Jupiter bis jetzt noch nicht entdeckte, aber schon
seit 30 Jahren angekündigte Hauptplanet sey, wird
hoffentlich zur Gewißheit kommen. Die Herren von
Zach und Oriani sind bereits der nämlichen Meinung;
es fehlen aber noch die nähern Beobachtungen dieses
neuen Planeten.

Hamburger Relations-Courier, P2. no. 77;
First mention of Oriani

Hamburg newspaper



RELATIONS-COURIER.

Anno 1801. Am Freytag, den 15 May. Num. 77.

Schreiben aus Constantinopel, vom 14 April.
 Man will hier schon Nachrichten aus Egypten bis zum 25ten März haben. Der Verlust, den die Franzosen bis dahin erlitten haben, wird auf 4000, und der Engländer auf 3000 Mann angegeben. Die Engländer und Türken fahren fort, sich zu Lande und zur See, sowohl an Truppen als an Schiffen, Geschütz und Munition täglich zu verstärken, um die erhaltenen

Schreiben aus London, vom 8 May.
 Briefe aus Newyork enthalten die wichtige Nachricht von der Besignahme des Spanischen Nordtheils von Hispaniola oder St. Domingo, durch den General Toussaint Louverture, im Namen der Französischen Republik.

Das Paketboot von Lissabon, vom 10ten April, bringt den Bericht, daß mit einem Courier von Madrid am 15ten zu Lissabon Depeschen angekommen sind, welche die Anfrage zu einem vier, nach andern zu einem sechsmonatlichen Waffenstillstand enthalten sollen.

Hiesige Blätter versichern, es sey vom Könige von Preussen der hiesigen Regierung erklärt worden, daß die Besignahme des Haandverischen nur die Sicherstellung dieses Landes gegen anderweitige Besignahmen zur Absicht habe, und bey dem Verschwinden dieser Gefahr aufhören werde.

Herr Schalts, der als unser General-Consul nach Rußland zurückkehrt, wird, wie es heißt, erst nach Copenhagen gehen, um daselbst einige vorläufige Arrangements zu treffen.

Das Korn fällt bey uns noch immer mehr im Preise. Stacks: Consolidirtes Drittheil 60 $\frac{1}{2}$. Cours auf Hamburg 31. 9. Von Hamburg fehlt eine Post.

Schreiben aus Wien, vom 6 May.
 Bey den mancherley seit einiger Zeit vorgestellten Veränderungen glaubt man, daß die Entschädigungssache im Deutschen Reich einen andern Gang nehmen werde, als anfänglich vermuthet worden ist.

Der Kaiser hat den verarmten Familien im Venetianischen das zu ihrer Nahrung und zur Bestellung der Ansaat nöthige Getralde, so wie auch das nöthige Ackergeräthe und Hornvieh geben lassen.

Der Russische Kaiser soll den Palatinus von Ungarn nach Rußland eingeladen haben, um der bevorstehenden Krönung beizumohnen.

Die Gesundheitsumstände des allgeliebten Erbprinzen Carl haben sich, Gottlob! gebessert.

Schreiben aus Helzing, vom 12 May.
 Die auf der hiesigen Rbede gelegene Englische Bri-

May 19, 1801: a letter from Berlin

Augsburgische (Augsburg Ordinary Post Newspaper, founded 1686)

Ordinari

Postzeitung



May 23, 1801

Binnenlandsche Bataafsche courant:

printed in The Hague

This newspaper published the **first report in The Netherlands** about the discovery:

“Piazzi discovery in Palermo, which is without nebula and is clearly not a Comet, is now considered by prominent astronomers in Germany, Mr. Bode and others, with almost certainty to be (as far as our knowledge is concerned) a new planet.”

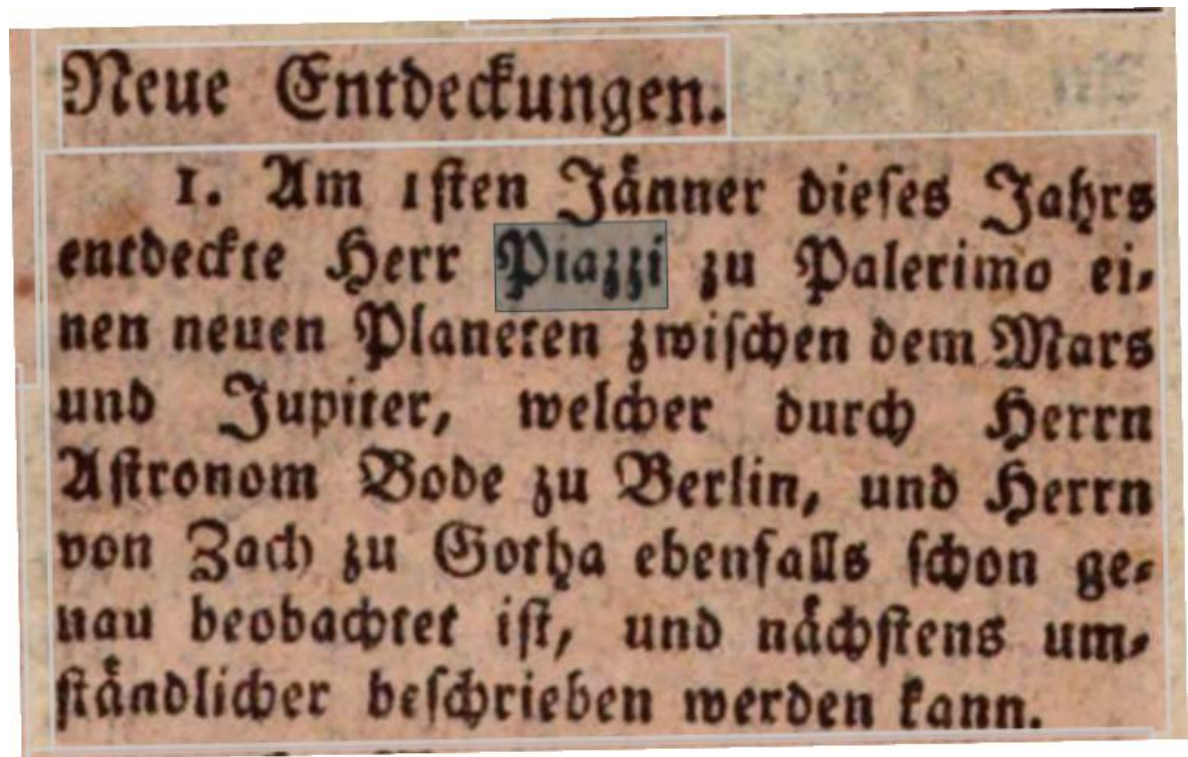
June 4, 1801

Oberpfälzisches

Wochenblatt

Upper Palatinate Weekly Gazette

Published in Bavaria



June 9, 1801

Allgemeine Zeitung

Discusses role of Baron von Zach in Gotha



Der neue Planet.

Es ist ausgemacht, daß unser System mit einem neuen Planeten vermehrt werden muß. Der Baron v. Zach auf der Sternwarte auf dem SeeBerge bei Gotha hatte seine Bahn schon vor 16 Jahren berechnet, und seine Rechnung an drei Orten, unter andern bei Bode in Berlin niedergelegt. Als er im vorigen Jahre die Reise nach Bremen, von welcher uns die neuesten Stüle seiner Korrespondenz einige sehr lehrreiche Fragmente über Lilienhal mittheilen, und NiederSachsen machte, hatte sich eine Gesellschaft von 16 Astronomen vereinigt, diesen Stern, der seiner Kleinheit wegen (er ist von der neunten Größe) schwer zu finden ist, — aufzusuchen, und zu beobachten. Sie hatten den Himmel unter sich getheilt, der friedlichste und größte TheilungsTraktat, der je auf der Erde geschlossen worden ist. **Piazzi** ist ihnen zuvorkommen. Wertwürdig ist, daß er ihn gerade am ersten Tag des neuen Jahrhunderts entdeckte. Kehrete Asträa mit ihm zu den Sterblichen?

June 20, 1801

De nieuwe Haagse Nederlandse courant

Published in The Hague

De baron van *Zach* heeft reeds voor 16 jaaren op den sterretoren op den zeeberg by *Gotha* de loopbaan van eene nieuwe planeet ontdekt. Toen hy voorleden jaar de reis naar *Breme* en *Nedersaxen* deed, had een gezelschap van zekten sterrekundigen zig vereenigd, om deze ster, die wegens haare kleinte (zynde van de negende grootte) moeilyk te vinden is, op te zoeken en waartenemen. Zy hadden den hemel onder zig verdeeld, het vredelievendste en grootste traktaat van verdeling, het welk ooit op aarde gesloten is. *Piazzi* is hun voorgekomen. Het is opmerklyk, dat hy dezelve juist op den eersten dag der negentiende eeuw ontdekte.

June 20, 1801

“The Baron de Zach already discovered the orbit of a new planet 16 years ago in the observatory near Gotha. When he made the journey to Bremen and Lower Saxony last year, he met with a company of sixteen astronomers who had collaborated to locate and observe this star, which is difficult to find because of its small size (being of the ninth magnitude).

June 20, 1801 cont.

“They had divided heaven among themselves, the most peaceful and greatest treaty of partition ever concluded on earth.

Piazzi occurred to them. It is remarkable that he discovered it precisely on the first day of the nineteenth century.”

The ‘Mass Ceremony’ of Reading a Newspaper

“The force of the newspaper lies in its periodicity; the ceremony is incessantly repeated day after day, and the reader has confidence in the ongoing steady, anonymous, simultaneous activity of the nation moving through time.”

Emma Mason, Prof. of English, Univ. of Warwick, 2026; writing about importance of reading a newspaper in early 19th Century.

The Morning Chronicle: It was in this Aug. 6 issue that the public in London first read about Piazzzi's discovery.

[illegible]

FIRST BRITISH NEWSPAPER REPORTS:

August 6, 1801

The **Morning Chronicle** (London):

P2, no. 10,050

Caledonian Mercury: P3, no. 12,465

General Evening Post: P2

Whitehall Evening Post: P1

All four published the same story

THE FIRST British NEWSPAPER REPORT: *Caledonian Mercury*, founded in Edinburgh in 1720. This is the 6 Aug 1801 article on the discovery of Ceres, which features an attack on Piazzi's character by Britain's Astronomer Royal, Nevil Maskelyne.



A NEW PLANET.

An important circumstance in astronomy has just occurred, no less than the discovery of another New Planet. This celestial phenomenon moves between the orbits of *Mars* and *Jupiter*, and is an intermediate planet between them. It was discovered by M. Piazzi, an Italian astronomer, on the 1st of January 1801. He concealed the discovery, to preserve all the honour and observations to himself, till, after six weeks close watching, he fell ill. It will not be in a situation, with regard to the Sun, to be observed again, till a month or two hence. It is but a small Planet, ranking only as a Star of the eighth magnitude, and therefore visible to the naked eye. Its motion is nearly parallel to the Ecliptic, at present about four degrees and a half to the north of it, and nearly entering the sign *Leo*. The distance from the Sun is about two three-fifths times that of the earth, and the periodical time nearly four years and two months.

August 7, 1801

The Times of London (issue 2353) published a two-sentence bulletin in its daily edition: "*An important discovery has been announced—that of a new planet. M. Piazzi, an Italian astronomer, claims the merit of this discovery.*"

August 8, 1801

The Lancaster Gazetteer: no. 8 P4

The Cornwall Gazette: P3

both reprinted ***The Caledonian Mercury*** article
of Aug. 6

August 8, 1801

Cambridge

Chronicle & Journal

P3, no. 1365

Most extensive

newspaper article

about Ceres in Aug/01

AN EIGHTH PRIMARY PLANET!!
To the EDITOR of the CAMBRIDGE CHRONICLE.
SIR,
THOUGH the nineteenth century is yet in its infancy, it can boast of one of the most brilliant discoveries which has hitherto been recorded in the annals of science; namely, that of an *eighth primary planet*. The first public notice of this discovery that appeared in England, was briefly given in the last Number of the *Monthly Magazine*, in which it is stated that this Planet "was discovered by M. PIAZZI, an Italian Astronomer, "on the 1st of January 1801. He concealed the discovery, to preserve all the honour and observations to himself, till after six weeks close watching he fell ill. This celestial Phenomenon moves between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter, and is an intermediate planet between them. It is but a small planet, ranking only as a star of the 8th magnitude, and therefore not visible to the naked eye."
The most celebrated astronomers in England and France think there can be no doubt of the reality of this discovery. Dr. Maskelyne, the present worthy and excellent Astronomer Royal is of this opinion, and is therefore solicitously preparing himself to observe the new planet as soon as it comes into a proper situation. As this star has been only observed in the small portion of its orbit through which it moved in the interval between the 1st of January and the 11th of February, when M. PIAZZI was obliged by illness to discontinue his observations, it is not to be expected that the elements of its theory are determined with very great precision: some of them have, however, been deduced from the given data (by M. La LAMÉ, I believe) in an article which will be given in *Zach's Monthly Correspondence* published in Germany. Through the kindness and zeal for the cause of science, of a very eminent Mathematician of (his country, I have been favoured with a translation of the above-mentioned article; from which the following extracts are made for the information of your readers; for I am convinced that the paper itself is, as yet, in the hands of very few persons in England.

August 8 article continued, with a translation of Lalande's article in the MC

" I send you the promised continuation of my investigations with regard to the star discovered by Piazzi. I thought it worth while to take the trouble to ascertain the form of its orbit, though the arc through which it has run since it has been observed is too small to expect a great degree of accuracy from my computations. I think, however, that these may serve to facilitate the finding of the star.

	^s	^o	[']	["]
" Place of the ascending node.....	2	20	58	30
Inclination of the orbit.....		10	47	0
Place of the Aphelium.....	2	8	59	37
Time of the passage through the				
Aphelium—January 1801.....	1	33	28	
Excentricity	0	0364		
Logarithm of the greater semi-axis...	0	4106386		
Time of the siderial Period.....	4	15	years	

" This Ellipsis gives the longitudes and latitudes of five observations within a few seconds: it would not be difficult to ascertain it with greater accuracy, but the arc being so small, it would be superfluous to take that trouble."

August 8 article conclusion by Gregory, later Professor of Mathematics, Royal Military Academy



This planet at present passes the meridian so nearly at the same time with the Sun, that no observations can be made upon it: for "from July the 17th till Aug. 12th, it will go through the constellation of Cancer. Till on the 12th of August the planet will be found with less difficulty; it will rise about an hour before the Sun, standing $1\frac{1}{2}$ degree above the northern Ass. The 26th of August it will pass very near the star *Xi* in Cancer. The 25d of September it will be $2\frac{1}{2}$ degrees below *Chi* in Leo, and the 5th of October $1\frac{1}{2}$ degrees below *Gamma* in Leo. At the 5th of October the planet will rise as early as half-past one o'clock in the morning; therefore, 5 hours before sun-rise, in the dark of the night; but it will then be observed very well at the appearing of the new-moon."

As I am fearful of engrossing too much room, I must omit making farther extracts from this interesting paper: I regret this the less, however, since it will probably soon make its appearance in our most noted Scientific Journals. Nevertheless, as the matter is so important as to demand and deserve the united exertions of all Astronomers, I shall willingly communicate a table of the probable places of the planet for every five days until Nov. 8, to any Gentleman whose situation or inclination has furnished him with opportunities of further examining into the truth of the brilliant discovery which it is the object of this letter to make known.

I am, Sir, your's respectfully,

OLINTHUS GREGORY.

CAMBRIDGE, Aug. 5.

August 12, 1801

The Bury & Norwich Post,

Report written by

Capel Lofft



On the lately discovered PLANET.
To the PRINTER of the BURY POST.

SIR,

There has been a little incredulity respecting the PLANET between *Mars* and *Jupiter*, said to have been discovered by *Piazzi*, an Italian astronomer. This discovery had been expected pretty early in the last century by *Maclaurin*, and others. And I think myself fortunate that in March 1800, in reviewing the *Athenian Letters* in the *New London Review*, I ventured to hint an expectation of it: and to offer conjectures relative to its size and probable distance, apparent magnitude, and degree of light: which have not, I think, been very far from the truth. May we not hope that this Planet will be distinguished by a name consonant to the mythologic analogy, which has given their appellations to the so long known parts of our system: and that it will be called, in an age of science, MINERVA. A glorious opening of the 19th century, it assuredly is, to have made such a discovery as this of *Piazzi*, on the first day of the New Century, Jan. 1, 1801.

7 Aug. I remain, your's sincerely, C. L.

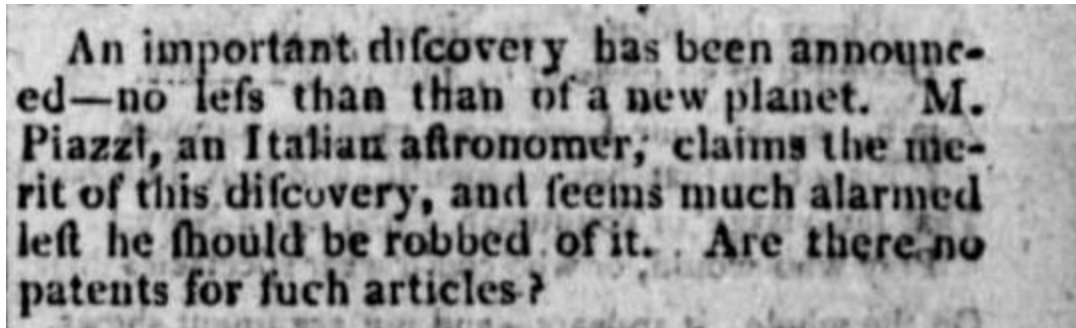
August 13, 1801

General Evening Post: P4; no. 10,751

This is a reprint of the Aug. 12 *Bury & Norwich Post* story.

Aug. 14, 1801

Chester Chronicle: P3



An important discovery has been announced—no less than that of a new planet. M. Piazzi, an Italian astronomer, claims the merit of this discovery, and seems much alarmed lest he should be robbed of it. Are there no patents for such articles?

August 14, 1801

**The Edinburgh
Advertiser:**

P1,

No. 3926

First mention
of Burckhardt

A new Planet was discovered on the 1st of January last, by M. PIAZZI. It is of the size of a star of the eighth magnitude; its mean distance from the sun is 2.57 the earth's distance being unity, consequently its periodic time is 4.13 years, and its situation between *Mars* and *Jupiter*; its eccentricity is small, and the inclination of its orbit between 10° and 11° . When discovered, it was near its aphelion and past its opposition to the sun. It was observed by M. PIAZZI alone for six weeks, when he fell ill, and it has not been observed since. Dr. BURKHARDT, an assistant to LA LANDE, is employed in computing its elements, and has already published a memoir, in *German*, on the subject.

August 15, 1801

***The Caledonian Mercury* (Edinburgh): P4**

It explicitly introduced readers to the physical characteristics of the "new planet," reporting that its incredibly slow, precise progress through the heavens ruled out the erratic, trailing behavior of typical comets

August 17, 1801

Salisbury

Journal, P3

Reprint of Aug. 12 article

In Bury & Norwich Post

ASTRONOMY.—The New COMET discovered by Piazzi, the Italian Astronomer, is situated between Mars and Jupiter.—Mr. Capel Loft says, “ This discovery had been expected pretty early in the last century by Mac-laurin, and others. And I think myself fortunate that in March 1800, in reviewing the Athenian Letters in the New London Review, I ventured to hint an expectation of it: and to offer conjectures relative to its size and probable distance, apparent magnitude, and degree of light: which have not, I think, been very far from the truth. May we not hope that this Planet will be distinguished by a name consonant to the mythologic analogy, which has given their appellations to the so long known parts of our system: and that it will be called, in an age of science, Minerva? A glorious opening of the 19th century, it assuredly is, to have made such a discovery as this of Piazzi, on the first day of the New Century, Jan. 1, 1801.”

August 18, 1801

Hull Packet: P4

Nomenclature:

Lofft's

suggestion of

Minerva gets

more publicity

A NEW PLANET.

AN important circumstance in Astronomy has just occurred, no less than the discovery of another New Planet.—This celestial phenomenon moves between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter, and is an intermediate planet between them. It was discovered by M. Piazzi, an Italian Astronomer, on the 1st of January, 1801. He concealed the discovery, to preserve all the honour and observations to himself; till, after six weeks close watching, he fell ill. It will not be in a situation, with regard to the sun, to be observed again, till a month or two hence. It is but a small planet, ranking only as a star of the eighth magnitude, and therefore not visible to the naked eye. Its motion is nearly parallel to the ecliptic, at present about four degrees and a half to the north of it, and nearly entering the sign Leo. The distance from the sun is about two three-fifths times that of the earth, and the periodical time nearly four years and two months.—Mr. Capel Lofft, of Troston, near Bury, has suggested the propriety (in this age of science) of calling the New Planet *Minerva*.

August 20, 1801

Exeter Flying

Post: P2

V 36, no. 1975

“Glorious
opening
of 19th C”

ASTRONOMY.—The New COMET discovered by
Piazzi, the Italian Astronomer, is situated between

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Piazzi used this transit instrument in Palermo Observatory to discover Ceres.
"It was with this instrument," Piazzi said to an interviewer in 1808, *"I ascertained that the Ceres Ferdinandeia is a planet."*



September 13, 1801

Allgemeine Zeitung

Published in Mainz

Describes Zach's work

at Seeberg Observatory,

including as editor of the MC

Der neue Planet.

Endlich sind die Beobachtungen des neuen Piazzischen Gestirns, die **Piazz** in Palermo absichtlich verborgen hielt, und wovon er, als dis nicht füglich länger geschehen konnte, mehrere irrige Abschriften mitgetheilt hatte, von dem H. Obristleutnant v. Zach auf der Seeberger Sternwarte in einer verbürgten und korrekten Abschrift durch das neueste Stük der monatlichen Korrespondenz zur Beförderung der Erd- und Himmelskunde * allen Freunden der Astronomie mitgetheilt worden. Nur die zweite und vierte Kolumne in dieser äußerst merkwürdigen Tafel, nemlich die gerade Aufsteigung des Gestirns in Zeit, und die nördliche Abweichung, sind von Palermo eingeschikt, alle übrigen Rubriken von dem H. v. Zach mit der von ihm bekannten unvergleichlichen Genauigkeit ausgerechnet worden. Bis zu dem Tage, wo jene Nachricht gegeben wurde, (den 26 Aug.), haben auf der Gotha'schen Sternwarte weder Witterung noch andre Umstände die Aufsuchung dieses Gestirns begünstigen wollen. Derselbe Fall scheint bis jetzt auf andern Sternwarten eingetreten zu seyn. Indes bleibt noch immer die höchste Wahrscheinlichkeit, daß das Piazzische Gestirn der längst vermuthete neue Haupt-Planet zwischen dem Mars und Jupiter sey. Derselben Meinung ist auch der schwedische Astronom zu Stockholm, Melandrielm, dessen interessanter Brief vom 22 Jul. H. v. Zach zugleich mittheilt.

September 14, 1802

Gazette nationale, ou le moniteur universel (Paris)

Describes formation of the 'Celestial Police'

with Johann Schroeter as its president

Stuttgart, le 6 septembre (19 fructidor.)

Six astronomes de Lilienthal, près de Bremen, ont formé une association de 24 astronomes pratiques, chargés de correspondre de différens endroits de l'Europe, et dont le but sera la recherche de la planète que l'on croit devoir exister entre Mars et Jupiter, vu la grande distance de l'un à l'autre. Déjà M. Bode, astronome connu, a prétendu que cette planète à découvrir n'était autre chose que la comète vue par **Piazzi**. Mais l'association ne s'est pas contentée de cette idée; elle s'est choisi un président qui est M. Schroeter, de Lilienthal; elle a partagé tout le zodiaque entre les 24 associés correspondans, afin que chacun dans son département pût saisir plus aisément la piste du corps céleste dont on veut connaître la position. Presque tous les astronomes qu'on avait désignés ont accepté cette tâche honorable. L. A. S. le duc et la duchesse de Gotha, secondant le zèle de M. de Zach, auteur du projet, ont fait présent à M. Wurm, professeur à Blaubeuren, des instrumens dont il avait besoin pour faire ses observations. M. Sniaderly, professeur à Cracovie, n'a pu accepter la partie du zodiaque qu'on lui offrait, parce que l'université de Cracovie va être supprimée, et qu'il lui faudra renoncer à l'Observatoire de cette ville.

October 5, 1801

Allgemeine Zeitung

Der sogenannte, vom Astronomen **Piazz** in Palermo entdeckte, neue Hauptplanet wird nunmehr von ihm selbst für einen Kometen gehalten. Folgendes sind seine eigenen Worte in einem Schreiben aus Palermo vom 4 Aug., an H. Professor Seyffer von Göttingen: „In den ersten Tagen schien mir der Stern von achter Größe zu seyn, und ich schätzte seinen Diameter zu 7 Sekunden. In den letzten Tagen (gegen den 11 Febr.) war sein Licht sehr vermindert: deshalb veränderte ich meine Meinung über seine Beschaffenheit, und hielt ihn nun für einen Kometen.“

This report alludes to a letter from Piazz to Seyffer of 4 August, 1801. Zach was outraged!

**Zach admonishes the German newspapers:
the first engagement of a science journal with
the press.**

“In the newspapers, it was supposedly stated that Prof Seyffer in Goettingen received a letter from Piazzi, in which he informs him that he now declares the star to be a comet. But this rests entirely on an error regarding the date. Piazzi’s letter proves at most that the date of this letter was either incorrectly written or falsely cited, or that this entire letter was misunderstood.”

Zach admonishes the German newspapers (2)

“The report of Seyffer’s letter therefore came to the political newspapers at an inopportune moment, and the sender was therefore probably not familiar with what goes on in astronomy. Otherwise, he would not have allowed this report of a limping messenger to appear in the newspaper, through which he only led the public into confusion.”

Zach admonishes the German newspapers (3)

“In another newspaper, this report is contradicted, with the entire letter from Piazzini to Seyffer called into question and declared apocryphal. We confess candidly that we do not find the least cause to doubt this letter.”

Monthly Correspondence, Nov. issue, 558-582

November 1, 1801

Weltchronik : e. Zeitschr.

für d. bildungsfähige

u. gebildete Publikum

This page 8 story discusses Bode's Law from
1772

and the nomenclature

controversy: Juno vs Ceres Ferdinanda

Piazzi in Palermo hatte das Glück einen neuen bisher unbekannten Planeten unsers Sonnensystems zu entdecken. Einige teutsche Zeitungen meldeten, er erkläre ihn jetzt für einen Cometen und habe dieses in einem Briefe vom 4ten August dem Herrn Professor Seyffer zu Göttingen geschrieben. Diese Nachricht ist, wie man aus den neuesten Briefen des Herrn Piazzi an den berühmten Bode zu Berlin, der diesen Planeten schon 1772 aus Berechnungen ankündigte, sehen kann, ungegründet. Der erste von diesen Briefen ist vom 1sten August, der zweyte vom 25sten August und am 2ten Oct. zu Berlin eingetroffen, und eine gedruckte Nachricht über den neuen Planeten ist dort erst am 24sten Oct. angekommen und von Herrn Bode dem Herrn von Zach für seine monatliche Correspondenz übersendet worden. Dieser neue Planet wird in diesem Monat wieder sichtbar werden. Er ist aber so klein, daß er mit den blossen Augen nie wahrgenommen werden wird, die teutschen Astronomen haben ihm schon den Namen Juno, oder Here, gegeben. Herr Piazzi will ihn Ceres Ferdinanda genannt wissen. Ceres wohnte, nach der alten Religionslehre, auf Sicilien, wo jetzt die Entdeckung gemacht worden ist. Der zweyte Name bezieht sich auf den König von Neapel, den Erbauer der Sternwarte von Palermo.

November 5, 1801

National-Zeitung der Deutschen

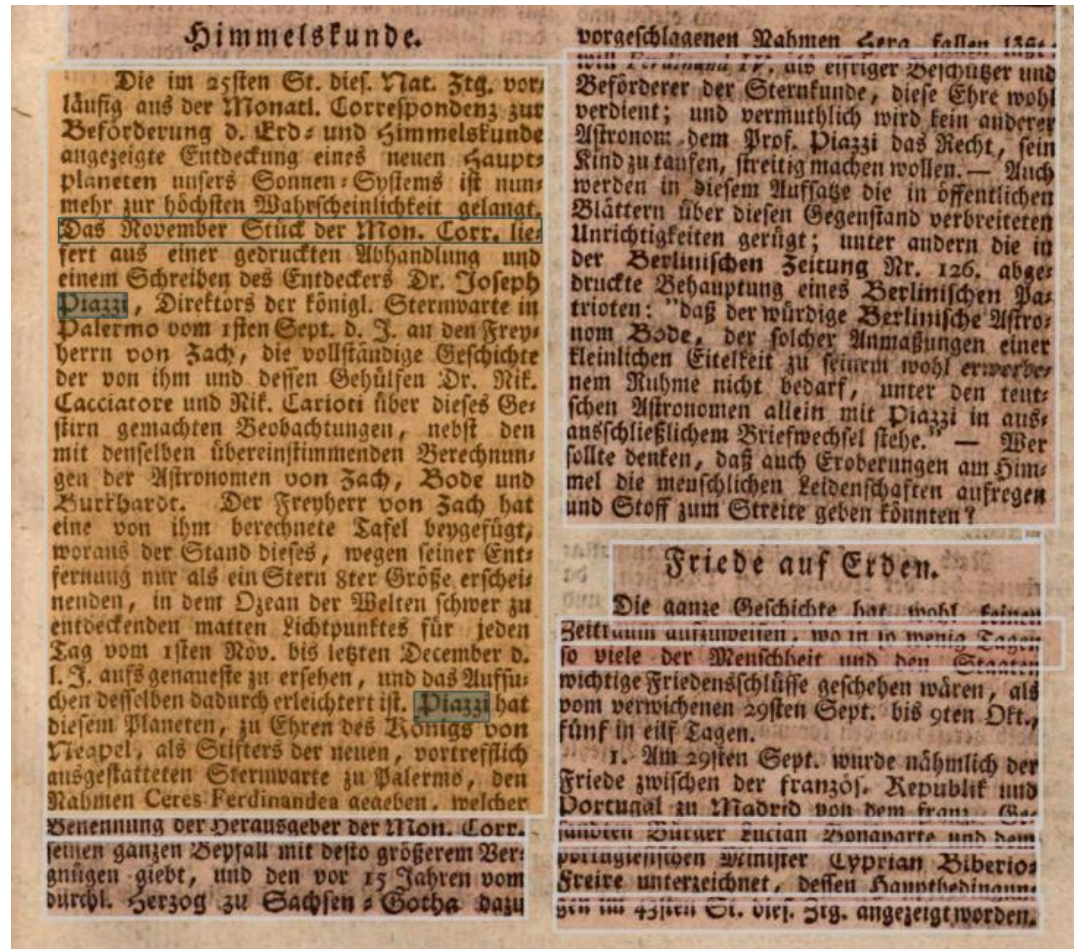
Published in Gotha,

where Zach had his

observatory.

Only newspaper report

to mention Cacciatore



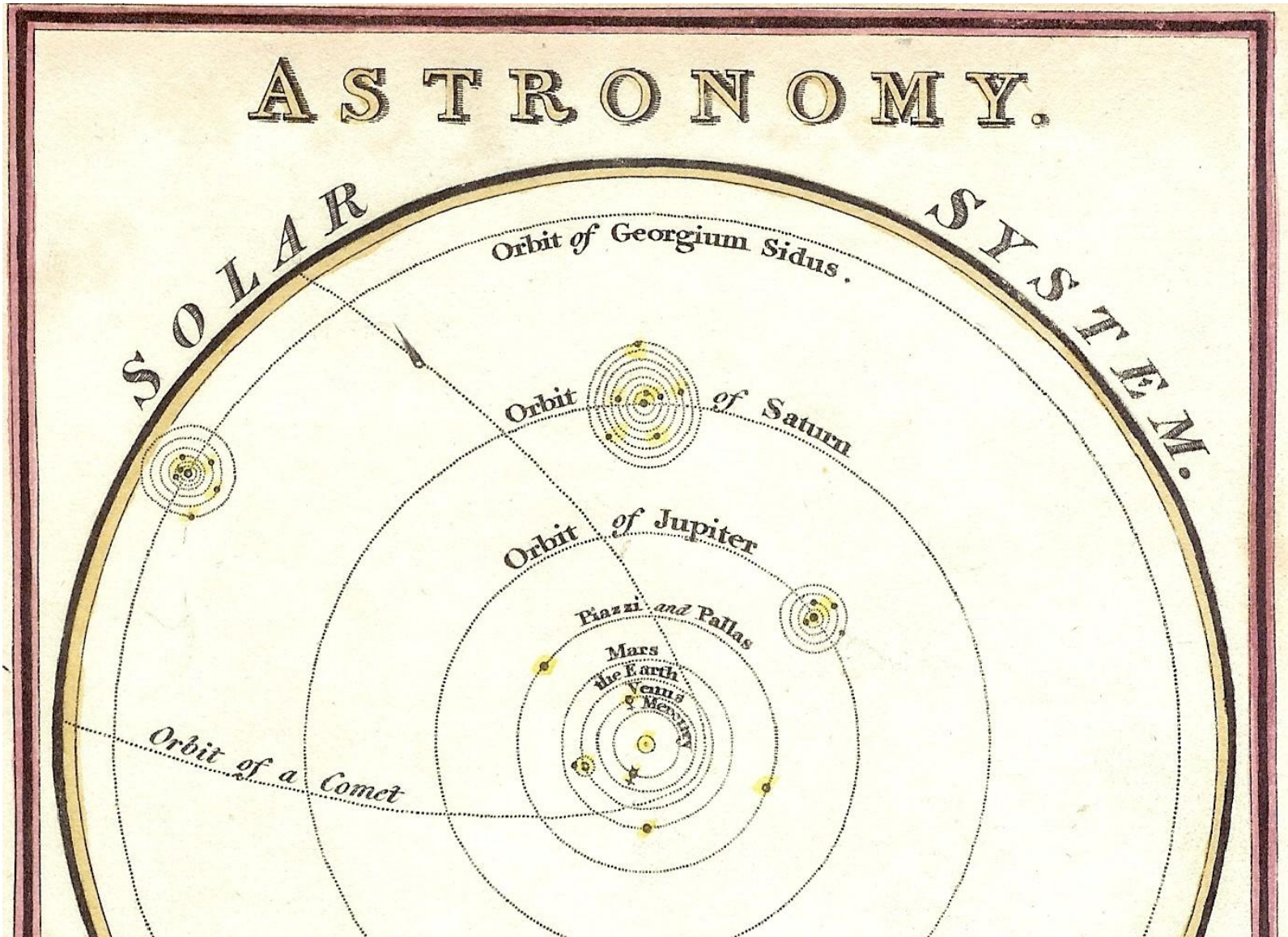
November 6, 1801

Allgemeine Zeitung

on the nomenclature controversy: Juno or Hera or Ceres
Ferdinanda

Die Berliner Zeitung vom 22. Okt. enthält folgende Nachricht: „In zwei Briefen vom 1. und 25. Aug., welche unser Vode vom Piazzi aus Palermo erhalten, erklärt dieser Astronom, daß er jetzt den am 1. Jan. entdeckten Stern, wie Vode, für den fehlenden Planeten halte, und daß er sich nur durch das schwache Licht desselben habe irre führen lassen. Vor dem November wird dieser Stern nicht wieder sichtbar, den viele deutsche Astronomen nach den Götternamen der übrigen Planeten, Juno oder Hera nennen, Piazzi aber Ceres Ferdinanda (nach der der Ceres heiligen Insel Sicilien und ihrem jetzigen Regenten) genannt wissen will.“

In this 1802 map, the first planetoid is called Piazzi !



November 16, 1801

Göttingische Anzeigen von gelehrten Sachen

Recounts the observations from Jan. 1 to Feb. 11

Göttingen.
Hr. **Piazzi**, Director der königl. Sternwarte zu Palermo, hat unserm Hrn. Prof. Seyffer in einem Schreiben aus Palermo vom 4. August Beobachtungen und berechnete Elemente des neuen, von ihm den 1. Januar entdeckten, Sterns mitgetheilt. Der Stern wurde vom 1. Jan. bis zum 11. Februar, so oft es der Himmel erlaubte, beobachtet. Der Beobachtungen sind 24. Unter diesen 24 Beobachtungen sind 5 sehr ungewiß, und 3 etwas zweifelhaft. Der Stern erschien in den ersten Tagen von der achten Größe, und Hr. P. schätzte aus der Bedeckung des Fadens seinen Durchmesser zu 7 Sekunden. In den letzten Tagen der Beobachtung, gegen den 11. Februar, nahm er sehr an seinem Lichte ab; dieser Umstand bewog Hrn. P., seine Meinung über die Natur dieses Sterns, da er anfangs geneigt war, ihn für einen Planeten zu halten, zu ändern, und hernach zu glauben, daß

November 18, 1801

Pforzheimer wöchentliche Nachrichten

Published in Karlsruhe.

A lengthy article that on a
second page lists all the planets,
including Ceres,
with their orbital periods and
distance from the Sun

Neuigkeiten.
[Neuentdeckter Planet.] Schon vor 40 Jahren vermuthete der berühmte Astronom Lambert, aus dem Verhältniß des Abstandes der Planeten von der Sonne, daß zwischen dem Mars und dem Jupiter noch ein Hauptplanet laufen, oder daß er durch einen Kometen aus seiner Bahn gerissen, und als Trabant im unermesslichen Weltraum mit fortgeführt worden (und also, nach unserer Sprache zu reden, für die Bewohner dieses Weltkörpers schon der jüngste Tag gekommen) seyn müsse. Vergeblich hatten sich die Sternkundigen bisher bemüht, diesen Planeten am Himmel zu entdecken. Höchst wahrscheinlich aber ist dieses nun dem Astronomen Joseph Piazzi, Direktor der königl. Sicilianischen Sternwarte zu Palermo, am ersten Tage des 19. Jahrhunderts gelungen, an welchem Tage (1. Jan. 1801.) er einen neuen Stern in dem Zeichen des Stiers, als einen Stern der 8ten Größe, bemerkte, in 23 hellen u. in 7 halbgünstigen Nächten bis am 11. Febr. beobachtete, aus wahrscheinlichen Gründen (die hier nicht auseinandergesetzt werden können, m. s. von Zachs monatl. Corresp. Nov. Hest. S. 558—582) ihn für den längst vermutheten neuen Hauptplaneten hält, und ihm den Namen Ceres Ferdinanda gegeben hat. (Den Beinamen zu Ehren des Königs von Neapel, Ferdinand IV., als eifrigen Beschützers und Beförderers der Sternkunde). Wegen seiner geringen Größe und seiner großen Entfernung war er in den Sommermonaten nicht zu sehen, in diesen Wintermona-

December 8, 1801

A sensational article appeared in the Berlin newspaper on this date. It was reprinted as far away as Spain, in the January 12, 1802 issue of the *Gazette de Madrid*.

“The astronomer Bode received two letters from Piazzini of Palermo, which claims to be already persuaded, as was the same Bode, the star discovered on January 13 [sic] of this year was a planet.

December 8, 1801 continued

“Astronomers of Germany proposed to give the name of Juno by analogy with the other planets, but Piazzi wants to give the name Ceres Ferdinanda, referring to Sicily, the domain of Ceres, and the ruling monarch of the island.”

December 8, 1801 continued

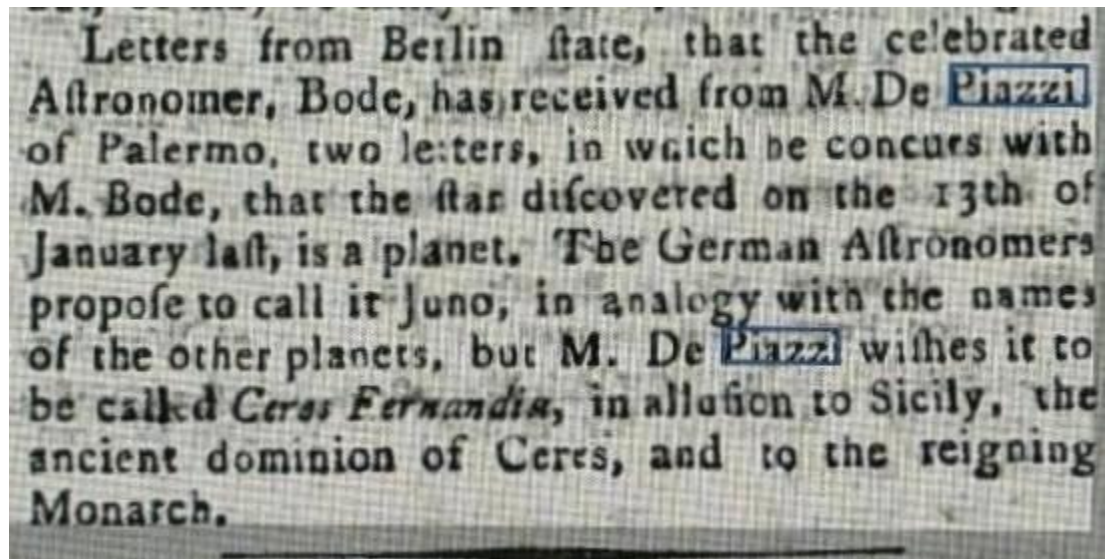
The incendiary article in the *Weekly Dispatch* was reprinted in the *Hamburger Zeitung* on January 12, 1802, and the Munich newspaper *Kurpfalzbaierische Müncher Stuttszeitung* on Jan. 30. To ensure that the public regarded his presence to be at the root of the discovery of Ceres, Bode had his explanation of 'Bode's Law' fed to the willing press. Zach's diatribe in the Nov. MC did nothing to dissuade him.

December 22, 1801

General Evening Post:

P1

No. 10805



Letters from Berlin state, that the celebrated Astronomer, Bode, has received from M. De Piazzi of Palermo, two letters, in which he concurs with M. Bode, that the star discovered on the 13th of January last, is a planet. The German Astronomers propose to call it Juno, in analogy with the names of the other planets, but M. De Piazzi wishes it to be called *Ceres Ferdinandia*, in allusion to Sicily, the ancient dominion of Ceres, and to the reigning Monarch.

Nomenclature Controversy; and it has discovery date as 13 January

December 22, 1801

**Whitehall Evening Post (P2), and London
Chronicle reprinted the *General Evening Post***

December 27, 1801

Weekly
Dispatch
(London)

No. 14

‘Fernandia’

Bode’s Law;

Jan. 13 error

A NEW PLANET.—On the 13th of January last, a new Star was discovered ; and M. De Piazzi, of Palermo, and M. Bode, of Berlin have agreed that it is a planet whose orbit is between those of Mars and Jupiter. The German Astronomers propose to call it *Juno*, but Piazzi wishes it to be *Ceres Fernandia*, in allusion to Sicily, the antient dominion of Ceres ; and to the reigning Monarch.

M. Bode was the first who conjectured that there was an intermediate planet between Mars and Jupiter. The following are the data on which he founded this opinion, which is now about to be verified.

Let the distance from Saturn to the Sun be		-	100
1 Mercury will be distant from the Sun	4	of these parts	4
2 Venus	-	4 and 3	- 7
3 The Earth	-	4 and 6	- 10
4 Mars	-	4 and 12	- 16
5 The Intermediate Planet	-	4 and 24	- 28
6 Jupiter	-	4 and 48	- 52
7 Saturn	-	4 and 96	- 100
8 Uranus or the Georgium Sidus	-	4 and 192	- 196

It is not probable that there should be an interruption in so regular a series. It may also be observed, that as the squares of the periods of the revolutions of the two planets are as the cubes of their distances from the Sun, the planet situated between Mars and Jupiter will perform its revolution in four years and a half.

January 12, 1802

Hamburger Zeitung:

“A new planet discovery that Mr. Piazzi had made 1 January 1801, and astronomers had sought unsuccessfully for four months, was observed again.”

And so, the story of rediscovery goes on...

THEMES

The Naming Stalemate: A resistance among English (Minerva) and German astronomers (Juno) toward the name ***Ceres Ferdinanda***. While Piazzi had selected this name to honor both the patron goddess of Sicily and King Ferdinand III of Sicily, intellectual circles expressed a strong preference for dropping the royal political suffix *Ferdinanda* in favor of a strictly classical, politically neutral title.

THEMES

The "Lost" Planet Crisis: Articles towards end of 1801 recapped the intense frustration of the search. Because Ceres had been obscured by the Sun's glare for months, observers at Greenwich and across Europe were essentially operating blindly.

Nature of Object: Newspapers reported Ceres as a planet, a comet and a star.

Five-Volume series on the Asteroids



1958 Comic





Lady Blessington