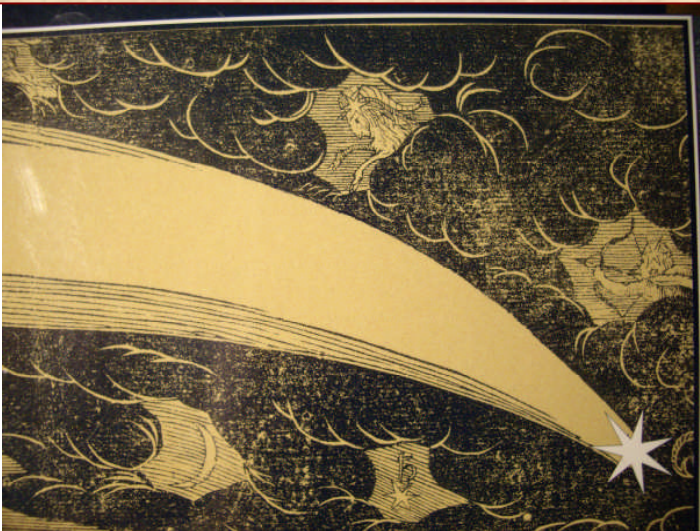


(Left) Mimbres feathered-flying celestial entity by a mammal-fish constellation in the Milky Way (hence the checkerboarding motif); (Center and right) Mimbres comet image (rotated) by a bird constellation and this singular motif repainted by author.

COMETS and CONSTELLATIONS

The ancient Chinese court astronomers kept careful records of their constellations and “lunar mansions” (roughly like our Zodiac) which the great comets of yesteryear passed thru in those migrations sometimes observed for weeks or months. The constellation where a great comet was first discovered was important visually, or its sky location during its most dramatic perihelion pose may have held intense meaning for the astute skywatchers of yesteryear.



The Jiri Daschitzky image of the great comet of 1577 (Don Yeomans collection) depicts the artist drawing the comet by an assistant's held candlelight as the great comet stretched along the ecliptic from Sagittarius thru Capricorn, Aquarius, Pisces, and past Aries. (*See cover Schechner 1997)

