

FLEMING 1 PLANETARY NEBULA
R. A. _____
DEC. 11 20 30
CLASS. 62060



WILLIAMINA FLEMING WAS A SCOTTISH WOMAN WHO BEGAN HER LIFE IN AMERICA AS THE MAID OF PROF. EDWARD PICKERING, THE DIRECTOR OF THE HARVARD OBSERVATORY. REALIZING HER POTENTIAL, HE SOON APPOINTED HER TO BE ONE OF THE FIRST FEMALE "CALCULATORS" OF STELLAR SPECTRA, WHERE SHE DISCOVERED THE PLANETARY NEBULA FLEMING 1 ALONG WITH OVER 300 VARIABLE STARS AND 10 NOVAE. SHE WAS ALSO THE FIRST TO RECOGNIZE THE EXISTENCE OF WHITE DWARFS AND IS MOST RECOGNIZABLY KNOWN FOR HER DISCOVERY OF THE HORSEHEAD NEBULA. SHE BECAME THE FIRST WOMAN TO HOLD AN OFFICIAL POSITION AT THE OBSERVATORY AS THE CURATOR OF ASTRONOMICAL PHOTOGRAPHS IN 1899.

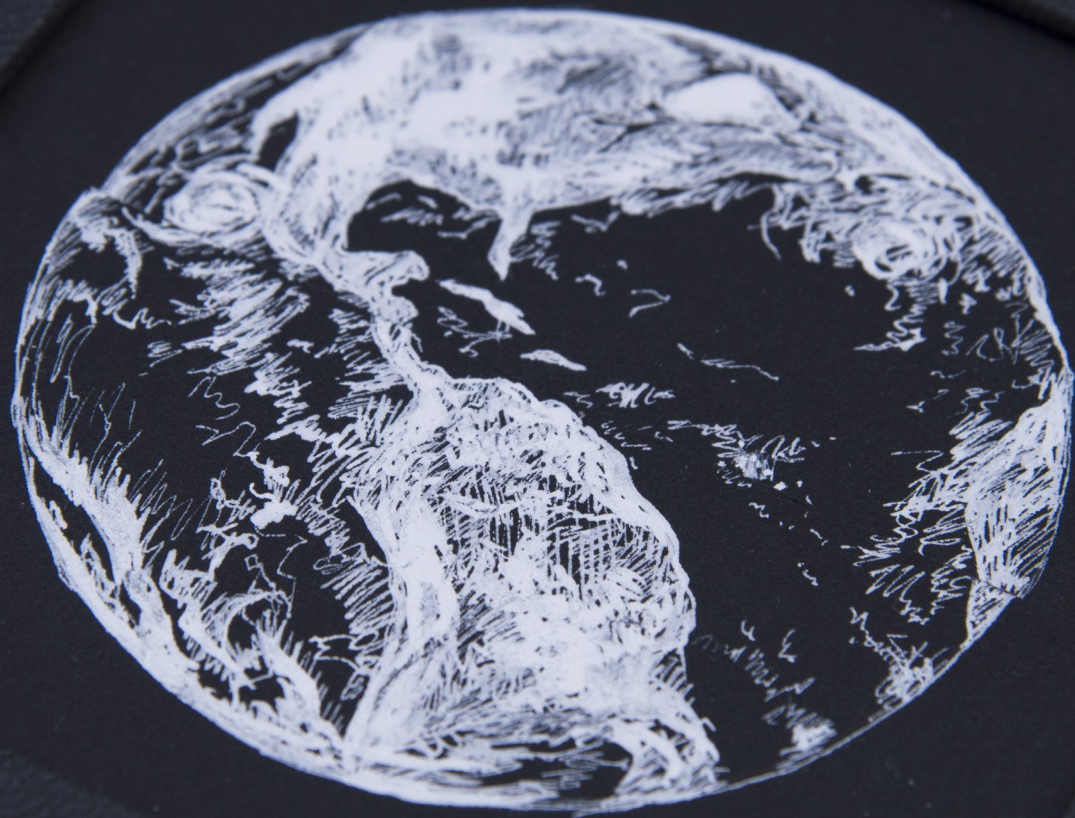
AT THE TIME, FLEMING COULD ONLY DISTINGUISH THE PLANETARY NEBULA AS JUST A BLURRED OBJECT IN SPACE, BUT IT IS NOW UNDERSTOOD TO BE AN ENORMOUS INTERSTELLAR CLOUD OF IONIZED GASES, HOUSING A PAIR OF WHITE

EARTH

0 LIGHT YEARS



EARTH



0 LIGHT YEARS

FLEMING I PLANETARY NEBULA

R.A.

11:28:36

DEC.

52:56:04

CLASS,

L

WILLIAMINA FLEMING WAS A SCOTTISH WOMAN WHO
BEGAN HER LIFE IN AMERICA AS THE MAID OF PROF. EDWARD
PICKERING. THE DIRECTOR OF THE HARVARD OBSERVATORY.
REALIZING HER POTENTIAL, HE SOON APPOINTED HER TO BE
ONE OF THE FIRST FEMALE "CALCULATORS" OF STELLAR
SPECTRA, WHERE SHE DISCOVERED THE PLANETARY NEBULA
FLEMING 1 ALONG WITH OVER 300 VARIABLE STARS AND 10
NOVAE. SHE WAS ALSO THE FIRST TO RECOGNIZE THE
EXISTENCE OF WHITE DWARFS AND IS MOST RECOGNIZABLY
KNOWN FOR HER DISCOVERY OF THE HORSEHEAD NEBULA.
SHE BECAME THE FIRST WOMAN TO HOLD AN OFFICIAL
POSITION AT THE OBSERVATORY AS THE CURATOR OF
ASTRONOMICAL PHOTOGRAPHS IN 1899.

AT THE TIME, FLEMING COULD ONLY DISTINGUISH THE
PLANETARY NEBULA AS JUST A BLURRED OBJECT IN SPACE, BUT
IT IS NOW UNDERSTOOD TO BE AN ENORMOUS INTERSTELLAR
CLOUD OF IONIZED GASES. HOUSING A PAIR OF WHITE
DWARFS, THE FAST ORBIT OF THE STARS CREATES TWO NEARLY
SYMMETRIC HELIXES. FLEMING 1 IS THE FIRST OF THESE.