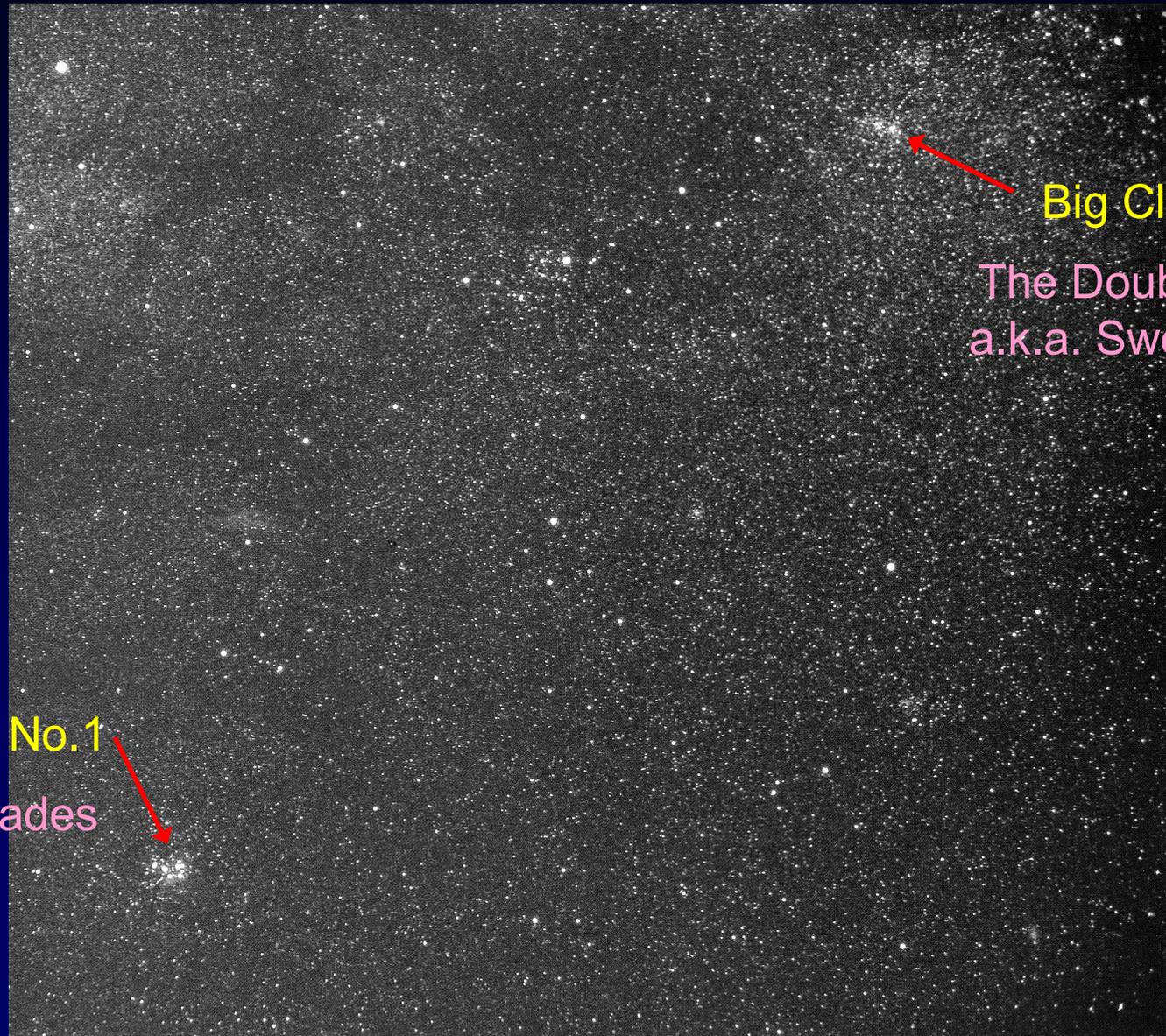


# December's Suggested Constellation - but which one?



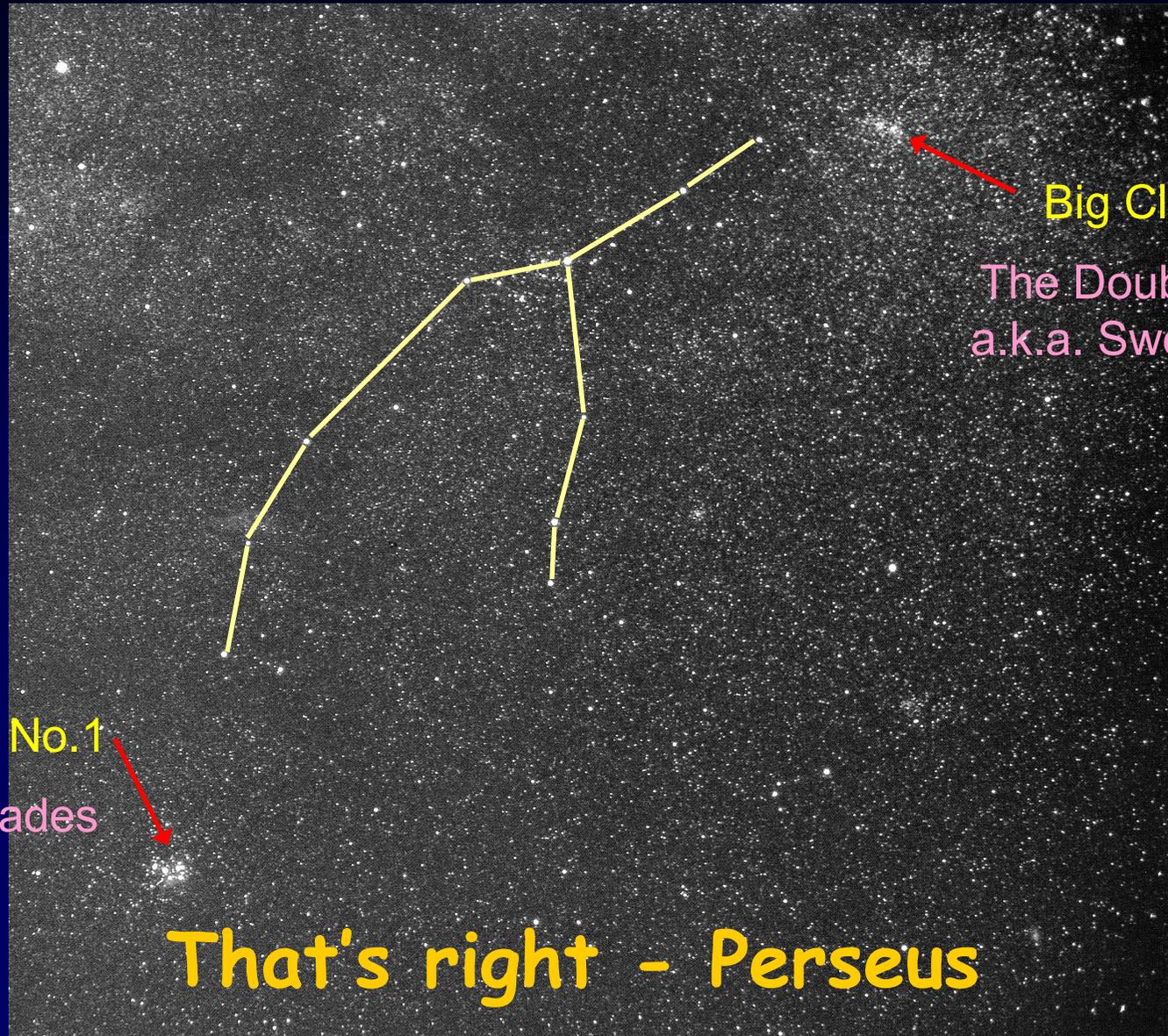
Big Clue No.1

The Pleiades

Big Clue No.2

The Double Cluster  
a.k.a. Sword Handle

# December's Suggested Constellation - but which one?



Big Clue No.1

The Pleiades

Big Clue No.2

The Double Cluster  
a.k.a. Sword Handle

That's right - Perseus

# December's Suggested Constellation



A SERIES OF 50 No. 45

## OUT INTO SPACE

*Approved by A. Hunter, Ph.D.,  
Sec. Royal Astronomical Society*

### PERSEUS

This Northern Hemisphere constellation is called after the Greek legendary hero, Perseus, son of Jupiter, who rescued Andromeda, daughter of Cassiopeia, from the sea monster. Heis records 136 stars visible therein without telescopic aid. Its main stars are Mirfak, a navigational star, and Algol—a star which varies from second to fourth magnitude, then back to second in about seven hours, and remaining at its greatest lustre for nearly 3 days. Perseus is in the Milky Way, north of Taurus, south of Cassiopeia, east of Triangulum and west of Auriga.

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Where is it?

At the zenith  
10.00 p.m.  
mid-month





## Messier Objects in Perseus



**M34 (NGC 1039)**

Open Cluster

**Distance** 1,450 light years

**Visual Brightness** Magnitude 5.2

**Apparent Dimension** 25.0 arc minutes

**Discovered** 1764 Charles Messier



**M76 (NGC 650/651)**

Little Dumbbell Nebula

**Distance** 3,900 light years

**Visual Brightness** Magnitude 10.1

**Apparent Dimension** 67 arc seconds

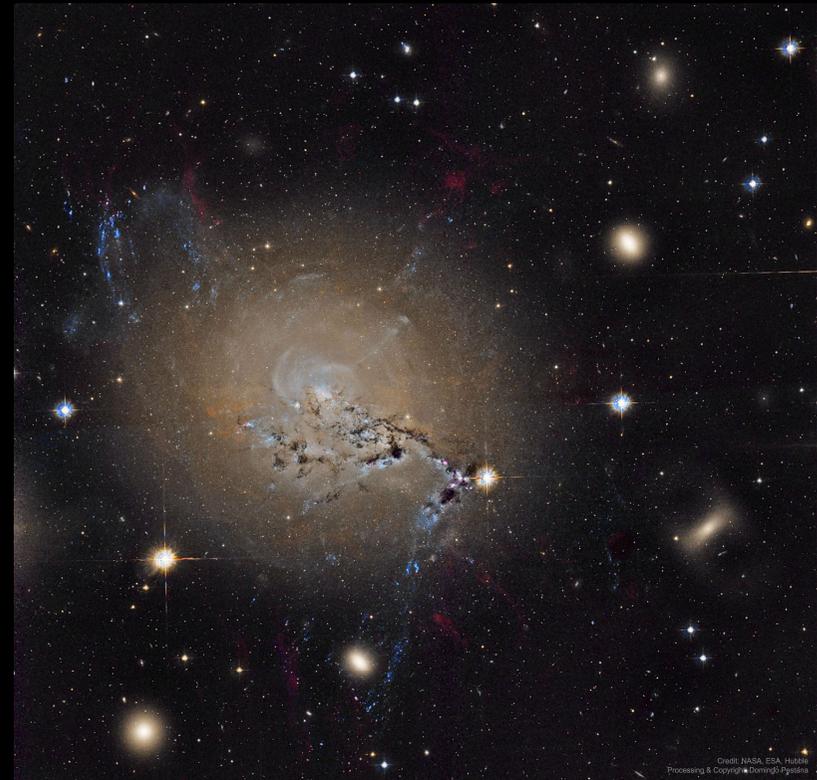
**Discovered** 1780 by Pierre Mechain

# Caldwell Objects in Perseus



**C14 (NGC 884/869)**  
The Double Cluster

**Distance** 7,300 light years  
**Visual Brightness Magnitude** 5.3/4.5  
**Apparent Dimension** 18.0 arc minutes  
**Discovered** known since antiquity



**C24 (NGC 1275)**  
Perseus A Galaxy

**Distance** 230,000,000 light years  
**Visual Brightness Magnitude** 11.9  
**Apparent Dimension** 3.2x2.3 arc secs  
**Discovered** 1867 by H.d'Arrest

Also in Perseus



NGC 1499

The California Nebula

**Distance 1,000 light years**

**Visual Brightness Magnitude 5.3/4.5**

**Apparent Dimension 160 x 40 arc minutes**