

consulted 8.4.05

Cambridge, Emmanuel College

Ms 70

Bartolommeo da Parma, *Breviloquium*

English

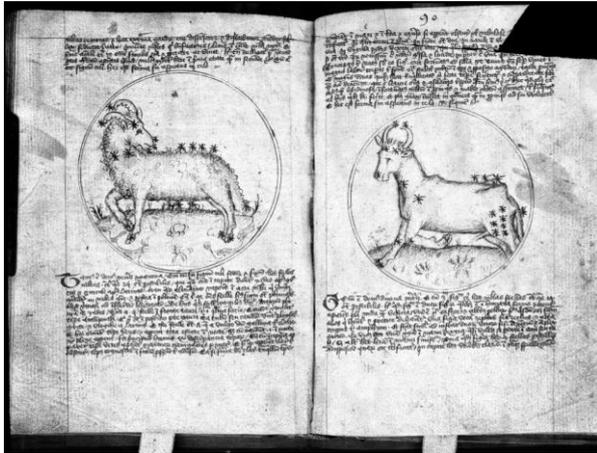
15th century

The manuscript is a fifteenth-century version of Bartolommeo da Parma's *Breviloquium de fructu tocus astronomie* (1286), written by the well-known English composer, John Dunstable. The illustrations and text derive primarily from Michael Scot's *Liber introductorium*.

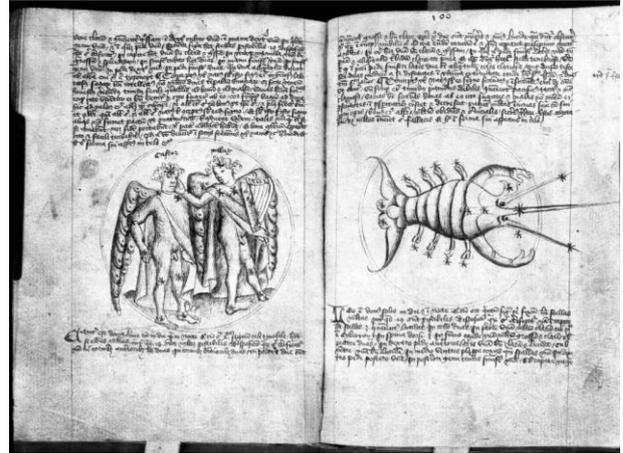
text

- ff. 80r-110v Bartolommeo da Parma, *Breviloquium de fructu tocus astronomie*
(note: pages are numbered twice: once in ink in the top of the middle of each recto (possibly contemporary) and once in pencil on the top right of each recto. We have used the modern pencil numbers throughout.)
- fol. 80r Incipit brevilquium magistri Bartholomei nacione Parmensis Bononie compilat et confirmatum per prudentes viros de fructu tocus astronomie ad preces Domini Thedisii de Fusco anno 1286°. Scribit philosophus in primo libro metaphisice ...
- fol. 81r ... que intendet cum auxilio eterni dei. Explicit prologus. Incipit libellus brevilqui magistri Bartholomei Bononie compilate ad preces domini Thedesij de Fusco qui fuit lanua [Genoa]. Gloriosus et eternus Deus qui facit mirabilia magna solus ...
- ff. 87v-110v (section containing constellations illustrations) Philosophi quondam multis experimentis noverunt celum esse stellatum ...
- fol. 118v ... et vistor multorum suorum inimicorum. Cuius hec est forma sui aspectus in celo. Explicit brevilquium magistri Bartholomei nacione Parmensis Bononiae compilatum et confirmatum per prudentes viros de fructu artis tocus astronomie ad preces domini Thesisij de Fusco anno 1286°. Dunstaple. Deo gracias.

ff. 111r-111v blank



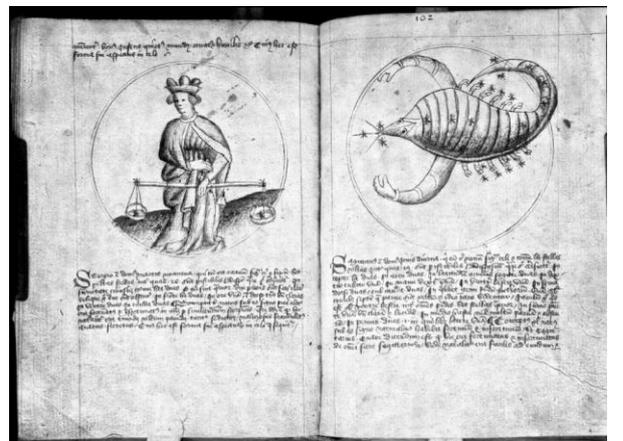
ff. 89v - 90r



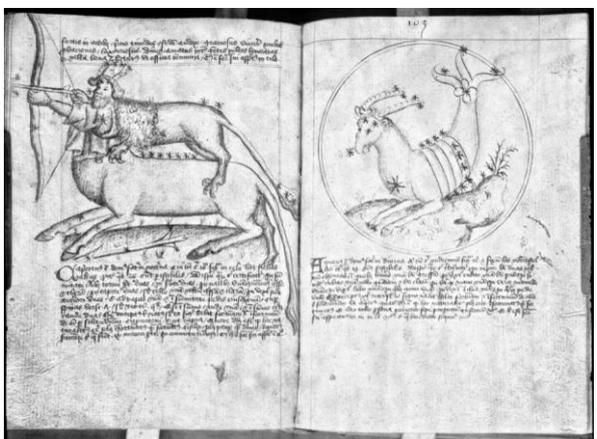
ff. 90v - 91r



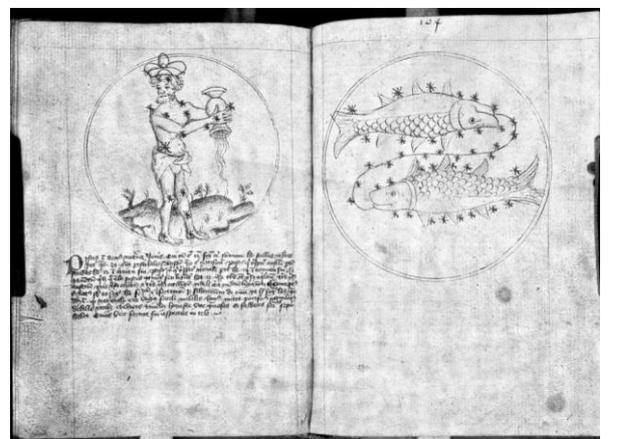
ff. 91v - 92r



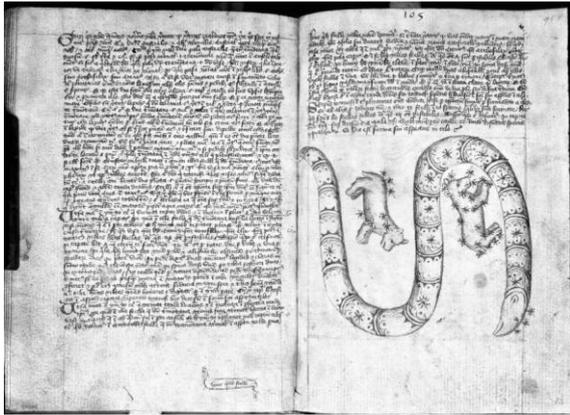
ff. 92v - 93r



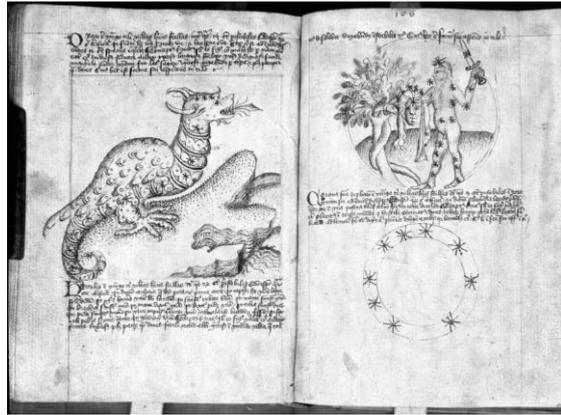
ff. 93v - 94r



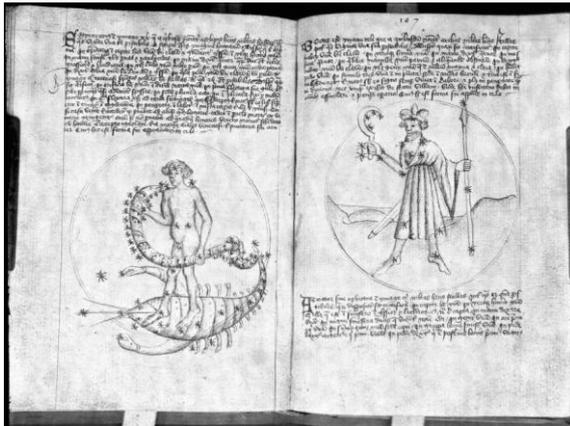
ff. 94v - 95r



ff. 95v - 96r



ff. 96v - 97r



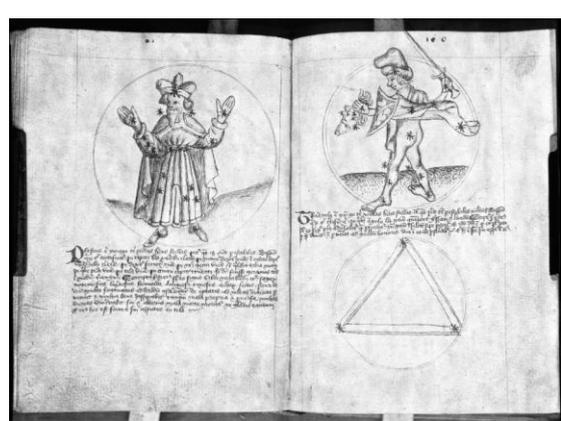
ff. 97v - 98r



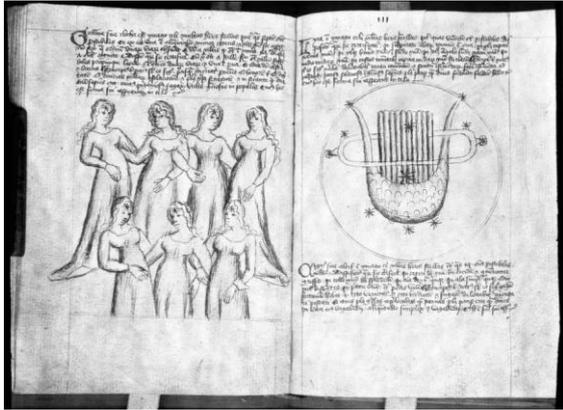
ff. 98v - 99r



ff. 99v - 100r



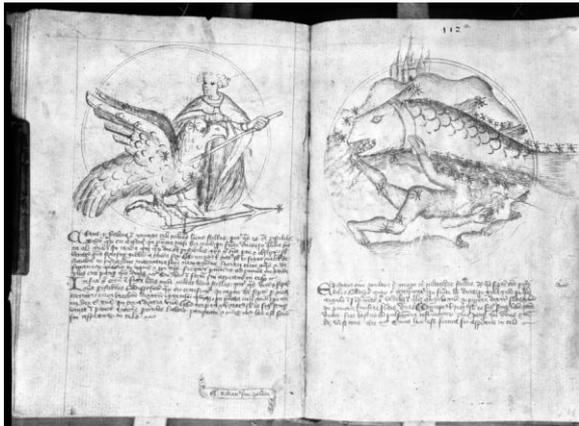
ff. 100v - 101r



ff. 101v - 102r



ff. 102v - 103r



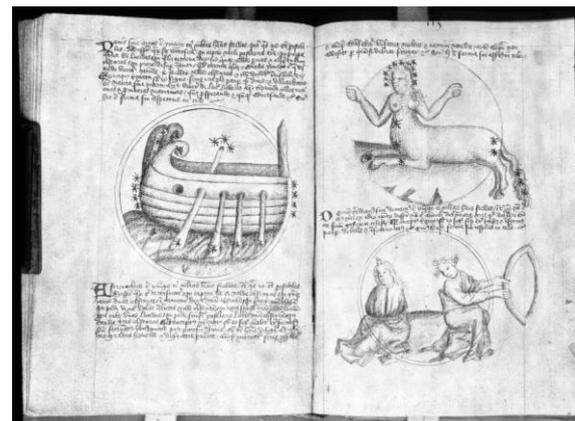
ff. 103v - 104r



ff. 104v - 105r



ff. 105v - 106r



ff. 106v - 107r



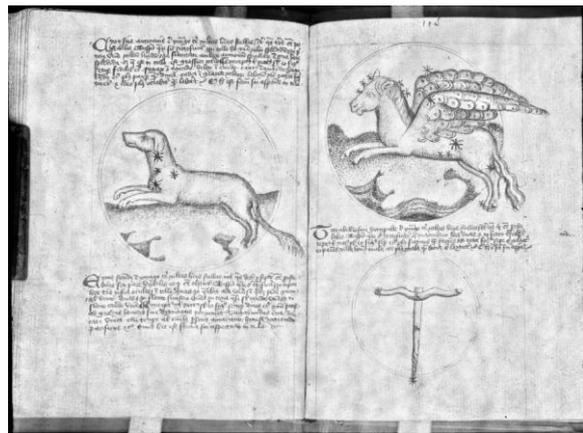
ff. 107v - 108r



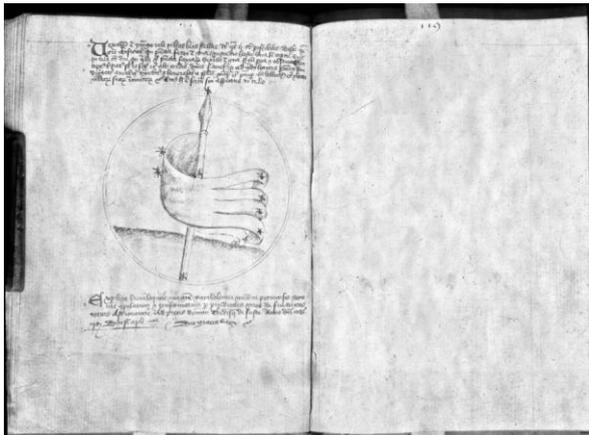
fol. 108r



ff. 108v - 109r



ff. 109v - 110r



fol. 110v

illustrations

ff. 89v- 110v

Very fine black pen drawings of 43 constellations. Sagitta is depicted three times. Draco and Scorpio and are depicted twice. There are also the extra figures of the Pleiades ('Gallina sive clocha'), Vultur cadens, 'Eridanus sive jocularor' (Michael

Scot's 'Figura sonantis canonis'), Austronotus, Demon Meridianus (*sic*), Equus Secundus, Tarabellum and Vexillia. All of the zodiacal and some of the non-zodiacal constellations are set within double-framed circles and within a landscape setting. The constellations are marked with red star shapes.

fol. 89v **ARIES** walks to the left and turns his head back to the right. His right front foot is raised and he has a long tail. He has 1 star in each horn, 1 in the head, 3 on the nose, 2 on the neck, 4 on the back, 1 on the tail, 3 on the belly and 1 on each foot, or 20 stars in all.

fol. 90r **TAURUS** is a full bull (though the frame cuts off his hind legs from the knee) and walks to the left with his left front foot raised. He has 1 star on each horn, 3 on the face, 1 on the neck, 1 on the shoulder, 1 on each front knee, 2 on the right front hoof, 3 on the rump and 1 on the tail, or 15 stars in all. In addition, there are 7 stars on his hind flank, representing the **PLEIADES**.

fol. 90v **GEMINI** (labelled: 'Castor' and 'Pollux' in red) are two nude, male youths standing to the right. They wear long cloaks that cover their left shoulders and have long wings. The right Twin touches the cheek of the other Twin with his right hand and he carries a harp in his left hand. The left Twin has 1 star on the head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on his right elbow, 1 on his right hand, 1 on each knee and 1 on each foot, or 9 stars in all. The right Twin star on has 1 star on his head, 2 stars on the chest, 1 on the left knee, 1 on the right foot, 2 on the left foot and 3 on the harp, or 10 stars in all.

fol. 91r: **CANCER** is a crayfish with two large claws and 8 legs and it faces to the right. He has three long prongs coming from his nose. He has 5 stars in the protrusions coming from his mouth, 2 on the shell, 1 on each one of the four top legs, 1 on each one of the four bottom legs and 2 at the end of the tail, or 17 stars in all.

fol. 91v **LEO** stands to the left and has a very full mane. He has 3 stars on the head, 1 on the chest, 1 on the left shoulder, 3 on the belly, 2 on the back of the neck, 3 on the back, 1 on the right front foot, 1 on each hind knee, 1 on the left hind foot, 1 on the middle of the tail and 1 on the tip of the tail, or 19 stars in all. There is an additional star in front of the nose which according to the text is not part of Leo (this feature follows the text: *Ante os unam bene albam (?)...*, which is based on Scot's description of a star that is '*ante os 1 bene claram cuius nomen est canis qui non leoni attribuitur*').

- fol. 92r **VIRGO** is winged and stands wearing a long robe, gathered under her breast. Her head is uncovered and she holds a sheaf of wheat in her upraised right hand. She holds her left hand in front on her left thigh. She has 1 star on the head, 1 on the right wing, 2 on the left wing, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on the each elbow, 2 stars on the wheat, 6 stars in the decorative band on her dress (at her knees) and 1 on each foot, or 18 stars in all.
- fol. 92v **LIBRA** is a pair of scale held by a man wearing a hat with 3 lobes, a long dress and a long cape. He holds his right hand in front of his stomach and holds the Scales in his left hand. He has 2 stars in his right hand, 3 on the beam and 1 in each pan, or 7 stars in all.
- fol. 93r **SCORPIO** faces to the left, has a pointed snout, 2 curved larger arms, 12 small feet and a curved tail. He has 3 stars on his nose, 3 on his back, 4 on his upper legs, 6 on his lower legs and 6 on his tail, or 22 stars in all.
- fol. 93v **SAGITTARIUS** stands to the left. His body is composed so that he appears to be a centaur, but his furry cape has been transformed into a lion that it stands on the horse's back, with its claws digging into the horse's flanks. The join between the human and equine bodies is masked by the cape worn by the male half of the centaur. The human head of this beast has horns on his head, wears a shirt over his human torso, holds a bow in his left hand and pulls the string with his right. The equine tail is shaped more like a cow's tail. The centaur has 4 stars on his horns, 2 on his face, 1 between his face and his right hand, 1 on his right hand, 1 on his human shoulder, 1 in the lion's belly, 2 on the lion's rump, 3 on the lion's tail, 1 in each front knee, 2 on the bow, 2 on the arrow, or 19 stars in all. The 7 stars along the horse's back probably stand for **CORONA AUSTRINUS**, though the text here follows Michael Scot in describing seven stars under the shins: *sub cruribus septem*. The constellation is usually placed before the front feet of Sagittarius.
- There is a **SAGITTA** between his front and hind legs pointing to the left, which has 4 stars.
- fol. 94r **CAPRICORN** faces to the left, has 4 bands where his two halves meet and has a trefoil tail. It has 1 star on the nose, 2 on each horn, 2 on the face, 1 large one in the chest, 2 on the right front foot, 4 on the back, 3 on the body

between the back and the belly, 4 on the belly and 4 on the end of the tail, or 25 stars in all.

- fol. 94v **AQUARIUS** stands facing to the right, but turns his head to look over his shoulder to the left. He is nude except for a loin cloth around his hips and a tri-lobed hat on his head. He holds an upside-down urn extended in front of him with both hands. Water pours from the urn. He has 2 stars on the head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each nipple, 1 on the right elbow, 1 on the left hand, 2 on the right hand, 1 large one at the waist, 1 on the each knee, 1 on the right shin and 1 on the each foot, or 16 stars in all.
- fol. 95r **PISCES** swim in opposite directions and are placed back-to-back with their mouths connected by a cord. The top fish has 12 stars, the cord has 13 stars and the bottom fish has 15 stars, or 40 stars in all.
- fol. 96r *Draco inter arctos* with **DRACO** depicted as a long worm with decorated bands running down his body. He is placed horizontally on the page with his head to the right and he has two bends in his body (shaped like an 'S'). **URSA MAIOR** and **URSA MINOR** are placed back-to-back and face in opposite directions. Ursa Maior is placed in the first bend following the head of Draco, Ursa Minor in the second bend near the tail of Draco. Both Bears are facing into the bends. The picture is not framed. There are 3 in stars in Draco's head, and 12 in the body, or 15 in all. Ursa Minor has 3 stars on the shoulder, 1 below the belly, and 3 on the rump, or 7 stars in all. Ursa Maior has 4 on the head, 2 on the neck, 3 on the shoulder, 3 on the front legs, 2 on the back, 1 on the groin, and 7 in the back legs or 22 stars in all.
- fol. 96v **DRACO**² is depicted independently as a two-legged dragon with wings, facing to the right. He has 3 stars in the head and 12 in the body, or 15 in all. The figure is not framed.
- fol. 97r **HERCULES** stands to the right in the Garden of Hesperides which has a snake in the Tree. He has a lion skin (with face and 1 paw visible) draped over his extended right arm and raises a straight sword in his left hand. He has 1 star in the head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on his left side, 1 in his left elbow, 1 in his left forearm, 1 in his left hand, 1 in the sword, 1 in each hip, 1 in his right thigh, 1 in each knee, 2 in his right shin, 1 in his left shin and 1 in each foot, with 6 in or around the lion skin, or 24 in all.

CORONA BOREALIS is a double circle with 9 stars. It is not framed.

- fol. 97v **OPHIUCHUS** is a nude youth who stands slightly to the left on the back of **SCORPIO**² (facing to the left). He holds the **SERPENS** horizontally in front of his body with the Snake's head to the left and facing the man. The Snake's tail is tied in a knot. Scorpio has a body shaped like a paisley with two large claws (wearing mittens), 4 legs on either side and a smooth tail. Ophiuchus has 1 star in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 2 in the hips, 1 in the right knee, 1 in the right shin, 1 in the right foot, 1 in the left hand, 3 in the right hand, or 12 stars in all. The Snake has 27 stars. Scorpio has 1 large star directly in front of the beast, with 4 stars in the nose, 3 in the body, 6 in the tail, 2 at the end of the tail, 2 below the body and 1 in each claw, or 19 in all. In addition, there is a large star in front of the upper claw.
- fol. 98r **BOOTES** stands facing the viewer and is dressed in a short calf-length tunic. The right sleeve of his tunic is long and bell-shaped. The garment is also structured so that his right shoulder and arm are bare. He has a tri-lobed hat on his head and holds a sickle raised in his right hand and a spear held vertically in his left. He has a sword strapped to this back, with the tip of the blade/scabbard is visible, protruding from his right side. He has 1 star in his head, 1 in each shoulder, 2 in the chest, 1 star in the right elbow, 4 in the right hand, 4 in the sickle, 1 in the right knee 1 in the left knee, 1 in each foot and 3 in the spear, or 21 stars in all.
- fol. 98v **AURIGA** stands in a chariot facing to the right, but with his head turned back to the left. The cart is made of open, wooden slats and is drawn by 2 horses and 2 oxen. He is dressed in a toga and mantle that exposes his left shoulder and has a tri-lobed hat on his head. He holds the reins in his left hand and there are two animal heads with long tails (so they resemble rats!) emerging from that left wrist. He holds a spear vertically in his right hand. He has 1 star in the head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 in the right hand, 2 in the left hand, 1 in the left knee, 1 on the head of each horse, 1 on the head and 1 on the right hind leg of the foremost of the cows, 1 on the rump of the further cow, or 12 stars in all. The picture is not framed.
- fol. 99r **CEPHEUS** stands facing the viewer and is dressed in a short, fur-trimmed Renaissance robe. He is depicted as a young man and his hands are upraised to either side and he has a strap across his chest that holds a sword on his left

hip. He has 2 stars on his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each hand, 7 on the strap, 3 at the belt and 3 in the skirt, or 19 stars in all.

fol. 99v **CASSIOPEIA** is seated on a throne that resembles two steps. The back of the throne seems to be constructed of interlocking sword. She is dressed in long classical robe and mantle and has her hands raised in a W-shape. Her head is exposed. She has 1 star on her head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 in the breast, 1 in the lap, 3 down the left leg, 1 in each hand, 4 on the throne, or 14 stars in all.

fol. 100r **PEGASUS** leaps to the right and is depicted as a full winged horse, but is cut off by the circular frame at his hind flanks. It has 3 stars in the face, 1 on the jaw, 1 in the left ear, 1 in its mane, 3 in the wing, 4 in the neck, 1 in the shoulder, 1 in the chest, 2 in each front leg, 1 in the back, and 1 on the belly, or 21 stars in all.

fol. 100v **ANDROMEDA** is depicted as an old, bearded man dressed in a long tunic with a long cape. He resembles conventional figures of Cepheus with a tri-lobe hat on his head and his raised hands in a 'W'. He has 1 star on his head, 1 on each shoulder, 3 on the right arm, 1 on the left elbow, 1 in each hand, 3 at the waist, 2 on the right thigh, 3 on the left knee, 2 on the right foot, 1 on the left foot, or 20 stars in all.

fol. 101r **PERSEUS** is nude and stands with his back to the viewer, facing to the left. He has a long cloak that covers the top of his body and streams off to the right. He also has a very large, floppy hat. He holds a bearded male head in front of him in his left hand and holds a long straight sword behind his head in his raised right hand. He has 1 star in the head, 3 in the cape, 1 in each hand, 1 in the buttocks, 1 on each knee, 1 on each shin, 1 in each foot and 3 in the Medusa's head, or 16 in all.

TRIANGULUM is two nested equilateral triangles with a star in each corner.

fol. 101v The **PLEIADES** are depicted as seven maidens standing in two registers, with four on the top and 3 on the bottom (the bottom ones are cut off by the margin just above their knees). Each wears a tight-fitting, long gown with long sleeves. Each one has a star in her head.

fol. 102r **LYRA** is a U-shaped 'instrument' that ends in horns at the top and the sounding board seems covered with scales. There are 10 vertical tongues

coming from the board that seem to be encircled by an oval structure with knobs at left and right. There are 2 stars in the horns, 3 in the base, 2 in the 'pipes', 2 on top of the oval and 1 in each knob, or 11 stars in all.

- fol. 102v **CYGNUS** is depicted as a duck with a very long, peacock-like tail, facing to the right. It has 1 star in the head, 1 in the neck, 1 in the chest, 1 between the feet, 5 in each wing, or 14 stars in all.
- fol. 103r **AQUILA** (described as 'vultur volans' in the text) stands to the right and faces back over its shoulder to the left. It stands on **SAGITTA**, which points to the right. It has 1 star in the head, 2 in the beak, 1 in the chest, 1 in the right foot, or 5 stars in all. Sagitta has one star in the head of the arrow, 1 in the middle and 2 in the end, or 4 stars in all.
- fol. 103v **VULTUR CADENS** is depicted as an eagle in the same posture as Aquila and standing on **SAGITTA**², which faces to the right. The eagle is flanked on the right by a youthful male (Ganymede?) figure, dressed in a long robe and holding a straight stick in his left hand. The bird has 1 star in the head, 1 on each shoulder and 1 in the chest, or 4 stars in all. Sagitta has 1 star in the head of the arrow, 1 in the middle and 2 in the end, or 4 stars in all.
- fol. 104r **CETUS** and **ERIDANUS** are depicted within the same roundel (the text reads: 'Infra v° cetus est hominis nudi...'). Cetus is a large fish with sharp teeth that faces to the left. It has 23 stars along its back. Eridanus is a nude male figure that reclines in a stream. His bearded head is to the right. He holds his left hand up to his ear and raises his right hand up behind his back. He has 7 stars encircling his head, 5 in the arm, 1 in the hip and 2 in each leg, or 15 stars in all.
- fol. 104v **FIGURA SONANTIS CANONI** (described in the text as: 'Eridanus sive jocolator') is depicted as seated figure of a bearded man, who looks to the left. The figure holds a musical instrument on his lap, which he plays with a plectrum held in his right hand. He wears a tri-lobe hat. He has 2 stars in his forehead, 2 in his beard, 1 in each elbow, 4 on the instrument and 3 on the bench, or 13 stars in all.
- fol. 105r **DELPHINUS** is a large dog-faced fish that swims to the right and is set at a rising angle in the frame. It has 3 stars on the face, 1 on the back, 3 in the fins below the body and 2 at the end of its tail, or 9 stars in all.

- fol. 105v **ORION** stands facing the viewer and is dressed in full renaissance armour including a helmet (with the visor raised). He holds a shield with diagonal stripes in his right hand. There is a long sword attached to his right hip and he holds a straight sword above his head with his right hand. He has 3 stars on his head, 1 on each shoulder, 2 at the waist, 1 on each knee, 1 on each foot, 1 in his right hand and 2 on the sword, or 14 stars in all.
- fol. 106r **CANIS MAIOR** is a hound and leaps to the left. It has 1 star in the head, 2 in the neck, 4 in the chest, 3 in the left front foot, 3 in the rump, 3 in the groin, 2 in the hind feet and 1 on the tail, or 19 stars in all.
- LEPUS** has a horsy face and leaps to the left. It has 2 stars on the ears, 2 on the neck, on the 1 back and 1 on each hind foot, or 7 stars in all.
- fol. 106v **ARGO** is depicted as half a ship, the right half ending with a vertical stake. The 'stern' is composed of three curls. There are 5 holes for oars, but only 4 oars (it looks as though there originally might have been a larger steering oar coming through the last hole, but was subsequently erased as there are still traces of the pole above the deck and the blade hidden in the water). The boat is set in water. There are 4 stars at the cut off, 3 at the top of the pole of the oar that rises above the deck, 1 in each oar-blade, 1 in the water below the keel (which would have been in the blade of the erased oar originally), 4 in the stern and 3 in the curls, or 19 stars in all.
- fol. 107r **AUSTRONOTUS** (the text reads: 'Austronochus') is a female centaur that leaps to the left. Her arms are raised and extended so that they form a 'W'. She has 11 stars in the head, 2 in the equine chest, 1 in the left front leg, 1 in the right front foot, 2 on the rump, 1 on the left hind foot, and 3 in the tail, or 21 stars in all.
- DEMON MERIDIANUS** is depicted as two women, seated back-to-back and set within a roundel. The woman on the left has her hands hidden in her cloak and faces to the left. The one of the right holds an almond-shaped structure in front of her in her right hand. There are no stars marked.
- fol. 107r **PISCIS AUSTRINUS** is a very large fish, placed upside-down and swimming to the right. It has a much smaller fish faced right-side-up, riding on its belly. The smaller fish ('Piscis parvus') has 4 stars, the big fish has 11 stars.

- fol. 108r **ARA** (the text reads: 'putheus') is depicted as a large, circular demonic face with large pointed teeth. The face is surmounted by a horned devil and flanked with a small winged devil with taloned feet on each side and two grotesque demons below it. The devils have red breath coming from their mouths. There are 4 stars in the 'altar'.
- fol. 108v **CENTAURUS** walks to the right with his left front foot extended in front of him. His human part wears a shirt and holds **LUPUS** (a dog?) in his right hand. Its legs are pointing upwards. There is a censer hanging from the Centaur's right wrist. He holds a forked stick so that it rests on his left shoulder, and there is a small rabbit tied by its heels to the top of the stick. The Centaur has 3 stars in the head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 in the right hand, 3 at the waist, 1 on each front foot, 1 on the haunch, 2 on the back, 2 on each hind knee and 3 in the tail, or 21 stars in all. There are 3 stars on the censer and Lupus has 8 stars.
- fol. 109r **HYDRA** is depicted as a snake that makes a diagonal climb into the branches of a tree to his left. He has the **CRATER** on his back and the **CORVUS** on his tail, facing forwards. There are 23 stars on Hydra's back. Crater has 13 stars. Corvus has 7 stars.
- fol. 109v **CANIS MINOR** is a hound that leaps to the left. It has 1 large star in the neck, 2 on the chest and 1 on the shoulder, or 4 stars in all.
- fol. 110r **EQUUS SECUNDUS** is a full, winged horse that leaps to the left. It has 3 stars on the face, 2 on the neck, 1 on each wing, 3 on the belly, 1 on the haunch, 1 on each front foot, and 1 on each back foot, or 15 stars in all.
- TARABELLUM** is depicted as an awl with its point downwards. It has 5 stars.
- fol. 110v **VEXILLUM** is a flag with a spear as a standard. The flag ends with 4 tongues and a later hand (the one who added the red stars) has added an extra tongue and extra stars in red ink. There are 3 stars in the staff, 2 on the left side of the flag and 4 (plus 1) on the dentils, or 10 stars in all.
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notes

The name of the scribe of this manuscript is provided on fol 2r: 'Dunstaplus conscripsit hunc librum'. John Dunstable was a well-known, 15th-century English composer, who wrote several treatises on astronomy, astrology, chiromancy and computistical texts. The text is written in black ink with red capital letters for each chapter and paragraphs markings.

The little turtle, called 'Testuda' in the text for NAVIS, is absent in the drawing.

There are stars marked in EQUUS SECUNDUS, which (as far as I can see) are not mentioned in the text.

bibliography

SAXL-MEIER, III, p. 423: 15th century; English

JAMES, M.R. *The Western Manuscripts in the Library of Emmanuel College*, Cambridge 1904, pp. 62-66.

ACKERMANN, S., 'Bartholomew of Parma, Michael Scot and the set of new constellations in Bartholomew's *Breviloquium de fructu astronomie*', in the *Seventh Centenary of the Teaching of Astronomy in Bologna, 1297-1997* [Proceedings of a meeting held in Bologna at the Accademia delle Scienze on June 21, 1997], ed. by P. Battistini, F. Bònoli, A. Braccesi and D. Buzzetti, Bologna 2001, pp. 77-98.

Bartholomew of Parma's writings date from 1286-1297; the *Breviloquium* dates from 1286; it was dedicated to 'Theodosius de Flisco' (Fieschi), who was from an important Genovese family (nephew of Pope Adriano V); Theodosius was canon in Laon, ran for bishopric of Reggio Emilia and lost; this is Bartholomew's second dated work and was written in Bologna; there are 3 mss (all of which are 15th c paper copies)

1. Emmanuel 70
2. Oxford, Hertford College 4 (erat Magdalen College 2), which has blank spaces for all the constellations except TRIANGULUM and
3. Metz, Bibl Médiathèques Verlaine (Pontiffroy), Ms 287, French 1428, with illustrations. There is also an edited, shorter copy in Vienna 3124, which does not include the section on constellations.