



VATICAN

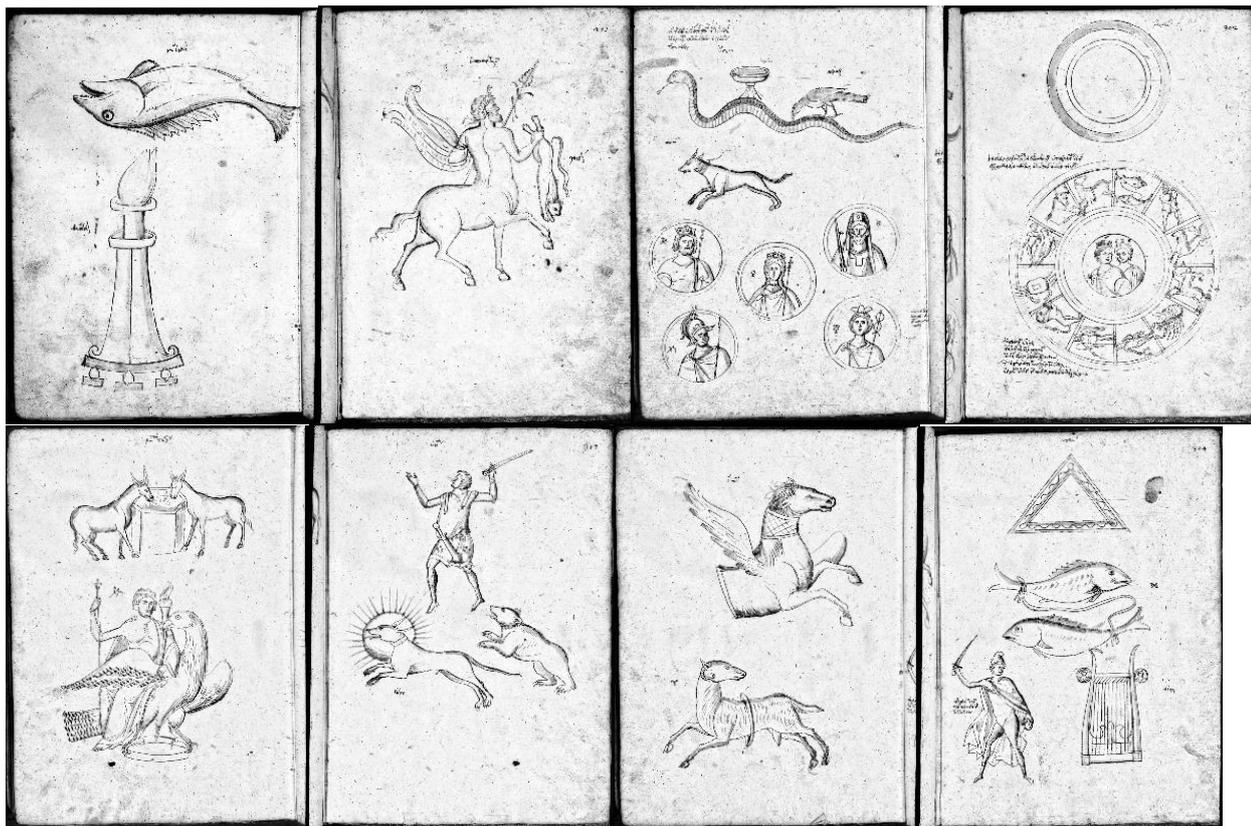
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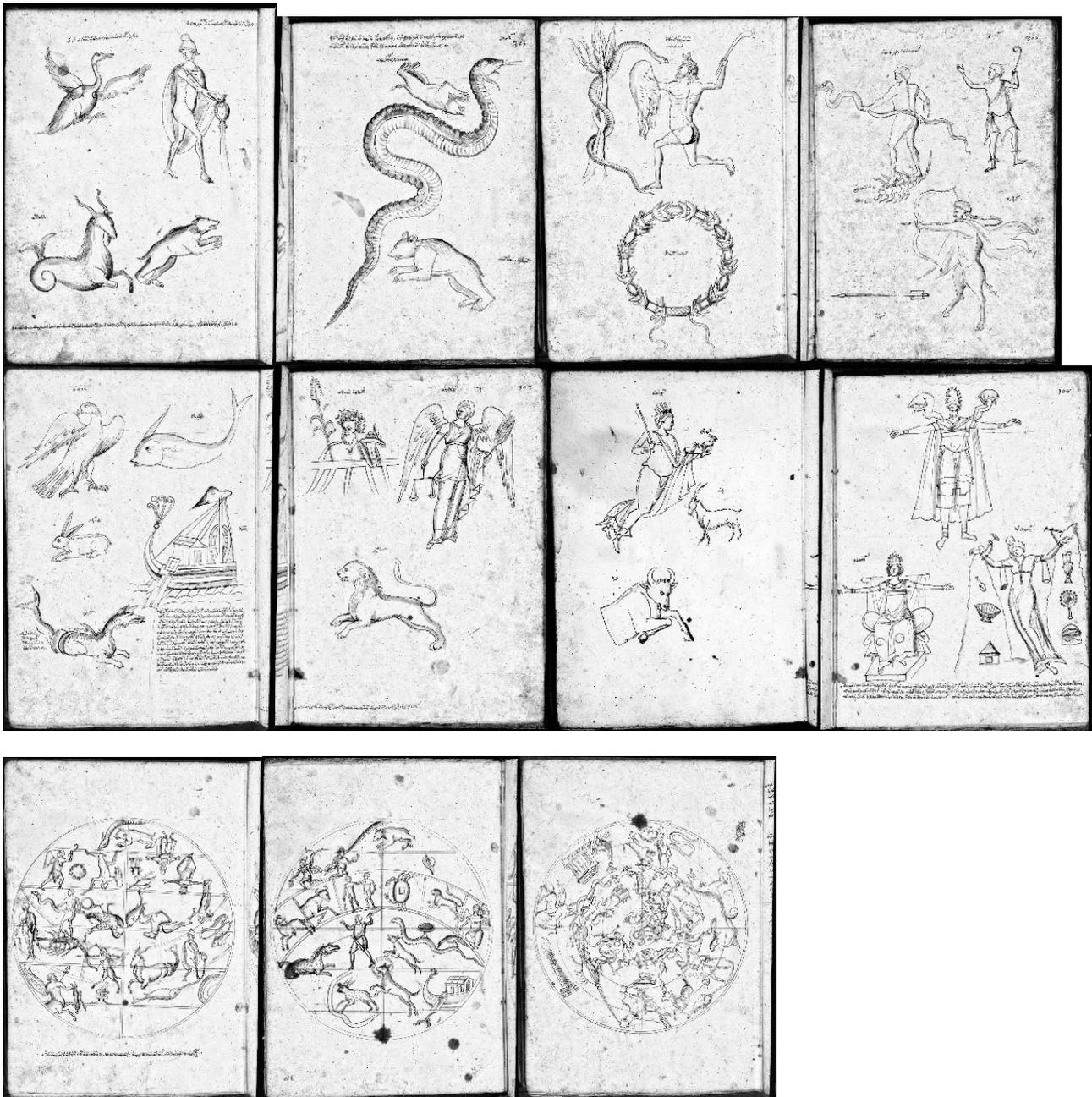
Città del Vaticano

Biblioteca Apostolica

Vat grec 1087

ps-Eratosthenes, *Catasterismi*





bibliography

Omont, O. Schneider, *Nicandreia, Theriaca at Alexipharmica*, Leipzig 1856, p, 219.

Chanot et Lenormont, 'Peintures d'un manuscrit de Nicandre', *Gaz arch*, I, 1875, p. 125.

Thiele

Weitzmann, *Roll and Codex*, p. 96 and 114:

p. 96 sometimes the pictures become divorced from the text, so the basic text from which the dislocated miniatures was originally made up is not easy to identify, such



as **Vat grec 1087**, 15th c, with a set of constellation pictures, with the zodiac, the planisphere and two hemispheres. All of which are in wash drawing and condensed to 10 folios. (cites Boll, in Roscher). Four or five constells fill a page, with only short descriptions for identification purposes No text follows the pictures and no other Greek manuscript with constell illustrations is known, we are unable to determine the precise text with which they were originally connected. Perhaps the *Katasterimoi* of Eratosthenes of Cyrene or one of the many Greek commentators on Aratus, such as Hipparchus of Nicaea, Diodorus of Alexandria, Sporus of Nicaea and others.

p. 144: Paris BN cod suppl gr 247: 10th c ms *Theriaca* of Nicander: has numerous pictures of snakes, scorpions and plants that heal bites (also has some mythological pics); vv 13-20 describe the Scorpion as follows: 'As to the scorpion which as a sting with which it paralyses the body, it is the creation of the Titanide [=Artemis], when she in her wrath desired the death of Orion of Boeotia, who had dared to put his hands on the virginal peplos of the goddess. The deadly scorpion, hidden under a rock, stung the heel of the criminal, whose image in the position of the hunter was put among the stars and stays there forever visible'. The accomp miniature shows the scorpion in one miniature and Orion in another above it. He says that one might have expected the scene to be more illustrative of the stinging, instead the figure of the hunter with his lagobolon as the attribute of the hare hunter, 'corresponds to the constellation type of Orion to which the text refers and whose attitude is determined astrologically' [!!!] He cites **Vat grec 1087** Orion 'in quite the same posture, though his weapon is a sword instead of the lagobolon'; therefore the illuminator of the Nicandre ms must have copied the image from an Aratus ms similar to the Vatican one, but earlier, hence the lack of formal relation between the hunter and the Scorpion; there are indications that this is a relatively late addition to the corpus of illustrations, since there are two paraphrases of the text (Vienna and NY) and neither has anything but bugs and snakes, etc.

Phillips, 'Perseus and Andromeda', pp. 19-20

fifth Andromeda type shows her chained or spiked between twin rocks on which offerings have been placed **Vat gr 1087**; All of these types preserve an earlier tradition of showing Andromeda between two uprights (stone or posts) which can be seen on Athenian models and most of the southern Italian vases, therefore consciously rejecting the more theatrical pose of Andromeda against a cliff, known at Alexandria through Euanthes's painting; Rocks must be the twin rocks at Joppa which are specifically mentioned by Lycophron in his *Alexandra*, 836-38. so they are Alexandrine in conception, but more conservative;

gifts in **Vat Reg lat 123** and **Vat grec 1087** are an oenochoe, mirror and pointed covered box; these are not medieval or Byzantine; in Vat Reg lat 123, the left post has a ewer, a trulla and a chalice and the right has a square box, mirror and covered bowl. The ewer has a form specific to the 4th to 6th c; all-in-all the model for these would date between the last ¼ of the 2nd C BC to the burning of the Library at Alexandria



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