

Cambridge
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Ms Dd IV 64

Basinio da Parma, *Astronomicon*

North Italian (Rimini?)

Fourth quarter 15th century

text

ff. 2r-56v Basinio da Parma, *Astronomicon*

(**note:** There are three modern sets of pagination in this manuscript. One set is written in pencil at the top of each recto; a second is in the upper right corner of each recto and a third is in the lower right corner of each recto and refers to each page in terms of its placement within the quires (A1, A2, etc.) I have used the pencil numbers in the upper right of each recto with the number in the middle of each recto page in brackets. Ancillary reference to the quire-based numeration in the lower right of each recto are mentioned as necessary.)

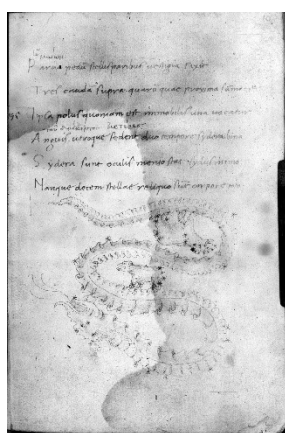
ff. 2r [1r]-36r [33r] BASINI PARMENSIS ASTRONOMICON LIBER PRIMUS.
Aetherios orbis subiectaque templa deorum —
Nexa tenet cursu semper voventis olympi.
Basinii parmensis astronomicon Libri primi Finis.

ff. 36v [33v]-56v [53v] Basinii par. astronomicon Liber secundus.
QUinque vagas etiam nec non pulcherrima mundi —
Europaeque manus: italos fortisque Pelasgos. [!]
(written at the bottom of the page in pencil 'five lines wanting, old page 28 gone'.)

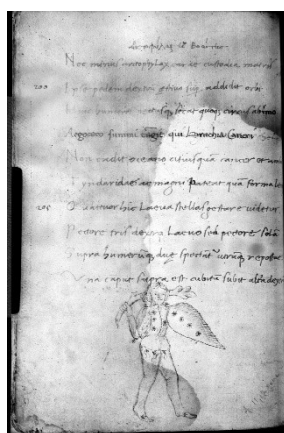
illustrations

ff.10r-35r [9r-32r]

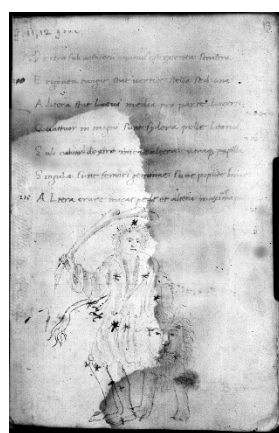
Sepia pen drawings of 45 constellations with stars marked with reddish-brown star shapes. In some cases, tan wash has been added to the drawings. Some drawings show evidence of having been traced (see the tracing of Delphinus on the Cetus page (fol. 22v [19v]) and the tracing of Virgo on f. 32r [29r]) and some pictures have been overdrawn or added to with darker brown ink. CORONA BOREALIS is missing due to a missing page. None of the images is labelled.



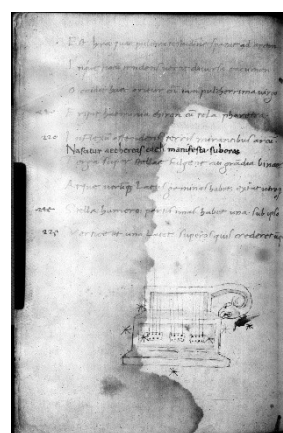
fol. 10r [9r]



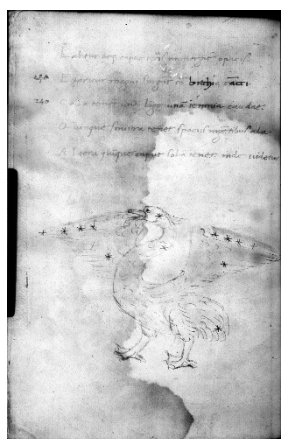
fol. 10v [9v]



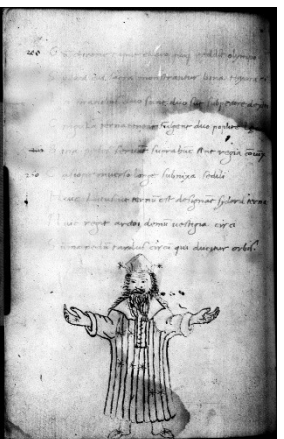
fol. 13r [10r]



fol. 13v [10v]



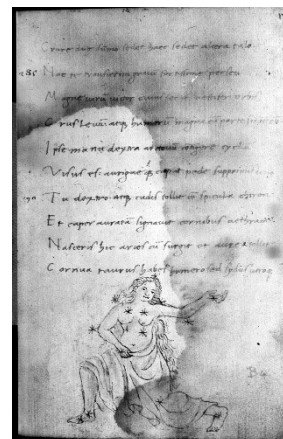
fol. 14v [11v]



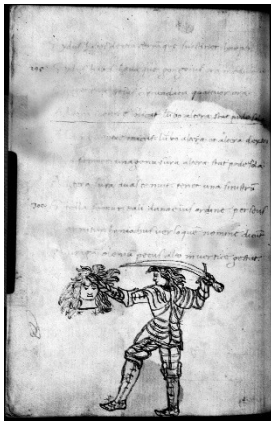
fol. 15v [12v]



fol. 16r [13r]



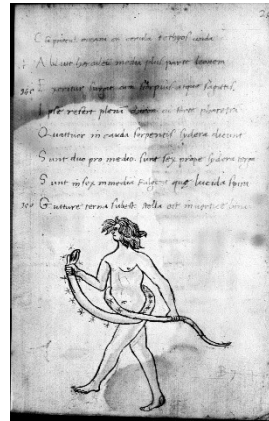
fol. 17r [14r]



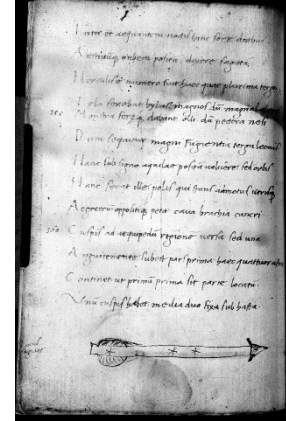
fol. 17v [14v]



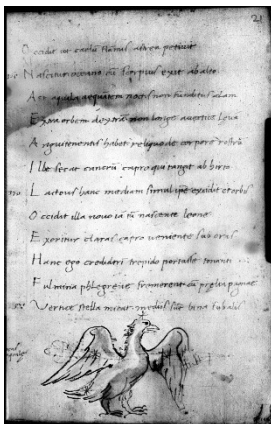
fol. 18v [15v]



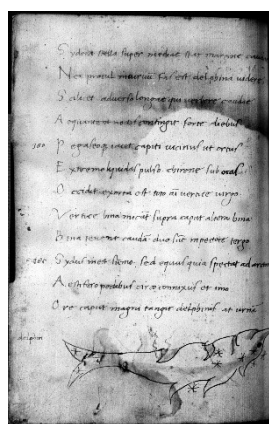
fol. 20r [17r]



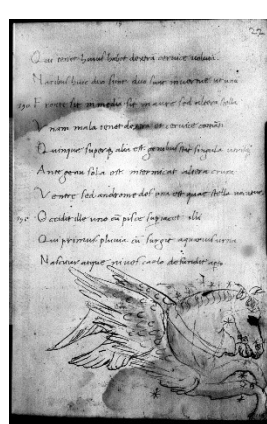
fol. 20v [17v]



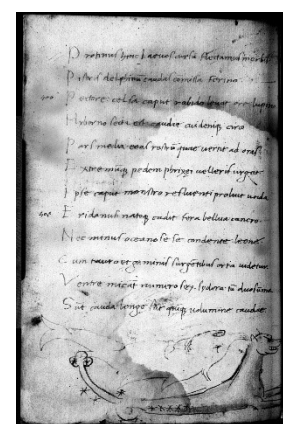
fol. 21r [18r]



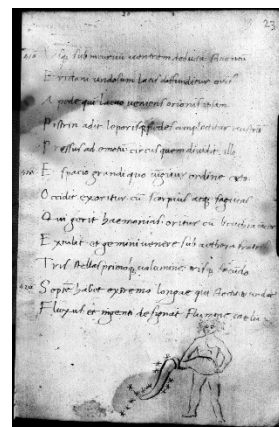
fol. 21v [18v]



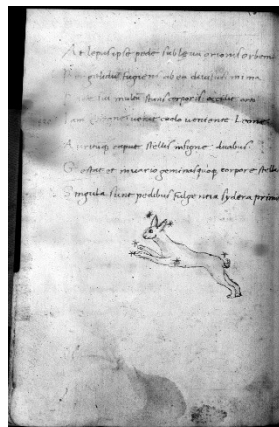
fol. 22r [19r]



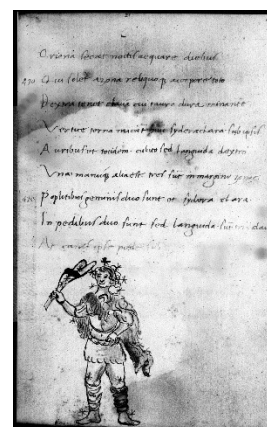
fol. 22v [19v]



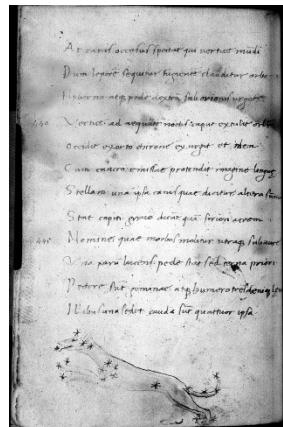
fol. 23r [20r]



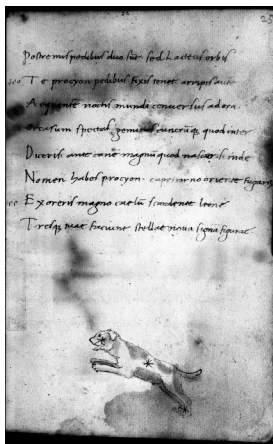
fol. 23v [20v]



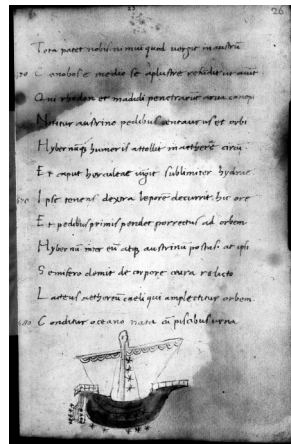
fol. 24r [21r]



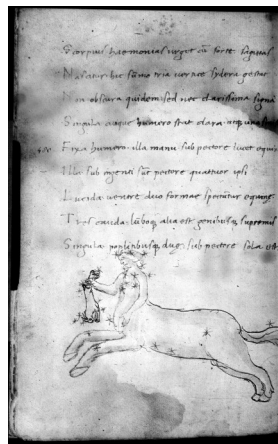
fol. 24v [21v]



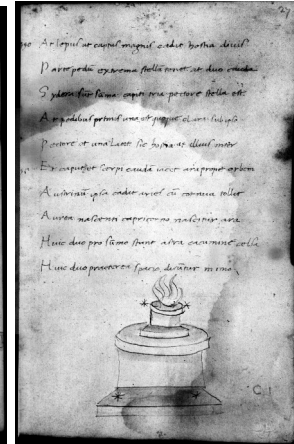
fol. 25r [22r]



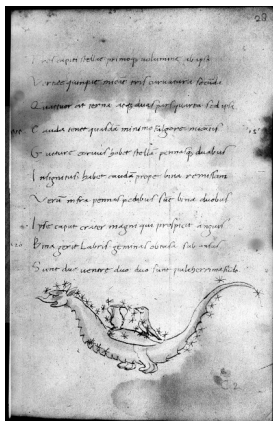
fol. 26r [23r]



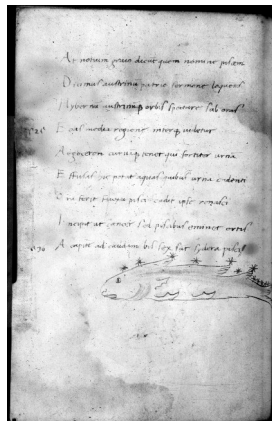
fol. 26v [23v]



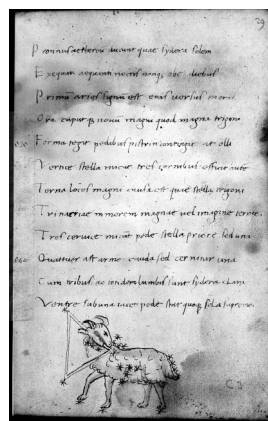
fol. 27r [24r]



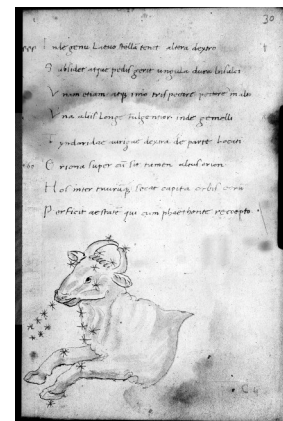
fol. 28r [25r]



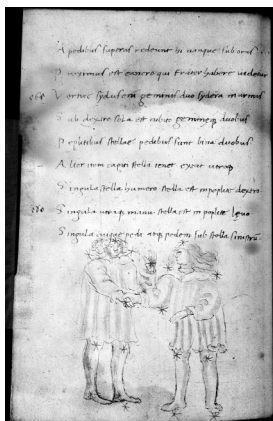
fol. 28v [25v]



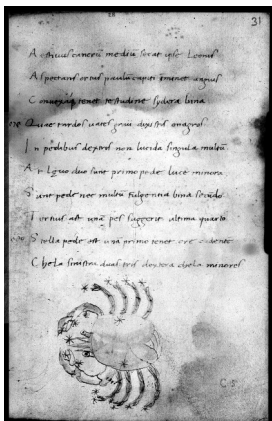
fol. 29r [26r]



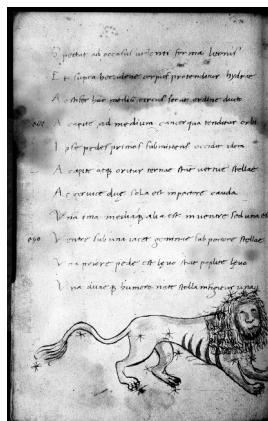
fol. 30r [27r]



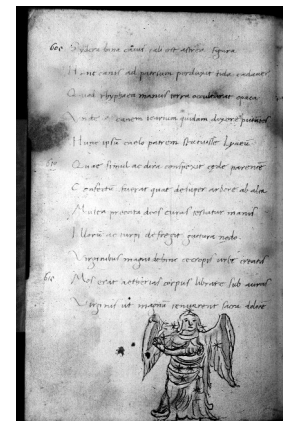
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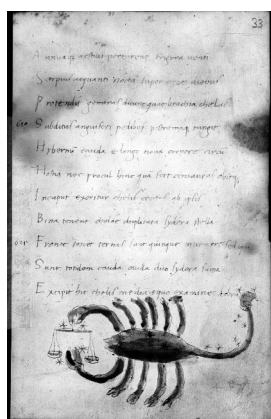
fol. 31r [28r]



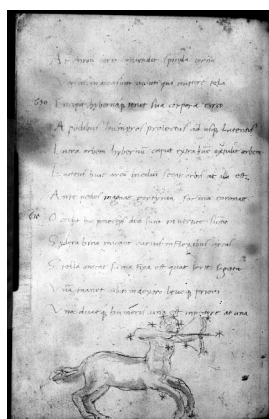
fol. 31v [28v]



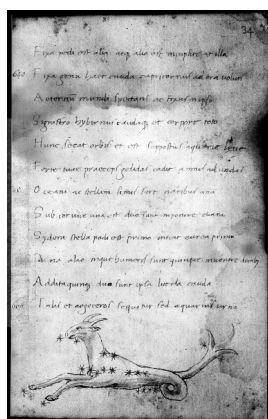
fol. 32v [29v]



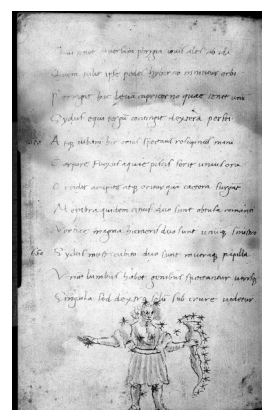
fol. 33r [30r]



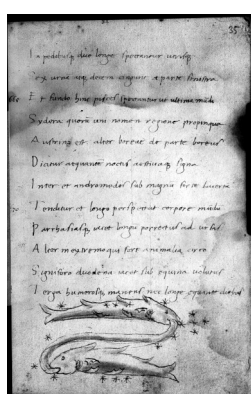
fol. 33v [30v]



fol. 34r [31r]



fol. 34v [31v]



fol. 15r [32r]

fol. 10r [9r]

DRACO INTER ARCTOS with **DRACO** is depicted as a dragon-headed, scaly snake with 3 bends in his body and his head placed at the bottom of the page. The bears stand back-to-back, facing in opposite directions, between the second and third bends. Both bears have their tongues out and **URSA MAIOR** is larger than **URSA MINOR**. **DRACO** has 5 stars in the head and 10 in the body, making 15 in all. **URSA MINOR** has 3 stars in the tail and 1 in each foot, or 7 stars in all. **URSA MAIOR** has 9 stars in the head with what might have been a 10th star near the neck blacked and 2 in the tail and 2 on the left hind leg and 1 on the right, or 16 (or 17) stars in all.

fol. 10v [9v]

BOOTES is a male youth walking to the right, wearing a short jerkin and tights, with the laces of his jerkin visible. He carries a lumpy club raised in his right hand so that it curves behind his head. He has a teardrop-shaped shield held out in front of him so that it covers the whole of his left arm. He has 1 star in the head, 1 on each shoulder, 4 in the chest, 1 in the right elbow, 4 in the shield and 1 on each foot, or 14 stars in all.

[pencil notation on bottom of page: '8 lines wanting A11, 12 gone'. Image of **CORONA BOREALIS** is missing]

- fol. 13r [10r] **HERCULES** stands with both his feet facing to the left, but with his body frontal and his head turning slightly to the left. He is dressed in a very loose tunic that is open from the neck to expose his chest. He has wild hair. He holds the lion's head in his right arm at his waist, and the rest of the lion's body curls around the back of Hercules's body so that its tail appears behind his raised right arm. He holds a knobbly club in his right hand so that it is above his head. He has 1 star in the head, 1 on each nipple, 2 on his lap, 2 on his right knee, 1 on his left shin and 1 on his left foot. There are 4 stars in the lion's face, 1 on the bit of skin that falls over the left shoulder of Hercules and 1 on his tail. The total number of stars is 15.
- fol. 13v [10v] **LYRA** is depicted as a two-stepped instrument with 3 sets of 4 strings running from the top of the instrument to squares with tuning pegs on the bottom layer. The top support of the lyre ends in a bird/dragon head at the right. It has 8 stars (with a smudge that may have been caused by rubbing the wet ink of another star below the head of the bird's head).
- fol. 14v [11v] **CYGNUS** stands to the left with its head and wings raised. It has 1 star in the head, 1 in the neck, 5 in each wing and 1 in the tail, or 13 stars in all.
- fol. 15v [12v] **CEPHEUS** stands facing the viewer, wearing a long pleated gown with loose sleeves and he has a crown and mitre on his head. He is bearded and holds his hands loosely outwards to the side. He has 2 stars in the head, 1 in each hand, 2 in the chest, 3 in the waist, 2 in the left knee and 1 on each foot, or 13 stars in all.
- fol. 16r [13r] **CASSIOPEIA** is seated on a low-backed throne with its back supports ending in two finials. She wears a voluminous robe and a mantle that is clasped at her neck. She has a decorated belt at her waist and a crown on her head. She holds her hands out to either side. She has 1 star in the head, 2 at the bottom of the throne, 1 in each shoulder, 1 in the breast, 1 on the left hip, 1 on the left arm of the throne, 3 in the lap and 1 on the right foot, or 12 stars in all.
- fol. 17r [14r] **ANDROMEDA** lunges to the left, with her head turning to the right. She is nude to the waist and grasps at the mantle she wears around her hips with her right hand. Her left arm is raised and trails behind her. Her hair is free. She has 1 star on the head, 1 on each shoulder, 4 on the chest, 1 on each elbow, 1 on each hand, 1 on the left knee, 2 on the right foot and 1 on the left foot, or 15 stars in all.

- fol. 17v [14v] **PERSEUS** faces away from the viewer towards the left and is dressed in Renaissance armour, with his head bare. He holds the Medusa's head in front of him in his left hand and holds a curved sword raised in his right hand so that the blade runs along the top of his head. He has 1 star in his right hand, 1 in each shoulder, 1 on each hand, 1 on each side of his waist and 2 around his hip area, 1 on the left thigh (?), 1 on each knee, 1 on the left shin and 1 on each foot with 4 in the head of Medusa, or 17 or 18 stars in all.
- fol. 18v [15v] **AURIGA** stands facing the viewer and is dressed in a tattered robe, made from animal skin, that ends in 3 points around his knees. He has wild hair. He holds a flail (more like a brush) upraised in his right hand and has 2 small animal-heads held in his extended left hand. He has 1 star on the head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each elbow, 1 on the left wrist, 1 on the left hand and 1 on the right foot, or 8 stars in all.
- fol. 20r [17r] **OPHIUCHUS** is nude, with wild hair and walks to the left. He holds the **SERPENS** so that it wraps once around his hips and its beaky face is turned towards him. OPHIUCHUS has no stars. SERPENS has 3 by the head and 21 (or 22 if one counts the faint/erased star in front of the left hand) along its body, or 24 or 25 in all.
- fol. 20v [17v] **SAGITTA** points to the right and has 4 stars.
- fol. 21r [18r] **AQUILA** stands facing to the right with its wings raised. It has 1 star in the head, 1 in each wing and 1 in the tail, or 4 stars in all.
- fol. 21v [18v] **DELPHINUS** is placed upside down with its pointed snout to the right. It has 3 gashes along its stomach. It has 4 stars in the head, 2 in the neck, 1 on the back and 2 on the tail, or 10 stars in all.
- fol. 22r [19r] **PEGASUS** is half a winged horse that faces to the right and wears a bridle. It has 4 stars on the head, 1 on the right ear, 6 on the neck, 2 on each knee and 1 below the belly, or 16 stars in all.
- fol. 22v [19v] **CETUS** ('Pistris delphinus') is an odd depiction on which the image of CETUS as mer-dog (half-dog and half-serpent). It has a curl in the tail, which ends in a trilobe, and appears placed below a second depiction of **DELPHINUS** that has been copied from the DELPHINUS on fol. 21v [18v], but the shape of the snout and the mouth have been changed to make the fish more menacing. The bottom picture of CETUS has 5 stars on the belly and 5 on the tail and 2 at the end of the tail, or 12 stars in all. The 'DELPHINUS' has no stars.

- fol. 23r [20r] **ERIDANUS** is nude and stands to the right, behind a very large urn, which is held horizontally in both hands. The water pours to the right. There are 13 stars in the water.
- fol. 23v [20v] **LEPUS** leaps to the right and has 1 star in each ear, 1 on each forefoot, 1 in the chest and 1 on the tail or 6 stars in all.
- fol. 24r [21r] **ORION** stands facing the viewer and is dressed in a short tunic with heavy and baggy-topped boots on his feet. He is bare-headed and wears an elaborate furry skin over his shoulders. The skin has the face of a bear on it and it trails behind the hero, to the right. Orion raises a club in his right hand and hitches the thumb of his left hand in his belt. He has 4 stars in the head, 1 above each shoulder, 3 in the club, 1 in the right elbow, 1 in the right hand, 3 in the waist, 1 in each knee and 1 on each foot or 18 stars in all.
- fol. 24v [21v] **CANIS MAIOR** is a sleek hound that bounds to the right with his tongue sticking out. It has 1 star on the head, 1 on the tongue, 2 on the neck, 5 on the shoulder, 3 on the front feet, 1 on the groin, 4 on the tail and 2 on the hind feet, or 19 stars in all.
- fol. 25r [22r] **CANIS MINOR** is a snub-nosed hound that leaps to the right with his tongue hanging out. It has 1 star in the head, 1 in the body and 1 on the hind feet or 3 stars in all.
- fol. 26r [23r] **ARGO** is a full ship that sails to the right with a main mast with the sails tied on to it and sets of ropes running between the deck and the mast. There are galleried areas on the bow and the stern and 2 steering oars at the back. It has 4 stars on the mast, 5 on the keel, 5 below keel and 4 on 1 oar and 5 on the other oar, or 23 stars in all.
- fol. 26v [23v] **CENTAURUS** is a male centaur, with a nude chest, that rushes to the left. It has no attributes beyond **LUPUS** (a hare) held by its heels in his outstretched right arm. His left arm rests by his side. He has 3 stars in the head, 5 around his shoulder, 3 across his human chest, 1 on the horse's chest, 2 on the legs, 1 on the body, 2 on the belly, 1 on the haunch and 3 on the tail, or 20 stars in all. **LUPUS** has 9 stars.
- fol. 27r [24r] **ARA** is a two-story cylindrical altar set upon a square base. Flames rise from the top. It has 2 stars surrounding the flame and 2 stars on the base, or 4 stars in all.
- fol. 28r [25r] **HYDRA** is a two-footed, winged dragon that walks to the left. A two-handled **CRATER** and a front-facing **CORVUS** stand on its wing. **HYDRA** has 20 stars. **CRATER** has 7 stars (if 2 in wing belong to it). **CORVUS** has 8 stars.

- fol. 28v [25v] **PISCIS AUSTRINUS** is a large fish that swims to the left and has 12 stars
- fol. 29r [26r] **ARIES** walks to the left, but turns its head back to the right. It is depicted *intra Triangulum*. It has 4 stars in the head, 3 on the neck, 4 on the body, 1 on each front foot, 1 on the belly and 4 on the tail and 1 on the rear left foot, or 19 stars in all. **TRIANGULUM** has 3 stars.
- fol. 30r [27r] **TAURUS** is half a bull facing to the left, with its feet extended out in front. It has 2 stars in the horns, 3 on the head, 1 in each eye, 7 in the front, 4 on the chest, 1 on each knee and 1 on the left front foot or 21 stars in all.
- fol. 30v [27v] **GEMINI** are depicted as two men in short, loose tunics. They stand facing each other and shake their right hands. The left Twin raises his left hand and the right Twin holds his left hand near his waist. The right Twin has much longer hair. The left Twin has 1 star in the head, 1 in each shoulder, 1 in each hand, 1 in each knee, 1 in each foot and 1 below left foot, or 10 stars in all. The right Twin has 1 star in the head, 1 in each shoulder, 1 in the right elbow, 1 in each knee, 1 on each foot, or 8 stars in all.
- fol. 31r [28r] **CANCER** is a round-bodied crab that faces to the left and has 2 big claws and 4 small claws on each side. It has 3 stars on each claw, 4 on the bottom claws, 6 on the top claws and 2 on shell, or 18 stars in all.
- fol. 31v [28v] **LEO** stands to the right and has a very long tail. There are red highlights on his face and as shading to his ribs. He has 4 stars in his head, 1 below his chin, 3 on his shoulder, 1 each front leg, 2 on the groin, 2 on left hind leg, 1 on each hind foot and 2 on the tail, or 18 stars in all.
- fol. 32r [29r] **VIRGO** (faint and traced through) has no stars.
- fol. 32v [29v] **VIRGO**² stands facing the viewer, wearing a long robe and she is winged. Her hands and arms are very badly drawn, but it seems as though she has a single arm that crosses in front of her body at chest height to the left. She has 1 star in her head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each side of her arm (?), 1 on each wing, 3 at her waist, 2 below her waist, 3 in her left thigh and 1 on each foot, or 17 stars in all.
- fol. 33r [30r] **SCORPIO** faces to the left and has two large claws and 5 legs on the top and 4 legs on the bottom and a smooth tail that ends in a sting. It holds the Scales in its right claw. Scorpio has 2 stars in each claw, 3 on the face, 5 on the body, 6 on the tail and 2 on the

tip of the tail, or 20 stars in all. The Scales have no stars (if the 4 stars at the tips of Scorpio's claws belong to it).

- fol. 33v [30v] **SAGITTARIUS** is a centaur, who rushes to the right. Its human half is nude and it holds the bow with its left hand, pulling the string with the right. It has 4 stars in the head, 1 in the chest, 1 on each elbow, 2 on the bow, 1 on the arrow, 1 on each knee, 1 on the left front foot, and 1 on the tail or 14 stars in all.
- fol. 34r [31r] **CAPRICORN** faces to the right and has short, curved horns and a trefoil tail. It has 2 stars in the face, 2 on the back, 5 on the body, 7 on the tail, 2 at the end of the tail and 1 on each front foot, or 20 stars in all.
- fol. 34v [31v] **AQUARIUS** stands facing the viewer, wearing a short robe that is belted at the waist. He holds his hands out to either side and holds an upside-down, water-pouring urn in his right hand. He has 2 stars in the head, 1 on each shoulder, 2 on the chest, 1 on the right side, 1 on the right hand, 1 on each knee, 1 on the right calf, 1 on each foot and 15 in the stream, or 28 stars in all.
- fol. 15r [32r] **PISCES** swim in opposite directions, with both their backs facing upwards and have their mouths joined by a stream. There are 5 stars on the top fish, 5 in front of the nose of the top fish, 5 in the stream and 3 on the bottom fish, or 18 stars in all.

notes

The ms is oddly paginated beginning on the first recto with 'vii' in pencil and 'fol. 2' in the upper right corner. There is another set of numeration in the middle of each recto and the folii are also paginated by quire in the lower right corner (with a note in pencil in the lower right of the page: 'A1 gone').

The script has been ascribed to Basinio's own hand, and the illustrations may also be his (see the Commentary on Basinio). The script is in sepia cursive with a number of interlinear notations in Greek in red pen between 2r-12v. The title and some openings of chapters in red. The manuscript is badly water-damaged on the top and outer edges; pages at the end of the mss torn and number of lost pages (ff. 11-12). Verses are numbered.

BLUME/HAFFNER METZGER characterise the script as 'rather carelessly written humanistic script', which required numerous later corrections; and they call the illustrations 'of amateur execution'.

There are several indications of ownership dating from the 17th-19th centuries: fol. 58v Phillip Webster; below: Charles Landel His Books. The first leaf, which may have contained clues to the original provenance, has been lost. While the codex does not appear in a 1750 inventory, it is included in a 1794/6 manuscript catalogue (Ms. Nn. 6. 42).

bibliography

A CATALOGUE ... LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE 1856-67, I (1856), p. 254 55, no. 239. small quarto, paper; 54 leaves; drawings done by a pen so sharp it cuts the paper; shaded with brush; stars in red; 'It appears never to have been published and to have escaped the notice of all bibliologists'.

SAXL-MEIER III 1953, pp. 417-18.

last third 15th century, Italian, paper, 22 x 14.7; fol. 54v: 'Charles Landel His Book'; note the drawings have been overdrawn.

FRIOLI 2006, pp. 260 and 267.

CHISENA 2016, pp. 42-43.

BLUME/HAFFNER/METZGER 2016, II, 2, pp. 100 and 695-97 (cat. 105) and figs. 878-80.

219 x 149 mm, vii + 58 + vii folia; humanistic cursive; ; end of text mutilated due to loss of page; refer to the illustrations as 'amateur'; the text is filled with corrections, but there are still many errors remaining; note that there are no spaces left in the text for the diagrams that are often found in these mss; 'it is most likely a copy with hand drawings for personal use'.

Colour snapshots (courtesy of Anna Chisena):



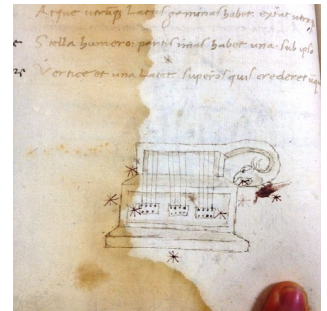
fol. 10r [9r]



fol. 10v [9v]



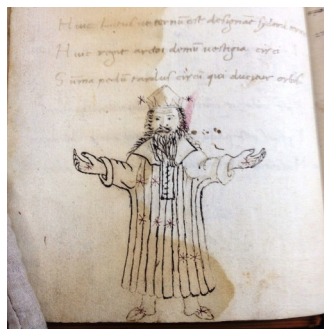
fol. 13r [10r]



fol. 13v [10v]



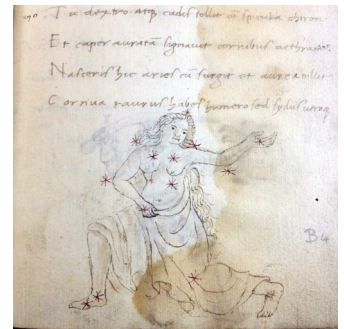
fol. 14v [11v]



fol. 15v [12v]



fol. 16r [13r]



fol. 17r [14r]



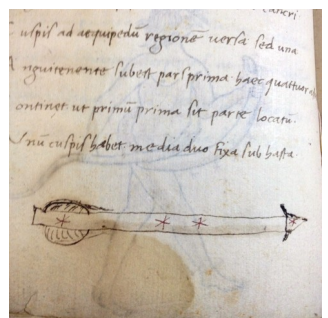
fol. 17v [14v]



fol. 18v [15v]



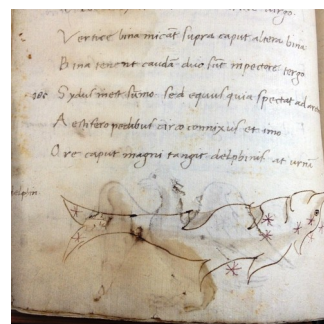
fol. 20r [17r]



fol. 20v [17v]



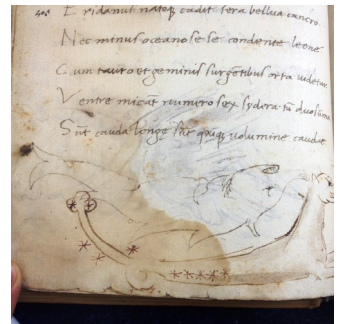
fol. 21r [18r]



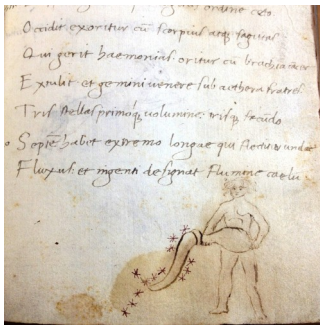
fol. 21v [18v]



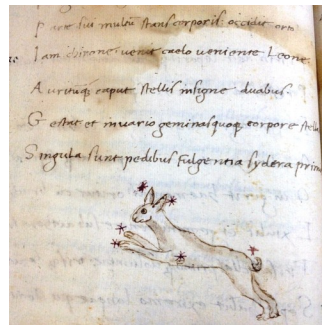
fol. 22r [19r]



fol. 22v [19v]



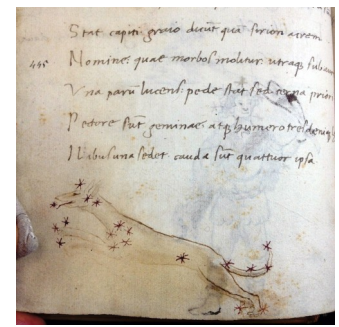
fol. 23r [20r]



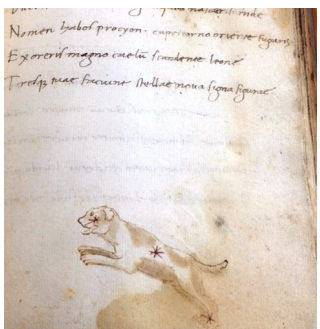
fol. 23v [20v]



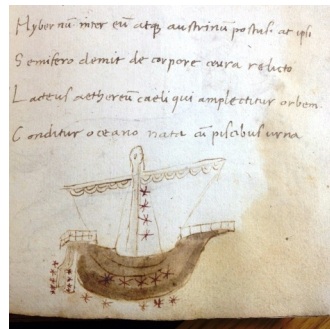
fol. 24r [21r]



fol. 24v [21v]



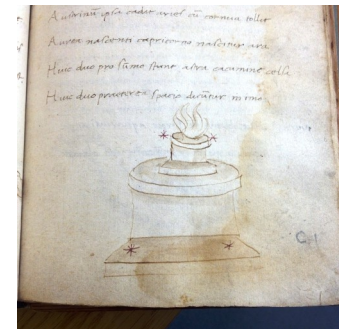
fol. 25r [22r]



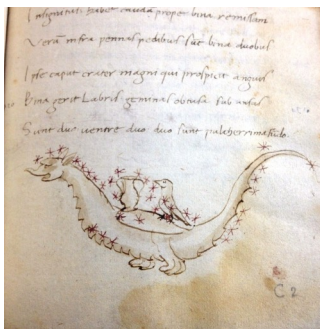
fol. 26r [23r]



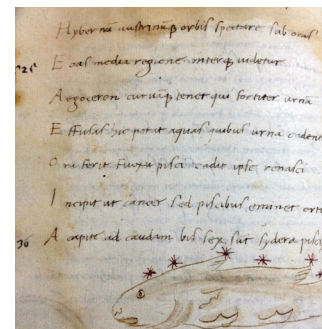
fol. 26v [23v]



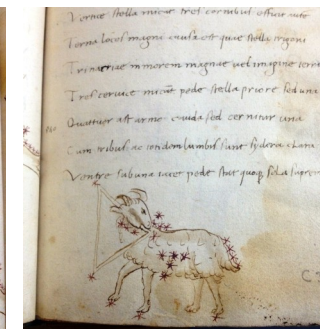
fol. 27r [24r]



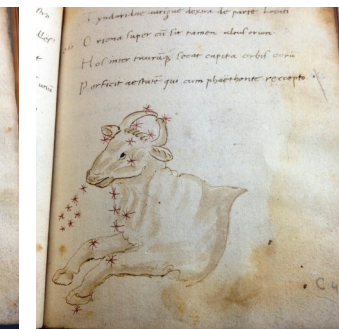
fol. 28r [25r]



fol. 28v [25v]



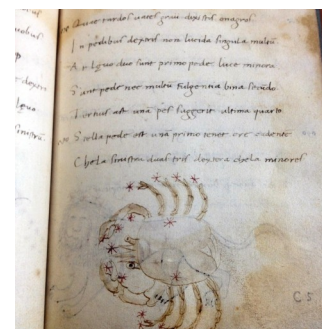
fol. 29r [26r]



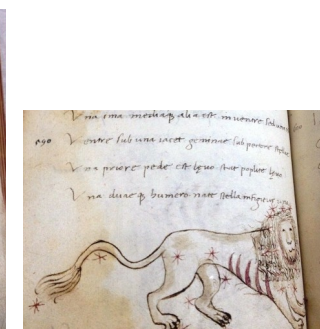
fol. 30r [27r]



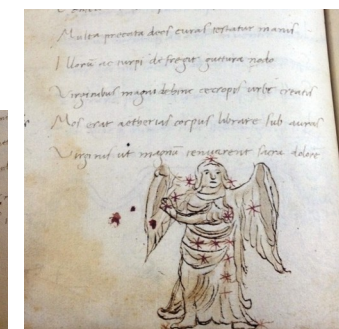
fol. 30v [27v]



fol. 31r [28r]



fol. 31v [fol. 28v]



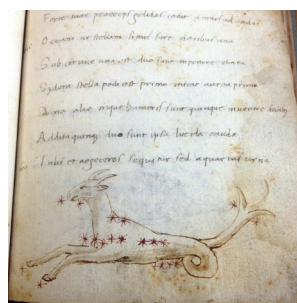
fol. 32v [29v]



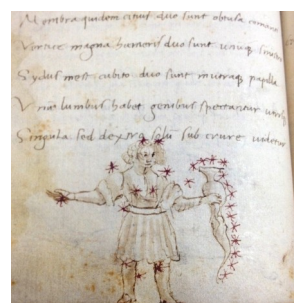
fol. 33r [30r]



fol. 33v [30v]



fol. 34r [31r]



fol. 34v [31v]



fol. 15r [32r]