

**Parma**  
**Biblioteca Palatina**

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**Parmense 27**

**Basinio da Parma, *Astronomicon***

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Italian

Third quarter of 15th century (c. 1500?)

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text

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|-------------|--|
| ff. 1r-9v   | <p>LUCIAN, <i>Orationes</i>.</p> <p>Luciani viri eloquentissimi orationes pro tauro ereo Phalarides dicando per Antonium Rossium in Greco et in latinum traducto ad R. D. Car. Spol. Preface Antonii. inc: [...] e eo viderer reverendissime domine otio penitus – principatu dignari vidisse.</p>   |
| ff. 10r-26v | <p>HESIOD, <i>Opera et dies</i>, Latin translation by Niccolò della Valle.</p> <p>Epistola Pio secundo pontifici maximo Nicolaus da Valle. Inc. [S]i vacat Aenea rerum dignissime presul. Pio Il pontifici maximo poema Hesiodi translatum de greco in latinum per Nicolaum de Valli / Ἡσιόδου ἔργα καὶ ἡμέραι, Hesiodi opera et dies. Inc. Invocatio ad musas. [P]ierides musae quarum. – se exercet ad usus. Τέλος. Nicolaus de Valle.</p> |
| ff. 27v-28v | <p>OVID, <i>Tristium</i> III, 10</p> <p>[S]i quid aduc istic meminit Nasonis adempti. – Haec est in paenas terra reperta meos. Vale. Τέλος.</p>  |
| ff. 29r-67v | <p>Basinio da Parma, <i>Astronomicon libri II</i>.</p> <p>Basinii Parmensis Poetae celeberrimi αετομομηκων. liber primus. Etherios orbis subiectaque templa deorum – atque vias semper volventis olympi.</p>   |
| ff. 68r-71r | <p>Basinio da Parma, <i>Ad Sigismundum Pandulfum Malatestam</i>.</p> <p><i>Eiusdem Basinii epistola ad Principem Sigismundum Pandulfum Malatestam: in qua ostendit poetas latinos sine graecis nihil omnino</i></p>  |

*posse; Inc. [Q]uis ferat indocti temeraria iurgia vulgi. — Fonte mihi et flumiis magni defluxit homeri. Τελος.*

ff. 72v-84v JOHANNES STEPHANUS COTTA, *Epistolae*

Iohannes Stephanus Cotta Pius II pontifical maximo faelicitatem.  
[I]gitur exiguas caelesti sede relictā. — consociata sono. Vale.  
Iohannis Steph. Cottae ad Pium II pont. max. de exhortatione in Turcos  
epistolarum libellus. Epistle Prima.  
[L]umen for Christi Soli. — facta pater. Τελος. Iohannis Stephani Cottae  
epistolae septem omnes expliciunt  
faeliciter de exhortatione in Turcos. Finish. Laus Deo.

ff. 85r-91r OVID, *Saphos Mulieris Liber*

Saphos mulieris liber.  
[E]cquid ut aspecta est studiosae littera dextrae.  
— ut mihi leucadiae freta petentur aquae. Finit.  
Sapphos vatis mulieris opus explicat amoris per Ovidium Nasonem de  
graeco in latinum translatus.

ff. 91v-92v ps.-OVID, *Pulex*

*Ovidii Nasonis poetae clarissimi de pulice opus incipit faeliciter.*  
[P]arve pulex sed amara lues. — sibi me socium. Τελος. *Ovidii Nasonis*  
*poetae celeberrimi in Pulicem, opus explicat. Laus Deo.*

ff. 93r-103r OVID, *Ibis*, vv. 1-374

*Ovidius Naso Sulmonensis poeta in Ibin.*  
*Tempus ad hoc lustris in iam bis.*  
— *caecae non adeunda domus.*

ff. 104r-123r PSEUDO BRUTUS, *Epistolae*

EPISTOLAE BRUTI PER LEONARDUM ARRETINUM ET CETERA AD  
DOMINUM NICOLAUM PAPAM.  
[S]olent beatissime pater qui invigilant alicui operi. —  
*id eos denegare necesse est. Τελος. Laus Deo. Amen.*

ff. 123v-126r PETRUS CHRISOLOGUS, *Sermo*

[H]odie nobis Iohannes virtus herodis. — *et de natali suo herodes mortuus est.*

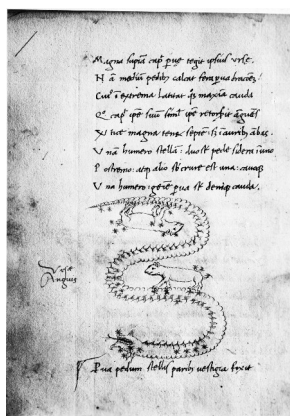
ff. 126r-132r PSEUDO CHRYSOSTOMUS, *De decollatione beati Iohannis Baptistae*

*Heu me, quid agam? Unde sermonis exordium faciam? — et laude adnumerimini in Christo Ihesu cui est gloria in secula seculorum amen.*

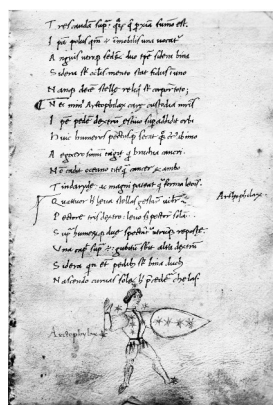
# illustrations



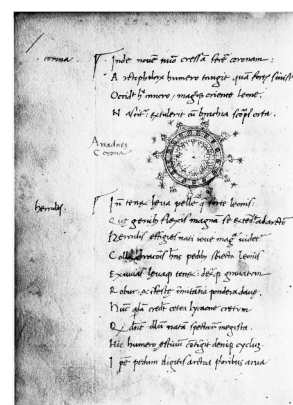
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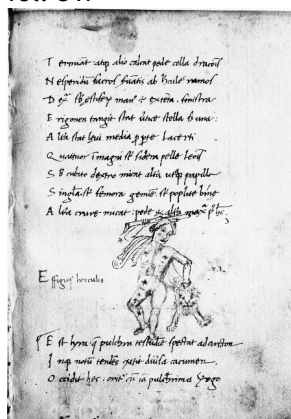
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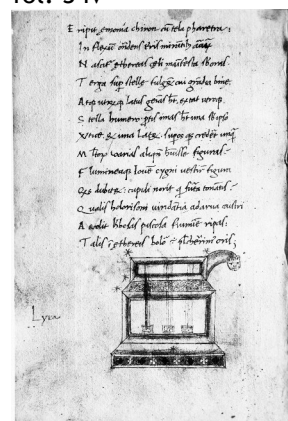
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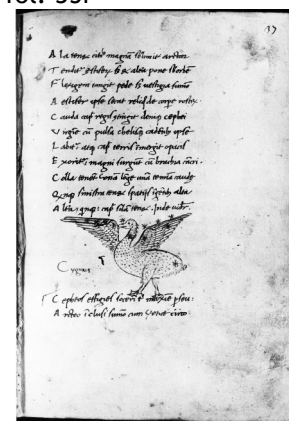
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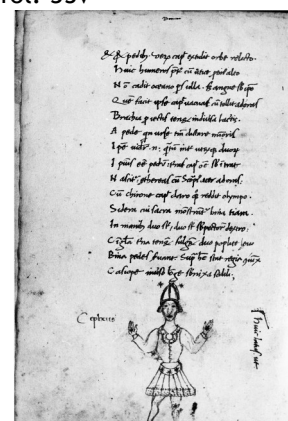
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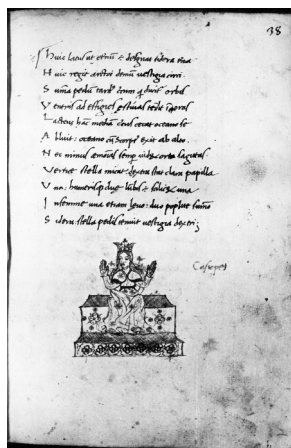
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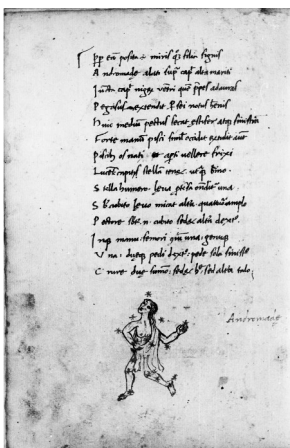
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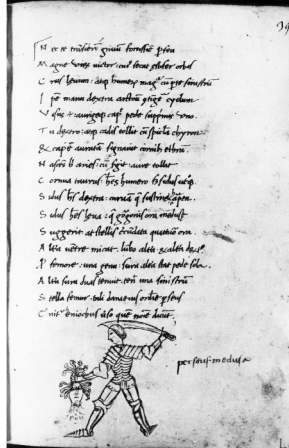
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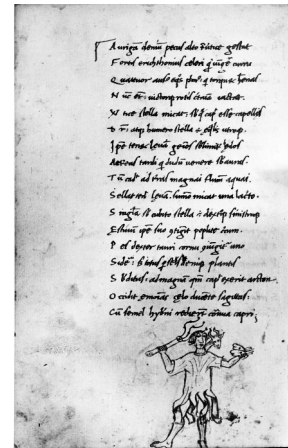
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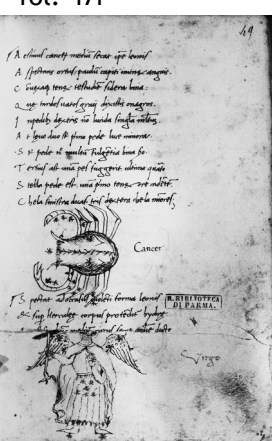
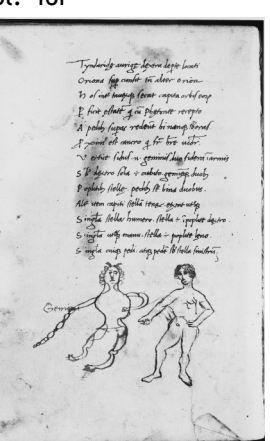
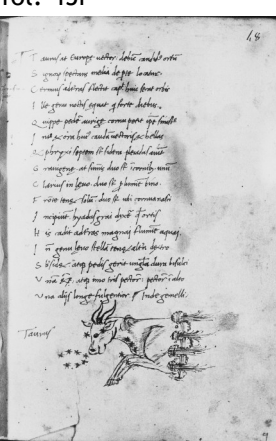
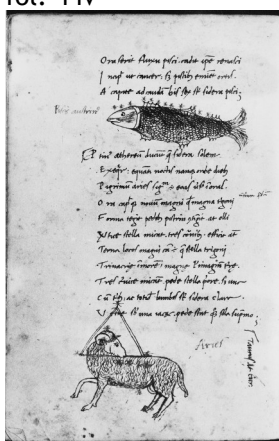
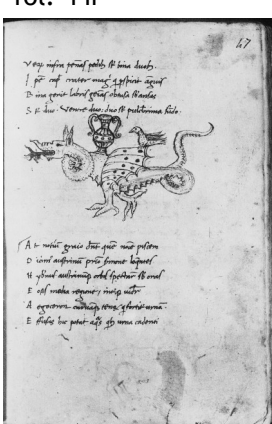
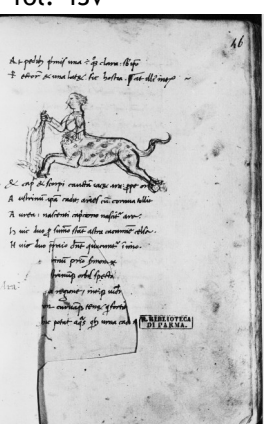
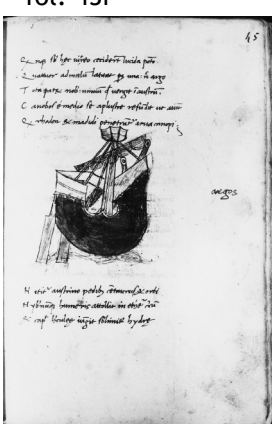
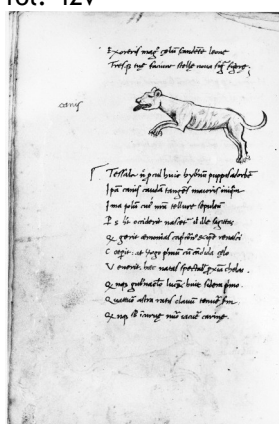
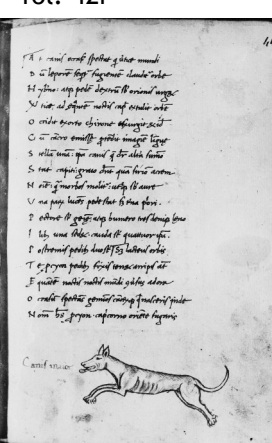
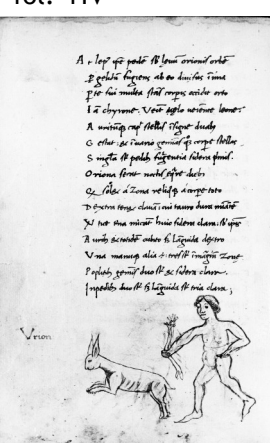
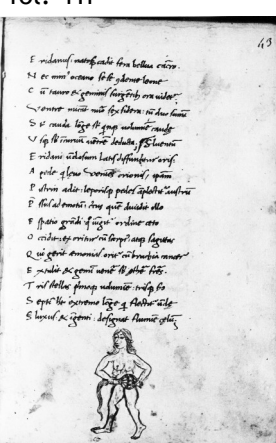
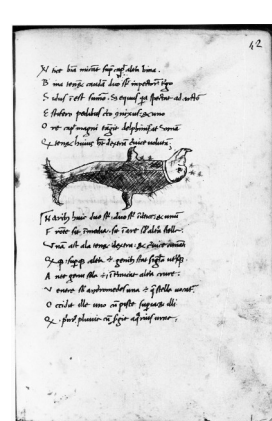
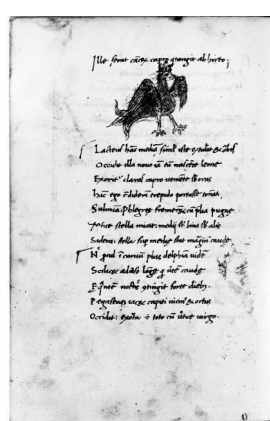
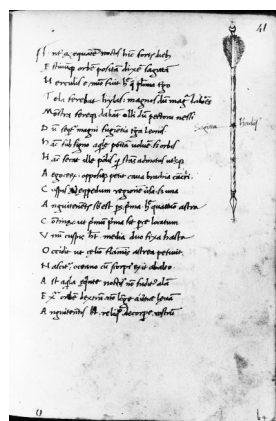
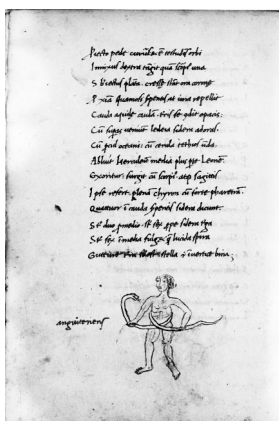
fol. 38v



fol. 39r

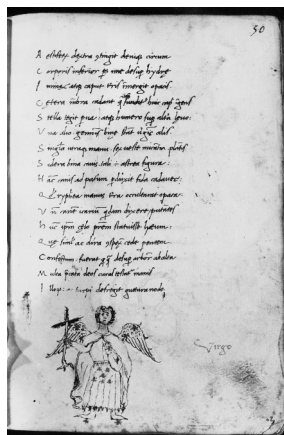


fol. 39v





fol. 49v



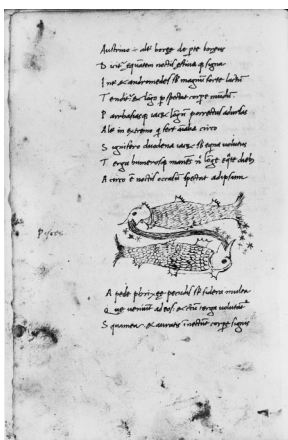
fol. 50r



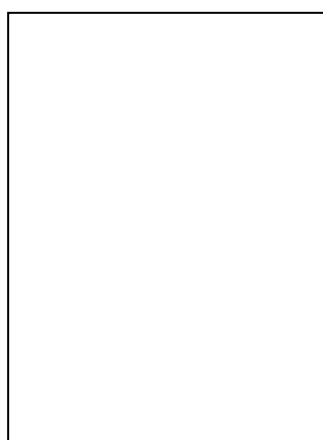
fol. 50v



fol. 51v



fol. 52v



fol. 53r

fol. 31r      Diagram of the celestial spheres labelled: Meridies ubi sinistra; Septentrio ubi dexter; Occidens ubi mundi anteriora and Oriens ubi mundi postrema.

Fol. 32r      Diagram of the five zones of the Earth with labels: Auster and Aquila

ff. 34v-52v      Inexpert pen drawings of 40 constellations with the stars marked in red ink. The depiction of ARA has been cut out of the manuscript. Most of the constellations are labelled in Latin in red ink. The images of SAGITTARIUS and AQUARIUS have not been drawn.

fol. 34v      *Draco inter arctos* (labelled: Urse Anguis) with **DRACO** with his head toward the bottom of the page with a long curved and pointed nose, a flame-like tongue and teeth visible. His body has 3 main bends. The BEARS are placed back-to-back, facing into the curves in the second and third bends. The bears are the same size. DRACO has 5 stars in the head and 11 stars in the body, or 16 stars in all. **URSA MINOR** has 3 stars on the tail and 1 in each foot, or 7 stars in all. **URSA**

**MAIOR** has 5 stars in the head, 4 on the rump, and 1 on the left front foot, or 10 stars in all.

- fol. 35r      **BOOTES** (labelled *Arctophylax*) stands facing to the right. He is dressed in a short tunic with tassels holding his leggings. He holds a feminine ovate shield extended in front of him in his left hand so that it covers the whole of his left arm. He raises his right hand. He is marked with stars, including 1 in the head, 1 in each shoulder, 3 on the chest, 1 on the waist, 1 in the right elbow, 4 on the shield and 1 on each foot.
- fol. 35v      **CORONA BOREALIS** (labelled: *Ariadnes Corona*) is a series of circles with a spiky outer edge marked by 9 stars.
- fol. 36r      **HERCULES** (labelled: *Effigies herculis*) stands facing the viewer facing slightly to the left. He is nude. He holds a lion's skin (head, 4 paws and tail visible) so that it is draped over his right shoulder, while he holds the scruff of the neck in his left hand down by his side and he raises a knobbly club behind his head with his right hand. He is marked with stars, including 2 on the chest, 1 on the belly, 1 on the right elbow, 1 on the left elbow, 4 on the right leg, 1 on the right foot and at least three in the lion's face.
- fol. 36v      **LYRA** (labelled: *Lyra*) is a two-stepped zither with 3 sets of 4 or 5 strings. An animal's head protrudes from the right side. It has at least 5 stars.
- fol. 37r      **CYGNUS** (labelled: *Cygnus*) stands to the left, with its wings outstretched to either side. It has 4 stars in the right wing, 4 in the left wing, 1 in the head, 1 in the neck and 1 in the tail, or 11 stars in all.
- fol. 37v      **CEPHEUS** (labelled: *Cepheus*) stands facing the viewer, dressed in a short, tight-fitting blue tunic and hose. He has a mitre-shaped cap and holds his arms out to either side with palms facing forward and the arms slightly bent so they form a 'W'. He has a wide belt slung low on his hips. He is marked with stars, including 2 on the tiara, 2 on the right side, 1 in each hand, 3 on the belt and 2 on the left knee.
- fol. 38r      **CASSIOPEIA** (labelled: *Casiopes*) is seated on a low, backless throne, facing the viewer, with her arms outstretched to either side with her elbows slightly bent. She wears a long dress and mantle, held at her neck. She is marked with stars, including 1 on the head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on her right breast, 2 at the waist, 2 in the lap and 1 on the right leg.

- fol. 38v      **ANDROMEDA** (labelled: Andromade) walks to the left. She wears a light shift that exposes her right breast and falls to her knees. She rests her right hand on her stomach and trails her left hand behind her. She looks up to the left. She is marked with stars, including 1 on her head, 1 above each shoulder, 1 on each hand, 1 on each elbow, 2 on each thigh, 1 on the right foot and 2 on the left foot.
- fol. 39r      **PERSEUS** (labelled: perseus. medusa) stands with his back to the viewer and facing to the left. He is dressed in a full suit of armour. He raises a slightly curved, sword above his head with his right hand and, in his left hand, he holds the head of the Medusa's head in front of him by its bloody and snaky tresses. There are no stars marked.
- fol. 39v      **AURIGA** (not labelled) stands facing the viewer, dressed in a loose tunic, the hem of which ends in curling strap-like tendrils. He holds both his arms extended to the sides, raising a flail with knotted thongs in his right hand and 2 animal heads in his left. He has an animal head coming from his left shoulder as well.
- fol. 40v      **OPHIUCHUS** (labelled: anguitenens) is nude and faces the viewer. He holds the **SERPENS** so that crosses his body in front of his genitals and its head is to the left, turning back to the Snakeholder. **OPHIUCHUS** turns his head to the left. There are no stars marked.
- fol. 41r      **SAGITTA** (labelled: Sagitta herculis) has its point towards the bottom of the page and is marked with 4 stars.
- fol. 41v      **AQUILA** (not labelled) faces to the right and has a crown on his head with his wings outstretched to either side. He has 1 star in his head, 1 in each wing, and 1 in his tail, or 4 stars in all.
- fol. 42r      **DELPHINUS** (not labelled) is placed upside-down with its back facing towards the bottom of the page and its snout to the right. It has 4 stars in its head, 1 on the fin, 2 on the belly and 2 in the tail.
- fol. 42v      **PEGASUS** is half a winged horse that faces to the right. He wears a bridle and turns his head towards the viewer. There are no stars marked.

**CETUS** is a dog-faced monster with a curled tail. He faces to the right, has pointed ears and crosses his front feet. There are 6 stars on the belly, 5 on the tail and 2 on the tip of the tail, of 13 stars in all.

fol. 43r **ERIDANUS** is a nude female figure with long hair, walking to the left, holding the urn across her body horizontally, with her left hand on the base and her right on the neck. Water flows to the left and there are stars in the body of the urn and in the water.

fol. 43v **ORION** (labelled: Urion) walks to the left, is nude and faces towards the stands facing the viewer. He holds his left hand at hip height and holds a bow-shaped object with splayed ends in front of him in his right hand (remnant of the river/ banderol?). There are no stars marked and he is accompanied (to the left) by **LEPUS**, which is depicted jumping to the left by Orion's right leg. It has no stars.

fol. 44r **CANIS MAIOR** (labelled: Canis maior) is a greyhound that leaps to the left with its tongue sticking out. There are no stars marked.

fol. 44v **CANIS MINOR** (labelled: canis) is more hound-like and also bounds to the left, lifting its front paws and sticking its tongue out. There are no stars marked.

fol. 45r **ARGO** (labelled: argos) is a foreshortened ship sailing to the right. It has a square-rigged mainmast and a crow's nest and 2 steering oars and is set in the water. There are no stars marked.

fol. 46r **CENTAURUS** (not labelled) is a centaur with a spotted equine body, who leaps to the left. His human half is wearing a close-fitting doublet. He holds **LUPUS** (a rabbit) by its heels in his extended right hand and holds his left hand by his side. He has no other attributes and no stars.

[There is a hole in the page where **ARA** should be].

fol. 47r **HYDRA** (none of the figures is labelled) is a two-footed dragon that faces to the left, with a curl in its neck and a curl in its tail. Its wings are dotted and slightly flared. It has a beard and pointed ears and sticks his tongue out. There is a two-handled vase-shaped **CRATER** on his back and a small, dove-like **CORVUS**, facing forwards and standing on his wing. No stars are marked.

fol. 47v **PISCIS AUSTRINUS** (labelled: Piscis austrinus) is a large fish that swims to the left. It has 12 stars marked.



- ARIES** (labelled: Aries) is '*intra triangulum*', walking to the left with its head turned back to the right and with short, curled horns. It is marked with stars, including, 1 on each horn, 1 on the head, 4 on the body, 1 on the belly and 1 on the right hind foot. **TRIANGULUM** has 3 stars.
- fol. 48r **TAURUS** (labelled: Taurus) is depicted as  $\frac{1}{2}$  a bull ending in clouds. He is marked with stars, including 1 on each eye, 7 in front of his nose, 3 on the chest and 1 on each front knee.
- fol. 48r **GEMINI** (labelled: Gemini) may be of different sexes, but it is difficult to tell. The right Twin has been (relatively) well-drawn, but the left twin, holding something like a chain in its right hand) seems to have been added at a later stage by an extremely inexperienced hand. There are no stars marked.
- fol. 49r **CANCER** (labelled: Cancer) is a round-bodied crab, facing to the left with 2 large smooth claws and 4 thin, bending on either side. It has 2 stars on the shell, 1 in front of the nose, 3 in the right claw, 2 in the left claw, 2 on the top legs and 6 on the bottom legs.
- fol. 49v **LEO** (labelled: Leo) walks to the right with his left front paw is raised. He is marked with stars, including 5 along the mane, 3 on the chest, 1 on the left front leg, 2 on the belly, 2 on the right hind leg, 1 on each hind paw and 2 in the tail.
- fol. 50r **VIRGO** (labelled: Virgo) stands facing the viewer with large wings and dressed in a belted gown. She raises her left hand in front of her chest and raises her left arm, holding a plant with roots showing at the bottom and with a cruciform top. She is marked with stars, including 1 star in the head, 2 on each wing, 6 on her skirt and 1 on each foot.
- fol. 50v **SCORPIO** (labelled: Libra & Scorpius) faces to the left with two large claws and 4 legs on either side. He has a smooth, tapering tail. He holds the Scales in front of his face with his right claw. He is marked with stars, including 2 in each claw 5 in the tail and 2 at the end of the tail. There are no stars marked in the Scales.
- fol. 51r The image of **SAGITTARIUS** is missing.
- fol. 51v **CAPRICORN** (labelled: Capricornus) faces to the left, with short, straight horns and a curled tail that ends in a fan. It is marked with stars, including 2 stars in

the face, 1 on each front foot, 5 on the chest, 7 on the tail, and 2 at the end of the tail.

- fol. 52r            The image of **AQUARIUS** is missing.
- fol. 52v            **PISCES** (labelled: Pisces) swim in opposite direction and seem to be placed belly-to-belly. Their mouths are connected by a stream. The top fish has no stars, but there are 7 stars behind its tail. The stream has 6 stars, the bottom fish has no stars
- fol. 53r            A drawing of the Sun and the Moon with faces

### notes

### bibliography

SOLDATI 1906, p. 84, n. 1.

mentions 2 mss in Parma

KRISTELLER, II, pp. 43-44, 554.

MITCHELL 1956-1957, pp. 97-101.

MITCHELL 1960, pp. 71-74.

McGURK 1996, IV, pp. 74-77.

humanist cursive with numerous other texts; ill's between 34v and 52v drawings with stars inc (29r): Basinii Parmensis Poetae celeberrimi ατεομομηκων. liber primus. Etherios orbis subiectaque templa deorum ...  
expl (67v) atque vias semper volventis olympi.

MARIANI CANOVA 1994, p. 207.

R. RICCIARDI, *Il libellus epistularum De exhortatione in Turcos attribuito a Giovanni Stefano Cotta nel cod. Parm. 27*, in *Tradizione classica e letteratura umanistica. Per Alessandro Perosa*, a cura di R. Cardini, E. Garin et alii, vol. I, Roma 1985, pp. 297-306.

FRIOLI 2006.

CHISENA 2016, pp. 53-54.

Humanist cursive with notes in both Latin and Greek; titles in red ink; notes in Latin; dates to second half 15th C; see also for more complete information on contents.

BLUME/HAFFNER/METZGER 2016, II, 2, pp. 100, 670-75.

217 x 140 mm; paper; humanistic cursive in several hands; 'of modest quality'; note that the *Astronomicon* appears in the middle of texts by contemporary humanists who discuss or translate Greek literature; letter to Sigismondo also appears in Venice XII , 194; iconographically, the illustrations are close to Rome, Munich, Padua and Krakow and Parma 1008. Date to the last quarter of the 15th c (c. 1500?)