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Basinio da Parma, *Astronomicon*

Italian

Last quarter of 15th century

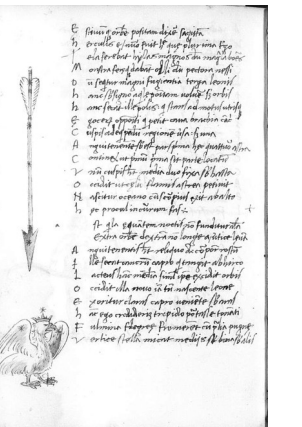
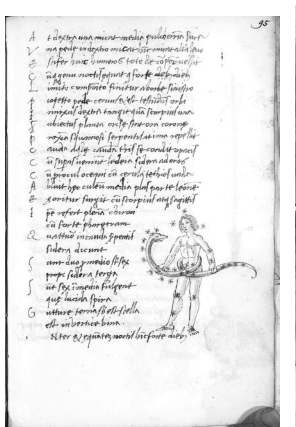
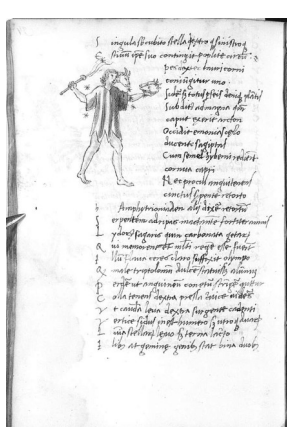
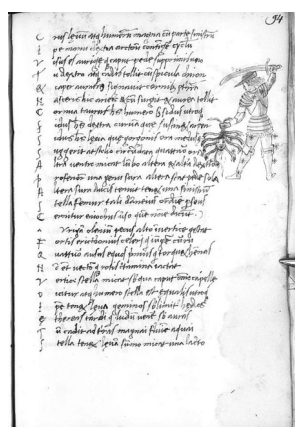
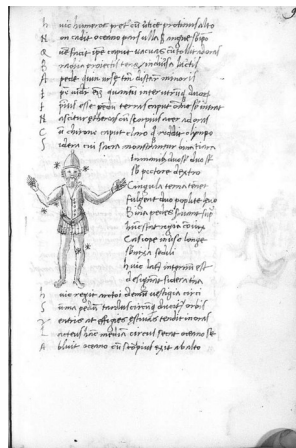
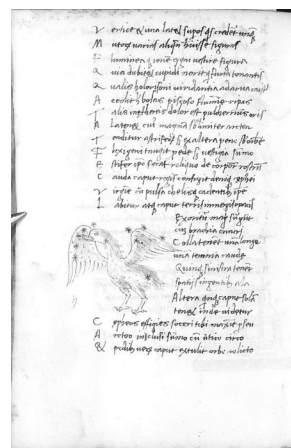
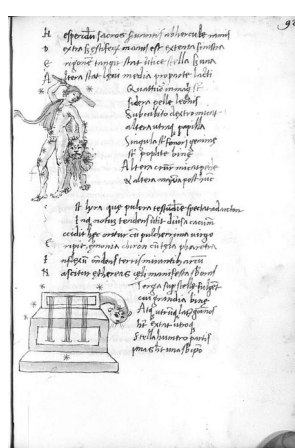
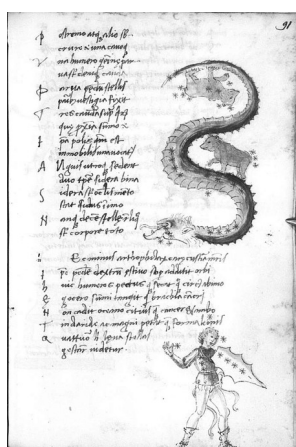
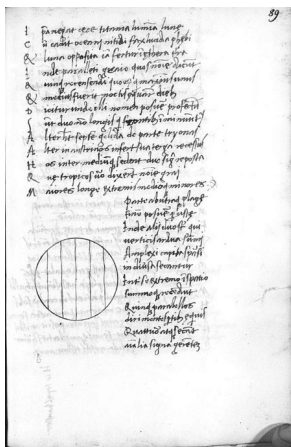
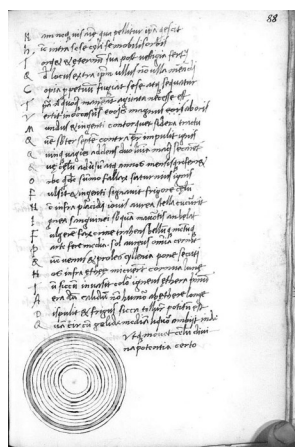
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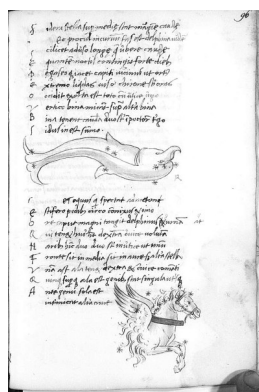
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|---------------|--|
| fol. 1r | (first 7 lines of Manilius, <i>Astronomica</i> , Book I)
[]ARMINE: divinas artis & conscia fati
Sidera diversos hominum varianta casus —
Nec mihi tu cęsar patriae princepsque
Q [ends after initial] |
| fol. 1v | blank |
| ff. 2r-86v | Marcus Manilius, <i>Astronomica</i> , I - V, 745
[]ARMINE: divinas artis
conscia fati
Sidera diversos hominum varianta casus —
Ipse suas ęther flamas sufferre nequiret
Totus et intenso mundus flagrare Olympo. |
| ff. 87r- 113r | Basinio da Parma, <i>Astronomicon</i> Books I and II, with Book I illustrated)

ff. 87r-103r (Book I)
[]ethereos orbis subiectaque templa deorum
Musa cane atque vias semper volventis olympi —
Orbe super magno miris qui sydera signis
Nexa tenet cursu volventis olympj.

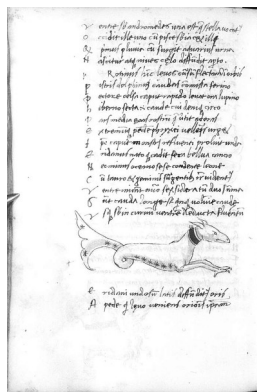
ff. 103v-113r (Book II)
[]Uinque vagas +iam: nec non pulcherrima mundj —
Templa cano atque vias semper volventis olympj.
: AMEN: |

illustrations

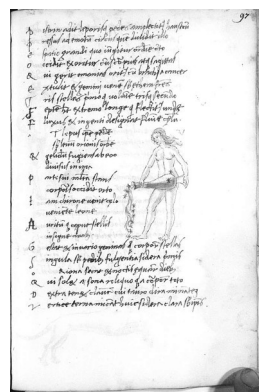




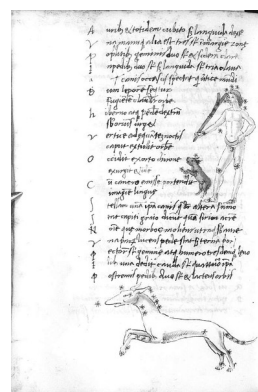
fol. 96r



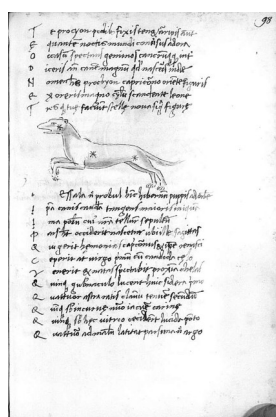
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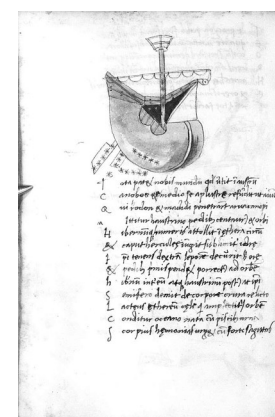
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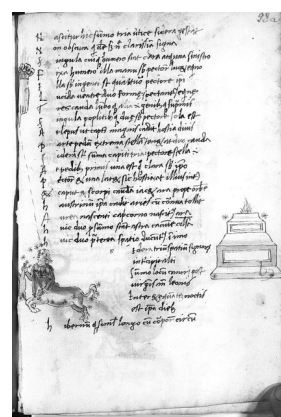
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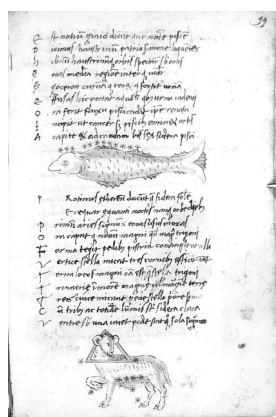
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fol. 98a r



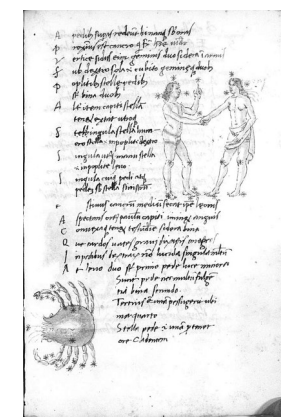
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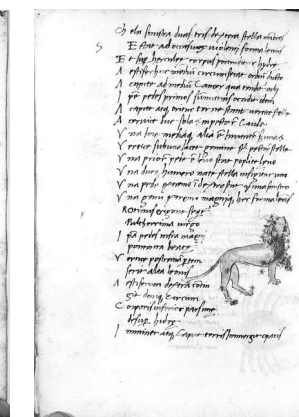
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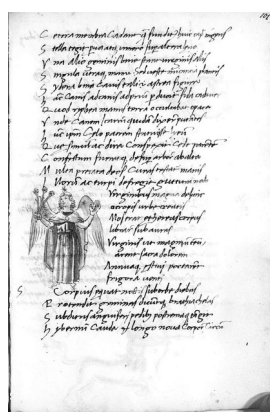
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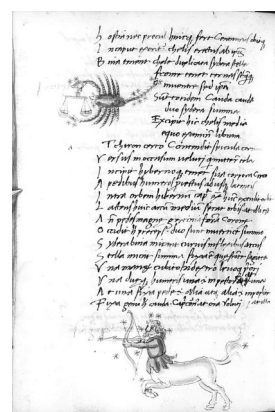
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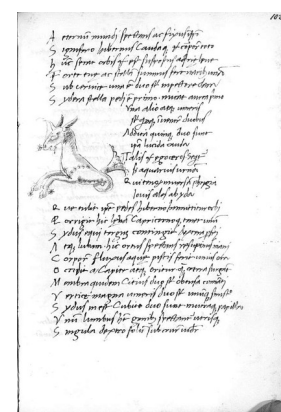
fol. 100v



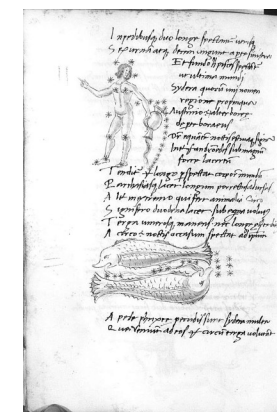
fol. 101r



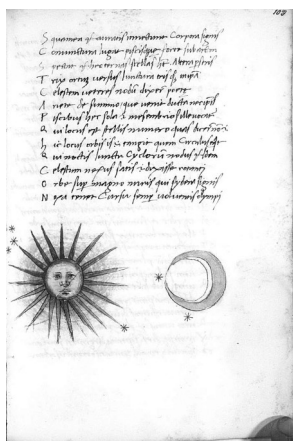
fol. 101v



fol. 102r



fol. 102v



fol. 102r

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- fol. 88r An incomplete diagram of the order of the spheres with the second band from the outside coloured in light blue.
- fol. 89r An incomplete diagram of a circle with 5 vertical lines running through it (climes)
- ff. 91r- 102v A set of delicate pen drawings drawings with colour washes of 45 constellations, with the stars indicated with red star-shapes.
- fol. 103r Depiction of the Sun (as a yellow face with red rays and a yellow background) and the Moon (as a yellow crescent), with 6 red stars around them.
- fol. 91r **DRACO INTER ARCTOS** with **DRACO** with his head toward the bottom of the page with a long curved and pointed nose, an open mouth, and with his tongue and teeth visible. He has a yellow belly and chin, green central strip and olive back. His body has 3 main bends in his body. Draco has 4 stars in the head and 11 stars in the body, or 15 stars in all. The grey-brown BEARS are placed back-to-back, facing into the curves in the second and third bends. They are the same size and they both raise their right paws. **URSA MINOR** has 3 on the tail and 1 below each foot, or 7 stars in all. **URSA MAIOR** has 2 in the head, 4 on the rump, 2 in the chest and 1 on the left front foot, or 9 stars in all.
- BOOTES** stands facing to the right. He is dressed in a short blue tunic with gold ribbons at his waist and across his chest, with white leggings and small boots. He has blonde hair and holds a horse-head shield in his left hand so that it covers the whole of his left arm. He raises his right hand. He has 1 star above the head, 1 in front of his face, 3 on the chest, 1 in the right hand, 4 on the shield and 1 on each foot, or 11 stars in all.
- fol. 91v **CORONA BOREALIS** is a spiky, golden wreath with 9 stars.
- fol. 92r **HERCULES** stands facing the viewer facing slightly to the left. He is a nude youth with short blonde hair. He holds a yellow lion's skin (head

and 2 paws visible) in his left hand down by his side and raises a knobbly yellow club behind his head with his right hand. He has 1 star above the head, 1 on each nipple, 1 on his stomach, 1 on the left elbow, 1 near the right elbow, 2 on his right thigh, 1 on his right knee, 1 on his right shin, 1 on his right foot and 4 stars in the lion's face, or 15 stars in all.

LYRA is a tan, two-stepped zither with 3 sets of 4 red strings. A yellow animal's head protrudes from the right side. It has 2 stars above the instrument, 2 to the right, 1 in the head of the animal and 1 in the base, or 6 stars in all.

- fol. 92v **CYGNUS** is grey and 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. 93r **CEPHEUS** stands facing the viewer, dressed in a short, tight-fitting blue tunic with a yellow belt and yellow hose. He has a yellow 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 2 stars in the head, 1 in each hand, 2 in the right arm, the chest, 3 in the waist and 2 in the left knee, or 11 stars in all.
- fol. 93v **CASSIOPEIA** is seated on a low, backless tan throne, facing the viewer, with her arms outstretched to either side with her elbows slightly bent. She wears a long white dress and blue mantle with a yellow interior, held at her neck. She has long blonde hair. She has 1 star in the head, 1 above each shoulder, 1 in the right breast, 1 on each hip, 1 on each knee, and 1 on the right foot, or 9 stars in all.
- ANDROMEDA** kneels to the left. She is nude, save a tan piece of cloth that she holds in front of her genitals with her right hand and that is then caught over the elbow of her outstretched left arm. She has 1 star on the head, 1 on each shoulder, 2 stars on the right elbow, 1 on the left elbow, 2 on the belly, 1 on the right thigh, 1 on the right knee, 3 on the left shin, or 13 stars in all.
- fol. 94r **PERSEUS** stands with his back to the viewer and facing to the left. He is dressed in a full suit of blue armour and with a grey hunter's hat on his head. 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. He has 1 star in each shoulder, 1 on each hand, 1 on each hip, 1 on the right knee, 1 on each calf and 1 on the left foot, with 5 in the head of the Medusa or 15 stars in all.
- fol. 94v **AURIGA** stands facing the viewer, dressed in a loose tan tunic. He holds both his arms extended to the sides, with a yellow flail in his right hand and 2 goat heads in his left. He has an animal head coming from his left side of his head. He has 1 star above the head in the thongs of the flail, 1 on each shoulder, 1 in the left elbow, 1 below each elbow, and 1 in the left wrist, or 7 stars in all.

- fol. 95r **OPHIUCHUS** is nude and faces the viewer. He holds the green **SERPENS** so that crosses his body in front of his genitals and its head is to the left, turning back to the Snakeholder. **OPHIUCHUS** has 3 stars around the head, 1 each shoulder, 2 on his waist, 1 on each knee, 1 in the right shin, 1 on each foot and 3 on his left arm, or 13 stars in all. The **SERPENS** is also marked with 18 stars.
- fol. 95v **SAGITTA** has its grey point towards the bottom of the page and is marked 4 stars.
- AQUILA** faces to the right and has a yellow 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. 96r **DELPHINUS** is grey and placed upside-down with its back facing toward 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. 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. **PEGASUS** is half a winged horse that faces to the right with its front legs tucked under. He wears a red-orange bridle and a yellow wing. It has 3 stars in the head, 5 in the neck, 1 above the wing, 1 in the wing, 1 on the cut-off and 2 in each knee, or 15 stars in all.
- fol. 96v **CETUS** is a dog-faced monster with a curled tail. He faces to the right, has pointed ears, a thick, red collar around his neck and clawed front feet. There are 6 stars on the belly, 2 on the tail and 2 on the tip of the tail, or 13 stars in all.
- fol. 97r **ERIDANUS** is a nude female figure with long blonde hair, standing to the left, holding a green urn across her body horizontally, with her left hand on the base and her right on the neck. Green water flows to the left and there are stars in the body of the urn and in the water. There are 2 stars in the urn and 10 in the water, or 12 stars in all.
- fol. 97v **ORION** stands facing the viewer, and is nude except for a wide yellow belt. He is blonde and stands resting his left hand on his left hip and holds a bifurcated stick raised in his right hand. He has 5 stars in the head, 1 in the right shoulder, 1 in the right hand, 1 near the right elbow, 1 in each knee, 1 in each foot and three on his stick, or 15 stars in all.
- LEPUS** is like a small puppy jumping to the left by Orion's right leg. It has 1 star in each ear, 1 on each forefoot, 1 in the chest and 1 on the groin or 6 stars in all.
- CANIS MAIOR** is a greyhound that leaps to the left. It is marked by stars, including 3 stars on the head, 2 in the neck, 4 in the back of the neck, 3 on the left leg, 1 in the groin, 2 in the back knees, 1 on the right foot and 4 in the tail, or 20 stars in all.
- fol. 98r **CANIS MINOR** is more hound-like and also bounds to the left, lifting its front paws. It has 1 star in the head, 1 in the chest and 1 on the haunch or 3 stars in all.

- fol. 98v **ARGO** seems to be a full, foreshortened and sailing to the right, with a grey hull and the rest brown. It has a square-rigged mainmast and 1 crow's nest and 2 steering oars. It has 4 stars on the mast, 5 on the keel, 5 below keel and 4 on one oar, 3 on the other oar and 1 below the keel or 22 stars in all.
- fol. 98bis r **CENTAURUS** is a centaur that leaps to the left. His human half is dressed in a green and gold jerkin. In the margin above the centaur's head, there is a hand with a red line descending towards the head of Centaurus. He holds **LUPUS** in his outstretched right hand, but part of the animal is missing in the gutter of the page. He is marked with stars, including 3 above the head and 4 by the tail. He has 3 stars above the head, 4 on the chest, 1 on the belt, 1 in the left hand, 1 in the equine chest, 3 on the equine torso, 3 in the tail, 2 in the left hind leg and 3 on the right hind leg or 21 stars in all, with at least 1 in **LUPUS**.
- fol. 98bis v **ARA** is a stepped altar with flames at the top. It has 2 stars surrounding the flame and 2 stars on the base, or 4 stars in all.
- HYDRA** 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 slightly flared. It has a beard and pointed ears and its back is blue-green and its belly is yellow. There is a handle-less vase-shaped **CRATER** on his back and a small, dove-like **CORVUS**, facing forwards and standing on his wing. It is hard to determine the exact number of the stars in this configuration, as they are floating between the figures, but it seems that **HYDRA** has 3 stars in the head, 4 in the neck, 1 in the back, 3 in the belly, 4 in the tail, 2 further in the tail, 2 in the wing, and 4 at the end of the tail, or 24 stars in all. **CRATER** has 3 stars and **CORVUS** has 3 stars.
- fol. 99r **PISCIS AUSTRINUS** is a large white fish with yellow fins that swims to the left. It has 12 stars along its upper spine.
- ARIES** is '*intra triangulum*', walking to the left with its head turned back to the right and with short, curled horns. It has 4 stars on the head, 4 on the belly, 1 below the belly, 1 on the right front foot and 1 on the right hind foot, or 11 stars in all. **TRIANGULUM** is yellow and has 2 stars.
- fol. 99v **TAURUS** is depicted as half a yellow bull ending in red-wash clouds. He has 2 stars in each horn, 3 on the head, 7 in front of the face, 3 on the chest, 1 on each knee and 1 on the left front foot or 20 stars in all.
- fol. 100r **GEMINI** are male and female (left Twin is male and in his underpants and the right Twin female and wears a drape around her waist). They shake their right hands and the left Twin points upwards with his left hand. The left Twin has 1 star in the head, 1 in each shoulder, 1 on each hand, 1 on each knee, 1 on the right foot and 2 on the left foot, or 11 stars in all. The right Twin has 1 on the head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each knee and 1 on each foot, or 7 stars in all.
- CANCER** is a round grey crab, facing to the left with 2 small, segmented claws and 4 segmented legs on either side. It has 2 stars on the shell, 3 in the right claw, 2 in the left claw, 2 on the top legs and 6 on the bottom legs, or 15 stars in all.

- fol. 100v **LEO** stands to the right with his left front paw is raised. He has 5 stars behind the head, 1 on the mane, 2 in the chest, 2 in the right front leg, 2 in the left front leg, 1 on the haunch, 1 on the right hind knee, 1 on each hind foot and 2 in the tail, or 18 stars in all.
- fol. 101r **VIRGO** stands facing the viewer with large yellow wings and dressed in a blue belted gown with a yellow mantle. The figure is cut-off at the knees. She raises both her arms and holds flowers with red dots on them in her right hand. She has 1 star in her head, 1 on the left wing, 1 on each hand, 2 at her waist, 1 below her waist, 3 in her knees and 1 on each foot, or 14 stars in all.
- fol. 101v **SCORPIO** is grey and faces to the left with two large claws and 4 pointed legs on either side. He has a segmented tail. He holds the yellow Scales in front of his face with his right claw. Scorpio has 2 stars in each claw, 3 on the face, 5 on the body, 5 on the tail and 2 on the tip of the tail, or 19 stars in all. There are no stars marked in the Scales.
- SAGITTARIUS** is a centaur, who rushes to the left with his front equine feet raised. His human half is dressed in an orange tunic. He holds the bow with his left hand and pulls the string with his right. It has 2 stars in the head, 1 on the right elbow, 4 surrounding the bow, 1 on the arrow, 1 on each front knee and 1 on the tail or 11 stars in all.
- fol. 102r **CAPRICORN** 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, 1 on the chest, 6 on the body, 7 on the belly and 2 at the end of the tail, or 20 stars in all.
- fol. 102v **AQUARIUS** is a nude youth, who stands facing the viewer with his body turned slightly to the left and his head turned to the right. The right hand is empty and the left hand holds the handle of a pink urn from which yellow water pours. He has 2 stars in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each nipple, 2 on the left elbow, 1 at the right hip, 1 on each knee, 2 on the right foot and 1 on the left foot. There are 3 stars in the base of the urn and 13 stars in the water.
- PISCES** swim in opposite directions, belly-to-belly. Their mouths are connected by a stream and they have yellow fins. The top fish has no stars, but there are 7 stars behind its tail. The stream has 9 stars and the bottom fish has no stars

notes

on paper, ff. 113; 208 x 194mm; Italian humanist cursive; evidence that was previously in the Royal Library in Salzburg (Ex Bibliotheca aulica Salesburgensi).

bibliography

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dates to 1460? Says the ma also bears also bears a stamp from the Bibliothèque nationale de France

BLUME/HAFFNER/METZGER 2016, II, ii, pp. 110, 679-82 and figs 863-67.

Notes that the wooden board binding is probably original; characteristically in small format as all the Basini oms are; executed in a skilled, but rapid manner; images close to Oxford and Venice mss;

A black and white digital copy taken from a microfilm is available on: <https://www.digitale-sammlungen.de/en/details/bsb00093135>

consulted 11 October 2006