## Baltimore

## Walters Art Gallery

Ms W 734
Hyginus, De astronomia
probably North Italian
late 12 th century

A small manuscript with delightfully quirky pen and wash illustrations. The text is an abbreviated version of each of the IV Books of the De astronomia, with the illustrations accompanying the excerpta from Book III.

## text

fol. iv:
flyleaf pasted to red velvet cover begins mid-phrase: ... angelos videlicet. Sanctos quoque electos volens intelegi.
(in red) Quod viri ulter femine in proprio sexu resurgent. (First initial red and then in black) Plerique propter hoc dicit aprilis. Donec occurramus ei iniurium perfectum - (ii v) multa rerum dampna facerent. (in red) Quod anima homines sp-se- est anima. (Red first initial and then black) QUOD anima homines ut ait idem vivificat corpus. Spes ideo dicitur. (=excerpts from Juliani Toletani, Prognosticon, III, 6 and III, 24)
ff. 1r-22v abbreviated version of Hyginus, De astronomia (contains Books I (incl. preface); Book II preface (extracts) with Book III (extracts) and Book IV (extracts)). The text includes sections of text taken from the Revised Aratus latinus, Germanicus and Cicero.
ff. $1 r-2 r \quad$ (first initial red and then black, with almost every section beginning with a red initial)

|  | Et si te studio gramatice artis inductum - et intium rerum demonstrabimus. (= <br>  <br> Hyginus, De astronomia, I, preface; cf. VIRÉ 1992, pp. 1-4) |
| :--- | :--- |
| ff. $2 \mathrm{r}-4 \mathrm{v}$ | Mundus appellatur is qui constat ex sole et luna - in simili causa posse constitui <br> suspicamur (= Hyginus, De astronomia, I, 1-9; cf. VIRÉ 1992, pp. 5-13) |
| ff. $4 \mathrm{v}-5 \mathrm{r}$ | Sed quoniam quae nobis dexterre positione dicenda fuerunt - hydra sumpisce <br> qui notius vocatur. (= Hyginus, De astronomia, II, preface; cf. Viré,1992, pp. <br> 14-15 ) |
| (note: in the margin, there is a note concerning an insert into the text that has |  |
| been cut off: Hec signa.con/ / rata n/ / his cęla... etc.) |  |

Non possunt quique faciunt vestigial cursum ...-
Atque vario motu metirier orbes
He faciunt magnos longinqui temporis annos. (= Cicero, Aratea, vv. 227-32; cf. SOUBIRAN 1972, pp. 179-80)

| fol. $20 r$ | ARATUS |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | [ ]t stelle vi. i. diversa lege feruntur- |
|  | Tempus et ipse labor, paciatur facta docebit. (= Germanicus, Aratea, vv. 43745; cf. BREYSIG 1867, p. 26) |
| fol. 20 v | Sidera quae gentiles presepe et asinos vocaverunt - inter astra collocaverunt. (= extracts from Revised Aratus latinus, cf. MAASS 1898, p. 296 and/or scholia Sangermanensia, cf. Breysig 1867, pp. 129-130) |
| ff. $20 \mathrm{v}-21 \mathrm{r}$ | Si vis scire in quo anno cicli stella saturni sit - inveniens signum in quo ille est positus. (= three paragraphs on the arithmetic rules regarding the order of the planets = source ???) |
| fol. 21 r | Luna bigam habere dicitur sive propter velocitatem - certissima habetur aurarum. (= extracts from Revised Aratus latinus, cf. MAASS 1898, p. 290 and/or scholia Strozziana, cf. BREYSIG 1867, pp. 199-202) |
| fol. 21v | Sol dum per trecentos sexaginta et $v$ dies -nubes occidat aquilonem signat. (= Revised Aratus latinus, cf. MAASS 1898, pp. 292-94) |
| fol 21v-22r | Sol transiens ab ariete ad chelas - alter propter lucem exigat (= Hyginus, De astronomia, IV, 3; cf. VIRÉ 1992, pp. 131-32; the same text appears on fol. 15v) |
| fol. 22r | Extracts from Cicero De inventione II, 159-66 |
| ff. 23r-24r | pasted down |
| fol. ir - ii r | (in 15th-century hand) continuation of extracts from Juliani Toletani, Prognosticon, III, 6, 24, 42 and 30; from Pliny on thunder, etc. |

## illustrations

ff: $5 \mathrm{v}-14 \mathrm{r}$ pen drawings of 38 constellations groupings in black (AURIGA and ARA with red pen highlights). These are set within square insets into the text. The stars are marked with redorange dots. There is no depiction of SAGITTA.

fol. $5 \mathrm{v} \quad$ DRACO INTER ARCTOS is set within a circle (the ever-visible circle) at the top left of the page. DRACO is a fire-breathing snake with 3 bends in its body facing to the right. It has a dragon's head, pointed ears and a beard. It has 5 stars in the head and 10 in the body, or 15 stars in all. Both the Bears are standing back-to-back, facing into the curves, with their tongues out. Both bears are labelled: ursa; and they both have short tails.

URSA MINOR is larger and placed within the second bend in Draco's body. It has 3 stars in the back, 3 in the tail and a circlet of 5 stars behind its rump, or 11 stars in all.

URSA MAIOR is placed so that its forefeet touch the Dragon's tail. It has 2 in its ears, 7 in its face, 2 in the shoulder, 3 on the tail, 2 on the front paws, 2 or 3 on the hind legs and a faint redorange spot in front of its hind legs, or between 20 and 22 in all.

BOOTES stands at the bottom of the page, facing the viewer and turned slightly to the left. He is nude save for a piece of drapery that falls from his left shoulder and wraps itself around his waist. He holds a curved stick, with its curve resting on the ground, so the handle is under his right armpit. The contours of his left arm are split so that the right contour passes upwards, through the text, and ends in a small hand that touches the Arctic Circle. The left contour passes over his head and down the page to another small hand that touches Corona Borealis. He has 1 star in his head, 1 in each shoulder, 1 in each breast, 1 in his right elbow, 1 in his belly and 1 on each foot, or 9 stars in all. The hand that touches the circle is marked with 4 stars, so the whole constellation has 12 stars.

CORONA BOREALIS is a lobed wreath with a number of tendrils coming out of its form, but two longer ones at the bottom. It is marked by 9 stars

HERCULES is nude and nearly kneels to the left, with his left knee hovering above the ground and his left leg bent. He faces the viewer. Covering his left arm, there is a lion's skin (with a face, 4 legs and a tail visible). In his right hand, he holds a sickle. He has 1 star in his head, 1 in each shoulder, 1 in his right elbow, 1 in his left armpit, 1 on his left shoulder, 2 in his waist, 2 in his right hip, 2 on his right knee, 2 on his right shin, and 1 on his right foot with 4 in the lion's face, or 19 stars in all.

LYRA is shaped like a harp with the supports shaped like two $S$-shaped snakes with dog's heads. It has 8 stars.
fol. $6 \mathrm{v} \quad$ CYGNUS stands facing the left, but has its head turned back over its wing to the right. It has a long neck and its wings are outstretched to either side. It has 5 stars in its right wing, 5 in left wing, 1 in its head, 1 in the neck and 1 in the tail, or 13 stars in all.

CEPHEUS stands facing the viewer dressed in a very short tunic with long, tight sleeves and knee-length boots. His belt is prominent. He has a pointed hat on his head and appears to be bearded. His hands are held out to either side with his elbows bent so his arms make a W-shape. He has 2 stars in his head, 1 in right shoulder and 2 in his left, 1 star in each hand, 1 at his waist, 3 in his belt and 2 on his left knee, or 13 visible stars. His feet are cut off by the edge of the page.


CASSIOPEIA is depicted seated on a large throne with two small steps at her feet and a tall heart-shaped back. She is seated on a cushion. She wears a long robe and has a long mantle that comes around her waist and then to her knees. He head is uncovered and she holds her arms out to either side with her elbows bent, so they make a $W$-shape. She has 1 star in her head, 1 in
each shoulders, 1 in her breast, 1 in her lap, 2 at her left side, 1 in her left knee, 4 in her throne and 1 on her right foot, or 13 stars in all.

ANDROMEDA is depicted standing between two short trees with her arms held outstretched and each tied to one of the trees. She is fully dressed in a long robe with a decorative collar and band down her torso and a belt at her waist. He hair in uncovered. She is marked by 1 star in her head, 1 on each shoulder, 4 on her chest and 3 in her waist, 1 on her right elbow, 2 on her left elbow, 1 on her left hand and possibly 2 on her left hand, and 1 on each knee, or between 16 and 18 visible stars. Her feet are cut off by the edge of the page.
fol. $8 r \quad$ AURIGA stands in a highly decorated square chariot that is pulled to the left by two prancing horses. He stands facing slightly to the right, wearing a close-fitting tunic and a long, striped cape over his left shoulder. He holds the reins in his left hand and holds a flail with three beaded thongs aloft in his right hand. There is a small goat standing above his left shoulder and a second goat standing in the space above the horses and facing to the left. He has 1 star in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each elbow and 2 on his left hand, 7 stars in all.

OPHIUCHUS is nude and walks to the left. His body is twisted so that his buttocks face the viewer, but his chest is also evident and faces the viewer. He holds the SERPENS in a horizontal position, wrapped once around his waist and it faces away from the man. There is 1 star on the man's head, 1 each shoulder, 2 on the waist, 1 on each knee, 1 in the right shin, 1 on each foot, 3 in his right hand and 4 on his left hand, or 17 stars in all. The SERPENS has no stars.

fol. $8 \mathrm{v} \quad$ AQUILA faces to the right, but turns his head backwards over his shoulder to the left. His wings are outstretched to either side and he stands with both feet on a square block. He has 1 star in his head, 1 in each wing and 1 in its tail, or 4 stars in all.
fol. $9 r$
fol. 9 v

DELPHINUS is a fish with a large horn on its nose swimming to the right. It has 4 stars in its head, 3 on the belly under the body and 2 on its tail, or 10 stars in all.

PEGASUS is depicted as half a winged horse with its rear end finishing in a curl that is tucked under its body. It faces to the right and has 1 star in each ear, 1 on its forehead and 2 on the snout, 1 on its face, 4 in its neck and 1 behind the neck on his back, 1 on its chest, 1 on it belly and 1 on its shoulder, or 14 stars in all.

TRIANGULUM is depicted as two concentric triangles, with the centre one being drawn with a wavy line. It has 3 stars

ARIES stands facing to the right has a huge set of curly horns and a long tail. It has 3 stars in its horns, 1 on its forehead, 2 in its neck, 4 in its shoulder, 1 on its belly, 1 on the foreleg and 1 on the back right leg and 1 in the tail, or 14 stars in all.

TAURUS is depicted as a full bull, facing to the left, with its right foreleg bent. It has 2 stars in its horns, 6 in its head, 1 in the chest, 3 behind the shoulder, 1 on each front knee and 1 on the left hoof, or 15 stars in all.

fol. 10r
fol. 10v
LEO stands facing to the left with prominent claws on its feet a wispy mane, its tongue sticking out and its tails wrapped between its hind legs so that the spade-shaped tip comes up along his left side. He has 3 stars in his head, 2 on the neck, 1 in the chest, 2 below the chest, 3 on the body, 2 in the right forefoot, 1 in the haunch, 2 on left back leg and 2 in his tail, or 18 stars in all.

VIRGO is without wings and stands slightly to the right, facing the viewer, wearing a long robe in two parts and with very wide outer sleeves that have tight, striped inner sleeves. Her head is uncovered and she holds both her hands up by her chest, with plants in both. She has 1 star on her head, 1 in each shoulder, 2 on the each sleeve, 1 in her left hand (?), 3 in her lap and 3 on her dress at her knees, with 1 below her knees and 1 on each foot, or 16 or 17 stars in all.
fol. $11 \mathrm{r} \quad$ SCORPIO is a strange beast, with a pointed, triangular head and prominent eyes and nose, with a pointed prong on either side. He has no front claws but has 6 side claws that end in forks. He has
a long, smooth tail that curls. His neck and back are decorated with a band that has small circlets on it. It has 2 on each side of the pointy prongs, 3 in the head, 3 on the body, 2 on the right side and 1 on the left side, and 5 along his tail, or 18 stars in all (there may have been 2 more stars at the top of his tail, but they have been erased).

SAGITTARIUS is depicted as a nude satyr standing to the right, holding a bow in his left hand and pulling its string with his right. He has 2 stars in the head, 2 in the right arm, 1 on the left wrist, 2 in the bow, 1 in the tip of the arrow, 1 on is belly, 1 on his buttock (no tail is visible), 2 on his right knee and 1 on his left and 1 on his left foot, or 14 stars in all.


CAPRICORN faces to the left and has long curved horns and a twist in his tail, which ends in a large tri-lobe. He has 1 star on the nose, 8 in the neck, 2 on the chest, 5 on the belly, 2 in the tail and 2 on the left foot, or 20 stars in all.

AQUARIUS stands to the right, wearing a loose tunic in two parts that ends at his knees. He is barefooted and bare-headed. He holds the urn upside-down in front of him with both hands, his left hand holds the foot of the urn and his right holds the neck of the urn. The stream pouring out of the urns falls downwards and then turns to run under his feet. He has 2 stars in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 2 on his chest, 1 on his left elbow, 1 on his left hand, 1 at his waist, 1 on each knee, 1 on his right shin and 1 on each foot, or 14 stars in his body. There are also 3 stars in the urn and 21 in the water.
fol. 12r
PISCES swim in opposite directions, with both their backs facing upwards and their mouths connected by a line. There are 11 in the top fish (the tail is cut off by the edge of the page), none in the cord and 16 on the bottom fish.

CETUS has a dog's front half and a curling, tapering tail. He has sharp claws and an open mouth and pointed ears. He has 7 stars in his body and 7 in his tail, or 14 visible stars (the end of his tail is cut off by the edge of the page).

ERIDANUS is depicted as a river god seated in his own water. He faces to the right, has long hair and a beard and holds a trefoil (fleur-de-lis) in his left hand in front of him. There has been some rubbing on this part of the page so his urn (if there is one) is not visible. He has 3 stars on his left shoulder, 3 along his back and 7 along his left leg, or 13 visible stars. His lap area has been rubbed, so any stars that might have been there have disappeared.
fol. 12 v LEPUS runs to the left and has very large, slightly curling ears. He has 1 star in each ear, 2 on his forefeet, 1 on his shoulder and 1 on his flank, or 6 stars in all.

ORION stands facing the viewer wearing a $3 / 4$-length loose tunic with a belt at the waist and with knee-length mantle over his shoulder which covers his left arm completely. In his right hand, he holds a sword out vertically to one side. He has 2 stars on his right shoulder and 1 in his left, 1 on his right elbow and 1 on his right hand, 3 at his waist, 3 in the sword, 1 in each knee and 1 in each foot, or 15 stars in all. There are also possibly 3 stars on the head.

CANIS MAIOR is a sleek greyhound that rushes to the left, with its tongue out and wearing a collar. It has 1 star on its tongue, 1 in head and 1 on each ear, 2 in the chest and 3 on the back, 3 on its right forefoot, 1 in the left forefoot, 1 in haunch, 4 on his in tail and 2 on hind feet, or 20 stars in all.


ARGO is depicted as $1 / 2$ a ship with a furled sail on its mast, 4 oars and a dog's head at the curved (left) end of the boat. It has 5 stars in the neck of the dog, 4 in the sail, 4 along the balustrade of the deck, 5 in the body of the ship and 5 in or by the oars, or 23 stars in all.

CENTAURUS is a wild-haired, bearded centaur that leaps to the right and has a furry band separating his human from his equine parts. He human half is nude and he holds a dead LUPUS (species unclear) by its heels in front of him in his left hand. He holds a pointed spear at a diagonal in his right hand. He has 1 star in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 4 on the right side of his chest, 2 on his waist, 1 on his left elbow, 1 on his left hand, 1 in his horse's chest (with a second one rubbed out or a red-orange blot/stain), 3 on the horse's body, 2 on each of its fore knees and 3 in the tail, or at least 21 visible stars. The forefeet and the body of Lupus are cut off by the edge of the page.

ARA is an altar with three parts, shaped like a capital ' 1 ', with the centre part being brick. There are re-orange flames coming from the top and it has 4 stars.

HYDRA is a snake with a dog's head moving to the left. It has a band down its side. It has 3 stars in its head, and combinations of $6,3,4,2$ stars in its middle and 8 stars on its tail, or 26 stars in all.

CRATER is an egg-shaped covered cup and has 8 stars.

CORVUS stands on the mid-body of Hydra and faces towards its head. It has 9 stars.
fol. 14r
PISCIS AUSTRINUS is a fish with a curved snout swimming to the right. li has 10 stars and 4 pale dots above the stars.

fol. 20r
fol. 20v


#### Abstract

fol. 20r The two ASINI standing either side of a cylindrical manger. Both are facing the manger, with the left one looking up and the right one eating. fol. 20v Luna standing in her biga, facing to the right and being drawn by two oxen. She holds a stick (reins?) in her left hand in front of her and holds a crescent Moon in her right hand. Her head is covered and she looks upwards.


## notes

Formerly Goldschmidt Coll, London; also Munich, Hirsch (?) Coll, see also Vat 645 and Phill 1832.

Note also that the sequence of texts (and extracts) is reproduced in 15th-century manuscript, Vienna ÖNB, cod. 3394, which is North Italian, probably Paduan.

It is written in Gothic miniscule. There are a few intriguing features that tie it - albeit distantly - to toher Hyginus mss, such as the shared images of Bootes holding the polar circle containing Draco inter arctos in the two 12th-century English Hyginus manuscripts: OXFORD BODLEY 614 and DIGBY 83, and there are also pictorial details that connect the images to those that appear in the De ordine ac positione manuscripts (note the similar use of De ordine images in the Hyginus ms, MUNICH, clm 10260), but the illustrations in the Baltimore manuscript are sufficiently idiosyncratic to keep it as a singleton.

Walter's folder: old label = c. 1200, Italian, notes Suetonius's info about Hyginus 1st c AD freed by Augustus and keeper of the Palatine Library; D. Miner says vellum, $22 \mathrm{ff} 16 \times 12 \mathrm{~cm}$; French (?), XIII c, 39 pen drawings, bound in modern red velvet with fragments of a XIc Italian ms of the Resurrection [?] ; Write-up for collections committee, says 12th century Italian copy of Carolingian original [??] with the front leafs 10th c unknown treatise on the nature of man; rubication unfinished; \$1,137.00 was the asking price (which Saxl and Panofsky felt was moderate)

Early textura book hand 1-22; in brown verging on black ink; ABYZ (later than text) Av, B-Bv, Y$\mathrm{Yv}, \mathrm{Z}=$ Italian textura (later than mss) brown ink; f 22v: pen trials and text in textura semi quadrata: Reverendo in Christo

## bibliography

Twenty mss ... E.P. Goldschmidt 1937, cat. 44 p. 11 (no. 12) and plate III and IV.

Twenty mss ... E.P. Goldschmidt 1947, cat. 82, no. 1.

BYVANCK 1949, pp. 230-31, no. 117.

SAXL 1959, pp. 103, 108, pl. 58b and 60d (Hercules)
names as W. 734).

BOND 1962, p. 197: No 561. Hyginus in Latin; 22 ff , $16 \times 12 \mathrm{~cm}$, written in France (?), 12th century, 39 pen drawings of constellations; purchased in 1947 from E.P. Goldschmidt, cat 44. (1937), no 12; cat 82 (1947), no. 1.

McGURK IV 1966, p. xxiii.
notes that v close to Florence, Plut 2. 30 Hyginus; says the appearance of the Aselli shows closeness to Madrid-Monza redaction of the 810 astronomical compilation (Florence one has only one donkey?); also notes that Baltimore, Walters Hyginus has Aselli.
p. xxiii, n. 35-noted Byvanck=s article in Bull Soc Franc Repr Mss à peintures, pp. 230-31 who talks of mss with London dealer; $n .36$ ill of aselli; he seems to imply that it is Northern European.

MINER 1968-69, pp. 41-118, esp. pp. 83-87.
Italy (?), late 12th century, 22 vellum leaves approximately $65 / 8 \times 47 / 8$ " ( $0.168 \times 0.120$ ). In early Gothic miniscule, black ink, generally 24 long lines per page, very lightly ruled in lead, pricked margins, gatherings in varying composition. 40 drawings. Red initials, executed only in part, guide letters in the inner margins, modern cut velvet lined binding with leaves from an Italian 12th-century ms of a commentary on St Augustine. Rough parchment leaves, uneven size and quality, with many flaws repaired by sewing; illustrations are simple outline drawings with touches of red. Following McGurk, is quite rare as most the early versions of the ms have illustrations to Book II, but this illustrates Book III. She says that the sickle shape of Hercules's weapon may indicate contact with Arabic sources, so probably dates post-1200 or a few years later; vellum and script suggest Italy, but Spain or southern France are possible.

FITZGERALD 1974, esp. pp. 198-99:
fragmentary tracts accompanying and incomplete Astronomia, 12th century, ea Gothic miniscule of a North Italian style with rubricated capitals usually marking each new section 38 illustrations of the constellations with illus accompanying Book III and stars marked and an illustration of Aselli after excerpt VI and Luna before the final passage of excerpt VIII.

Excerpts V and VI and written in verse. Either deliberately edited or copied from an edited exemplar because of lack of significant breaks between passages and change in extant passages to ease transition. See also Digby 83 where passages re incorporated in another text, but here Aratea passages are addenda in Hyginus text. Both practices are common in the 12th c; bracketing folii are named ABCD and Ar and Dv are pasted to the covers on Julian, Bishop of Toledo, see Bibliothecae Sanctorum, VI, pp. 1216-18. Note that her transcriptions and page numbers are often faulty. She says:

- all of Book I
- opening of Book II ending ‘qui notius vocatur’ (ed Bunte p. 29.21); myths of Book II are lacking
- whole of Book III; has other wise missing chapters 39 and 40 from Book II combined with chapters 28 and 39 from Book III - both sections on Hydra and Ara); also chap 29 of Book III lacks para on 'nodum caselestem'
- first chapter of Book IV is missing ('Quoniam in intio ... ad inceptum revertamur' (ed. Bunte, pp. 98.17-99.20)); then runs from Book II and breaks off at chapter VIII (ending 'exortus et qui occasus' (ed. Bunte p. 105,25)); and recommences with chap 12 and ends with final sentences of chap 13 ('Arietis exortu ... et exoriri vidntur' (ed. Bunte 109.27112.9)).

BORCHERS 1975, pp. 68-69, 73 and 77.

VIRE 1981, p. 162.
12th century; French? 1-22ff: Book I, preface to Book II (Bunte 29, 21); Book 3; and chaps 2-8 and 12-13 of Book IV

MUNK OLSEN 1982, p. 525.
VIRÉ 1992, not mentioned.

LIPPINCOTT 2006, pp. 24 ff.
focusses on the illustration of Bootes with his split arm holding both the polar circle and Corona Borealis, which is also seen on the Oxford Hyginus excerpt manuscripts, Bodley 614 and Digby 83.

BLUME, HAFFNER, METZGER 2012, I, pp. 126-27 and 193-98.
say North Italian or French, second half 12th c; poor quality drawings in the same ink as the text; outlines the texts and identifies the passages from the 'Recensio Interpolata';
p. 194 - notes FITZGERALD's attrib to Italy and date to late 12th C as most convincing, esp. given the fragment from an Italian ms pasted on to the cover (notes by FAYE \& BOND 1962, p. 197); but say precise stylistic judgement about the drawings is impossible, noting the
narrow waist of Orion and the double pleats of the skirt fabrics appear to reflect 'highroman' style of the mid-12th C; the few flourishes seem to indicate late 12th C; also feels possible to extend geographical reach to France, as well as S German/Austrian area.

The main component is the text of Hyginus in redaction, losing most of Book II, but also has parts of the Excerptum de astrologia, small bits of Germanicus and Cicero and sections from the Revised Aratus latinus on the planets
the illustrations to the third book of Hyginus seem to relate to those in the De ordine mss, which has Draco inter arctos within a polar circle, as well as many other features; suggests that the particular excerpts show an interest in astronomy; believes that the accurate marking of the stars reflects this
p. 195 - combination of circumpolar stars with Bootes and Corona borealis also appears in Oxford Bodley 614 and Digby 83;
the appearance of the illustrations to Book III, suggests a similarity to manuscripts with a French provenance; the iconography is close to another Hyginus redaction of Paris Private collection (ex-Phillipps 26235), which is French; and to St Paul im Lavanttal, which is South German; there is also a connection with the illustrations that appear in De ordine mss; cites a conflation of material from Hyginus Book III with De ordine in the Upper Rhine ms, Munich clm 10260

