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Florence

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Magliabecchiana XI. 114

Hyginus, *De astronomia*

Italian

second half 15th century

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**[VOLUME I]**

text

ff. 1r-8v Andalò da Negro, *Theorica distantiarum omnium sperarum*

ff. 9r-17r Hyginus, *De astronomia*, Books III and IV (illustrations to Book III)

fol. 9r [I]gitur incipiemus apolo boreo protinus dicere... (Hyginus, *De astronomia*, III, 1; cf. Viré 1992, p. 95)

**note:** There is a folio missing between the current 9v and 10r, which contained the texts for CEPHEUS, CASSIOPEIA, ANDROMEDA, PERSEUS and AURIGA. Fol. 9v ends with the description of LYRA: ... supra cauda unam. omnino habet stellarum .13. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, III, 7; cf. Viré 1992, p. 100). Fol. 10r begins: ... [O]Phiulchus inclinatus acapite ut qui resupinare... (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, III, 13; cf. Viré 1992, p. 104).

fol. 13r ... cum piscibus secundum est stellarum omnino 12. (Hyginus, *De astronomia*, III, 40; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 124.)

ff. 13v -17r (in red) De circulis celi. (in sepia) Que pertinent ad figurationem siderum — reliqua protinus dicemus. Quoniam initio spere circuli .5. quomodo efficerentur — sol ab estivo circulo descendens redit ad eundem. (Hyginus, *De astronomia*, III, 40 - IV, 9; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 124-36)

fol. 17r (in red) De differentia temporum ortus signorum. (in sepia) Temporum quoque

- ipsorum signorum – habent in occasum (= variant of Martianus Capella, *De Nuptiis...*, VIII, 844-45)
- ff. 17r-18v (in red) Iginij grammatici Astrologia. (in sepia) Iginus fabio suo salutem. Et si te studio grammaticae artis – posse constitui suspicamur. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, I, preface-9; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 1-13)
- ff. 18v- 19v Sed quoniam que nobis de terre positione – ad delectationem afferent lectori. Prima Prima ergo ursa .i. arctos calisto filia licaonis dicitur – presisset deformavit circulum. (= preface and abbreviated paraphrase of Hyginus, *De astronomia*, II; compare Viré 1992, pp.15 -94; cf. Florence, Laur. 89 sup 43; Vat lat 3110 and Pavia 490 )
- fol. 19v (in red) De circulis planetarum. (in sepia) Terra centron est spere celestis – (end imperfectly) certe regrediens. Oritur a\_a\_\_ ortum \_\_ \_\_ ... (Martianus Capella, *De nuptiis...*, VIII, 855-84)
- fol. 20r blank
- ff. 21r-36v Exportio canonica descriptionis stellarum secundum boreale emisperio – obscure 9. nubi similis 5.7 crinis (= *Tabula stellarum*)

**[VOLUME II]****text**

- ff. 1r-22v Hyginus, *De astronomia*, Books I-IV (not illustrated)
- ff. 1r -1v Higinus Marco Fabio plurimum salutem. AET si studio grammaticae artis – et initium rerum demonstrabimus. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, I, preface; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 1-4)
- ff. 1v-2v De mundo spera centro et axe (in red). MUndus appellatur is qui constat ex sole et luna – in simili causa posse constitui suspicamur. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, I, 1-9; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 5-13)
- ff. 2v-13v SEd quoniam que nobis de terre positione dicenda fuerunt – corporum

deformationem dicere instituimus. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, II, preface-43; cf. Viré, 1992, pp. 14-94)

note: fol. 5v has lengthy marginalia at the bottom of the page:

Regrediente Nilo ad suos meatur – in feros commovisse putetur. (= *scholia Sangermanensia* describing the mythological origins of LYRA; cf. Breysig 1867, pp. 150-51.) This also appears in Vat lat 3109 and Vat lat 3110.

ff. 13v- 17v (in red) De Archtho. (in sepia) IGitur incipiemus a polo boreo protinus dicere – autum cum piscibus stellarum omnino. 12. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, III, 1-40; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 95-124)

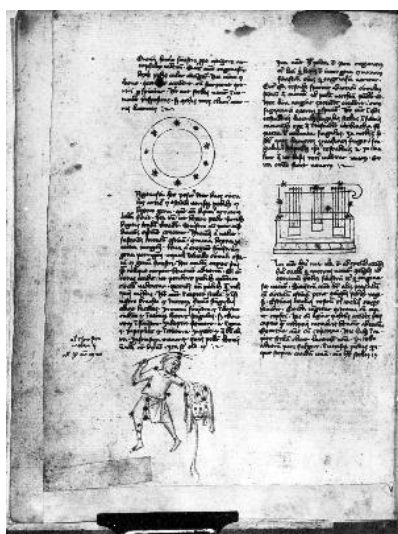
ff. 17v-22v (in red) De circulis celi. (in sepia) QUe ad figurationem siderum pertinent – reliqua protinus dicemus. Quoniam initio spere circuli .5. quomodo efficerentur – sol ab estivo circulo redit. Amen. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, III, 40 - IV, 9; cf. Viré 1992, pp.124 - 36)

After the explicit, in another hand, has: hic deficit una columna que est infra. 74 [deia t prum] signorum. For the possible significance of this note, see comments below.

illustrations



fol. 9r



fol. 9v



fol. 10r



fol. 10v



fol. 11r

VOLUME I. ff. 9r-11r

An incomplete set of pen drawings in sepia with wash for the shadows of 13 constellations with stars marked with red X's and star-shapes. There are two sorts of lacunae. First, the folio containing the pictures of CEPHEUS, CASSIOPEIA, ANDROMEDA and PERSEUS is missing. Second, the drawings have not been completed for CYGNUS, DELPHINUS, PEGASUS, TRIANGULUM and ARIES, though spaces have been left. There is a drawing for the constellation of TAURUS, but all the subsequent illustrations have not been completed; so the set is also missing GEMINI, CANCER, LEO, VIRGO, LIBRA, SCORPIO, SAGITTARIUS, CAPRICORN, AQUARIUS, PISCES, CETUS, ERIDANUS, LEPUS, ORION, CANIS MAIOR, CANIS MINOR, ARGO, CENTAURUS, LUPUS, ARA, HYDRA, CRATER, CORVUS and PISCIS AUSTRINUS (but spaces have been left until the end of Book III). This shows that the text was written before the illustrations were added.

I, fol. 9r

**DRACO INTER ARCTOS** is depicted as a dragon-headed snake with 3 big bends in his body and his head placed towards the bottom of the page. His head faces to the left and has a pointed snout, a tongue with three parts and pointed ears. The bears are set back-to-back and face into the curves. Both have short tails and their mouths are open, with URSA MAIOR being marginally larger.

**URSA MINOR** is set within the second curve and has 4 stars in its feet and 3 on its tail, or 7 stars in all.

**URSA MAIOR** is in the third bend and Draco's tail ends in front of its right forefoot. It has 9 stars on its head and 2 on its nose, 2 on its shoulder, 2 in the right forefoot, 1 on the right hind leg and 2 on the left hind foot and 3 on the tail, or 21 stars in all. Draco has 1 star on its chin, 4 on its head and 10 along the body, or 15 stars in all.

**BOOTES** faces the viewer and stands to the right wearing a short, tight tunic that has bands on his chest and hips. He is bare footed. He holds a thin, branched stick behind his head with his right hand and has a teardrop-shaped shield in his left hand that is held out in front of him and covers his whole arm. He has 1 star in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 in his right elbow, 3 in his chest (1 on each nipple and 1 below the right nipple), 1 on his belt, 1 in each foot and 4 in the shield, or 14 stars in all.

I, fol. 9v

**CORONA BOREALIS** is two concentric circles with 9 stars.

**HERCULES** faces the viewer and is dressed in a loose tunic. He lunges to the left, but looks to the right. He holds a thin, branched stick over his head with his right hand and holds a lion's body draped over his left arm (with its face, forepaws and tail visible). He has 1 star in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each elbow, 2 at his waist, 3 vertically in his skirt, 1 in his right knee, 2 on his right shin, 1 on his right foot and 5 in the lion's skin, or 19 stars in all.

**LYRA** like a zither with a curl at the right side with 3 sets of strings and 8 red stars and 1 black one star, or 9 stars in all.

[There is a blank space for **CYGNUS**.]

[The folio with illustrations of **CEPHEUS**, **CASSIOPEIA**, **ANDROMEDA** and **PERSEUS** is missing.]

I, fol. 10r

**AURIGA** stands facing the viewer in a short, tight garment. He wears a cloak that falls from his shoulder to his thighs. His head is bare. He holds a 3-thong flail upright his extended right arm and there is a small goat seated in the palm of his outstretched left hand. A goat's head peeks out from the side of **AURIGA**'s head above his left shoulder. He has 1 star on his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each elbow, 1 on his left wrist and 1 on his left hand, or 7 stars in all.

**OPHIUCHUS** is nude male, who stands facing the viewer. He holds the **SERPENS** so that it wraps once around his hips, and it turns to face him, sticking its tongue out. The head of the Snake is on the right side. The man has 1 star on his head, 1 star in each shoulder, 2 at his waist, 4 in his right hand, 3 on his left hand, 1 on each knee, 1 on his left foot, 1 on the right shin and 1 on his right foot, or 17 stars in all. The **SERPENS** has 5 stars in its head, and 18 along its body, or 23 stars in all. The total number of stars in both is 40.

**SAGITTA** points to the right and has 4 stars.

I, fol. 10v **AQUILA** stands to the right and has both his wings outstretched on either side. His beak is open. He has 1 star in his head, 1 on each wing and 1 in his tail, or 4 stars in all.

[There are blank spaces for **DELPHINUS** and **PEGASUS** on the page]

I, fol. 11r [There is blank space for **ARIES**].

**TAURUS** is depicted as half a bull facing to the left. His body is cut off by a curved line. He has 4 stars in his horns, 1 on his forehead, 1 in each eye, 3 on his shoulder, 1 on his chest, 1 on each knee and 1 on his left foot, or 14 stars in all. In addition, there are 7 stars in a circlet in front of his nose, representing the **PLEIADES**.

[There is a blank space for **GEMINI** and **CANCER**.]

I, fol. 11v [blank spaces for **LEO**, **VIRGO**, **SCORPIO** and **SAGITTARIUS**]

I, fol. 12r [blank spaces for **CAPRICORN**, **AQUARIUS**, **PISCES** and **CETUS** (pistrix)]

I, fol. 12v [blank spaces for **ERIDANUS**, **LEPUS**, **ORION**, **CANIS MAIOR**, **CANIS MINOR** (Prochion), **ARGO** and **CENTAURUS/LUPUS**]

I, fol. 13r: [blank spaces for **ARA**, **HYDRA/CRATER/CORVUS** and **PISCIS AUSTRINUS**]

non-Sicilian mss, belonged to the Strozzi family.

ii + 36 = ii; 29.8 x 22.7; blocked but not ruled; vol 2 has Hyginus, but the text ends after 22 ff (i + 22+ iii with the last pages all blocked).

Volumes I and II have both been included in this description in order to make two points. First, there are no illustrations in volume II (contrary to the notations in Viré 1981, p. 166). Second, Leonardi suggested that the Hyginus and Martianus Capella text on ff. 9r-19v text of volume I originally formed a part of the same manuscript as the Hyginus sections in volume 2 (Books I-IV). As McGurk pointed out (IV, p. 35), the Andalo da Negro chapter (ff. 1r-8v) and the *tabula stellarum* (ff. 21r-36v) in volume I are not by the same hand as the Hyginus sections. But, the Hyginus sections of volume I do form a discrete group of 14 folii and they have been numbered twice previously as 1-14 and 65-78.

Pursuing this further, the note after the explicit of volume II seems to be in an early, perhaps 15th century, hand. It refers to a column that is missing on p. 74. Unfortunately, the pages of volume 2 have been drastically trimmed and there are no indications of earlier numbering systems for this volume. However, there are traces of earlier numbering systems on the Hyginus pages in volume I, which, as mentioned, were once numbered as ff. 65-78. This would seem to indicate that the current fol. 17r is the old 'p. 74' and, as Leonardi suspected, the two Hyginian pieces that currently are split between volumes I and II, were indeed once together in the same volume. Two further bits of evidence include the fact that, on fol. 1r of volume I, there is another note in this same early hand that refers to '[ ] principium est esse infra [p.] 74' and on the old 74r (the current 17r), there is a note in yet another hand, alongside the end of the Martianus Capella text and the beginning of Book I of the *De astronomia*, that says: 'vacat reperitur in carta prima'.

Having said that, however, it is quite easy to see that Hyginus texts in volumes I and II were not written by the same scribe. If one compares the opening lines of Book III in both (volume 1, fol. 1r and volume 2, fol. 13r), one can see that the scribe of volume 1 has an open loop on his 'l', 'b' and 'd'; the scribe of volume 2 has vertical lines for all these letters. The formation of the letter 'r' is also different and there are different spellings of the same words: 'apolo' vs 'a polo' and 'utreque' vs 'utraque' and 'arctico' vs 'arthico'. The two sections of text, therefore, are not by the same hand, but they are certainly from the same period and could have been produced within the same workshop. This suggests that the two texts not only once formed part of the same manuscript, but that they were created for the same manuscript.

Notes vs. McGurk's transcriptions: ii+ 36 + i; in vol. I, pencil numbers in lower left of each recto;

‘Domini Andalo di Nigro de lanua Theorica Planetarum et tractatus spherę. Del Senatore Carlo di Tommaso Strozzi 1670.’; in vol 2 has ‘Theorica Planetarum, et Tractatus Sphaerae’; and in pencil: ‘XI. HIGINI 114.6’; and in pen at the bottom: ‘Del Sen.<sup>re</sup> : Carlo di Tommaso Strozzi. 1670’.

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### bibliography

McGURK IV 1966, pp. 29 and 33-34.

15th c; Italian, paper, I + 36 (once numbered 57-110), 295 x 220. Prov. from the Strozzi collection no 176; on fly leaf has ‘De Senatore Carlo di Tommaso Strozzi’; volume 2 has Hyginus Books I-IV of ff 1 - 22v with ff. 23-24 blank. Leonardi says that these ff together with ff 9r-19v of vol 1 are part of the same mss and are a copy of Vat lat 3110. But the script of ff 9r-19v is different from ff 1r-8v and 21r-36v of volume 1.

ULLMANN 1963, pp. 89, 209, 232.

LEONARDI 1960, p. 52.

also discusses connections with volume 2.

VIRE 1981, p. 166.

15th c, Italian; ff. 9-17 and 17r-18; preface, preface to Bk II and resume of 43 chaps of Bk II (on ff. 17r-18); Bk III and IV (ff. 9-17); Viré says that vol 2 has drawings with Hyginus sections of ff. 1-22v, but McGurk does not. She is mistaken.

most recently consulted 23.6.04