

Leiden

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Ms Gronovius 21

Hyginus, *De astronomia*

France

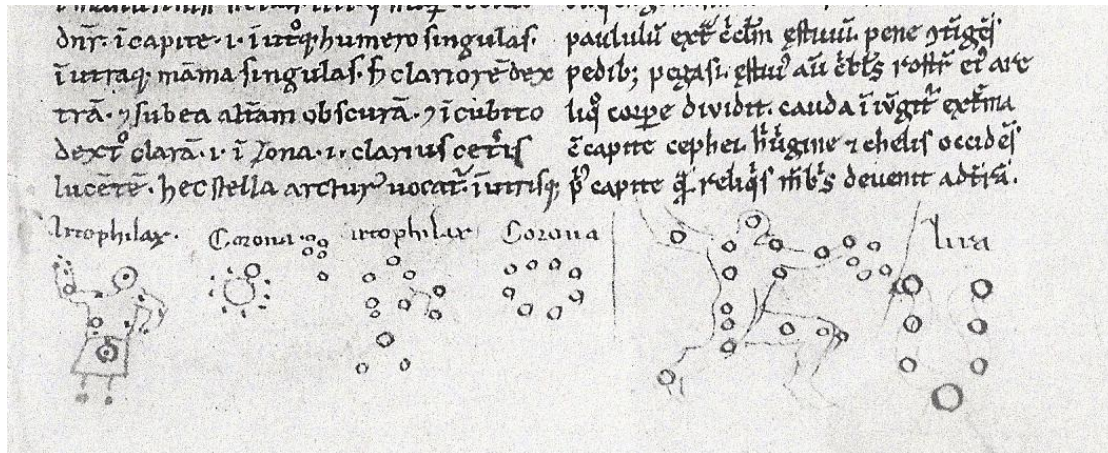
late 12th early 13th century

A late 12th century manuscript to which seven rudimentary sketches of constellations with stars marked by open circles have been added to the margin to text of Book III. Labels suggest a contemporary hand has made the additions, but not the original scribe of the text.

Other texts in the manuscript include:

Cicero, *De finibus bonorum et malorum*Cicero, *Timaios lat.*Aulus Gellius, *Noctes Atticae*Gerbert of Aurillac (?), *Geometria*Hugo of St Victoire, *Practica geometriae*Commentary on Boethius, *De consolatione philosophiae* (William of Conches?)text

- ff. 55r- [redacted] Igitur incipiemus apolo boreo prtinus dicere quo utraeque arctos nixę – [redacted] = Hyginus, *De astronomia*, Book III (cf Vire 1992, pp. 95-[redacted]).
- ff. [redacted] - 59r [redacted] - perveniant ad occasum [??] = Hyginus, *De astronomia*, Book IV, 1-8 (cf Vire 1992, pp. [redacted] - 135 (208)).
- ff.59r-59v Hanc autem Hesiodus ait esse calisto nomine – ut Eratosthenes demonstrate ...= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, Book II, 1 (24) -3 (126-27); cf Vire 1992, pp.15-20 .

illustrations

fol. 55r (bottom margin)

fol. 55r-55v rough sketches of seven constellation outlines (BOOTES (twice) CORONA BOREALIS (twice); HERCULES; LYRA, and CYGNUS. The stars are marked as open circlets, with an varying attempt at noting the different magnitudes. There is a mixed success in following the descriptions of the stars placements in the text of Book III

fol. 55r **BOOTES** (labelled: Arcophylax) stands facing the viewer, in a short, belted tunic. He raises his right hand and rests his left hand on his left hip. Following the text, there are 4 stars on the right hand, 1 star on the head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each breast (the one on the right is larger), with a fainter 1 beneath it; 1 bright star in the right elbow, 1 in the belt, larger than the others, and 1 star on each foot. There is also 1 extra star in the left elbow and 1 on the left hand.

CORONA BOREALIS (labelled: Corona) is a circle surrounded by eight small dots and one larger one at the top.

BOOTES² (labelled: Arcophylax) a diagram of the stars of Bootes, as before with the addition of an extra 1 on the left elbow and 1 on the left hand.

CORONA² (labelled: Corona) a circle of 8 circlets.

HERCULES (not labelled) is a figure facing the viewer standing in profile to the right. His right hand is raised above his head and his left hand extended in front

of him. His left leg leads and is bent, while the right leg trails and is straight. The stars are marked with 1 star in the head, 1 on the right elbow, 1 in each shoulder, 1 on the left elbow, 1 on each side, , 2 on the right thigh, 1 on the right knee, 1 on the right foot; 2 on the left thigh, 1 on the left knee, 1 above the left hand and 4 in the right hand. Divergences from the text are that the 1 on the left side is not marked as brighter, and the stars in the legs appear to have been confused, possibly between left and right or possibly because of a lack of indication as to left and right in the text.

LYRA (labelled: lira) is a long-necked and footed vase with handles on either side. It is marked by 7 stars outlining its perimeter with the one in the base as brighter.

fol. 55v CYGNUS [need to obtain image]

notes

bibliography

BIBLIOTHECAE GRONOVIANAE PARS RELIQUA 1785, p. 26.

GEEL 1852, pp. 136-37.

BUBNOV 1899, p. xxxiv.

SCHICHE 1915, pp. v-vii.

VIRE 1981, pp. 168, 242-43 and 249-51.

MUNK OLSEN 1982, pp. 197, 399 and 528.

GUMBERT 1984-85, p. 76.

MAGNALDI 1987, pp. 134-36.

VIRE 1992, p. xxvi.

mid-12th century from an uncertain monastery; 77 ff; 227 x 140; six figures added to bottom margin of fol. 55v; Hyginus from 55ra - 59vb; Book III, beginning of Book IV up to the words *perveniant ad occasum* (p. 135, 208) [???]; small excerpt from Book II (from *hanc autem Hesiodus* (p. 15, 24) to *ut Eratosthenes demonstrat* (p. 20, 7);

BLUME HAFFNER METZGER, pp. 120 and 280-83.

p. 120: a end of the 12th century reader of the contemporary Hyginus text added some sketches in the margins, adding star positions to rudimentary images of the constellations; says that wanted to correct deficit of no images, but abandoned the enterprise soon after begun.

pp. 280-83: manuscript was in France by the early 13th century; says text associated with the trivium and quadrivium; notes attempts to record brightness of stars; cites Burnett 1984, p. 154 ff re: William of Conches; also problem re: sources for illustrations in 12th-century Hyginus manuscripts