

LONDON

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Hyginus, *De astronomia*

S German (Kassel?)

13th century

text

ff. 71v-89v Hyginus, *De astronomia*, Books I - IV (with extensive glosses). Book II begins normally, but with the constellation of Draco. Each passage from Book II is followed by excerpts from Book III. As such, the illustrations accompany this conflation of Books II/III.

(**note:** the recto of each folio is numbered both ink and pencil, with the latter being more modern. We have used the pencil notations throughout.)

ff. 71v-73r Eginus. M. Fabio salutem. Et si te studio gramatice artis – illam quoque in simili causa posse constitui suspicamur. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, I, preface-9, cf. Viré 1992, pp. 5-13)

fol. 71v: gloss inc.: Philosophis est eorum que sunt et non videntur ...

fol. 73r Sed quoniam quae nobis de terre positone dicenda fuerunt – arctos draconem arctophilaca coronam engonasin vocatur. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, II, preface, lines 1-5; cf. Viré 1992, p. 14)

As mentioned above, Book II begins normally, but with the constellation of Draco, each passage from Book II is followed by excerpts from Book III.

For example, on fol. 73r the text runs:

Inicium nobis est arctos maxima. hanc esiodus ait esse callisto – (fol. 74r)  
corpore videri ut nuper ad sydera perlatum (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, II,  
1, 23 - II, 3, 132; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 15-20)

Then, it passes to description of Draco from Book III:

Hic inter duas arctos collocatus videtur – et toto corpore reliquo passim  
dispositas .x. ut omnino stellarum sunt xv. (Hyginus, *De astronomia*, III, 2;  
cf. Viré 1992, p. 96)

This pattern continues to the end of Book II with the description of Piscis  
Austrinus (fol. 85r):

Piscis qui notius appellatur Hic videtur ore aquam – pro diis penatibus  
colunt. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, II, 41; cf. Viré 1992, p. 90)

fol. 85r Hic inter hiemalem et antarcticum circulum – autem cum piscibus stellarum  
omnino xii. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, III, 40; cf. Viré 1992, p. 124)

fol. 85r After the section from Book III on Piscis Austrinus, the text  
continues with Book II, 42

(fol. 85r): Reliquum est nobis disputare de stellis .v. quas  
complures ut erraticas – (85v) mammam profuso lacte circulum  
deformatum quem diximus. (cf. Viré, 1992, p. 94)

Then there is an odd section on the serpent held by Ophiuchus:

Hic erat deformationum corporum recapitulato quam suo cuique  
loco apposui ut Draco inter duas et cetera ubi deest hoc post  
ophiulcum. Anguis habet in summo capite ii stelle sub capite iiii in  
uno loco omnes ad manum ophiulci sinistram ii sed quae maxime ad  
corpus eius accedit clariorem et in dorso anguis ad ipsam corporis  
coniunctionem v. et in prima curvata caude iiii in secunda caput

versus habet stellas vi stellarum xxxiii (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, III, 13; cf. Viré 1992, p. 105).

ff. 85r-89v

Quo inito spera circui v quomodo efficerentur ostendimus – annum esse sol ab estivo circulo redeat. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, IV, 1 -19; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 125-157 ).

In this section, there is a diagram illustrating the phases of the Moon on fol. 88v and two hands with the palms facing the viewer on fol 89v.

gloss expl.: (fol. 88v) ... interlunium dicitur quod inter defectam et renascentem sit lunam.



fol. 73r



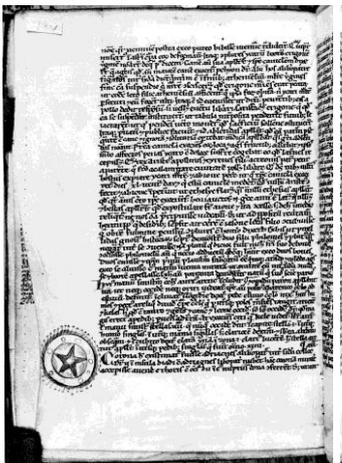
fol. 73v



fol. 73v



fol. 74r



fol. 74v



fol. 75r



fol. 75v



fol. 76v



fol. 77r



fol. 78r



fol. 79r



fol. 79v



fol. 80r



fol. 81r



fol.81v



fol. 82r



fol. 82v



fol. 83r



fol.83v



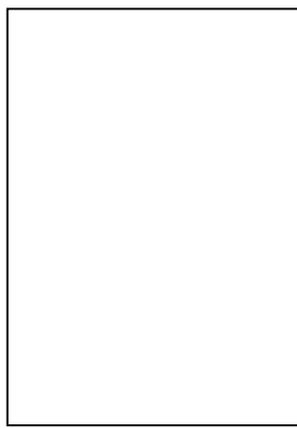
fol. 84r



fol. 84v



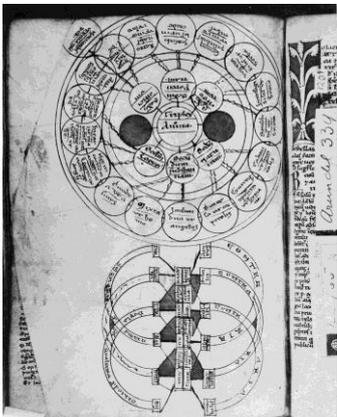
fol. 85r



fol. 88v



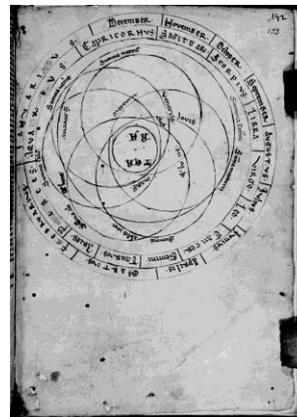
fol. 89v



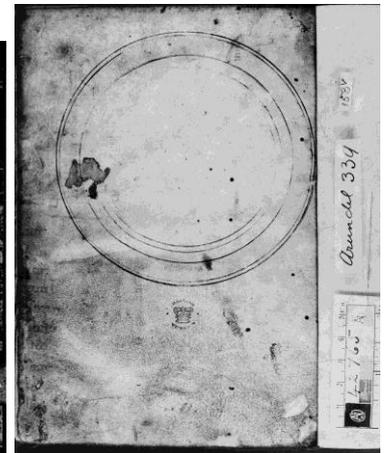
fol. 120v



fol. 124v



fol. 153r



fol. 153v

illustrations

ff. 73r-85r Drawings of 41 constellation groupings in red ink with coloured washes in a flat purplish-pink, green and blue. Often, the colour is used outside the figure to provide decorative swathes around the figure. All of the drawings are placed in the margins, but in some cases, the text (written in black ink) appears to have been moulded around pre-existing drawings. No stars are marked.

fol. 88v **A diagram illustrating the phases of the Moon**

fol. 89v Two hands with the palms facing the viewer on.

fol. 120v Two diagrams of the powers of the soul and the elements

- fol. 124v Depiction of a female figure standing to the right and holding flowers in her left hand and pointing with her right. She accompanies the chapter on *De Septem plenitudine* and is surrounded by numbers (II, IIII, VIII on the left and III, VIII and XXVII on the right).
- fol. 153r Diagram representing the relationship between the signs and the months.
- fol. 153v Incomplete diagram of concentric circles.

- fol. 73r **URSA MAIOR** walks to the left, has no tail and has a toothy smile on its face.
- fol. 73v **URSA MINOR** walk to the right, has a short tail and a toothy smile on its face.
- DRACO** is a snake, placed vertically on the page with four bends in his body and a comb and beard on his head.
- fol. 74r **BOOTES** walks to the left and faces towards the viewer. He is nude save a green and pink mantle draped over his left shoulder and around his hips. He has a green halo around his head. He holds his right hand out in front of him and raises his left hand above his head. He has no attributes.
- fol. 74v **CORONA BOREALIS** is depicted as a green star set within two, concentric red circles within which there are 7 red circlets. The whole is bounded by a green band and a fringe composed of red arrow-like lines.
- fol. 75r **HERCULES** walks to the left with bent legs, facing the viewer. He is nude, bearded and holds a lion's body in his outstretched left hand in front of him (with face and 4 paws visible). He holds a knobbly stick above his head with his right hand.
- fol. 75v **LYRA** is shaped like a vase with a foot. It has 5 strings and 2 sounding holes.
- fol. 76r **CYGNUS** stands frontally, but turns to the left with his wings outstretched and standing on his right foot with his left foot raised.
- fol. 76v **CEPHEUS** faces the viewer and wears a long green tunic with tight sleeves. He holds his arms out to either side, with his elbows slightly bent. His head is uncovered.

**CASSIOPEIA** sits on a boxy pink throne with a low back. Her head is covered by a pink cap and she wears a long blue robe with a U-shaped neck. Her hands are held out straight to either side.

**ANDROMEDA** walks to the left. She wears a long green robe with decorative bands at the neck, waist, wrists and hem. She is barefoot and her head is exposed. She holds her right hand with the palm upwards down by her side and holds her left hand raised behind her head.

**PERSEUS** walks to the left and faces the viewer. He is dressed in a  $\frac{3}{4}$ -length tunic with pink in the shadows and a decorative band at his neck. He holds the Medusa's head upside-down by its hair in his right hand in front of him and holds a sickle raised above his head in his left hand.

fol. 77r **AURIGA** drives to the right in a round-backed green *biga*. The wheel of the *biga* appears to be set between his feet. He is dressed in a  $\frac{3}{4}$ -length pink tunic with a band at the waist and the neck. He holds both his arms out to the sides. The right hand seems to point upwards with no attributes in this hand, but the lines are somewhat confused by the huge cloak that billows out behind him. On his left forearm, there are 2 goats standing back-to-back, but turning their head so that they are facing each other.

fol. 78r **OPHIUCHUS** is nude and stands facing the viewer. The figure appears to be female with long hair and pronounced breasts. The **SERPENS** is held so that it wraps around the figure one time and is carried very high on her back and crossing in front of her hips. The head is on the left and faces away from Ophiuchus.

**SAGITTA** has a point facing to the left.

fol. 79r **AQUILA** stands to the left with its wings raised to either side.

**DELPHINUS** is a long-bodied fish with a big, round eye and tusks coming from its lower jaw. It swims to the right at an angle.

fol. 79v **PEGASUS** is depicted as half a winged horse that flies to the right, with its forelegs somewhat bent. Its tail ends in a tapering curl.

fol. 80r **TRIANGULUM** is nearly equilateral and has a circlet (star) in each corner.

**ARIES** prances to the left and turns his head back over his shoulder to the right. He has curly horns.

- fol. 81r      **TAURUS** is a full bull placed facing to the right with his four legs bent, but he is not lying down. His tail curls between his legs.
- GEMINI** are two youths in long green cloaks, who have their inner arms over each other's shoulders. The left Twin raises his hand in salutation.
- fol. 81v      **CANCER** is a green crayfish with a lizard's head. It faces to the right and has two long arms and 4-5 legs on each side and a palmate tail.
- LEO** leaps to the right, but turns his head towards the viewer. His tail is wrapped between his hind legs and he has green highlights in his body.
- fol. 82r      **VIRGO** is a female figure without wings standing frontally. She is dressed in a long green gown and has her hair exposed. She raised a bunch of flowers above her head with her right hand and holds her left hand in front of her chest.
- SCORPIO** faces to the left and has 2 long arms and 4 legs on each side, a hairy proboscis and a twist in his tapering tail.
- SAGITTARIUS** is a satyr standing to the left with his back to the viewer. He wears a conical green hat and has a lacy band around his middle. He holds the bow in his left hand and pulls the string with his right.
- fol. 82v      **CAPRICORN** prances to the right with his left foreleg bent and his right one straight. He has long shaped horns and a corkscrew tail and a full bears.
- AQUARIUS** slightly crouches to the left. He is nude except for a round hat (*pilos*) and a green cape covering his shoulders. He holds his urn out in front of him horizontally with both hands near its base. Water flows from the urn into the mouth of the lower fish of Pisces.
- PISCES** are swimming in opposite directions, with both backs upwards and they are joined at their mouths by a line. Both are green and very scaly.
- fol. 83r      **CETUS** faces to the left and has a pig's face, green wings on his shoulders and a curled fish's tail. His front legs end in cloven hooves.
- ERIDANUS** seems to sit or recline and faces to the left. He has horns on his head and a reed behind his right shoulder. Along his left side he holds a green urn that pours water over his reclining lower half.
- LEPUS** jumps to the left.
- fol. 83v      **ORION** walks to the left. He wears a pointed cap and a short tunic that has a band at the waist and at the hem. He has a cloak that is held by a brooch at his

neck and falls so that it completely covers his right arm, which is held out in front of him. He raises his left arm above his head and holds a straight sword in it.

**CANIS MAIOR** prances to the left with his tail raised and his tongue sticking out.

fol. 84r **CANIS MINOR** runs to the left and raises his head.

**ARGO** is depicted as half (?) a ship with a highly decorated hull and a sail that looks more like a dalmatic with a green band on the neck and pink circular decorations. The right side ends in 4 points and the left end has a rosette on its curved left end. There are two steering oars at the left side.

**CENTAURUS** is a centaur that walks to the left. His human half is nude and he has long blonde hair. He holds a trident with his left hand over his left shoulder. And the lower end of the trident appears to end in a knotted snake, like a caduceus. In his right hand, he holds a dead **LUPUS** (a green rabbit) by its heels in front of him. He has a frilly band where his human and equine halves meet.

fol. 84v **ARA** is a stepped circular altar with red flames coming from the top and is decorated in green and pink.

**HYDRA** is a long snake with a dog's face and a series of circlets running down his body. A two-handled **CRATER** rests near his head and **CORVUS** stands near the tail, facing forward and pecking at the body of Hydra.

fol. 85r **PISCIS AUSTRINUS** is a green striped fish that swims to the left hand has huge tusks sprouting from its lower jaw.

### notes

The manuscript also has three excerpts from the *Excerptum ex Chacidii commentario in Platonis Timaeum* and the Hyginus text is preceded by a number of mathematical texts, including Boethius, *De institutione arithmetica libri duo* with interlinear and marginal glosses; Leopoldus (?), *De arithmetica*; *Liber iudicum Messehale*; Gerbertus, *Isagoge geometriae*, etc. It is followed by the *Liber de Wazalkora*; a number of musical texts, including Guido da Arezzo's, *Micrologus de disciplina artis musica*, his *Regulae rhythmicae* and his *Regulae de ignoto cantu*; and Macrobius, *In somnium Scipionis*. For a fuller description, see Saxl-Meier III, 1, pp. 93-98

Pictorially and textually, it is a pair with the Wolfenbuttel manuscript.

Same combining of Books II and III occurs in **Oxford Digby 83**

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bibliography

*BM Catalogue*, ns 1834, p. 101ff.

*MGHS*       , XIII, p. 337.

re: *Catalogus abbatum Catelensium (=Kastl) in der Obergalz near Regensburg.*

SAXL-MEIER III 1953, 1, pp. 93-98.

first half 13th century; south German (Kloster Kastl in der Oberpfalz (see notation on fol. 151v) written by a scribe called Heimo; parchment, 153 ff; 19.8 x 14 cm; Hyginus= ff. 71v-89v

BUCHMANN 1964.

*GUILLAUMS DES CONCHES* (Jeunneau 1965), p. 319.

VIRE 1981, p. 169.

13th century; Kastl; 71v-89r; Books I-IV

VIRE 1992, p. xxvii.

membr, 13th century, S German monastery; 153 ff, 198 x 140 mm; numerous glosses and there are 40 figures on ff. 73r-85r.

