

Munich

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Hyginus *Excerpta*

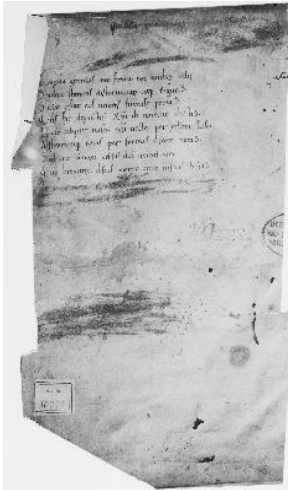
Mannheim

11th century

text

- fol. 1r An 8-line Latin poem:
 Pagina gentiles nec firma nec undique vilis
 Sidera staturis disturminati atque figures —
 Sed vise communi versus datur unicus uni.
 Quo breviter discas merito quibus inscius hiscas.
- ff. 1v-4r Excerpts from an unknown source and from Hyginus, *De astronomia*, Book III
- Each set of constellation pictures is set within an arcade supported by columns. In the curve of the arcades and in the space surrounding the figure, there are mythological explanations of the figures (not obviously dependent on those that appear in the *De astronomia*, Book II). The text that appears at the tops and the bottom of the pages are taken directly from the *De astronomia*, Book III.
- fol. 1v On arcade: Hortis hesperidum vulnus necit herculis hydrum. Scemate stat isto quia sis violata calisto. At iovis ob curam super astra locant cinosuram.
- At the bottom of the page: Arctos Maior habet in capite stellas. vii. omnes obscuras. In utrisque auribus binas ... (cf. Hyginus, *De astronomia*, III , 1; cf. Viré 1992, p. 95.)
- The excerpts from Book III do not appear on fol. 3r.
- fol. 4r On the arcade: MOLES sola Padum locat inter sydera maGNum.

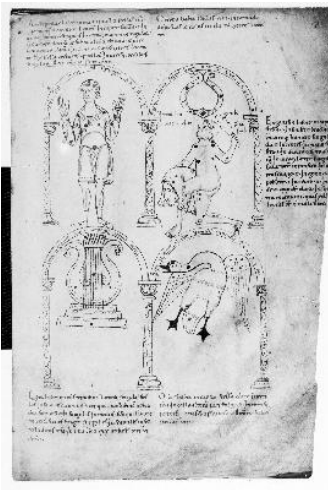
At the bottom of the page: ... in tercia usque ad novissimum . vii. omnino est stellarum .xiii. (cf. Hyginus, *De astronomia*, III , 31; cf. Viré 1992, p. 118.)



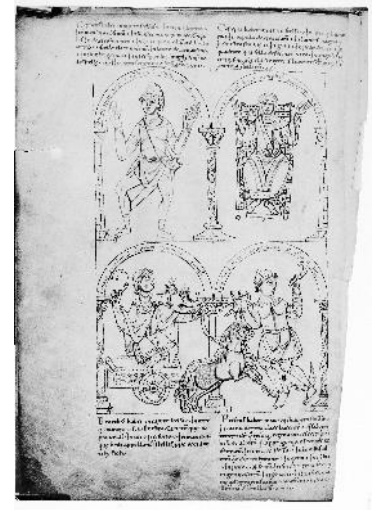
fol. 1r



fol. 1v



fol. 2r



fol. 2v



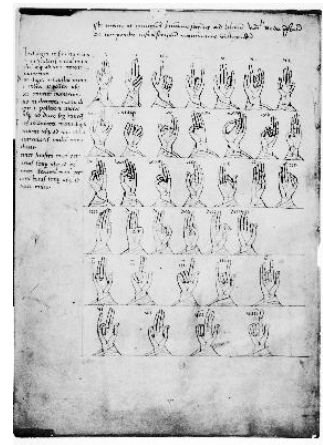
fol. 3r



fol. 3v



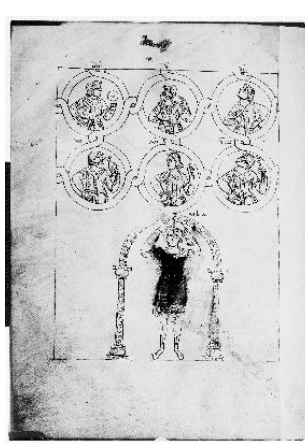
fol. 4r



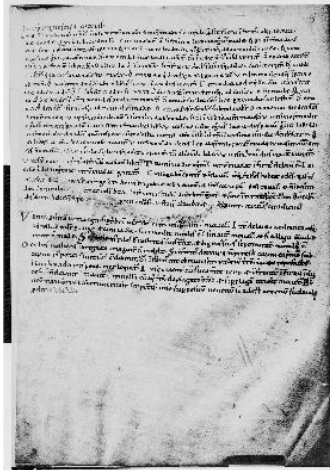
fol. 4v



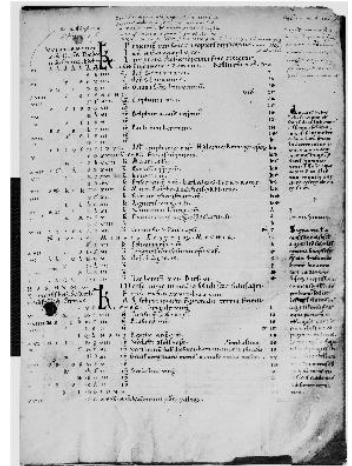
fol. 5r



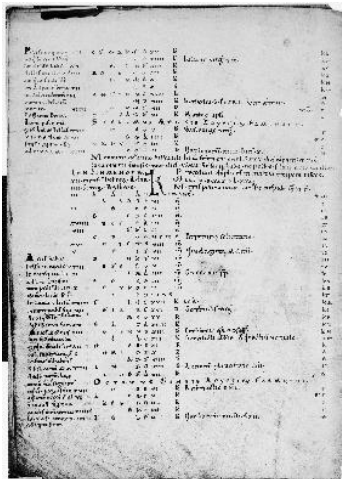
fol. 5v



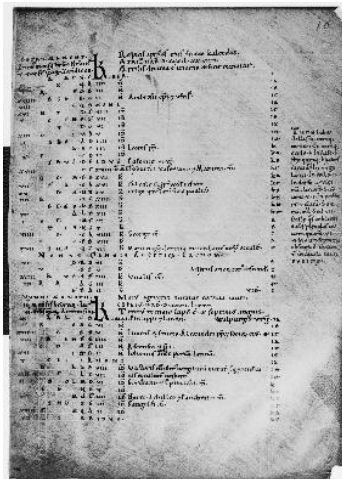
fol. 8r



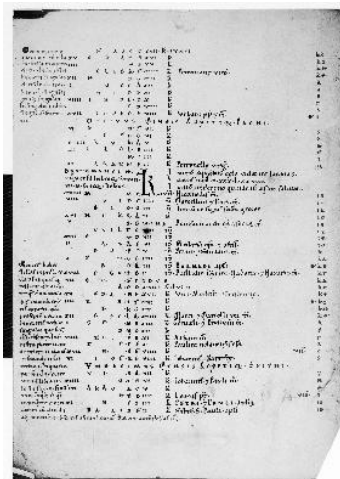
fol. 9r



fol. 9v



fol. 10r



fol. 10v

illustrations

ff. 1v-4r

Pen drawings of 27 constellation groupings with the stars marked as red dots. OPHIUCHUS, SERPENS, SAGITTA, DELPHINUS, ANDROMEDA, PEGASUS, DELTTON, ARIES, TAURUS, GEMINI, CANCER, LEO and VIRGO are missing. Moreover, the constellations are not in the correct Hyginian order. As the sets of constellations have been established by the pictorial device of multiple arcades into which the figure are set, this mis-ordering is not the result of a simple mis-binding, but that there was loss in its model, which was probably constructed with one picture-per-page. See the notes below for additional information. Some of the constellations are marked with stars.

fol. 1v

DRACO INTER ARCTOS has DRACO as a long, S-shaped snake with two bends in its body. Its mouth is open and it has a comb and a beard. It has 1 star

in the lower jaw, 2 in the eye and 2 on the head and 10 down the length of the body, or 15 stars in all. The two bears both stand with their backs facing upwards.

URSA MINOR (labelled: Cynosure) is the smaller of the two bears and faces to the left hand and has a short tail. It stands within the first bend of Draco's body. It has 3 stars in its tail and 1 in each foot, or 7 stars in all.

URSA MAIOR (labelled: calisto) stands beneath Draco's tail and faces forwards with hunched shoulders, such as one sees in the ps-Bedan, *De signis caeli* manuscripts. It has a band of 7 stars on its forehead, 2 in each ear, 1 in its left shoulder, 1 on its back, 2 in its left forepaw, 3 on its tail, 1 in its left rear paw and 3 in its right rear paw, or 21 stars in all.

fol. 2r

BOOTES stand facing the viewer wearing a short tunic with decorative bands at the neck, upper arm, wrists and hem. He has no attributes and holds his hands out to either side with his elbows bent (more like a depiction of Cepheus). He has 1 star in his head, 1 in each shoulder, 1 on each nipple, 1 below the right nipple, 1 in his right elbow, 4 in his left hand, 1 in his belly and 1 on each foot, or 14 stars in all.

CORONA BOREALIS is formed by two S-shaped snakes, back-to-back, so they appear to make the shape of a lyre. It has 9 stars.

HERCULES faces away from the viewer with his buttocks visible, kneeling to the left, supported on his right knee and raises his left leg in front of him. He is nude, but wears either a garland of flowers or a tight-fitting cap with a floral border on his head. He holds the lion-skin (head and four feet visible) with his left hand and its falls over his left knee. He looks upwards towards Corona and hold a club upraised in his right hand. He has 1 star on his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each side of his chest, 1 in each elbow, 1 on his left hand, 2 on his right thigh, 2 on his right knee, 2 on his right calf and 1 in his right foot. There are 4 on the lion skin, or 19 stars in all.

LYRA is shaped like a lyre with curved sides and 9 strings, with a 3-step pedestal. It has 1 star on the tip of each arm, 1 on the middle, 1 on each side of the shell and 1 at the base, or 8 stars in all.

CYGNUS flies so his body is spread out frontally before the viewer. His wings are spread to either side, but his long neck swings to the left over his right wing. It has 1 star in its head, 1 in its neck, 5 in its right wing, 5 in its left and 1 in its tail, or 13 stars in all.

fol. 2v

CEPHEUS stands facing the viewer, with his legs slightly bent. He wears a short tunic with a skirt that it pulled up to reveal his thighs. He has a soft cap on his head and wears a strap across his chest from his right shoulder, which supports a sword held on his left hip. He holds his arms to either side with the elbows bent so they form a 'W'. He has 2 stars in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on the right elbow, 1 on each hand, 1 on his right side, 3 in his waist, 2 in his left knee and 3 on each foot, or 19 stars in all.

CASSIOPEIA is seated on a decorated, high-backed throne, facing the viewer. She is dressed in a long robe with a scarf around her shoulders and she has a veil over her head. She raises both her hands as high as her head. She has 1 star in her head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 in her right breast, 1 in the navel, 2 on her left thigh, 1 on her left knee, 1 on her right foot and 3 on each side at the top of her throne and 2 at the seat level, 1 on the right front leg and 2 on the left front leg, or 17 stars in all.

AURIGA stands in a square cart drawn by two horses to the right. He wears a short tunic and a heavy cloak over his shoulders, which is held at the left shoulder by a round pin. He raises a flail with a snake's head and two thongs raised in his right hand. On his left shoulder, there is a seated goat and on his left forearm there are two prancing goats. He holds the ends of his reins in his left hand. He has 1 star on his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each elbow, and 2 in the goat on the left arm, or 7 stars in all.

PERSEUS flies to the left, but looks back over his shoulder to the right. He seems to be facing away from the viewer, but his legs and his head suggest the other way around. He has a conical helmet and a short tunic, caught at the waist, which has decorative bands at the neck, wrists and hem. He has wings on his feet. He holds a dog-faced Medusa with rays coming from its head in his left hand and holds small curved knife upraised in his right hand. He has 1 star in each hand, 1 on each shoulder, 3 on the leading knee and 2 on the other knee and 1 on his right (or left) foot, with 4 (?) in the head of Medusa, or 14 stars in all.

fol. 3r

LIBRA is depicted as a pair of scales. There are no stars marked.

SCORPIO is a fat creature that faces to the right with 2 large claws and 4 legs on either side. It has a long tail that is tied in a knot. It has at least 3 stars on its head, 3 on the back, 2 on the lower side of the body, 5 in the tail and 2 at the end of the tail, or 15 stars in all.

SAGITTARIUS is depicted as a satyr who rushes to the left, with his back facing the viewer. He has a horse's tail and wears a Phrygian cap. His human part is nude and he holds his bow in his left hand and pulls the string with his right. He has 2 stars in his head, 2 (?) on his back, 1 on the left hip, 1 on his right elbow, 1 on the left (foremost) hand, 1 in the arrow, 2 on the left knee, 2 on the left foot, 1 on the right knee?, 1 on the right foot (?), 1 in the right knee, 1 in the tail or 14 stars in all.

CAPRICORN faces to the left and has two long curved horns. He has a beard and two coils in his tail. He has 1 star on each horn, 2 on the head, 1 (?) on his nose, 3 on the chest, 7 (?) on the back, 4 (?) on the belly, 2 in the right front hoof, 2 on the end of the tail, or 23 (?) stars in all.

AQUARIUS stands to the right, looking and reaching upwards with his left hand so that he touches the side of the arch above his head. He is nude, but swathed in a long scarf that wraps around his body. His buttocks are visible, but his body is twisted and shows his chest and his face. In his right hand, he holds an upturned vase by its foot, from which water pours. He has 2 stars in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each nipple, 1 on each elbow, 1 in the left (?) wrist, or 9 stars in all. In addition, there are numerous stars in the water (at least 29).

PISCES are set at a slight angle, they swim in opposite directions with both their backs facing upwards. They are tied at the mouth by line. There are 15 stars in the top fish and 12 in the bottom fish.

fol. 3v

ORION walks to the left and seems to be facing the viewer, but it not altogether clear. He is dressed in a short tunic with a short mantle fastened on his left shoulder that completely covers his right arm, which he holds out in front of him. He raises his left hand above his head and holds a straight sword in it. His head is uncovered. He has 3 stars in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 in his left elbow, 3 in his left hand (with the sword), 1 in his right hand (covered by the mantle), 3 in his belt, 1 on each knee and 1 on each foot, or 17 stars in all.

CANIS MINOR stands to the left, with a long tail and its tongue sticking out. There are 3 stars on the back.

ARGO is half a ship that is cut off at the right. There is a mast and a full sail, 2 steering oars and 8 pulling oars. It has 3 stars on the mast and it is not clear if the 6 on the sails are stars or not. There are 5 stars at the cut-off, 4 on the first steering oar, 4 on the second, 5 in the pulling oars, or 21 or 27 stars in all.

CANIS MAIOR leaps to the right and has its tongue sticking out. It has 1 star in its head, 1 in its tongue, 1 in each ear, 3 on its neck, 2 on its chest, 3 on its left forefoot, 1 on each hind foot, 1 on his anus and 4 in the tail, or 19 stars in all.

HYDRA is a long snake placed at an angle, facing to the right. It has small round ears and its tongue sticking out. Its body has circlets down its length. It has 23 or 24 stars in its body.

CRATER is a two-handled urn marked by 2 stars on the lip, and 6 on the body, or 8 stars in all.

CORVUS stands near the tails, facing forwards and pecking. 1 star in the head, 4 on the body and 1 on each leg, or 7 stars in all.

LEPUS leaps to the right and has 1 star in each ear, 2 on the back, 1 on the right thigh and 1 in each front paw, or 7 stars in all.

ARA is a highly-decorated square box with flames coming from the top. It has 2 stars on the top surface of the altar and 2 at the bottom, or 4 stars in all.

fol. 4r:

CENTAURUS walks to the left. He is bearded and his human half is nude. He holds a spear with an arrow tip towards the top in his left hand near his waist. In his right hand he holds **LUPUS** (a rabbit) by its hind legs. 3 stars above his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on the right elbow, 2 in the chest, 4 in his side, 1 at his waist, 2 in his belly, 1 on the horse's haunch, 1 on each back knee, 1 in the hollow of each hind knee, 1 on each fore-knee, 3 in his tail, or 25 stars in all. **Lupus** has 3 in the head, 1 on the back, 2 on the front feet, 2 on the hind feet and 3 in the tail or 11 stars in all.

PISCIS AUSTRINUS is placed vertically (at an angle) and faces to the left. It has 12 stars along its back.

CETUS has a dragon's head with a huge pointed comb and a bears, with an open mouth with sharp teeth. It faces to the left. It has flippers on its front part and a corkscrew tail at its end. It has 6 stars beneath its belly, 5 on its lower tail and 2 at the end of the tail, or 13 stars in all.

ERIDANUS is depicted as a kneeling figure with a nude torso and wearing a short skirt. He kneels to the left, but turns his bearded head to the right. He holds upturned urns in both his hands that pour water into a pool beneath him. There are 3 stars in the left stream, 1 in the right and 9 in the water, or 13 stars in all.

notes

As mentioned above, the drawings do not follow the conventional Hyginian order. At first glance, it would seem that this is a simple case of two or three folii being lost (the ones containing OPHIUCHUS, SERPENS, SAGITTA, AQUILA, DELPHINUS, PEGASUS, TRIANGULUM, ARIES, TAURUS, GEMINI, CANCER, LEO and VIRGO) and the final 2 sides being transposed. But a closer inspection reveals that the order of the constellations within certain pages is also wrong. From the second grouping of constellations (fol. 2r), it appears that the order of the constellations runs left to right in registers. One reads the top register of arcades first and, when there are multiple figures within one arcade, one reads the top one first and the bottom one second. If one follows this logic on the next folio, however (fol. 2v), the order reads: Cepheus, Cassiopeia, Auriga and Perseus. There is no depiction of Andromeda, and the proper order of Perseus and Auriga is reversed (Perseus should come before Auriga). Further, comparing the last two folii with the proper Hyginian order, there is even more confusion:

<u>Hyginus</u>	<u>order in Munich clm 10270</u>
Cetus	10 (fol. 4r, bottom left)
Eridanus	11 (fol. 4r, bottom right)
Orion	1 (fol. 3v, top left)
Lepus	6 (fol. 3v, bottom right)
Canis Maior	4 (fol. 3v, bottom left)
Canis Minor	2 (fol. 3v, top right)
Navis	3 (fol. 3v, top right)
Centaurus and Lepus	8 (fol. 4r, top left)
Ara	7 (fol. 3v, bottom right)
Hydra, Crater and Corvus	5 (fol. 3v, bottom left)
Piscis Astrinus	9 (fol. 4r, top right)

This disorder, therefore, is not even the result of facing bi-folios having been re-shuffled at an earlier stage. Indeed, it would seem that the only solution is to propose that the archetype behind this manuscript was one in which each constellation had its own page - similar to the formula one finds in the Leiden *Aratea*. The format for the original illustrations is probably reflected in the depiction of *Draco inter arctos* on fol. 1v, where the grouping stands in splendid isolation within its own arcade. At some point, though, the manuscript with full-page illustrations was unbound. It lost the page with Andromeda; the order of Perseus and Auriga were reversed and the whole last section on the constellations of the southern hemisphere (Cetus to Piscis Austrinus) became completely muddled.

How this manuscript then developed into the current format is harder to trace. Almost all of the illustrations respect the pictorial confines stipulated by the form of the arcade. The exception, is the register on fol. 2v in which Auriga and Perseus appear. Here, the charming way in which the horses of Auriga cross in front of the central column dividing the arcade of the Charioteer from that of Perseus does suggest that, at some stage, these may have been bound in such a way that the two images faced each other. During the process of conflating the two facing pictures into a single register, the artist adopted this pictorial solution to tie the two images together. The loss of the folii containing the twelve constellations between Ophiuchus and Virgo could have happened before or after the series was condensed. The most graceful solution would be to suggest that it happened afterwards, since the group of twelve constellations fits nicely on to three pages. The problem with this hypothesis, however, is that it relies on each constellation having its own space. In the Hyginian tradition, Serpens almost always appears as part of Ophiuchus. The only surviving example where this does not happen is in the atypical illustrations found in the Hyginian *Excerpts* in London BL Roy 13, A. XI.

On the top of fol. 1v, in a later hand: *Iste figure usque ad manus Ptolemaei ad Kalendarium.*

In terms of the text, the excerpts from Book III of the *De astronomia* are often awkwardly placed on the page - usually in the margins, but there seems no sense of order or pictorial decorum behind their placement. Also, these excerpts do not appear on fol. 3r. (Libra to Pisces). This would seem to suggest that they are later additions. Since they are written in the same hand as the text found within the curve of the arcades, it is possible that they are both later additions. In any event, the pictures certainly preceded the inclusion of the text in this manuscript.

bibliography

BOLL 1893, pp. 111 and 131.

McGURK IV 1966 p. xxii-xxiii.

earliest Hyginus manuscript with pictures date from the 11th century; only one of two from between 1025-1225 to have illustrations to Book III and not Book II (as the rest are); Leiden Oct 15 and **Munich, cIm 10270** made in Mannheim; but these manuscripts come from different sources: the Leiden ms derives its pictures from the set accompanying the pseud-Bedan catalogue of stars (strong mythological component) and the intermediary was probably something like Paris BN lat 5239; while the Munich manuscript is more astronomical; HERCULES does not have serpent and ANDROMEDA does not have toilet articles, SAGITTARIUS as a satyr, example of arranging pictures in columns

There is a complete set of black and white digital images on the BSB website. They say 'upper Rhine' and 'beginning 12th century'.