

Siena

Biblioteca comunale

Ms L. VI. 25

Hyginus, *De astronomia*

Italian

dated 1475

text

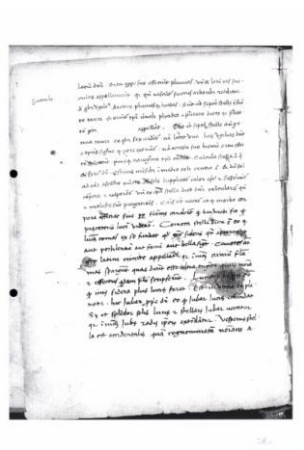
- ff. 1- 62v Hyginus, *De astronomia*, Books I-IV (**note:** see below regarding problems with the pagination for Book III)
- ff. 1r- 2v Higini De signis celestibus. De eorum formationibus: et constitutionis causa secundum fabulas: et eorum ordine: ortu & occasu: Liber primus incipit. Et si te studio grammaticę artis inductum non solum versum moderatione – ad propositum veniemus & initium rerum demonstrabimus. (Hyginus, *De astronomia*, I, preface; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 1-4)
- ff. 2v-6r De Mundo & spera. MUndus appellatur is: qui constat ex sole & luna – in simili causa posse constitui suspicamur. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, I, 1-9; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 5-13)
- ff. 6r-33v Sed quoniam que nobis de terrę positione – demonstravimus. Nunc autem omnium corporem deformationem dicere instituimus. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, II, preface - 43; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 14-94)
- ff. 33v-49r old
(47v new) Higini Liber secundus [*sic*] deformationibus omnium corporum. Igitur incipiens a polo boreo protinus dicere quo utręque quie (?) arctoi nixę vehuntur – Ex oritur autem cum piscibus. Sed est stellarum omnino duodecim. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, III, 1-40; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 95 124.)

ff. 50r-62v

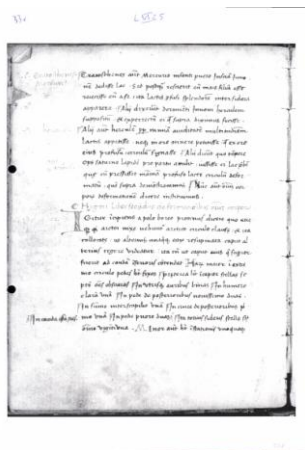
Quę ad figurationem siderum pertinent ad hunc finem nobis erunt dicta. Reliqua protinus dicemus. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, III, 40) QUoniam initio sperę circuli quinque quo efficerentur ostendimus – annum autum volverunt esse cum sol ab ęstivo circulo redit. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, IV, 1- 19; cf. Virę 1992, pp. 125- 57)

Higini de signis celestibus liber finitur perfectus xj kalendas octobris 1475 per Iohannem Petrum Constantinum eius possessorem ac dominum.

illustrations



fol. 26v



fol. 33v



fol. 34r



fol. 34v



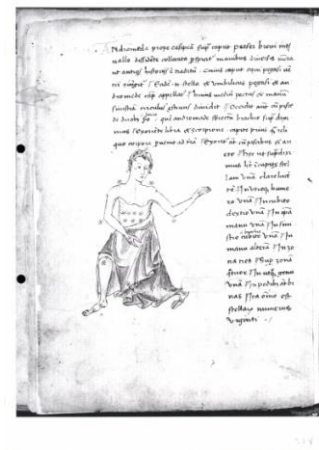
fol. 34bisr / 35r new



fol. 34bisv / 35v new



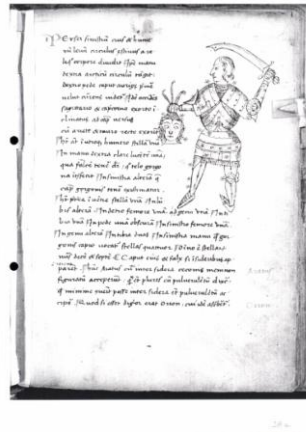
fol. 37r



fol. 37v



fol. 38r



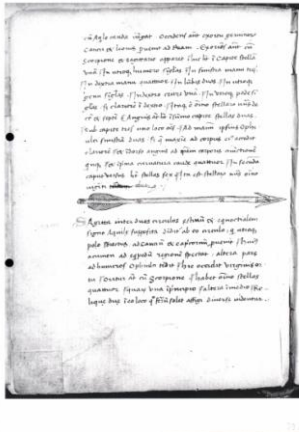
fol. 38v



fol. 38v



fol. 39r



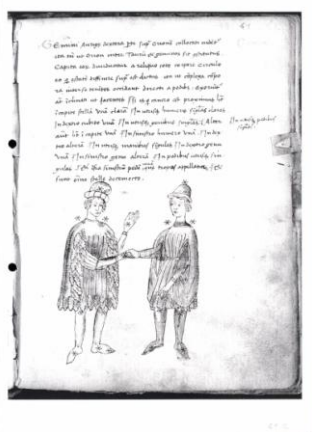
fol. 39v



fol. 41r / 40r new



fol. 41v / 40v new



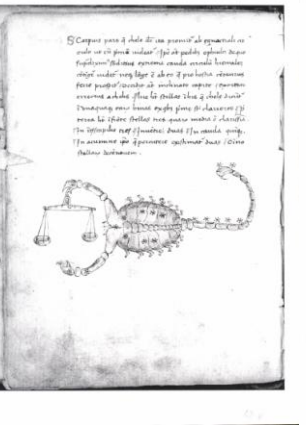
fol. 42r / 41r new



fol. 42v / 41v new



fol. 43r / 42r new



fol. 43v / 42v new



fol. 44r / 43r new



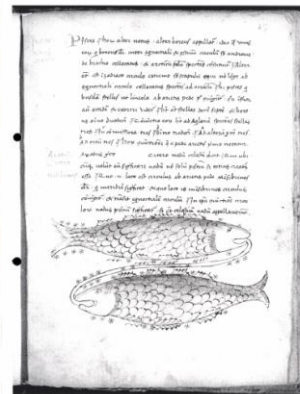
fol. 44v / 43v new



fol. 46r / 44 r new



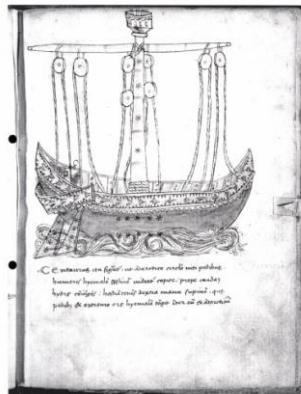
fol. 46v / 44v new



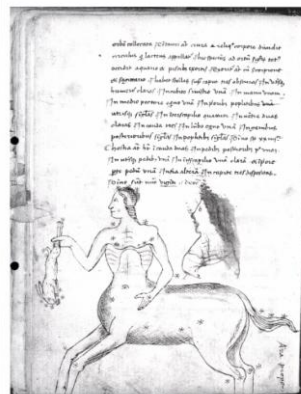
fol. 45r new



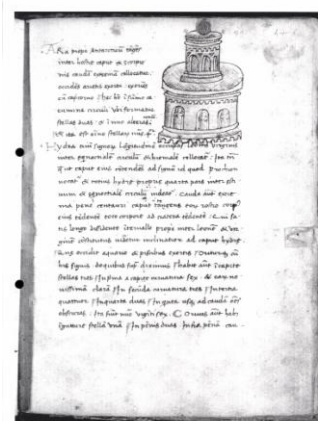
fol. 45v new



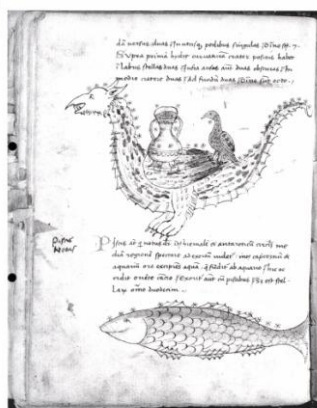
fol. 48r / 46r new



fol. 48v / 46v new



fol.49r / 47r new



fol. 49v / 47v new

ff. 34r-49v

Coloured drawings of 31 constellation groupings with the stars marked by star-shapes. The drawings are done in black ink with some colour wash and some red

ink details added. The stars are marked with red stars throughout and the locations of the constellations drawings are marked with small vellum tags.

(**note:** Some of the pages are missing from the manuscript and one has been mis-bound. For a fuller description, see the **Comments** below. In sum, however,

fol. 36r-v with depictions of CYGNUS and CEPHEUS missing

fol. 40r-v with AQUILA, PEGASUS and DELPHINUS missing

fol. 47r-v with CANIS MAIOR and CANIS MINOR missing

The folio bearing the illustrations of AQUARIUS and PISCES (formerly 45r-v) has been mis-bound so that it now appears in the wrong place (following the depiction of Orion and repaginated as ff. 47r-v) and is has been reversed so that Pisces precedes Aquarius.

fol. 34r

DRACO INTER ARCTOS shows **DRACO** with his head towards the bottom of the page. He has a dragon's head with a pointed beak and his red, three pronged tongue is sticking out. His body has 2 main curves with a small spike at the end. It is coloured so that his back is blue, his mid-line is green and his scaled belly is red. He has 4 stars in his head, 1 in his chin and 10 in his body, or 15 stars in all. The Bears are placed back-to-back, facing into the body of the snake.

URSA MINOR stands within the second curve of the Dragon's body and has 3 stars in the tail and 1 on each of its feet, or 7 stars in all.

URSA MAIOR stands beneath the end of DRACO'S tail and has 9 stars in its head, 2 in its chest, 2 on the right forefoot, 3 on the tail and 3 in the hind legs, or 19 stars in all. Both bears have a pale yellow wash and are about the same size.

fol. 34v

BOOTES (Arctophilax) faces to the right and is dressed in a short, tight blue tunic with a fringed hem and red tights. He holds his tear-shaped white and yellow shield out in front of him with his left hand so that everything from his forearm to his hand is obscured by it. He holds a heavy, branched stick behind his head with his right hand and rests his left foot on a square box. He has 1 star in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each nipple, 1 below the right nipple, 1 in his right elbow, 1 on his belt, 4 on his shield and 1 on each foot, or 14 stars in all.

fol. 34 bis r (35r new)

CORONA BOREALIS is wide white circular band with thinner red, yellow and black framing bands. It has 9 stars marked.

HERCULES stands facing the viewer and is dressed in a short, red loose tunic that opens in a V at his neck (to expose a blue inner lining) and has buttons and button holes down the front. His legs are covered with green tights. He holds a knobby light blue stick upraised above his head in his right hand and holds a lion's skin (with large grimacing face, with a red mouth and eyes) in his outstretched left hand. He has 1 star in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each elbow, 1 on each side of the chest, 2 in his skirt above the right thigh, 1 on the right knee, 2 on his lower leg, 1 on his right foot, 1 on his left hand and 4 on the lion's skin, or 18 stars in all.

fol. 34 bis v (35v new)

LYRA is a two-stepped zither with 3 sets of 4 strings that are held by pegs set on individual bridges. It has 3 sounding holes in the boxy part of the instrument. The right end of the instrument curls back and has a bird's head on it. It has 9 stars.

[**CYGNUS** and **CEPHEUS** are missing]

fol. 37r

CASSIOPEIA is seated on a low, boxy throne, facing the viewer with her hands raised to either side, but bent at the elbows. She wears a long green gown that is loosely laced up her middle and at her forearms, and a blue mantle with a red lining over her lap. Her blonde hair is exposed. She has 1 star in her head, 2 in her shoulders, 1 in her right breast, 3 in her lap, 1 on her thigh, 2 or 3 on her throne and 1 on her right foot, or at least 11 stars.

fol. 37v

ANDROMEDA walks to the left, but looks back over her shoulder to the right. She is dressed in a long green skirt, but her torso is nude (her breasts are rather small, so she may be intended to be a male figure). She holds her right hand in front of her skirt, and raises her left hand behind her with its palm facing downwards. Her short, boyish blonde hair is exposed and she has no attributes. She has 1 in star in her head, 1 in each shoulder, 1 on each elbow, 1 in each hand, 4 in her chest above her waist, 3 in her waist, 1 on her right knee, 1 on her hem and 2 on each foot, or 20 stars in all.

- fol. 38r **PERSEUS** stands to the left with his back to the viewer. He is dressed in a full set of blue-grey Renaissance armour with a pink, riveted band at the hips, but his blonde head is bare. He holds the blonde-haired Medusa's head out to one side with his left hand and holds a curved sword with his upraised right hand above his head. He has 1 star on each shoulder, 1 on each hand, 2 at his waist, 2 on his skirt, 3 on his right leg, 1 on his left leg and 1 on his right foot, and 4 in the Medusa head, or 17 stars in all.
- fol. 38v **AURIGA** is dressed in a worn-out blue tunic with a tan inner lining and with frayed sleeves and a frayed hem. His leggings are also worn and torn and he is without shoes. He stands facing the viewer with a grey 3-thonged, beaded flail raised above his head in his right hand. There is a animal head with curved horns/ears coming out of the left side of his head and two small animal faces emerging from his outstretched left hand. The animal faces look more like dogs with long pointed ears than goats with horns. He has 1 star in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each elbow and 2 in his left hand, or 7 stars in all.
- fol. 39r **OPHIUCHUS** is nude and walks to the left, with his blue and yellow **Serpens** wrapped around his hips and its head facing towards the man. He is youthful and has long blonde hair. The head of the **Serpens** is shaped like a bird's head, with a curved beak. In the man's body there is 1 star on his head, 1 on each shoulder, 2 in the waist, 4 in his right hand and 3 in his left hand, 1 on each knee, 1 on the left shin and 1 on each foot, or 17 stars in all. The Serpent has 3 in its head, 6 in the upper body and 6 close to the body of **OPHIUCHUS** and 4 along the tail, or 21 stars in all. There is also an extra small brown dot in its head .
- fol. 39v **SAGITTA** points to the right, has a grey tip and has 4 stars.
- [**AQUILA**, **DELPHINUS**, and **PEGASUS** are missing]
- fol. 41r (40r new) **ARIES** is depicted *intra Triangulum* ('... & oriens caput infra triangulum'). He walks to the left and looks backwards over his shoulder to the right. He has a long tail and raises his right forefoot. He has 3 stars in his right horn, 2 on the left horn, 3 in the head, 4 in the body, 3 in the flank, 1 in the belly, 1 in the tail, 1 on the front right foot and 1 on the left back hoof, or 19 stars in all.
TRIANGULUM is blue, not equilateral and has 1 star in each corner, or 3 stars in all.

note: The stars in the head and the horns of ARIES are rather messy. In the text, corrections have been made so that it agrees with the placement of the stars. For example, 'utrisque' has been added to 'in cornibus tres'.

- fol. 41v (40v new) **TAURUS** is depicted as half a bull facing to the left, with his body cut off by a single tan line. He holds both his hooves out in front of him (with his right one slightly bent at the ankle) and his mouth is open. He has 1 star in each horn, 1 at the base of each horn, 1 in its head, 1 in each eye, 1 in the chest, 3 in the body, 1 on each knee and 1 on his left hoof, or 14 stars in all. In addition, there are 7 stars in front of its nose, representing the stars of the PLEIADES.
- fol. 42r (41r new) **GEMINI** are depicted as two fashionable young Renaissance courtiers in knee-length mantles with openings for the sleeves and feathery hems. They also have caps on their heads. The left Twin has a yellow cap, a blue robe, red feathers and yellow socks; the right Twin has a blue cap, a blue collar and sleeves, a red robe with blue feathers and green socks. They face each other and grasp each other's right hands. The left Twin raises his left hand in salutation and the right Twin holds his hand down to his side. The left Twin has 1 star in the head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each hand, 1 in each knee and 1 on the right foot and 2 on the left foot, or 10 stars in all. The right Twin has 1 star in the head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 in the right elbow, 1 on each knee and 1 on each foot, or 8 stars in all.
- fol. 42v (41v old) **CANCER** faces to the left and is shaped like a red crayfish with 2 claws and 4 legs on either side. It has 2 stars in its body, 1 in front of its face, 3 in its right claw and 2 in the left claw, 1 on each of the 4 right legs, 2 on the first left leg, 2 on the second left leg, 1 on the third left leg, and 1 on the fourth left leg, or 18 stars in all.
- LEO** walks to the right, but turns his head to face the viewer and holds his tail outwards. He has 3 stars in head, 2 in his neck, 6 on his chest, 3 in his belly, 2 on his back left leg, 1 in his right forepaw and 1 on the middle and 1 on the tip of his tail, or 19 stars in all.
- fol. 43r (42r new) **VIRGO** stands facing the viewer with parti-coloured green and blue wings that are raised to either side. She holds an arrow with its grey tip pointing downwards in her right hand and lifts her left hand in a gesture of salutation. She is dressed in a long red robe with a long blue cloak with a yellow lining and her head is covered by a short white wimple. She has 1 star in her head, 1

above each shoulder, 3 in her right wing and 2 in her left wing, 1 in each hand, 3 near her belly and 3 on her dress and 1 on each foot, or 18 stars in all.

fol. 43v (42v new) **SCORPIO** faces to the left and has two large claws and 7 small legs on either side. It is grey with yellow highlights. It has a segmented tail that ends in a sting. It holds the Scales in his right claw in front of its face. It is marked by 2 stars in each claw, 3 on the front, 3 on the right side and 2 on the left side of the body, 5 in the tail and 2 at the tip of the tail, or 19 stars in all. The SCALES have no stars.

fol. 44r (43r new) **SAGITTARIUS** leaps to the right and holds a bow and arrow in front of him, pulling the string with his right hand. His human half is nude and he has short blonde hair. He has 2 stars in the head, 1 in each shoulder, 2 in the chest, 1 on his right elbow, 2 in his left hand, 2 on the bow, 1 on his left knee, 1 on the horse's breast, and 1 in his tail, or 14 stars in all. In addition, there are 7 stars in a circlet in front of his front hooves, which represent CORONA AUSTRINUS.

fol. 44v (43v new) **CAPRICORN** is greyish-tan and faces to the left with a beard, a curl in its tails and slightly curved horns. It has 1 star on the nose, 1 below its left ear, 9 on the upper body and 1 on the forefeet, 7 on the belly and 2 in the tail, or 21 stars in all.

[for **AQUARIUS** and **PISCES**, see below]

fol. 46r (44r new) **CETUS** is a dog-faced creature with dog's paws, and a curled tail that ends in a tri-lobe. It has 6 stars below its belly and 5 in the tail and 2 at the end of its tail, or 13 stars in all.

ERIDANUS is a youthful nude male figure who stands facing the viewer, leaning slightly to the right, with his legs splayed. He holds the yellow and blue urn to the left, with his left hand on the bottom and his right hand holding the neck. It is horizontal, but water still gushes forth from it. He has 3 stars in his urn and 3 at the beginning of the stream and 7 at the end of it, or 13 stars in all.

fol. 46v (44v new) **LEPUS** is yellow and runs to the left. It has 1 star in each ear, 2 in body and 1 on each forefoot, or 6 stars in all.

ORION stands facing the viewer wearing a short pleated red tunic with a scalloped hem with a wide yellow belt at his hips, and a short blue cloak with a

green lining that covers his shoulder and part of his left arm. He is bearded and holds a green club raised above his head with his right hand and he rests the thumb of his left hand in his belt. He has 3 stars in his head, 1 in his right hand, 1 in his right elbow, 1 in each shoulder, 3 in the club, 3 at his waist, 1 in each knee and 1 in each foot, or 17 stars in all.

[CANIS MAIOR and CANIS MINOR are missing]

fol. (45r new) **PISCES** are two fish swimming in opposite directions with both their backs facing upwards. They are grey with yellow bellies and red gills. They are connected at the mouth by a cord. There are 17 stars in the top fish, 10 in the cord and 15 on the bottom fish, or 42 stars in all. (This folio was 45v in the old numbering system, but has been reversed so now appears as the recto.)

fol. (45v new) **AQUARIUS** is dressed in a short blue tunic with yellow sleeves and white ermine trim at his elbows and the band on his thighs, with yellow tights. He stands facing the viewer and holds both of his arms out to the sides so they form a 'W'. In his left hand, he grasps the handle of an upturned red and blue urn, from which water pours. His right hand is empty. He has 2 stars in his head, 1 in each shoulder, 2 on his chest, 1 on his left elbow, 1 on his right hand, 1 on his belly, 1 on each knee, 1 in his right shin and 1 on each foot, or 14 stars in all. In addition, there are 30 stars along the back of the urn and in the water. (This folio is marked 45r in the old system, but has been reversed so it now appears as the verso.)

fol. 48r (46 new) **ARGO** is depicted as $\frac{1}{2}$ a grey ship, sailing to the right with a decorated deck and a yellow mast and crow's nest. It does not have sails, but there are 3 sets of rigging ropes hanging from its mast with 8 pulleys. It has two steering oars at the back and sits in green water. It is marked by 9 stars on the oars, 5 stars on the ship, 4 on the mast and 5 in the water, or 23 stars in all.

fol. 48v (46v new) **CENTAURUS** is a centaur whose human part is nude and rushes to the left. It has no attributes other than **LUPUS** (a hare) being held in the centaur's outstretched right hand. His left hand rests by his side. There is a later drawing of the bust of the centaur set off to one side. He has 3 stars in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 4 in his chest, 1 on his horse's breast, 2 on his belly, 1 on each knee of its front legs, 1 on the left elbow, 1 on the left hand, 1 on the haunch, 2 on each rear leg and 3 in the tail, or 24 stars in all. **LUPUS** (hare) has 3 on its head, 4 on its forepaws, 2 on the tail and 1 on the hind feet, or 10 stars in all.

fol. 49r (47r) **ARA** is two-tiered cylindrical structure in pink, yellow and blue, with three arches on the bottom storey and red flames coming out of the top. It has 4 stars.

fol. 49v (47v) **HYDRA** is a 2-legged dragon, standing to the left with its wings folded close to its body. Its body is parti-coloured in yellow, green and pink. It has a beaky face, prominent teeth and long ears. **HYDRA** 3 stars in the head, 6 in the neck, 3 in the middle of the back, 4 on the back behind **CORVUS**, and 10 in the tail, or 26 stars in all.

A yellow **CRATER** with 2 handles is perched on the middle of his back. It has 2 stars on the rim, 2 in the centre of the bowl, 2 between the handles and 2 on the base, or 8 stars in all.

The brown **CORVUS** stands, facing forward, near the beginning of the dragon's tail. It has 1 star below its beak, 2 on the wings, 2 below the wings towards the tail, 1 on each foot or 7 stars in all.

PISCIS AUSTRINUS is a grey fish with a yellow belly and red gills and a smiling mouth, swimming to the left. It has 12 stars.

notes

There are some problems with the pagination of Book III in this manuscript. Originally, all the pages were numbered successively in pale brown ink in the top right corner of the page. The only inconsistency was that there were two folio 34 (which we call fol. 34 and 34 bis). At some point, the manuscript lost two pages and was rebound. During the rebinding process, however, the folio bearing the pictures of Aquarius and Pisces was reversed and inserted into one of the later lacunae in the manuscript. In an attempt to provide pagination consistent with the new order, a second hand repaginated all the new pages in dark pencil in the top right corner of the page. Finally, the new pagination in dark pencil stops abruptly at the end of Book III, which means that it jumps from 47v to 50r of the old system (written in pale brown ink). On some pages of Book II, then, there is only the old number, on some only the new number and on some, there are two numbers. In this catalogue entry, we follow the current order of the pages, but use the old pagination and signal the losses (while only parenthetically noting the new pagination).

To summarise, the pages and the illustrations run as follows:

ff. 34r-34v: *DRACO INTER ARCTOS*, *BOOTES*, *CORONA BOREALIS*, *HERCULES*, *LYRA*

- » fol. 35 is missing (fol. 36 new), so the pictures of CYGNUS and CEPHEUS are missing
ff. 37r-39v: CASSIOPEIA, ANDROMEDA, PERSEUS, AURIGA, OPHIUCHUS, SAGITTA
- » fol. 40 is missing, so the pictures of AQUILA, DEPHINUS and PEGASUS are missing
ff. 41r-44v (40r-43v new): ARIES and TRIANGULUM, TAURUS, GEMINI, CANCER, LEO, VIRGO,
SCORPIO with the SCALES, SAGITTARIUS, CAPRICORN
- » fol 45 is missing at this point (see below)
ff. 46r-46v: CETUS, ERIDANUS, LEPUS, ORION
- » fol. 47 r-v is missing, so the pictures of CANIS MAIOR and CANIS MINOR are missing, but
- » fol. 45r-v has been inserted here and reversed. One can see the old number (45, in pale
brown ink) at the inner margin on the new verso, while the new number (47 in pencil)
is on the top right corner of the new recto. The order of the pictures is also reversed,
so PISCES precedes AQUARIUS.
- ff. 48r-49v (46r-47v new): ARGO, CENTAURUS, ARA, HYDRA, CRATER, CORVUS and PISCIS
AUSTRINUS.

The drawings are extremely close to those found in Vat lat 3110.

bibliography

SAXL-MEIER III 1953,1, pp. liv and 328.

McGURK IV 1966, pp. 82-83: 2/2 XV c (1475).

Italian Gothic; Books 1-4 in correct order with illustrations to Book III, with stars marked ff.
34r-49v (note pages have been rebound in incorrect order and some images are missing)

inc (1r): Higini de signis celestibus. De eorum formationibus et constitutionibus causa
secundum fabulas et eaorum ordine ortu et occasu. Liber primus incipit. Et si te studio
grammaticae artis inductum ...

expl (62v): sol ab aestivo circulo redit. Higini de signis celestibus liber finitur perfectus XI
kalendas octobris 1475 per Iohannem Petrum Constantinum eius possessorem ac dominum.

VIRÉ 1981, p. 173.

15th century; Italian, ff. 1062, all four Books

HAFFNER 1997, p. 26.

Cites Ms L. VI. 26 [CHECK] text related to Madrid 19; original type from Sicily; addition of so-called 'scholia strozziana'

consulted 6.04