

St Paul im Lavantthal

Benediktuskabinett (Benediktinerstift St. Paul)

Ms 16/1 (XXV. 4. 20)

Hyginus, *De astronomia*

German

11th century

text

text

- ff. 1r-21v Hyginus, *Astronomica*, Books I-IV (illustrations to Book II). The manuscript is in very bad condition, having been chewed by vermin along the outer edges of the pages at the beginning and end, and with numerous woodworm holes throughout. Also, there are a number of pages that appear to have been excised.
- fol. 1r Very damaged title page with *Liber de astrologia* at the top of the folio with library marks below.
- fol. 1v Badly mutilated in the upper section of the text:

[...] US M. FABIO [...] IMAM SALUTEM [...] rtis inductum non solum verum – His propositus (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, I preface; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 1-2)

Missing page.
- ff. 2r-v ... e quibus paralleli dicuntur qui ad eundem polum – omnium circulorum aequas rationes [...] (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, I.5 (18) - I.7 (91) ; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 6-2)

Missing page
- fol. 3r ...sperae habitari. Illam quoque in simili causa posse constitui suspicamur. [end of Book I, cf. Viré 1992, p. 13)

Sed quoniam quae nobis de terrae —ad delctationem afferent lectori. ((Hyginus, *De astronomia*, II preface; cf. Viré 1992, pp.14-15)

ff. 3r-14v

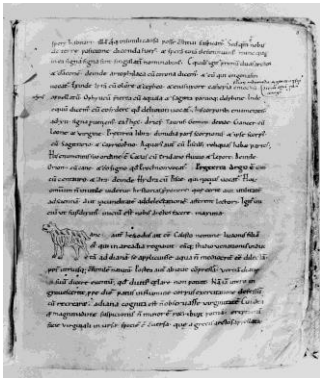
Igitur ut supra diximus – ducere stellis sed postquam Troia [...] (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, II, - 21 (917); cf. Viré 1992, pp. 15-65)

ff. 15r-19v

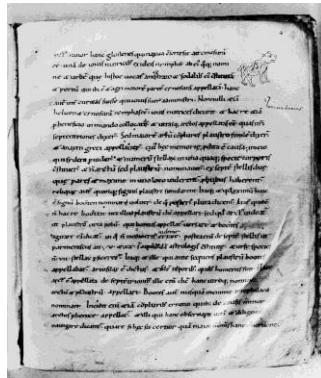
CORONAM humero sinistro prope contingere Arctophylax – dicta reliqua protinus dicemus. ((Hyginus, *De astronomia*, III, 4 - III 40; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 97- 124)

ff. 19v -21v

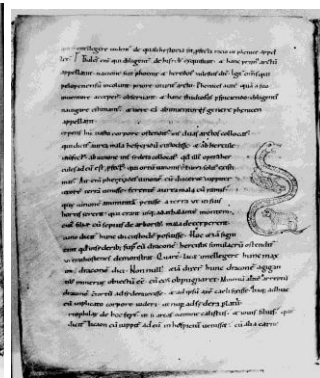
QUONIAM initio sphaerae circuli v quomodo efficerentur – (IV, 1 - the final verso is now illegible, but ends with IV, 3 according to Bunte (Bunte 1875, p. 103, ll. 21-22; by the time of Viré’s reading, pp. 21r and 21v were illegible. See her comments on Viré, 1992, pp. XIX-XX).



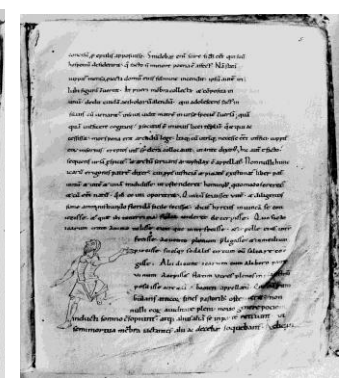
fol. 3r



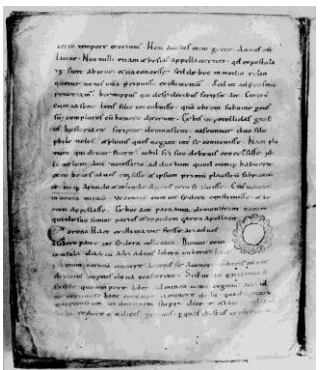
fol. 4r



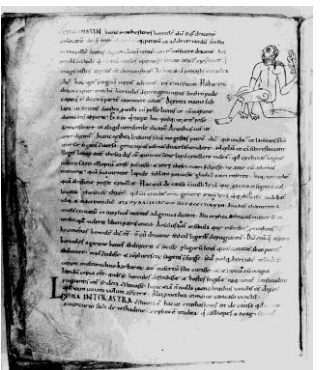
fol. 4v



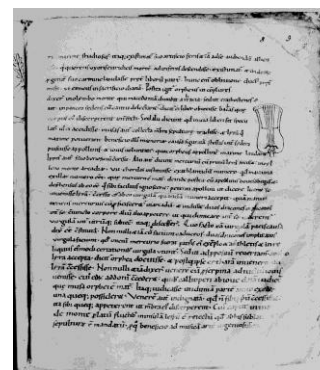
fol. 5r



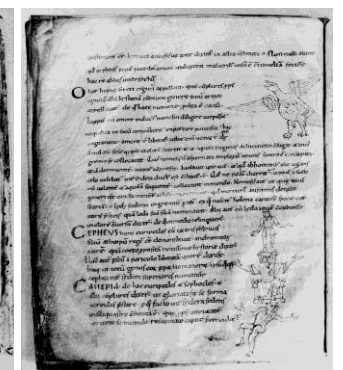
fol.6v



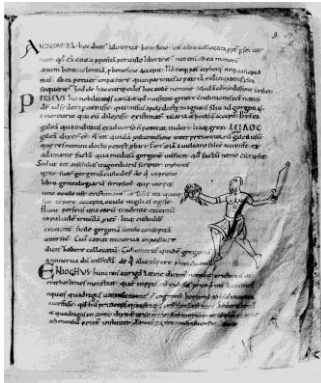
fol. 7v



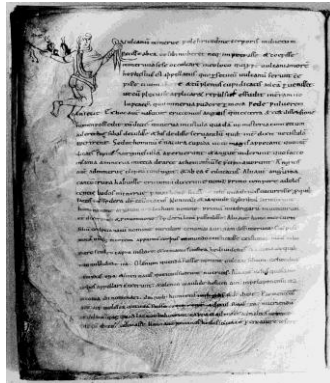
fol. 8r



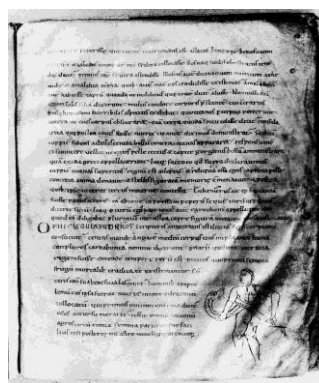
fol. 8v



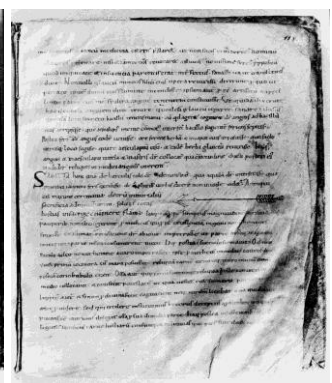
fol. 9r



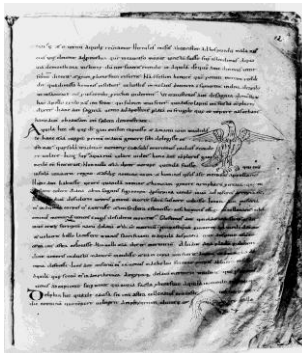
fol. 9v



fol. 10r



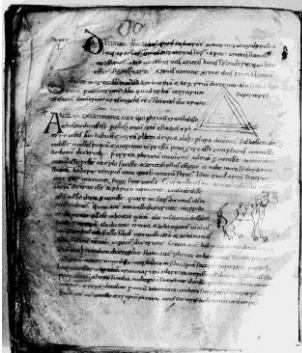
fol. 11r



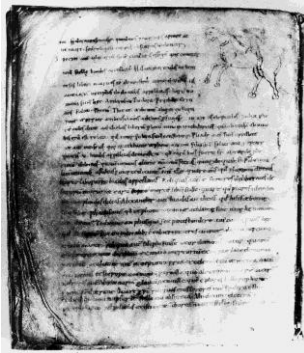
fol. 12r



fol. 13r



fol. 13v



fol. 14v

illustrations

ff. 3r-14v Small pen drawings of 22 constellations without stars marked (except, possibly, for Bootes). The Bears are depicted separately and as part of *Draco inter arctos*. The series stops with the illustrations of Taurus.

fol. 3r **URSA MAIOR** stands facing to the left with its nose raised and with a long tail and tufts of hair marked on its skin.

fol. 3r **URSA MINOR** stands facing to the right with a short tail and its head raised.

fol. 3r **DRACO INTER ARCTOS** has **DRACO** as a snake with 3 bends in its body and covered with scales. Its head faces to the right and has its mouth open. The Bears stand back-to-back, facing inwards.

URSA MINOR is placed within the second bend and is about the same size as the other bear.

URSA MAIOR is within the third bend, standing on the tail of Draco.

fol. 3r **BOOTES** stands to the left, wearing an short skirt and having a bare torso, with his ribs visible. He is bearded and tips his head backwards to look straight upwards. He holds his right hand along his side in front of his body and holds his left hand raised behind his head. The peculiar way in which both his right hand and right leg trail behind him makes the whole of his body look like a 'C' (for a comparative figure, see **Florence, Laurenziana 29.30**). He appears to have some stars marked: 2 at his waist, 1 in his skirt, 1 in each knee, 1 in his left shin and 1 in each ankle (?).

fol. 6v **CORONA BOREALIS** is a leafy wreath.

fol. 7v **HERCULES** kneels to the left on his right knee with his left knee raised. He is bearded and holds a skin in his right hand in front of him so that it is partially obscured by his left leg. The skin has 3 feet visible. He holds a leafy plant vertically in his left hand behind his head.

fol. 8r **LYRA** is a lyre with 6 strings.

fol. 8v **CYGNUS** looks more like an eagle and is standing to the left with its mouth open and its wings outstretched to either side.

CEPHEUS stands facing the viewer wearing a short tunic. He has no attributes and holds his arms to either side (slightly lowered) with his palms facing forward. His feet rest on the top of Cassiopeia's throne.

CASSIOPEIA is seated on a throne that either has a high back or her head-dress has a peculiar squarish shape to it. Her head is covered and she is wearing a long robe. She holds her arms outstretched to the sides with her palms facing upwards.

ANDROMEDA is seen from the front and is walking to the left, but her head is turned to the right, looking over her shoulder. She is nude and her hair is exposed. She holds both arms extended to the sides with the palms facing upwards. The top of her head is squashed against the bottom of Cassiopeia's throne.

- fol. 9r **PERSEUS** faces the viewer and walks to the left. He wears a short skirt with his upper torso exposed. He is bearded and his arms are outstretched to either side. He holds a long-haired Medusa in his extended right hand and a wide *harpe* in his left.
- fol. 9v **AURIGA** faces away from the viewer with his buttocks visible. He appears to be wearing a tight-fitting shirt with long sleeves and a cloak over his right shoulder, but his buttocks and torso are bare. He has long hair. He holds his arms out to either side and holds reins in his right hand. There is a small goat perched on his left shoulder and two small goats resting on his left wrist and hand.
- fol. 10r: **OPHIUCHUS** faces away from the viewer and walks to the left. The **SERPENS** runs around the upper part of his chest and then crosses the man's body at the small of his back. It faces towards the man and has a dog's face.
- fol. 11r **SAGITTA** points towards the left.
- fol. 12r **AQUILA** faces to the right, but turns its head back to the left. Its wings are outstretched.
- DELPHINUS** is U-shaped and placed upside-down (its back towards the bottom of the page, with its belly towards the top) and it faces to the right. It has a smiling face and a number of square-cut fins.
- fol. 13r **PEGASUS** is half a winged horse facing to the left with its middle ending in a series of rings, somewhat like a Michelin Man. Both its legs are stretched out straight in front.
- fol. 16v **TRIANGULUM** is 3 concentric equilateral triangles.
- ARIES** stands walking to the right with curled horns, long wavy fleece and a long tail.
- fol. 18r **TAURUS** is a full bull, trotting to the left with multiple bands on its neck. Its tail curls between its hind legs.

notes

As noted by McGurk, the illustrations to Book II of Hyginus are very close to Florence Laur Plut 29. 30. It is, possibly, its parent.

The text, however, is considered to Viré to belong to a separate recension. Whereas the St Paul manuscript currently exists as fragments of the books, its textual partner has the complete text - suggesting that it was not copied from a fragment, but has loist its pages more recently. Its pictorial 'daughter' Florence Plut 29, 30 ends at Book IV, 9.

bibliography

McGURK IV 1966, p. xxiii.

notes that pictures are very close to Florence, Plut 29. 30 Hyginus

VIRE 1981, p. 172.

notes a ms in the Stiftsbibliothek of Saint-Paul-en-Carinthie, Ms 16.1 and says is 11th century, questions provenance, 1-21v; without doubt contained the whole 4 books, but in its original state has only up to chapter 3 of Book IV.

VIRE 1992, pp. xix-xx.

membr., 11th century; transcribed in an uncertain monastery, 21 ff, 257x 220 mm, contains various numbers of lines (24030) 21 figures of the stars (ff. 3r-14v) from the total of 43 accompany Book II. Now the book is truncated and has nothing but the *excerpta*

A black and white microfilm is available from the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, Saint John's University, P.O. Box 7300, Collegeville, MN 56321