

## Vienna

## ONB

## Vindob 3394

Michael Scot, *Liber de signis et imaginibus celi*

northeastern Italy (Padua?)

c. 1470

An interesting edition of Michael Scot's *Liber de signis* with passages from other sections of Scot's work and citations from other authors inserted. The text is accompanied by a collation of fragments from Hyginus *De astronomia* and the *Revised Aratus latinus* that also appear in the 12th-century Hyginus manuscript, BALTIMORE, WALTERS W. 734.

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| ff. 1r-210v     | Quęcumque Mortales agunt sive privatim sive publice calumnię subiacent ... – ... quamvis Ptholomeus ultra Indiam collocaverit. Finis Asiaticę. Descriptionis Pii Secundi Pontificis Maximi (= Enea Silvio Piccolmini (Pope Pius II), <i>Asiatica descriptio</i> , ed. Ven. Joh. de Colonia, 1477)  |
| fol. 211r-213v  | Mundus appellatur is qui constat ex sole, Luna, terra et omnibus stellis ... – in utrisque pedibus singulas quę omnino sunt quattuordecim. In fine Quinternionis vide c[apitulum] 5 de Assinis De Engonasi et de .V. stellis. (= Hyginus, <i>De Astronomia, excerpta</i> . Note that the composition of the text fragments corresponds closely to Baltimore, Walters, W 734, fol. 1r-18r). |
| ff. 211r- _____ | Mundus appellatur is qui constat ex sole et luna – in simili causa posse constitui suspicamur (= Hyginus, <i>De astronomia</i> , I, 1-9; cf. VIRÉ 1992, pp. 5-13)  |
| ff. _____       | Sed quoniam quae nobis dexterre positione dicenda fuerunt – hydra sumpisce qui notius vocatur. (=  |

Hyginus, *De astronomia*, II, preface; cf. Viré, 1992, pp. 14-15 (missing the last sentence of the preface)

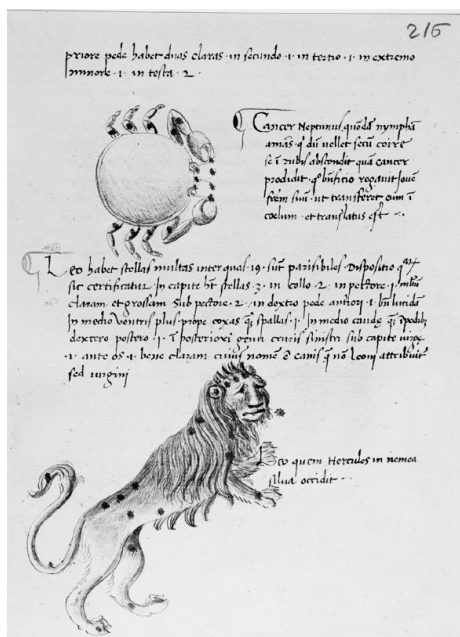
- ff. \_\_\_\_\_ [I]GITUR incipiamus a polo boreo protinus dicere – cum piscibus et est omnino stellarum omnino. xii. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, III, 1-40; cf. VIRÉ 1992, pp. 95- 124) Book III, missing chapters III, 2-3 (see ff. 242v-244v below)
- ff. 214 r-v De planetis. Septem sunt quae vocantur erraticę. Quarum prima est Saturni nomine Pheton – Haec faciunt magnos longinqui temporis annos. (= conflation of Hyginus, *De astronomia*, II, 42 (note variants from ed. VIRÉ 1992, pp. 91-93) and *Revised Aratus latinus* (MAASS 1898, pp. 272-275). The text corresponds to Baltimore, Walters, W 734, ff. 19r-20r.
- fol. 214v Quinque solunt stellae simili ratione notari  
Non possunt quique faciunt vestigial cursum ...  
Atque vario motu metirier orbis  
Haec (?) faciunt magnos longinqui temporis annos.  
(= Cicero, *Aratea*, vv 227-234, cf. Soubiran 1972, pp. 179-80).  
The text corresponds to Baltimore, Walters, W 734, fol. 20r.
- ff. 214v-233v De xlviiii imaginibus zodiaci secundum Michaellem Scotum et alios quam plures. Aries habet stellas multas – Vexillum imago oritur .7. Ianuarii et Occidit ad exitum Aprilis. (= Michael Scot, *De noticia doctrine ...*, ed. ACKERMANN 2009, pp. 148-250. The text combines descriptions of the constellations with information about their rising and settings of the constellations and also contains some short quotes from other authorities.)
- ff. 234r-238r Luminaria firmament coeli sunt multa inter que .7. planete noscuntur ... – ... per omnes dies velut transmutatur coeli nomen est luna. (= Michael Scot, *De noticia figuracionis planetarum*, ed. ACKERMANN 2009, pp. 252-281. The text appears also to be conflated with other writings.)
- ff. 238r-242v De. 20. mansionibus lunę, et earum proprietatibus prima mansio. Cum luna est in alnath ... – ... neque navem ponere in aquam nec emere Servos, haec figura. (= text on Lunar Mansions, ed. Lucentini 2000, pp. 440-50).
- ff. 242v Sidera quae gentiles presepe et Asinos vocaverunt sub Cancro sunt constituta ... – ... sub ventre VII, omnino stellas XIII. (= *Revised Aratus*

*latinus*, cf. ed. MAASS 1898, pp. 296-97 6 and/or scholia Sangermanensia, cf. Breysig 1867, pp. 129-130). This text also appears in Baltimore Walters W 734, fol. 20v.

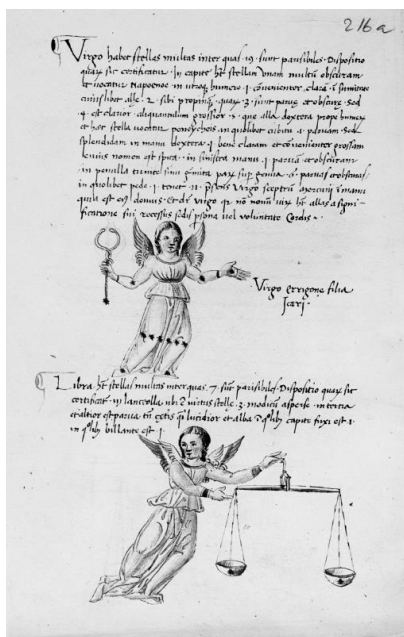
*Tabula mansionum lunae* (= table schematizing the text on 238v-242v)

- fol. 243r      Engonasis positus inter duos circulos arcticum et aestivum utrisque pedibus et dextro genu, – In sinistra manu quattuor quas pellem leonis esse nonnulli dixerunt. Sunt omnes xvij. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, III, 5, cf. Viré 1992, pp. 97-98.)
- ff. 243r-v      Si vis scire in quo anno coeli stella Saturnis sit - et inveniens signum in quo ille est positus (= three paragraphs on the arithmetic rules regarding the order of the planets = source ???) This text also appears in Baltimore Walters W 734, ff. 20v-21r
- De luna. Luna bigam habere dicitur sive propter velocitatem – certissima habetur aurarum. (= extracts from Revised Aratus latinus, cf. MAASS 1898, p. 290 and/or scholia Stroziana, cf. BREYSIG 1867, pp. 199-202). This text also appears in Baltimore Walters W 734, fol. 21r
- Sol dum per trecentos sexaginta et v dies –nubes occidat aquilonem signat. (= *Revised Aratus latinus*, cf. MAASS 1898, pp. 292-94) fol 21v-22r Sol transiens ab ariete ad chelas – alter propter lucem exigat (= Hyginus, *Astronomica*, IV, 3; cf. VIRÉ 1992, pp. 131-32; the same text appears on fol. 15v). This text also appears in Baltimore Walters W 734, fol. 21v
- fol. 245r      Ex codice Antiquissimo Archivi Patavini. De fundatione Venetiarum ad verbum exemplar. Anno Nativitatis Christi CCCCXXI. Ultimo anno papę Innoicenti primi ... – ... fundamenti factum fuit circa horam meridiei (with names of Paduan consuls for 421 and 423)
- fol. 245v      De constructione urbis Venetiarum Bononie reperta in codice quodam vetustissimo. Attila rex Hunorum de Scithis egressus Rosorum ... – ... et tandem metropolis fit novę Venetię.
- ff. 246-47      blank

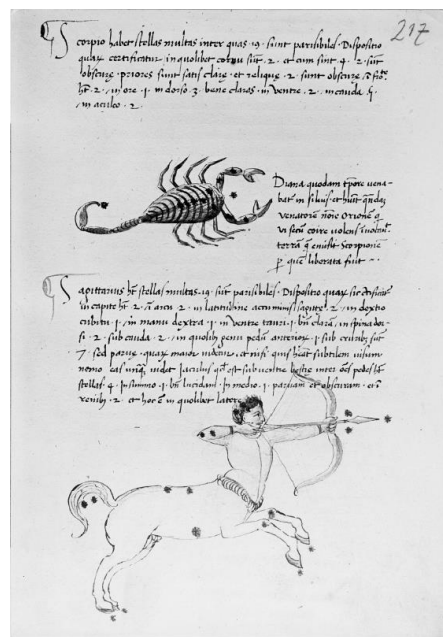




fol. 216r



fol. 216v



fol. 217r

fol. 216r **CANCER** is a light blue, round-bodied crab placed so that it faces to the right. It has 2 large claws and 3 legs on either side. It has 2 stars in front of the claws, 1 in each large claw, 3 on the nose, 2 in the elbow of the left claw, 1 in the elbow of the large right claw and 1 in each of the 6 legs, or 16 stars in all.

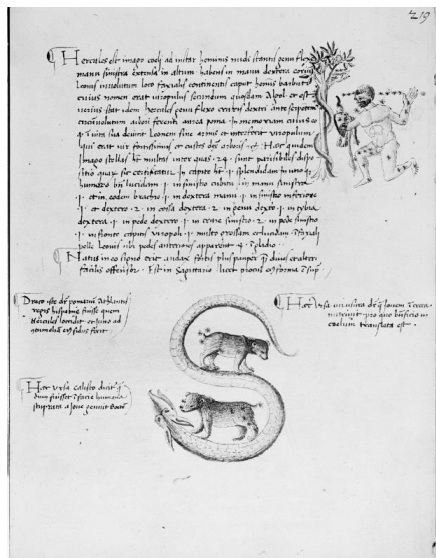
**LEO** stands to the right with his fore section raised. His tail makes an S-shape behind him. He has 1 star in the right front paw, 1 on the belly, 1 on the haunch 3 on the back, 1 in the genitals, 1 on each hind foot, 1 in the middle of the tail and 1 at the end of the tail, or 19 stars in all.

fol. 216v **VIRGO** stands facing the viewer, she wears a violet dress that is banded at the neck and the waist with gold. Her wings are green, blue and gold and she has blonde hair. She stands with her left palm raised in front of her, and holds a caduceus with blue snakes raised in her right hand. The drawing of the caduceus has been refined in variance with the original pencil underdrawing. She 1 star in each elbow, 1 in the left hand, 1 at the bottom of the caduceus 6 in a line across her knees and 1 in each foot, or 12 stars n all.

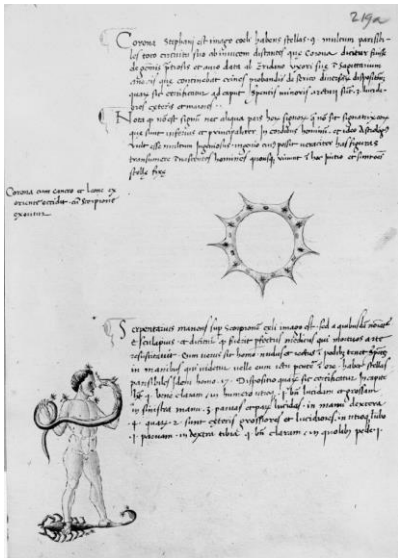
**LIBRA** is depicted as a female winged figure, steeping to the right, wearing a long blue robe similar to Virgo's she holds the Scales in he left hand and points to the with her right hand. The underdrawings show that the original drawing was of a simple pair of scales without figure.



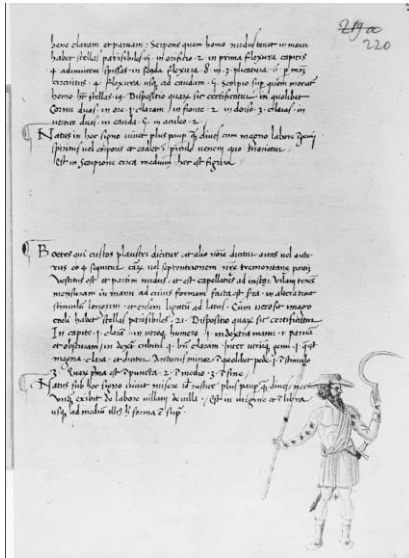
fol. 218r **PISCES** are light blue and swim in opposite directions, with both their backs upwards. They have pink gills and the stream that connects their mouths is brown. The top fish has 12 stars, the stream has 12 stars and the bottom fish has 13 stars, or 37 stars in all.



fol. 219r



fol. 219v



fol. 220r

fol. 219r **HERCULES** is depicted in the Garden of Hesperides with a dragon-headed green snake climbing a green tree in front of him (to the left). He is bearded, nude and kneels on his left knee to the left, facing the viewer. He holds the yellow lion's skin (with a bearded human face) over his extended right arm and holds a long sword horizontally in his left hand, the arm being raised behind his head, with the elbow bent. He has 3 or 4 stars in a line near his head, 4 in a line behind his head, 1 on each shoulder, 3 in the left forearm, 4 in the right thigh, 1 in the right knee, 1 in the right shin, 1 on the right foot, 1 in the left thigh and 2 in the left foot, or 23 or 24 stars in all

**DRACO INTER ARCTOS** is composed of the two bears set within the curls of the green snakelike DRACO (though he has a Dragon's head, seen from the top). The upper bear is slightly smaller, tan and walks to the right. The bottom bear is larger, hairier and walks to the left. DRACO is green and pink with long pointed ears and a pink mouth. URSA MINOR has 4 stars in the body and 3 surrounding the tail, or 7 stars in all. URSA MAIOR has 2 stars in the head, 1 on the left front leg, 3 or 4 in the body 2 on the left haunch and 1 on the tail, or 10 stars in all. DRACO has no stars marked.

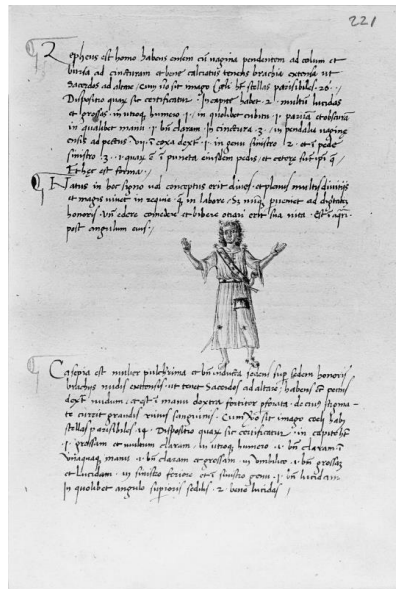
fol. 219v **CORONA BOREALIS** is a yellow, circular, star-like structure with alternating red, green and blue jewels. It has 9 stars.

**OPHIUCHUS** is a pink-bodied nude male, facing the viewer and standing slight to the right. He has short brown hair. He holds the green **SERPENS** in front of his body horizontally, with its tail making a curl around his wide his right hand, and his left hand holding the head. The snake faces towards the man and the man frowns at it. Ophiuchus stands on the back of a brown **SCORPIO**<sup>2</sup>. The man has 1 star in the head, 1 in each shoulder, 1 in the right hand and 1 in each foot. The snake has 3 stars on its nose, and 2 in the neck. **SCORPIO**<sup>2</sup> has 1 on the nose, 3 on the back, 2 behind the left small legs and 2 near its sting

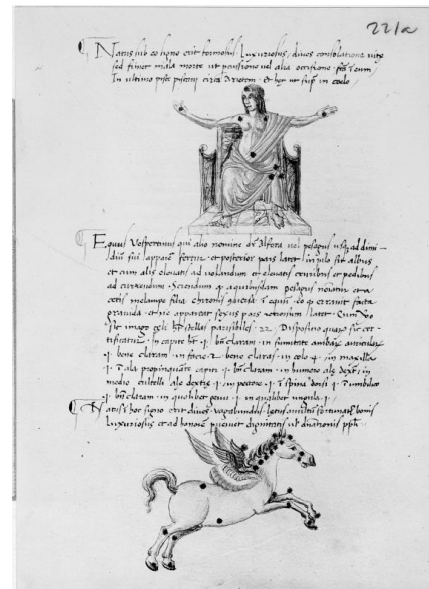
fol. 220r **BOOTES** stands facing the viewer. He is dressed in a short, blue *tunica exomis*, with his right shoulder exposed. He has a tan, broad-brimmed farmer's hat, and carries a sword with a pink and gold handle and a tan scabbard on his left hip. In his right hand, he holds a long stick vertically and in his left hand, he holds a sickle. He has 1 star in the head, 2 on the left shoulder, 1 in the left hand, 5 down the right arm, 2 on the stick, 1 between his thighs and 1 in each foot, or 14 stars in all.



fol. 220v



fol. 221r



fol. 221v

fol. 220v **AURIGA** stands in a square, wooden hay cart drawn to the left by two white horses and two tan oxen. The horses have pink trappings. Auriga has blonde curly hair and wears a long, loose, sleeveless robe. He holds a spear upright with the tip at the top in his right hand as if prodding one of the oxen with its blunt end. He holds the reins in his right hand. There is a large grey goat lying on his right shoulder and two smaller goats (looking like rabbits) on his left elbow. He has 1 star in the forehead, 1 on the left shoulder, 1 in the left hand, 1 on the right upper arm, and 2 at the waist, or 6 stars in all.

fol. 221r **CEPHEUS** stands facing the viewer with his arms raised, elbows bent. He wears a lilac tunic with an open neck and bell sleeves. He has short blonde hair and is beardless. He has an olive strap across his chest and a belt at his waist from which a sword hangs from his left hip. There is also an olive



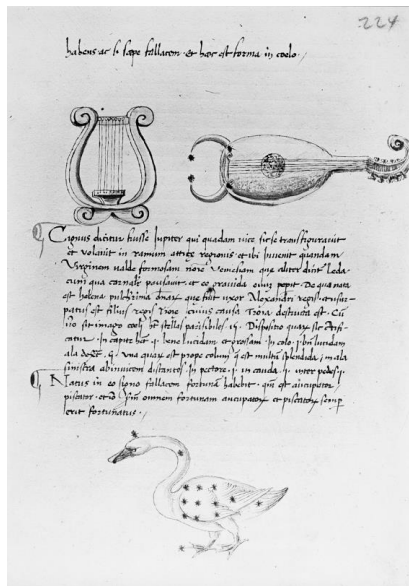


TRIANGULUM is a green and pink triangle with a star in each corner.



fol. 223v

fol. 223v The **PLEIADES** are depicted as 7 women set in a row, wearing long single-hued gowns of pink, green and blue. Each has a star in her chest. To the left of the group, there is a small brown chicken, squatting to the left.



fol. 224r

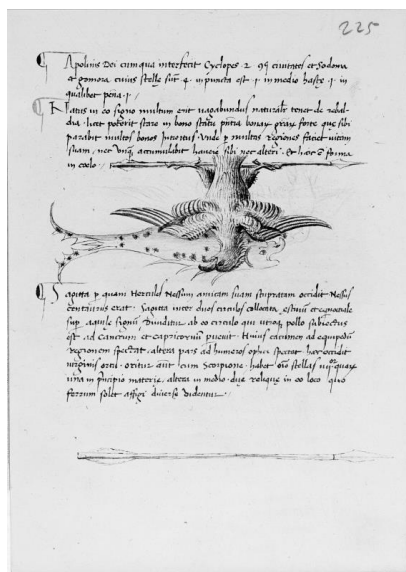
fol. 224r **LYRA** is depicted twice. On the left, it is a conventional lyre with 8 strings and no stars marked. On the right is a *lira de brachia* with 2 grey horns protruding from the body of the viol. There are 4 stars marked in the horns.

**CYGNUS** walks to the left, with an angry expression on its face. Its wings are held close to its body. There is 1 star in the head, 1 in the neck, 10 on the body, 1 in the tail and 1 on the right foot, or 14 stars in all.



fol. 224v

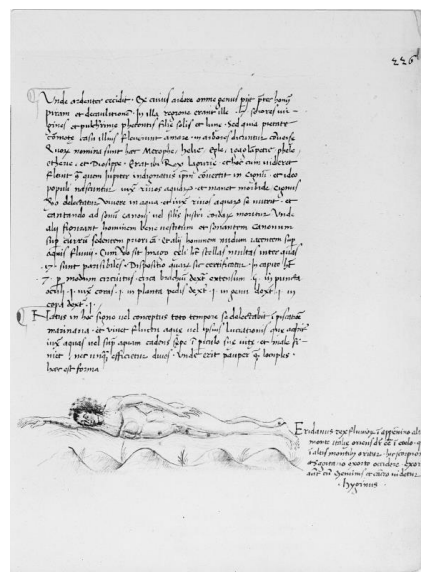
fol. 224v **AQUILA** stands to the right with his left foot raised and his wings outstretched. In front of him (to the right) there is an odd object of a stick with a blade that resembles a lictor's fasces (?). He has 3 stars on the head, and 1 on the chest.



fol. 225r



fol. 225v



fol. 226r

fol. 225r The image of Vultur cadens is complicated by the fact that it is painted over a different underdrawing. The original drawing showed an eagle hanging upside down from an arrow (to the right of the final composition). The current one shows the same image, but is larger and placed in the centre of the space. The inverted eagle overlaps an image of a light blue Cetus (?) swimming to the right and with a curved snout. There are no visible stars in the eagle, but 'Cetus' has 17 stars in its body.

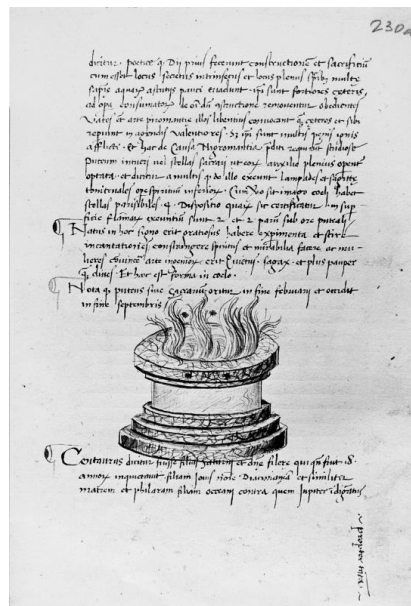
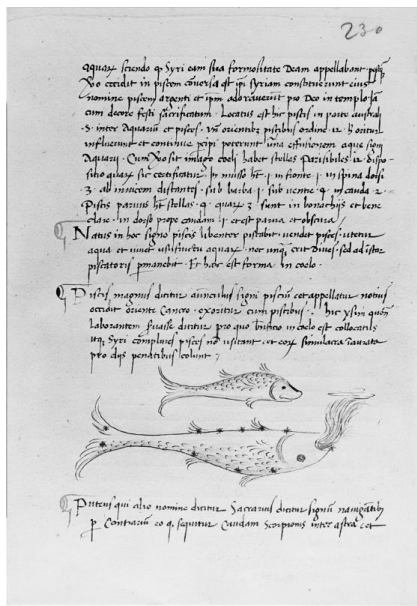
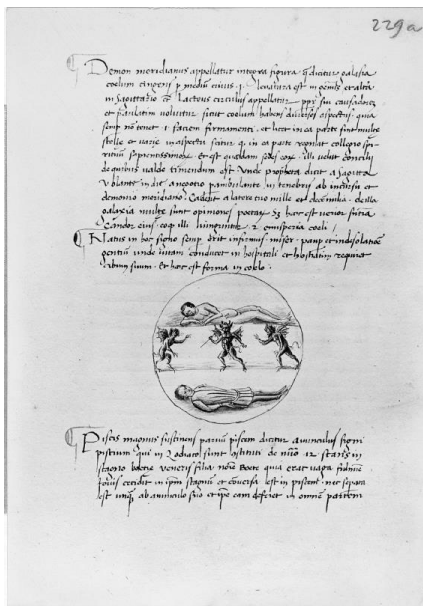
Sagitta is a tan-shafted, grey tipped and feathered arrow, with its tip to the right. It is not marked by stars.

fol. 225v **CETUS** is depicted as a blue large fish swimming to the right, with pink gills, eyes and mouth. It has 1 star on the nose, 1 on the head, 2 in the body, 4 near the tail, 5 in the tailfins, 2 in the belly, 3 in the back fin and 1 on the front fin, or 19 stars in all.

fol. 226r **ERIDANUS** is depicted as a male youth lying by or swimming in a river. He holds his right above him and his left by his side (as if doing the overhand crawl). The water is blue and the landscape in front of the river is green with pink highlight. He has 7 stars by his head, 5 on his right arm, 1 in his belly, 2 on the right thigh and 1 on the left heel, or 16 stars in all.







fol. 229v

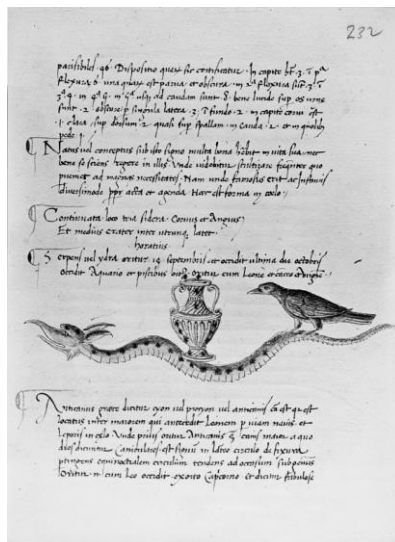
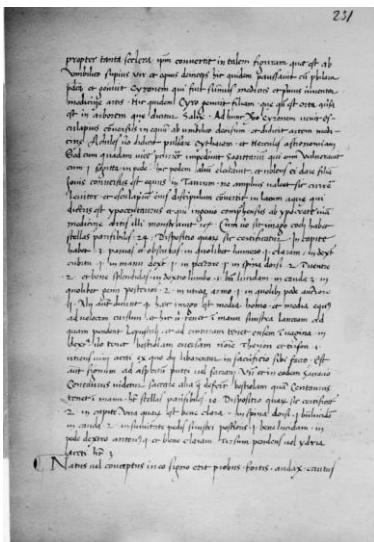
fol. 230r

fol. 230v

fol. 229v **DEMON MERIDIANIS** is depicted as three layers of figures, set within a circular frame. At the top level, there is a nude male figure sleeping on his back, slightly turned towards the viewer; the middle level has three small winged devils and the bottom level has a man sleeping on his back, wearing a pink tunic with grey legging. There are no stars marked.

fol. 230r **PISCIS AUSTRINUS** is depicted as a large, blue upside-down fish with its head to the right. It has water flowing from its mouth, pink gills and a yellow eye. There is a smaller fish (*Piscis parvus*), with its back upwards, riding above the larger fish's belly. The larger fish has 10 stars marked on it.

fol. 230v **ARA** is a columnar altar in green and pink marble with red flames coming out of the top and standing on 3 steps. There are 2 stars in the flames and 2 on the upper rim of the altar.



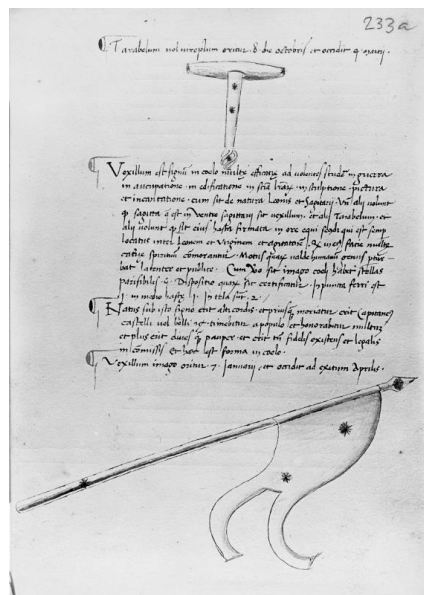
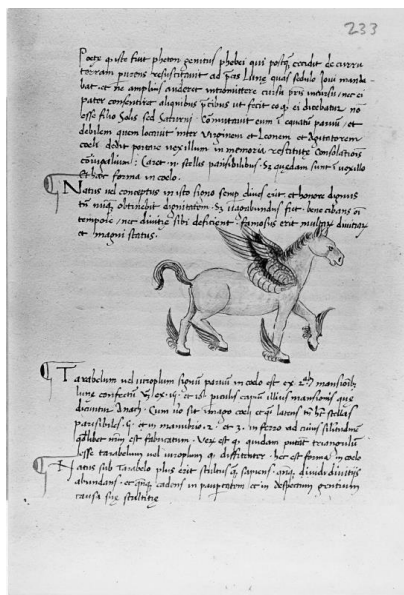
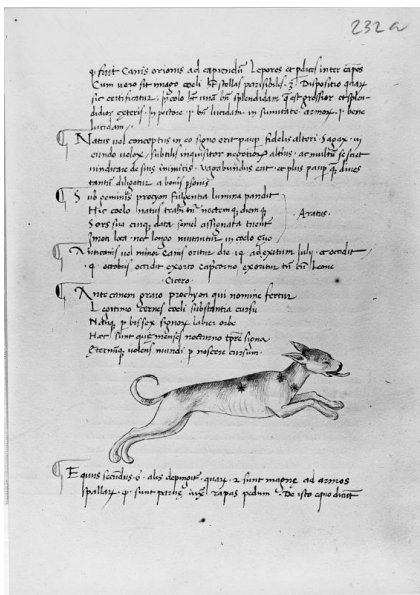
fol. 231r

fol. 231a

fol. 232r

fol.231v **CENTAURUS** is a centaur that trots to the right. His human half is dressed in a pink tunic with a blue undershirt. He turns back to look at the two animals resting in his raised right hand (a dog and a rabbit) there is also a third animal hanging from the end of a long spear that he holds with his left hand and rests on his left shoulder. There is an odd diamond-shaped object (a small unguent or perfume jar?) resting on his hind flank. He has 1 star in each shoulder, 1 in the chest, 1 in the right upper arm; 1 in the horse's chest, 2 in the front hooves, 2 on the equine back, 2 on the belly, 2 on the object, 1 on the haunch, 3 on the tail and 4 on the hind knees or 21 stars in all. There are 6 stars scattered among the animals.

fol. 232r **Hydra** is a green snake with a dragon's head, that slinks to the eft. There is a two-handed pink urn on its middle and a brown crow on his tail, facing towards the front. Hydra has 17 stars in the body; Crater has 2 on the mouth of the urn, 2 in the neck, 6 in the body and 2 on the feet, or 12 stars in all. Corvus has 1 in the beak

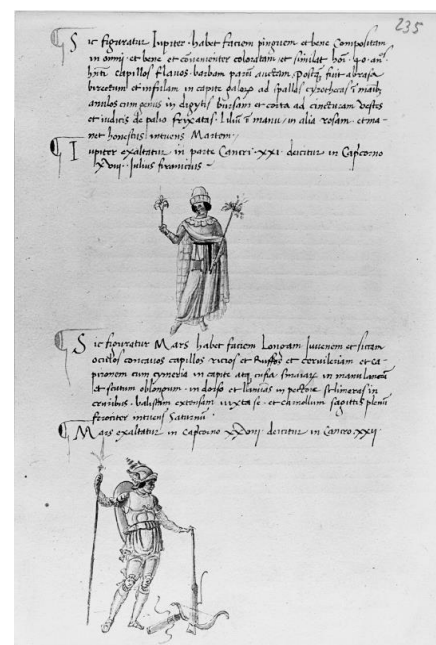
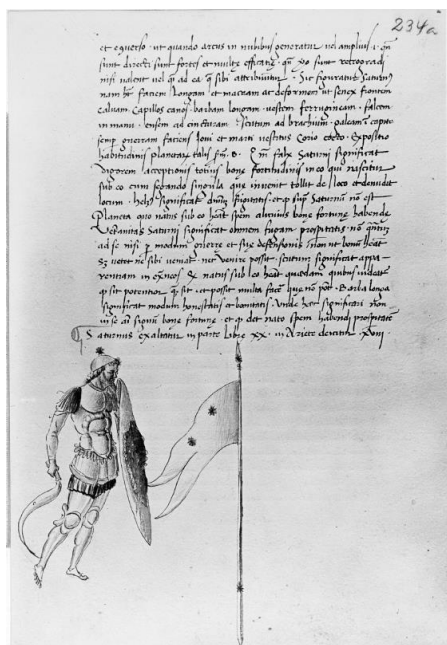
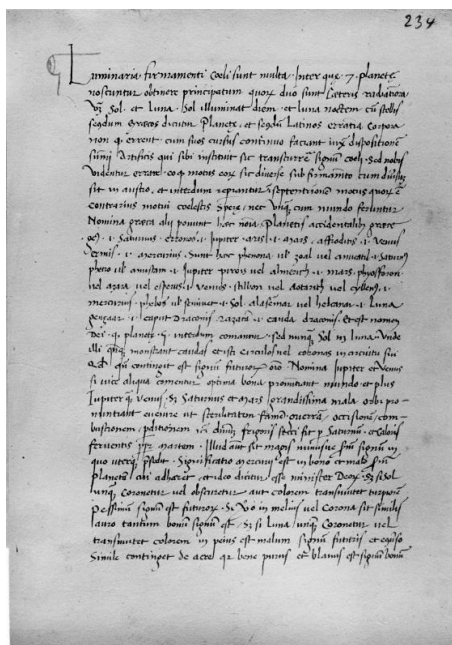


fol. 232v

fol. 233r

fol. 233v

- fol. 232v **CANIS MINOR** is a sleek tan hound that leaps to the right. It has 2 stars in the neck and 1 in the back.
  - fol.233r **EQUUS SECUNDUS** is a full white winged horse with purple, white and green wings on his shoulder and alternating blue and violet wings on his feet. There are no stars.
  - fol. 233v **TARABELLUM** is an awl with a grey blade and a tan handle. There are 2 stars in the handle and 2 in the blade.
- VEXILLIUM** is a pink flag, with a yellow staff that has a grey tip. There is 1 star in staff, 1 in tip and 2 in flag.

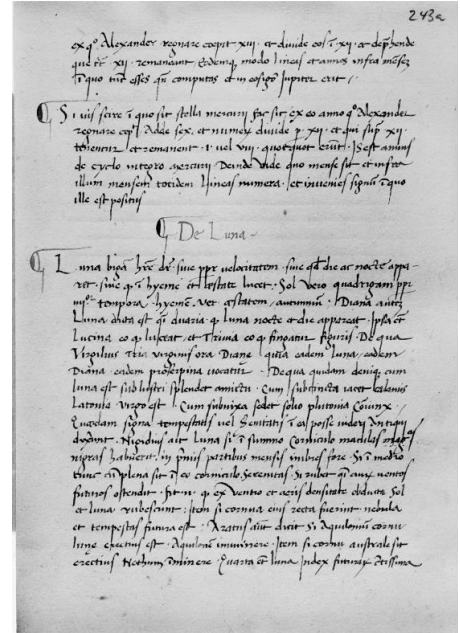
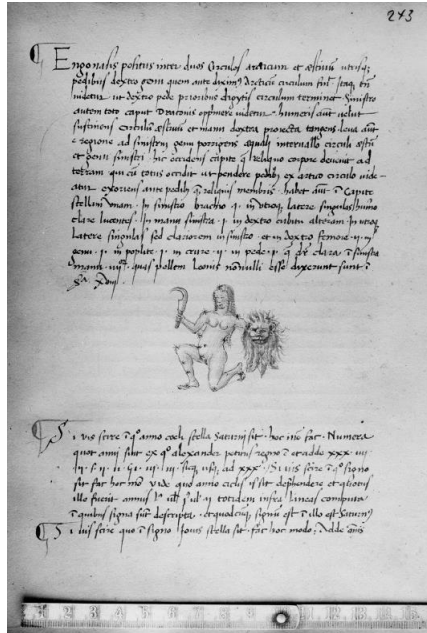
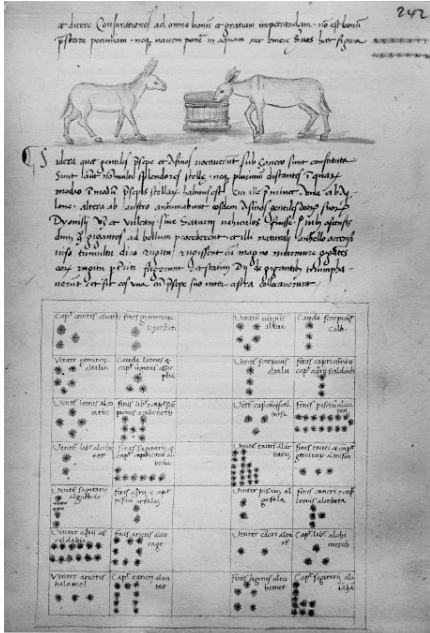


- fol.234r
  - fol. 234v **Saturn** is a mature, bearded man, dressed as a warrior in a pink cuirass with gold epaulets over a blue undertunic. He has a silver cap helmet on his head, silver armour covering his legs. He holds a sickle in his right hand and a green shield with golden face in his left hand, in front of his body. In front of him, there is a pink flag on a spear.
  - fol. 235r **Jupiter** is a gentleman dressed in a pink robe, with a blue mantle with plaid reverse and ermine collar over his shoulders. He has an ermine hat. He holds a lily in his right hand and a sceptre with a rose end in his left. He has a purse hanging from his waist and his shoes are pink.
- Mars** is dressed as a warrior with a blue winged helmet and blue armour with a pink overskirt. His leg armour is decorated with animal-heads on the knees. He holds the end of an arquebus in his left hand and there is a quiver of and arrows at his feet. He holds a trident vertically in his right hand and there is a green shield hanging on his back.





fol. 238r Luna stand in a green cart with gold trim and pink and white details that has resembles the pointed prow of a ship and is drawn by two white horse with pink chest plates, decorates with faces. She wears a pink dress, and has golden hair and silver horns on her head. She holds a lit candle in each hand, with pink flames. To the right, there are three stars; and to the left a blue, crescent moon.



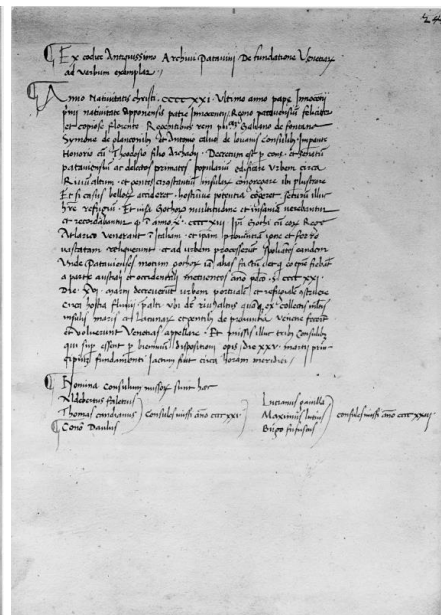
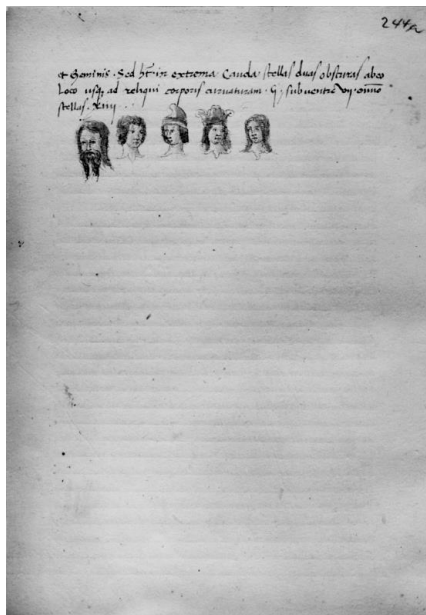
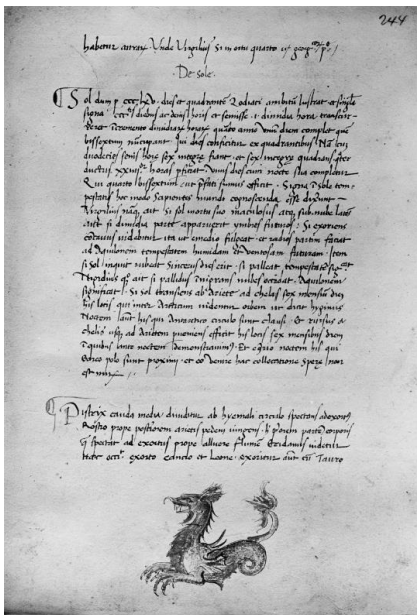
fol. 242v

fol. 243r

fol. 243v

fol. 242v Aselli are two grey donkeys, fanking a round tan barrel and standing on green grass

fol. 243r Engonasin is a nude female figure with long blonde hair, kneeling towards the left and facing the viewer. She holds a curved knife upright in her right hand and has the lion's head over her extended left arm. There are no stars marked.



fol. 244r

fol. 244v

fol. 245r

- fol. 244r 'Pistrix' is a multi-coloured dragon with a pink and yellow body and green with two foreclaws, wings at it shoulder and a curved tail that ends in an acanthus shape. It faces to the left.
- fol. 244r An illustration of 5 planet heads, each of which has blonde hair. The figure are difficult to identify, but might be: Saturn, Mercury (? as a youth), Mars (? with a cap), Jupiter (with a crown) and Venus.

### notes

The ÖNB website notes that the manuscript was in the collection of Johannes Cuspinianus (medical doctor, historian, diplomat and humanist scholar), who taught at the University of Vienna from 1492 until his death in 1529.

Two hands (1r-211v and 212r-245v); humanist cursive; paper; 280 x 215 mm

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BAUER-EBERHARDT 2003.

ACKERMANN 2009, pp. 546-49:

p. 548: Notes that HERMANN (1931) attributes this to a Northern Italian scriptorium, and the sections at the end of the volume support this; notes that the readings of the text are closest to Munich 10268, which has a Paduan provenance (rather than Florence BNC XXII, 22 or London BL Add 41600 with Venetian origins); notes that BLUME 2000 (p. 249, n. 27) discusses the illustrations as if they had a Paduan origin.

p. 549: notes marginal citations to Aratus, Cicero and Hyginus in the text; also notes that some images missing from the normal *Liber de signis* cycle; and Sagitta has been added.

DEKKER 2913, p. 406.

BLUME— HAFFNER— METZGER 2016, II, pp. 46-47, 50, 319-25 (no.32) and figs. 218-27.

Humanist cursive; NE Italian (probably Venice or Padua), c. 1470s

p. 320 - note that, despite the Renaissance look of the ms, the contents are 'high-medieval' and draw attention to the shared Hyginus texts, etc. with BALTIMORE, WALTERS W 734 and suggest a shared model, but with a new addition of the Scot and Piccolomini texts; note the confusion re: gender and attributes in the image of 'Engonasis' becomes clear when compared with BALTIMORE, WALTERS W 734; Blume (2000, p. 249, n. 27) notes Mantagnesque elements in these illustrations; also note similarities to other Paduan Scot ms, PADUA SEMINARIO VESCOVILE 48.