

Basinio da Parma, *Astronomicum*

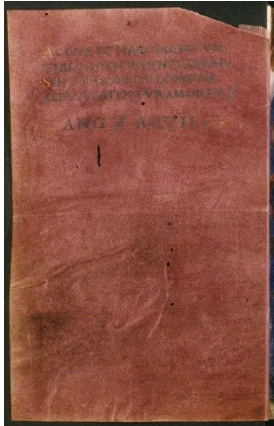
text

ff. 21v- 33r: (in pink)
BASINII PARMENSIS ASTRONOMCON SECUNDUS

(first letter pink, then sepia)

QUINQUE vagas etiam nec non pulcherrima mundi –
Templa cano atque vias semper volventis olympi.
FINIS.

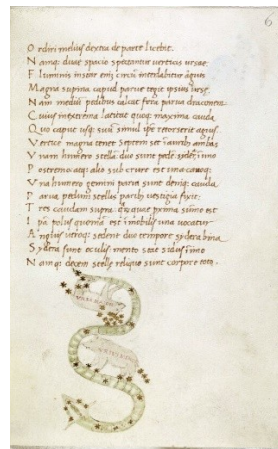
illustrations



fol. i v



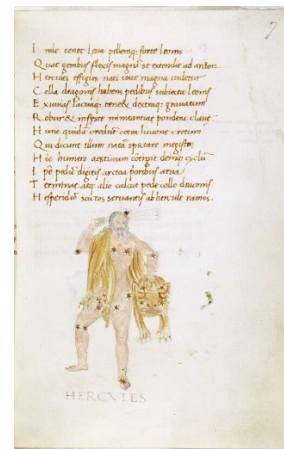
fol. 1r



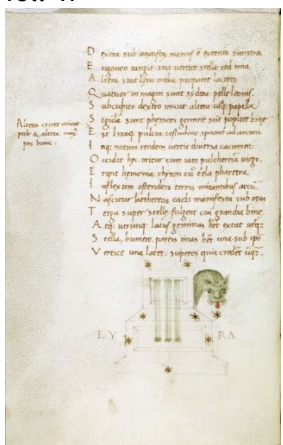
fol. 6r



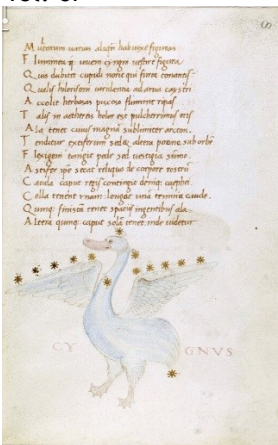
fol. 6v



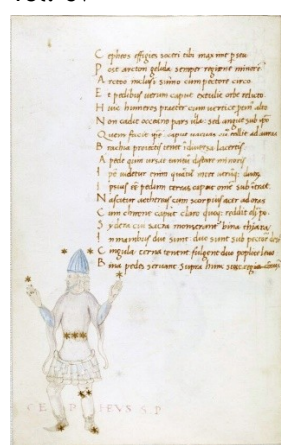
fol. 7r



fol. 7v



fol. 8r



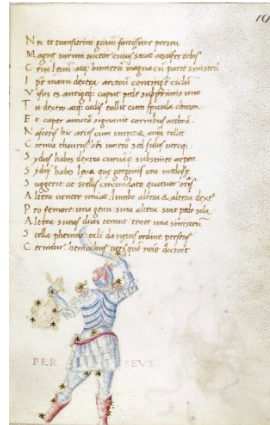
fol. 8v



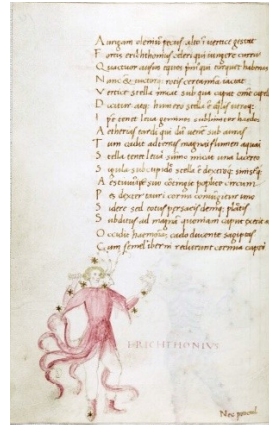
fol. 9r



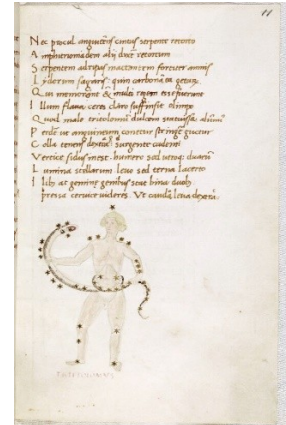
fol. 9v



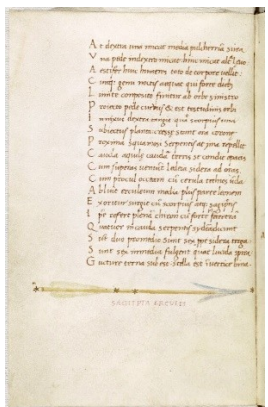
fol. 10r



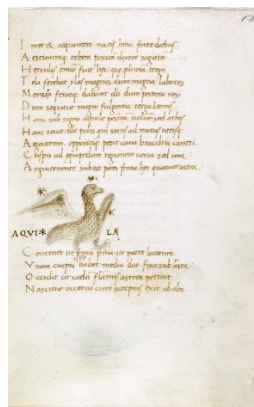
fol. 10v



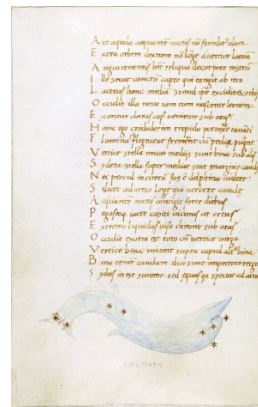
fol. 11r



fol. 11v



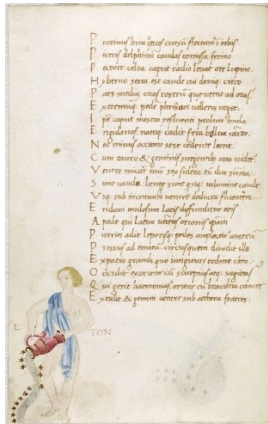
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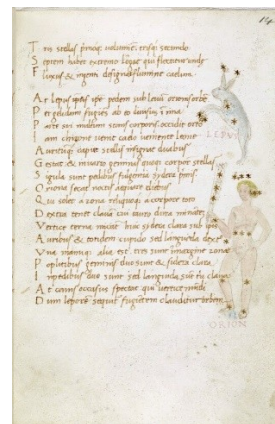
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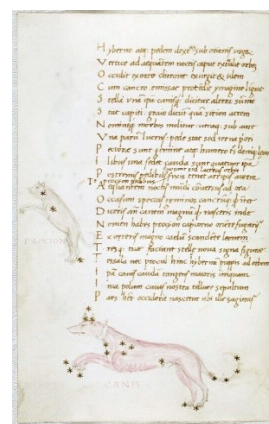
fol. 13r



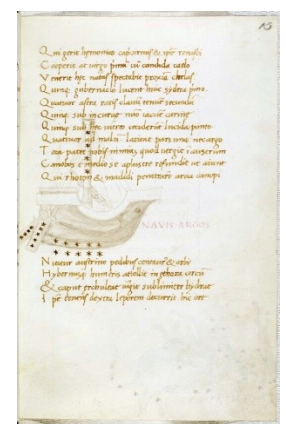
fol. 13v



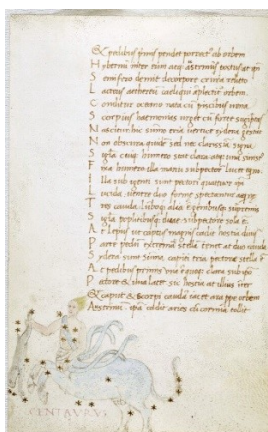
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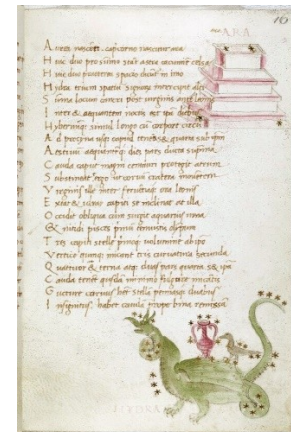
fol. 14v



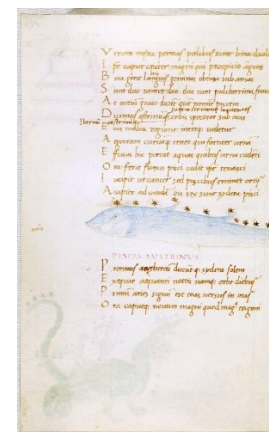
fol. 15r



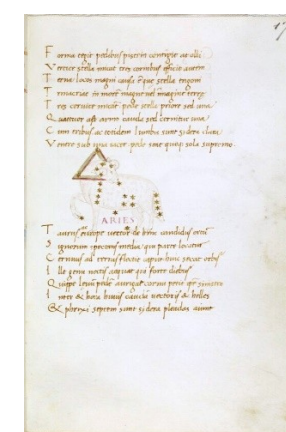
fol. 15v



fol. 16r



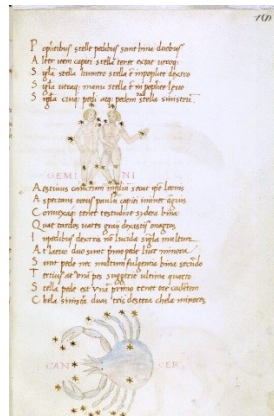
fol. 16v



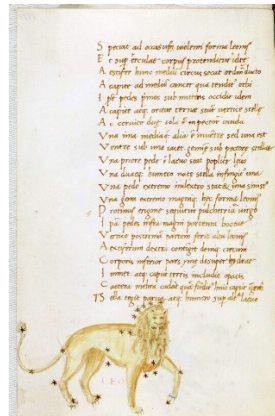
fol. 17r



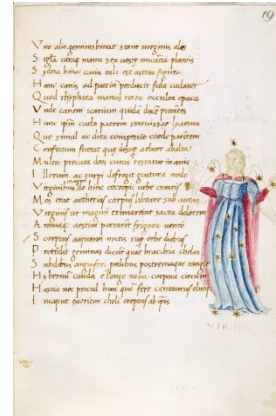
fol. 17v



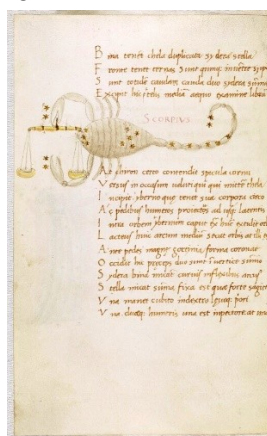
fol. 18r



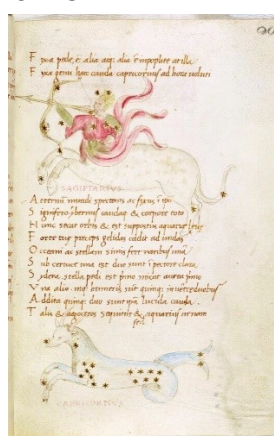
fol. 18v



fol. 19r



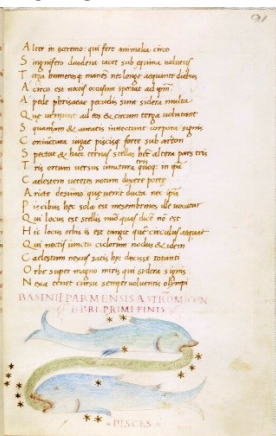
fol. 19v



fol. 20



fol. 20v



fol. 21r

fol. i v

The frontispiece is a purple-dyed leaf with an inscription indicating that the text was written by Ang[elo] Aquil[ano] = DEDICATIO: Accipe et haec manuum tibi que monumentam ear. Sint precor et longum servit testtur amore. Ang. Aquil.

fol. 1r

The title-page has two blonde putti standing on either side of a large cartouche with the inscription describe above. There is a green date palm behind and a large magenta urn on either side, whose mouths are joined by a single, arching wreath. Below there is a marble sarcophagus with a coat of arms set within a central roundel. A blue griffin crest to the left, with quartered field: 1 and 3 = silver with red X; 2 and 3 = a red lion rampant on a yellow ground. These are the arms of John Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester

fol. 3v

Diagram with the orbs of the planets (with POLUS and BOOTES on the left)

fol. 4v

Diagram of the climes

- ff. 6r-21r colour-washed pen drawings of illustrations of the 36 illustrations of the constellation groupings with stars marked by golden stars and several of the constellations labelled in pink. The figures are labelled in Latin.
- fol. 6r **DRACO INTER ARCTOS** with **DRACO** (labelled: ANGUIS) depicted as a green snake with pointed ears and a body with three bends with its head towards the bottom of the page. The tan Bears are placed back-to-back, facing into the body of the dragon, with **URSA MINOR** (labelled: URSUS MINOR) in the second band and **URSA MAIOR** (labelled: URSA MAIOR) in the third bend, standing on the tail. Draco has 5 stars on the head and 10 on the body, or 15 stars in all. URSA MINOR has 3 stars on the tail and 4 on the feet, or 7 stars in all. URSA MAIOR has 12 stars in the head and 5 on the back feet, or 17 stars in all.
- fol. 6v **BOOTES** (labelled: ARCTHOPHYLAX) is nude and stands facing the viewer. He raises his right hand and his left arm is covered by a blue ovate shield. He has 1 star on the head, 1 on each shoulder, 4 in the chest, 1 on the elbow, 4 on the shield and 1 on each foot, or 14 stars in all.
- CORONA BOREALIS** (labelled: CRESSA CORONA) is a green circle with pink, floral designs around the outside. It has 9 stars.
- fol. 7r **HERCULES** (labelled: HERCULES) stands facing the viewer and is nude with a yellow lion's skin (4 paws, tail and face visible) over his right shoulder, with its head held in his left hand. The hero has grey hair and beard and holds a white fan raised in his right hand so that it runs behind his head. He has 1 star on his head, 2 on the chest, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on the left hip, 1 on each thigh, 2 on the right knee, 1 on the left foot and 4 in the lion's skin, or 15 stars in all.
- fol. 7v **LYRA** (labelled: LYRA) is a stepped zither-like instrument, outlined in pink, with 3 sets of 4 green strings and a green monster with a pink tongue peeking out from the right side. It has 8 stars.
- fol. 8r **CYGNUS** (labelled: CYGNUS) is a swan that faces to the left with its wings outstretched. It is blue with a pink beak and feet. It has 1 star in the head, 2 in the neck, 5 in each wing and 1 on the tail, or 14 stars in all.
- fol. 8v **CEPHEUS** (labelled: CEPHEUS S.P. = soccer Persi (?)) is facing towards the viewer and walks to the left with his head in profile. He wears a blue conical hat, and is dressed in a short, fitted pink garment with a dropped waist and long bits of drape falling from the

elbow. He has 2 stars in the head, 1 in each hand, 3 at the waist, 2 on the left knee and 1 on each foot, or 11 stars in all.

- fol. 9r **CASSIOPEIA** (labelled: CASIOPES CONIUNX REGIA PERSEI) is seated in a high-backed, yellow throne with her arms held out to the side in a 'W' shape. He wears a red crown and a grey dress with tight red sleeves and red at the neck with a green mantle. She has 1 star on the head, 4 in the chair, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on the right breast, 1 on the belly, 1 on the lap, 1 on the left knee and 1 on the left foot, or 12 stars in all.
- fol. 9v **ANDROMEDA** (labelled: ANDROMEDA . F. CEPHEI. UXOR PERSEI) kneels to the left and is nude except for a blue robe that is draped over her left arm, which she raises behind her, and she holds the drape in front of her genitalia with her right hand. She has 1 star on her head, 1 on each shoulder, 4 in the chest, 1 on each elbow, 1 on each hand, 2 on the hip, 1 on the right knee and 2 on each foot, or 18 stars in all.
- fol. 10r **PERSEUS** (labelled: PERSEUS) faces away from the viewer and is dressed in blue Renaissance armour with a red hat, belt and boots. He has yellow hair. He raises a scimitar in his right hand above his head and holds the Medusa's head by its hair in his left hand. He has 1 star on his right hand, 1 on each shoulder, 2 on the left hip, 1 on each thigh, 3 on the left leg, 2 on the right leg, 1 in the left hand and 4 in the Medusa's head, or 17 stars in all.
- fol. 10v **AURIGA** (labelled: ERICHTHONIUS) faces the viewer and wears a pink tunic with a hem made of curling strap-like pieces of fabric. He has blonde hair and pink boots. He holds a 3-thonged flail behind his head with his raised right hand and holds two goats' heads in his raised left hand, there is also a small goat's head peering out from behind his left shoulder. He has 1 star in the head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each elbow, 1 on each hand and 1 on the right foot, or 8 stars in all.
- fol. 11r **OPHIUCHUS** (labelled: TRIPTOLOMUS) is nude and stands frontally, facing the viewer. He holds the **SERPENS** horizontally so that it circles once around his waist, with the Snake's head to the left, facing the man. He has yellow hair and 1 star in the head, 2 on each shoulder, 2 at the waist, 3 on the right leg, 2 on the left leg and 3 on the left arm, or 15 stars in all. The **SERPENS** has 5 stars in the head and 18 in the body, or 23 stars in all.
- fol. 11v **SAGITTA** (labelled: SAGIPTA ERCULIS) points to the right and is yellow with a grey tip. It has 4 stars.

- fol. 12r **AQUILA** (labelled: AQUILA) faces to the right and has its wings stretched back to the left. It has 1 star in the head, 1 on each wing and 1 on the tail or 4 stars in all.
- fol. 12v **DELPHINUS** (labelled: DELPHIN) is placed on its back, with the node to the right. It has 4 stars on the head, 2 on the body and 2 on the tail, or 8 stars in all.
- fol. 13r **PEGASUS** (labelled: EQUUS PEGASUS) is depicted as three-quarters of a white horse (cut-off by the page through the hind flanks) with pink spots, facing to the right, with its front legs drawn up. It has 5 stars in the head, 7 in the neck, 1 in each knee, 1 in front of the right knee, 1 on the belly and 1 on the left hind thigh, or 17 stars in all.
- CETUS** (labelled: 1 hind leg. PISTRIS DELPHIN) is a blue monster with a dog's front parts and a curling fish's tail. He has 6 stars in the belly and 7 in the tail, or 13 stars in all.
- fol. 13v **ERIDANUS** (labelled: CETON) is nude and faces slightly to the left, wearing a blue mantle over his right shoulder and holding a red urn, with his left hand on the base and his right hand on the handle, so that it pours grey water to the left. There are 13 stars in the water.
- fol. 14r **LEPUS** (labelled: LEPUS) is grey and leaps nearly vertically to the left. It has 1 star in each ear, 2 in the chest and 1 in each front foot, or 6 stars in all.
- ORION** (labelled: ORION) is nude and stands slightly to the left. He rests his left hand on his left hip and holds a think bat vertically in his right hand. He has 3 stars on his head, 2 in his hair, 3 on the 'club', 1 on his right elbow, 1 on his right hand, 3 at his waist, 1 on each knee and 1 on each foot, or 17 stars in all.
- fol. 14v **CANIS MINOR** (labelled: PROCION) is a grey dog that leaps nearly vertically to the left. He has 3 stars.
- CANIS MAIOR** (labelled: CANIS) is a sleeker dog that leaps to the left. It has a pink body and a collar around its neck. It has 1 star in the head, 1 in each ear, 5 on the shoulder, 3 on the front feet, 1 on the belly, 4 on the tail and 1 on each hind foot, or 19 stars in all.
- fol. 15r **ARGO** (labelled: NAVIS ARGO) is a full ship that sails to the right. It has a large main mast with a crow's nest and rigging and two steering oars. There are 4 stars in the mast, 5 in the keel, 5 below the keel and 5 in each oar, or 24 stars in all.
- fol. 15v **CENTAURUS** (labelled: CENTAURUS) is depicted as a centaur rushing to the left, with the human half apparently nude, but with long, fluttering straps coming from the waist. The

man has yellow hair and the equine parts and the bands are blue. He holds **LUPUS** (a grey rabbit) in his outstretched right hand and holds his left hand down by his side. He has 1 star in the right shoulder, 4 in the chest, 2 on the equine chest, 1 on each front knee, 1 on the equine body, 2 on the belly, 1 on each hind knee and 3 in the tail, or 17 stars in all. Lupus is cut off by the outer edge of the page, but has 6 stars visible.

fol. 16r **ARA** (labelled: ARA) is a 4-stepped pink altar, without flames, but with 4 stars.

HYDRA (labelled: HYDRA) is a green, two-legged dragon with a curl in its neck and a curl in its tail. It has a 2-handled pink **CRATER** on its back with a grey **CORVUS** facing forward behind it. Hydra has 18 stars; Crater has 8 and Corvus has 4 stars.

fol. 16v **PISCIS AUSTRINUS** (labelled: PISCIS AUSTRINUS) is a large blue fish, swimming to the left with 12 stars along its back.

fol. 17r **ARIES** (labelled: ARIES) walks to the left, but turns its head back to face the right. Its head is '*intra triangulum*'. It has 4 stars in the head, 4 on the right shoulder, 2 in the feet, 4 on the body, 1 on the belly and 4 on the tail, or 20 stars in all.

TRIANGULUM is green and pink and has no stars.

fol. 17v: **TAURUS** (labelled: TAURUS) is depicted as half a yellow bull, facing to the left with its front legs out in front of the body. It has 2 stars in each horn, 1 in each eye, 1 on the forehead, 7 in front of the nose, 4 on the chest, 1 on each front knee, and 1 on the right front foot, or 21 stars in all.

fol. 18r **GEMINI** (labelled: GEMINI) are depicted as two nude youths, who stand knee-to-knee with their inner shoulder overlapping. The right Twin holds his hand out to the right. The stars seem evenly distributed between them, with 1 star on each Twin's head, 4 in between their two shoulders, 1 on the left Twin's right elbow and 1 on the right Twin's right hand, 1 on each of the 4 knees, and 1 on each of the 4 feet, or a combined total of 16 stars.

CANCER (labelled: CANCER) is a pink and blue, round-bodied crab facing to the left with 2 big claws and 4 smaller segmented legs on either side. It has 3 stars in each claw, 6 on the bottom legs and 4 on the top legs, or 16 stars in all.

- fol. 18v **LEO** (labelled: Leo) walks to the right, with his left front leg raised. He raises his tail and has a yellow body. He has 5 stars in the head, 2 on the back, 3 on the chest, 2 on the leg, 2 on the belly, 3 on the tail and 3 between his 4 feet, or 20 stars in all.
- fol. 19r **VIRGO** (labelled: VIRGO) stands facing the viewer and is winged. She is dressed in a long blue robe with a long pink mantle and has blonde hair. She holds both her hands raised and holds flowers in her right hand. She has 1 star in her head, 1 on each wing, 1 on each shoulder, 6 on her skirt and 1 on each foot, or 13 stars in all.
- fol. 19v **SCORPIO** (labelled: SCORPIUS) faces to the left and had 2 large claws and 6 smaller, segmented legs and a long, segmented tail. He holds the Scales in his right claw in front of his face. He has 2 stars in each claw, 3 stars on the face, 5 on the body, 5 in the segments and 2 stars on the sting, or 19 stars in all. The Scales do not have stars.
- fol. 20r **SAGITTARIUS** (labelled: SAGIPTARIUS) is a centaur that rushes to the left. His human half wears a green and pink top, with copious, strap-like pieces of fabric coming from the waist. He holds the bow in his right hand and pulls the string with his left. He has 2 stars in the head, 4 in the arrow, 1 in the feathers, 4 in the chest, 2 on the front legs, 1 in the back leg and 1 in the tail, or 15 stars in all.
- CAPRICORN** (labelled: CAPRICORNUS) faces to the left, with a long tail with a curl in it and short, pink horns. His body is blue. He has 1 star on the nose, 1 on the neck, 1 on each front foot, 3 on the chest, 7 on the tail and 2 on the tip of the tail or 16 stars in all.
- fol. 20v **AQUARIUS** (labelled: AQUARIUS) is nude and stands to the left, with his right hand raised and holding the handle of a pink, water-pouring urn with this left hand. The stream is green. He has 13 stars on his body, 4 on the urn and 10 in the water, or 27 stars in all.
- fol. 21r **PISCES** are two fish, swimming in opposite directions with both their backs upwards, connected at the mouths by a stream. The fish are blue, with pink mouths and gills, and the stream is green. There are 3 stars on the top fish, 9 on the cord and 3 on the bottom fish, or 15 stars in all.
-

notes

The manuscript was commissions by Sir John Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester, who was in Padua from May 1458 to September 1461.

bibliography

A. M. MAZZA, *ms. Parmense 1197. Notizie intorno a Basinio*, pp. 48-49;

R. J. MITCHELL, *A Renaissance Library: The Collection of John Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester*, «The Library», s. iv, xviii 1937, pp. 67-83;

WEISS 1935-8, pp. 158-64.

MITCHELL 1938a, pp. 72-8

MITCHELL 1938b, p. 160.

PÄCHT 1948, p. 31, no. 98, plate IV.

SAXL-MEIER III 1953, 1, pp. liv and 316:

ITALIAN ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS 1948, no. 48, p. iv

MITCHELL 1956, pp. 97-101.

PÄCHT 1957, pp. 184-94, esp. p. 193, pl. 9.

talks about title page w/ a monumental poster being held by quasi-architectural framework.

MEISS 1960, p. 108, n.67.

dated ca 1460 and ascribed to Padua

CORBETT 1964, p. 52, fig 10.

McGURK IV 1966, pp. iv, xxvii, 77.

DELZ 1968, p. 313.

LA MINIATURA VENETA DEL RINASCIMENTO 1969, p. 142, no. 6 and fig. 5 (frontispiece).

done for English humanist, John Tiptoft, style co-incides with his stay in Padua 1459-61 and he received these arms then; one of the first documents showing the early Paduan style.

PÄCHT and ALEXANDER 1970, II, p. 61, no. 605.

Paduan, humanistic script written by ? Angelo Aquil(ano); inscription on purple dyed leaf, fol. 1v; dated c. 1460; provenance= arms of John Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester who was in Padua 1459-61. See the date: 1459 (fol. 61); on fol. 1 paste down of arms of T Barrett, 16th century.

MARIANI CANOVA 1994, pp. 206-207.

F. LOLLINI, *Scheda 124: Basinio da Parma, Astronomicon*, in *Il potere, le arti, la guerra. Lo splendore dei Malatesta*, catalogo della mostra a cura di A. Donati, Milano 2001, pp. 310-311.

FRIOLI, 2006, p. 250 n. 25; p. 261 n. 50.

CHISENA 2015, pp. 48-50

identifies the scribe Aquilano re: a letter from Gaurino da Verona;
Notes some peculiarities in the labels of the constellations, including: CEPHEUS SP =soccer Persei (?); CASIOPE CONIUNX REGIA PERSI (the definition is taken from v. 273, but the illuminator says she was the wife of Perseus, and not of Cepheus as in reality); Auriga is ERICHTHONIUS; Ophiuchus is TRIPTOLEMUS; Sagitta as SAGITA ERCULIS; Cetus is PISTRIS DELPHIN; ERIDANUS as CETON;

BLUME/HAFFNE/METZGER 2016 II, 2, cat 95, pp. 100, 664-66 and figs. 852-55.

188 x 122, 36 ff; parchment; humanistic cursive ; an early copy of the *Astronomicon*, presumably from the presentation copy made for Sigismondo; the iconography is very close to the copy made in Rimini about 1458 (Parma 1008), but it is not directly copied from it; the stocky bodies and round faces with receding chins recall the Paduan style of illumination.

The manuscript has been fully digitised: <https://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/objects/8ccc7b07-cb36-4845-ab03-b6ed8721a262/surfaces/e3729df0-3b2c-420e-9287-f65884bdcc91/>

consulted 9.0 presumably from the original dedication ms to Sigismondo;