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* Revised *Aratus latinus*

De ordine ac positione stellarum in signis (excepted from the Aachen Compilation of 809-812/ *Libri computi*)

West Francia (Tours ?)

825

A collection of computistic texts set into two volumes, with the Revised *Aratus latinus* and *De ordine* in Part II.

text

Part I

ff. 1r-2r	Boethius, <i>Institutio arithmetica</i> (ed. OOSTHOUT 1999, II). A fragment that has been heavily corrected and annotated. DOMINO PATRI SYMMACHO BOETHIUS. Indandis accipiendisq[ue] muneribus — auctor merito quum probator.
ff. 2v-4v	Table of contents
ff. 5r-33v	Boethius, <i>Institutio arithmetica</i> , Book I (ed. OOSTHOUT 1999, II). With several diagrams.
ff. 34r- 76v	Boethius, <i>Institutio arithmetica</i> , Book II (ed. OOSTHOUT 1999, II). With several diagrams.
fol. 76v	Tables.

Part II

- ff. 77r-93v *Revised Aratus latinus* ed. MAASS 1898, pp. 172ff).
- ff. 77r-78v I. Arati ea quae videntur ostensionem quoque de quibus videntur oportet .
fieri — quo ab eo dicta sunt.
- fol. 78v IIa. Erastostennis de circa exornatione stellarum & a&himologiam de
quibus videntur — fluvius. piscis. quinque stellae erraticae.
- ff. 78v-79r IIb. Ipparcus de magnitudine & positione errantium stellarum. Constat autem in
aquilonio semispherio haec — aries. taurus. gemini.
- ff. 79r-80r IIIa. quibus arati videntur. Quaedam sunt secundum caeli stellarum — quia
simi'limoinidipsum suggerunt.
- ff. 80r-81r IIIb. ALIA DESCRIPTIO PRÆFATIONIS. Subtus terra firmatur signa vi heridano
Navis centaurus — necnon sagittarium pisces. co&us orionem.
- ff. 81r-81v IV. DISCRIPTIO DUORUM SEMISPHERIUM. Hab& autem pondus totum
medium terrae terrenum — in medio iac& duobus semispheriis.
- ff.82r-82v V. ARATI GENUS. ARATUS patris quidem est anthinodori filius matris autem
dolitaphylę — reperimus illum & super [...]
- fol. 82v VI. DE CAELI POSITONE. Caelum circulis quinque distinguitur. quorum duo
— anteposita his deformia
- ff. 82v-83v VII. DE STELLIS FIXIS ET STANTIBUS. Stellarum aliae cum caelo feruntur — &
quomodo consentit aut visus est.
- fol. 83v VIII. INVOLUTIO SPHERAE. Hic est stellarum ordo — (ends incompletely)
obtinent locum. Septentrio (with the indication of a cut-out folio here)
- fol.84r X. VERTICES circa quos sphaera caeli volvitur — sed a navigantibus
observatur maria enim conturbat.
- ff. 84r-90r XI. helicem autem dicit hesiodus licaonis filium fuisse — & ad capiendos
lepores sive in omni studio venandi exercitatus extiterit. habet quidem
stellas .
- ff. 90v-91r XII. Cum sole & luna septem astra numerantur — & mercurio demonstratu
esse credebantur.

- fol. 91r XIII. Lacteus circulus quem graeci galaxian vocant — in sagittario tantum se contingunt
With a blank space in front of the initial letter 'Z' of the next section.
- ff. 91r-91v XIV. Zodiacus vel singifer est circulus duodecim signis — duabus saturni duabus ut sol.
With a blank section at the bottom of fol. 91v.
- fol. 92r-92v XV. Luna terris vicinior est — sin ortu quarto namque his certissimus auctor.
Followed by a blank space.
- ff. 92v-93r XVI. Solem per se ipsum moveri non cum mundo — quod horae none proclivior vergens occasibus pronus incumbat.
Followed by a blank space.
- ff. 93r-93v XVII. Sydera quae gentiles praesepe & asinos vocaverunt — adeptos fuisse opinabantur victoriam. EXPLICIT LIBER ASTROLOGORUM.
- ff. 93v-94r EXCERPTUM DE ASTROLOGIA. Duos extremi vertices mundi quos appellant polos — quia ad ipsum usque decurrit accipiens. (= Maass 1898, pp. 309-12)
(note: There is a large circular hole cut into fol. 94, suggesting there was originally a planisphere on the otherwise blank verso of this folio.)
- ff. 95r-99v *De ordine ac positione stellarum in signis* (excerpted from the Aachen Compilation of 809-812/ *Libri computi*), ed. Dell'Era 1974; for a description, see the relevant section)

illustrations



fol. 81v



fol. 84r



fol. 85r



fol. 85v



fol. 86r



fol. 86v



fol. 87r



fol. 87v



fol. 88r



fol. 88v



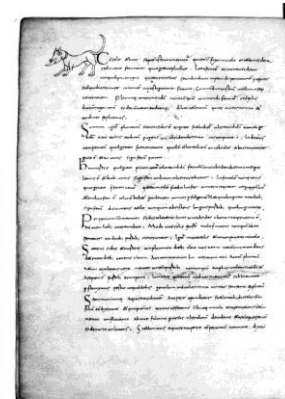
fol. 89r



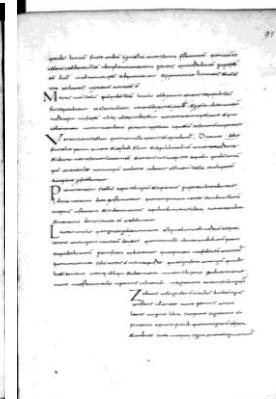
fol. 89v



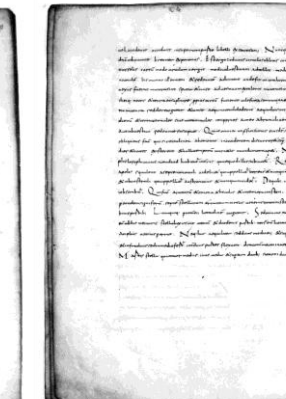
fol. 90r



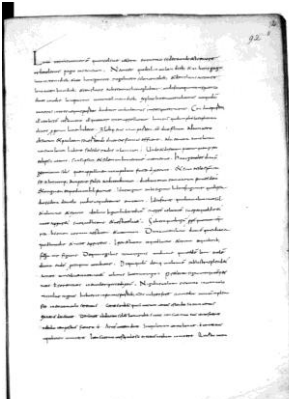
fol. 90v



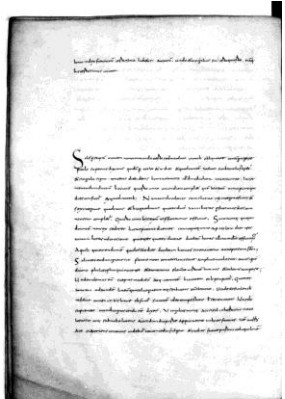
fol. 91r



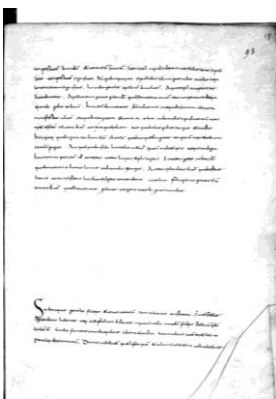
fol. 91v



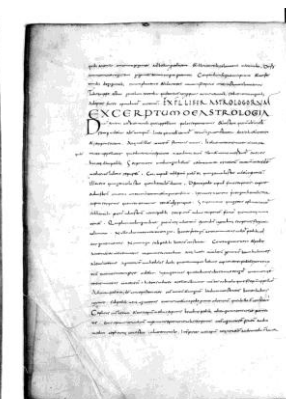
fol. 92r



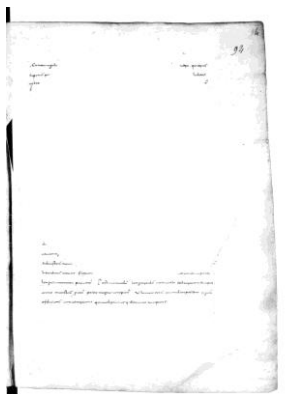
fol. 92v



fol. 93r



fol. 93v



fol. 94r

A series of rudimentary pen drawings of 34 constellation groupings, preceded by an illustration of the northern and southern celestial hemispheres.

fol. 81v The summer and winter celestial hemispheres (with the summer above the winter hemisphere) and both with north at the top. Notable features include: the 'Ivy leaf' as a vase; Aries with a frilly band around its waist; Cancer with a scalloped shell; Orion with a lion skin (like Hercules); a second Capricorn facing Cetus; Cepheus standing on Scorpio; Delphinus as a worm; Sagittarius as a satyr; Piscis connected to the stream of Aquarius. For a fuller description, see DEKKER 2013, pp. 215-17 (H6) and fig. 3.6.

ff. 84r-90v Rough pen drawings of 31 constellation groupings in sepia ink, without stars marked. A few of the constellations are labelled.

fol. 84r **URSA MINOR** walks to the left with very long hair and long toenails.

fol. 84v **URSA MAIOR** walks to the right with very long hair and long toenails. Both bears are about the same size.

fol. 85r **DRACO INTER ARCTOS** (labelled: SERPENS INTER AMBAS ARCTUROS) with DRACO as a snake with 5 bends in its body, and with four fins coming from its face. The Bears are placed foot-to-foot and are facing outwards. They are placed between the second and third bends.

HERCULES (labelled: HERCVLES) is nude and placed in the Garden of Hesperides kneeling to the left on his left knee, with the lion skin (showing back feet and tail) draped over his outstretched left arm and his club upraised in his right hand behind his head. The snake has rays coming from his mouth.

CORONA BOREALIS (labelled: CORONA) is a circlet of 9 tiny circles with crosses in each of them.

- OPHIUCHUS** (labelled: SERPENTARIVS) is nude and standing to the left with his back facing the viewer. The **SERPENS** is knotted around his middle and turns to face the man, with flames coming out of his mouth; its tail falls towards the ground. Ophiuchus stands on **SCORPIO** with 2 claws on the left side and 8 legs
- fol. 85v **SCORPIO**² (labelled: SCORPIVS) appears separately, facing to the right, with 2 claws and 8 legs shaped like stylised lightning bolts and a curled tail.
- BOOTES** is facing the viewer and wears a short tunic that is caught at the waist and has a triangular pattern on the chest. His right arm is outstretched towards the left (cut off by the edge of the page) and his left arm raised above his head and holding a lumpy club.
- VIRGO** is winged with Scales in her left hand and right hand cut off by the edge of the page. She wears a long, striped robe and has a strange flame or quiff coming from top of her head
- fol. 86r **GEMINI** as a bearded man (left Twin) and youth (right Twin) holding spears in their outside hands and gesturing with their inside hands. The right Twin may be female.
- CANCER** is placed beneath their feet. It is an 8-legged with a horseshoe-shaped body, facing to the left. It has 2 claws, 8 feet, and a scalloped end to its shell.
- LEO** stands facing to the left with his very large tongue sticking out and long tail raised and curled.
- AURIGA** stands in a *biga* driving to right pulled by 2 rearing horses with a two-thonged flail in right hand and reins in his left. There are no goats, and the figure may be female.
- fol. 86v **TAURUS** is a full bull lying down to the left, with tail wrapped round his body. He turns his head to face the viewer.
- CEPHEUS** is dressed in a long gown without attributes but with his arms outstretched to the side, and with two small circles drawn on the cloth as indication the knees.
- CASSIOPEIA** with her head covered, sits on a square, low-backed bench-like throne, with two small circles drawn on her knees.
- fol. 87r **ANDROMEDA** wears a long dress with arms outstretched to the side. Her hair is long and exposed, but she has no attributes.

PEGASUS is half a winged horse, facing to the right. His wings are unfurled vertically from his shoulder, and his legs stretch out to the right. His cut-off ends in a bulbous shape, and he has a large smile on his face.

ARIES stands to the right and has short, outwardly-curling horns. He turns his head to look directly at the viewer.

fol. 87v **TRIANGULUM** is simply drawn as two nested triangles.

PISCES have both their backs upwards and face to the right. They form a right angle with their bodies and are connected at their mouths by a line.

PERSEUS stands facing the viewer in long gown with a cape that billows out to the left behind him. He holds the Medusa's head by its hair in his left hand and holds a straight sword upraised in his right hand. He has two small circles drawn to indicate his knees.

[Between this folio and the next, there are indications of 2 folii having been ripped or cut out.]

fol. 89r **CANIS MAIOR** runs to the right with his very long tongue out. He does not have a halo, but wears a studded collar.

LEPUS faces to the left.

ARGO has a three-pronged bow on the right and a parachute-like sail on deck. There are 2 steering oars on the left, the whole of the hull of the boat is decorated by small circles (perhaps indicating a remembrance of stars or indication the nails in the wooden hull).

fol. 89v **CETUS** has a curved snout and two short horns from his brow and a small beard. He faces to the left, has a corkscrew tail and pointed flippers.

ERIDANUS is dressed in long robe and is seated and holding stream-pouring jar horizontally in his right hand and a spear in his left.

PISCIS is upside-down and swimming to left.

ARA is square three-storied tower, with numerous niches and with a flame on top.

fol. 90r **CENTAURUS** is walking to right, with furry forepart to his equine body and long, furry animal-skin cloak (with feet and a tail) flowing behind him. His human half wears a shirt. He holds **LUPUS** (a dog?) by its heels in his outstretched left hand and rests a spear on his right shoulder from which a small animal is hanging by its

tail.

HYDRA is a snake facing to the right, with two twists in its tail and breathing fire, with **CRATER** (no handles) and **CORVUS** (facing the end of Hydra's tail and not pecking) on his back.

notes

328 x 232 mm, 99 folios, parchment

In addition to the pictorial cycle of the *Revised Aratus latinus* described here and which seems to have close affinities to Paris BN 12957, there is a second pictorial cycle that accompanies a copy of the *De ordine ac postione stellarum in signis* (see that section). The drawings in the *De ordine* are relatively close to those in the *Revised Aratus latinus*, though there are a number of notable differences, such as the more dynamic Gemini in the *RAL*, and in Hercules as a single figure without the Garden of the Hesperides. Moreover, there are stars indicated in the *De ordine ac positione* cycle and not in the *RAL* one.

The illustrations fall within the **RAL I** group (the defining features of which are discussed in the Commentary); but they have been heavily influenced by the pictures in the portion of the manuscript – to such an extent that both sets hover somewhat uncomfortably between the two pictorial traditions

The following constellations are missing (but this is probably due to the fact that the manuscript is not complete): Pleiades, Lyr, Cyg, Aqu, Cap, Sgr, Sgt, Aql, Del, Ori, and CMi. In contrast to other cycles connected with the *RAL*, there are only labels for the first few constellations in this cycle.

The ms came to the BnF from St-Martin in Tours, possibly its place of origin.

bibliography

DELILSE 1884, pp. 113-20.

DELILSE 1888, pp. 62-67.

DELILSE 1900, p. 37.

CUMONT 1916, pp. 11-16 and figure 4.

RAND 1929, I, p. 185-86, no. 172.

BYVANCK 1949, pp. 222-23, nos 74 and p. 2243, no. 80.

MARTIN 1956, p. 44.

speaks of Manitius 1897 (pp. 305-32) having used a group of 'revised' manuscripts for his study, it is 10th century, contains Boethius, *Aratus latinus*, with pen drawings, seems to have close affinities to Paris 12957; and has same blunders in one of the planispheres, such as Ophiuchus on the zodiac in one of the planispheres.

GUNDEL and BOKER 1972, 684, nr 236.

McGURK 1981

Patrick MC GURK, " Carolingian Astrological Manuscripts ", Charles the Bald : Court and Kingdom, actes de colloque Londres, avril 1979, Margaret GIBSON & Janet NELSON..., Oxford : BAR (- International Series, 101), 1981, pp. 317-332 , esp. pp. 319-21 and pls. 7 and 8.

West Francia, probably Tours region, early 9th century; has a different cycle from Cologne ; second pictorial cycle accompanies star catalogue of 810 compilations and draws are close to *Revised Aratus latinus* one, but they have stars.

WHITE 1981

Alison WHITE, 'Boethius in the Medieval quadrivium' in *Bœthius, his life, thought and influence*, ed. M. Gibson, Oxford: B. Blackwell, 1981, pp. 162-205.

McGURK 1984

Scriptorium, XXXVIII, 2, 1984, no. 472.

O'CONNOR 1984, p. 65.

Says second quarter 9th century, Tours (?)

Le BOURDELLÈS 1985, pp. 76 and 101.

from Tours, says that the compilation of 809 and the Revised Aratus latinus with illustrations.

MÜTTERICH 1989, pp. 35, 39, 42, 44, 49ff.

GUNDEL 1992, pp. 314, nr 402, figs on p. 313.

BORST 1994

Arno BORST, *Das Buch der Naturgeschichte. Plinius und seine Leser im Zeitalter des Pergaments. Vorgelegt am 6 november 1993*, Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag C. Winter, 1994, cited on pp. 119 (note 101) and 185 (note 48).

ERNST 1994, p. 585.

Boèce 1995

Boèce, *Institution Arithmétique*, Texte établi et traduit par Jean-Yves GUILLEMIN, Paris: Les Belles-Lettres, 1995, 253 p., schémas. Reviewed in *Scriptorium*, 51/1 (1997), *Bulletin codicologique* pp. 16*-18*

BORST 1995², p. 185, note 48.

HAFFNER 1997

M. HAFFNER, *Ein antiker Sternbilderzyklus und seine Tradierung in Handschriften vom frühen Mittelalter bis zum Humanismus*, Hildesheim: Olms, 1997, pp. 28, 135 passim and 175:
says *recensio interpolata* and *De ordine ac positione*

von EUW 1998

Anton VON EUW, 'Kompndium der Zeitrechnung, Naturlehre und Himmelskunde (Dom Hs. 83")', *Glaube und Wissen im Mittelalter. Die Kölner Dombibliothek* [exh. cat. Musée diocésain de l'archevêché de Cologne, 7 août-15 nov. 1998], München: Hirmer Verlag, 1998.

CAIAZZO 2000

IXes, cité p. 123

I. CAIAZZO, 'Un commento altomedievale al di arithmetica di Boezio', *Archivum latinitatis medii aevi*, LVIII, 2000, pp. 113-150.

KÜNZL 2000 [2003], pp. 495-594, esp. pp. 550ff

OBRIST 2001, p. 24.

B. OBRIST, 'La représentation carolingienne du zodiaque. A propos du mss de Bâle, Universitätsbibliothek, F III 15a', *Cahier de civilisation médiévale*, XLIV, 2001, pp. 3-33, cited p. 24. fig. 18 (fol. 81v).

DUITS 2005

Rembrandt DUITZ, 'Celestial Transmissions. An iconographical Classification of Constellation Cycles in Manuscripts (8th-15th centuries)', *Scriptorium*, LIX, 2005, pp. 147-202, cited on pp. 153, 155, 186 and 187.

KAUNTZE 2014

Mark KAUNTZE, *Authority and Imitation. A study of the Cosmographia of Bernard Silvestris*, Leiden: Brill, 2014, cited on p. 23, n. 39.

BLUME/HAFFNER/METZGER 2012, I, 1, pp. 454-60.

DOLAN 2017, p. 412.

HADRAVOVÁ 2019

Alena HADRAVOVÁ, 'The Star Catalogue of the Revised Aratus Latinus: the Manuscript Evidence Set

in Context' in *The Stars in the Classical and Medieval Traditions*, eds. Alena Hadravová, Petr Hadrava and Kristen Lippincott, Prague: Institute of Contemporary History of the Czech Academy of Sciences / Astronomical Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences, 2019, pp. 361-389. esp. pp. 364 and *passim*.

There is a black and white digital version available on:

<https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b100325759>