

Vatican**Biblioteca Apostolica****Reg lat 1324***Revised Aratus latinus (Recensio interpolata)*

probably French

second half 15th century (1460-80)

An astronomical compendium with various authors, including an illustrated version of the Revised Aratus latinus.

Texts

- ff. 1r–21v Hyginus, *De Astronomia*. IV books.
 Nigini astrologi prologus. Niginus M. Fabio suo plurimam salutem. Etsi te studio grammaticae artis inductum – esse cum sol ab estivo circulo. Explicit liber nygini.
- ff. 21v–35r *Revised Aratus latinus*
- ff. 21v-22v I. Liber capit arati exordium. Arati ea qui videntur oportet fieri — que ab eo dicta sunt.
- fol. 22v IIa. eratostitionis (?) de circa exornationem stellarum — piscis quinque stellae erratice.
- ff.22v-23r IIb. Ipparcus de magnitudine et positione errantium stellarum — quia simillimo indipsum suggerunt.
- fol. 23r IV. Descriptio duorum semispheriorum. Habet autem pondus totum mundum — in medio iacet duobus semisperyum.

fol. 23v	Winter and summer hemipsheres.
fol.24r	blank
fol. 24v	V. [Genus Arati.] Aratus patris quidem est athinodori filius matris autem dela thaphile — peritie mathematice repperimus illum et super [sic].
fol. 24v	VII. De celi positione. Celum circulis quinque distinguntur — (ending on this folio with) signifer non ab extremo circolo nec ad ... [Here, two much later, printed maps of the northern and southern ecliptical hemipsheres have been inserted = Paris (Guilelmus Morellius) 1559]
fol. 26r	[begins] ... extremum per denditur sed ab intimo tropico australis — et cancer tropicis maximam solida anteposita his deforma.
ff. 26r-26v	VII. De stellis fixibus et stantibus. Stellarum alie cum celo foruntur — constat aut visus est.
fol. 26v	VIII- IX. In volutio spere. Hic est stellarum ordo ut utraque — sol venus mercurius luna.
fol. 27r	Drawing of a celestial globe in a stand. X. Vertices extremos circa quos spera celi volvitur — sed a navigantibus observatur. Maria enim conturbat.
ff. 27r-32v	XI. Helicem autem dicit Hesiodus lacahomis filiam fuisse — et ad capiendos lepores sive in omni studio venandi excercitatus extiterit. habet quidem stellas .iii.
ff. 32v- 33r	XII. Cum sole et luna septem astra — Mercurio demonstrata esse credebantur.
fol. 33r	XIII. Lacteus circulis quem greci galaxiam vocatur — Sagittario tantum se contingunt.

- ff. 33v-34r XIV. Zodiacus circulis vel signifer est xii signis constans — eam duabis Saturni duabus ut Sol.
- fol. 34r XV. Luna terris vicinior est quam sol — namque Hiis certissimus auctor.
- ff. 34v–35r XVI. Solem per se ipsum moveri non cum mundo — quod horae nonae proclivior vergens occasibus pronus incumbat.
- fol. 35r XVII. *Sydera quae gentiles praesepe et asinos nominatur — Sed asinorum rugitibus (!) adeptos fuisse opinabantur nutoriam (!).* Explicit liber astrologorum.
- Illud sciendum est quod luna in estate quando noctes breviores sunt illum... — ...in hyeme quam sol in estate currit.*
= two and a half lines about the movement of the Sun and the Moon in the summer and winter.
- ff.35r–36r Gregory of Tours, DE CURSU STELLARUM RATIO (Excerptum).
Stellarum cursus hoc modo abservandus est quod sciencia focus colorum credidi pingendum in singulis colis (?).
Hec stella in septentrione oritur et matutino apparet – ab omnibus visa est provincialibus.
- The star groups in question are each depicted at the end of the paragraph as slightly yellow-washed asterisks.
- fol. 36v *Epithome phoenomenon Prisciani grammatici*
Ad boree partes arctos vertuntur anguis... – ...celsior hiis saturnus tardior omnibus astris.
(= 16 lines from *Anthol. lat.* 679).
- Bissex signi fert numerantur sydera spere... – ...proxima tellus [?] dum currit candida phoete [!].
(= 12 lines from *Anthol. lat.* 678).
- ff. 36v–41r Cicero, *Aratea*.
Incipiunt versus Ciceronis de signis primitis de ariete. E quibus huic subtus possis cognoscere fultum – ex terris volucris existit clara sagitta. (ed. SOUBIRAN ed. 1972, pp. 166–192).
- ff. 41r–41v *Excerptum de Astrologia*.
Excerptio de astrologia. Tonitrua autem ex fragore nubium – nisi dei gratia liberaretur.

- fol. 42r-v *Spera Pitagore.*
Ratio spere pytagorice philozophi quam Apileio descripsit.... (cf. SINGERIST 1942, pp. 292–303).
With a depiction of a centaur within a maze, holding a sword and a decapitated head and 3 additional schemata (including a square version of the Annus/Mundus/Homo Isidorean diagram).
- fol. 43r A circular diagram of the zodiac signs and respective rulers.
- ff. 43r–48r In nomine dei omnipotentis creatoris atque dispositoris universorum qui sunt celestium videlicet terrestrium (!) atque aeriarum. Quicumque [continentur] nosse desiderat legem astrorum neccesarie ei est ut xii qui in astrifero continentur signa – decima qui nascitur orphanus et sapiens.
- ff. 48r-v *Excerptum de Astrologia Arati.*
Duo sunt extremi vertices mundi... – ...ad ipsum usque ad decurrit accipiens.
- fol. 48v Ad boree partes arcte [!] vertuntur – hinc sequitur pistris simul(?) eridani. (= *Anthol. lat.* 679, see fol. 36v above).

Tonitruale. Mense septembrio si tonitruum sonuerit habundanciam frugum – multi homines egrotabunt.
- fol. 49r In hac figura continentur hore tocuis septimane... notata sunt nomina rerum horarum exordium. With two schemata.
- fol. 49v Rota for health prognostications.
- ff. 49v–50r Petosiris, *Epistola ad Nechepsum Regem.*
De hiis que anne humane vite cautela intuenda snt unum quoque me tibi mittere non piguit – infra orizontem esse constituerit omnia proveniant.
The list of letters and numbers on folio 50r probably belongs to this, perhaps also the following rota concerning life and death).
- ff. 50v–51r Schemata on various topics.
- fol. 51r Under the Tables, table with planetary intervals between the zodiac and the earth.
- fol. 51v Ps.- Iohannes Chrysostomus, *De Cruce.*
Dicit Iohannes Crisostomus in omelia: crux spes Christianorum, crux cecorum dux... crux esurientium panis.
Arranged in the form of lists around a cross-shaped diagram. Below is a diagram showing the properties of: God; Soul; Body.
- ff. 52r–54v Several schemata and diagrams. Rota concerning the lengths of day throughout

- the year (Ianuarius cum decembro in horarum mensuram concordat...). In the lower right corner, the Sator-Arepe square;
- fol. 52r Diagram with two connected rotae concerning the favorable and unfavorable hours of the day and night due to the influence of the planets;
 - fol. 53r Diagram showing the paths of the planets along the ecliptic (Bede, etc.), the zigzag paths depicted here as rows of colored squares in a grid of lines.
 - fol. 53v Rota of the cardinal directions (eight spokes);
 - fol. 54r Rectangular diagram showing the course of the sun and the seasons;
 - fol. 54v Rota concerning the lengths of day throughout the year (cf. fol. 52r)
- ff. 55r–56r Incipiunt proportiones astrorum industria. In exordio omnis creature herus huranicus (?) inter cuncta sydera xli maluit signa fore determinans cunctis nuncupationibus – De quadrispartita signorum natura; de regressione saturni orientalia signa; meridianaque afficalia, protracta que ipso prostrantur et mercatores (THORNDIKE/KIBRE 1963, p. 672).
- ff. 56r–57v *De Ordine Planetarum*
Incipit mendicio(?) huius artis planetarum vii iuxta naturam. Ordo planetarum non iuxta posiciones sed iuxta naturam sic se habet: Sol qui iuxta hebreos hama dicitur prima est planetarum... quod alie planetarum masculi alie femine ... dispositio horarum iuxta vii planetas ...prima parte geminorum remotum a sole lx partibus.
- ff. 57v–58r *De Figuris Planetarum.*
De figuris planetarum de nature et habitudine et figura... . Primum de sole. Sol est ampla facies, subiuget, iracundus et instar serpentis ad vindictam promptissimus lucentibus oculis palpetris pilosus validis ampla frons – habens signum ridens.
- ff. 58r–61v *LIBER ALCHANDREI (?)*.
De astro inveniando de signo sue nativitatisc. Igitur quam in hec arte utilissimum videtur ... unumquemque sue nativitatisc cognoscere signum... Accipiat nomen suum maternum– vivet annos xxviii in malum incidet, si convalescet lvi. (THORNDIKE/KIBRE 1963, p. 657).
- The text is illustrated with small medallions with groups of stars (red border, light green background, yellowish stars). The text begins with rules on how to calculate the zodiac sign from a name, including the use of Hebrew letters, which are listed both in transliteration and as Hebrew characters.
- fol. 62r Tables of numbers under coloured arches (reminiscent of canon tables). Probably belongs to Alchandreus.
- ff. 62v–64r: Argafalaus, *Epistula ad Alexandrum regem.*
Regi macedonum Alexandro astrologo et universe philosophie peritissime Argafalaum servus suus condicione sed natione ingenius caldeus – si autem in aereo alter in aquatico astrum posuerit nec malum nec

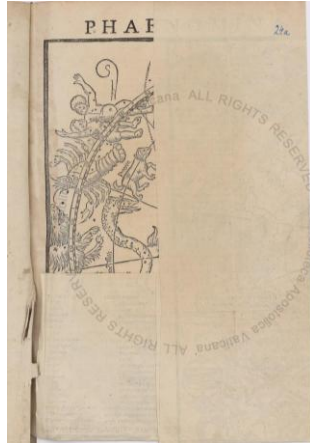
The text seems to break off here; the following text continues directly, separated only by a two-line decorative initial. It discusses the hours ruled by specific planets and how to interpret events that occur during those hours.

- ff. 64r-v Alcuin, *Praecepta Vivendi*.
Impleat ipse dei qui vult sua nota venire – premia non capiat ingrato qui bona prestat. (vv. 1–78).
- fol. 64v On the significance of various phenomena among the different zodiac signs.
quando tiniuntur aures, Aries: pecunia sive vestimentum, Taurus: potens homo moritur, ...
- ff. 65r-v *Prognostica diversarum rerum* (with reference to the following)
- fol. 66r Table of the Moon's movements through the zodiac.
- ff. 66r–68r *Prognostica galieni*.
Solis die in lecto qui cecidit si die .v. partes habet – trium stellarum hoc est saturni, martis et veneris.
- fol. 66v Signs indicating a patient's recovery or death.
- ff. 67r-v Rotae for health prognostics based on the age of the Moon and its position in the zodiac, as well as the patient's name. See, for example, fol. 68r:
Disce diem lune in qua quisque decubuit .. nomen decumbentis naturale non super positum et collige numerum utriusque...
- ff. 68v–69v blank apart from some pen trials.
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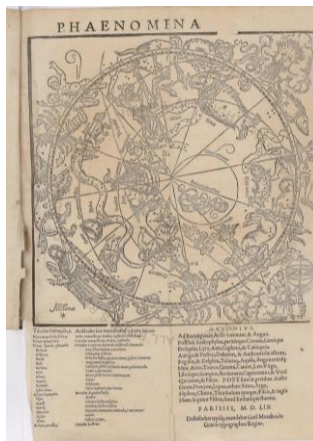
illustrations



fol. 23v



fol. 24r



fol. 25r



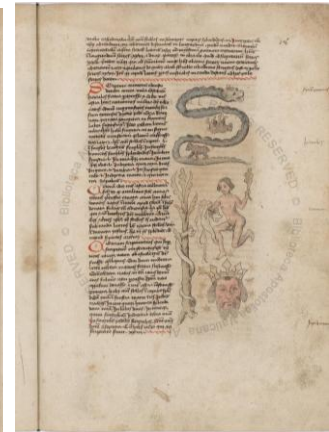
fol. 25r



fol. 27r



fol. 27v



fol. 28r



fol. 28v



fol. 29r



fol. 29v



fol. 30r



fol. 30v



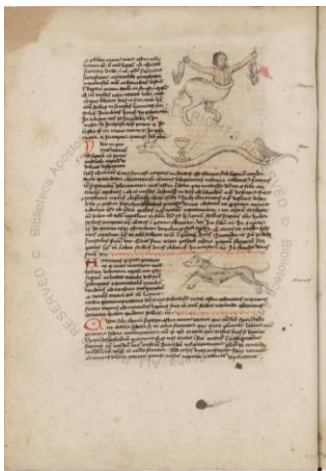
fol. 31r



fol. 31v



fol. 32r



fol. 32v



fol. 33v



fol. 34v



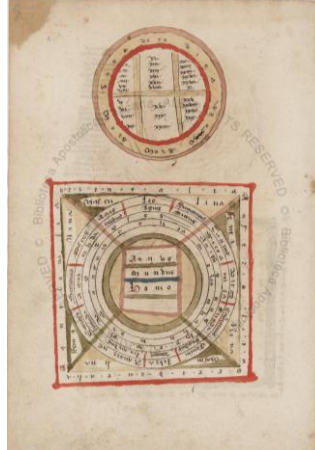
fol. 35v



fol. 36r



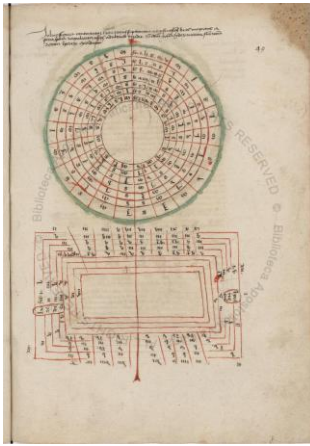
fol. 42r



fol. 42v



fol. 43r



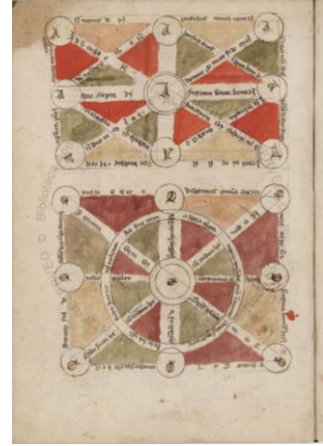
fol. 49r



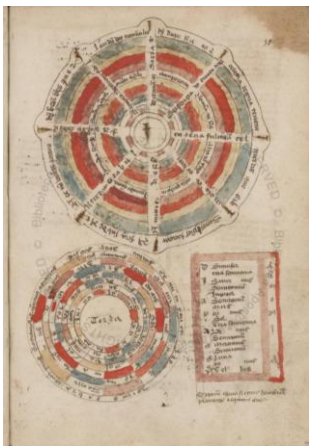
fol. 49v



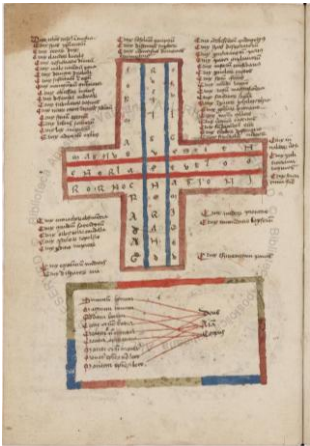
fol. 50r



fol. 50v



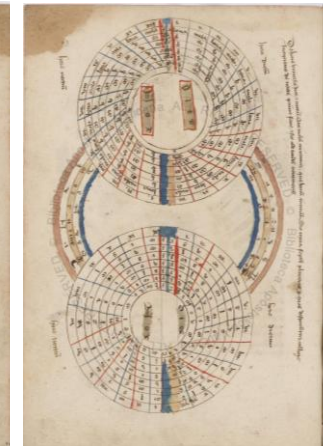
fol. 51r



fol. 51v



fol. 52r



fol. 52v



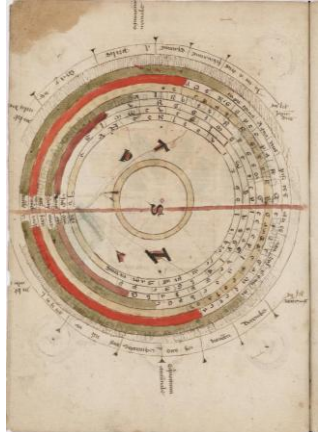
fol. 53r



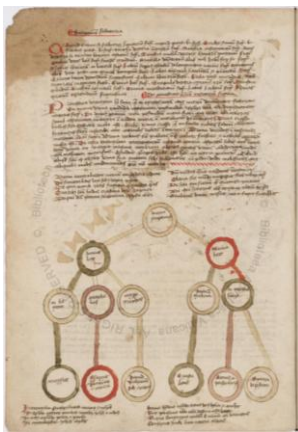
fol. 53v



fol. 54r



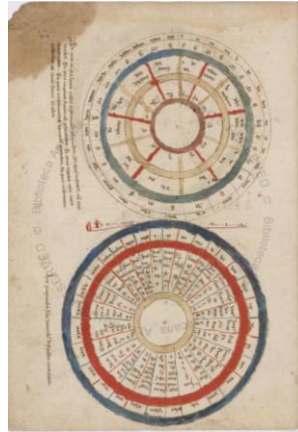
fol. 54v



fol. 66v



fol. 67r



fol. 67v



fol. 68r

- fol. 23v Summer and winter celestial hemispheres, with summer on the top and winter on the bottom both with north at the top. Notable features include: the Ivy leaf as a vase; GEMINI as male and female; CANCER as a crab; CEPHEUS seated on a throne; ANDROMEDA as a male youth with his arms raised; HERCULES nude with an odd-looking club; DELPHINUS as a worm; OPHIUCHUS as female and standing on SCORPIO; AQUARIUS as female, CENTAURUS with two legs and holding two rabbits. For a fuller description, see DEKKER 2013, pp. 221-222 (H9).
- ff. 24r-25r Two much later, printed maps of the northern and southern ecliptical hemispheres have been inserted = Paris (Guilelmus Morellius) 1559.
- fol. 27r Picture of a celestial globe showing 9 constellations. PERSEUS, AURIGA, URSA MAIOR (depicted as a horse) are above the zodiacal band; ARIES, TAURUS and GEMINI (depicted as male and female) are within the band and ERIDANUS, the hind legs of CANIS MAIOR and ARGO are below it. In addition, there are 3 semicircles drawn in the hemisphere below the horizon which seem to be part of the sphere since they cross ARGO. The stand consists of 6 columns supporting the horizon ring and of one central support for the meridian ring; the columns and the central support are not decorated. The triangular piece is pink and the meridian ring is blue. The sphere has a green background and the house on the deck of ARGO is pink with a blue roof. For a fuller description, See DEKKER 2013, p. 256 (G.5).
- ff. 27v-32v Coloured drawings of 41 constellation groupings, set within blank spaces within the text. No stars are marked. Ursa Maior and Minor are properly labelled, but almost all the others have small marginal notations, presumably to tell the illuminator which picture to place in the blank spaces in the text.

- fol. 27v **URSA MAIOR** (labelled: Arcturus Maior) walks to the left and has a short tail.
- URSA MINOR** (labelled: Arcturus Minor) is walking to the left, with long toenails and a short tail. Both bears are grey and are about the same size.
- fol. 28r **DRACO INTER ARCTOS** with **DRACO** as a very lumpy-bodied, blue snake with a bear-like head. He has a smiling toothy mouth and a body with 3 bends. The grey Bears are placed back-to-back, facing opposite direction and into the body of the snake.
- HERCULES** is placed (rather oddly) within the Garden of the Hesperides at the upper levels of the tree, with the snake wrapped around the tree slightly below and to the left of him (see Prague 1717 for a similar formula). The tree in the Garden is green around which the white snake curls so that snake's head is actually near Hercules's right knee. He is nude and kneels on his left knee facing the viewer. He holds the white lion's skin (with a face and tail and 2 back legs showing over his right arm). He holds his green club vertically in his left hand.
- CORONA BOREALIS** is depicted as a golden crown placed on the head of a king with 9 yellow stars encircling it.
- fol. 28v **OPHIUCHUS** is nude and faces towards the viewer. He walks to the left, lifting his right foot so that it placed above the head of a pink, paisley-shaped **SCORPIO**, which also faces left. The white **SERPENS** wraps around the man's body so that it ties a knot at his waist before the body of the snake goes through his legs.
- BOOTES** ('Arcturus custos') stands facing the viewer in his white underpants with his right arm transformed into a yellow wing and his left arm outstretched, holding a pink branch.
- VIRGO** is a female figure with wings that are pink on the outside and green on the inside. She wears a long white dress with plant in her right hand and the yellow **SCALES** in her left, both of which are held at shoulder height.
- GEMINI** are two men in long robes and mantles. The left Twin has a pink robe with a blue mantle, and the right Twin has a green robe with a pink mantle that has a green lining. They hold staves in their outer hands and point to themselves with their inner hands.
- fol. 29r **CANCER** is pink and faces to the right with a round body, 2 claws and 8 legs. He has a large smile, and his shell is covered with dots.

LEO is a heraldic, grey-pink lion, prancing to the left with his right forepaw raised and tongue out. He has a large S-shaped tail raised above his back,

AURIGA, dressed in a pink dress with a blue mantle, stands in a square cart drawn by 3 horses with pink harnesses to the right. He faces the viewer, though he turns to look towards the back of the cart. He has 2 bunnies on his right shoulder and two bunnies following the cart on the ground. He holds a yellow shield in his right hand and the yellow reins in his left.

TAURUS is a pink-grey full bull and lying down, facing towards the right with his legs neatly crossed in front of him.

fol. 29v **CEPHEUS** is bearded and wears a long blue robe with a white and pink mantle. He is seated on a throne, with outstretched arms. His head is bare.

CASSIOPEIA is seated on a similar throne and is wearing a pink robe with a green mantle. She/he is depicted as a male, with a beard similar to Cepheus's. Her arms held outward at shoulder height.

ANDROMEDA is nude to waist with long pink skirt, standing with her arms outstretched so that they are resting near the tops of two green plants.

fol. 30r **PEGASUS** (equus) is depicted as half a horse facing the left with impressive wings that are green on top and pink underneath. He has a band around his middle.

ARIES walks to left with its right foreleg raised, but not looking back.

TRIANGULUM is drawn as a thick yellow triangle.

PISCES are blue, swim in opposite directions and have both their backs facing upwards. They are not tied.

PERSEUS faces the viewer, kneeling on his left knee towards the left. He is nude with genitals visible. He holds a bearded male head in his right hand in front of him and a blue *harpe* upright behind his head in his left hand.

fol. 30v The **PLEIADES** are depicted as the busts of 7 veiled women in pink dresses set within circles with blue backgrounds.

LYRA is an Irish harp.

CYGNUS walks to the left with a long, S-shaped neck.

fol. 31r

AQUARIUS is dressed in a long yellow robe with a long pink cloak. He walks to right and holds a yellow upturned urn with both hands in front of him that pours blue water.

CAPRICORN has pink horns and faces to the left with curled tail stretching out behind him.

SAGITTARIUS faces towards the right and is depicted as a fat 2-legged centaur/satyr with a band around his middle. He has a blue shirt and a pink band around his middle. He holds a bow in his left hand, holding the string in his right, but he has no arrow. His horse part is grey.

SAGITTA is an arrow pointing to the left with a notched end.

AQUILA stands to the right with his head turned back to the left, biting his right wing.

DELPHINUS is a blue fish with long snout swimming to left.

fol. 31v

ORION is dressed in a very short blue tunic with white tights and a short pink cape that covers his right shoulder. He holds book in his right hand and holds a straight sword upright in his extended left hand.

CANIS MAIOR (Syrius) runs to the left with a halo and rays of light around his head and a collar.

LEPUS runs to the left.

ARGO is depicted as a whole ship with small building on deck (with 2 Crosses on it like a church), two steering oars and twisted cloth around the mast.

fol. 32r

CETUS faces to the right and has a dog's face, a foliate tail and a curled tail.

ERIDANUS is depicted as a river god sitting in own stream, which issues from an urn in his right hand. He sits facing to the right. He wears a yellow robe and his river is blue.

PISCIS AUSTRINUS swims to left, has its back on top and is blue.

ARA is shown as a French chateau in pink with turrets at the corners and a blue roof.

- fol. 32v **CENTAURUS** is a bearded 2-legged centaur/satyr with band around middle (drawn in same style as Sagittarius). He wears a yellow shirt and is holding a dead bunny by its heels in each of his outstretched hands.
- HYDRA** is a snake with dog-face, facing towards the left with **CRATER** and **CORVUS** on his back. **CRATER** is a cup and **CORVUS** faces towards the front of the Snake.
- CANIS MINOR** (antecanis) runs to the left and has a collar.
- fol. 33v Busts of the five planet-gods set within circles. One holds a staff and another holds a plant, but the genders are non-specific.
- The Milky Ways is represented as two concentric circles.
- Sol and Luna set within zodiac circle. He has a halo and she has a moon on her head. The Gemini are depicted as two warriors; man holding Libra; Sagittarius as two-legged centaur; Pisces set at right angles.
- fol. 34v Luna is standing behind the arc of a *biga* drawn by 2 bulls to the left. She holds a torch/plant in her left hand and raises her right hand. She has a crescent Moon on her head.
- Sol stands behind the curve of his *quadriga*, with the horses splayed into pairs. He holds a circle with a cross and a plant in his left hand in front of his body and raises his right hand.
- ff. 35v–35r Star groupings according to Gregory of Tours.
- ff. 42r–v Illustrations connected to *Spera Pitagore*, with a depiction of a centaur within a maze, holding a sword and a decapitated head and 3 additional schemata. (including a square version of the Annus/Mundus/Homo Isidorean diagram).
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- fol. 49v Rota for health prognostications.
- ff. 50v–51r Schemata on various topics.

- fol. 51v diagrams illustrating Ps.- Iohannes Chrysostomus, *De Cruce*.
Dicit Iohannes Crisostomus in omelia: crux spes Christianorum, crux cecorum dux... crux esurientium panis.
Arranged in the form of lists around a cross-shaped diagram. Below is a diagram showing the properties of: God; Soul; Body.
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- fol. 54r Rectangular diagram showing the course of the sun and the seasons.
- fol. 54v Rota concerning the lengths of day throughout the year (cf. fol. 52r).
- ff. 59r- 61r Illustrations for the *LIBER ALCHANDREI* (?), with small medallions containing groups of stars (red border, light green background, yellowish stars). The text begins with rules on how to calculate the zodiac sign from a name, including the use of Hebrew letters, which are listed both in transliteration and as Hebrew characters.
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Disce diem lune in qua quisque decubuit .. nomen decumbentis naturale non super positum et collige numerum utriusque...

notes

296 x 200, paper with a unicorn watermark: Briquet 9990 (?), Saumur 1463; *bastarda* script.

One of only two known Renaissance copies of *Revised Aratus latinus*; Pellegrin says French, 15th century since the filigraine is similar to one from Saumur dated 1463; O'Connor says 15th century Italian. The manuscript also contains: Hyginus (ff. 1-21), Cicero *Aratea* (ff. 36-41), Ps-Apuleius (f. 42) and ps-Hyginus *Arati* (ff. 43-48)

There are notable similarities between Paris BN 12957 and the present manuscript, but there are also many distinct differences, the most notable of which is perhaps the image of ARA.

The illustrations do fall within the **RAL Ia** group, the defining features of which are discussed in the Commentary.

But the level of artistic invention and intervention – such as in the depiction of a two-legged centaur for SAGITTARIUS and CENTAURUS and of a French chateau for ARA – is so high that it stands at the very edge of the disintegration of the tradition.

bibliography

BREYSIG 1867, p. xxvii.

BYVANCK 1949, pp. 221-23: for list of *Aratus latinus mss*

Enciclopedia dell' Arte Antica 1958, nr. 27, p. 709

McGURK 1966, p. xiv.

one of only two known Renaissance mss of *Revised Aratus latinus*.

SOUBIRAN 1972, pp. 117-18.

PELLEGRIN 1978, II, 1, pp. 165-67.

French with small, semi-cursive angular script; paper with the visible filigraine of a unicorn which might indicate Saumur, c. 1463? (variant of Briquet 9990?); 69 + 1 pp. 295 x 207 mm;

1-21v Hyginus *Astronomica*, without divisions into books

21v-35r *Aratus latinus cum scholiis* (Anonymous II) ed. Maass pp. 102-26, 134-50, 155-61, 180-277, 285-87, 290-97 and more; like the miniatures in Dresden and St gall 250.

between ff 24 and 25

has the title PHAENOMENA with a large map of the constellations

35r-36r extract from Gregorius Turonensis *De cursu stellarum* (with geomantic diagrams)

36v has Anthologia latina 79 titled 'Ausonous' and a colophon with the date Parisiis MDLIX

36v-41 Cicero (= Ms V of Soubiran)

41-41v	<i>Excerptio de astrologia</i>
48-48v	<i>Excerptum de astrologia Arati</i>
48v	Anthologia latina 79

Dell'ERA 1979.

O'CONNOR 1980, p. 68, n. 3.

says is 15th C Italian and that the text is *recensio interpolata* (citing Byvanck, no 72 as above), notes that not catalogued by Saxl.

VIRÉ 1981, p. 173.

REEVE1983, p. 22.

VIRÉ 1983.

D'ONOFRIO 1984, p. 357.

KERSCHER 1988.

BORST 1994.

ŚNIEŻYNSKA-SOLOT 1994, p. 66.

LIPPINCOTT 2006, p. 23.

DEKKER 2013, pp. 125, 221-22 and 256.

BLUME/HAFFNER/METZGER 2016, II, 1 pp. 643-47.

provides a detailed description of the contents and illustrations; containing so many astronomical texts, it derived from tradition of the Carolingian compendium. Eatermark can be traced to Saumur in the Loire Valley to 1463; of all the RAL mss, Dresden DC 183 is probably the closest (see Bootes with a wing, the \rrangement of the Plaiades and the twists of the serpent held by Ophiuchus).

HAVDRAVAVÁ 2019, pp. 365 and *passim*.