
Vatican
Biblioteca Apostolica

Reg lat 1324
Revised Aratus latinus

probably French

 15th century

text

 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. erastotionis (?) 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 semisperium.

fol.24r blank

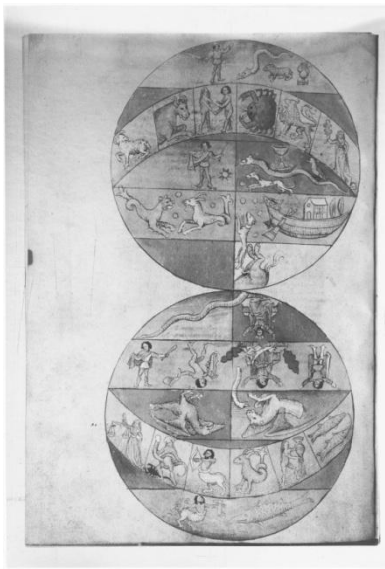
fol. 24v V. Aratus patris quidem est athinodori filius matris autem dela thaphile – peritie mathematice repperimus illum et semper.

fol. 24v VII. De celi positione. CElum circulis quinque distinguitur – (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.]

- fol. 26r – extremum per deditur 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 – visus est.
- fol. 26v VIII- IX.
In volutio sperere. Hic est stellarum ordo ut utraque – sol venus mercurius luna.
- fol. 27r X. Vertices extremos circa quos spera celi – sed a navigantibus observatur. Maria enim conturbat.
- fol. 27-32v XI. Helicem autem dicit Hesiodus lacahomis filiam fuisse – et ad capiendos lepores sive in omni studio venandi exercitatus 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 – fuisse opinabantur victoriam. Explicit liber astrologorum.

illustrations



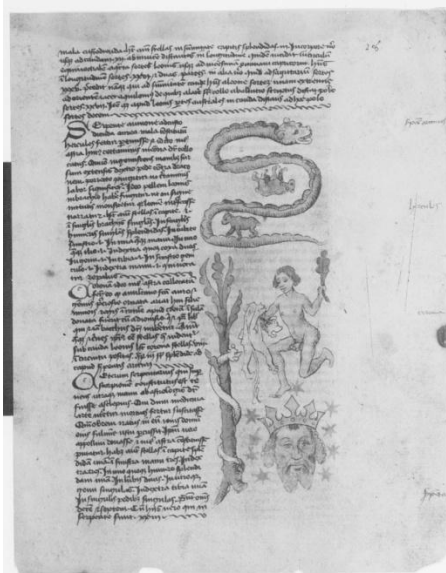
fol. 23v



fol. 27r



fol. 27v



fol. 28r



fol. 28v



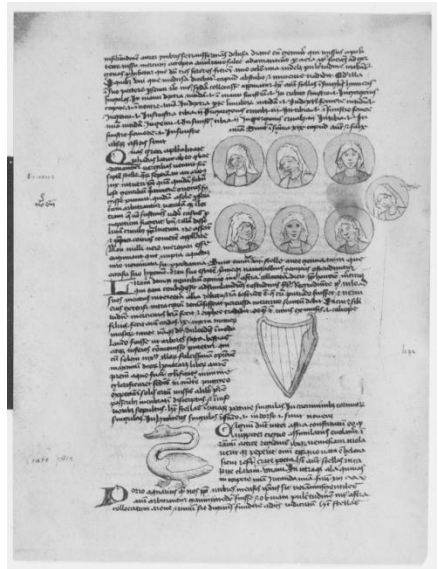
fol. 29r



fol. 29v



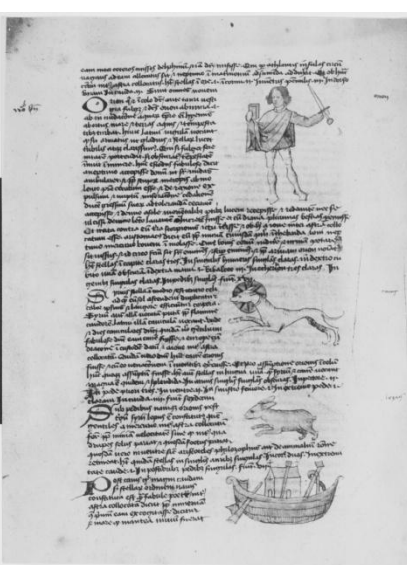
fol. 30r



fol. 30v



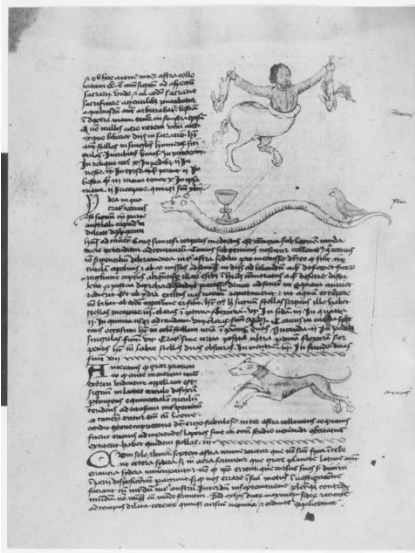
fol. 31r



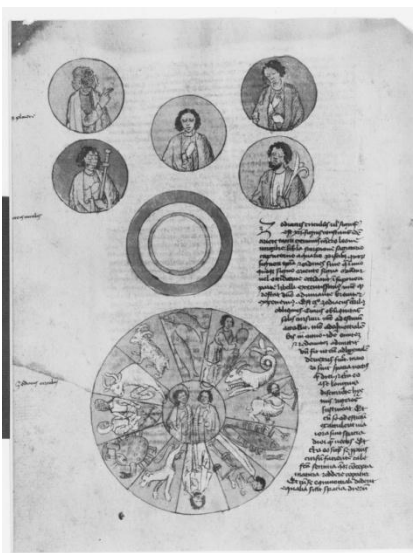
fol. 31v



fol. 32r



fol. 32v



fol. 33v



fol. 34v

fol. 23v Summer and winter celestial hemispheres, with summer on the top and winter on the bottom both with north at the top (for a fuller description, see the section on ‘Hemispheres’).

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.

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 of the others have small marginal notations, presumably to tell the illuminator which picture to place in the blank spaces in the text.

fol. 33v 5 planets in circles, Sol and Luna set within zodiac circle (Gemini as two warriors; man holding Libra; Sagittarius as two-legged centaur; Pisces set at right angles).

A drawing of three concentric circles (the Milky Way).

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.

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.

notes

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;

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|----------------------|---|
| 1-21v | Hyginus <i>Astronomica</i> , without divisions into books |
| 21v-35r | <i>Aratus latinus cum scholiis</i> (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 <i>De cursu stellarum</i> (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 |

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.