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Paris

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Lat 12957

*Revised Aratus latinus*

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West Frankish (Corbie)

early 9th century

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text

- ff. 57r- 74v                      *Revised Aratus latinus* (set in the middle of apparently unrelated texts, such as Boethius, *De Trinitate*, *Commenta in Isagogas*, etc.).
- ff. 57r-58v                      I.    Arati eæ quae videntur ostensionem quoque de quibus videntur oportet fieri – quorum ab eo dicta sunt.
- fol. 58v                            IIa.    erastotennis    de circa exornatione stellarum æthimologiam de quibus videntur – fluuius, piscis, quinque stellae ærratice.
- fol. 58v                            IIb.    ipparcus de magnitudine errantium & positione stellarum constat autem in aquilonio semispherio haec – aries taurus gemini.
- ff. 58v-59v                      IIIa.    quibus Arati videntur quaedam sunt secundum cęli stellarum – quia simili modo in ipsum suggerunt.
- ff. 59v-60v:                      IIIb.    Subtus terra firmatur signa sex eridanus, navis – necnon sagittarium pisces, co&us orionem.
- fol. 60v                            IV.    DISCRIPTIO DUORUM SEMISPHERIORUM. Hab& autem pondus totum medium terre terrenum – in medio iac& duobus semispheriis.

- ff.61r-61v V. ARATI GENUS. Aratus patris quidem est antinodori filius matris autem – repperimus autem illum & super [...]
- ff. 61v-62r VI. DE CÆLI POSITONE. Cælum circulos quinque distinguitur quorum duo – anteposita his deformia
- ff. 62r-62v VII. DE STELLIS FIXIS ET ST<sup>AN</sup>tibus. Stellarum aliae cum cælo feruntur – & comodo consentit aut visus est.
- ff. 62v-63r VIII. INVOLUTIO SPHERE. Hic est stellarum ordo – conexio vero piscium communem habet stellam.
- fol.63r IX. Porro xii signorum ordo híc est – id est saturnus iouis mars sol venus mercurius luna.
- fol. 63v X. VERTICES extremos circa quos sphaera cæli volvitur – sed a navigantibus observatur. Maria enim conturbat.
- ff. 63v- 70v XI. helicem autem dicit esiodus lycaonis filiam fuisse – & ad capiendos lepores sive in omni studio venandi exercitatus extiterit habet quidem stellas
- ff. 70v-71v XII. Cum sole & luna vii astra numerantur – & mercurio demonstratu esse credebantur.
- fol. 71v XIII. Lacteus circulus quem græci galaxian vocant – in sagittario tantum se contingunt
- ff. 71v-72r XIV. Zodiacus vel singifer est circulus duodecim signa – duabus saturni duabus ut sol.
- fol. 72v XV. Luna terries vicinior est – sin ortu quarto namque his certissimus auctor. (cf. Maass, pp. 290-92)
- ff. 73r- 74r XVI. Solem per se ipsum . moveri non cum mundo – quod horę nonæ proclivior. vergens occasibus pronus incumbat.
- fol. 74v XVII. Sidera quae gentiles praesepe et asinos vocaverunt – adeptos fuisse opinabantur victoriam.

fol. 74v

Ad bore ꝛ partes arto evertum\_\_\_ & anguis –  
 Hinc sequitur pistrix simul eridani que fluenta.  
 VERSUS PRISCIANI . SEQUENTES ANONIMI

Sed vaga præter ea dicimus lumina septem  
 Celsior his cunctis & tardior omnibus astris. (=Ausonius)



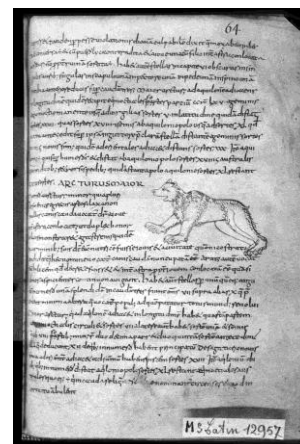
fol. 60v



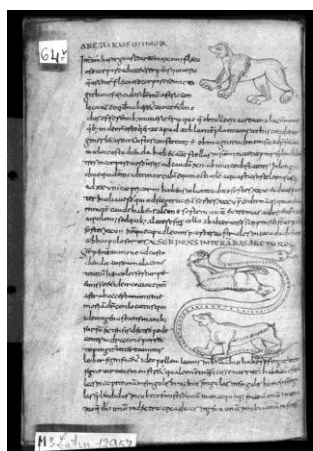
fol. 61r



fol. 63v



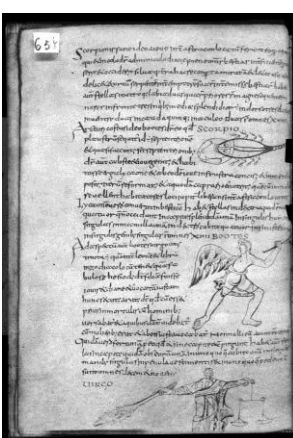
fol. 64r



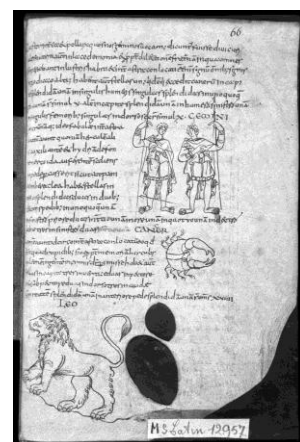
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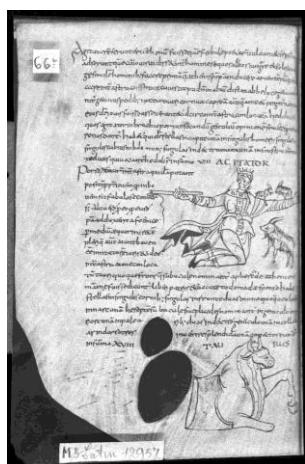
fol. 65r



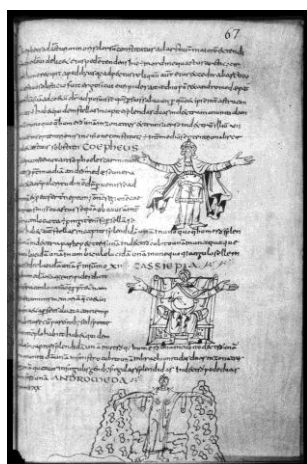
fol. 65v



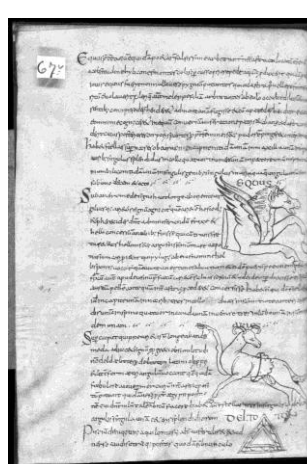
fol. 66r



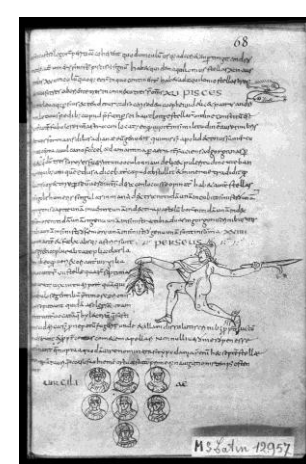
fol. 66v



fol. 67r



fol. 67v



fol. 68r



fol. 68v



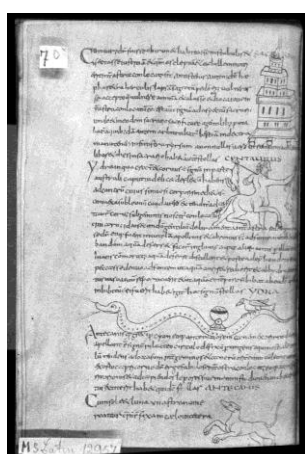
fol. 69r



fol. 69v



fol. 70r



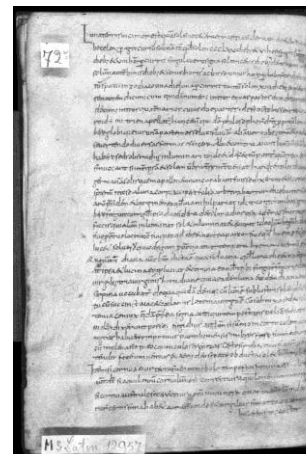
fol. 70v



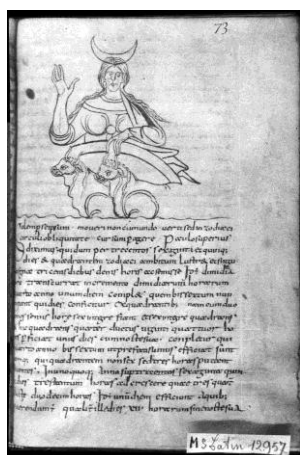
fol. 71v



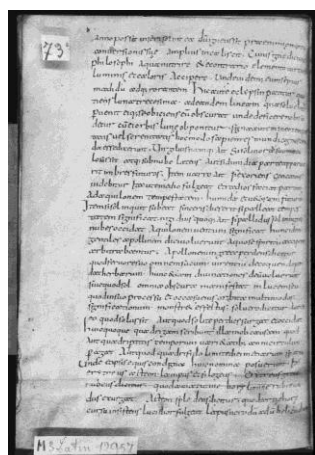
fol. 72r



fol. 72v



fol. 73r



fol. 73v



fol. 74r

## illustrations

- fol. 60v Winter hemisphere with north at the top (for a further description, see the section on hemispheres)
- fol. 61r Summer hemisphere with north at the top (for a further description, see the section on hemispheres)
- fol: 63v Drawing in sepia ink of a celestial globe showing 10 constellations. The double line of the meridian ring is in red. PERSEUS (?), AURIGA, URSA MAIOR are above the zodiacal band; ARIES, TAURUS, GEMINI are in the band and ERIDANUS, the hind legs of CANIS MAIOR and ARGO are below the band. In addition there is a jumping animal below URSA MAIOR which extends below the horizon ring, which might be a reminiscence of Leo. The stand consists of 6 Corinthian columns supporting the horizon ring and of one central support for the meridian ring. The 2 columns in the background and the central support are decorated. The north pole is indicated by a clamping screw. All the figures are nude. PERSEUS (?) has a cloth over his left arm and a stick raised in his left hand, AURIGA stands to the right with the two Kids on his outstretched right arm and the flail raised in his left, URSA MAIOR has a long tail, ERIDANUS is a snake, ARGO has a building and two shields on its deck. There is a compass point in the middle of the meridian ring.
- ff 64r-70v Pen drawings of 40 constellations groupings in sepia ink. On a few of the constellations there are red dots included (perhaps by a later hand?). These

certainly indicate stars, but they only very rarely reflect a full set for any constellation. The pictures are set between breaks in paragraphs or within squarish insets in the text, probably indicating that the text was written first. Each constellation is labelled with red capital letters.

- fol. 71v Five planet busts in set within red circles, all of whom have haloes around their heads.  
Mercury with wings on his head and a caduceus. Mars as a soldier with a helmet and spear and Saturn with his head covered.
- A picture of the Milky Way as two concentric circles, with a compass point in the middle.
- fol. 72r Sol and Luna set within a zodiac schema (labelled in red: ZODIACIS CIRCULUS). Sol has a crown and halo and Luna with a crescent on her head. Aries with a band round its middle looking backwards and raising right foot; Gemini with spears; Cancer with a scalloped shell, Virgo with wings; Libra as a nude male with a staff in his right hands and the Scales in his left hand; Sagittarius with a long arrow that extends past his border into the circle; Pisces connected at mouth.
- fol. 73r Luna in the top half of a *biga*, which is cut off as if she is shrouded in clouds. The *biga* is drawn by 2 bulls to the left. Her long hair is exposed and she has a crescent Moon on her head. She touches the horns of the following bull with her left hand and raises her right hand in salutation.
- fol. 74r Sol is set within a red circle standing in a *quadriga*, pulled by 4 horses that are split into rearing pairs. He has a red crown and holds a red orb in his left hand. He also has a flail (?) in his left hand and raises his right hand in salutation.
- fol. 64r **URSA MAIOR** (labelled in red: ARCTURUS MAIOR) runs to the left, with its mouth open and is very furry with a short tail.
- fol. 64v **URSA MINOR** (labelled in red: ARCTURUS MINOR) runs to the left and a with short tail and huge feet.
- DRACO INTER ARCTOS** (labelled in red: SERPENS INTER A(M)BAS ARCTURUS) with **DRACO** having 3 bends in his body and his head is seen from the top. He has dots down his body, perhaps reminiscent of stars. The Bears are back-to-back,

facing in opposite directions and inwards. They are placed within the second and third bends, with Ursa Maior standing on the tail of Draco. The Bears are nearly the same size with short tails.

fol. 65r

**HERCULES** (labelled in red: HERCULUS) is nude, kneeling on left knee and facing to the left in Garden of Hesperides with the snake facing him and breathing fire. Hercules is facing the viewer with a furry pelt over his outstretched right arm and a lumpy club held in his left hand behind his head.

**CORONA BOREALIS** (labelled in red: CORONA) is 10 ovals set in a circle with a decorative clasp at the bottom (there is also a figure to the right holding the wreath, drawn by a later hand).

**OPHIUCHUS** (labelled in red: SERPENTARIUS) is nude and seen from the rear. He is standing to the left with both feet planted firmly on the back of **Scorpio**. He holds **SERPENS** wrapped around his middle, with its body horizontal and its head turned back to face the man.

**SCORPIO** has an almond-shaped body, 2 arm-like claws and 8 legs. It faces to the left and has a segmented tail ending in a hook.

fol. 65v

**SCORPIO**<sup>2</sup> (labelled in red: SCORPIO) appears separately and has an almond-shaped body, 2 arm-like claws and 8 legs. It faces to the left and has a segmented tail ending in a hook. It has some red dots on its body that appear to indicate stars: 2 in each claw, 8 in the body and 5 in the tail segments and 2 at the end of the tail.

**BOOTES** (labelled in red: BOOTES) is facing the viewer, nude to waist and wearing a short skirt. He is leaning to the left and looking to right over his shoulder with right arm depicted as a wing. He holds a thin stick upraised in his left hand. There are red dots to indicate stars: 1 in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 in the chest, 1 on the wing, 4 in the left elbow, 5 in the left hand and 1 on each knee.

**VIRGO** (labelled in red: VIRGO) is without wings and dressed in a long robe and mantle. She holds a large broom-like plant in her right arm down to the side and Scales in her left, from her extended index finger. There are red dots indicating stars: 1 in her head, 1 in each elbow 1 in each hand and 3 on her robe (her feet are cut-off).

fol. 66r **GEMINI** (labelled in red: GEMINI) as two warriors in short tunics with long capes, with spears in their outer hands and holding inner hands in front of their chests. Their hair is a combination of ovals and semi-circles which may indicate wreaths or haloes. They have bare feet.

**CANCER** (labelled in red: CAN<sup>C</sup>ER (with a superscript 'C' added in sepia ink) with claws on the right side and a scalloped face. It has two big eyes and 2 muscular claws and 8 feet.

**LEO** (labelled in red: LEO) stands on a line of landscape to the left with his mouth open and his tail raised.

fol. 66v **AURIGA** (labelled in red: AGITATOR) is on his knees to right, dressed in long gown with decorative banding at the neck and down the front. He has a wide belt and wears a spiky crown on his head. He holds a stick with a single thong in his outstretched right hand and 2 goats stand facing each other on his outstretched left arm, with a third larger goat standing in front facing him. There are small red dots indicating stars: 1 in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each elbow, 2 above his left arm and 1 in his right hand.

**TAURUS** (labelled in red: TAURUS) is depicted as half a bull facing to the right with his right hoof tucked under and his left hoof raised. He is marked with small red dots: 2 in his horns, 3 on his face, 4 in his neck and 2 above the back of his neck, 1 in his chest, 1 in the cut-off and 1 on the left knee.

fol. 67r **CEPHEUS** (labelled in red: COEPHEUS) stands facing the viewer. He has a conical hat with a button on his head and a multi-layered garment with decorative banding and a long cloak that falls in swags over his shoulders. He has very large hands on his outstretched arms. He is marked with red dots: 2 in his head, 2 on his shoulders, 1 on his right hand, 10 on his waist.

**CASSIOPEIA** (labelled in red: CASSIEPIA) is seated in a throne with a high back and a cushion. She wears a long gown with tight sleeves and her feet are bare. She has very large hands on outstretched arms. She has numerous red dots: 1 on her head, 2 on her shoulders, 1 on her breast, 1 on her belly, 1 on her right elbow, 1 on each hand, and 4 on the throne.

**ANDROMEDA** (labelled in red: ANDROMEDA) is standing in long dress between



lumpy rocks with tubular sleeves hanging over arms. She is dressed, but the details of her breasts are evident. The rocks are covered with squash-shaped squiggles (remembrances of toilet articles?) and there is water behind her. She is marked with red dots: 1 on her head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each elbow, 1 on her right hand and 2 on her left forearm, 2 beside her sleeves, 5 on her waist, 1 on each knee, 2 in her right foot and 1 on her left foot.

fol. 67v

**PEGASUS** (labelled in red: EQUUS) is depicted as half a winged horse, facing to the right with its tongue out. It has a number of red dots: 2 on its ears, 6 on its face, 6 on its neck, 1 on its chest, 1 on each knee, 1 on each foot, 1 in the wing and 1 on the cut-off.

**ARIES** (labelled in red: ARIES) is prancing to left with its right hoof raised and its head turned back to right. It has a frilly band around its middle and pendulous testicles. The stars are marked: 3 in the nose, 1 on the head 2 on the neck, 5 on the back, 2 on the belly, 1 on the tail 1 in the raised right foot and 1 on the right hind foot.

**TRIANGULUM** (labelled in red: DELTTON) is a triangle with decorations and there is a triangle of red stars to the side (**note:** this would indicate that the red dots – and possibly the labels – were added after the drawings were finished.

fol. 68r

**PISCES** (labelled in red: PISCES) are swimming in opposite directions with both their backs upwards, and their mouths are connected by a string. There are no dots.

**PERSEUS** (labelled in red: PERSEUS) is nude and running to left with cloak over one shoulder and a Phrygian cap on his head. He is seen in profile, but his buttocks are clearly visible and it seems as though he faces away from the viewer. He has sandals on both feet, but only the following one has a wing. He holds a hairy decapitated head in front of him in his left hand and the *harpe* is held in his right hand hand behind him. He has red dots: 1 on each shoulder, 2 on his left hand, 1 on his right elbow, 2 on his torso, 1 on each thigh, 1 on each knee, 1 on his right shin and 2 on his left shin.

**PLEIADES** (labelled in red: VIRGILIAE) are seven veiled women set within red circles. There is one red dot in the middle, but it is not clear if this is a star.

- fol. 68v      **LYRA** (labelled in red: LYRA) with a square base and oxen horns supporting the sides. There are 9 strings attached to pegs.
- CYGNUS** (labelled in red: CYGNUS) is standing to the right with one foot up and its wings outstretched.
- AQUARIUS** (labelled in red: AQUARIUS) has a bare torso and a long skirt with long cloak. He has a cap on his head and is walking to the right holding upside-down urn in both hands in front of him.
- CAPRICORN** (labelled in red: CAPRICORNUS) faces to the left. Its legs are stretched out in front of it and it has one coil and an acanthus-end to its tail.
- fol. 69r      **SAGITTARIUS** (labelled in red: SAGITTARIUS) is racing to the left and is a horned centaur with animal skin flowing from his shoulders, complete with face and paws on at the right side above his rump. He holds the bow with his left hand and pulls the string with his right. He also has a semi-circular shape coming from the back of his shoulders (his right elbow?) and he is standing on **SAGITTA** that points to the left.
- AQUILA** (labelled in red: AQUILA) is standing on a **SAGITTA**<sup>2</sup>, which points to the left. It is standing facing the right, but is looking backwards to the left, with its wings outstretched.
- DELPHINUS** (labelled in red: DELPHINUS) swims to the left with a horn on head, a long curved snout and a wavy body.
- fol. 69v      **ORION** (labelled in red: ORION) is standing to the left wearing a short tunic and facing away from the viewer with his cape covering his extended left arm and hand. He holds a sword vertically behind him in his right arm and has a second sword vertically at his waist.
- CANIS MAIOR** (labelled in red: CANIS) is running to the left with a halo and rays of light around his head and his tongue out.
- LEPUS** (labelled in red: LEPUS) is jumping to left.
- ARGO** (labelled in red: NAVIS) is half a ship with 2 steering oars in water. There is a mast on the cut-off end with a curling pennant ( ?) and a building on deck.

The curved stern end ends in an acanthus leaf. There are 4 vertical lines which may have been the tops of rowing oars, but the page is cut off.

fol. 70r **CETUS** (labelled in red: COETUS) has a snouty leonine face, one coil in his tail and is swimming to the right. He has long-fingered hands on his front legs and pointed teeth.

**ERIDANUS** (labelled in red: ERIDANUS) as watery figure with prominent breasts and wild, flowing hair placed alongside a basket, from which five long curves shapes like fingers emerge.

**PISCIS AUSTRINUS** (labelled in red: PISCIS) is swimming upside down to the left with gaping mouth and a large eye and nostril.

fol. 70v **ARA** (labelled in red: SACRARIUM) is a multi-storied structure with numerous windows and flames coming from the top.

**CENTAURUS** (labelled in red: CENTAURUS) is walking to right with his right foreleg raised. He is holding **LUPUS** (a dead dog) in his right hand in front of him and with dead hare hanging from spear resting on his left shoulder.

**HYDRA** (labelled in red: YDRA) slinks to the left with 'rays' coming from his nose and mouth. He has **CRATER**, as an orb-like cup, on his back and **CORVUS** facing forward.

**CANIS MINOR** (labelled in red: ANTECANIS) is jumping to left.

### notes

This is the ms from which Breysig erroneously derived his idea of the '*scholia Sangemanensia*' (it was once owned by Sangermann, Ms 778 ). It contains the *Revised Aratus latinus* from ff. 57r-74r, in the middle of a collection of other texts from different disciplines (i.e.: not astronomical). McGurk says early 9th century; LeBourdellès says second half 9th century.

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

It is closest to the Dresden manuscript and is a distant model for the **RAL Ia** (St Gallen)

manuscripts.

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**bibliography**

DESLILSE 1868, p. 82.

says 8th century.

MANITIUS 1897, pp. 305-32.

BYVANCK 1949, pp. 221-23, esp. no 68.

MARTIN 1956, pp. 39 and 44.

9th century, this is the ms from which Breysig erroneously derived his idea of the scholia sangermanensia (was a sangermanensis ms); speaks of Manitius ('Lat Übersetz aus d Aratusliteratur', *Rh Mus*, LII, 1897, pp. 305-32) having used a group of 'revised' manuscripts for his study; (Sangermanensis) , contains *Revised Aratus latinus* from ff 57r-f74r, in the middle of a group of other texts from different disciplines (i.e.: not astronomical)

BISCHOFF 1960s, pp. 3, 39-42, 44-47, 58

Le BERRURIER 1972, 22, pp. 47-59.

says comp with Columbia, Butler Libraray, Plimpton Ms 128

McGURK 1973, pp. 203, 209, 212.

*Scriptorium*, 26, 1973, 2; 29, 1 , 1975.

O'CONNOR 1980, pp. 60, n. 3 and 64.

says Corbie, first quarter 9th century.

from Corbie

McGURK 1981, pp. 320, 324 and 328, n. 23.

early 9th century; West Frankish and at Corbie in the 9th century; p. 328, cites mistake in transformation of Bootes arm into wing (fol. 65v); p. 324: notes 'spera solida' and its mistakes

LOTT 1981, p. 149 .

second recension

LeBOURDELLEÈS 1985, pp. 20 and 75.

text very close to Cologne 83.II, this ms was for a time in St Germain des Près; the revised version of the catasterisms from the *Aratus latinus* in this ms gave rise to the name of the 'scholia Sangermanensia' ; says possible to date to the 2nd half 9th century; on fol 56 has a commentary on Boethius , which Rand has attrib to Scotus Erigenus or, possibly Remi d'Auxerre, and says the exemplar for this text came from Corbie; without contest, the best of the revised *Aratus latinus* mss; acc. to Manitius, *Geschichte*, I, pp. 35-36; has complete set of illustrations and believes they reflect antiquity in their style. Best version of the RAL.  
(used as basis for text of *Revised Aratus latinus*)

GIBSON 1988, pp. 117-24.

KESCHER,1988, pp. 1-76, pp. 14, 37, 41, 54n. And 62n.

*Scriptorium*, 52, 1988, 1, p. 78.

GANZ 1990.

Le BOURDELLES 1991, pp. 385-444,esp. p. 391.

*Scriptorium* 46, 1992, 2, no. 412.

REUTER 1993 pp. 145, 147n 330

HAFFNER 1997, p. 175.

9th century; *recensio interpolata*

BLUME 2000, p. 274, n.5.

IXc, St Gallen

DEGNI and PERI 2000, pp. 719-45.

GRABMANN 1911, I, p. 90.

RAND 1934, 68ff.

*Bull cod.* No. 766; 404.