

Rome

Biblioteca Casanatense

Ms 4059

Basinio da Parma, *Astronomicon*

Last quarter 15th c

Italian

text

ff. 1r-37r

Basinio da Parma, *Astronomicon*

BASINII PARMENSIS POETAE CELEBERRIMI ASTRONOMICON Liber primus.

AETHERios orbis subiectaque templa deorum – (fol. 23v)

Cursu semper volventis Oylmpi;

ASTRONOMICON LIBER PRIMI FINIS

(fol. 24r) ASTRONOMICON LIBER SECUNDUS

QUINque vagas etiam nec non pulcherrima mundi –

Templa cano atque vias semper volventis Olympi.

Τέλος.

ff. 39vr-42r

BASINIUS PARMENSIS, *Epistola ad Sigismundum Malatestam*.

EIUSDEM BASINII EPISTOLA AD Magnanimum invictumque regem

SIGISMUNDUM PANDULPHUM MALatestam: in qua ostendit poetas latinos
sine Litteris graecis nihil omnino posse.

QUis ferat indocti temeraria iurgia vulgi? – Fonte mihi et flumiis magni
defluxit Homeri. Τέλος.

ff. 42r-44v

BASINIUS PARMENSIS, *Epistola Ad Robertum Ariminensem.*

BASINIUS PARMENSIS Roberto ariminensi Sal. de plurima.

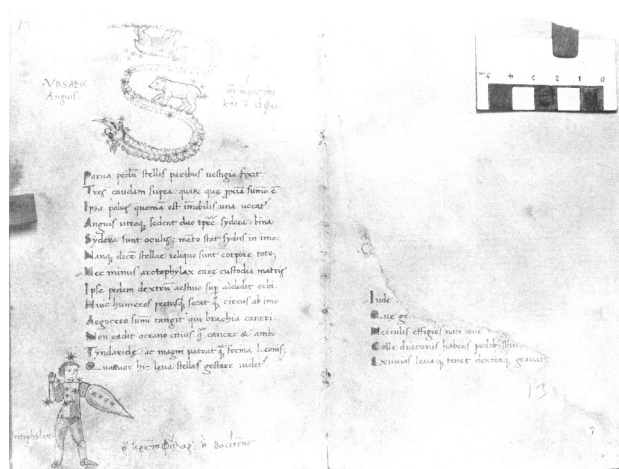
GRATissime mihi tuae fuerunt litterae: quibus a me maiorem in modum petebas; — a te enim quid de eo opere videatur scire percupio. Vale iterum. Arimini die octobris XXVII.

ff. 45r-53v

BASINIUS PARMENSIS, *Diosymposeos Liber.*

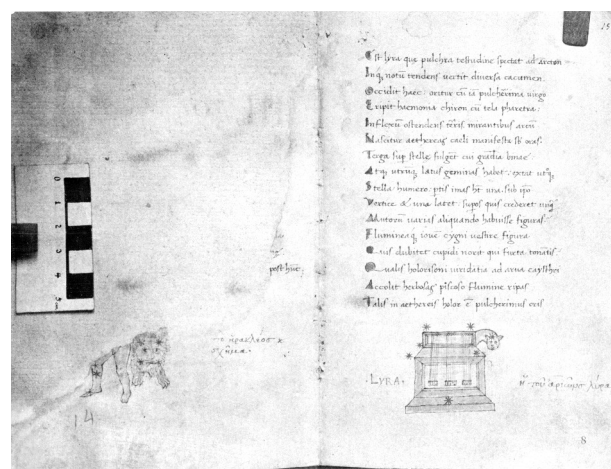
BASINII PARMENSIS POETAE DIOSYMPOSEOS LIBER.

Pande lovis magni convivia mensae; — torserit ut plostrum tardo temone Bootes.

illustrations

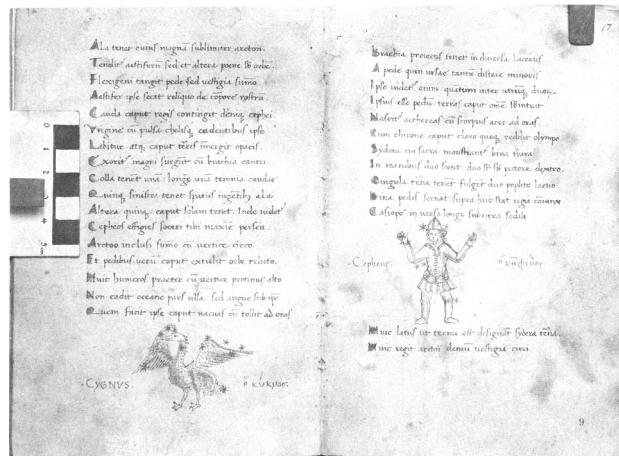
fol. 6v

fol. 7r



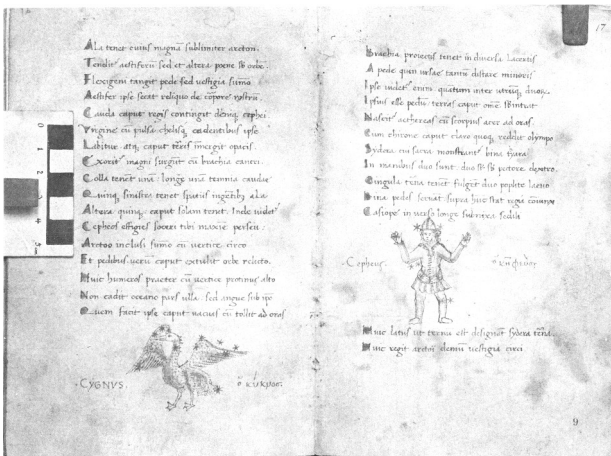
fol. 7v

fol. 8r



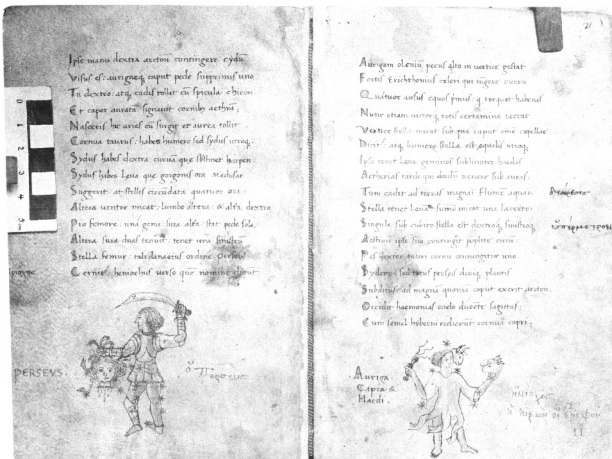
fol. 8v

fol. 9r



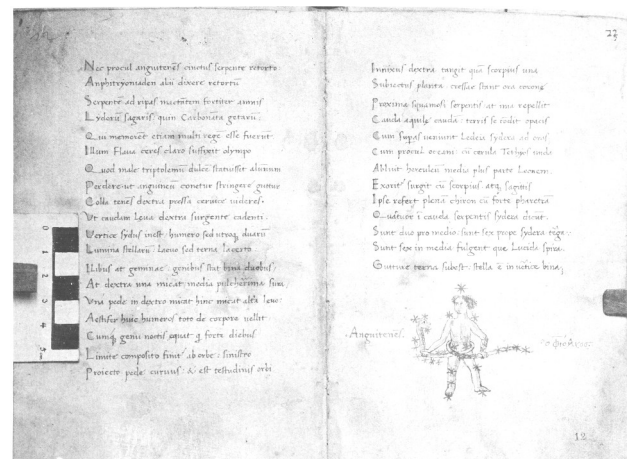
fol. 9v

fol. 10r



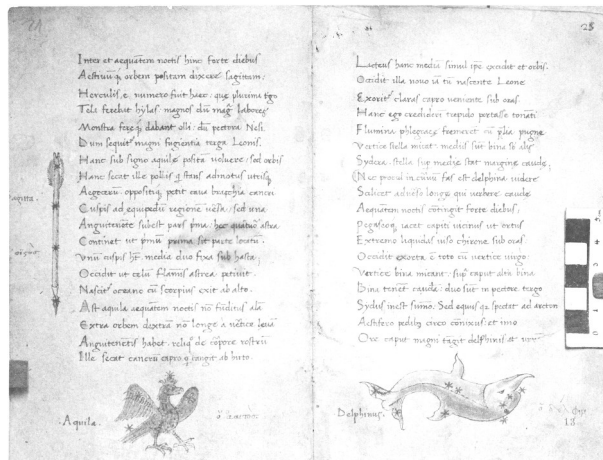
fol. 10v

fol. 11r



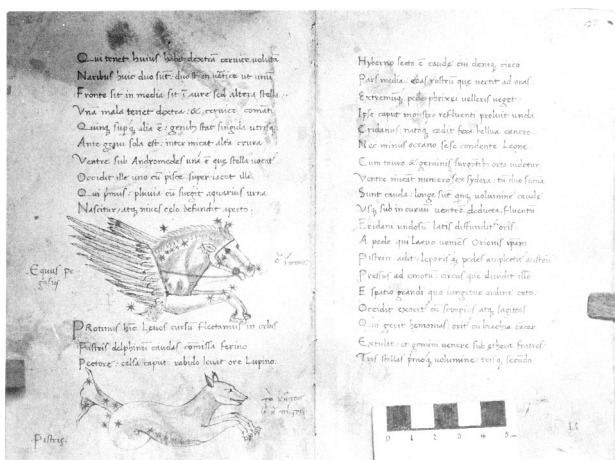
fol. 11v

fol. 12r



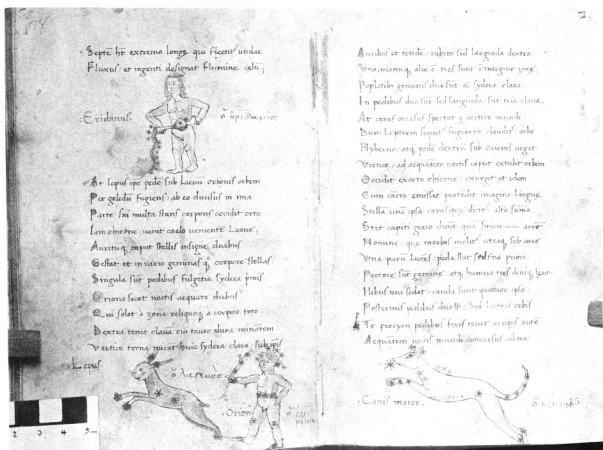
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fol. 13r



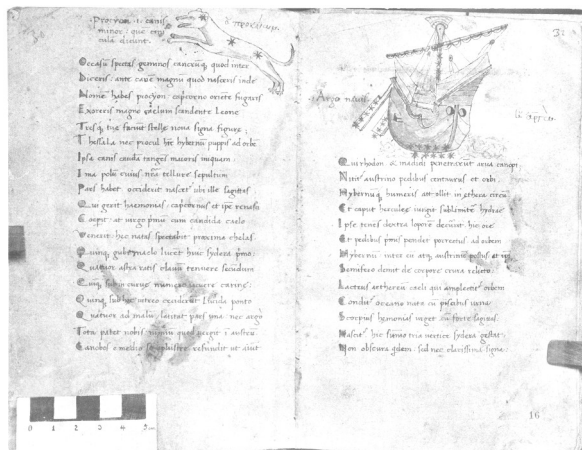
fol. 13v

fol. 14r



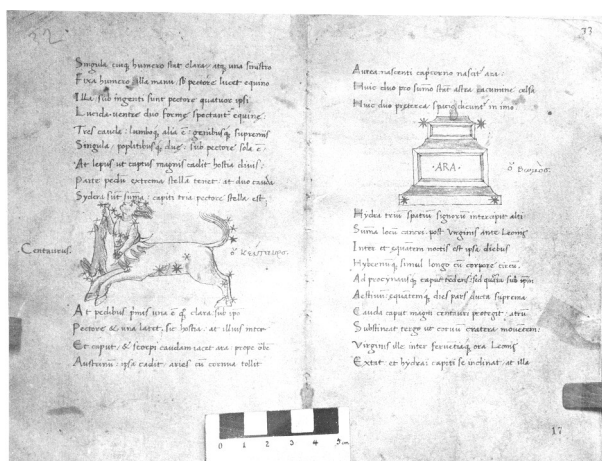
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fol. 15r

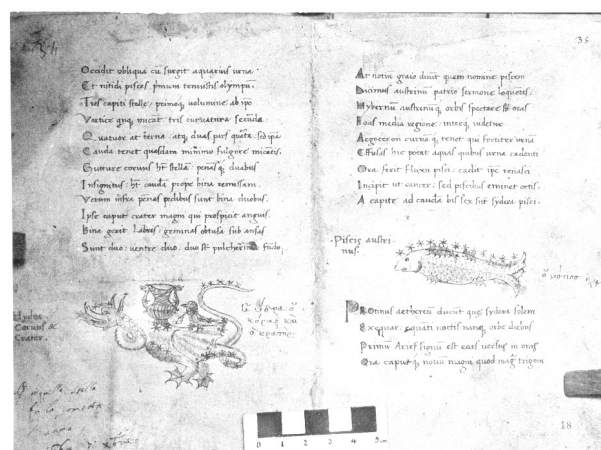
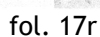


fol. 15v

fol. 16r

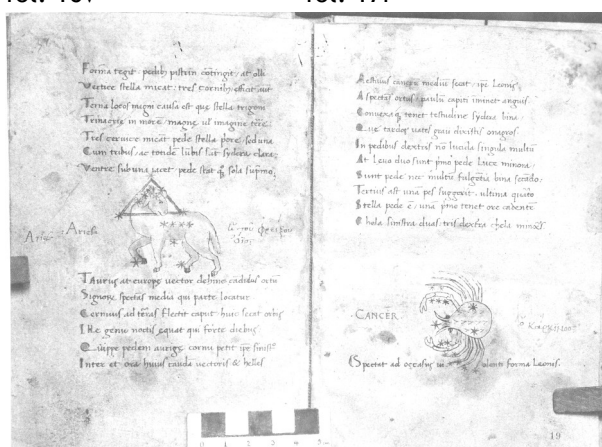


fol. 16v



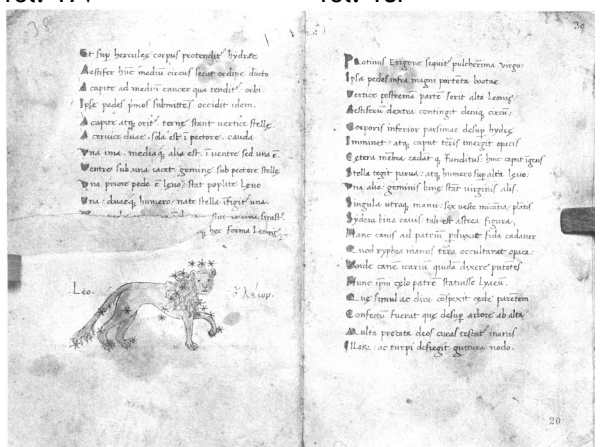
fol. 17v

fol. 18r



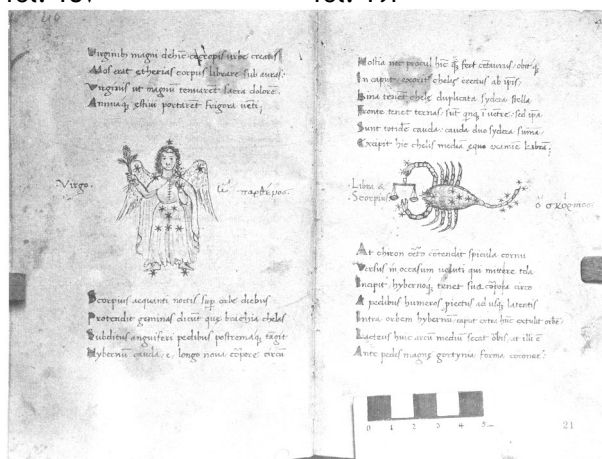
fol. 18v

fol. 19r



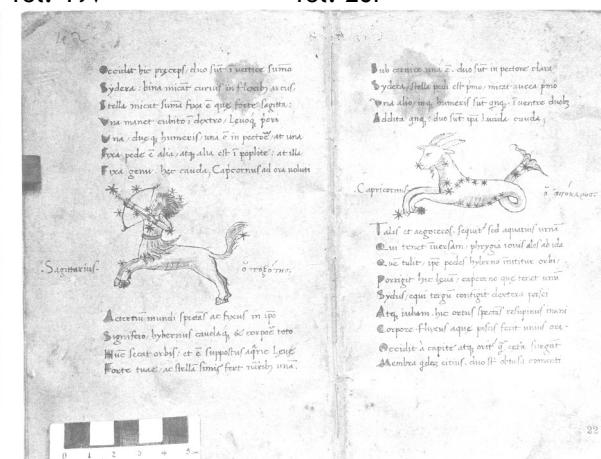
fol. 19v

fol. 20r



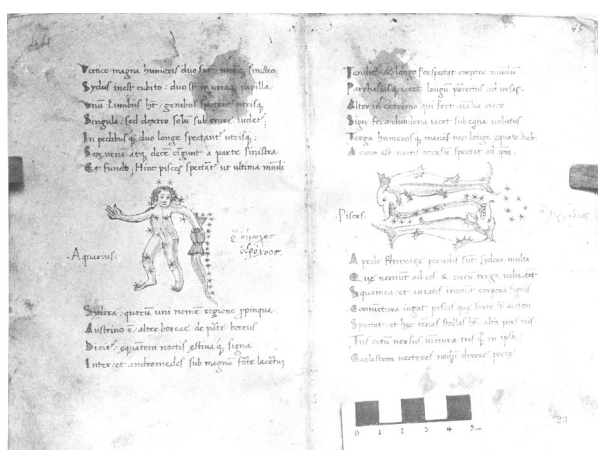
fol. 20v

fol. 21r

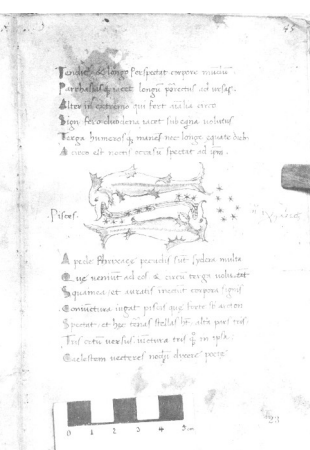


fol. 21v

fol. 22r



fol. 22v



fol. 23r



fol. 23v

fol. 2v Diagram of the sphere.

fol. 4r Diagram of the climates.

ff. 6v-23r Illustrations of 40 constellations with stars marked. Labels for the constellations are in Latin and Greek. The constellation of CORNA BOREALIS is missing due to a torn page and the folio between ff. 18v and 19r is missing, along with depictions of the constellations of TAURUS and GEMINI.

fol. 6v **DRACO INTER ARCTOS** (labelled: **URSAE & Anguis**; and the same text in Greek) with **DRACO** with his head toward the bottom of the page with a long curved and pointed nose. His body has 3 main bends. The Bears are placed back-to-back, facing into the curves in the second and third bends. The bears are the same size. Draco is marked with stars, including some on his head and 9 along his body. **URSA MINOR** has 3 on the tail and 1 in each foot, or 7 stars in all. **URSA MAIOR** has at least 3 in the head, 4 on the rump, and 1 on the left front foot.

BOOTES (labelled **Arctophylax** ; and 'Arctophylax' and 'Bootes' in Greek) stands facing to the right. He appears to be dressed in a tight jerkin with puffed sleeves, though his legs seem to be bare. He holds a feminine ovate shield extended in front of him in his left hand so that it covers the whole of his left arm. He raises his right hand. He is marked with stars, including 1 in the head, 1 in each shoulder, 2 on the chest, 3 at the waist, 1 in the right elbow, 4 on the shield and 1 on each foot.

fol. 7r [CORONA BOREALIS is missing because the folio has been torn in half.]

- fol. 7v **HERCULES** (labelled: the Latin label is missing due to damage to the folio; part of the Greek label is intact) stands facing the viewer facing slightly to the left. He is nude. He holds a lion's skin (head, front paws and tail visible) so the head is near his left hip. The rest of the figure is missing due to loss.
- fol. 8r **LYRA** (labelled: LYRA; and the same in Greek) is a two-stepped zither with 3 sets of 4 of 5 strings. An animal's head protrudes from the right side. It has 6 stars.
- fol. 8v **CYGNUS** (labelled: CYGNUS; and the same in Greek) stands to the left, with its wings outstretched to either side. It has 4 stars in the right wing, 4 in the left wing, 1 in the head, 1 in the neck and 1 in the tail, or 11 stars in all.
- fol. 9r **CEPHEUS** (labelled: Cepheus; and the same in Greek) stands facing the viewer, dressed in a short, tight-fitting tunic with a short flared skirt and hose. He has a mitre-shaped cap and holds his arms out to either side with palms facing forward and the arms slightly bent so they form a 'W'. He has a wide belt slung low on his hips. He is marked with stars, including 2 on the head, 2 on the right side, 1 in each hand, 3 on the belt and 2 on the left knee.
- fol. 9v **CASSIOPEIA** (labelled: CASiopes; and the same in Greek) is seated on a low, backless throne, facing the viewer, with her arms outstretched to either side with her elbows slightly bent. She wears a long dress and mantle, held at her neck. She is marked with stars, including 1 on the head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on her right breast, 2 at the waist, 2 in the knees, 1 on the right foot and 2 on the base of the throne.
- fol. 10r **ANDROMEDA** (labelled: ANDromade; and the same in Greek) walks to the left. She is nude, save a mantle that she wears over her left shoulder that falls so it covers her pudenda. She grasps it with her right hand. She trails her left hand behind her. She looks up to the left. She is marked with stars, including 1 on her head, 1 above each shoulder, 1 on each hand, 1 on each elbow, some at the waist, 1 on the right thigh, 1 on the right knee, 1 on the left shin and 1 on the right foot and 2 on the left foot.
- fol. 10v **PERSEUS** (labelled: PERSEUS; and the same in Greek) stands with his back to the viewer and facing to the left. He is dressed in a full suit of armour, but no helmet. He raises a slightly curved, sword above his head with his right hand

and, in his left hand, he holds the head of the Medusa's head in front of him by its bloody and snaky tresses. He has stars marked, including 1 in the right hand, 3 in the right leg and 1 in the right foot.

- fol. 11r **AURIGA** (labelled: Auriga Capra & Haedi; and the same in Greek) stands facing the viewer, dressed in a loose tunic, the hem of which ends in curling strap-like tendrils. He holds both his arms extended to the sides, raising a flail with knotted thongs in his right hand and 2 animal heads in his left hand. He has an animal head coming from his left shoulder as well. He is marked with stars, including 1 in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 in each elbow, 1 in his left forearm and 1 in his left hand.
- fol. 12r **OPHIUCHUS** (labelled: Anguitenens; and Ophiuchus in Greek) is nude and faces the viewer. He holds the **SERPENS** so that crosses his body in front of his genitals and its head is to the left, turning back to the Snakeholder. Ophiuchus turns his head to the left. The man has 1 star on the head, 1 on each shoulder, 2 at the waist, 1 on each knee, 1 on the right shin, 1 on each foot and 3 in his left hand, or 13 stars in all. Serpens has 3 on the head and at least 20 in the body.
- fol. 12v **SAGITTA** (labelled: Sagitta and in Greek) has its point towards the bottom of the page and is marked with 4 stars.
- AQUILA** (labelled Aquila; and the same in Greek) faces to the right and has a crown on his head with his wings outstretched to either side. He has 1 star in his head, 1 in each wing, and 1 in his tail, or 4 stars in all.
- fol. 13r **DELPHINUS** (labelled: Delphinus; and in Greek) is placed upside-down with its back facing towards the bottom of the page and its snout to the right. It has 4 stars in its head, 1 on the fin, 2 on the belly and 2 in the tail.
- fol. 13v **PEGASUS** (labelled: Equus Pegasus' and in 'the Horse' Greek) is ½ a winged horse that faces to the right. He wears a bridle and his legs are stretched out in front of him. He is marked with stars, including some in the face, 2 on the top of the head, 1 on top of the neck, 5 on the mane, 2 in each knee and 1 on the belly.
- CETUS** (labelled: Pistris; and Ketos in Greek) is a dog-faced monster with a curled tail. He faces to the right and has pointed ears. There are stars marked, including 6 stars on the belly, 5 on the tail and 2 on the tip of the tail.

- fol. 14v **ERIDANUS** (labelled: Eridanus; and in Greek) is a nude female figure with long hair, walking to the left, holding the urn across her body horizontally, with her left hand on the base and her right on the neck. Water flows to the left and there are stars in the body of the urn and in the water.
- ORION** (labelled: Orion and in Greek) walks to the left, is nude and faces towards the viewer. He holds his left hand at hip height and holds a forked stick in front of him in his right hand. There are stars marked, including 6 in the head, 3 on his belt, 1 in each knee, 1 on each foot and 3 on the stick. He is accompanied (to the
- LEPUS** (labelled: Lepus and in Greek) is depicted jumping to the left by Orion's right leg. It has 1 star in each ear, 1 on each front foot 1 in the chest and 1 on the belly.
- fol. 15r **CANIS MAIOR** (labelled: Canis maior; and in Greek) is a greyhound that leaps to the left with its tongue sticking out. It has 1 star on each ear, 1 on the head, 1 on the mouth, 2 on the neck, 3 on the back of the neck, 3 on the front legs, 1 on the groin, 4 in the tail and 1 on each back foot.
- fol. 15v **CANIS MINOR** (labelled: procyon id est canis minor quem canicula dicunt; and Procyon in Greek) is more hound-like and also bounds to the left, lifting its front paws and sticking its tongue out. It has a star on the head, 1 on the chest and 1 on the haunch, or 3 stars in all.
- fol. 16r **NAVIS** (labelled: Argo navis; and in Greek) is a foreshortened full ship sailing to the right. It has a square-rigged mainmast and a crow's nest and 2 steering oars and is set in the water. It is marked by stars, including 3 in the mast, 5 under the keel, 5 in one oar and 4 in the other and some on the hull.
- fol. 16v **CENTAURUS** (labelled: Centaurus; and in Greek) is a centaur with an equine body, who leaps to the left. His human half is wearing a close-fitting doublet with a fringed hem. He also has very wild hair. He holds **LUPUS** (a rabbit) by its heels in his extended right hand and holds his left hand by his side. He has no other attributes, but is marked by stars, including 3 in the hair, 1 on each shoulder, 4 in the chest, 1 in each hand, 2 in the belly, 1 on the flank, 1 in each hind knee, 1 in each hind foot and 3 on the tail. Lepus is also marked by stars.

- fol. 17r **ARA** (labelled: ARA; and in Greek) is a three-stepped square altar with a small flame on the top and 4 stars marked.
- fol. 17v **HYDRA** (labelled: Hydra Corvus et Crater; and in Greek) is a two-footed dragon that faces to the left, with a curl in its neck and a curl in its tail. Its wings are dotted and slightly flared. It has a beard and pointed ears and sticks his tongue out. There is a two-handled vase-shaped **CRATER** on his back and a small, dove-like **CORVUS**, facing forwards and standing on his wing. Hydra has several stars on the head, 5 in the neck, 3 in the body, 5 in the tail and 5 along the tip of the tail. Crater and Corvus also have stars.
- fol. 18r: **PISCIS AUSTRINUS** (labelled: Piscis austrinus; and in Greek) is a large fish that swims to the left. It has 12 stars marked.
- fol. 18v **ARIES** (labelled: Aries; and in Greek) is ‘intra triangulum’, walking to the left with its head turned back to the right and with short, curled horns. It is marked with stars, including, 1 on each horn, 1 on the head, 4 on the body, 1 on the belly and 1 on the right front foot and 1 on the right hind foot. **Triangulum** has 3 stars.
- [The folio with **TAURUS** and **GEMINI** is missing.]
- fol. 49r **CANCER** (labelled: CANCER; and in Greek) is a round-bodied crab, facing to the left with 2 large, segmented claws and 4 thin, curved legs on either side. It has 2 stars on the shell, 1 in front of the nose, 3 in the right claw, 2 in the left claw, 2 on the top legs and 6 on the bottom legs.
- fol. 19v **LEO** (labelled: Leo; and in Greek) walks to the right with his left front paw is raised. He is marked with stars, including 3 on the head, some along the mane, 2 on the chest, 1 on the left front leg, 1 on the left front paw, 2 on the belly, 2 on the right hind leg, 1 on the right hind heel, 1 on each hind paw and 2 or 3 in the tail.
- fol. 20v **VIRGO** (labelled: Virgo; and Parthenos in Greek) stands facing the viewer with large wings and dressed in a belted gown. She raises her left hand in front of her chest and raises her left arm, holding a plant with roots showing at the bottom. She is marked with stars, including 1 star in the head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each wing, 1 on each hand, 6 on her skirt and 1 on each foot.

- fol. 21r **SCORPIO** (labelled: Libra & Scorpius; and Scorpio in Greek) faces to the left with two large claws and 4 legs on either side. He has a thin, segmented tail. He holds the Scales in front of his face with his right claw. He is marked with stars, including 2 in each claw, at least 5 in the body, 5 in the tail and 2 at the end of the tail. There are no stars marked in the Scales.
- fol. 21v **SAGITTARIUS** (labelled: Sagittarius; and in Greek) is a centaur that rushes to the left. He holds the bow in his right hand and pulls the string with his right, aiming it above his head. He has wild hair, and wears a belted tunic on his human half with frayed edges. His tail is raised. He has stars, including 2 on his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each elbow, 1 on his human chest, 1 on each front knee, 2 on the bow, 1 on the arrow and 1 on the tail.
- fol. 22r **CAPRICORN** (labelled: Capricornus; and in Greek) faces to the left, with short horns and a curled tail that ends in a fan. It is marked with stars, including 1 star in the face, 1 on the neck, 1 on each front foot, 7 on the chest, 7 on the tail, and 2 at the end of the tail.
- fol. 22v **AQUARIUS** (labelled: Aquarius; and in Greek) is a nude male figure, who faces the viewer and walks to the left. Both his hands are outstretched to the sides and he holds the handle of an upside-down, water-pouring urn in his left hand. The man is marked by stars, including 2 in the head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 in each breast, 1 on the right side, 1 on each knee, 1 on the right shin, 1 on each foot and 1 on the left elbow. The urn and water have 16 stars.
- fol. 23r **PISCES** (labelled: Pisces; and in Greek) are shaped like versions of Delphinus, with pointed noses and crests on their heads. They swim in opposite direction and are placed belly-to-belly. Their mouths are connected by a stream. The top fish has no stars, but there is a circle of 7 stars behind its tail. The stream has 9 stars and the bottom fish has no stars
- fol. 23v A depiction of the Sun and the Moon
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notes

The presence of the Greek labels and glosses tie the ms to Padua 983. Part of a compilation of four works by Basinio.

bibliography

SAXL 1915, I, pp. 2-3; XV c, Italian

E. NARDUCCI, *Catalogo dei manoscritti ora posseduti da D. Baldassarre Boncompagni*, Rome 1892, no 203 (or 165), p. 68ff.

SOLDATI 1906, p. 84, n.1

Catalogi della Biblioteca Boncompagni (sale 27 Jan -12 Feb 1898), Rome 1898, p. 36, no.175: 112 c with many painted figures.

E. NARDUCCI, *Catalogo di manoscritti ora posseduti da D. Baldassarre Boncompagni*, Roma 1862, p. 168, n. 165.

Catalogo della Biblioteca Boncompagni. Parte I. Contenente: Manoscritti, Fac simili, Edizioni del secolo XV, Abbachi, Riviste che si venderanno alla pubblica auzione nei giorni 27 gennaio -12 febbraio 1898, Roma 1898, p. 37 n. 175; Parte I.

MORICCA CAPUTO 1949.

KRISTELLER 1963-1989, II, p. 104.

AURIGEMMA 1976a, p. 217 and *passim*.

FRIOLI 2006, p. 267.

MARIANI CANOVA 2004, p. 207.

CHISENA 2015, pp. 70-72.

Current numbering does not take account of the loss of a leaf between ff. 18 and 19; the ms from the collection of Baldassarre Boncompagni, by auction in Rome on 27 January and 12 February 1898.

BLUME/HAFFNER/METZGER 2016, II, 2, pp. 100 and 673-75.

199 x 130 mm, paper, humanist rotunda script; ff 1-84 and 84- 106 in two different hands; the quality is mixed; shows a special iconographic affinity to Oadua, Parma, Munich and Krakow mss;

consulted 1988