

## Vienna

### ÖNB

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#### Vindob 5442

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Michael Scot, *De signis et imaginibus*

German, mid-15th century (c. 1440)

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A combination of manuscripts containing Michael Scot, *De signis et imaginibus*, and a copy of the Alfonsine Tables, etc. The Scot texts include a section on the 12 signs of the zodiac in Latin and on the 36 extra-zodiacal constellations in Latin and German. There is a set of illustrations of the 36 extra-zodiacal constellations set between these two texts.

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#### texts:

ff. 1r-12v Haly aben Ragel, *Tractatus de iudiciis astrorum in sex libris*. (incomplete;  
14r-120v cf. ed. Ratdolt 1485, ff. 56r-108v)

Hic incipit nativitates et convenient in hac parte nutricio – et utilitatem habebit a parentibus vel hereditatibus.

Cf. ZINNER 1925, p. 602 and THORNDIKE/KIBRE 1963, col. 425, no. 13 and col. 812, no. 9.

ff. 13 r-v De nativitate Christi, placing the nativity of Christ at during the conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter, following Abu Maʿshar and ps-Ovid, *De vetula*.

Ovidius in 3<sup>o</sup> libro de vetula – inveniemus eos coniunctiones facere principio arietis.

fol. 121r-v Chapter index for Haly aben Ragel, *Tractatus de iudiciis astrorum in sex libris* and *Quadripartitem*, Latin transl. Johannes Hispalensis

Optimum registrum Haly abenragel...

Sequuntur capitula libri questionum Iohannis Hispalensis in quadripartito...

Sequuntur nunc elections etc ex libro elecctionum loannis in quadripartito ...

Liber interrogacionum ab Abraham ludeo... (the chapter-lists continues on fol. 252r)

ff. 122r-126r *De duodecim signis secundum Michaelem Scotum.*

Duodecim sunt signa. Signorum duodecim – (ends incompletely with Orion) per mare et veniens in enopam...

The text lacks the prognoses for the natives and the mention of the images.

ff. 126v-130r Pen drawings of the 36 extra-zodiacal constellations.

ff. 130v-132v *Imagines stellarum cum nominibus latinis et partim germanicis.*

Hie heben sich an die xxxvi bilde des hoen gestirneten hymels als sie geteylt sind in die zwolf zeichen und louffet ye das bilde in hundert Jahren umb eynen gradum und das diud die uberinge with und höde Ursa maior. Der große bere ist ym krebis XV gradus wer under dem großenn bere gebören würt – und oberwindet sine vinde gar vil dicke etc.

See ZINNER 1925, 10311. Labels in Latin and text in German. Cf. Wolfenbüttel, HAB, Cod. Guelf. 8.7. Aug. 4° and Karlsruhe, BLB, K 2790.

fol. 132v *De virtutibus lapidum sculptorum.*

[I]n quocumque lapidem sculptum inveneris arietem, leonem aut sagittarium – in tamen quod lapides portantur cum omni reverencia et mundicia. Explicit.

Cf. THORNDIKE/KIBRE 1963, col. 715, no. 8).

fol. 133r Table of astrolabe stars for Anno Domini 1394.

Iste stelle subscriptae fuerunt verificate Anno domini 1395.

See ZINNER 1925, 10231 and KUNITZSCH 1966, p. 54.

fol. 133v Johannes de Sacrobosco, *Tabulae stellarum fixarum.*

Hec est tabula stellarum fixarum que pununtur in astrolabio verificata per instrumentum armillarum Anno Christi 1242 ...

Cf. ZINNER 1925, 4658.

- ff. 134r-155r Tabula stellarum fixarum verificatae tempore illustrissimi Regis regis Alfonsii.
- Et Primo ponuntur stelle ymaginum que sunt in parte Septentrionali  
Deinde signorum ultimo que sunt in parte meridionali
- Cf. ZINNER 1925, 449.
- ff. 155v-157v blank
- ff. 158r-179v Iohannes Hispalensis, preface to *Isagoge in astrologiam*
- Zodiacus dividitur in 12 signa principaliter Signum in 30 gradus gradus in 60 minuta – nam libenter erit istis emptor, etc. Deo gratias amen. Explicit quadripartitum Johannis Hyspalensis.
- Cf. ZINNER 1925, 2250 and THORNDIKE/KIBRE 1963, col. 1714, No. 5.
- ff. 180r-186r Abraham Ibn Ezra, *Liber interrogationibus*.
- In nomine illius qui scit abscondita et aperta. Incipiam librum interrogationum. Et diviserunt se sapientes iudiciorum signorum in 2 societas – multum honorantur verba Phtolomei in libro .c. verborum de te et de illis. Item id radix magna. Explicit liber de interrogationibus editus ab Abraham iudeo quodam.
- Cf. ZINNER 1925, 183 and THORNDIKE/KIBRE 1963, Col. 697, no. 2.
- ff. 186r-192v Abraham Ibn Ezra, *Liber interrogationibus*.
- Incipit autem liber de interrogationibus ab alio editus Capita sapientum signore fuerunt 2. Dorotheus scilicet et Tphous et ambo fuerunt reges – et ipsi sunt omnes secundum computationem annorum minorem. Explicit liber questionum. Laus deo et oratio amen.
- Cf. ZINNER 1925, 129 and THORNDIKE/KIBRE 1963, col. 187, nos. 8 and 9 = the translation by Arnulphus de Quinquempoit).
- ff. 192v-198v Abraham Ibn Ezra (Abraham additor), *De electionibus*
- Incipiam libre electionum communes sunt semper gradatim succedentes – et quod dominus hore sit in bono loco respect ascendentis. Explicit liber ead electionum Abraham, etc.
- Cf. ZINNER 1925, 176 and THORNDIKE/KIBRE 1963, col. 722, no. 8).
- ff. 198v-203v Abraham Ibn Ezra, *Alias liber electionum ab Abraham Avenzre bonus etc. etc.*

Sapientes legis sustinent quod homo habet posse faciendi bonum et malum – prepara locum Veneris vel prepara locum Iovis ita antique, etc. etc. dixerunt antique. Explicit liber electionum.

Cf. ZINNER 1925, 13 and THORNDIKE/KIBRE 1963, col. 1378, no. 4).

ff. 203v-217v Abraham ibn Ezra (Abraham Additor), *Liber de nativitatibus*.

Sequitur autem liber de nativitatibus, etc. etc. etc. In nomine illius qui scit res futuras Incipiam librum nativitatum. Dicit Abraham additor Oportet me loqui secundum vias communem – Iudicia nativitatum Laus nomini illius cuius sunt bonitates etc. etc. deo gratias amen. Amen.

Cf. ZINNER 1925, 13 and THORNDIKE/KIBRE 1963, col. 697, no. 3)

ff. 217v-218r Two independent chapters of the above text: 1) Et si vis scire quolibet anno gradum rectitudinis... and 2) Explanat ad acrescendum super diem nativitatis....

Cf. ZINNER 1925, 3304 and THORNDIKE/KIBRE 1963, col. 525, no. 6.

ff. 218r-220v Abraham ibn Ezra, *De revolutionibus*

Liber suus de revolutionibus [later hand add: annorum nati]. In nomine illius cuius nomen est admirabile. Incipiam librum revolutionum. Cum sol revertitur ad gradum et ad minutum – Et deus qui docet et hominem scire intellectum faciet mihi iter in itinere recto. Amen.

Cf. ZINNER 1925, 174 and THORNDIKE/KIBRE 1963, col. 696, no. 12 and col. 343, no. 10.

ff. 221-223v Excerptum quaedam ex libro iudiciorum Abraham.

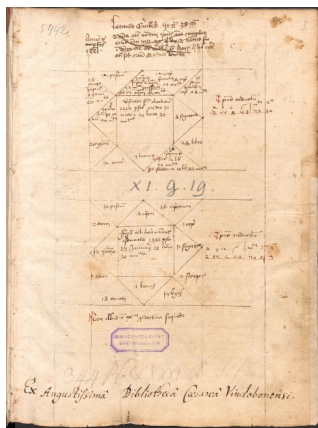
Hec est nativitates [!] quedam ad instruendum te in aliis nativitatibus et est de iudiciis Abraham. Domus prima vero Mercurius est in domo sua et est domus honoris – quia manus sua semper erit superior in aliquo aude curare, etc. Explicit, etc.

Cf. ZINNER 1925, 179 and THORNDIKE/KIBRE 1963, col. 467, no. 6.

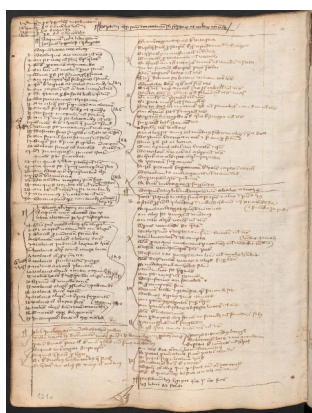
ff. 223v-224v Abraham ibn Ezra, *De Nativitatibus*. An excerpt and concerning those born under Aries, Taurus and Gemini.

Quicumque nascuntur in capite arietis que pars dicitur syriaci alnaich – Oculi mutabuntur sepeliet parentes irascitur parentibus.

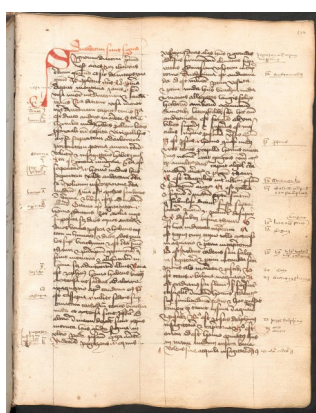
- Cf. ZINNER 1925, 3355 and THORNDIKE/KIBRE 1963, col. 1237, no. 8).
- ff. 224v-244v Omar Tiberiadis, *De nativitatibus* (Latin translation by Johannes Hispalensis).
- Dixit omorben alfra[ ]gani genu tyberiadis. Scito quod diffinitiones nativitatum in Alfragani Tyberiadis in nutricione sint quatuor – primus gradus arietis et divisor lupiter perfectus est liber universus Omar bein Gan Tibriadis cum laude dei et eius auxilio quem transtulit magister Iohannes Hispalensis atque Limiensis de arabico in latine. Amen deo gracias.
- Cf. ZINNER 1925, 7402 and THORNDIKE/KIBRE 1963, col. 455, no. 11 with reference to col. 1409, no. 4).
- fol. 245r-248v Two independent chapters (102 and 103) of an unspecified astrological work.
- Capitulum 102 in temporibus in quibus habetur quod petitiones compleantur. Scias quod in determinando tempora rerum sunt diversitates – et quando applicuerit (*sic* = apparuerit) ad medium celi tunc erit res illa, etc.
- Cf. ZINNER 1925, 10050 and SAXL 1927, p. 159
- fol. 248v-249r *Excerpta astrologica. De tabula proportionis; De electionibus, etc.*
- Cf. ZINNER 1925, 10050 and SAXL 1927, p. 159.
- fol. 249v An alchemical recipe.
- ff. 250r-251v blank
- fol. 252r Chapter lists for fol. 192v ff. Continuation of the directories from fol. 121r-v.
- Incipitur Eleccio Abraham additoris. Incipit liber eleccionum Abraham avenzere bonus...
- fol. 252v *Remedia contra scabiem et lippitudinem.* Medical prescriptions against rash and inflamed eyes.
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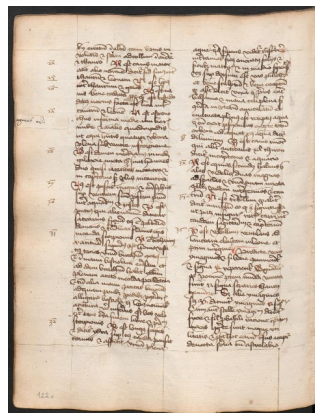
fol. i r



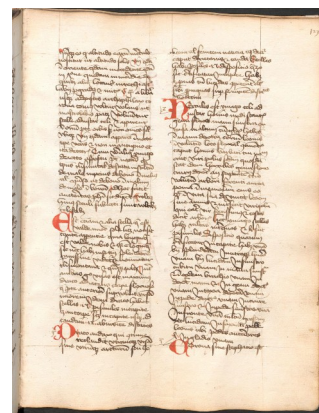
ff. 121v



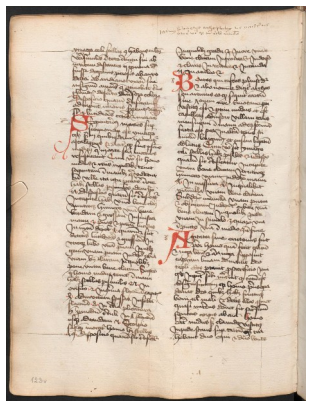
122r



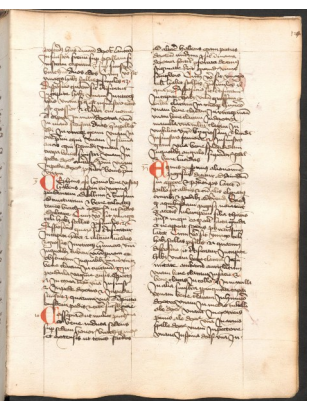
122v



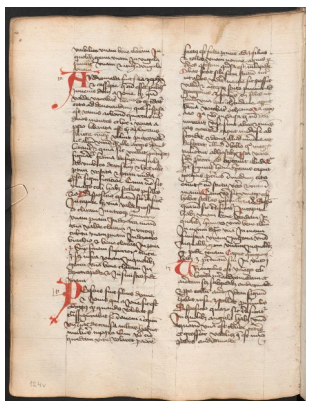
123r



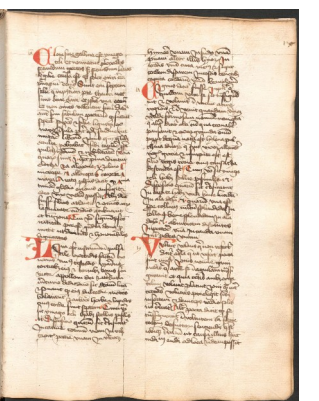
ff. 123v



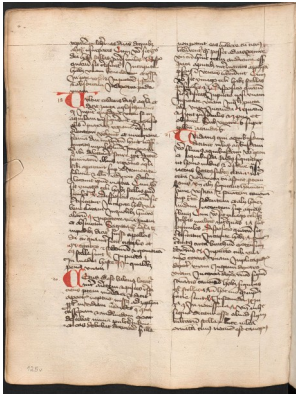
124r



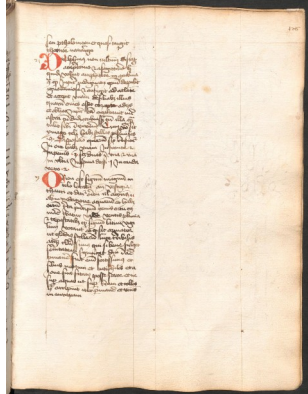
124v



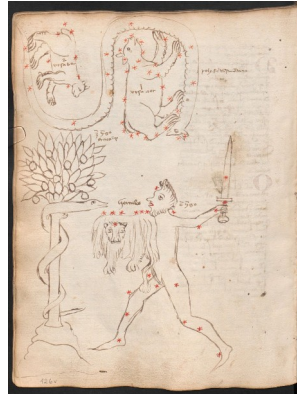
125r



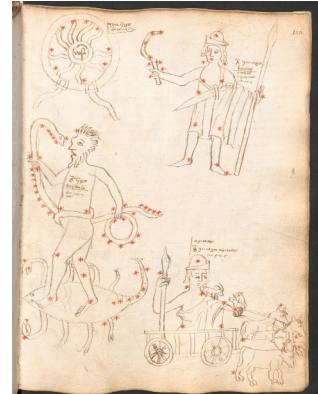
ff. 125v



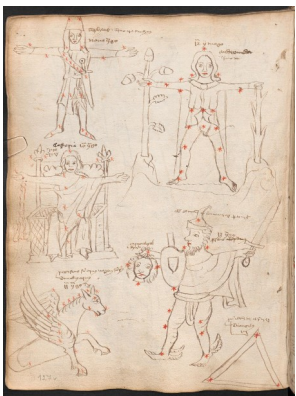
126r



126v



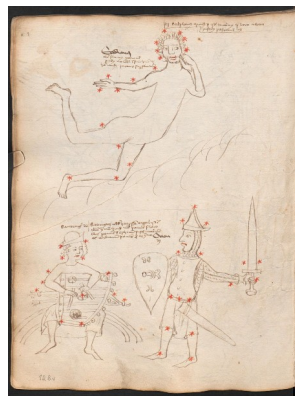
127r



ff. 127v



128r



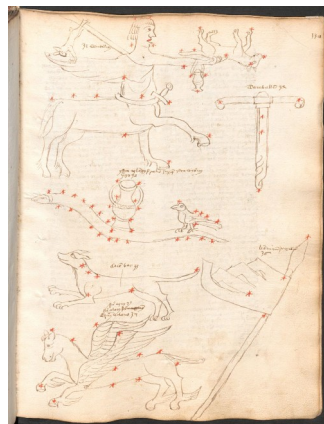
128v



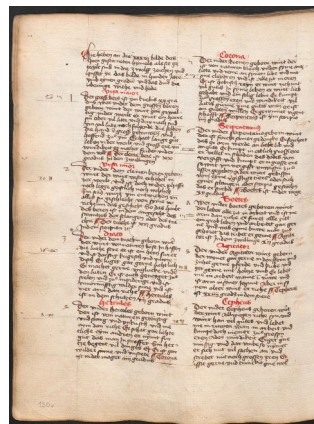
129r



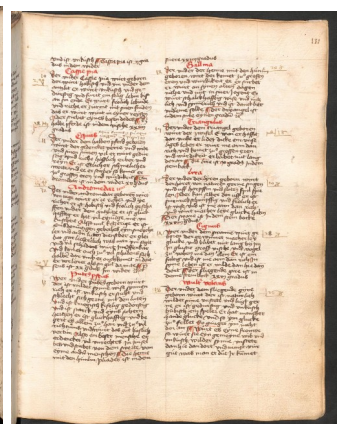
ff. 129v



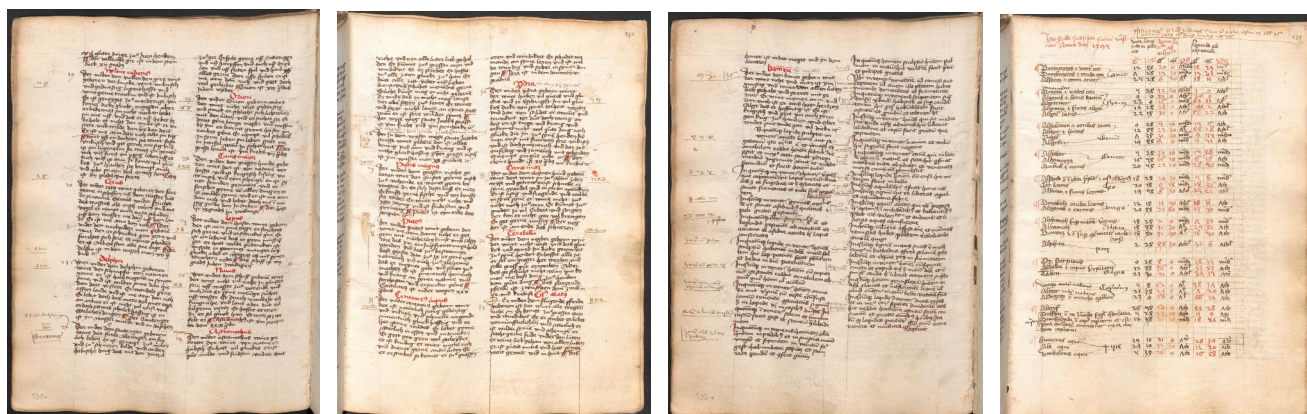
130r



130v



131r



ff. 131v

132r

132v

133r

fol. i r-v Two horoscopic charts set for the year 1441, with the heading: *Nota, illud est exemplum pro doctrina sequenti*. They are calculated for the geographical latitude of 'Embek' / 'Embeck'. On Fol. i v, the owner of the book who inserted these diagrams says he found the latitude for this location in another book. See SAXL 1927, p. 155 and ZINNER 1925, 3206.

ff. 126v-130r Pen drawings of the 36 extra-zodiacal constellations in sepia ink, with labels and occasional notations. The stars are marked by red asterisks.

fol. 126v *DRACO INTER ARCTOS* is set horizontally on the page, with the snakelike body of **DRACO** forming an S and its head towards the right. The Bears face into the body of DRACO, with **URSA MAIOR** being larger and towards the head, and **URSA MINOR** smaller and standing on the tail. DRACO has 2 circlets in his head, 9 in the body. URSA MAIOR has 25 stars and URSA MINOR has 7 stars. There is a note concerning the position of the North Pole above the head of Draco.

**HERCULES** is depicted in the Garden of Hesperides with a snake climbing a tree to the left. He is nude and walks to the left, facing the viewer. He holds the lion's skin (with face, 4 paws and tail visible) over his extended right arm and holds a straight sword above his head with his left hand. He has 22 stars in all.



fol. 127r **CORONA BOREALIS** is a wheel-shape set withing a wreath with 2 ribbons at the bottom. 'rosa' is written in the centre. It has 9 stars.

**OPHIUCHUS** (labelled Serpentarius) is a nude male, with his back to the viewer and he faces to the left, with the **SERPENS** wrapped once around his waist and with its head to the left, turning to have the man. Its tail also curls around his right hand. Ophiuchus stands with both feet on the back of a **SCORPIO**, facing to the left with 2 curved pincers in front and 3 claws on each side. Ophiuchus has 16 stars. Serpens has 25 stars. Scorpio has 13 stars in all.

**BOOTES** (labelled Boetes) stands facing the viewer, dressed in a mid-calf *tunica exomis*, which leaves his right arm and shoulder exposed. He wears a wide-brimmed hat on his head and holds a sickle upraised in his right hand, a long straight spear upright in his left hand and he wears a long, straight sword at his chest. He has 20 stars in all.

**AURIGA** (labelled Agitator) facing the viewer in an open-slatted wooden cart that is drawn by two horses, set alongside 2 oxen. He is dressed in a *tunica exomis* that exposes his right arm and shoulder and has a hat on his head. He holds a spear vertically in his right hand. On his left shoulder, there is a small goat and there are two additional goats (without horns) standing on his outstretched left forearm. He holds the reins on his left hand. He has 13 stars in all.

fol. 127v **CEPHEUS** stands facing the viewer with his arms outstretched to the sides. He has a conical cap with ear flaps on his head and a straight sword attached to his hip. He wears a money bag at his waist. He has 23 stars.

**CASSIOPEIA** is seated in a high-backed throne. Her mantle exposes her right breast. Her arms are extended to either side and there is blood flowing from her right hand. She has 12 stars.

**PEGASUS** is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a winged horse that flies to the right. He has 19 stars.

**ANDROMEDA** wears a short robe with long, tight sleeves. The skirt of the dress is open to expose her male genitals. She hangs, tied by her wrists to a tree at either side so that her feet dangle in the air. Her hair is exposed and the trees are set upon rocks. She has 19 stars in all.

**PERSEUS** is nude and walks to the left. He has wings on his feet, a pointed cap on his head and he has a shaped shield on his right shoulder. He holds a severed female head (Caput Medusa) in his left hand and a straight sword in his upraised right hand. He has 10 stars and the Gorgon's Head has 4 stars and is labelled Caput Algol id est dyaboli.

**TRIANGULUM** (labelled Triangulus) is an equilateral triangle with 3 stars marked.

fol. 128r

The **PLEIADES** are depicted as 7 women set in two rows, with 4 on the top and 3 on the bottom. They each have a star on her head (with some cut off by the top of the page). Note that the label here mentions the alternative names of Gallina and Pullus.

**LYRA** is a 'U'-shaped instrument with a cross-bar at the top. There are 11 stars.

**CYGNUS** stands to the right, with its wings extended backwards. It has a long swan's neck and webbed feet. It has 15 stars in all.

**VULTUR CADENS** stands on **SAGITTA** to the right, with its head turned to back and with its wings outstretched. It has 6 stars. Sagitta has 3 stars, but one might be hidden in the fold of the page.

**VULTUR VOLANS** is depicted as the eagle with a bearded, older man (Jupiter) on its back. It stands on **SAGITTA** and faces to the right. Aquila has 5 stars and **SAGITTA** has 3 stars

**CETUS** is depicted as a large fish swimming to the left. It has 14 stars and is also labelled as Balena.

fol. 128v **ERIDANUS** (labelled Eridanus with a note also including Fluvius) is depicted as a male youth lying above a stylised river. He holds his left hand to his chin and holds his right arm out behind his back. He has 17 stars in all.

**FIGURA SONANTIS CANONI'** is a seated male figure in a long robe with a soft hat on his head. He sits on a curved bench and plays a stylised psaltery with two plectrum sticks. It has 13 stars.

**ORION** walks towards the left. He is dressed in armour and triangular helmet. He holds an ovate shield in front of him with his left hand and raises a sword above vertically behind him with his right hand. He also has a long scabbard strapped to his left hip. He has 16 stars.

fol. 129r **CANIS MAIOR** walks to the left with his right front paw raised and his tongue sticking out. He has 15 stars.

**LEPUS** leaps to the left and has 7 stars.

**DELPHINUS** (labelled Cetus) is a slim fish that swims to the left. It has no stars marked.

**NAVIS** is depicted as half a ship set in water with its cut-off at the right. It has a single mast, with rigging stretching to the deck, 3 side oars and 2 steering oars. It has 20 stars.

**AUSTRONOTUS** (labelled Astronothus) is depicted as a female figure that is half-human and half-cow (note cloven feet), but with a serpentine tail. She has prominent breasts on her human half, and 4 full dugs along her animal body. She holds her hands out to the sides. She has 15 stars.

(There is the beginning of a drawing of the demon from Galaxia at the bottom right of the page.)

fol. 129v **GALAXIA** (labelled Demon meridianus) is depicted as two figures: 1) a female (?) figure to the left, wearing a mantle over her head, and staring to the left with a melancholic expression; 2) and a demonic male figure wearing a toga that seems to fly to the right (his posture somewhat reminiscent of Eridanus's); he holds a the left half of a large mandorla in both his hands in front of him that is marked with 16 stars.

**PISCIS AUSTRINUS** (labelled Piscis magnus) is depicted as a large upside-down fish with its head to the left. It has a smaller fish (with its back upwards, riding on the larger fish's belly. The larger fish has 11 stars.

**ARA** (labelled Puteus and Sacrarium) is a cylindrical altar set on 4 steps with flames coming out of the top. There are 4 demons flying around it. There 5 stars in the flames.

fol. 130r **CENTAURUS** is a centaur that trots to the right, with his right foreleg extended. He has a cape on his shoulders and a sword at his waist He holds his only visible hand, palm upwards, extended in front of him. The **LUPUS** (a dog) rests on his palm, with its feet pointing upwards. A censer hangs from the wrist. He holds a stick over the other shoulder and there is a rabbit tied by its heels to the end of the stick. Centaurus has 18 stars and Lupus has 7 stars.

**HYDRA** is depicted as a long snake that slithers to the left. A two-handed **CRATER** is placed on his back and a forward-facing **CORVUS** on its tail. Hydra has 18 stars, Crater has 10, and Corvus has 6stars.

**CANIS MINOR** (labelled Canis prior) is a sleek hound that races to the left. It has 5 stars in all.

**EQUUS SECUNDUS** (also labelled alatus) is a full winged horse with wings on each of its 4 feet, running to the left. It has 12 stars marked.

**TARABELLUM** is an awl with 5 stars.

**VEXILLUM** is a flag ending in 4 strips. There are 4 stars marked.

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## notes

28, 0 x 20.3 cm, paper (watermark: Piccard, Ochsenkopf I, 901). The *ex libris* of the geographer and astronomer Johannes Schöner von Carlstadt (cf: ZINNER 1934, pp. 99-103) proves that the manuscript was later in his possession.

BLUME/HAFFNER/METZGER 2016, II, 1, pp. 268-69 note that the watermark locates the paper to southern Germany (Cologne, Aschaffenburg, Nördlingen and Feuchtwangen and suggest that the reference to 'Embek/Embeck' might indicate Einbeck in lower Saxony. The date of 1441 indicates a *terminus post quem* for the manuscript. They posit a Middle Rhein or Franconian origin.

They also note that the iconography of the constellations contains details that can be associated with both the Bohemian and Italian traditions and cite the closest pictorial parallels with Padua 48 (Italian) and Vienna 2378 (Bohemian), with some additional resemblances to Prague XXVI A 3. This amalgam reflects the wide-ranging scholarly contents of the rest of the manuscript and suggests that its original owner may have been one of the highly-mobile itinerant academics of the period, who had access to a wide range of sources.

SAXL 1927, pp. 155-59 suggests Italy and UNTERKIRCHER 1957, p. 106 suggests Vienna as possible homes for the text.

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## bibliography

*Tabulae codicum manu scriptorum ... in Bibliotheca Palatina Vindobonensis asservatorum*, 1870, II 1870, p. 125

ZINNER 1925, no. 9480b

SAXL 1927, pp. 155-159.

BAUER 1983, pp. 8, 11, 44, 52, 67, 69, 71, 74, 76f.

EDWARDS 1985, p. 332, n. 12.

UNTERKIRCHNER 1957, p. 106.

AL SAMMAN/MAZAL 1988, pp. 302ff.

LIPPINCOTT 1993, p. 45, note 20.

BLUME/HAFFNER/METZGER 2016, II, 1, pp. 268-69 and figs. 191-93.

ACKERMANN 2019, pp. 549-53.

mid-15th C; German of Bohemian, with complete table of contents.

The ms is fully digitised in colour on the ÖNB website.

contents from ÖNB catalogue: [https://manuscripta.at/hs\\_detail.php?ID=13569](https://manuscripta.at/hs_detail.php?ID=13569)

Eastern middle Germany; owned by Johannes Schöner (1477-1547); Fuggerbibliothek

*Nativitates quaedam et notabilia astrologica*

- (Nr. 1) Haly ben Nargelis: *Tractatus de iudiciis astrorum in sex libris.*
- (Nr. 2) Haly ben Nargelis: *Tractatus de iudiciis astrorum in sex libris: Index.*
- (Nr. 3) *Descriptio 36 stellarum maiorum.*
- (Nr. 4) *Imagines stellarum cum nominibus latinis et partim germanicis. (lat./dt.).*
- (Nr. 5) *Tractatus de influxu stellarum (germanice).*
- (Nr. 6) *De virtutibus lapidum sculptorum.*
- (Nr. 7) *Tabulae stellarum fixarum verificatae tempore regis Alfonsi.*
- (Nr. 8) Iohannes Hispalensis: *Opus quadripartitum de iudiciis astrorum.*
- (Nr. 9) Abraham Ibn Esra\_☞: *Liber interrogationum.*
- (Nr. 10) *'Liber de interrogationibus' scilicet astrologicis.*
- (Nr. 11) Abraham Ibn Esra\_☞: *Liber de electionibus.*
- (Nr. 12) Abraham Ibn Esra\_☞: *Liber electionum.*
- (Nr. 13) Abraham Ibn Esra\_☞: *Liber de nativitatibus.*
- (Nr. 14) Abraham Ibn Esra\_☞: *Liber de revolutionibus annorum nati.*
- (Nr. 15) *Nativitas quaedam exempli causa propositum et declaratum.*
- (Nr. 16) Alphraganus, Omar: *De nativitatibus libri tres.*
- (Nr. 17) *Notabilia astrologica.*
- (Nr. 18) *Receptum alchimicum.*
- (Nr. 19) *Notabilia mathematica et astronomica etc.*

(Nr. 20) *Remedia contra scabiem et lippitudinem.*

(Nr. 21) *Notabilia astrologica.*