

Munich

Bayerische Staatsbibliothek

clm 826

**** Abraham ibn Ezra, *Liber introductorius in iudicia astrorum***

Sufi latinus

with other texts and diagrams

Bohemia (Prague - made for King Wenzel of Bohemia), c. 1400-1419

texts

ff. 11va- 27rc Abraham ibn Ezra, *Liber introductorius in iudicia astrorum* (a.k.a: *Principium sapientiae* = the Pietro d'Abano Latin transl. from the Hebrew original). See THORNDIKE/ KIBRE 1963, col. 309, no. 11; ed. TATARZYSK 1998 and FEDERICI VESCOVINI 1998.

inc: Cum initium sapientiae dei timor –

ff. 27va and 33vb *Albumasar in Sadan* (a.k.a.: *Excerpta de secretis Albumasaris*). See L. THORNDIKE, 'Albumasar in Sadan', *Isis*, XLV, 1954, pp. 22-32).

inc: Dixit Sadan. Audivi Albumasar dicentem quod omnis vita –

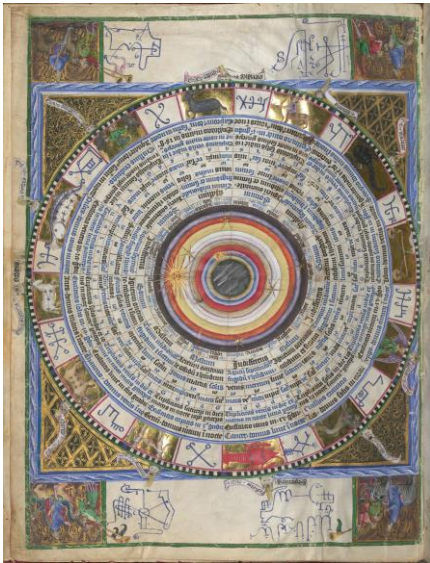
ff. 34r-41v *Sufi latinus* (Gerard of Cremona transl.. See KUNITZSCH 1886 and KUNITZSCH 1990.

[S]telle formarum Septemtrio – (ends incompletely with Pegasus) ... inuinta quinque

ff. 46r-53v *Liber novem iudicum in iudiciis astrorum* (fragments)

... tunie et equitatis et his similis causa – de carta sive epistola aomar [= Omar Tiberides]

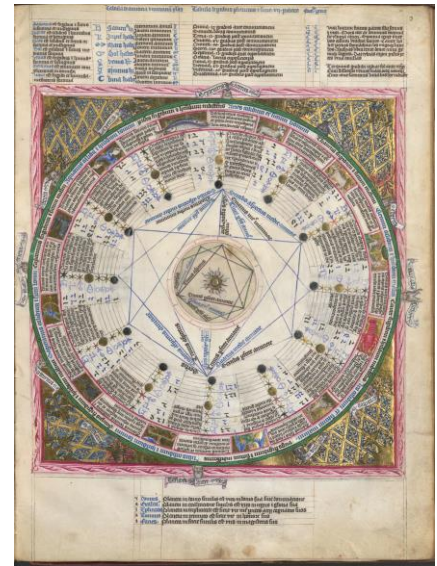
illustrations



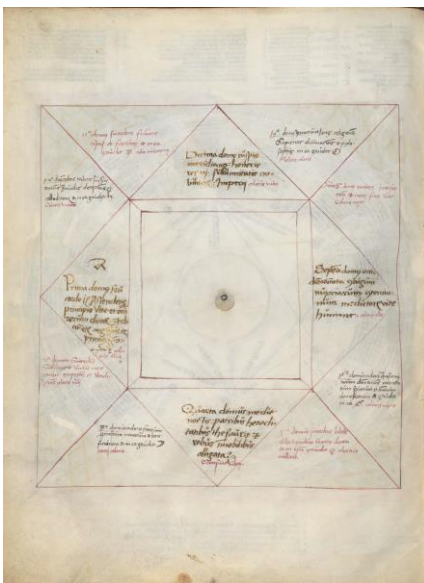
fol. 1v



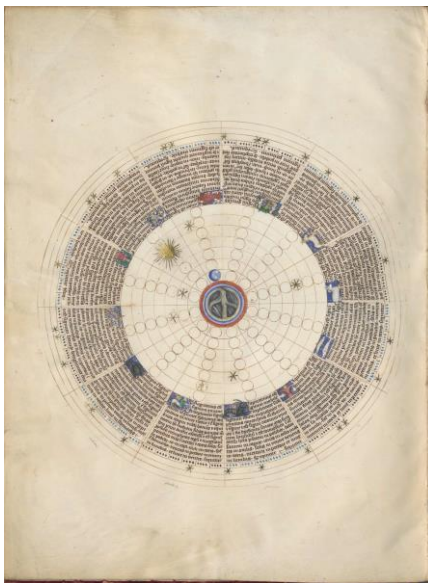
fol. 2r



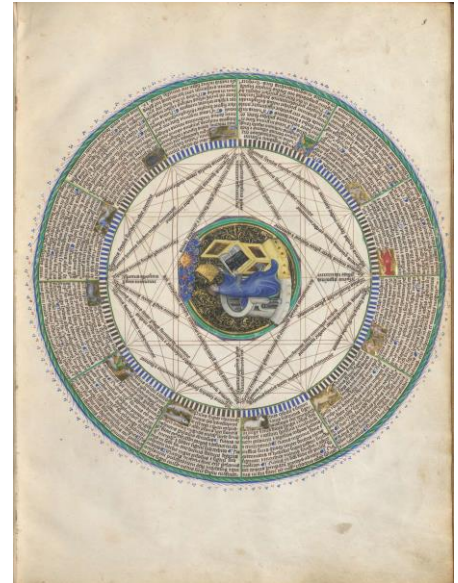
fol. 3r



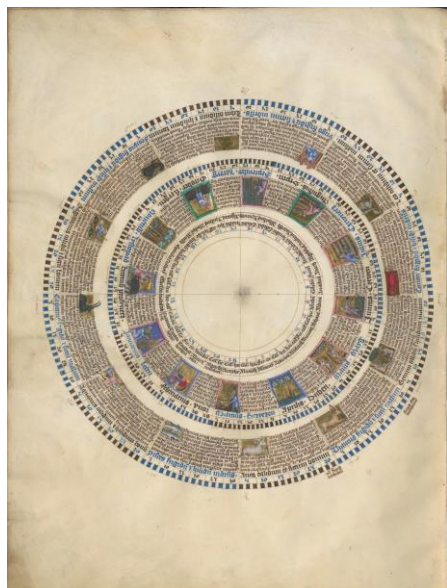
fol. 3v



fol. 7v



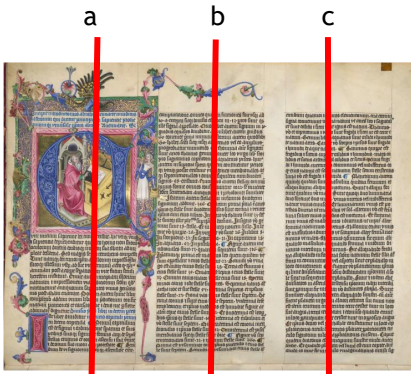
fol. 8r



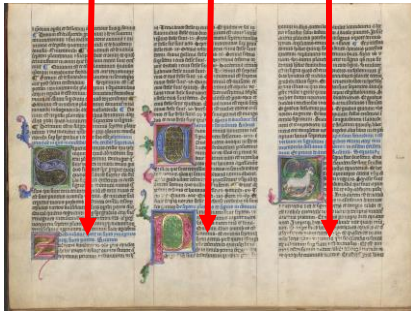
fol. 9v

n.b.: for the illustrations and descriptions of the illustrations in Abraham ibn Ezra's *Principium sapientiae* and the *Albumasar in Sadan*, see the entry under [Medieval and Renaissance Texts/Abraham ibn Ezra](#).

n.b.: the three-column format of the text and inserted illustrations of the *Principium sapientiae* has been rotated 90° anti-clockwise so that the text runs 'horizontally' across the bi-folio openings. This can make it difficult for the modern reader to follow the order of the text if it is read folio-by-folio and can lead to the impression that the order of the illustrations of the decans and *parantellonta* are regularly out of order. To help the reader, the images have been rearranged so that the decans of each sign are presented together.



fol. 11v



fol. 11r bis



fol. 11v a



fol. 11r bis c - Aries



fol. 11v bis



fol. 12r



fol. 11v bis a - Aries I



fol. 12r a - Aries II



fol. 12r a - Aries III



fol. 12r b - Taurus



fol. 11v bis c - Taurus I



fol. 12r c - Taurus II



fol. 12r c - Taurus III



fol. 12v



fol. 13r



fol. 13r a - Gemini



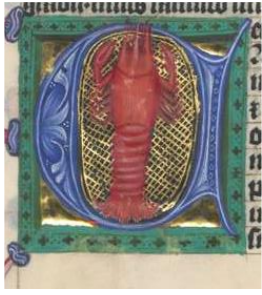
fol. 12v b - Gemini I



fol. 13r b - Gemini II



fol. 13r b - Gemini II



fol. 13r c - Cancer



fol. 13v



fol. 14r



fol. 13v a - Cancer I



fol. 14r a - Cancer II



fol. 14r a - Cancer III



fol. 13v c - Leo



fol. 13v c - Leo I



fol. 14r c - Leo II



fol. 14r c - Leo III



fol. 14v



fol. 15r



fol. 15r a - Virgo



fol. 14v b - Virgo I



fol. 15r b - Virgo II



fol. 15r b - Virgo III



fol. 15r c - Libra



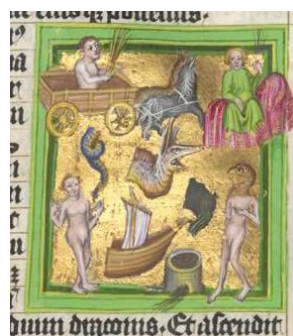
fol. 15v



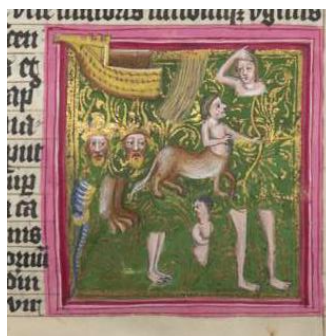
fol. 16r



fol. 15v a - Libra I



fol. 15v a - Libra II



fol. 15v a - Libra III



fol. 15v b - Scorpio



fol. 16r b - Scorpio I



fol. 16r b - Scorpio II



fol. 15v c - Scorpio III



fol. 16v



fol. 17r



fol. 16v a - Sagittarius



fol. 16v a - Sagittarius I



fol. 17r a - Sagittarius II



fol. 17a - Sagittarius III



fol. 17r b - Capricorn



fol. 16v c - Capricorn I



fol. 16v c - Capricorn II



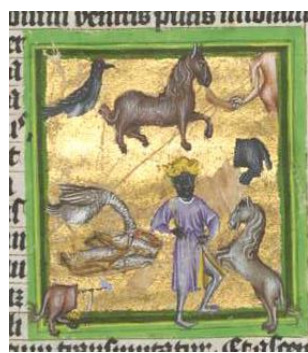
fol. 17r a - Capricorn III



fol. 17v



fol. 17v b - Aquarius II



fol. 17v b - Aquarius III



fol. 17v c - Pisces



fol. 22r - Mercury



fol. 22r - Luna



fol. 22v - Venus



fol. 23r - Jupiter



fol. 23r - Mars



fol. 23r - Sol



fol. 23v



fol. 25v



fol. 25va - Aquarius



fol. 25v a - Aquarius I



fol. 25v c - Pisces I



fol. 25v c - Pisces II



fol. 25v c - Pisces III



fol. 27v



descriptions of the rotae and diagrams:

fol. 1r	blank
fol. 1v	astrological rota centred on the Earth with the elements and planetary orbs surrounding it; descriptions of the characters of the people born under the 12 signs of the zodiac and their decans; then a band of alternating astrological glyphs and zodiacal signs, bounded by a graduated scale. There are magical glyphs at the top and the bottom of the page, depictions of kings with trumpeters in each corner and banderols with the names of the 12 winds. The image is currently bound upside-down.
fol. 2r	astrological rota with the terrestrial climes in the middle (uninhabited extremes are painted black), surrounded by scenes containing images of the 12 zodiac signs; then each sign divided into three decans with planetary rulers indicated by glyphs and then the facies (<i>fines</i>); on the outer band with planetary glyphs and bounded by a graduated scale. Below the rota, there is a label: <i>Hic sunt decani et fines planetarum secundum Julium Firmicum</i> . See BOLL 1903, p. 421f., n. 3.
fol. 2v	blank
fol. 3r	astrological rota with schema of different aspects centred on a small rotating volvelle. These are surrounded by sections of texts providing information about 'falling stars' (<i>quando aliqua stella cadit ab ariete...</i>) and a series of zodiac images with descriptions of the planets that have their Domus in each, etc. See BOLL 1903, p. 422, note 3.
fol. 3v	square astrological diagram showing the qualities of the 12 heavenly houses, with a note added by a previous owner of the manuscript, the Nuremberg patrician Wilhelm IV Haller. See CERMANN 2014, p. 134f. and p. 147, fig. 19.
ff. 4r-7r	blank (ff. 4r and 5r have scored sets of concentric circles for rotae that were not completed).
fol. 7v	astrological rota centred on the earth, surrounded by 12 zodiac signs and text describing their properties. See BOLL 1903, p. 422, n. 3.
fol. 8r	astrological rota centred on an astronomer (<i>Tyrzycccko</i> = Teukros?) using a quadrant. The book in front of him bears an inscription: <i>respice super quard [sic] solem</i> . He is surrounded by sets of aspects amongst the 12 zodiac signs and descriptions of their influences.
ff.8v-9r	blank
fol. 9v	astrological rota with a list of the 28 lunar mansions, surrounded by images and descriptions of the occupations of the months (giving both Latin and Arabic names). The outermost ring contains a set of the 12 zodiac signs and explanations of their roles as planetary houses.
fol. 11v	Author portrait of Abraham ibn Ezra seated at a desk with a golden astrolabe (?) and a golden quadrant

n.b.: as mentioned above, the three-column format of the text and inserted illustrations of the *Principium sapientiae* have been rotated 90° anticlockwise so that the columns of text run ‘horizontally’ across the bi-folio openings. This can make it difficult for the modern reader to follow the order of the text if it is read folio-by-folio and can lead to the impression that the order of the illustrations of the decans and *parantellonta* are regularly out of order. To help the reader, the following lists runs according to the bi-folio openings and column references (a, b, c) have been added.

There is also a mis-binding of ff. 18-25. Metzger notes that annotations on ff. 17v-18r show that this occurred sometime prior to 1500. See METZGER in BLUME/HAFFNER/METZGER 2016, II, 1, p. 362.

- fol. 11r bis c **Aries**, walking to the right.
- fol. 11v bis a images relating to **Aries, Decan I**: a standing female figure dressed in a blue robe with a pink and green mantle who holds plants in her upraised hands; the front section of a bull; a dog-headed man dressed in green and holding a key; a standing black-skinned man dressed in a pink robe covered by a white mantle; an astronomical quadrant (?); a decorated desk with the trunk, bottom and thighs of a nude figure; a fish; half a ship with a sail; a fish with a long, curled tail.
- fol. 12r a images relating to **Aries, Decan II**: a silver fish with a pointed snout; a standing female figure dressed in violet, combing her hair, standing next to a seated woman dressed in white (both are accompanied by 2 devils’ heads and three triangular shapes); a standing woman dressed in green with a white mantle; a grey horse; a ram’s head; a fish head; a dragon/porcupine’s head (?); the top half of a nude figure.
- images relating to **Aries, Decan III**: a man dressed in green and seated within a high-backed seat looking upwards; a small figure in red appears to be kneeling at his feet; the front half of an eel/snake; a fish head; the back half of a fish; part of a triangle; a man dressed in red standing in front of a building which has flames inside; a bellows; two men hammering on an anvil; a standing man who holds a club in his righthand.
- fol. 12r b **Taurus** is a brown bull climbing a rocky outcrop to the right.
- fol. 11v bis c images relating to **Taurus, Decan I**: a man with sword and club with two burning candles on his shoulders; a sailing boat with man and lion in it and a female corpse beneath; a woman standing next to naked boy, with a folded cloth above the boy and a white tunic beneath her; a standing bearded man grasping his genitals; a satyr (?) holding a devil’s head in his right hand; a section of a river.
- fol. 12r c images relating to **Taurus, Decan II**: a boat containing a naked man holding a key; half of a nude woman; a ram with a human head; a standing woman with plants in her upraised hands; a standing man with a bird’s foot and a devil’s head in his hands; two forearms and hands; a female centaur (with oxen feet); oxen with a wheeled plough; a man sowing seeds; a segment of a river.
- images relating to **Decan III Taurus**: sheep with a dog’s head; a standing man holding a snake; a naked man in a horse-drawn cart gesturing towards a bearded man in front of him; a leaping dog, a hybrid creature with a human torso and

front legs; a rearing horse; a human leg; two hands holding clubs; the hind half of a cow; an arm; a segment of a river (?).

- fol. 12v b images relating to **Gemini, Decan I**: a sheep with a dog's head; a standing man with plants in both hands, a man with a staff in a horse-drawn cart; a rabbit's head; a snake's head; a raven; a standing girl with a lyre (?) and devil's face in her hands; an armoured knight in front of some trees, drawing his bow and with hunting bag on his hip; a wolf; a snake; a wreath (?); a man with psaltery; a human leg; the hindquarters of a rabbit; two arms; the hindquarters of a dog; a human head.
- fol. 13r a **Gemini** are two nude youths standing facing each other.
- fol. 13r b images relating to **Gemini, Decan II**: a standing man with psaltery, a snake coiled around a tree; a leaping wolf; an armoured man with sword; a tree; two arms and hands; the hind part of bull; a belt; two knees; two feet; the hind part of a dog.
- images relating to **Gemini, Decan III**: a standing man in short robe and wearing a mitre on his head; a viol; a white cloth; the front part of bear; a dog; a raven; a lute; a harp; a leg; a tree; a fish; a standing man with pointed white hat; a bow and arrow and game bag; the right half of a naked child; a hare; the rear part of a quadruped; half of a ship with mast and sail.
- Fol. 13r c **Cancer** is a red crayfish placed vertically on the page.
- fol. 13v a images relating to **Cancer, Decan I**: the middle section of a bear; a standing woman in voluminous mantle; the front section of dog; a bristly wild boar with woman's head in its mouth; half a ship with a sail; a standing, gesticulating man; a hybrid creature with the front section of a horse, a human head and rear section of an elephant; two bears's legs; Siamese twin heads; a jumping dog.
- fol. 14r a images relating to **Cancer, Decan II**: a woman standing and gesturing; the front half of a dog; a donkey's head; half a ship; the head and neck of a bear; a crowned woman standing; a bull's rump.
- Images relating to **Cancer, Decan III**: a sun with a face; a standing older woman, gesturing; the bottom $\frac{3}{4}$ of a nude male; a donkey's head; a second sun with a face on it; a young boy holding a snake; a bearded man's head; a ship with a sail; two horns; a right arm; the hindquarters of a bear.
- fol. 13v c **Leo** a full-maned lion crouching to the right, with his tail rising between his legs.
- images relating to **Leo, Decan I**: a bow; a bear rising up vertically; half a ship; a sailing boat; a dog; a snake's head; a pink fish tail; a lion's head; two donkey heads; a raven; a dog; a bear's head; a tree; a standing bearded, pointing man; a human head; half a ship with sail.
- fol. 14r c images relating to **Leo, Decan II**: a girl dressed in blue with raised arms; a lidded goblet; a set of deer antlers with a viol between them; half a ship with a sail; two barrels on the back of the front half of a donkey; an eye; the front half of a horse; a standing crowned man with bow and arrow; two sets of bear paws; a lion's head; a boat; the right half of a naked human.

- images relating to **Leo, Decan III**: a four-wheeled cart being pulled by man with naked child and man holding cloth inside it; the right side of a naked man; a raven; a snake's head; two hind halves of cattle; a standing, black-skinned man holding something in his right hand; a rearing bear.
- fol. 15r a **Virgo**: a standing female figure dressed in blue with full-length green wings flanking her sides. She raises her left hand.
- fol. 14v b images relating to **Virgo; Decan I**: within a semi-circular, high-backed throne, there is a woman nursing an infant on the left and a bearded man on the right; a lion's head; a bird's head; a snake; a standing woman covered in a large white mantle; a snake's tail; a bear's front paws; a naked torso lacking the head and the lower legs; a bearded man's head; a barrel.
- fol. 15r b images relating to **Virgo; Decan II**: a girl dressed in pink with her arms raised; a standing man with deer's head; the right half of a naked man; the tail of a snake; a piece of blue cloth; a log or plank of wood; a human head; a snake's tail; a lion's head; chest and front feet; a black-skinned man with multi-coloured drapery and a musical instrument; a bird's head; a bear's hindquarters; a brown bird's wing.
- images relating to **Virgo; Decan III**: the right half of a naked man; a piece of wood; two striding cattle; the torso of a man dressed in blue and holding a club; a dancing girl with hands raised in prayer; a snake's tail; an animal's foot; a bear's head; a bird's body; the right half of a naked torso which is missing the head and the lower legs.
- fol. 15r c **Libra** are a set of golden scales set against King Wenzel's monogram [W E between wings]
- fol. 15va images relating to **Libra; Decan I**: a standing man in a green tunic with scales in his right hand and an open book in his left hand; a dragon's head; a crouching black bear; a man with scales standing in a small hut or a tabernacle; a bear's head; a raven; the left half of a nude female; the hindquarters of a horse; a horse's tail.
- images relating to **Libra; Decan II**: a man with a flail sitting in horse-drawn cart; a man sitting on bed covered with pink fabric; a snake's curled tail; a dragon's head; a bear's hindquarters; a standing nude youth; half a ship; a bucket or circular well with water flowing from it; a standing nude man with an eagle's head.
- images relating to **Libra; Decan III**: the stern of a ship; a segment of water; the head and shoulders of a woman who raises her right hand to her forehead; two crowned men's heads; a centaur aiming his bow to the right; a dragon's curly tail; two legs of a bear; the lower legs of a human (from the knee downwards); the right half of a bare human torso to the hips; two bare human legs (from the hips downwards).
- Fol. 15v b **Scorpio** a fat-bodied; segmented scorpion facing to the right.
- Fol. 16r b images relating to **Scorpio; Decan I**: the rear halves of a horse and a bull; a standing, black-skinned man in a yellow robe with a staff in his left hand; standing naked woman raising her left hand to her mouth; the front half of black

bear with open mouth; one arm of a beam balance; the front part of a long-eared dog; a human arm.

images relating to **Scorpio; Decan II**: a standing nude male figure who raises on hand; the front part of a horse; the front part of a bull; the front legs of a bear; a nude woman stepping out of a house and into a pool or river; a dragon's tail; a long-eared dog or wolf with a rabbit in its mouth; a pair of scales; a wild boar; a bear's head and front paw.

fol. 15v c images relating to **Scorpio; Decan III**: a horse's head that carries a hare in its mouth; a bull's head; a tan dog turned to the left; two wild boars; human leg; a spotted grey cat; a small bear; a human arm; the shoulders and chest of a human torso; a censer.

fol. 16v a: **Sagittarius** is a centaur facing towards the right, with its human half wearing a blue shirt and drawing his bow.

images relating to **Sagittarius; Decan I**: a standing human nude figure seen from the back with a raven on his head; a goat; the neck of the bear (?); a human leg with a bent knee; a snake's tail; a human head and the upper section of the back; the tail of a scorpion; a hybrid (two-legged centaur?) figure wielding a bow and arrow; a golden cup.

fol. 17r a images relating to **Sagittarius; Decan II**: a standing nude male figure holding large horns in his hands; half of a ship; the head of hound; the head of dragon or snake; the hindquarters of a dog; the head of a porcupine (?); the rear half of a bear; a kneeling human leg; a standing nude woman with a red cloth over her arm, she walks and gestures towards a small building with steps in front of it; the head of a snake; the shoulder of a man; a quiver with arrows; an arrow; a man crouching inside a cave.

images relating to **Sagittarius; Decan III**: a tan dog walking to the right; the hindquarters of a rabbit; the hindquarters of a lion (?); half of a boat; the rear half of a fish; a fishing net; the hindquarters of a black bear; a standing black-faced man in a violet tunic and wrapped in a green mantle; the right half of a nude male figure drawing a bow; a pair of human shoulders; a dragon's head; a dragon's wings and leg/s.

fol. 17r b **Capricorn** is a black goat that stands on its hind legs; reaching to the right.

fol. 16v c images relating to **Capricorn; Decan I**: the front part of bear; a seated man dressed in green with a portable organ; a large fish head; a wellhead set on top of a mountain with a river flowing out from the bottom of the mountain with a fisherman with a hand-net to one side; a standing hybrid figure with a monkey's body and a dog's head; a flying bird; hybrid of black-skinned human with fangs and wild boar body; the head of a bear and the hindquarters of a bear.

images relating to **Capricorn; Decan II**: a grove of trees; a woman sitting on bed (?) covered with pink material; the tail of a fish; a two-wheeled cart; the hind part of bear; the black wing of bird; a woman on horseback dressed in pink with a yellow and blue mantle; a long, segmented horn; the head of a goat; a standing eagle (or cormorant?).

- fol. 17r a images relating to **Capricorn; Decan III**: the tail of a fish; a long stick or baton; the lower half of a seated monkey; a small cart; the chest and arms of a nude man carrying his head in his hands; a headless bear; two bird's legs; the hind part of the hen; a seated black-skinned woman dressed in purple with a distaff; part of the Dragon (porcupine-like); a goat's head; a fish's tail.
- n.b.:* The figures relating to the signs and decans of Aquarius and Pisces have become confused and are also mis-bound (see below).
- fol. 17v b images relating to **Aquarius; Decan II**: a brown horse walking to the right; a standing, black-skinned man in a pink robe with a bow and arrows in his hands; a heron catching fish; the mid-section of a fish; a centaur whose human half wears a pink tunic and who holds two jars horizontally.
- images relating to **Aquarius; Decan III**: a legless chicken facing to the right; a full horse held by reins by a nude male figure that is missing its head, legs and left side; the tail and back legs of a bear; a heron catching fish; a standing, black-skinned man wearing a violet tunic and a gold crown on his head, he faces towards a rearing grey horse; the hindquarters of a bull.
- Fol. 17v c **Pisces** are two silver fish; placed vertically; nose-to-tail with their bellies together
- fol. 22r **Mercury** - a man dressed in a loose blue robe standing in front of a desk that is covered with books
- Luna** - a female figure in a pink robe, carrying two long tapers and with a golden crescent moon on her head.
- fol. 22v **Venus** - a female figure dressed in a blue robe and standing in a field smelling flowers.
- fol. 23r **Jupiter** - a bishop dressed in white with a pink mantle. He rests his right hand on a stick and holds large white gloves in that hand; his left hand is raised and holds some plants. In front of him, there is a table with a book an urn/censer and other implements on it.
- Mars** - a heavily-armed standing, blonde-haired youth in blue armour.
- Sol** - a standing male figure holding a large taper in his left hand and a golden disc in his right. He has a crown on his head.
- fol. 23v **Saturn** - a standing elderly male peasant and holding a scythe.
- fol. 25v a **Aquarius** is a male figure dressed in a pink robe and pouring water from two urns.
- images relating to **Aquarius; Decan I**: a human arm holding the head of a bearded man; a grey horse; a hybrid of fish with bird's head; the hindquarters of a black bear; a bird's leg; a young man dressed in a short green tunic and yellow

- leggings preparing to strike something on an anvil with a hammer; a horse's head; the hindquarters of a bull.
- fol. 25v c images relating to **Pisces; Decan I**: a hybrid creature with the front half of Pegasus and the back half as a fish tail; half of a small nude human figure; a section of water; a man dressed in a blue robe, holding a water jug and entering a palace or shrine.
- images relating to **Pisces; Decan II**: a section of water with a bent knee/elbow (?) to one side; a woman sitting in a boat; a table upon which there is a small two-legged hybrid creature (2-legged centaur) with a human torso and next to it there is a large, disembodied hand; tail of a fish; the hindquarters of a bear.
- images relating to **Pisces; Decan III**: a section of water; a fish tail; a fish head; a human leg; the hindquarters of a bear; a nude man standing with spear in his right hand and lifting his right leg so that his foot rests on his own belly, there is a roaring fire just beneath him; a table with a bear's legs (?) on it and the head and shoulders of a female figure; the curled end of a snake's tail.
- fol. 27v author portrait of Albumasar - the scenes show a seated king on the left with three men standing in front of him. The foremost is dressed in green and makes a gesture to the king.

notes

47.2 x 34.8 cm, parchment, 53 folia.

The manuscript was created for King Wenzel of Bohemia (see his emblems on ff. 1v; 11va; 15rc; 39vb as well as the 'w' and 'e' in the backgrounds of Libra and Auriga; cf. also Vienna; ÖNB; cod. 2352), probably during the last two decades of his life († 1419). It appears to have come into the BSB via the library of the Dukes of Bavaria (*ex libris* of the Munich court library from 1618).

The manuscript appears never to have been completed fully and also possibly suffered some losses during the early re-bindings of the manuscript's contents. The incomplete nature of the manuscript is attested to by several sets of headings, initials and rubrics etc. that are missing, as well as by the fact that the outlines for a number of astrological *rotae* have been scored, but not completed. The *Sufi latinus* ends abruptly with fol. 41v (Equuleus and Pegasus), suggesting that the later pages were not finished or, perhaps, lost; and the contents of the *Liber novem iudicum astrorum* are fragmentary and a set of volvelles that should have accompanied the text are also missing.

The illustrations of the constellations in the *Sufi latinus* are quite close to the manuscript in Prague (Strahovkloster, DA II 13) and, therefore, show that it belongs to the so-called 'Italian' family of *Sufi latinus* manuscripts connected to the northern Italian manuscript in Paris (Bibl. Arsenal, lat 1036). Metzger (BLUME/HAFFNER/METZGER 2016, II, 1, p. 363) notes that the 'horizontal' lay-out of the text in the Munich manuscript can also be found in the Stellar Tables of the early 15th-century manuscript in Brussels (Bibliothèque Royale Albert 1er, Ms. 10117-26, fol. 54r-79r), which originates from the Upper Palantinate region - though one must stress that the quality and sophistication of the text and illustrations in these two manuscripts could not be more different .

The origin of the illustrations of the decans and *paranatellonta* in the *Principium sapientiae* remain the subject of debate. Boll (903) suggested that they were based directly on the information supplied in the Latin translation of ibn Ezra's text by Pietro d'Abano (an opinion with which

Metzger seems to agree, though he cites the possibility that an illustrated copy of the Fendulus text might have been available for consultation. See METZGER, *op. cit.*, pp. 366-67). The main difference between the Fendulus manuscripts and the Munich one, however, is that that latter does not maintain the division of the images into the three different spheres of the 'Persian', 'Indians' and 'Greeks'.

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