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 Astronomical compendium with 'Ptolemaic picture book'

Southern Germany (Augsburg? Heidelberg?)

1467-72 (constellation illustrations added later, c. 1500)

 contents

- ff. 1r-2v List of the chapters in the first three texts of Johannes Pastor in Colonia.
- ff. 3r-62v Johannes Pastor in Colonia, *Viaticum scientiae astronomiae*. The text also appears in Vatican, BAV, Pal. lat. 1404, fol. 1r-74r.
- ff. 62v-66r *De signis et planetis*. The text also appears in Vatican, BAV, Pal. lat. 1404, ff. 74v-78r.
- ff. 66r-88r *Tractatus iudiciorum astronomiae*. The text also appears in Vatican, BAV, Pal. lat. 1404, ff. 78r-101v.
- ff. 97r-129v Johannes de Lineriis, *Canones tabularum*.
- ff. 129v-134v Al-Zarkâlî, *Canones super tabulas Toletanas*, Pars 2. In the Latin transl. by trans. Gerardus Cremonensis.
- ff. 135v-159v Johannes de Sacrobosco, *De computo ecclesistico* with astrological additions. Ed. Wittenberg 1538 and 1543.
- ff. 160r-175r *Commentarius in Gerardi theoricam planetarum*.
- ff. 175v-180r On the production and use of a celestial globe (added in 1498).

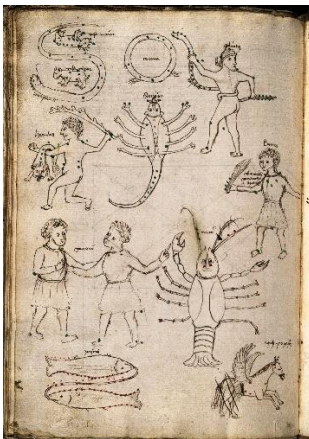
ff. 180v-182r Illustrations of the constellations with labels and some captions (see below).

ff. 182r-183v *De ordine ac positione stellarum in signis* (ed. Dell'ERA 1979).

fol. 181r: inc.: *Arcturus maior habet stellas in capite sex, in singulis humeris...*
 expl.: *Anticanis habet stellas iiii in dorso.*

ff. 184r-194r Johannes de Sacrobosco, *Tractatus de sphaera*.

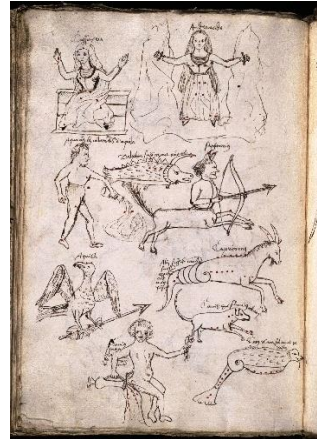
illustrations



fol. 180v



fol. 181r



fol. 181v



fol. 182r

ff. 180v-182r Simple pen drawings of 38 constellation groupings, spread across the page with no systematic cartographic sense. ORION is missing. Most of the constellations are labelled and marked with red or green dots to indicate the stars. Some labels give directional notations concerning other adjacent constellations.

fol. 180v URSA MAIOR, URSA MINOR and DRACO are depicted as *Draco inter arctos*. The two Bears are about the same size, facing in opposite directions with their backs together. Ursa Maior (labelled: *ursa maior faces*) to the right and is placed on the tail of Draco; Ursa minor (labelled: *ursa minor*) faces to the left and is placed beneath Draco's head. Draco is labelled: *Serpens*. Stars are marked in green in all.

CORONA BOREALIS (labelled: *corona*) is two concentric circles with tuft-like remnants of ribbons at the bottom. Stars are marked in green.

OPHIUCHUS (labelled: *ophiutus*) walks to the left, facing away from the viewer and is nude apart from a fillet around his head. He turns his head back to the right. SERPENS is a long snake that the Serpent-holder holds in his hands, with its head raised and facing to the left. The tail extends straight. Stars are marked in green.

HERCULES (labelled: *Hercules*) walks to the left, facing away from the viewer and is nude. He extends his left arm in front of him, over which the skin of a lion is draped. He raises a branched club in his right hand. The stars are marked in green.

SCORPIO (labelled: Scorpion) is a paisley-shaped beast set vertically on the page, with its head towards the top. It has a human face and three prongs coming from its mouth. There are 4 paws on each side of the body and a long, slim tail. Stars are marked in green.

BOOTES (labelled: *Boetes* and *collateralis Geminorum a dextris*) is a beardless youth, dressed in a short, belted tunic. He is barefoot. He walks to the left with both arms extended. In the right hand, he holds a plant/sheaf of wheat. Stars are marked in green.

GEMINI (labelled: *gemini*) are two youths facing towards each other with their inner arms linked. They are dressed in short, belted tunics. The Left Twin holds his right hand to his chest and the Right Twin extends his left hand and point upwards. Stars are marked in green and red stars.

CANCER (labelled: *cancer*) is a crayfish/lobster placed vertically on the page. It has two long antennae and a straight protrusion from its snout. It is marked with red stars.

PISCES (labelled: *pisces*) are two parallel fish, swimming in different directions with their backs together. They are connected with a string between their mouths. The stars are marked in red.

- PEGASUS (labelled: *equus pegaseus*) is a full winged horse jumping to the right. The wings are raised. Its back half has been crossed out by a later hand. The front half is marked with red stars.
- fol. 181r VIRGO (labelled: *Virgo*) is a young woman in a long gown standing to the left. She has large wings that are raised. She holds a palm frond in her extended right hand and a balance (LIBRA) in her left hand. She is marked by red stars.
- TRIANGULUM (labelled: *Delton Triangulus*) is an equilateral triangle with 4 red stars marked.
- LYRA (labelled: *lira*), is a U-shaped harp set on a two-tiered base. It is marked with red stars.
- LEO (labelled: *Leo*), stand facing the right, with his left front paw and his tail raised. He is marked with red stars. He is marked with red stars.
- ARIES (labelled: *aries*) walks to the right, with curled horns. He is marked with red stars.
- PERSEUS (labelled: *Perseus* and there is an additional note: *Aries et perseus collateralis, aries dexter est*) is a nude man walking to the right, with his back towards the viewer. He turns his head to the left. He holds a decapitated, bearded male head by the hair in his lowered in his left hand and holds a straight sword vertically in his right hand in front of him. He is marked with red stars.
- AURIGA (labelled; *Auriga eritonius auruga et Cassiopeia lateralis*) is a young man, driving to the right in a two-wheeled box wagon to the right. He holds a raised whip with 4 thongs ion his left hand and holds the reins to two horses drawing the cart in his left hand. On his left should, there is a rabbit (Capra) and there are two more rabbits (Haedi) above his left hand. He is marked with red stars.
- CEPHEUS (labelled: *Cepheus*) is a beardless youth standing frontally with both his arms raised. He looks upwards towards the left. He is marked with red stars.
- TAURUS (labelled: *taurus* and *thaurus et andromade lateralis*) is a recumbent full bull, facing to the left. His front legs are crossed and his tail curls around to fall between his legs. It is marked with red stars.

- CYGNUS (labelled: *cignus*) is a swan that stands to the right. It raises its right wing. It is marked with red stars.
- fol. 181v CASSIOPEIA (labelled: *Cassiopeia*) is a woman seated on a backless wooden box, with her hands raised in a 'W'-shape. She faces slightly to the left. Her head and body are covered by a voluminous mantle. She is marked with red stars.
- ANDROMEDA (labelled: *Andromede*) is a young woman who is chained to two large rocks by her wrists. She hangs between them. She is dressed in a long gown and her hair is exposed. She is marked with red stars.
- AQUARIUS (labelled: *Aquarius cuius collateralis est aquila*) is a nude male who walks to the right. His right arm trails behind him and his left arm holds a vase from which water pours. He is marked with red stars.
- DELPHINUS (labelled: *Delphin supra caput Orionis*) is a fierce fish facing to the right, with a curved horn on his head and bared teeth. It is marked with red stars.
- SAGITTARIUS (labelled: *Sagittarius*) is a centaur that leaps to the right with his tail raised and front legs fully extended. His human half wears a tight shirt, and he draws his bow and arrow. He is beardless, but has hairy horns on his head. He is marked with red stars.
- AQUILA (labelled: *aquila*) is an eagle standing to the right on an arrow (SAGITTA - not labelled), it turns its head to the left and raised both wings. There are 3 stars on the head of the Eagle and three in the Sagitta.
- CAPRICORN (labelled: *Capricornus* and *Alii figuratus caudam sive supra* *pisces*) is a goat with a corkscrew, snaky tail. It extends its front legs. It is marked with red stars.
- ERIDANUS (labelled: *fluvius quem* *dicitur*) is a nude male figure that sits to the right. He holds a handled urn in his right hand from which water pours. In his raised left hand, he holds a plant/fish (?). The water is marked with red stars.

CANIS MAIOR (labelled: *Canis et fluvius collatus*) is a small, snub-nosed dog that leaps to the right. It is marked with red stars.

CETUS (labelled: *Cetus et ara sub navis et pisce*) is a fat-bellied fishlike creature with an animal's head facing to the right. Its long tail has a single curl and ends in an acanthus-shape. It is marked with red stars.

fol. 182r

ARA (labelled: *ara sub navi*) is a square block with flames at the top. It is marked by 4 red stars.

NAVIS (labelled: *navis et piscis super*) is a full ship with a raised part (bow?) on the left. It has a single mast and sail. It is marked with red stars.

PISCIS AUSTRALIS (labelled: *piscis*) is a large fish facing to the right. It is marked with red stars along its back.

LEPUS (labelled: *Lepus*) leaps to the right, with its ears flattened. It is marked with red stars.

CENTAURUS (labelled: *Centaurus*) is a centaur that runs to the right. His human half wears a tight shirt. In his right hand, he holds a spear that has a rabbit tied to the end by its heels. In his extended left hand, he touches the belly of an upside-down rabbit. It is marked with red stars.

CORVUS (labelled: *corvus*) is a bird standing to the right. It is marked with red stars.

CRATER (labelled: *crater sive urna*) is a chalice on a raised and moulded foot. It is marked with red stars.

HYDRA, CRATER and CORVUS (labelled: *Seprens et anticanis collatus*) is a snake sliding to the right. The Crater is a cup on its back and Corvus faces the tail, pecking with its wings raised. Hydra is marked with red stars.

CANIS MINOR (labelled *Anticanis*) is a hound-like dog leaping to the right.

notes

315 x 220 mm, 195 folia, paper.

The illustrations are followed by the text of the *De ordine ac positione stellarum*, but show no influence of that iconographic tradition. Instead, they seem to be a conflation of Hyginus and Michael Scot illustrations, with evidence that the artist did not understand all the details of either.

METZGER 2016 sees that iconography as connected to the Vienna-Klosterneuberg cartographic tradition and argues that the artist is ‘aspiring to a type of star map’ ... ‘The fact that he used a sequence of images that was based more on literature and distorted by tradition may be due to the availability of the original’. He also sees the possible influence of the *Liber floridus* tradition, concluding with the unlikely suggestion that ‘Its origins were ultimately the drawings in the Aachen Encyclopedia, probably in a high medieval, relatively unaltered tradition’.

The website identifies 10 hands in the ms, noting that the layers A-G have been written by seven hands 1469-1472 (ff. 88ra, 129v, 194r), and the supplementary material in H and J by two hands, probably in southern Germany. Heidelberg 1498 is mentioned in supplementary volume H (fol. 178v) and the section J was written by Nicolaus Ellenbog and is dated 1504 (fol. 160r)

There are several ownership entries, 15th century: front and back inside covers have *Ellenbog 1471*; fol. 1r has a note from the 17th/18th century: *[Bi]blioth.* (further parts torn out); and *Ottobeuren* (the Benedictine monastery of St. Alexander and Theodor); the library acquired the ms from the Prince Oettingen-Wallerstein Library.

bibliography

GRUPP 1897 (Georg Grupp, *Öttingen-Wallersteinische Sammlungen in Maihingen, Handschriften-Verzeichnis*, Nördlingen 1897, I, nos. 569, 887, 889.)

HILG 1999 (Hardo Hilg, *Lateinische mittelalterliche Handschriften in Folio der Universitätsbibliothek Augsburg* : Cod. II.1.2° 91-226, Wiesbaden 1999, pp. 84-88.

BLUME/HAFFNER/METZGER 2016, II, 1, pp. 542-44 (cat. 67) and II, 3, figs. 583-84.

The ms has been fully digitised at: http://digital.bib-bvb.de/view/bvb_mets/viewer.0.6.5.jsp?folder_id=0&dvs=1737827483276-90&pid=19103341&locale=en&usePid1=true&usePid2=true