



LOS ANGELES

bibliography needs work

Los Angeles / Malibu, California

J Paul Getty Museum

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Ms Ludwig XII, 5

*De ordine ac positione stellarium in signis* (abridged)

English  
early 13th century

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text

ff. 149v-151v an abridged version of *De ordine ac positone*

fol. 149v Est quidem hic ordo et positio siderum, ... eo quo ab ipso est ordine digesta descrptio proferatur. (cf. Maass, 1898, p. 312)

Helice arcturus maior habet stellas in capite VII, in singulis humeris singulas, in armo i, in pectore i, ... (cf. Maass, 1898, p. 312 and St P, p. 240)

fol. 151v (ends imperfectly) Lepus habet stellas singulas in corpore ii, in extremitate caudam i, in posterioribus pedibus singulas. Fiunt VII.

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The compilation also has other subject-related texts, such as:

ff. 46r-50r Prognostica and Pythagore sive Cratonis spera

ff. 50v-55v Calendar

ff. 55v-79r Computus with diagrams (including one by Abbo of Fleury)

ff. 112v-125v Excerpts from Macrobius, *Commentarii in somnium scipionis*

ff. 126v-149v Hyginus, *Astronomica*, Bks I-IV (not illustrated)



LOS ANGELES

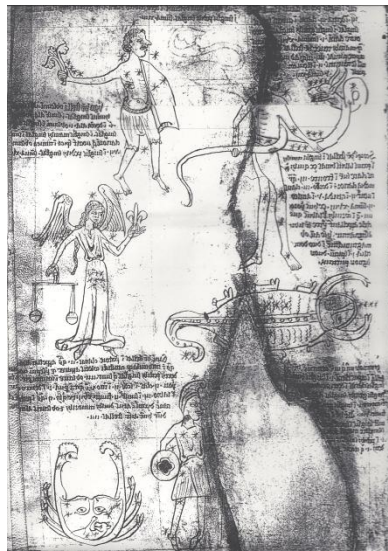
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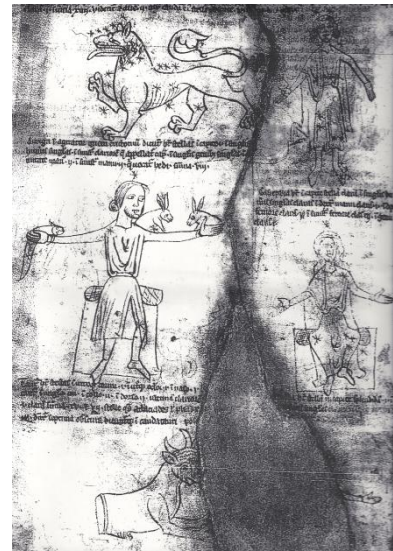
illustrations



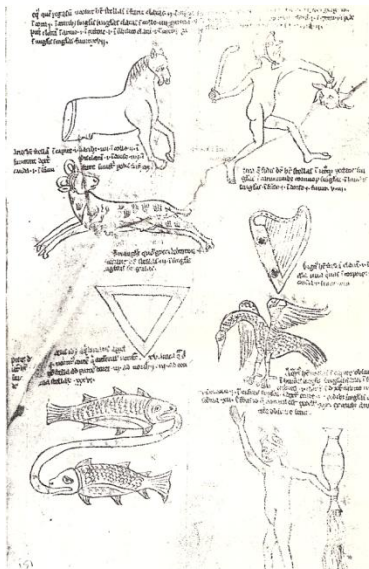
fol. 149v



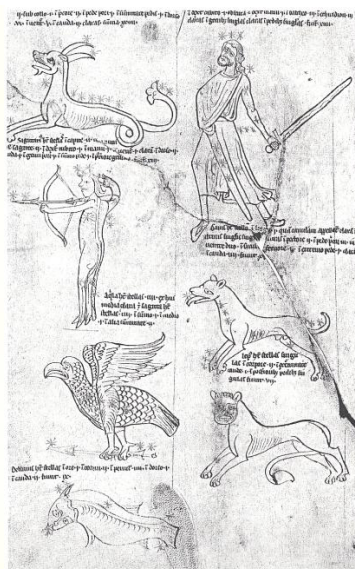
fol. 150r



fol. 150v



fol. 151r



fol. 151v

ff. 149v-151v small pen drawings in two columns interspersed with text, which is oddly placed and



LOS ANGELES

uneven in line-length (suggesting it was later); the stars marked with red \*s.



fol. 149v **URSA MAIOR (HELICE)** walks to the left in profile and has a halter on her head and a very short tail; she has at least 17 stars marked

**URSA MINOR (CINOSURA)** is smaller and walks to the right in profile with its right front leg raised; it has 7 stars, marked

**DRACO (SERPENS) INTER ARCTOS** shows both bears set back-to-back and walking in opposite directions within S-shaped DRACO, placed horizontally on the page (head to the right) and with two curves in its body and a curled tail; it has long, straight ears and curly tongue/fire-breath shaped like a *fleur-de-lis* and a toothy grimace; it is marked by at least 11 stars

**HERCULES** is completely nude and skips to the left; his body twists so that his buttocks are visible on the right side, but his shoulders are parallel to the picture plane; he has the lion pelt in his right hand (a tail and two back legs) held in front of him at hip height; he holds a mace-like club with bristles at the end in his left arm, which is outstretched behind him; there are at least 11 stars marked

**CORONA** is a decorative circlet with trefoil lobes and a cross in the centre; 8 stars marked

fol. 150r **OPHIUCHUS (SERPENTARIUS)** stands towards left and faces away from viewer (buttocks, backbone and back ribs are visible); the snake is wrapped once around middle, and is held horizontally with its neck in a twist so that it turns back to face the man; the tail falls downwards in a right angle; the snake has long, pointed ears and a toothy grimace; both figures are marked by at least 22 stars

**SCORPIO** is almond-shaped and faces to the left. It has a small round head that is encircled by larger front claws; its body is marked with wavy lines, and a central spine is punctuated with circlets; the tail is fat and curled and it has three smaller legs on each side; it is marked by at least 12 stars

**GEMINI** has only the right Twin visible due to a tear in the page; he is dressed as a medieval soldier in a short, belted tunic and with a Phrygian cap; he stands frontally and turns his head to the left; he appears to be holding a spear vertically in his right hand and holds a circular shield in his left hand, down by his left hip; he is marked by at least 8 stars

**BOOTES (ARCOPHILAX)** walks to the left, facing the viewer; he is dressed in loose undershorts with a rope belt around his waist; his right shoulder and arm are covered by a short cloak (proto-wing?); his torso and his feet are bare; he holds a leafy plant in his outstretched left hand and is marked by 15 stars

**VIRGO** stands facing the viewer, slightly to the left; her wings are open and her hair is tied in a long braid that runs down her back; she has a circlet around her head and is dressed in a long slim dress, that is caught at the waist, has long tight sleeves and flares out at the lower hem; she holds a *fleur-de-lis* in her right hand in front of her;



in her left hand, she holds a pair of scales down by her side; she has 17 stars

**CANCER** is U-shaped with wrench-like claws facing the top of the page; its eyes are almond-shaped and it has eyebrows and a human nose; within the crescent of his body there is a small animal (one of the Asini) and there are three small claws on both sides of the shell; it is marked by 17 stars

fol. 150v **LEO** is heraldic and prances to the left, with his right foreleg raised; his mouth is open and his tongue protrudes; his tail is carried over his back and ends in a triple tuft; he is marked by 20 stars

**AURIGA (AGITATOR)** is standing in front of a small square seat with a cushion, facing the viewer; he is dressed in a short, belted tunic; he holds his arms outstretched to either side; in his right hand, he holds a lamprey-like creature and on his left shoulder and left hand, there are two small rabbits facing each other; he is marked by at least 5 stars

**TAURUS** is depicted as half a bull, facing to the right with his forelegs outstretched in front of him, his horns are short and curved and he is not marked with stars

**CEPHEUS** stands facing the viewer and wears a loose, belted calf-length tunic and cloak that has a kick up on the left edge of the lower hem and part of which loops in front of his chest; his head is bare; his hands are extended, but down by his side, and his right hand is held palm upwards; he is marked by at least 13 stars

**CASSIOPEIA** sits frontally, on a square with a cushion on top and faces the viewer; her head is covered and she wears a long, belted loose gown and a mantle over her shoulders that loops down over her right shoulder; the sleeves are long and tight; she holds both her hands outstretched with the palms forward and thumbs upwards; she has at least 9 stars

**ANDROMEDA** is lost by a tear in the page so that only her left hand is visible, but she is apparently without attributes

fol. 151r **PEGASUS** is depicted as a wingless horse walking in profile to the right with his left foreleg raised; his body is cut-off just behind his genitals; he is marked by at least 12 stars

**ARIES** leaps to the left with all four legs raised; he turns his head to look backwards over his shoulder and he has small, curled horns and a medium-length tail; marked by at least 9 stars,

**TRIANGULUS** is an upside-down, nearly equilateral triangle with each corner marked by a star (3 stars in all)

**PISCES** are swimming in opposite directions (top to the right and bottom to the left) with both backs towards the top; they are connected at their mouths by a stream and are marked by at least 33 stars



**PERSEUS** is nude except for a small cap that is tied under his chin; he walks to the right and is faced towards the viewer; he holds spiky-haired Medusa in front of him in his left hand and a holds a curved club in his right hand, which is behind him; he is marked by at least 10 stars,

**LYRA** is an Irish harp with two rosettes on the sounding board at at least 12 strings that are connected to the top of the instruments by dot-like pegs; it is marked by 7 stars

**CYGNUS** stands to left with wings upraised above its back, but its long neck bent towards ground and it has a long, pointed beak; it is marked by at least 12 stars

**AQUARIUS** is nude and stands facing to the left; his right hand is raised in salute in front of him and he holds a handle-less urn, decorated with horizontal banding, behind his back; it is upside-down and water pours vertically from it; he is marked by at least 8 stars

fol. 151v: **CAPRICORN** faces to the left and is a hound-like sea-monster with long curved horns and two dog's paws held straight out in front of it; the long tail has one curl and an acanthus end; it is marked by 23 stars

**SAGITTARIUS** stands in profile to the left, with his spine visible; he is a long-tailed satyr with cloven feet and long hair; he holds his bow in his left hand and pulls the string with his right (the artist has had a bit of a problem locating the right position for the right elbow); he is marked by 14 stars

**AQUILA** stands in profile to the left with his wings raised above his back; he stands on an arrow (with its point to the left), which he grips in his talons; he has 4 stars and the arrow has 4 stars

**DELPHINUS** swims to the left and has a human face; he appears to be bearded and is marked by at least 6 stars

**ORION** lunges slightly to the left, with his right leading knee bent; he is bearded with long hair and is dressed in a loose, belted, calf-length tunic with a drape that falls over his right shoulder that covers his right arm; he has a scabbard attached to his right hip that crosses in front of his legs and he holds a long sword upright in this left arm behind him; he is marked by at least 20 stars

**CANIS** is a snub-nosed and round-eared hound that leaps to the with tongue out; he is marked by at least 13 stars

**LEPUS** is depicted as as a mane-less lion with a humanoid face, running to left with his tail tucked between his back legs; he is not marked by stars



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### notes

According to Sotheby's catalogue (2 May 1979), the manuscript composed of combined 12th- and 13th-century quires; there is a section of Hyginus, *Astronomica* (ff. 126v ff) in 'partly twelfth- and partly thirteenth-century' hands, which they incorrectly describe as being illustrated; the only illustrated section is ff. 149v-151v, which is an abridged version of the *De ordine ac positione* star catalogue; illustrated section is 13th century and the guide lines are ruled in plummet (not blind scored as earlier in the book) and the text begins 'below the top line' - a feature documented from about 1220.

The otherwise exemplary catalogue description by von Euw (1982, III, pp. 79-91) also misses the transition from the end of the Hyginus text to the beginning of the *De ordine ac positione* preface on fol. 149v, noting only that the text in the manuscript does not appear in Bunte's edition of Hyginus (p. 165).

The following constellations are missing: Argo, Cetus, Eridanus, Piscis Austrinus, Ara, Centaurus, Hydra, Crater, Corvus and Canis Minor.

The cycle of illustrations in this manuscript has the characteristics of *De Ordine V*, which can also be seen in Paris BN lat 8663.

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### bibliography

ENGLISH & SON, BATH, 26 October 1846, lot 251.





LOS ANGELES

SCHENKL 1892, II, p. 33, no. 1881.  
late-11th century

WILLIAM H. ROBINSON - FORD ABBEY SALE 1950, catalogue 81, item 76.  
Medieval compendium, English XIIc, purchased by him in 1846 at sale at Ford Abbey; ff:  
129v: 'Astrologia marciana ... Adsite studio grammaticae artis ... see Montfaucon I, 88d'.

FAYE and BOND 1962, p. 19, no. 1

HOLSWORTH XVIII, 1964, pp. 117-36 (lists books from Ford Abbey)

*THE PHILLIPPS MANUSCRIPTS* repr. 1968, p. 213, no. 12145.

FOLKERTS 1970, p. 3, n. 1.

LONDON, SOTHEBY PARKE BERNET & CO., Weds, 2 May 1979, The Honeyman Collection, vols. 3 and 4, lot. 1085.

Romanesque; English, early 12<sup>th</sup> c; stars in red; scribe has a certain spikiness associated with Canterbury (possible Richester provenance); calendar tables on ff. 58v-59 that runs from 1100-1192; illustrates Draco in arctos, Aql and Del; Ori; Boo; Vir

PLOTZEK and VON EUW, 1982, III, pp. 158-59: pp. 158-169:.  
dates to early 13th century and is English because of the Saints mentioned in the Calendar on fol. 54v; details the contents of the manuscript, recognising its relationship with the Compilation of 810; mentions Barker-Benfield, who notes that the Macrobius excerpts are in the same order as Vat Reg lat 309 (Aachen/7-book), but Von Euw then also cites Munich 210 and Vienna 387 (which are Salzburg/3 part ) manuscripts. Cites Hyginus incipits and explicits, but does not recognise the source for 'Duo sunt extremi vertices..' or 'Et quidem hic ordo et position...', only noting that they are not in Bunte's edition of Hyginus.

CONTRENI 1981, p. 347. (Charles the Bald)

*J Paul Getty Journal*, XII, 1984 pp. 299 (acquisitions 1983).

English; early 12th century with 15th and 16th century supplements; formerly Munich, Ludwig Coll; also contains Pliny, Isidore, Euclid, Boethius, Guido Macrobius [sic] and Hyginus.

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