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ENGLAND

Laud Misc 644

ps- Bede, *De signis caeli*

French (Bayeux)

2/2 13th century (1268-1274?)

text

ff. 8r-10v ps- Bede, *De signis caeli*

ff. 2r- 7v Calendar tables

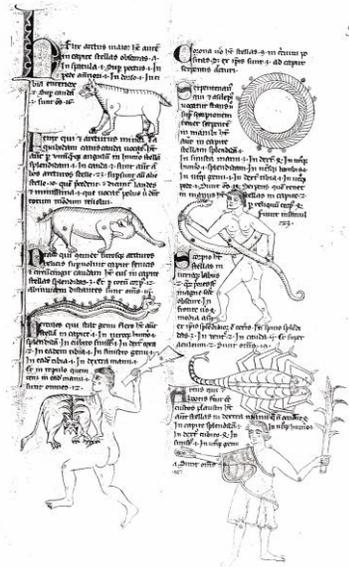
fol. 7v: Accepturus horas cum chilindro verte ciotherum — ad suam umbram. Et sic de aliis punctis proportionaliter. (= paragraph on the cylinder sundial with gloss; cf. Saxl-Meier III, 1, p. 387)

fol. 8r (alternating red and blue capitals for each chapter with contrasting red or blue filigree)

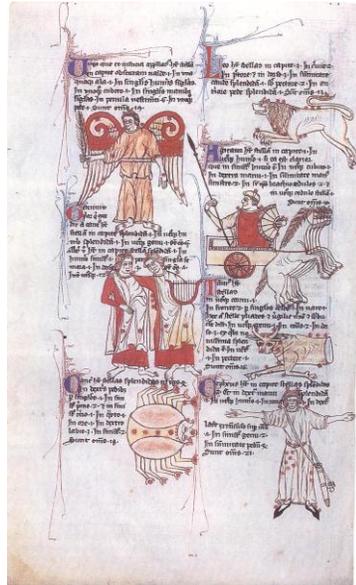
HElix arctus maior habet autem in capite stellas obscuras .7. In spatula .i. Super pectus .i. In pede anteriori .i. In dorso .i. (cf. Maass 1898, p. 582)

fol. 10v Anticanis dicitur subtus geminos parere bene habet stellas .3. quarum una splendidior ceteris est. et ideo anticanis vocatur eo quod contraria sit cani. (cf. Maass 1898, p. 594)

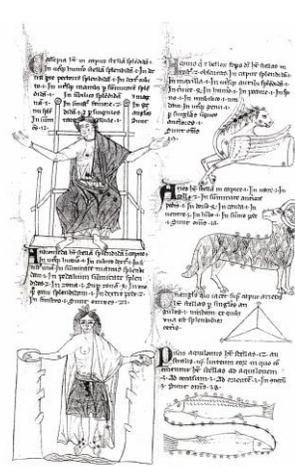
illustrations



fol. 8r



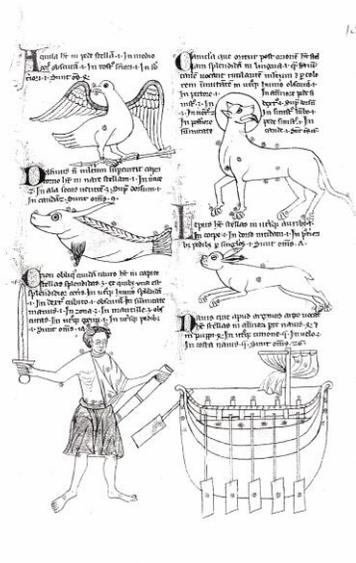
fol. 8v



fol. 9r



fol. 9v



fol. 10r



fol. 10v

ff. 8r-10v Drawings of 38 constellation groupings, in dark brown/black in with some details in red, and with red and yellow washes; the drawings are set in two columns between text (the text appears to have been added later); the stars are marked by pink circles, most of which have small rays coming from them

fol. 8r **URSA MAIOR** is the smaller bear and stands facing to the left; it has short pointed ears and a short pointed tail; it has 7 stars in its face, 1 on the back, 3 on the tail, 1 in the shoulder, 1 on the chest, 1 on the right forefoot, 2 on the right hind foot, or 16 stars in all

URSA MINOR faces to the right with its head turned round so it faces backwards across its right fore-shoulder and it seems to be biting its right armpit; it has a short pointed tail; it has 1 star on the back, 1 in each of its three visible legs and 3 on the tail, or 7 stars in all

DRACO is a wormlike snake crawling toward the right with no curls in its body, but with a series of stripes down the length of its body; it has a dog's face with round floppy ears; there are 3 stars in the head and 12 stars on his body, or 15 stars in all

HERCULES is nude and appears to be facing away from the viewer as his buttocks are visible, but the orientation of his chest is unclear since the ribbing on one side could be the torso seen from the back, but actually appears to be his chest (note similarity to the figure of **OPHIUCHUS** below and the orientation of the club-holding hand); he strides towards left with his right leg leading; he has short blonde hair and holds a yellow lion's skin (with the face, legs and tail visible) so that it covers his leading (right?) arm, which he holds outstretched in front of him; he holds rough-hewn, slightly triangular club upraised behind head in following (left?) hand; he has 1 star in the head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 in his following (left?) hand, 2 in his right leg and 3 on his left leg, 1 star in the club and 1 in the skin, or 11 stars in all

CORONA BOREALIS is two concentric cross-hatch patterned circles with a pink line between them and is marked by 9 stars

OPHIUCHUS strides to the left with his body twisted so that his chest is visible on the upper section of his body, but his buttocks are visible on the bottom section (see similar orientation in **HERCULES**, above); he holds the **SERPENS** so that it makes an X across his chest and it turns its head to face the man; its tail falls downward to the right and ends in a curl; the man has blonde hair and the Serpent is pinkish; the man has 1 star on his

head, 1 on each shoulder, 2 at his waist, 1 on each knee, 1 in the right shin, 1 on each foot, 3 on his left hand and 4 on his right hand, or 16 in all; the Snake has 2 on his head and 4 on his body, or 6 in all

SCORPIO is a separate constellation and its elongated oval body faces to the right with four legs on either side, the front two oriented so they lie in front of its head; it has a human face with heavily-lidded eyes; there is a stripe down the length of its body curled lines that appears like segments on its shell; the tail is smooth with horizontal banding and the tail is bifurcated; it has 7 stars on its face, 5 on its body and 7 on its tail, or 19 stars in all

BOOTES (Arcus) stands facing the viewer with his left foot flatly placed and his right leg extended so that the toe is pointed; he wears a loose, full-skirted tunic and a short red cloak with yellow borders covering his right shoulder; his right arm is outstretched at shoulder height with its palm open and upwards; he holds a spiky club/corn plant vertically in his left hand; he has 1 star in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 4 on his right elbow and 1 on his left one, 4 on his right hand and 1 on each knee, or 13 stars in all

fol. 8v **VIRGO** stands facing the viewer with large yellow and red wings that fan out to each side; the top of the wings are formed by a large red spiral; she is dressed in a long orange *peplos*-like belted gown with wide sleeves that end at the forearm; she holds a palm-like plant vertically in her right hand, and her left hand drops down by her side; she has bare feet; she has 1 star on her head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each elbow, 1 on each hand, 4 on each wing and 1 on each foot, or 16 stars in all

GEMINI are two male figures dressed in similar loose and long red gowns with tight sleeves; they each wear long yellow capes that appear to be held by neck rings, but expose their right shoulders and completely cover their left shoulders and arms; the right Twin holds a red, U-shaped harp in his left hand and drapes his right arm over the shoulders of the left Twin, who seems to pull back slightly from the embrace The left Twin has 1 star in his head, 1 in each shoulder and 2 in his cape, or 5 stars in all; the right Twin has 1 on his head, 1 on his left shoulder, 3 on his side and 4 on his legs, or 9 stars in all

CANCER has a circular pink and yellow body that faces towards the right, there are 5 legs on each side with small bifurcated claws on each; it has heavily-lidded human eyes; it has 6 stars on its face, 4 in the body and 10 in the claws, or 20 stars in all

LEO rushes to left with both forefeet raised at right angles; it has a heavy mane and its tail is held over its hind quarters in an S-shape; the beast is lightly washed with yellow with some red highlighting in the mane and tail; there are 3 stars in his face, 5 on his back, 3 on his chest and 2 on his belly, 1 on his right forepaw and 1 on his tail, or 15 stars in all

AURIGA (Agitator) stands in a square *quadriga* with a decorated frame and visible wheels; it runs to left right 'pulled' by four horses that all rear upwards; the man is dressed in a yellow, tight-sleeved tunic that is covered by a red mantle and he has a yellow semicircular hat; he faces the viewer, though he turns his head towards the left and the back of the cart; he holds a yellow conical shield in front of body with his left hand and holds a very long spear vertically in his right hand; his cloak, the wheels of the cart and the horses's trappings are all red and the rest is yellow; he has 1 star on his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 in his right hand and 2 or 3 on his left, and possibly 3 stars on his shield (?)

TAURUS is half a yellow a bull facing to the left with his left foreleg bent backwards and right one extended straight forward; he holds his large ears horizontally and has short curved horns; his cut-off is marked by an oval; he has 2 stars in each horn, 3 on his face, 2 in his neck, 1 on his chest, 3 on his back, 1 on his cut-off and 1 on each knee, or 14 stars in all

CEPHEUS stands facing the viewer, wearing a long, loose tunic with loose, elbow-length sleeves; he has an empty yellow scabbard hanging on a yellow strap that runs across his shoulder; the cover of the scabbard (?) has come loose and is hanging free; he holds his hands out to the sides and shoulder height with both palms open and facing upwards; he has elegant, black shoes with pointed toes; his long hair is yellow; he has 2 stars in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on his right hand, 3 at the waist, 7 on his right thigh, 2 on his left leg, and 2 in each foot, or 21 stars in all

fol. 9r **CASSIOPEIA** is seated on a square stick-throne with her arms outstretched in a W-shape; she has a long yellow dress with tight sleeves and a belt, and a loose red mantle; her blonde hair is uncovered and her feet bare; she has 1 star on her head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on her breast, 1 on her lap, 3 in her skirt, 1 on her right elbow and 1 on each hand with 4 on the throne, or 15 stars in all

ANDROMEDA faces the viewer and is nude to waist (with a single breast visible); she

wears a short red shirt and has long yellow cloak drapes over her left shoulder and that falls to her ankles; and with 3 leaves on the crown of her long, loose hair; she stands between two tree stumps upon whose tops she rests her hands; there is stylised water flowing beneath her feet; she has 1 star on her head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 in each elbow, 1 on her left hand, 4 at her waist and 3 hanging vertically from her waist, 1 on each knee and 4 in her left foot and 3 on her right, or 22 stars in all

PEGASUS is half a yellow winged horse that faces towards the left, but with his head turned back wards over its back and facing to the right (proto-biting ?); th long wings are held quite close to the body and the forelegs are extended forward with the ankles crossed; it has a snub nose that is more leonine than equine; the cut-off is an oval; there are 3 stars on its face, 4 along its mane, 2 in the chest, 1 on each knee, 1 on each hoof, 1 on the belly and 1 on the back, or 16 stars in all

ARIES is a yellow ram, standing to the right; it looks backwards over his shoulder to the left; it has long triangular tufts of fur; a long tail and horns that spiral inwards; it has 1 star on its head, 3 on the snout, 4 on the back, 2 on the neck, 1 on the body, 3 along the belly, 1 on the left forefoot and 1 on the right hind foot and 1 in the tail, or 17 stars in all

TRIANGULUS is drawn as a regular tetrahedron and marked by 3 stars, one at each corner

PISCES are swimming in opposite directions (top to the left and bottom to the right) with both their backs upwards; they are connected by a line running between their mouths; the top fish has 12 stars, the cord has 12 stars and the bottom fish has 15 stars, or 39 stars in all

fol. 9v **PERSEUS** walks to the left facing away from the viewer; he is nude save large red drape that covers his right shoulder and then swings out behind his back; he holds the Medusa's head by its hair in his left hand in front of him and he holds a yellow *harpe* vertically in his right hand behind his shoulders; he has large red wings on his feet; he has 1 star on each shoulder, 1 on his back, 1 on his hip, 1 on his right elbow, 1 on each hand, 1 on each thigh, 1 on his right knee and 1 on each shin; the Medusa has 4 stars; so the constellation has 16 stars in all

LYRA is very close to lily-shaped cup that one sees in Arabic manuscript; the strings have become stylised into a series of vertical lines; the instrument has 8 stars

CYGNUS stands facing towards the left with a very long neck with a slight kink in it; its wings are held upwards as if flying; there is 1 star in the head, 1 in the neck, 4 in one wing and 5 in the other, 1 in the chest a 1 in the body, or 13 stars in all

AQUARIUS is standing facing the viewer, slightly to right wearing a cloth covering over his head and a long gown; he holds a yellow water-pouring urn in both hands, while resting it on his left thigh; he has 2 stars in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 3 in his chest, 1 on each elbow, 1 on each hand, 1 on each knee, 2 on his right foot and 1 on his left foot and with 4 stars in the water, or 20 stars in all

CAPRICORN faces to the left and is standing on the tip-toes of his forefeet; it has short curved horns, a braided mane and a quadruple corkscrew tail that ends in a five-lobed acanthus; he has 4 stars in his horns, 3 in his face, 1 in his neck, 2 in his chest, 5 on his belly, 7 along his back, 2 in his tail and 2 on his right forefoot, or 26 stars in all

SAGITTARIUS prances to left with his forelegs bent; his human half faces away from the viewer; he has two protrusions at the top of his head which appear to be tufted ears rather than horn and a long tuft of hair coming from the back of his head; he has a hairy fringe where his halves meet; he holds a red bow in front of his body with his left hand and his right arm is bent, but is blocked by his body; he has 2 stars on his head, 4 on his chest, 1 on his elbow, 6 on the bow, 2 on his right foreleg, 1 on his left foreleg and 2 in his tail, or 18 stars in all

fol. 10r **AQUILA** stands facing towards the right but with his head turned back to the left with his beak touching the top of his right wing (proto-biting?); his wings are outstretched to the sides and have red ribs along the top; he stands with both feet on **SAGITTA**, the point of which faces to the left; the Eagle has 2 stars in his beak and 1 in his chest and 1 on his right claw, or 4 star in all; the **SAGITTA** has no stars

DELPHINUS swims to left, it has a large snout and a large horn on head; it has 9 stars

ORION stands facing the viewer and is nude to waist; he wears a red knee-length skirt, is barefoot and has a yellow cloak over left shoulder; he holds a sword vertically in his right hand and holds top of empty yellow scabbard in his right hand right; he has 3 stars in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 3 in his mantle, 3 on his waist, 1 on each knee, 1 on each foot, 1 on his right elbow and 1 on his right hand, or 17 stars in all.

CANIS MAIOR (Canicula) walks to the left with his right front foot raised; he turns his head back over shoulder toward the right; he is yellow with a yellow halo; he has short pointed ears and sticks his tongue out; he has a long slum tail that he holds downwards; he has 1 star on his tongue, 1 on his neck, 1 on his chest, 1 on his shoulder, 1 on his back, 1 on his haunch, 2 on his belly, 1 on his right forefoot, 3 on his left forefoot, 1 on his left hind foot and 1 on his tail, or 14 stars in all

ARGO (Navis) is a full ship with a mast towards the right side; from the yard-arms, there is a sail that is twisted and tied back to the mast; there are five rowing oars and 1 steering oar and the stern of the ship; both ends of the ship are curled and there is a good deal of detailing on how the rowing oars are locked into place; it has 3 stars on the sail, 5 on the deck, 5 between the oars, 4 on the bow, 5 on the oars, 4 on the keel and a red T-shape on the steering oar; there are 26 stars in all

fol. 10v **CETUS** is like a cross between an aardvark and a hyena in his front parts; it has very long ears and a mottled back; with two front legs; the tail has a double corkscrew and rises at it ends in an acanthus-shape; it has 6 stars on its back, 2 on the tail and 6 on the belly, or 14 stars in all

ERIDANUS 'stands' facing the viewer and slightly to the right; he wears a long red robe that it covered with a toga-like yellow mantle; he is bearded and has a plant-shaped diadem on his head; he holds a yellow plant in his right hand just in front of his chest and holds his left hand down by his side; the yellow urn is upside-down behind him and pours out water that flows behind him and then curves under his feet; he has 7 stars along his shoulders, 3 on his right hip, 7 in the urn, or 17 stars in the constellation

PISCIS AUSTRINUS is a long, slender fish with a long snout that swims to left; it has 11 stars

ARA (sacrarium) as low-lying box set on a shallow plinth, but the geometry is quite confused (Escher-like); it is marked by 4 stars

CENTAURUS prances to right with both front hooves raised (nails shown); he twists to look back over his shoulder so that his human torso faces the visitor; he human half is nude and he has long hair; in his left hand, which is outstretched in front of him, he holds a dog (BESTIA/LUPUS) by its neck in his left hand so that all four feet are pointing upwards; he is holds a plant in his right hand, which rests on his right shoulder; his long tail is held

downwards; he has 3 stars in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on his chest, 1 on his left elbow, 1 in his left hand, 2 in his horse's chest, 6 on his body, 4 on his back legs and 3 on his tail; BESTIA/ LUPUS has 7 stars; the constellation has 30 stars in all

HYDRA as a worried-looking worm-like snake that slides to the left and has a series of ribs and dots along his body; he has 3 stars

CRATER is vase-shaped and sits on the first low hump of HYDRA; it has 3 stars

CORVUS faces HYDRA's tail and has 4 stars

CANIS MINOR (anticanis) leaps to right with its forefeet raised; it has a halo around its head and is marked by 3 stars

notes

The drawings here are part of the **De signis caeli** I family, which includes Padua 27 and Venice VIII, 22.

According to dell'ERA, ff 8r-10v has *De signis caeli* (omits chap 41); copy of IX or XI model; he dates it after mid-13th century

bibliography

PÄCHT and ALEXANDER 1970, I, no. 529, p. 41: French, c. 1268-74; Bayeux; good draws = coloured copy of a model of the 9th or 11th century

SAXL-MEIER III 1953 pp. 386-93.

CARMODY 1956, p. 158.

LATIN LITURGICAL MSS 1952, no. 92.

dell'ERA 1979, p. 271: after mid-13th century.