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De ordine ac positione stellarum in signis (excerpted from the Aachen compilation of 809-812 / Libri computi)

St Germain du Prés

1060

text

ff. 131v-137v fragment of *De ordine ac positione stellarum in signis* (excerpted from the Aachen Compilation of 809-812 / *Libri computi*, a.k.a. the 'Compilation of 810 in 7 books')

ff. 129v-130r DISCITE D IUVENES CUM ABRAHAM CÆLI & CURSUS SYDERUM COGNOSCERE. NON CUM EPICUREO VOLUPTATUM ADSERTORE VENTRI DE SERVIRE ET LUXXURIAE. EXCERPTUM DE ASTROLOGIA. (first initial filled in with green) DUO SUNT EXTREMI VERTICES MUNDI QUOS APPELLANT POLOS SEPTEMTRIONIS & AUSTRI. quorum alter a nois semper – quis ad ipsum usque decurrit accipiens. (*Excerptum de Astrologi Arati*, cf. Maass 1898, pp. 309-12).

fol. 130r IN QUO DUODECIM SIGNORUM. MARS HABEATUR. IN QUO SIGNU VERSETUR MARS. Annis ab initio mundi – non occurrerint iovemin eo morari.

IN QUO SATRUNUS CONSISTAT. Eorundem annorum summam si . xxx. – ibi saturnum versari.

IN QUO MORETUR VENUS. Eosdem annos præterea .xxiiii. paste – veberis patiae faciet stationem.

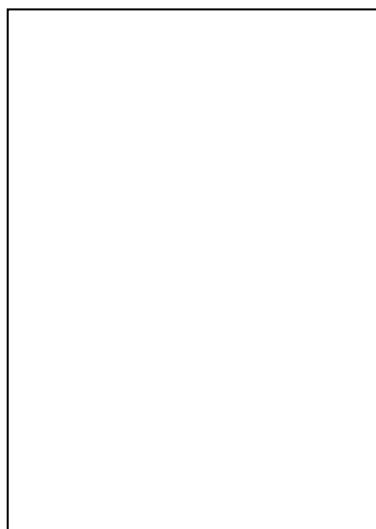
IN QUO ET MERCURIUS. Quin etiam præfati sæpe anni duodenario – semper inveniri planetam.

fol. 130v: Spera caeli quarter senis horis – hiemalis dicitur. (with picture in orange and green of HOROLOGIUM VIATORUM.

fol. 131r	(first initial of each chapter red-orange with green fill in, text in sepia) EST quidem hic ordo et positio syderum quę fixa caelo plurimum – eo quod ab ipso est ordine digesta. Descriptio proferatur. HELICE arcturus maior habet stellas in capite vii. ...
fol. 137v	ANTICANIS habet stellas. iii.;

illustrations

fol. 106r	two canon table-format drawings with two Church fathers; in the lunette above, there is God the Father holding a compass in his right hand and the Earth in his left; on top of the frames, there are two arrow-shooting monkeys
fol. 108v	Three magi on horses with a star
fol. 130v	HOROLOGOIIUM VIATOR in red and green
ff. 131r-137v	39 sepia pen drawings of the constellations coloured with pink-orange, yellow, red-orange blue and green; the pictures are set between (or sometimes beside) texts which runs across the page; the stars marked in three different formats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cross: orange dots with 4 teardrop shapes coming from the dot. • flowers: crosses with circlets between the arms and 8 dots • asterisks: asterisks with dots at the end of each line



fol. 131r

Habere habet in singulis... **C**ompa habet... **S**apientia...

fol. 131v

Sapientia habet... **B**eris... **V**eritas...

fol. 132r

Generatio... **C**ontra... **L**ibere...

fol. 132v

Angela... **T**ribus... **C**ontra...

fol. 133r

Contra... **A**ngela... **E**st...

fol. 133v

Antea... **T**riangulus... **P**ro...

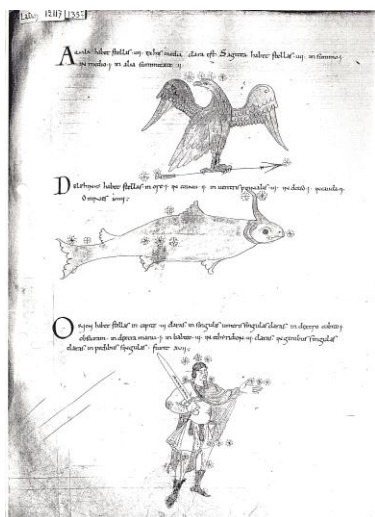
fol. 134r

Pro... **L**ibere... **C**ontra...

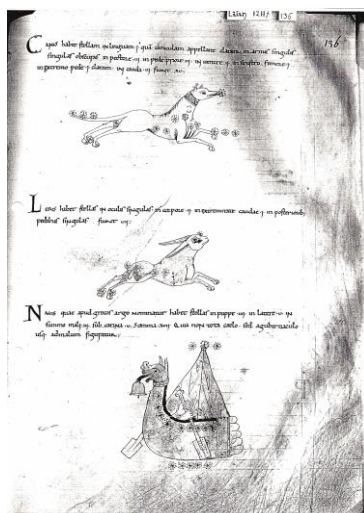
fol. 134v

Antea... **C**ontra... **S**apientia...

fol. 135r



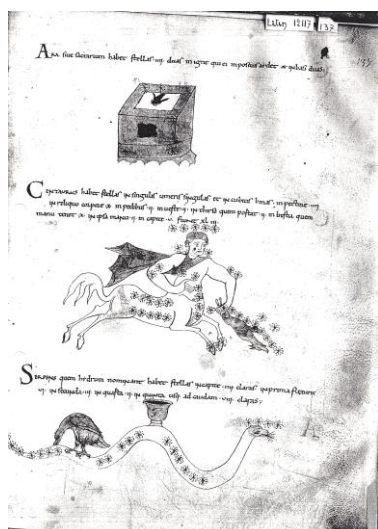
fol. 135v



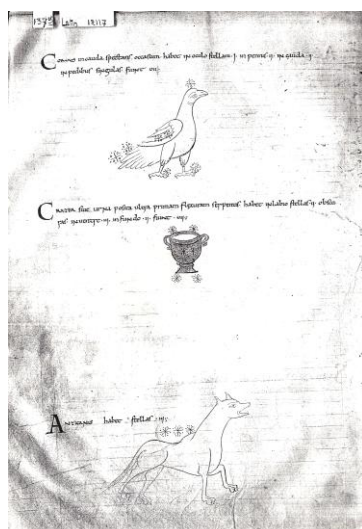
fol. 136r



fol. 136v



fol. 137r



fol. 137v

fol. 131r **DRACO INTER ARCTOS** with **DRACO** as a large green snake with a yellow head, its body forming an S-shape, with his head towards the bottom of the page; it has long ears and a dog's face; there are 5 flower-stars on the head and 10 cross-stars on its body

URSA MAIOR and **URSA MINOR** face in opposite directions and both have their backs towards the top of the page

URSA MAIOR² is a larger bear, nearer the tail; it faces to the right and has a short tail; it has 7 asterisk-stars in the head, 2 in the shoulder, 1 in the chest, 2 in the body, 2 in the left forefoot, 3 in the rump, 1 in the tail, 1 in the belly, 2 on the

haunch and 2 flower-stars on the right hind foot

URSA MINOR² faces towards the left, its nose close to the head of DRACO; it has 4 asterisk-stars in its body and 3 on its tail

fol. 131v **Hercules** is nude and walks to the left facing away from the viewer (buttocks visible); he has the lion skin (with a face, four paws and a tail) over his left arm which he extends in front of him; he holds a stick held behind his head in his right hand; his hair is orange, his stick green, the lion's skin is green and its mouth and eyes red; Hercules has 1 star in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on his right forearm, 1 in his right hand, 1 beneath his left elbow, 4 in his hips, 1 on his left foot, 4 in the lion's skin and 1 above it (16 stars in all); all are asterisk-shaped and some are coloured orange or blue

CORONA BOREALIS is a circlet with 8 elaborate, flower-like stars on it and two floreate tendrils coming from the bottom; it has a red dot at the top and at the bottom

OPHIUCHUS is nude and walks to left with his rear towards the viewer; the **SERPENS** is wrapped once around his middle and held so he is nearly horizontal at the man's waist; it faces away from the man; **OPHIUCHUS** looks back and upwards over his right shoulder; he has 1 star in his head, 1 in each shoulder, 1 on each elbow (all flower-shaped), 1 between his knees, 1 on his left foot and 2 on his right foot, 3 above his left hand and 4 near his right hand (all asterisk-shaped); the Snake has 5 in his head and 18 in his body (39 stars marked)

fol. 132r **SCORPIO** is orange with a blue sickle-shaped tail; its mitten-like claws face the top of the page and he has three legs on either side; his mouth is like a sucker and has three hairs coming out of it; It has 2 stars in each claw, 1 at the end of each mouth hair, 4 on his back and 7 along his tail (18 stars marked); the 4 on his back are the largest

BOOTES faces the viewer, standing in a short orange tunic with tight sleeves and orange knee-boots with both arms outstretched at shoulder height; he holds an orange and blue curved knife (staff ?) in his right hand and holds left palm upwards; he has yellow hair and yellow cuffs; he has 1 star in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 3 on the chest, 1 on the right elbow, 1 between the legs, 1 on each foot and 4 in the knife (14 stars marked)

VIRGO stands facing the viewer and is without wings and is dressed in a pale-

yellow long dress with bell-shaped sleeves over orange tighter inner sleeves and with knotted blonde hair; she holds a palm in her right hand and points upwards with the index finger of that hand; she holds the orange **SCALES** in her left hand at waist height; she has 1 star in her head, 1 on each shoulder, 3 in her chest, 1 in each elbow, 2 in her right hand and 3 in her left, 3 at her waist and 2 at her feet (18 stars marked); all shaped as asterisks

fol. 132v **GEMINI** stand facing the viewer; they are two youths in alternating blue and yellow tunics, leggings and knee-boots; they are both blonde and the left Twin has one red cuff and the right Twin one white one; they have their arms around each other's shoulders and hold spears in their outer hands; the left Twin has 1 star in his head, 1 in each shoulder, 1 on his right elbow, 1 in each knee, and 1 on each foot. The right Twin has 1 on his head, 1 in his left hand, 2 on his chest 1 on his left thigh, 1 in his right foot and 2 in his left foot with two larger flower-shaped stars by his left elbow; the right Twin is marked by 10 stars, the other by 8 stars

CANCER has an egg-shaped body and faces towards the top of the page; it has two muscular claws and four fat legs, on each side; it has a circular fish mouth and decorative bands along its shell; it has 3 stars on its left claw and 2 on its right, 4 in its left legs and 6 on its right, with 2 stars on its shell (marked by 17 stars)

LEO is blue-green and stands to right with his left foot raised and his mouth open; he has 3 cross-stars on his head and a large flower-star in front of his chest, which must be Regulus; he also has 2 in his mane, 3 on his back, 1 in his chest, 4 in his belly, 1 on his haunch, 1 on his hind leg and 2 on his tail (marked by 18 stars)

fol. 133r **AURIGA** stands to the right in a blue *biga* with yellow wheels; the cart is drawn by a yellow and an orange horse to the right; the Charioteer is dressed in orange with a decorative yellow bands at the neck and down the front he has long, wild yellow hair and beard; he holds a stick with three flails in his upraised right hand behind his head and, in his left hand, he holds the reins; there are two goats facing each other on his wrist; there are two large flower-stars at his hip and 1 on his head, 1 in each shoulder, 2 on his right hand and 1 on each goat (9 stars marked)

TAURUS is depicted as half an orange bull, with blue horns a yellow fringe and an orange body; his tail is curled under his body, and his left leg tucked under and his right leg extended; he has 1 star in each horn, 3 in his face, 2 on his neck, 1 on his chest (which must be Aldebaran), 3 on his right foot, 2 on his back 1 on his belly and 6 behind him (20 stars marked)

CEPHEUS faces the viewer and is a youthful man in short yellow dress with yellow ankle boots and hands held out to the sides at shoulder height; he has 2 stars on his head, 1 on his breast, 1 in his right elbow, 1 on each hand, 3 on his hip, 2 on his thigh, 2 on his left leg, 1 between his legs and 3 on his left foot (marked by 17 stars)

fol. 133v **CASSIOPEIA** sits facing the viewer, with her head turned to the left; she wears a yellow veil over her head; her dress has tight orange sleeve; she is seated on a squarish, jewelled throne with no back; she has 1 star on her head, 2 on her shoulders, 1 on her chest, 1 in her lap, 3 on her thigh and 2 on her throne (marked by 10 stars)

Andromeda wears a long white dress with full sleeves and tighter sleeves underneath; she holds her arms raised and bent at the elbows with her palms open and facing upwards and coloured red; her wrists chained to two sets of yellow and white rocks; she has blonde hair bound by a head band; she has 1 star on her head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each elbow, 1 on each hand, 4 on her waist, 3 on her hips, 2 on her knees and 3 on her feet (marked by 19 stars)

PEGASUS is a winged horse that faces to the right. With his forelegs stretching forward; he has a tapered tail tucked under his body and a yellow mane, eye and wings; there are 2 stars in his ears, 4 in his face, 4 in his mane, 1 on his chest, 2 on his knees, 2 on his hooves, 1 on his elbow, 1 in his wings and 1 on his tail (marked by 16 stars)

fol. 134r **ARIES** walks to right with large yellow, curled horns, a red eye and long tail ; he does not have a belt and is not looking backwards; he has 1 star on his head, 3 on his face, 2 neck, 4 on his back, 2 on his feet, 1 on his tail (13 stars)

TRIANGULUS is a yellow equilateral triangle, marked 1 star in each corner and one in the centre (4 stars)

PISCES swim in opposite directions (top to the right and bottom to the left), with both backs on top and are connected at mouths by a thin line; they are both yellow with orange contours gills and eyes; the fish on top is marked by 12 stars, the one below by 15 stars and the string connecting them by 9 stars, in all 36 stars.

fol. 134v **PERSEUS** walks to the right and appears to be facing away from the viewer (though the angle of his head makes it look as though he were facing the viewer); he is nude save his orange cloak, which covers his shoulders and flows out behind him to

the left; he holds a female head with an orange face and brown hair in his right hand behind his buttocks; in his left (?) hand, he holds an upraised orange sword with a blue handle; he has 1 star on each shoulder, 3 in his waist, 2 on his right leg, 2 on his left leg, 1 in his leading hand, 2 on his following hand and 4 in the Medusa's head (marked by 16 stars)

LYRA is a decorative orange and yellow lyre with 9 strings and is marked by 9 stars.

CYGNUS flies to the right with wings outstretched and feet in front of its body as if about to land; the long neck has two bends in it; the bird is yellow and white; it has 1 star in its head, 5 in each wing, 1 in the chest, 1 in the tail (13 stars)

fol. 135r **AQUARIUS** is nude and walks to the right, leaning heavily on his right leg; his long yellow cloak that is wrapped round his body in a very complicated manner (over left shoulder, around waist and between legs, so he holds one end of cloak in his right hand); he holds an orange, handle-less urn in front of him in his left hand, from which yellow water flows at an angle; he has 2 stars above his head, 2 in his shoulders, 2 in his chest, 2 in his elbows, 1 on his right hand, 1 on his right knee, and 1 on each foot (marked by 11 stars)

CAPRICORN faces to the right, is bearded with a yellow mane; his long, straight yellow horns are shaded in a way that makes them look like tufted ears; he holds his bent forelegs in front of him; he has a triple corkscrew tail that ends in two central lobes surrounded by curling tendrils; he has 4 stars in its face, 1 in his head, 8 on the back, 1 blue star on his neck, 2 on the chest, 5 on the body, 2 in the tail and two ones that seem to be by a later hand in the left forefoot (marked by 23 or 25 stars)

SAGITTARIUS is a centaur that leaps to the right with all four legs lifted off the ground; he has long flame-like yellow hair and holds an orange bow in left hand; he pulls the string with the first two fingers of his right hand; his equine part is yellow and he has 3 stars on his head, 2 in the arrow, 1 on the elbow, 1 in the hand, 1 at the waist, 1 on the right elbow, 1 on the left fore-knee, 1 on the left forefoot, 2 on the back and 1 on the tail (marked by 13 stars)

fol. 135v **AQUILA** stands on **SAGITTA** with his wings outstretched to the side; its body faces to the right, but his head is turned, looking over his shoulder to the left; he is yellow with an orange eye; he has 4 stars on his head and 1 between its legs (8 stars); **SAGITTA** has 3 stars.

DELPHINUS is a yellow fish swimming to right; it has an orange eye, gills and belly and horn on head; it has 9 stars.

ORION stands facing the viewer and slightly to the right; he is dressed in a tunic that is caught at the waist with a calf-length yellow cloak and short boots; he holds a long sword (with UUALANDS (?) written on it) in his right hand with the blade resting on his right shoulder and he holds his left arm outstretched in front of him; he has yellow hair and belt and orange boots. He has 3 stars on his head, 2 on his shoulders, 3 on his left hand, 1 on his right hand, 1 on his right elbow, 3 on his left hip, 2 on his knees and 1 on his left foot (marked by 16 stars)

fol. 136r **CANIS MAIOR** leaps to the right; he has a pointed snout, short pointed ears and he sticks out his tongue; he wears a yellow collar and his eyes and tongue are red. He has 4 stars on his chest, 3 on his right foreleg, 2 on his belly, 1 on his anus, 1 between his hind feet, and 3 on his tail (marked by 15 stars)

LEPUS leaps to right and holds its long ears back against its head; it is yellow with orange eyes; it has 2 stars on its head, 2 on the body, 1 in the tail and 2 on the hind feet (marked by 7 stars)

ARGO (NAVIS) is half a ship with the mid-hull break marked by five scallops; it has two oars (one of which is held like a paddle by 2 hands) and tent-like sail over the mast; there is a dragon's head at the stern from whose tongue a bell hangs; it has 3 stars in the mast, 9 in the hull and 5 in the keel (marked by 17 stars)

fol. 136v **CETUS** is a pointy-nosed walrus-like creature that crawls to the right; it has finned front legs; the eye is yellow eye and it has a double corkscrew tail ending in two lobes surrounded by two tendrils; it has 6 stars along its belly and 7 stars in its tail (marked by 13 stars).

ERIDANUS is yellow-faced and nude; he sits beside his stream with his legs to the right and he turns his head in the other direction; he has quite prominent breasts and no male genitalia visible, but it is unlikely that the figure is female; he holds a fish in his left hand and the handle of a yellow and orange urn in his right hand that pours water to the right; he has orange hair that falls past his shoulders, but also comes out of the top of his head like horns; the fish has orange gills; there are 12 stars in the water with 1 below the water (marked by 13 stars)

PISCIS AUSTRINUS (MAGNUS) is a fish swimming to right that is pale orange with darker orange gills, eye and nostril; its back is on top; it is marked by 12 stars

fol. 137r **ARA** is boxy and yellow in colour with and an orange flame on the top; it has 4 stars

CENTAURUS leaps to the right, holding a dog (**Lupus**) by its heels in his left hand, which he holds in front of him; he holds his right hand in front of his chest with the index finger extended; there is a yellow cape flowing backwards from his shoulders and beneath his right arm; he has 5 stars in his head, 2 on his shoulders, 2 on his chest, 2 on each elbow, 2 on the cape, 4 in his chest, 10 on his body, 2 on his forefeet, and 12 on the body of **Lupus** (marked by 43 stars)

HYDRA is a snake that slides to the right with one large hump and one small one in its body; it has a yellow face and orange tongue; and it has 4 +6 +3+2+ 8 stars on his body (23 stars)

CRATER is yellow, footed and handle-less *krater* as is placed on the first hump

CORVUS is also yellow and stands on the smaller hump, pecking at the Snake's tail and facing towards the tail

fol. 137v **CORVUS**² is a white crow that walks to the right and is marked by 7 stars

CRATER² is and orange, two-handled cup, marked by 7 stars

CANIS MINOR stands to the right with his left front leg raised; he has a pointed short nose and ears and his mouth is open; he has 3 stars

notes

The star catalogue in this manuscript has been excerpted from the 7-book compilation or Aachen compilation 809-812. It was copied at St Denis.

The cycle of illustrations in this manuscripts has all the characteristics of the cycle *De ordine ac positione IV*. The characteristic features of this cycle are also seen in Vat Reg lat 309.

The stars have been marked very carefully in this manuscript. The artist was clearly interested in the subject considering that different symbols were introduced for stars of different magnitudes. He seems to have read the text carefully because he marked four stars in **TRIANGULUS** - a feature that is rarely seen in these kinds of manuscripts.

bibliography

BASTARD [D'ESTANG] 1832-69, III, pp. 227-28.

MON. GERM. HIST. 1894, AA XI, ii, p. 404.

PERTZ 1841, pp. 3ff III, pp. 166-68.

DELILSE 1868, p. 37.

LAUER 1927, p. 129 and pl. XVIII.

NIVER 1928, pp. 398 and 400.

says that can be dated 1031-1060 by list of kings, since last one mentioned is Henry I and attributes to Ingelhard

CORDOLANI 1949, p. 71

PORCHER 1954, p. 89, no. 249.

says mid-XIe century; describes as 'le traité des constellations d'Hygin avec des dessins lavés tires d'une modèle antique'.

DESLANDRES 1955, p. 9-11: identifies Ingelhard.

LEONARDI 1960, p. 441.

VEIHELLARD-TROÏHOUFF 1966, pp. 77-106.

KING 1969, p. 113

ALEXANDER 1970, p. 67 and 138; pls. 11a and 32d: illuminated by Ingelardus.

MÜTHERICH 1973, p. 206

McGURK 1974, pp. 1-5.

MUNK OLSEN 1982, p. 532.

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KERSCHER 1988, pp. 1-76.

MOSTERT 1989, p. 217: says Fleury.

MARTIN and VEZIN 1990, pp. 356-57.

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STEVENS 1993, p. 75n

BORST 1995², p. 210, note 4

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contact

Catherine Faivre d'Arcier, Département des Manuscrits

Sylvia Scwutke, Service d'Orientation des lecteurs

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