
Lat 5239

ps Bede, *De signis caeli*

Limoges
10-11th century

text

ff. 215r-224v ps- Bede, *De signis caeli*

fol. 215r (in sepia ink with larger first initials, which alternate between red and blue with contrasting blue or red fill-ins)

Fenix arcturus maior habet autem in capite stellas obscuras vii. In spatula .i. super pectus .i. In pede .i. In dorso .i. ... (cf. Maass 1898, p. 582)

note: Ursa Minor is also called 'Fenix'

fol. 224v Anticanis dicitur subtus geminis bene parere. Hab& stellas .iii. quarum una splendidior est c&eris & ideo anticanis vocatur eo quod contraria sit cani. ΠΡΟΚΥΩΝ. ANTICANIS (cf. Maass 1898, p. 594)

illustrations

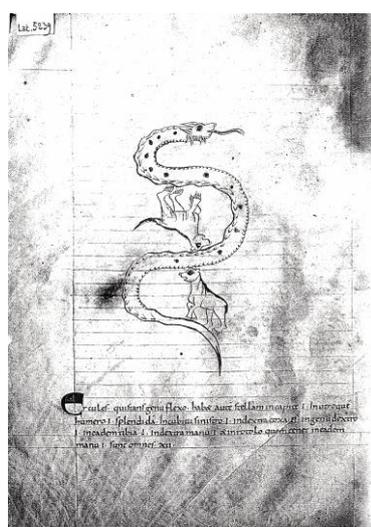
fol. 38r: small bust roundels of the 5 planet-gods set within double blue frames with red and sepia dots decorating them; with attributes, but not overly clear; the top row has a god with curved stick (= Saturn?); god with crown and plant (= Jupiter?); god with spear (Mars); middle row has god with crown and sceptre (= Sol?); bottom row goddess with head covered (= Venus?); god with arrow (= Mercury ?) and goddess with crescent on head (Luna) images accompany the chapter: IDEM DE SEPTEM SIDERA QUAE PENDUNT INTER CAELUM ET TERRAM . Inter celum et terris certis discretis (?) spatibus septem sidera pendent – luce ad easdem vices exit.

- fol.38v Diagram of 'DIAPASON ARMONIA' with planets in order from Saturn to Earth with 'semitonus' written in-between; accompanies chapter: INTERVALLA eorum a terra multi indaginare – nos menses non impleant.
- fol. 39r Diagram of crossing paths of planets within ecliptic
- fol. 125v Diagram of orbs Sol in Gemini, Mars in Leo Jupiter in Virgo, Saturn in Scorpio, Venus in Sagittarius, Mercury in Capricorn, unidentified star in Aquarius, unidentified star in Taurus
- ff. 129r-136r calendar followed by tables, diagram of equinoxes and solstices, verses and diagrams on the winds, riding of zodiac signs vs months, winds with earth in centre
- fol. 148v horologium viator
- ff. 165r-166r elaborate 'tree-diagrams' on genealogy
- ff. 215r-224v Pen drawings in sepia ink with red ink of 40 constellations groupings; the first few are marked with both open circlets and dots to indicate stars; the pictures are set within large spaces between paragraphs of text that run across the page; there are labels for some of the illustrations that seem to be added by a later hand
- fol. 225r table of winds with horned demon heads

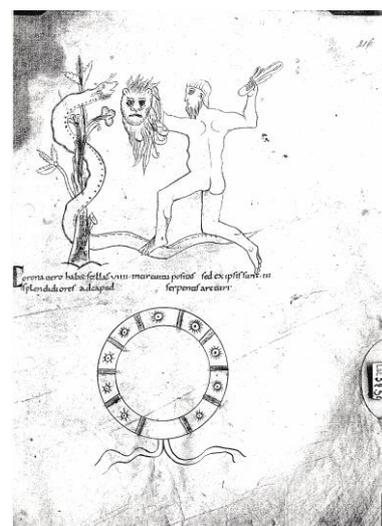
illustrations



fol. 215r



fol. 215v



fol. 216r

fol. 215r **URSA MAIOR** is the smaller of the two bears and is running to the left with its front paws raised, a short tail and its tongue sticking out; its tongue, eye, mane, toes and tail are marked in red; it has 7 stars as dots on its brow, 2 in its cheek and possibly 1 on its ear, 1 on the hump, 3 on the flank, 1 in the left shoulder, 1 in the belly, 2 on the left foreleg, 1 in the left hind leg and 2 in the right hind leg, or at least 20 stars

URSA MINOR is larger with a long tail held upwards, prancing to the left and with its mouth open; it has red on its eye, chin, mane, tail and feet; it has 4 stars marked by dots on its chest and 3 circlets on its tail and 1 circlet on its left hind leg, or 8 stars in all

note: both bears described as 'Fenix' in the text

fol. 215v **DRACO INTER ARCTOS** with **DRACO** as a long snaky creature set vertically on the page with three curves in his body; its head points to the right and it has pointed ears, a beard and its long tongue sticks out; it has a red tongue, eye and tip of its tail

URSA MAIOR² and **URSA MINOR**² are placed back-to-back opposite directions (top is right and bottom is left); they face inwards towards the body of **DRACO**; **URSA MAIOR** is the larger bear with the long tail is in the second curve and the **URSA MINOR** is the smaller bear with the short tail is in the third curve; **Draco** has 12 stars on his body and the bears have none

fol. 216r **HERCULES** is nude and faces away from the viewer; he kneels to the left with his left leg advanced and his right knee placed on the tail of the snake in the tree at the Garden of Hesperides; **HERCULES** has a lion-skin with face covering his left arm which is held extended in front of him; he holds his club behind his head in his right hand; the Snake curls through the tree and faces the man; it has dots on its body; there are red highlights on the eye and club of Hercules, the eye and mouth of the lion; and in the tree of the Garden

CORONA BOREALIS is a ring with ribbons at the bottom, decorated with bands so that each segment holds one of the 9 stars; the separating bands are marked in red.

fol. 216v **OPHIUCHUS** is nude and stands profile to the left, with his back towards the viewer; his left leg is slightly in advance and he stands on the back of **SCORPIO** with

both feet; he holds a lumpy **SERPENS** horizontally and wrapped around his middle so it crosses at his waist; the Snake turns to face the man and has a long tongue sticking out; its tail extends horizontally; **SCORPIO** has a long oval body that faces to the left; it has eyes with eyebrows and whiskers coming from its snout; it has two large claws extending to the right and five smaller claws on each side; the tail is curved with dots (like nine peas in a pod) and the tail ends in a hook

SCORPIO² has a smoother, almond-shaped body, with less detailed front claws and four small legs on either side; it has a segmented tail that ends in a hook. The face is less well-defined

fol. 217r **BOOTES** is dressed in a short *toga exomis* with his shoulder exposed (he appears to be facing the viewer, but it is possible that swirls in his toga near the buttocks may indicate that he is facing away from the viewer; the toes of his leading foot indicates that it should be his left foot; the orientation of his hands could indicate either direction); he walks to the left with his left foot stretched out in front of him; his leading arm is also extended in front of him; he has a short piece of fabric draped over the extended arm, and holds a curved stick upraised in the following hand

VIRGO has huge wings open to either side and stands facing the viewer with a cloak over her head and wearing a long dress with a long cloak that bunches over her shoulders; she holds a lumpy plant (ear of corn? wheat?) in her right hand and the **SCALES** are held in her left hand are held at waist-height; she has a star-shaped star above her head

fol. 217v **GEMINI** are dressed in short tunics that are tied at the hips and they stand facing the viewer; they wear short capes that are pinned on their right shoulders; they have calf-high boots and their heads are bare; their inner hands are set on their hips, their outer ones hold spears vertically and they look at each other.

CANCER has a lyre-shaped body that faces towards the top of the page; he has two large segmented claws that extend forward and three smaller legs on each side; he has pronounced eyes and nostrils and whiskers coming from his mouth; his body is marked by horizontal lines (segments?)

fol. 218r **LEO** (labelled by a later hand: Leo) stands to left with tongue out and large male genitalia (also by later hand); he has a very heavy mane and he holds his tail raised (with a spiral drawn on the end of the tuft - probably also a later addition)

AURIGA (labelled: agitator) appears to be kneeling to the right and faces the viewer; he is dressed in a long close-fitting robe with a *peplos*-like skirt at the hips; the robe has a large collar decorated with stars and has bands at his waist, shoulders, elbows and wrists; his arms outstretched to the sides and shoulder height; he wears a pointed hat that is decorated with red stripes; in his right hand, he holds a straight stick horizontally which has a ribbon hanging over it in a soft M-shape; on his left hand, he has two small goats facing each other, with another goat standing in front of him and facing towards him

fol. 218v **TAURUS** is depicted as half a bull (with his back half added by a later hand) facing to the right; he has an X on his face and short curved horns; his left leg is extended in front of him and his right front leg is bent under him; there are a series of odd scalloped lines running down his shoulder (remnants of clouds?)

CEPHEUS is standing facing the viewer; he wears a short tunic caught at the hips and has a long cloak over both shoulders and fastened at his chest with a round button; his arms are outstretched to either side at shoulder height with his palms open and facing upwards; he wears a lobed hat with long ear flaps and with a button on his forehead; he is bearded

fol. 219r **CASSIOPEIA** is seated facing the viewer and wearing a square garment on her torso like a *peplos* over a tight-sleeved garment with bands at her elbows and wrists; she has a Phrygian cap on her head with a button at the forehead; there is a cushion on her chair, which has a square back, surmounted by a semicircle; she holds her arms straight out at shoulder height and has her palms upwards

fol. 219v **ANDROMEDA** is nude with her pubic hair carefully detailed; she stands facing the viewer; the sleeves of her dress are draped over her arms so that sleeves form tubes and the rest of the dress falls behind her nude body like a cape; her hands rest palms downwards on two mounds with the separate toilet accessories displayed on each (the vase on the bottom left has been highlighted in green); she has bangles on her elbows and wrists; there is a with a dog-faced, snaky monster curled at her feet, whose backbone has also been highlighted in green; her hair is exposed

PEGASUS is half a winged horse facing to the right with its mouth open and tongue out; his head is placed in front of his left wing, which curves around his nose (proto-biting/bowl?); he has a headband that is on his forehead and he has green highlights in his neck, the cut-off and on his hooves

fol. 220r **ARIES** leaps to left with both front legs lifted well off the ground; he turns his head backwards towards the right; he has short horns that are curled outwards and a ring around his middle; he has a long tail that curls upwards

TRIANGULUS is five concentric triangles

PISCES are swimming in opposite directions (top fish right and bottom fish left) and that are set back-to-back; they are connected at mouth by what appears to be a stream (but looks like a piece of fabric)

fol. 220v **PERSEUS** is nude and rushes to the left, facing the viewer, with his bent left leg lading; he wears a striped, pointed cap on his head and has a piece of drape that flows across his upper body from his right shoulder. Towards his mid-back and then outwards behind his body; he has winged feet and holds the Medusa's head by its hair in front of him in his right hand; he holds his *harpe* (looking like a butter knife and highlighted in blue) behind him in his left hand

LYRA has a square base that supports two vertical bars and a horizontal bridge all of which are are lobed like plants; behind this frame there are two smooth, curved lines at either side; the two verticals and the fleur-de-lis at the bottom each have a blue dot on them; there are no strings

fol. 221r **CYGNUS** stands to the right, lifting its right foot and its right wing; its left wing is hidden behind the body; its breast and but the other one invisible

AQUARIUS kneels to left wearing only bell-bottomed pantaloons, a pointed hat or helmet and cloak that flutters out from his shoulder to the right (behind his body); he holds an upturned handle-less urn in front of him with both hands and the water pours down vertically like a tongue

fol. 221v **CAPRICORN** (labelled in a later hand: capri) faces to the left and both front legs are extended in front of him; he is bearded and has with two sets of horns (two straight and two bulbed); there is a furry belt at the point where his two halves join and his tail in curled in a single twist with the end raised and it ends in a trefoil

SAGITTARIUS is a centaur prancing to the left with both front legs raised (and horseshoe nails evident in all four hooves); there is a rounded band separating his two halves and he wears a flayed animal skin-like a cloak that trail from his left shoulder to the right (flowing behind him); he holds the bow in his left hand and pulls the string in his right (the forearm of the right arm is hidden behind the body);

he is not bearded

- fol. 222r **AQUILA** stands facing to the right with its wings outstretched and head turned backwards over his right shoulder; he is standing on **SAGITTA**, which points to the right; **AQUILA** had 5 decorative dots on each of his wings, which may be recollections of stars, and **SAGITTA** has 3 dots on its shaft and 2 in the tip
- DELPHINUS** swims to the left and has a very bendy body; there is a small beard and the 'horn' on his head is no larger than any of his other fins; he has a trefoil tail and a blue eye surrounded by dots
- fol. 222v **ORION** walks to left seemingly facing the viewer; he wears a short tunic caught at the hips and short cape which covers his right shoulder and arm; his right hand is outstretched in front of him and his left hand is raised and holds a sword horizontally; he wears a scabbard on his right hip from a strap that is suspended from his left shoulder; his leggings have stripes at the knee and the ankles
- CANIS MAIOR** (labelled: XXVIII at the bottom of the page) is bounding to left with his front legs raised; he has a halo around its head and rays coming from his head (one of the rays being conflated with his sticking-out tongue); he has a studded collar and his long thin tail is raised
- fol. 223r **LEPUS** leaps to the left, having short ears, prominent whiskers and dots covering its fur
- ARGO** is depicted as half a ship with the vertical cut-off on the right and marked by a vertical mast which ends in a club-shaped pinnacle and has a flag with three *fleur-de-lys* on it; there is a steering oar at the curved stern end and two decorated shields on the deck; at the curved end, there is a small dog's head with its tongue out; there is also an odd rectangular shape running along the bottom of the ship (misunderstood/stylised water?)
- CETUS** is a sea monster with a beaked snout facing to the right; it has long pointed ears (one of which rises from the top of its head like a horn); pointed teeth and sticks out its tongue; its forefeet have large claws and a wing sprouts from just behind its front elbow/shoulder; there is a long tail that curls once and is held vertically; the end of which is a trefoil
- fol. 223v **ERIDANUS** is a nude bust of a young man with a starry headdress facing slightly to the left; he raises his right hand and looks upwards; he is set behind a rectangle,

upon the right end of which, there is a decorative plant

PISCIS AUSTRINUS is upside-down, scaly fish that faces to the right with a semi-circle in its mouth.

fol. 224r **ARA** (labelled in a later hand: scā scōrum) is a triangular structure on a three-legged rectangular base with a trefoil coming from the top

CENTAURUS stands facing to the right, with his back to the viewer; he is bearded and his left arm and hand is metamorphosised into a ragged animal skin, which he holds out to the left behind him; he has nails in his hooves; He holds **BESTIA/LUPUS** (depicted as a small lion and labelled 'bestiam' in a later hand) by its feet in his right hand in front of him

fol. 224v **HYDRA** is a snake that slides to the left with beard and its tongue sticking out.; it has dots all along its spine, perhaps as remembrances of stars

CRATER is a highly-decorated, two-handled urn set in the middle of **HYDRA**'s back

CORVUS is coloured and stands on **HYDRA**'s tail, facing to the front, pecking on its body

CANIS MINOR (labelled: ΠΡΟΚΥΩΝ. ANTICANIS) is running to the left with a studded collar, short pointed ears, a feathery tail and its tongue out

notes

De signis caeli between ff. 215r-224r (omits chap 41); Le Boeuffle says illustrations have a 6th-century provenance.

The illustrations of this manuscript are part of the **DSC II** group, which includes Klosterneuberg 685, Paris BN 5543, Vat lat 643 and Zwettl 296.

A number of the iconographic idiosyncrasies in the **DSC II** group can also be found accompanying certain versions of the Germanicus text, such as Aberystwyth 735 C, and the Hyginus text in Leiden oct. 15.

Fuller description of the other contents of the manuscript:

ii (vellum) + 239 + ii (vellum) + ii (paper); fol ii v (in late hand): Codex Scriptus Sæculo xi. exeunte aut ineunte xii. contains numerous Bedan texts, including:

ff. 1r-6r INICIPT LIBER DIONISII EXIGUI. DOMINI BEATISSIMO ET NIMIUM DESIDERANTISSIMO PATRI petronio episcopo Dionisius exiguus. Paschalis festi rationem quam multorum diu frequenter – divina gratam custodire dignetur. EXPLICIT PRAEFATIO.

ff. 6r- 20r INCIPIIT CYCLUS DECENNIO VENALIS QUEM GRECI ENNEACA IDECA DERICA

ff. 20r VOCANT with 19-year cycles set in tables.

ff. 20v-21r chronological notations re: significant events set ‘anno dominicę’

fol. 21v blank

fol. 22r *De differentia cometarum*

fol. 22v blank

fol. 24r INCIPIUNT VERSUS BEDAE PRAESBITERI. Naturas rerum varias labentis et aevi – Qui legis astra super mente domini.

INCIPIIT LIBER BEDAE PRAESBITERI . DE NATURA RERUM.

INCIPIUNT CAPITULA –(fol. 28v) EXPLICIUNT CAPITULA.

DE QUADRIFARIO DI OPERE. Operatio divina quae sæcula creavit ...

fol. 38r: small bust roundels of the 5 planet-gods set within double blue frames with red and sepia dots decorating them; with attributes, but not overly clear. Top row god with curved stick (= Saturn?); god with crown and plant (=Jupiter?); god with spear (Mars). Middle row has god with crown and sceptre (=Sol?). Bottom row goddess with head covered (=Venus?); god with arrow (=Mercury ?) and goddess with crescent on head (Luna). Accompanies chapter: IDEM DE SEPTEM SIDERA QUAE PENDUNT INTER CAELUM ET TERRAM . Inter celum et terris certis dis creta (?) spatium septem sidera pendent – luce ad easdem vices exit.

fol.38v Diagram of ‘DIAPASON ARMONIA’ with planets in order from Saturn to Earth with ‘semitonus’ written in-between. Accompanies chapter: INTERVALLA eorum a terra

multi indaginare – nos menses non impleant.

- fol. 39r Diagram of crossing paths of planets within ecliptic
- fol. 148v horologium viator
- fol. 39v blank
- ff. 40r-95v PRAEFATIO BEDAE PBRI. IN LIBRUM DE TEMPORIBUS. De natura rerum __ racione temporum duos quondum – intemerata iuracus zodiac. EXPLICIT PRAEFATIO. INCIPIUNT CAPITULA – (fol. 41v) EXPICIUNT CAPITULA. INCIPIT LIBER DOMINI BEDAE PRBI DE TEMPOIBUS. DE TEMPORUM RATIONE DNO IUVANTE (?) DICITURI (?) necesarium diximus utilissimam– per/pro (?) pageret genus humanum.
- ff. 96r- 116v RATIO CALCULANDI PRIMO DE DIEBUS MENSIIUM – et dxxxii annis impletur.
- ff. 116r-125v INCIPIT PRAEFATIO BEDAE PRĒSBITERI. Reverentissimo ac sanctissimo fratri presbitero beda in dno optabilem salutem. Libenter accepi litteras tuae benignitatis – ut subiecta figura demonstrat.
- fol. 125v Diagram of orbs Sol in Gemini, Mars in Leo Jupiter in Virgo, Saturn in Scorpio, Venus in Sagittarius, Mercury in Capricorn, unidentified star in Aquarius, unidentified star in Taurus.
- fol. 126r blank followed by tables of Golden numbers, etc
- ff. 129r-136r calendar followed by tables, diagram of equinoxes and solstices, verses and diagrams on the winds, riding of zodiac signs vs months, winds with earth in centre
- ff. 129r-136r calendar followed by tables, diagram of equinoxes and solstices, verses and diagrams on the winds, riding of zodiac signs vs months, winds with earth in centre
- fol. 148v horologium viator
- ff. 149r-164v DE TEMPORIBUS ISIDORI. (CHAPTER HEADINGS) INCIPIT LIBER. Cronica grece dicunter quae latine –progenitores. progenitrices. Germani. Germanę.
- ff. 165r-166r elaborate ‘tree-diagrams’ on genealogy.
- ff. 166v-167r PETOSIRUS NECHEPSO REGIS SALUTEM. DIES LUNAE CUM NUMERIS SUIS. Debis quae

ame ad humanę vitę — et septies etremanent xxvii.

- ff. 167v-168v blank
- ff. 169r-193R ADAM annorum cxxx genuit —premorium mereumur (?) accipere palmam. EXPLICIT DNO IUVANTE BEDAE PRESBITERI.
- ff. 193v-196r ABBREVIATIO CHRONICAE AETAS PRIMA. Adam cum esset cxxx —dcclxii
- fol. 196r ARGUMENTUM AD ANNUM MUNDI INVENIENDUM. Siscire cupis annos ab intio mundi — annons mundi sine errore repperies.
- ff. 196r- 199v INCIPIT COMPUTACIO CIRCULI MAGNI PASCHE QUINGENTORUM XXX ANNORUM DUORUM IN SE IPSUM REVOLUTUS. Nonsat prater mittentum — pars xlvii semis momentor (?).
- ff. 200r-214r tables of cursus lunaris followed by calendar
- fol. 214v blank
- ff. 215-224v ps. Bede de signis
- fol. 225r table of winds with horned demon heads
- ff. 225v-226r Duo sunt extremi vertices mundi quos appellant polos septentrionis — usque decurrit accipiens.
- ff. 226v-230v Ab iove principium magno deduxit aratus:
Carminis at nobis genitor tu maximus auctor —
Namque alia equibus expletum cervixque capudque
Vatibus ignotis priscis sine honore feruntur.
- ff. 226v- 231v Quaeritur quare ab iove coepit & non a musis—virgo figuratur stellis . xviii.
(followed by different, later hand: Noverint omnis ta psentes ... sicut datan et abiran (ending fol. 232r)
- ff. 232v-233r blank
- ff. 233v-236r more tables

- fol. 236v VETERIS QUESTIONIS NOVA SOLUTIO. Dni cę resurrectionis diem id circo – universaliter annotatur.
- fol. 237 r blank
- fol. 237v Lunę bis nono solis quarto –similiter dividatur.
- ff. 238r-239v (begins incompletely) tem ubi habuerit ian. dies iiii & dies vi. – Germani. Germanię.
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bibliography

DUPLES-AGIER 1874, pp. .

DESLILSE 1868, I, pp, 388, 389, 392, 393, 39, 397

MARTIAL 1898, pp. 160 ff

STEVEN 1933, p 19 n. 33

VAN DE VYVER 1935, p. 151.

JONES 1938, pp. 91-92.

L'ART ROMAN A SAINT MARTIAL 1950, p. 58, no. 3

CORDOLANI 1952, p. 143.

DEROLEZ 1954, pp. 39, 50, 52, etc.

DESTOMBES 1964 , p.36

McGURK IV 1966, p. xvii: Aratea illustrations from 11 and 12th C Germany, Spain and France are set in a traditional context, unlike English counterparts, which are often set within mss with contemporary scientific texts; says 11th C; not unlike Aberystwyth in illis (Andromeda and Bootes)

WICKERSHEIMER 1966, p. 64

GABORIT-CHOPIN 1969, p. 204

dell' ERA 1979, p. 271: X century.

LOTT 1981, pp. 150 and 158 n2

McGURK 1981, p. 214, n. 19: says 10th century Limoges book; illustrations are related to Paris BN 5543 and Aberystwyth ms

TOLLES 1982, pp. 50-60.

LANDES 1983, p. 185

TEXTS AND TRANSMISSIONS 1983, p. 21

VAN DE VYVER 1986, pp.672, 676

LEMAITRE 1989, pp. 114, 117, 125, 219.

MOSTART 1989, p. 207

MUNK OLSEN 1991, p. 62

LANDES 1995, *passim*.

NOEL 1995, pp. 175-76, 177-79

SCHELLER 1995, pp. 113, 116

OBRIST 1997, 1, pp. 33-84

HAFFNER 1997, p. 25: text related to Basle AN.IV.18 and connected to group of 5 mss that have a Frankish, Carolingian background; acc. to Le Boeuffle (p. xxxvii) have a 6th C provenance. Acc to Haffner, this is a Germanicus text

BOURGAIN 1999, pp. _____.

FRAISSE 1999, pp. 221-42.

MUNK-OLSEN 2000, pp. 123-88.

Mon germ in 4o Auct Ant xiii, p. 236

MON GERM IN 40 AUCT ANT, XI, p. 415

CORPUS CHRISTIANORUM, CONTINUATIO MEDIEVALIS, 129, pp. xiii, 129

LES MEDECINE MEDIEVAELES, exhib, no 19,p. 42

consulted 29.10.04