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

Fleury
c. 1000

text

- ff. 20r-23v *De ordine ac positione stellarum in signis* (excerpted from the Aachen Compilation of 809- 812 / *Libri computi*, a.k.a. the ‘Compilation in 7 books’)
- fol. 19v DE ORDINE AC POSITIONE STELLARUM IN SIGNIS. Est quidem hic ordo ac positio siderum que fixa celo plurimum – eo quod ab ipso est ordine digesta. descriptio in medium huius modi proferatur.
- fol. 20r Helice arctus maior habet stellas in capite .vii., in singulas humeris singulas, in armo .i., in pectore .i., in pede priore claras .ii. ... (cf. Maass 1898, p. 312 and St P., p. 240)
- fol. 23v Anticanis habet summam stellarum .iiij.
- fol. 24r: DE POSITIONE ET CURSU SEPTEM PLANETARUM. Inter celum et terram certis – ad easdem vices exit.
- fol. 24v DE ABSIDIBUS PLANETARUM. RES sunt autem – figura demonstrat.

Other related texts include:

- ff.1r-2v: ETSI TE STUDIO GRAMMATICA ARTIS INDUCTUM non solum versuum moderatione – constitui suspicamus (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, Bk I preface; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 1 ff.)
- ff. 2v-3r Sed quoniam que nobis de terre – ad delectionem adfert lectori. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, Bk II preface; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 14-15)
- ff. 3r-12v IGITUR UT SUPRA DIXIMUS INITIUM est nobis arctos maxima. Hunc autem hesiodus ait esse– deformationem dicere instituimus. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, Bk II,1; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 15 ff)

- ff. 12v-16r IGITUR INCIPIEMUS a polo boreo – sed est stellarum omnino . xii. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, Bk III; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 94 ff.)
- ff. 16r-19v QUAE AD FIGURATIONEM syderum pertinent AD HUNC finem nobis erunt dicta relique PROtinus dicemus. Quoniam in initio sperę circuli .v. – cum sol ab ęstivo circulo rediens ccclxxi dies suo cursu transigit. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, Bk III, 40 - IV, 1-19; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 124-57 (ftn))
- ff. 25r ff MACROBII AMBROSII THEODOSII V. C. ET IN I. COMMENTA EX CICERONE IN SOMNIUM SCIPIONIS. INTER PLATONIS & ciceronis. LIBROS quos de republica – (= *Macrobius, Commentarii in somnium Scipionis*) - **check explicit**
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illustrations

- fol. 11r: Male head drawn into opening ‘O’ of the chapter of Orion
- fol. 11v: Male head drawn into the ‘C’ of the opening of chapter on Centaurus; also, there is a figure of Centaurus (walking to the left with cloven feet, a spear over right shoulder and Lupus (as a rabbit) held in his left hand in front of him -- this image is close, but not identical, to the one in the *De ordine* section below (*i.e.*: missing the second rabbit, and walking with left forefoot raised instead of prancing)
- fol. 12v: Bearded male head in capital ‘P’ opening section on Milky Way
- ff. 20r-24r 41 pen drawings of the constellations in sepia with some shading in tan; the pictures are scattered across the page with flanking paragraphs of text, several images per page; there are no stars marked
- fol. 24r: Five planet gods as half-length busts with names written in haloes (arranged in two rows as three and two); they have no attributes; the text ends in a triangular tail at the bottom of the page and Luna with a crescent Moon on her head and a torch in her right hand and a Z’s coming from her left; there is a space marked SOL to the right, but the picture has not been filled-in
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fol. 20r



fol. 20v



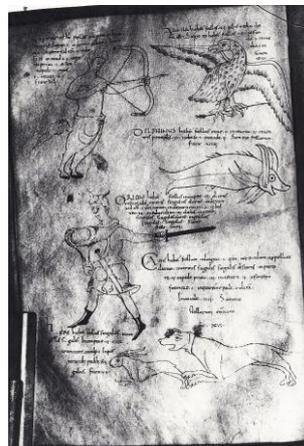
fol. 21r



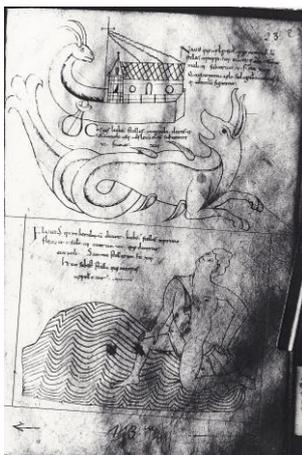
fol. 21v



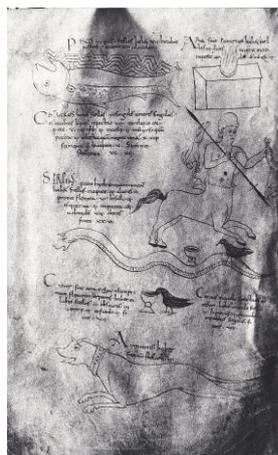
fol. 22r



fol. 22v



fol. 23r



fol. 23v



fol. 24r

fol. 20r

URSA MAIOR faces to the left and lifts its right front paw; its mouth is open and the toenails are quite long

URSA MINOR is depicted arching its back and facing to the right with its head dropped low and turned to the front; it also has long toenails

DRACO INTER ARCTOS has **DRACO** as a long snake set horizontally on the page and with three bends in its body (so that it looks like a soft 'M'); it faces towards the bottom of the page has a frilly collar around its neck and his tongue is sticking out; it has decorative dots along his spine; short pointed ears and a short pointed beard; The bears are shown back-to-back and facing in opposite directions, facing into the body of Draco; they both resemble **URSA MAIOR** in their postures and have short tails

HERCULES is nude and trots to left, carrying a piece of cloth in his lowered right hand in front of him; he holds the club in his upraised left hand behind his head; His body is body twisted with buttocks showing, but the upper part of his torso certainly faces the viewer

CORONA BOREALIS is a U-shaped ring with a floral decoration that resembles a bunch of bananas at the top

OPHIUCHUS is nude and stands to the left with both his feet planted on the back of **SCORPIO**; his body twists so that it is unclear if he faces towards or away from the viewer- the buttocks seem clear and the shape on his chest seems to be his shoulder blades and spine, but the orientation of his hands and his feet suggest he is facing towards the viewer; **SERPENS** is wrapped once around the man's waist forming an X; the Snake hisses upwards

SCORPIO has a paisley-shaped body with two muscular arms instead of claws and three fat legs on either side legs; it has a segmented tail that ends in a point; it has two round eyes and faces to the left

fol. 20v

SCORPIO² is depicted a second time with human hands at the end of his claws at the left and human feet on his four smaller legs; it has a segmented tail that ends in a fork, two round eyes and dots all the way down its back and segments

VIRGO stands facing the viewer and looks to the right; she has no wings and is dressed in a toga that exposes her left shoulder; she has a cloth on her head and holds a plant in left hand at waist height; she holds the **SCALES** in her right hand at the level of her knees; her left thigh is exposed and her feet are bare

BOOTES is nude and seems to be facing away from the viewer, if one reads the curved lines on his upper torso to be shoulder blades (though it is not altogether clear); he is nude except for a short cloak that covers his left (?) shoulder and side (proto-wing) and then appears to wrap around his hips, like a short skirt; he has a lumpy club upraised in right (?) hand

The **GEMINI** are separated by text; they are both nude and appear to be walking to the right, though facing the viewer, with their right legs leading; they both have oddly wild hair that seems formed in lumps; they are pointing to each other with their inner hands, while the left Twin holds his right hand behind his back and the

right Twin holds his left hand in front of his crotch; they both have the peculiar feature of eyes on their nipples and whorls for belly-buttons

fol. 21r

CANCER has an oval shell, two pointed claws that form a circle above its mouth and four pointed legs on each side; it faces towards the top of the page and two round eyes and a dotted stripe running down the centre of its shell; there are two small, highly schematised heads of Asses (**ASELLI**) on his shell

LEO stands to left with his front and hind feet placed closely together; his has a long, flame-like mane, a highly-detailed face and his tail is raised

AURIGA is walks to the right, facing the viewer and with his right leg bent; he wears a short tunic that is caught at the waist and that flares out at the knee; he has calf-high boots; he holds a straight stick with an S-shaped flail in front of him in his left hand; there is one goat standing on his right shoulder facing the man's head and a second goat standing on the tips of the fingers of the man's right hand, with its nose on his right thumb

TAURUS is a full bull, shown lying to the left with his tail between legs his hind legs so that its tip rises above his haunches; his right foreleg tucked under and his left front leg extended forward; he has short curved horns

CEPHEUS stands facing the viewer, wearing a short tunic that is covered by a short cloak that is pinned at his neck; the skirt of the tunic flares out at his knees; his ankle boots are decorated with dots; his hands are held out by his flanks, with his palms facing the viewer

CASSIOPEIA sits on a rectangular, boxy seat, with no back, but decorated by niches in the base; she is dressed in a long, loose robe with decorative bands at the neck and the hem; her head is covered and her arms are bent out to the side, with the palms open and upraised

fol. 21v

ANDROMEDA stands facing the viewer; she is nude to the waist with small drape wrapped around her hips; she has large, pendulous breasts and elongated nipples; her arms are outstretched at shoulder height so that her hands rest on top of two piles of rocks; she has long dark hair and faces slightly to the left

PEGASUS is a winged horse coming out of strange vulva-like shape that abuts Andromeda's rocks; he faces to the right and holds his wings back; his mouth is open and both forelegs are outstretched in front of him with the nails of the shoes clearly visible

ARIES stands to right with his head turned backwards over his shoulder to the left, with his mouth open; he has a band around his waist, a long tail, pendulous genitalia and highly curled horns

TRIANGULUS is two nested triangles and has the 8 letters (TRI AN GU LIS) of the name set into 3 corners and centre of the shape

PISCES are swimming in opposite directions (top right and bottom left), with both their both backs facing the top of the page; their mouths are connected by a wavy-edged double line

22r: **PERSEUS** walks to the left and faces the viewer; he is nude to waist with a short cloth around his hips that looks like diapers; he is holding Medusa by her hair in his right hand that is held in front of him at hip height; he raises a curved sword behind his head in his left hand; he has wings on his feet and 'eyes' on his nipples with a whorl for his belly-button

CYGNUS is shown with its belly to the viewer and its wings outstretched to either side, with its legs hanging limply in front of its tail; there are three bends in his neck and the head faces to the left

LYRA is shaped like a Irish harp with the top bar curling to the side; there are three dark patches that look like sounding holes, but may be the strings; there are three dots at the top and the bottom which may be the pegs

AQUARIUS is nude save a small drape around hips and a pointed cap on his head; he is walking to the right and extends his left hand forward; this hand holds the base of a bell-shaped urn that pours a very large stream downwards and then to the left so that Aquarius walks on it (the stream runs over Capricorn's horns); he holds his right fist clenched in his fist in front of his belly; his nipples are marked by 'eyes'

CAPRICORN faces to the left with long curved horns and a beard; it holds its front legs outstretched in front and has a double corkscrew tail that ends in four lobes

fol. 22v **SAGITTARIUS** is satyr (though his equine part looks more like baggy trousers at the waist) with horse's hooves and a long horse's tail; he stands to right facing the viewer and holds a bow in his left hand extended in front of him; he pulls the string with his right hand; one nipple is marked with an 'eye' and his belly-button is a whorl

AQUILA stands facing the viewer and slightly turned to the right; his head turns backwards in front of his raised right wing to the left; his beak is open in front of his raised right wing (proto-biting?); he stands on **SAGITTA**, the point of which faces to the right

ORION appears to face the viewer and walks to the left; the orientation of his hand and neck indicates that he is facing the viewer, though what should be the front of his thighs do look more like buttocks; he dressed in a short tunic and his right shoulder and arm is completely covered by his cloak; his hair is sculpted so that it resembles 2 horns; he holds a long sword held horizontally behind him in his left hand and has another sword in a scabbard at his waist

DELPHINUS is a very odd fish swimming to right with 2 large tusks (ears?) rising from its jaw-line; it has a smiling face and a big circular eye

LEPUS and **CANIS MAIOR** both run to the left as if the dog is chasing the hare; **LEPUS** has long ears held flat against its head and **CANIS MAIOR** is a round-nosed dog with small ears and it wears a collar

fol. 23r **ARGO (NAVIS)** is depicted as half a boat (or a squared-ended boat) with a goat's head forming the curve of the stern at one end; there is a large building on deck, a cross-shaped mast with wavy lines indicating the rigging running from the crossing

of the mast to the top of the building; there is a single, bulbous steering oar under the curved end of the boat

CETUS is depicted as a dog-faced sea monster with long pointed ears and paws for front feet and several spiky fins along his body; he faces to right, but looks backwards and upwards to the left (as is at the recalcitrant goat's head on Argo's stern); he has a double corkscrew tail that ends in a trefoil

ERIDANUS kneels to the left as if he is set in a pond of stylised water; he rests his left hand on the neck of an upturned urn from which this water has poured; he has a small piece of drapery that hangs over his right shoulder and then runs behind his back so that it re-emerges from his right hip and then runs inwards over his groin; He has an eye on his exposed left nipple and he looks upwards (in the same direction as **CETUS**).

fol. 23v

PISCIS AUSTRINUS is swimming to the left, upside-down with its belly towards the top of the page; it has stylised water similar to **ERIDANUS'S** above, which may be coming from its open mouth

ARA is a rectangular box with a flame coming out of its upper surface or from a bowl placed on the upper surface

CENTAURUS is prancing to right holding a dead rabbit (**LUPUS**) by its heels in his left hand in front of him; he holds a double-ended spear in his right hand in front of his chest that has a second dead rabbit tied to the upper end of the spear by its heels; there is the indication of a cloak behind his human torso and on his left shoulder; his equine half meets his human half in a zig-zag (furry?) line and his nipples are marked by 'eyes' and his belly button by a whorl

Hydra is a long snake with three small bends in its body and a dog's face; it has dots along its underside

CRATER is a small goblet placed on the second dip of Hydra's body

CORVUS is a black crow that stands on the third hump, facing towards Hydra's head

CORVUS² and **CRATER**² are depicted separately below and posed as if Corvus were drinking from the cup

CANIS MINOR runs to the left; it is a snub-nosed dog with short pointed ears and it sticks its tongue out; it has a long slim tail and wears a studded collar

notes

The cycle of illustrations in this manuscript has the characteristics of the cycle *De ordine V*. The characteristic features of this cycle are also seen in Los Angeles, Ludwig XII, 5.

The pictorial cycle in this manuscript shows the influence of the tradition commonly found in texts of *Revised Aratus latinus*, suggesting that, at some stage, the illuminators of this type of manuscript must have come into contact with this earlier cycle.

iii (paper) + 58 + iii (paper)

BARKER BENFIELD and CAREY trace to Fleury; SAXL and MEIER say Tours (as quoted by VERNET).

bibliography

WICKERSHEIMER 1914, pp. 170-71. , *Janus*, 19, 1914, pp. 170-71

PRATT LATTIN 1947, p. 217 *Isis*, 38, 1947,

VEXIN 1965, pp. 50-51. Un nouveau autigraphe d'Adhemar de Chabannes *Bull Soc Ant Franc* 1965, pp. 50-51.

 1970, p. 130. *Scriptorium* 24, 1970, p. 130

dell'ERA 1974, pp. 6ff.

says text first mentioned here by Hasper, who dates the manuscript to the 11th century and cites it as an abbreviated version of Hyginus; dell'Era dates it 10th century and says the handwriting is 'German-Swiss'.

BARKER-BENFIELD 1976, pp. 151 and 153: mentions 'angular script'.

MUNK OLSEN 1982, II, p. 225: says calls it Hyginus and cites Munich 210 and Vienna 387

TEXTS AND TRANSMISION 1983, p. 230

MOSTERT 1989, pp. 225-26: says X / XI c

HAFFNER 1997, p. 175.

says 11 century, 'De ordine ac positione'

EASTWOOD 1994, pp. 138-55. , *Macrobius, Manuscripta* 38/2/1994, pp. 138-55

GAUTIER DALCHÉ 1998, pp. 134-35.

CAHN 2000, p. 225:

MUNK OLSEN 2000, pp. 123-88:
