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FRANCE

Ms 26 (A. 292)

ps- Bede, *De signis caeli* (fragmentary)

Jumièges

9th century (853-867)

### text

- ff. 197r-201v ps- Bede, *De signis caeli* (fragmentary); the manuscript is badly damaged along the bottom and outer margins of the folii and there are several folii missing from the central sections of the manuscript (see below)
- fol. 197r Helix 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)
- fol. 201v Anticanis dicitur subtus geminos bene parere. Habet stellas iii, quarum i splendidior est ceteris et ideo anticanis vocatur, eo quod contraria sit cani. (cf. Maass 1898, p. 594)

### illustrations

- ff. 197r-201r Coloured drawings of 15 constellation groups that are set either within the large spaces between paragraphs or beside the text that run across the page (indicating text was written first. In addition to the loss of certain constellations due to damage (GEMINI and most of OPHIUCHUS, VIRGO, AURIGA, CEPHEUS and CASSIOPEIA), there are also sections missing from the central sections of the manuscript. The missing images in this section are TRIANGULUS, PISCES, PERSEUS, LYRA, CYGNUS, AQUARIUS, CAPRICORN, SAGITTARIUS and AQUILA); the stars are marked by dots and circlets, but a number of stars seem to have disappeared through paint loss or, perhaps, in the later sections, stars may have not always been included



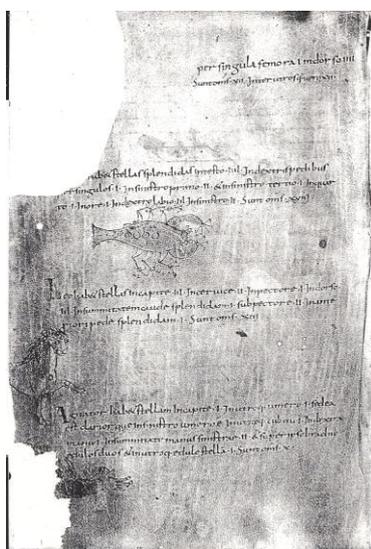
fol. 197r



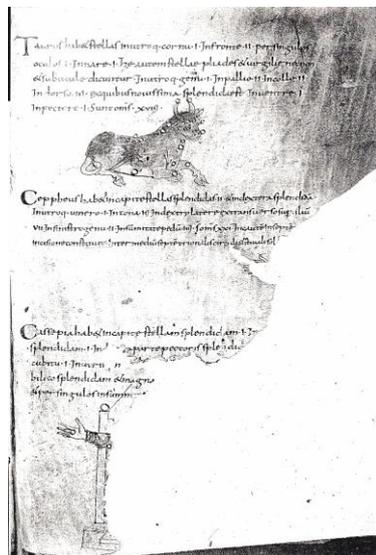
fol. 197v



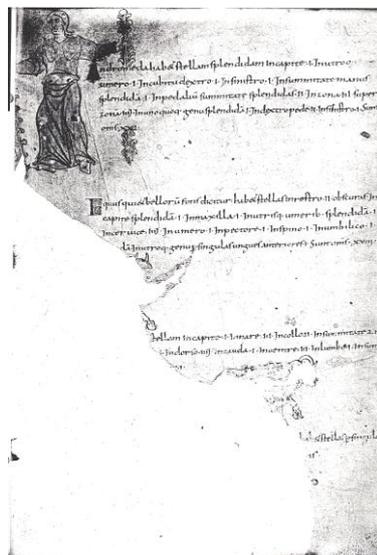
fol. 198r



fol. 198v



fol. 199r



fol. 199v



foot raised; it has a long tail and looks more like a dog; it has 1 star in his forehead (?), 2 on his back, 3 on each leg, and 3 on the tail, or at least 18 stars

**DRACO** is a snake sliding to right with wings on his back and a cock's comb on his head; it has 3 stars on his head and at least 10 stars on his body, or at least 13 stars in all

fol. 197v **HERCULES** stands facing the viewer to the right and he is nude; his right arm is covered by a piece of cloth and held extended in front of him; his left arm is raised behind his head, holding something cut by edge of page (presumably the club); the stars are marked, but their number cannot be determined

**CORONA BOREALIS** is a dog collar with a ring on it and is marked by 9 stars

**OPHIUCHUS** is largely lost by damage to page, but seems to be facing towards the viewer

fol. 198r **SCORPIO** is shaped like a lizard with two larger forearms and three smaller legs on each side, which end in star-shaped, clawed feet; it has a curled tail; it faces to the right and marked by stars, of which 3 on the body and 5 on the tail are visible

**BOOTES** (Arcas) stands facing the viewer and leans towards the left; he has a drape over his outstretched right arm, which is held in front of him (proto-wing?), and he looks back over his shoulder to the right; he appears to be nude, but has a sash across his chest; there is loss in this figure, but the visible stars include: 1 star on his head, 1 on each shoulder, 2 on his chest, some on the waist, 8 on the drape covering his right hand, 1 on his left elbow, 1 near his left hip and possibly 1 on his right knee

**VIRGO** stands facing the viewer and is damaged from the waist down and along her left side; she is winged and holds a floppy plant in right hand; the visible stars include 2 in each wing, 1 in each shoulder 1 in her left elbow and 1 on her left hand

[**GEMINI** is missing as it was in a damaged margin]

fol. 198v **CANCER** is almost identical to Scorpio, but with more of a fish-shaped body, due to the cutting off of the tail; it faces to the right there appears to be 1 star on each claw, at least 6 on the face, 3 on the bottom claws and 1 on the top claws and 4 along the body

**LEO** stands facing to the right with his left front paw raised; the only visible stars are 2 on his head, 1 on his chest 2 on his back and 1 on his raised left foot; the rest of the animal is missing

**AURIGA** survives only as the outstretched right arm with rabbits on it and as the top of his head, which is covered by a cap (?); there seems to be 2 stars on the man's fingertips and 1 on one of the rabbits

fol. 199r **TAURUS** is depicted as a full bull lying to right with his right forefoot tucked under his body and left one extended in front of him; his tail is also curled under his body; he has 1 star in each horn, 6 on his face, 2 on his neck, 2 on his chest, 1 near his heart, 1 on each front knee, 3 on his back and 1 on his belly, or 19 stars in all

[**CEPHEUS** lost except for part of his right hand]

**CASSIOPEIA** is lost except for her right hand and the left upright of her throne; she has 1 star in the hand and 1 on the elbow

fol. 199v **ANDROMEDA** stands facing the viewer, wearing a long dress, with her breasts showing through and the fabric bunched around her waist; she holds her arms outstretched to the side at shoulder height and is grasping the tops of some tall plants; the stars are marked haphazardly, with perhaps 1 on her right shoulder, 2 at her waist, 1 on each knee and 1 on each foot

**PEGASUS** is depicted facing to the right, but everything except for the ears and a hoof is lost

**ARIES** walks to the right, but all one can salvage from the loss is the indication of curled horns and front hoof and contour of the back; there may be traces of stars along the back and, perhaps, one in the left front hoof

[**TRIANGULUS** is missing from the bottom of the page]

fol. 200r **LEPUS** runs to right, but everything beyond his head is lost

**ARGO** is depicted as a nearly-full ship cut off at the right edge by a vertical mast from which a parachute-shaped sail blows; there is a building with a pitched roof on the deck and 2 steering oars near the left end of the ship; there appear to be 2 stars on the mast; 2 in the sail and 2 on the building

**CETUS** faces to the right with short, curved horns and a very long tongue sticking out; it has fanlike front flippers held out in front of him; and a band around its waist; there is no twist in the tail

**ERIDANUS** is the bust of a wild-haired young man that faces slightly to the left and is set behind/above a rectangle

fol. 200v **PISCIS AUSTRINUS** is a fish with a pointed snout (slightly canine), a beard that curls forward following the line of its jaw and two short pointed ears; it swims to the right and has remnants of at least 8 stars

**ARA** is a small temple or incense burner with a central window (there is a second sketch on the margin copying this image)

**CENTAURUS** walks to right with his human half facing the viewer; he has a stick held in his left hand that rests on his left shoulder to which a dead rabbit is tied by its heels; whatever was in his extended right hand has been lost there are traces of stars on his left hind leg

[**AQUILA** is missing]

fol. 201r **DELPHINUS** swims to the right, with a long pointed dolphin's snout and the odd Pharaoh's beard seen in with beard (which also appears in the Laon manuscript) and a horn on top of his head; visible stars include 2 on top of its head, 1 in the belly and 1 on the end of the tail

**ORION** stands facing the viewer, but his body is cut off except for a plant that he holds in his outstretched right (?) hand; there are stars on his right shoulder, right elbow and 1 or 2 stars in his right hand

**CANIS MAIOR** leaps to right with his forefeet raised; he has short floppy ears and sticks out his tongue; there are a series of vertical lines along the body; the evident stars include 1 on his tongue, 1 on his chest (?), 1 on each forefoot (?), 3 on his back, 2 on his belly and 1 on his left hind foot

fol. 201v **HYDRA** is shaped like a snake snake-like with cock's comb and 'star breath' with

**CRATER** is shaped like a pot and placed on the middle of **HYDRA**'s back

**CORVUS** faces forward and pecks at **HYDRA**'s tail

## CANIS MINOR bounds to the right

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### notes

This manuscript is part of the *De signis caeli* III family, along with Laon 442.

It is from Jumièges; pages of manuscript badly damaged; missing chaps 20-27 (TRIANGULUM, PISCES, PERSEUS, LYRA, CYGNUS, AQUARIUS, CAPRICORN, SAGITTARIUS and the picture for AQUILA) and 41 (puts 7,1 to 13 after 14-19 and 28-35)

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### bibliography

dell' ERA 1979, p. 271.