

Berlin

Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Kupferstichkabinett

Ms 78 D 12 (Hamilton 556)

Sufi latinus

North Italian

c. 1400-1420

Sufi latinus stellar tables with illustrations of the constellations, with close parallels to Prague DA II 13 and Gotha Membr II 2 14.

contents:

ff. 1r-47v *Sufi latinus* (cf. KUNITZSCH 1986 and KUNITZSCH 1990).

illustrations:

Full-colour illustrations of 45 constellations, in a full-page format. Ophiuchus, Serpens and Sagitta are missing. The stars are depicted according to magnitude: first is a blue disc with a golden star; second are red discs with silver stars; third are red discs with yellow stars. Stars outside the constellation are very dark blue disc with yellow stars.



fol. 1r



fol. 2r



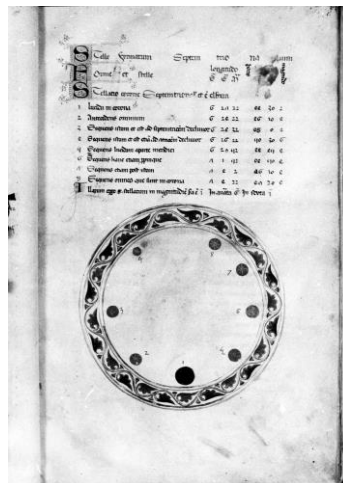
fol. 3v



fol. 4v



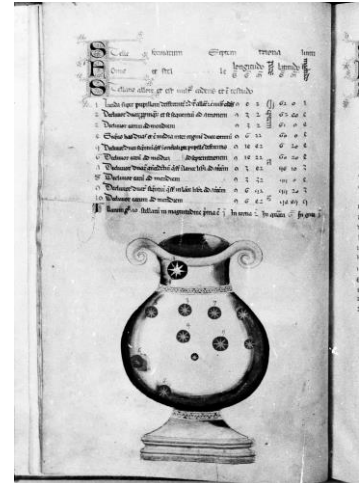
fol. 5v



fol. 6r



fol. 7r



fol. 7v



fol. 8v



fol. 9v



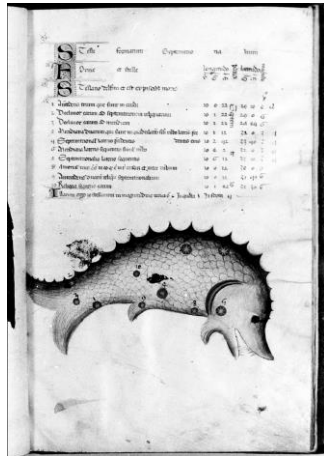
fol. 10v



fol. 11v



fol. 13v



fol. 14r



fol.14v



fol. 15v



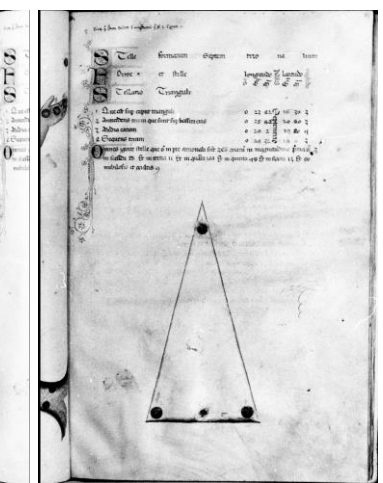
fol.16v



fol. 17r



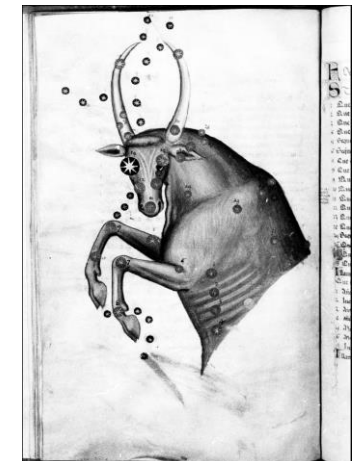
fol.17v



fol. 18r



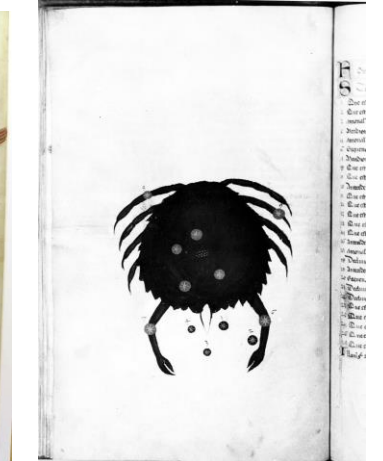
fol. 19r



fol. 20v



fol. 21v



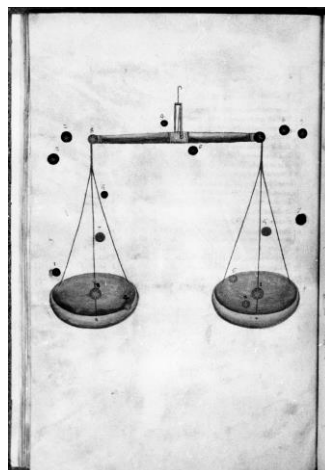
fol. 22v



fol. 24r



fol. 25v



fol. 26v



fol. 27v



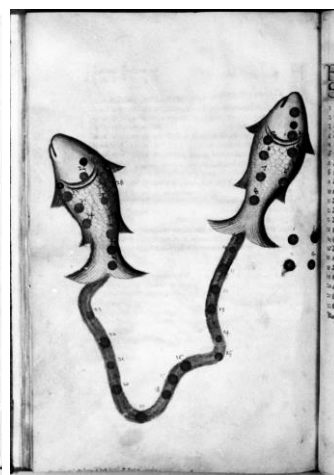
fol.28v



fol. 29v



fol.31r



fol. 32v



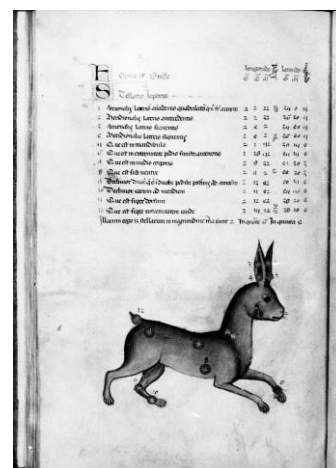
fol.33v



fol. 35r



fol. 36r



fol. 36v



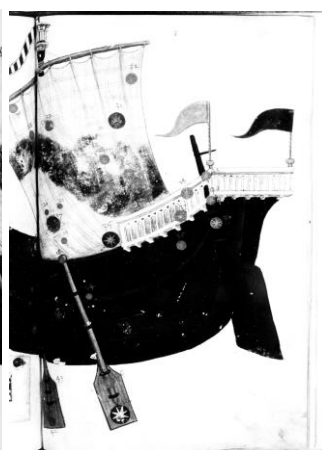
fol. 37v



fol. 38r



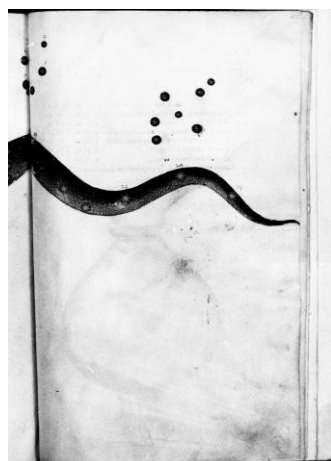
fol. 39v



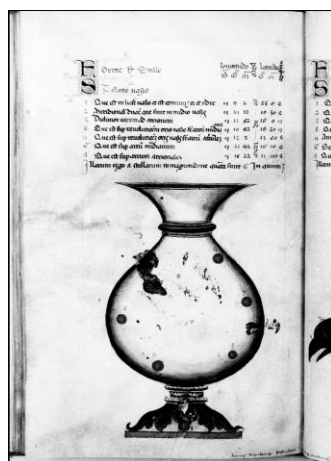
fol. 40r



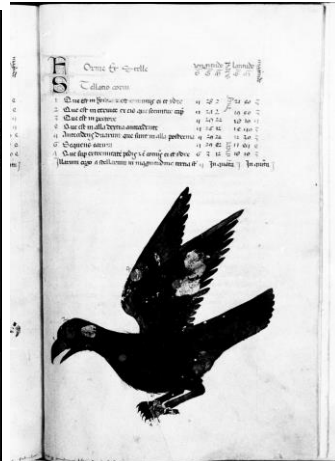
fol. 41v



fol. 42r



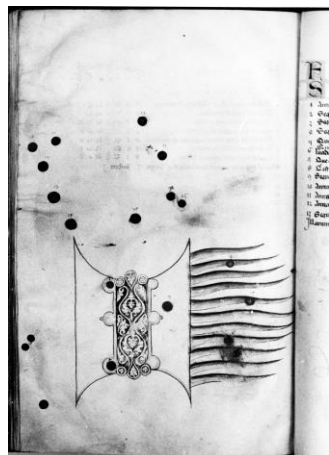
fol. 42v



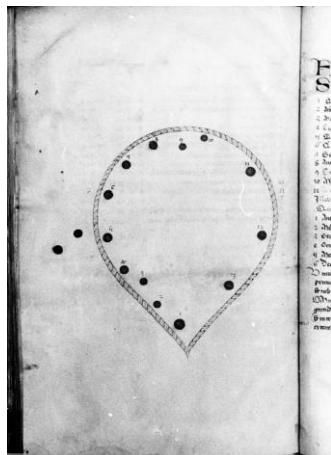
fol. 43r



fol. 44v



fol. 45v



fol. 46v



fol. 47v

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- fol. 1r URSA MINOR stands to the right. It has a long tail. Note also the small author portrait in the opening initial.
- fol. 2v URSA MAIOR walks to the left, with its front legs close together. It has a long tail.
- fol. 3v DRACO is a snake with a large head and scaly tail looking to the left. There are three curls in the body.
- fol. 4v CEPHEUS runs to the right, arms extended and almost as if kneeling on his right knee. He has a tall conical hat, beard, and a belted, knee-length robe.
- fol. 5v BOOTES walks slightly turned to the left, with his right leg raised. He raises his right hand above his head and holds a sword vertically in the left hand. He is bearded and wears a short, belted tunic.
- fol. 6r CORONA BOREALIS is a circular ring with red edges and red-blue palmettes inside. The stars are inside the ring.
- fol. 7r HERCULES kneels to the left, kneeling on his left knee. His right hand is raised in salutation and he holds a sickles in his left hand behind his head. He wears a red cap and a short, belted tunic.
- fol. 7v LYRA is a round-bellied urn with two handles, a profiled foot and two ornamented decorative bands.
- fol. 8v CYGNUS is a flying, heraldic rooster.
- fol. 9v CASSIOPEIA stands slightly turned to the right, leaning on a tall-backed chair with lion's feet behind her. She holds the seat's back with her right hand. She raises her left hand and wears a belted, violet robe and has a crown on her head.
- fol. 10v PERSEUS strides to the right, with his upper body turned back to the left. He holds a demon's head in his right hand and raises a straight sword above his head with his right hand. He has a short beard and wears a short, belted green tunic.
- fol. 11v AURIGA crouches to the right, in his left hand holding a fold of his outer garment in front of his crotch. He holds a stick (whip) vertically in his right hand. He is beardless and has a rounded cap.
- [OPHIUCHUS, SERPENS and SAGITTA missing]
- fol. 13v AQUILA stands to the right with outstretched wings, an open beak and a red tongue.

- fol. 14r DELPHINUS faces to the right with teeth in its pointed snout. It has a spiky backbone, beard and the gills are highlighted in red.
- fol. 14v EQUULEUS is a grey horse's head and neck, with its mouth open, facing to the left.
- fol. 15v PEGASUS is half a winged horse, charging to the left with its front legs extended. The body is cut off vertically and he has large violet wings.
- fol. 16v ANDROMEDA (first variant) walks to the right, with her arms outstretched. She has long, loose hair, and wears a golden crown and a blue robe.
- FOL. 17R ANDROMEDA (second variant) walks to the right with her arms extended. She has two superimposed fish on her chest that face to the right and wears a green robe.
- fol. 17v ANDROMEDA (third variant) walks to the right with her arms outstretched. She steps over/through a large fish that faces to the left. She has long hair.
- fol. 18r TRIANGULUM pointed triangle, standing on its narrow side, with a blue base.
- fol. 19r ARIES is a ram facing to the left with its front legs bent and its hind legs in a wide stride as if running. It has large, curved horns, a long tail, and looks backwards towards the right.
- fol. 20v TAURUS is half-a-bull placed vertically on the page with long, slightly curved horns and its front legs bent in front of it.
- fol. 21v GEMINI walks to the right with the arms interlaced and extended - 'like and Egyptian'. They are nude, save for rounded caps on their heads.
- fol. 22v: CANCER is a round-bodied crab viewed from above, with its head facing downwards. Praesepe is represented on its shell as a group of red dots.
- fol. 24r LEO crouches to the right, with its front half lowered. Its jaws are open and its tail raised.
- fol. 25v VIRGO stands to the facing left, with her arms hanging at her sides and her palms facing forward. Her shoulders are enlarged, especially the raised right one, with her head tilted slightly to the side. Her hair is covered.
- fol. 26v LIBRA is a beam balance.
- fol. 27v SCORPIUS faces towards the top of the page, with long front claws with small pincers. There are 4 side-claws on each side and a long, thin tail that ends in a sting.

- fol. 28v SAGITTARIUS is centaur trotting to the right, drawing a bow (European form) and its human body is dressed in a loose red shirt. He wears a white headband with long ends fluttering backwards.
- fol. 29v CAPRICORN goat-fish facing right with a single curl in its tail. It has long, smooth ibex horns and both front legs are bent.
- fol. 31r AQUARIUS pours a stream from a vessel on his shoulder with the water falling into an L-shape at his feet. He faces slightly to the left, his robe is gathered at his right hip. He wears a blue cap and raises his left hand to the side.
- fol. 32v: PISCES are connected at their tail fins with a stream that has a kink in the middle.
- fol. 33v CETUS is depicted as 'leo marinis' and is set vertically on the page. His foreparts are leonine.
- fol. 35r ORION kneels to the right on his right knee. He holds a small, curved club raised in his right hand and his left arm is also raised and covered with a long sleeve. A long, straight sword hangs on his belt in front of his body and he wears a rounded cap.
- fol. 36r ERIDANUS is a green river with the top end widening into two smaller branches.
- fol. 36v LEPUS leaps to the right, and has very long, straight ears, held vertically.
- fol. 37v CANIS MAIOR faces to the top of the page, running to the left. It has a blue collar with a ring. Under the hind paws, there is a rectangle with stars.
- fol. 38r CANIS MINOR stands to the right, wearing a red collar with a ring.
- fol. 39v/40r NAVIS covers two pages. It is a large wooden caravel with square sail, stern-castle, two rowing oars and a stern rudder with yellow and blue pennants flying from the stern. In front of the bow, there are two decorated polygons containing stars.
- fol. 41v/42r HYDRA stretches across two pages. Its head is on the left and looks downwards. Its mouth is open, and it has a long, forked tongue. Crater and Corvus appear as disembodied groups of stars.
- fol. 42v CRATER is a large-bodied, footed vase. The inscription at the bottom of the page is in an early 15th-century hand and reads: *huius sideris fabulam vide per Ovidium libro 13o de fastis.*
- fol. 43r CORVUS flies to the left with its wings raised.

- fol. 44v CENTAURUS is a centaur facing left. He holds LUPUS by the hind legs in his right hand in front of him. In his left hand, he holds a branch with leaves. His human body is clothed in a short red, belted shirt and he has a grey hunter's hat on his head. The stars on Lupus are painted in green instead of red.
- fol. 45v ARA is a brazier tilted on its side, with flames coming from its top at the right.
- fol. 46v CORONA MERIDIONALIS is a twisted band, shaped like a shield or inverted teardrop.
- fol. 47v PISCIS AUSTRINUS is a large fish jumping to the left with an open mouth, exposing sharp teeth.

notes

37x5 x 24; 47 ff, parchment, Italian humanist rotunda script, some underdrawings are visible. Originally from the Hamilton Collection (Hamilton 556).

The manuscript forms part of a group that includes Prague DA II 13 and Gotha Membr II 2 14. Chronologically, the manuscript was probably created between the two. The longitude values of the star coordinates correspond to those of the *Sufi latinus* and not, as the rubric falsely states, to the era of Alfonso the Wise.

From METZGER 2016:

If the signature on fol. 27r is to be believed, the manuscript was originally much more extensive, with - at some point in its history - as many as eight additional sections prior to what survives.

Iconographically, the ms is very close to the others in this *Sufi latinus* group, but stylistic details in the decorative elements argue in favour of it having been produced in Bologna, probably during the early years of the 15th century.

The opening rubric states: *Imagines ptholomei cum stellis suis verificatis tempore Alfonsi regis*. Instead, the longitudinal values have been corrected to the time of al-Sufi (Ptolemy +12° 42'), rather than Alfonso the Wise (Ptolemy +17° 8').

bibliography

WESCHER 1931, pp. 80-83, fig. 68, 69

BYVANCK 1949, p. 211, no. 26;

Fischer 1963

STEJSKAL/KRASA 1964, p. 83

FISCHER 1970, pp. 341, 344

ZIMELIEN, exhibition catalogue Berlin/Bonn 1975, no. 84, pp. 99f.

LIPPINCOTT 1985, p. 67 etc.

GOUSSET 1985, pp. 104f.

BLUME/HAFFNER/METZGER 2016, II, 1, pp. 61-62, 73, 75 and 357-60; and II, 3 plates 38-4v and figs. 366-75.