

Freiburg-im-Breisgau
Bibliothek des erzbischöflichen-Ordinariats

Ms 35 (B.D. 1442)

ps- Bede, *De signis caeli*

probably Lotharingia

third-quarter 9th century

This manuscript exhibits a number of borrowings from other pictorial traditions. Although there are a handful of similarities to the picture cycles found in the *De signis caeli* and *Revised Aratus latinus* manuscripts, the overwhelming number of pictorial features has been drawn from illustrations that accompany the *De ordine ac postione stellarum*.

text

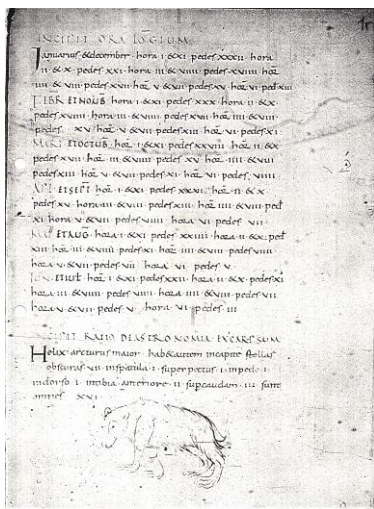
- fol. 1r ps-Bede, *Horologium*: INCIPIT ORALOGIUM. Ianuarius & December. hora .i. & xi. pedes xxxii ... & vii. pedes v. hora .vi. pedes .iii. (cf. *PL*, XC, cols. 945-56)
- fol. 1r INCIPIT DE ASTRONOMIUM EXCARPSUM. Helix arcuturus maior hab& autem in capite stellas obscuras .vii. in spatula.i. super pectus .i. in pede .i. ... (cf. Maass 1898, p. 582)
- fol. 10v ANTICANIS. dicitur subtus geminos bene parere hab& stellas .iii. quarum una splendidior est c&teris. & idea anti vocatur eo quod contraria sit cani. (cf. Maass 1898, p. 594)
- fol. 11r DE QUINQUE PLANETIS. De quinque stellis quae dicuntur planetae – CCCXLVIII diebus signiferum cursu suo complens. (cf. dell'Era 1979 p. 296 and Thorndike-Kibre 1963. 1384 (12))
- ff. 13v-14r later additions (13th century) : *De antichristo*; *Ad flagellum generis humani peccatis*; ps Johannes Toletanus, *Epistola de coniunctione planetarum anno 1255*
- ff. 14v-19r Intervalli eorum a terra multi indagare temptarunt ... (excerpt *Libri computi*, V)

ff. 19v-31r Versus Beaeda praesbyteri Naturas rerum (excerpt *Libri Computi*, VII; cf Jones 1975, pp. 173-234)

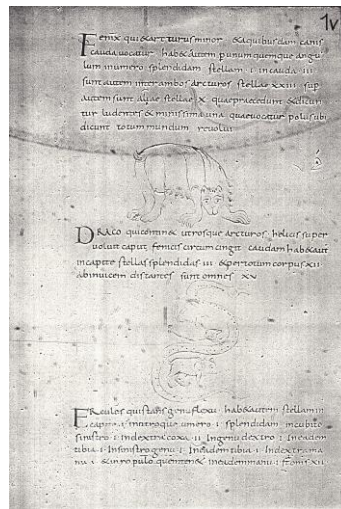
ff. 31v-32v Sedulis Scottus, *Carmen II*, 41 (*MGH Poetae*, III, pp. 204-07)

Bound with 2 printed works: Bede, *De natura rerum*, Basel : H. Petri, 1529 and Beatus Rhenanus, *In C. Plinium*, Basle: J. Frober, 1526.

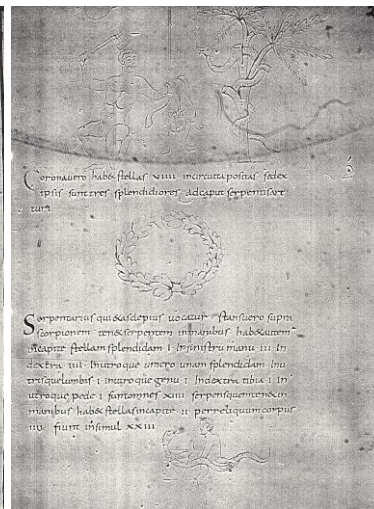
illustrations



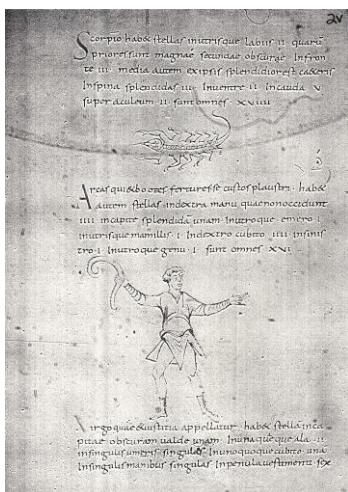
fol. 1r



fol. 1v



fol. 2r



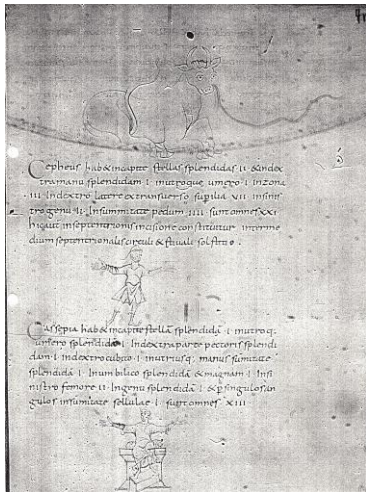
fol. 2v



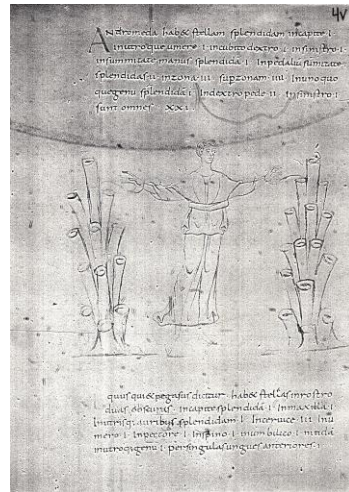
fol. 3r



fol. 3v



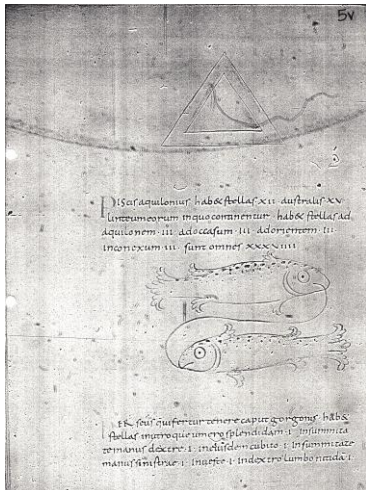
fol. 4r



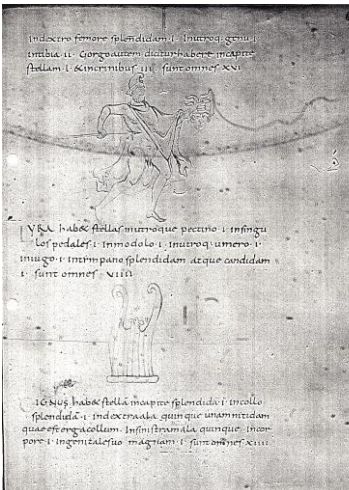
fol. 4v



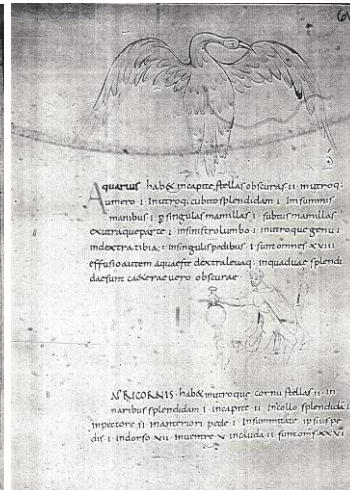
fol. 5r



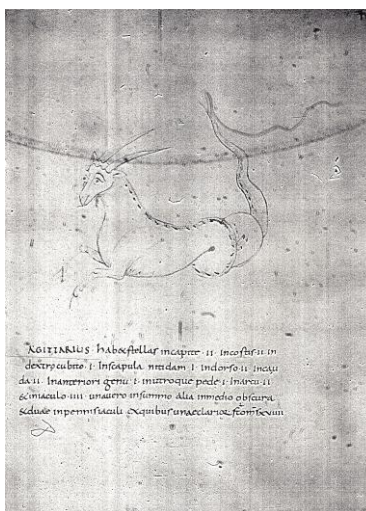
fol. 5v



fol. 6r



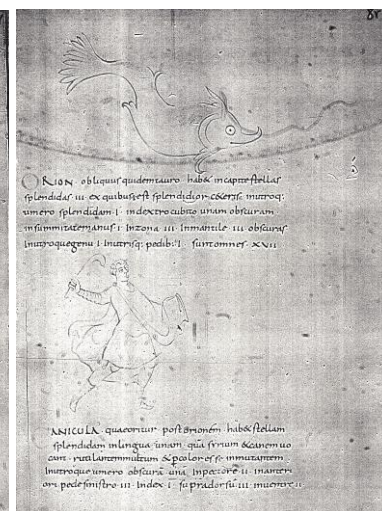
fol. 6v



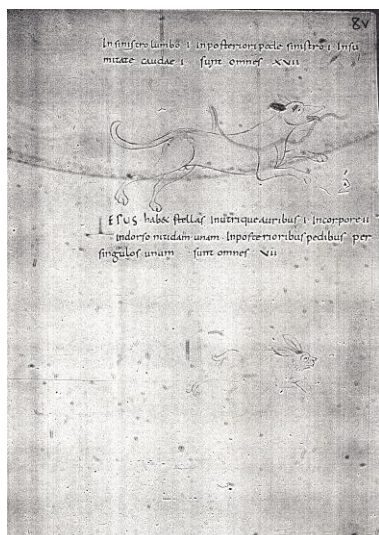
fol. 7r



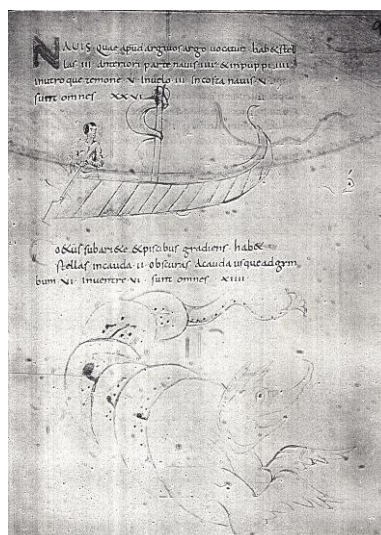
fol. 7v



fol. 8r



fol. 8v



fol. 9r

illustrations

- ff. 1r-9r black and red ink drawings of 32 constellations without the stars marked. Illustrations are set between long lines of text; the drawings finish with CETUS, with remaining spaces for constellations left blank.
- fol. 1r **URSA MAIOR** walks to left and has a small hump; she is very shaggy and has a short tail; it has very long toes
- fol. 1v **URSA MINOR** stands with front feet splayed; the body is in profile, but both the bottom and the face is oriented towards the viewer; it has a short tail that curls upwards; shaggy hair and very long toes
- DRACO INTER ARCTOS** has **DRACO** as a snake with 3 bends in his body; he faces to the right and, oddly, his head is upside down; the length of his body is marked with dots
- URSA MAIOR**² and **URSA MINOR**² are placed with bears back-to-back, both face to the right and they are roughly the same size
- fol. 2r **HERCULES** is nude and set in the Garden of the Hesperides with a snake in the tree; he kneels on his left knee (facing the viewer) and, unusually, he is situated to the left of the tree and his body faces away from it (to the left), though he turns his head back towards the right; he holds a hatchet above his head with his right arm and holds the lion's skin (with face, tail and 3 legs visible) over his extended left arm

CORONA BOREALIS is a leafy wreath with a square block at the bottom

OPHIUCHUS is nude with his with back to the viewer and facing slightly to the left; he holds the **SERPENS** horizontally behind his back, with its head to the left; the Snake faces the man

fol. 2v **SCORPIO** faces to the left and has a teardrop-shaped head set on a lizard-like body; it has two arm-like claws in front and a large proboscis that has hairs coming from it; there are five bend legs on each side and a slender, tapering tail; the back is lines with a series of dots

BOOTES stands facing the viewer and is dressed in a short tunic with tight sleeves that is hiked up around his thighs into V-shaped folds and he wears calf-high boots; his right leg is slightly bent; he holds a curled banderole (stick) above his head in his right hand and he holds left hand to the side at shoulder-height with palm facing upwards.

fol. 3r **VIRGO** stands facing the viewer and she has very large and extended wings; she is dressed in a long robe, gathered at the waist; she has exposed hair and holds a baton vertically in her right hand; her other hand is held close to her chest with gesture of benediction

GEMINI are nude, save the long capes (which are clasped at the right shoulder) that each wears; genitalia and musculature are evident; both hold sticks/spears vertically in their right hands; the left Twin holds a harp in his mantle-covered hand and the right Twin holds a curved instrument (horn ?) in his left hand

CANCER is oval and has a clear face on the left side and a long proboscis that has hairs coming from it; it has hands on the ends of its front arms and has three additional legs of about the same size on each side; it has a prominent anus

fol. 3v **LEO** rushes headlong to the left with his mouth open and his tail flying behind him

AURIGA stands to the right in a squarish *biga* with cross-hatching on the body and a large wheel; it is pulled to the right by 2 rearing horse, complete with bridles and strappings; the Charioteer is dressed in a short tunic, that is caught at the waist and has tight sleeves; he holds the reins in his extended left hand and he holds a two-thong flail in his right hand above his head; there is no goat or no kids

fol. 4r **TAURUS** is depicted as a full bull lying down to the left, with his tail tucked between his hind legs so that the end rises vertically above his back; his front legs are bent and he holds all four hooves very daintily together

CEPHEUS faces the viewer leaning slightly on his left (forward) foot; he is dressed in a short tunic caught at the waist and that falls in a V between his legs; he wears a hat and short boots; he has no attributes, but holds his hands outstretched at shoulder height

CASSIOPEIA is seated on a square throne that has an angled footrest at her feet and a cushion on the seat; she is dressed in a long, loose robe that covers a tighter undergarment, and she holds her hands out stretched to the sides; her hair is tied back and uncovered and she looks to the left

fol. 4v **ANDROMEDA** is dressed in a long *peplos*-like robe that is in two layers and belted at the waist; she has short hair and stands between two pollarded trees with her wrists tied to their tops; her feet are bare and she looks slightly to the right

fol. 5r **PEGASUS** is depicted as half a winged horse, facing to the right; his front legs curve out in front of him and his body ending in a curl; his mouth is open

ARIES walks to left with his left front leg leading; he has lumpy, curly horns and a very long tail; genitals are visible

fol. 5v **TRIANGULUS** is two nested equilateral triangles

PISCES are swimming in opposite directions (top fish to the right and bottom to the left), with both their back spotted and facing upwards; that are connected by a line that runs between their mouths

fol. 6r **PERSEUS** walks to the right facing towards the viewer; he is nude save a long cape that falls to his knees and is clasped at his right shoulder and a Phrygian cap on his head; he is bearded; he holds the Medusa's head by the hair in front of him in his extended left hand and has a long spear, held horizontally with its tip facing forward in his right hand

LYRA is a curved lyre with two longer, curled uprights and a foliate section in the middle; it has 7 stripes that run from top to bottom (but are not held by pegs)

fol. 6v **CYGNUS** stands frontally with wings outstretched to the sides and a long beak that seems to be biting his left wing

AQUARIUS is nude and faces the viewer, lunging to the right; he has a long cape clasped at his right shoulder, which covers his entire left arm and hand; in his left hand, he holds a *harpe*-type spear, in his extended right hand, he holds the bottom of an upside-down urn from which water pours downwards

fol. 7r **CAPRICORN** faces to the to the left, has 2 long straight horns and a tapering, double corkscrew tail; he holds his legs outstretched in front of him and has a series of decorative dashes running down his spine

fol. 7v **SAGITTARIUS** is a satyr, who faces the viewer and walks to the right; he is bearded and holds a bow in his extended left hand, pulling the string with the right hand; he has a long horse's tail

AQUILA stands to the right with its wings outstretched; it looks backwards over its right wing

fol. 8r **DELPHINUS** is a classical dolphin with an undulating body, placed at an angle, so that its head faces to the lower right; it has a very prominent eye and a slightly curved beak

ORION stands facing the viewer and lunging slightly to the right; he is dressed in a short tunic and calf-length cloak, which is clasped at his right shoulder and covers his left arm and hand completely - which he extends in front of him; he holds a curved stick above and behind his head in his right hand

fol. 8v **CANIS MAIOR** runs to the right with its mouth open; it has one dark ear and one light one and a long slim tail

LEPUS runs to the right with long soft ears and a curled tail

fol. 9r **ARGO** is a small, full boat with a tri-prong end at the left (the stern); the bow curls upwards; there is a man standing near the stern holding the steering oar; the ship's hull is striped diagonally and the mast is encircled by the sail that wraps around it

CETUS is a very fat sea monster, slightly foreshortened on the page and facing to the right; he has feathery flippers, a curled snout, feathery ears and a long; quintuple corkscrew tail

[the text continues but there are no more pictures]

notes

32ff, parchment, 28 x 20.5 cm; probably from Lotharingia, c. third quarter 9th century

bibliography

HEYDENREICH 1878, pp. 210

VATTASSO and FRANCHI di CAVAILERI, 1902, I, pp. 498-500.

KOEHLER 1960, III pp. 120 ff.

KING 1969, p. 28.

MCGURK 1981, pp. 320 ff.

says that was a part of Compilation of 810 in 7 books and related to Vat lat 645 [?!?]

KATALOG ... FREIBURG-IM-BRESGAU 1988, pp. 415-17.

with *De signis caeli*; in Carolingian miniscule, fol. 12r with a schema design; third-quarter 9th century according to communication from Bischoff.

MUNK OLSEN 1991, p. 61.

BORST 1994, pp. 168 and 174-75.

HAFFNER 1997, p. 174.

as 'De ordine ac positione'

BLUME HAFFNER METZGER 2012, pp. 75, 79, 176 and 251-55.

p. 75: Lotharingia, possibly from Reims; says that the Computus continues to be the main authority; notes that the plasticity in the drawings of **Rome Vat Reg 309** and Freiburg 35; suggests the drawings are unfinished and, therefore, there may have been the original

intent to add stars as in the Aachen tradition

pp. 251-55: iconographic tradition handed down from *De ordine* tradition **Montecassino 3**, **Vatican 645** and especially **Madrid 3307**; stylistically recalls the drawing style of Reims, esp. the Utrecht Psalter (Bootes, Virgo and Orion)

contacts

Mary Jo Rabe
Library Director
Erzbischöfliches- Ordinariat - Bibliothek
Herrenstrasse 25
D - 79098 Freiburg i. Br.
Maryjo.rabe@ordinariat-freiburg.de
Biblothek@ordinariat-freiburg.de
(May 2003)

microfilm [no. 43538 (photographed in 1988)] available through:

Hill Monastic Manuscript Library
The Bush Center
PO Box 7300
Collegeville MN 56321-7300