

Paris
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FRANCE

Lat. 5543

ps Bede, *De signis caeli*

Fleury

9th -10th -11th century

text

ff. 158r-171r ps- Bede, *De signis caeli*.

fol. 158r The text has been mis-bound so that it begins with a picture of the Gemini and the text:

[C]ancer habet stellas splendidas in testo .iiii. in dextris pedibus per singulos ...
(cf. Maass 1898, p. 585)

The true incipit for section appears on fol. 160r:

Felix arcturus maior habet autem in capite stellas obscurus 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. 170r Even though there is a complete set of illustrations running until fol. 171r, the text ends imperfectly on fol. 170r, with the stars for the Lupus held by Centaurus:

... Sunt omnes viii. in totum vero xxxvi. (cf. Maass 1898, p. 593)

illustrations

fol 139r HORLOGIUM VIATORUM

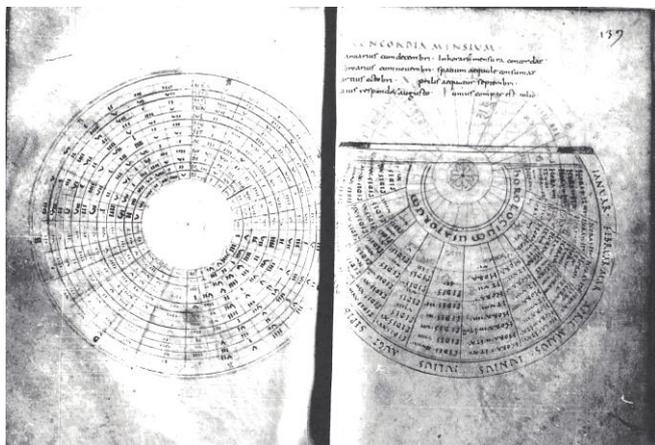
ff. 160r-171r Full colour illustrations of 40 constellations groups; most of the pictures are set within heavy, multi-coloured frames; the colour is quite thick, so there has been

some flaking in on many of the pages; the text appears in paragraphs between the frames with text running across the page; as the text is missing on the last pages, it is tempting to suggest that the pictures predate the insertion of the text; there are no stars marked; the text is in sepia ink and, when initials are included, they appear in red

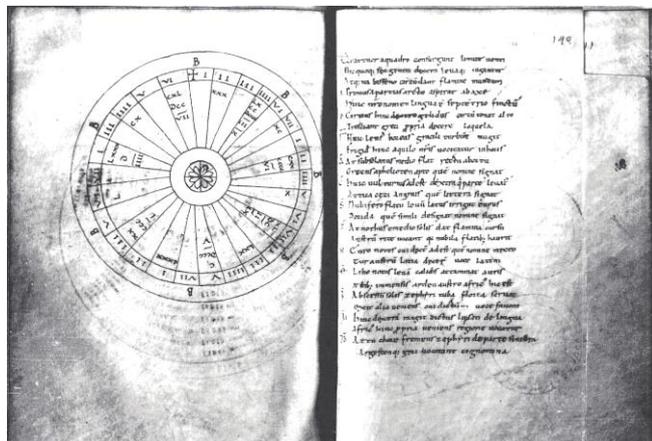
As mentioned above, the text and illustrations are bound incorrectly, so series runs:

- 158r - 159v GEMINI to CEPHEUS
- 160r - 162v URSA MAIOR and URSA MINOR to VIRGO
- 163r - 171r CASSIOPEIA to CANIS MINOR

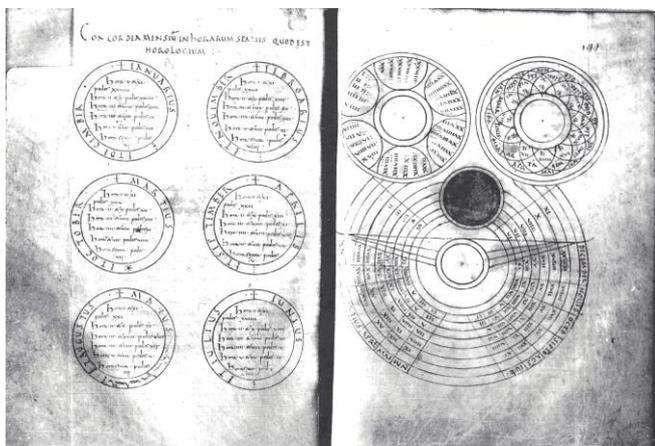
fol. 171v: blank



ff. 138v-139r



ff. 139v-140r



ff. 140v-141r



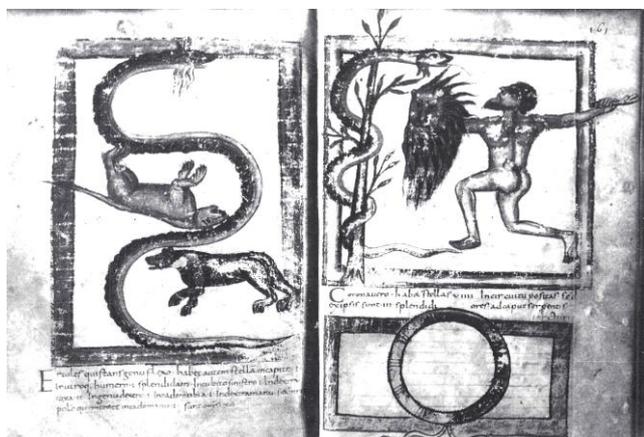
ff. 142v-143r



ff. 158v-159r



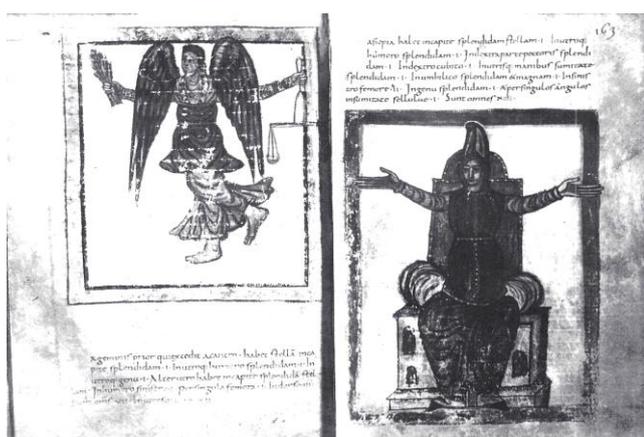
ff. 159v-160r



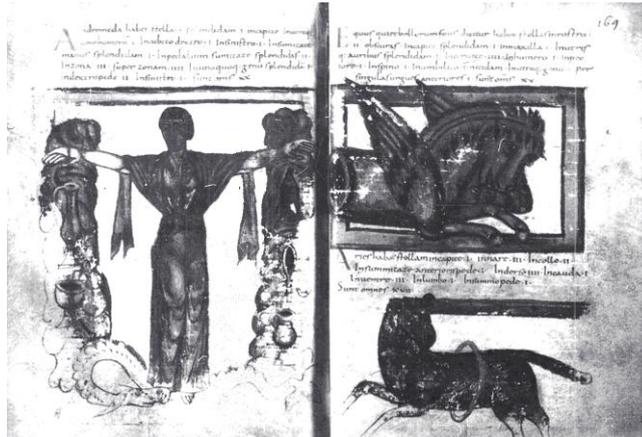
ff. 160v-161r



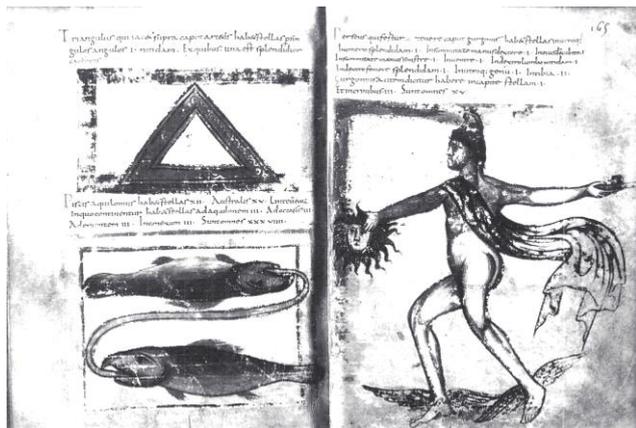
ff. 161v-162r



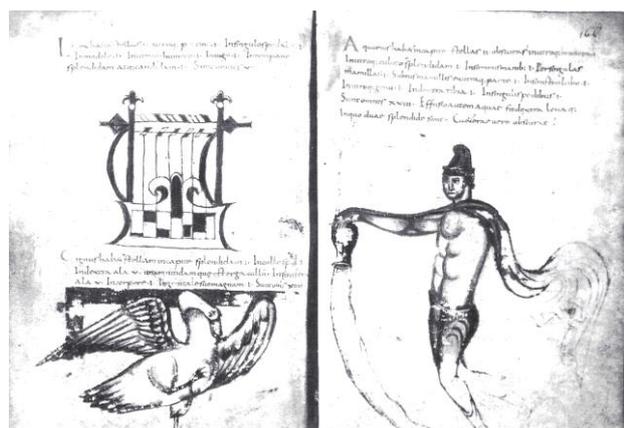
ff. 162v-163r



ff. 163v-164r



ff. 164v-165r



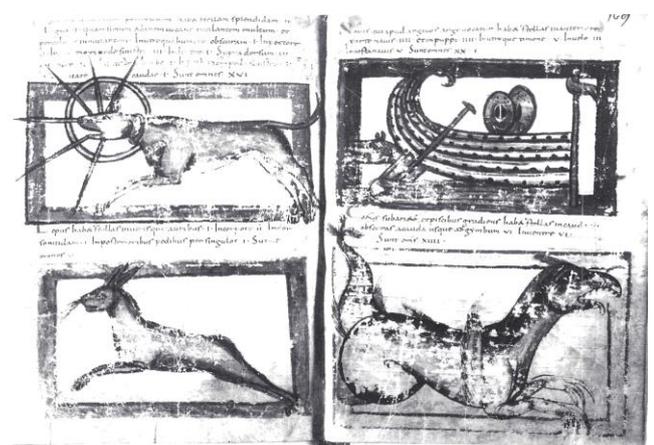
ff. 165v-166r



ff. 166v-167r



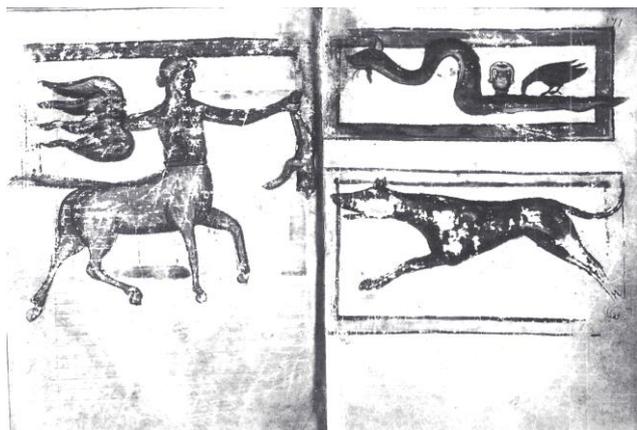
ff. 167v-168r



ff. 168v-169r



ff. 169v-170r



ff. 170v-171r

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- fol. 158r **GEMINI** (in a purple, yellow and green frame) are two youth in short blue tunics; the left Twin has a red cloak with a green lining and red leggings and the right Twin has a purple cloak with a red lining and dark blue leggings; they both have short purple boots with open toes and brown hair; their cloaks are pinned on their right shoulders and cover the left arm, though both their left hands are free; they are standing looking at each other with their interior hands on their hips and their exterior ones holding spears vertically
- fol. 158v **CANCER** has a round grey body and is facing towards top of the page; he seems to have two eyes inset into his shell; he has two larger orange claws facing upwards and 4 V-shaped legs on each side
- LEO** is brown with black shadows; he is bounding to left with his mouth open and his tail raised
- fol. 159r **AURIGA** (in a purple, yellow and green frame) is appears to kneel to the right; he wears a purple tunic with jewelled neck, waist and wrist bands set against red; his tunic ends at his hips to reveal a white-lavender long skirt underneath; he has black boots and is wearing a small blue cap with a button on top; he holds a grey stick in his outstretched right hand with a red ribbon draped over it like a soft M-shape; on his outstretched left arm, there are two brown goats facing each other, with a larger brown goat in front of the Charioteer, facing him

TAURUS (in a red frame) is half a grey bull facing to the right with his right leg bent under body and left leg advanced; he has short curled horns and a lighter grey 'X' on his face

fol. 159v **CEPHEUS** (in a black, green and red frame) is dressed in short pink tunic placed over a second light blue tunic that has tighter sleeves and wide red cuffs; he has a short mauve cape that is held at his chest with a yellow button and a curved red and yellow cap with long straps coming out at each side; he holds his arms out at shoulder height with his palms facing upwards

fol. 160r **URSA MAIOR** (in a yellow and green frame) runs to the left and is the smaller bear; its mouth is open and it has large claws; it is brown and has a short tail

URSA MINOR (in a purple, red, orange red and purple frame) is the larger bear and is grey with a long tail held straight out behind it

note: both Bears are described as 'Fenix' in the text

fol. 160v **DRACO INTER ARCTOS** (in a blue, lavender and blue frame) has a bearded **DRACO** drawn with three curves, with his head towards the top of the page; he has a dark green spine, a mid-green middle and a yellow belly; he is bearded and has two pointed ears: **URSA MAIOR**² and **URSA MINOR**² are back-to-back (top bear to the right and bottom bear to the left) and both face inwards towards the body of the Snake; the Bears are about the same size, though the brown bear at the top has a longer tail (**URSA MINOR**?); and is set within the second curve and the green bear with a shorter tail is in the third bend

fol. 161r **HERCULES** (within a blue, pink, yellow and green frame) is nude and kneels to the left with his bent left leg leading; he appears to face away from the viewer (buttocks backbone and shoulder blades are visible); he is placed in the Garden of Hesperides with a green and yellow snake winding up the tree and upon whose tail he treads; he holds a fierce brown and red-brown lion head covering his left arm up to the elbow; he holds a knobby white stick held straight out behind him in his right hand; he has a pointed brown beard and hair

CORONA BOREALIS (within a red, green and purple frame) is a purple circle fretted at regular intervals in red with two purple ribbons at the bottom

fol. 161v **OPHIUCHUS** (in a red, yellow and green frame) is nude and stands facing away

from the viewer and to left (buttocks are visible); the grey **SERPENS** makes an 'X' below his left armpit and is held horizontally; it turns its head round to face the man and has a dog's face and a red tongue; the tail is held out straight; **OPHIUCHUS** stands on **SCORPIO**, which has a long, green-striped, lozenge-shaped body, a segmented tail and a curled sting; it has two larger orange claws and four orange legs on each side that are V-shaped; it faces to the left and has a flat 'forehead'

fol. 162r **SCORPIO**² (within a lavender frame) faces to the left and has a long, green-striped lozenge-shaped body, a segmented tail and a curled sting; it has two larger orange claws and four orange legs on each side that are V-shaped; has a flat 'forehead'

BOOTES (in a green, orange and brown frame) stands as if he is dancing on one leg (bent, right?), with the other lifted and extended and his whole body slightly off-balance; it is not clear, but he seems to be faces away from the viewer (the curve of his buttocks and the orientations of his feet); he wears a ragged, short blue-grey tunic which leaves one shoulder (left?) exposed; he has with wild brown hair and extends his left (?) arm outstretched in front of him with a ragged yellow and green skin hanging over it; he holds a curved blue plant in the hand extended behind his head (right?)

fol. 162v **VIRGO** (in a red, green black and blue frame) has very large, purplish wings and wears a long blue, *peplos*-like dress with a wide darker blue band around her waist and decorative red, yellow and green band around her neck, wrists and waist; she walks to left, kicking up the hem of her dress, with her arms held outwards at shoulder height; she holds a grey wheat sheaf in her right hand in front of her and yellow, green and orange **SCALES** behind her in her left hand

fol. 163r **CASSIOPEIA** (in a lavender, orange and grey frame) wears a long dark grey dress with lighter blue sleeves and red orange and white bands at her neck, waist, hips and wrist; with a black, red and yellow in the Phrygian cap on her head; she sits with her arms outstretched at shoulder height on a throne with a lavender back with red and yellow edging and a large greenish cushion; the base of her throne has a number of niches in it

fol. 163v **ANDROMEDA** (in a blue, grey, yellow and green frame) stands wearing a long grey robe with the sleeves handing down over her elbows like scarves; the gown has a red belt; she has short brown hair; her arms are outstretched at shoulder height and her wrists are tied to lumpy red-brown rocks by red ties; there are toilet articles on grey on the rocks; curled beneath her feet, there is a dog-faced serpent with a

trefoil tail

fol. 164r **PEGASUS** is half a brown horse that faces to the right with head bent in front of his left wing (proto-eating from the bowl); the wings, which are opened towards the back, have a number of curls in it to denote the feather; its cut-off is an oval

ARIES (in a blue, lavender and black frame) is reddish-brown and prances to left with both forefeet raised; he looks backwards over his shoulder to the right; he had short curled horns and a lavender ring around his stomach

fol. 164v **TRIANGULUS** (in a grey, green and grey frame) is grey with a decorative pattern of red dots on it

PISCES (in a lavender, yellow and grey frame) are dark blue with red fins and gills; they are back-to-back and swim in opposite directions (top to the right and bottom to the left); they are connected at beaky mouths by a grey stream

fol. 165r **PERSEUS** (in a lavender and pink frame) is faces away from the viewer and is walking to left; he is nude except for a purple drape that flows out from his left shoulder behind him; he has a purple Phrygian cap on his head; he has large purple wings on his feet and he holds a purple-haired Medusa (looking more like a lion's head) by its hair in his left hand and a short *harpe* in his outstretched right hand.

fol. 165v **LYRA** has a square base and two vertical bars and a horizontal bridge, with curved lines connecting the base to the crossbar; the instrument is coloured in alternating squares of purple and white with red accents/outlines on all the features; it has 5 strings

CYGNUS (within a grey frame) stands to the right with its wings outspread; it is biting its breast and lifting its right leg in front of its stomach; it is white with grey shadows

fol. 16r **AQUARIUS** faces the viewer and walks to the left; he is nude to waist and has a lavender cap, a long red and pink cloak billowing from his shoulders to the right and long, light blue, tight trousers; he holds an upside-down water-pouring blue urn in front of him with both hands; the purple water flows downwards and then to the right, below his feet

fol. 166v **CAPRICORN** (the blue frame has nearly disappeared) is facing left with short, curved and pointed horns and a beard; he has a frilly waist-band where the two

halves meets and a curled fishy tail with a single corkscrew and it ends in an acanthus-shape

- fol. 167r **CENTAURUS** runs towards the left, with his human part facing away from the viewer; his human part is nude, save a blue-green flayed animal skin that is held on his shoulders and streams out behind him to the right; his brown hair resembles a derby hat; there is a red line separating his two halves and his equine half is lavender; he holds the bow with his left hand and pulls the string with his right (hidden) hand; there is a **SAGITTA** beneath his feet pointing towards the right
- fol. 167v **AQUILA** (in a blue, lavender and blue frame) is brown and white and stands to the right with his wings outspread, looking back over his right shoulder to the left; he stands on **SAGITTA**², which has a red shaft and grey-green tip and feathers and points to the right
- DELPHINUS** (in a grey and blue frame) is a stylised classical dolphin depicted with a duckbill and pointed horn on its head and a beard; it is different shades of blue with red fins and a yellow horn; it swims to the left
- fol. 168r **ORION** (in a lavender, yellow and blue frame) stands to the left; it extremely difficult to tell if he is facing towards or away from the viewer; and seems to be facing the viewer if one examines the orientation of his hands; one arm is held out in front of him and is covered by a lavender cloak; the other arm is held out behind him holding a sword horizontally; he has a darker blue scabbard at his waist that is hung by a strap that falls from his following shoulder
- fol. 168v **CANIS MAIOR** (in a black, red and lavender frame) is a grey dog, running to left with halo and rays from his head; his mouth is open, he has short ears and a long, thin tail that curls upwards; he has a red collar
- LEPUS** (in a lavender frame) is blue and running to left with its front feet raised; it has straight ears and prominent whiskers
- fol. 169r **ARGO** (in a grey frame) is depicted as half a ship with the cut-off at the right marked by a vertical mast on which there is a curling pink pennant; there are two grey shields on deck and one steering oar towards the curved stern of the ship; the water under the ship has been transformed into a long grey tongue-shape and there is a small, grey dog's head peering out beneath the curved hull of the ship to the left; the 'nails' in the ship's planked wooden hull are marked

CETUS (in a red, yellow and blue frame) is largely grey with a red mane, red-tinged wings fins and tail and yellow teeth; it has a large, curved bird's beak, wings and long talons on its forefeet; its tail has a single corkscrew and the tip rises up vertically before ending in a small, furry trefoil

fol. 169v **ERIDANUS** (in a grey, yellow and black frame) is the bust of a man with shaggy brown hair with his right hand raised with is palm open and facing upwards; he faces slightly to the left and is set behind a grey and white rectangle

PISCIS AUSTRINUS (in a black, grey, red and black frame) is upside-down and swimming to right; its body is shades of blue with red fins and a pink shape in its mouth

fol. 170r **ARA** (in a grey and black frame) is grey and red and funnel-shaped with grey flame on top set on three legs

fol. 170v **CENTAURUS** (in a blue frame) walks to right with his left front leg raised at an angle; his human half is purplish-red, but there is significant paint loss here; he holds a a rat or a grey lion (**BESTIA/LUPUS**) by its heels in the hand that is extended straight out in front of him; obscuring his following forearm and hand, there is a red-brown with flayed skin with white-grey highlights/dots; his equine half is green and yellow and there is a red band separating the two halves

fol. 171r **HYDRA** (in a red., lavender, orange and red frame) is a long grey snake facing towards the left with a pronounced hump / U-bend in its middle; it has a comb on its head and a beard

CRATER is placed on the flat tail of HYDRA, after the bump, and is yellow and has two handles

CORVUS is grey and stands on the end of HYDRA's tail, facing front and pecking

CANIS MINOR (in a red, yellow and green frame) is grey and runs towards the left; it has a pointed snout, short ears and a long, thin tail that curls upwards

notes

At bottom of fol. 7r, there is an inscription in a later hand: Hic liber scriptus est post annum Christi ante annum vero 900. ut patet ex folio ab hoc primo 107. p. I. ubi in margine adnotatus numerus 900.

The manuscript contains numerous other texts, including Bede, *De natura rerum et ratione temporum*; Isidore, *De Temporibus*, etc.

The illustrations of this manuscripts are part of the **De signis caeli II** family which includes Klosterneuberg 685, Paris BN 5239, Vat lat 643 and Zwettl 296.

A number of the iconographic idiosyncrasies in the **De signis caeli 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.

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