

London

British Library

Cotton Ms Tib. C. 1

Cicero *Aratea* with Hyginus *scholia*

Peterborough

12th century (1122?)

text

ff: 20r-36r: Cicero, *Aratea* with Hyginus and *scholia*

(note: The recto of each folio is numbered twice, once in black ink and once in pencil. The later, pencil numberings have been used throughout.)

ff. 2r-18v: Series of calendrical and computistical texts with numerous tables and diagrams (for a listing of the contents, see Saxl-Meier, III, 1, pp. 128-34).

ff. 19r- 21r (in red capitals) DE DUODECIM SIGNIS. PRIMITUS DE ARIETE.

(initial red letter, then black ink)

REGIONEM .xii. ^{am} cęli in quam sol cursum suum dirigit die primo – que diabolicus error confirmavit sed Christus Domini salvator mundi evertit. (text based on Isidore, *Etymologiae*, III, lxxi; cf. Vogels 1884, pp. 9-13)

fol. 21r: Hyginus *scholia*, in black ink and set within the body of the constellation, begins:

Aries hic existimatur esse qui phrixum et ellen transtulisse dicitur... (cf. Kauffmann 1888, p. iii)

Outside the body, there are two labels:

ARIES
OMNINO SUNT STELLĒ. XVII.

fol. 21 v (in red) Ex opere ciceronis de astronomia

(in black, the text runs in long lines across the page as if it were prose, beginning incompletely):

E quibus hinc subter possis cognoscere fultum. Ima cęli mediam partem terit ut prius illę. ... (= Cicero, *Aratea*, vv. 1-2; cf. Soubiran 1972, p. 166)

This section is followed by the picture of Triangulum, with *scholia* forming the body of the constellation, with two labels inside the figure. The text of the poem continues at the bottom of the page, but it is set as prose text, with one line eliding into the next.

fol. 32v: The *scholia* on the constellations ends: ... hęc sunt que videns nocturno tempore signa. (cf. Kaufmann 1888, p. xxxi)

The verse, still set as prose, on the constellations ends:

Ante canem graio procyon qui nomine fertur. Hęc sunt que visens nocturno tempore signa. Legitimo cernens cęli lustrantia cursu. Eternumque volens mundi pernoscere motum. Nam que per bis sex signorum labier orbem –

(= Cicero, *Aratea*, vv. 222-226; cf. Soubiran 1972, p. 179)

fol. 33r: The *scholia* ends: ... que stellę planetę sunt dictę. (cf. Kaufmann 1888, p. xxxiii)

(note: the 'verse' on the constellations continues as if it were a new section of prose text, with:

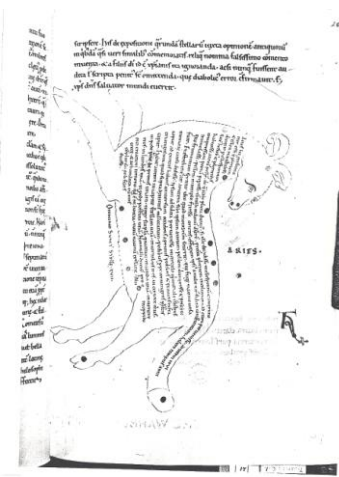
(in red) DE. VII STELLIS VAGIS QUAS GRECI PLANETAS APPELLANT.

(with first letter in red and then in black)

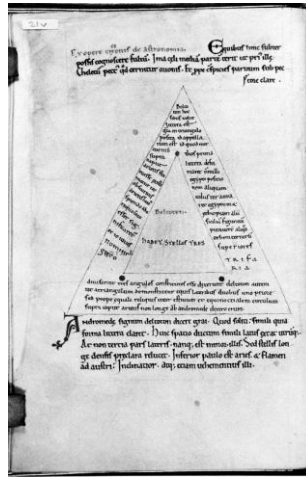
Quinque solent stellę simili ratione notari.
Non possunt quaquae faciunt vestigia cursu –

fol. 36r: Cervicem atque oculorum ardentia lumina vestit.
Hanc autem totam properant depellere pisces. (= Cicero, *Aratea*, vv. 479-480; cf. Soubiran 1972, p. 192)

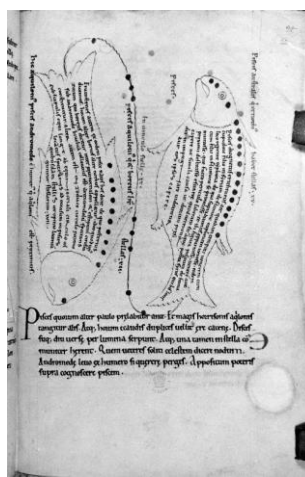
ff. 36r-42v: Series of excerpts from Pliny, *NH*, XVIII; Macrobius, *Comm in somn. Scipionis*, I, xx and II, xi; Martianus Capella, VIII and Pliny *NH*, II.



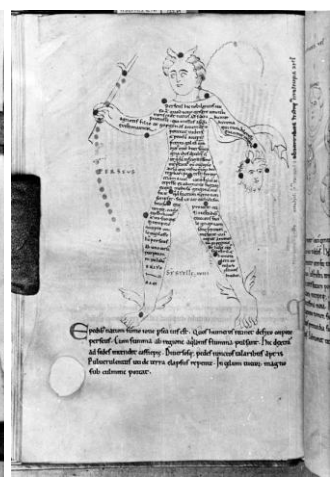
fol. 21r



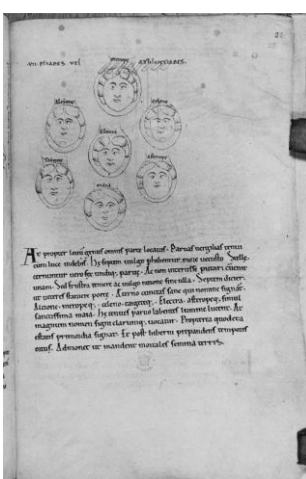
fol. 21v



fol. 22r



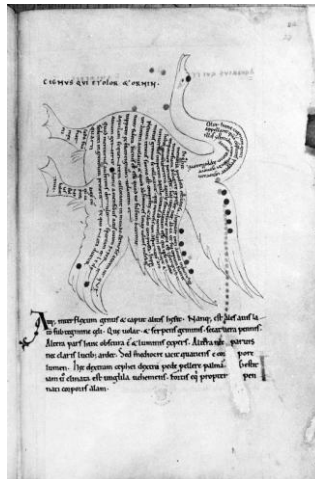
fol. 22v



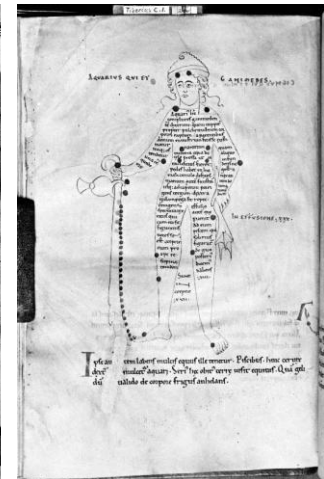
fol. 23r



fol. 23v



fol. 24r



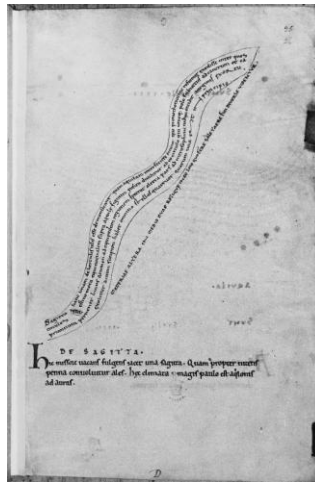
fol. 24v



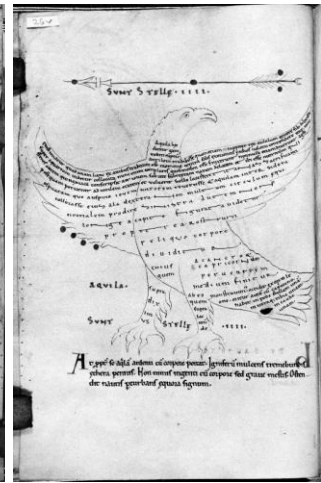
fol. 25r



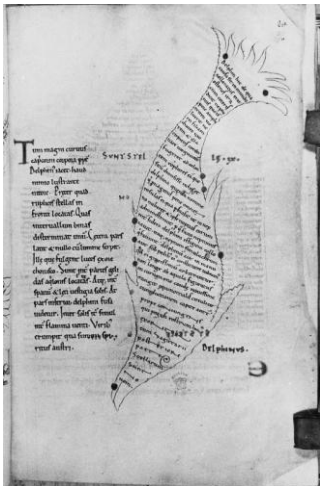
fol. 25v



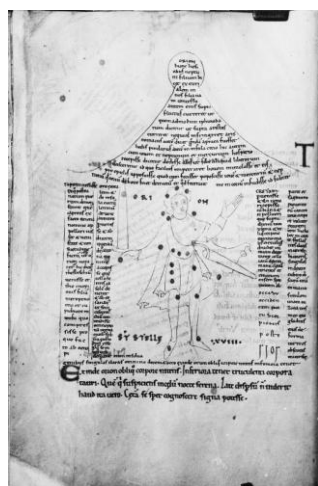
fol. 26r



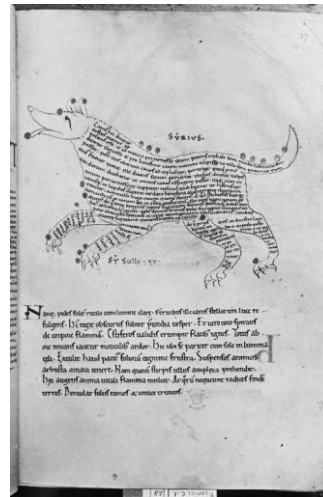
fol. 26v



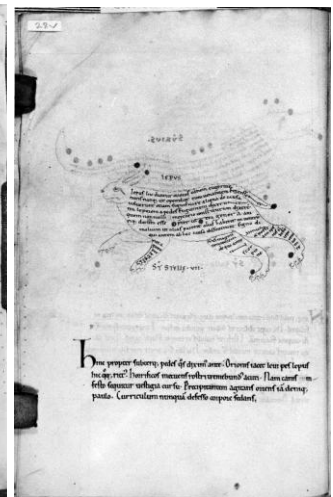
fol. 27r



fol. 27v



fol. 28r



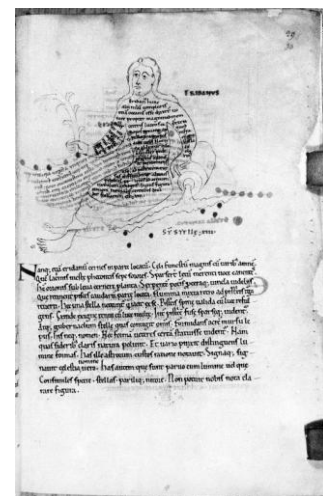
fol. 28v



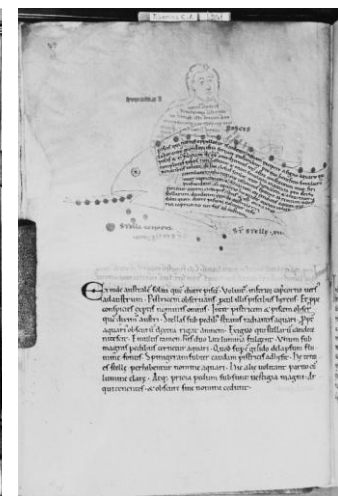
fol. 29r



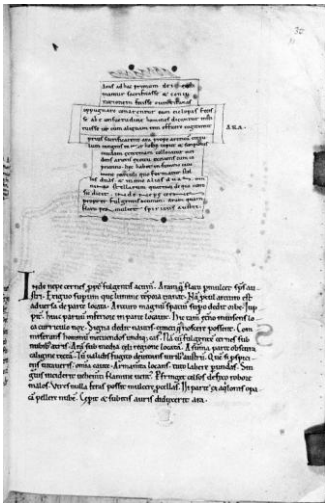
fol. 29v



fol. 30r



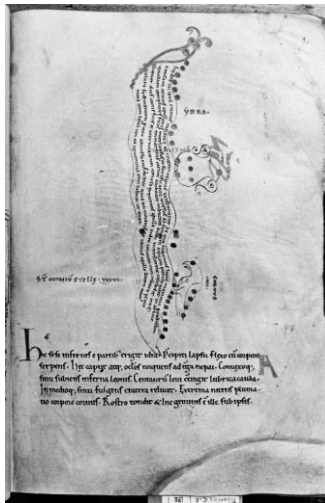
fol. 30v



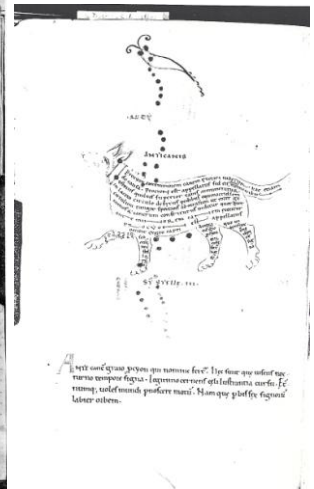
fol. 31r



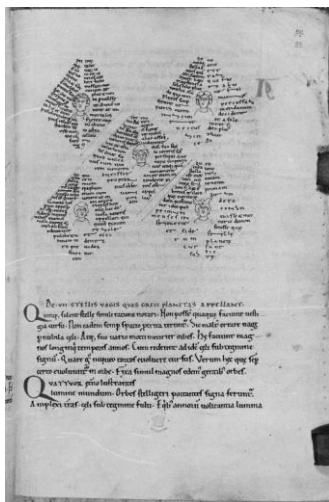
fol. 31v



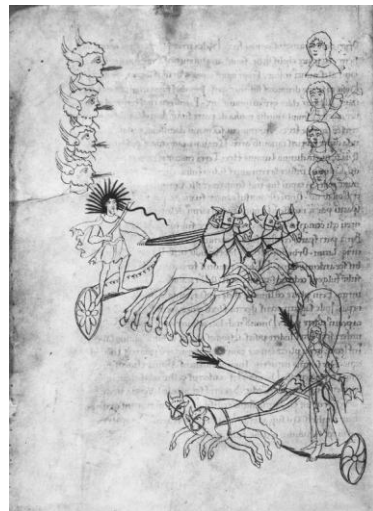
fol. 32r



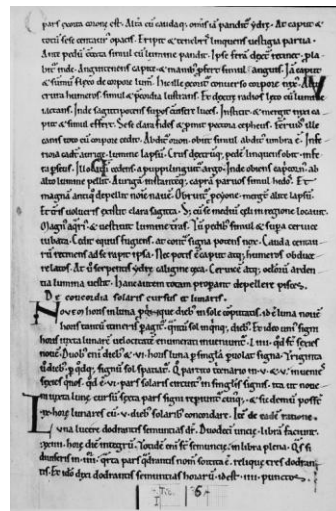
fol. 32v



fol. 33r



fol. 34r



fol. 36r

fol. 12r

Horologium viatorum (no figures)

fol. 12v

Diagram of the positions of the planets (no figures)

ff. 21r-32v

Blank ink drawings of 26 constellations (including Sagitta twice; plus the Pleiades) with the stars marked by red-orange dots. Occasionally, there are traces of pale pink wash in some of the figures, and many have additions or highlights made in red ink, but generally the pictures are all outline drawings in black. The figures are filled with the text of the scholia, while the poem follows each picture, set out in long lines as if it were in prose.

- fol. 33r: 7 planet busts set within in 6 diamonds not bounded by a grid (Mars with a helmet and Mercury with wings on his head).
- fol. 34v : 4 winds (men with wings on their heads and with red 'breath' coming from their mouths) and 4 seasons (female figures, only one with an attribute of a cornucopia). These are set above the depiction of Sol and Luna in chariots. **Sol** is standing in his chariot that is pulled to the right by 4 horses. He is dressed in a short tunic with a cape and has a stick with a red whip in his right hand and the red reins in his left and has red rays of light coming from his head. **Luna** is drawn to the left in a *biga* drawn by two bulls. She wears a long sleeveless dress and her head is surrounded by a large halo (derived from the drapery seen in the other Cicero manuscripts). She holds a torch in each hand that has red flames coming from it.
- fol. 21r **ARIES** (labelled: (in black) **ARIES** and **OMNINO SUNT STELLĒ .XVII.**) is set vertically on the page, so that left is at the top and right is at the bottom. He leaps to the left and looks over shoulder toward the right. He has curled horns and a long tail. He has 1 star in his head, 2 on his nose, 2 in his neck, 4 along his back, 3 along his belly, 1 in the groin or haunch, 1 in his tail, and 1 in his right hind foot, or 15 stars in all. (There is 1 star in the nose missing (though there is a faint orange patch here and on his cheek which may have once been stars) and one in the right fore-hoof is also missing, but this may have been lost due to the way in which the hoof runs into the text at the top of the page..)
- fol. 21v **TRIANGULUM** (labelled in red: **DELTOTON** and in black: **HABET STELLAS TRES**) consists of two concentric triangles with the upright sides slightly longer than the base. It has 1 star in each corner, or 3 stars in all.
- fol. 22r **PISCES** (labelled in red: **Pisces australis qui et nothius habet stellas: xv.; Pisces; In vinculo stellę ix.;** with red first initial and then black: **Piscis aquilonius qui & boreus habet stellas xii.;** in black and red: **His aquilonius piscis andromede est humerus qui aquiloni est proximus.**) are set vertically on the page so that left is at the top and right at the bottom. They are swimming in opposite directions with both their backs facing upwards and are connected by a red cord which runs between their tails. The top fish has 17 stars; the cord has 9 stars and the bottom fish has 11 stars, or 37 stars in all (**note:** in the text inside the bottom fish, XVII stars are mentioned).
- fol. 22v **PERSEUS** (labelled in red: **PERSEUS** and **SUNT STELLĒ .XVIII.**) stands facing the viewer, slightly to the left. He has the indication of a neckline, but otherwise appears to be nude, save a short cape trailing behind his left shoulder. He holds a long stick with a hook on it (*harpe*) in his right hand in front of him and a bearded male head behind him in his left hand down by his side. He has wings on his bare feet and wings on his head. He has 1 star in his head, 1 in each shoulder, 1 in each hand, 1 on his right elbow, 1 in the *harpe*, 1 on his belly, 1 in his right hip, 1 on each thigh, 1 in his right knee, 2 in his left shin, 1 on his right foot and 3 in the Medusa's head, or 18 stars in all.

- fol. 23r **PLEIADES** (labelled in red: VII PLIADES VEL ATHLANTIDES with each figure labelled separately: Merope, Alcyone, Electra, Celeno, Taygete, Astrope and Maia) are set in lyre-shaped frames as undifferentiated heads. No stars marked.
- fol. 23v **LYRA** (labelled in red: FIDES QUÆ LIRA) is shaped like a *bucranium* with a crossbar, red pegs and 8 red strings. There are 2 stars at the tip of the horns, 2 at the sides of the horns below the crossbar, 2 at the ends of the cross bar, 1 in the middle of the cross bar, 1 in the middle of the strings and 1 in the middle of the base, or 9 stars in all.
- fol. 24r **CYGNUS** (labelled in red: CIGNUS QUI ET OLOR & ORNIN) is set horizontally on the page so that left is at the top and right at the bottom. It stands facing to left with S-shaped neck and its wings held back and extended. It has 1 star in its head, 1 in the chest, 2 in the tail and 5 in each wing, or 14 stars in all.
- fol. 24v **AQUARIUS** (labelled in red: AQUARIUS QUI ET GANIMEDES and IN EFFUSIONE .XXX.; between his legs in black: SUNT IN corpore .XVII.) has a line at his neck and wears a short cape over his left shoulder, but otherwise appears to be nude (save a Phrygian cap on his head). He holds the end of his cape by his left thigh with his left hand. In his right hand, he holds the curl of his stream and the 'jug' seems to be threaded on it below his right hand. The water pours down so it ends at the toes of his right foot. He has 2 stars in his head, 1 star in each shoulder, 1 in each nipple, 1 below each nipple, 1 in each elbow, 1 in his right hand, 1 in his left thigh, 1 in each knee, 1 in his right shin, 1 in each foot, or 17 stars in all. In addition, there are 2 stars in the 'mouth' of the urn and 26 red stars in the stream, or 28 in all.
- fol. 25r **CAPRICORN** (labelled in red: CAPRICORNUS and SUNT STELLÆ .XVII.) is placed horizontally on the page so that left is at the top of the page and right is at the bottom. It faces to the left with a fish tail and a beard and curved horns with scalloping added to the underside of the horns to indicate the ribbed texture in red pen. There is also red on his eye and on some of his fins. He has 1 star in each horn, 2 in the face, 3 on the front of the neck, 3 on the back of the neck, 7 on the back, 1 on each forefoot and 5 on the belly and 2 at the end of tail, or 26 stars in all.
- fol. 25v **SAGITTARIUS** (labelled in red: SAGITTARIUS and SUNT STELLÆ .XVI.) walks to the left with his right front leg raised. There are indications of a neckline and a cuff on his right wrist. And he wears a cloak that floats out behind him to the right. He holds his bow in his right hand in front of him, but the pulled strings of it do not connect with his left hand, but end at his waist, with the left hand hanging down to his side. The top of his cloak appears to be an extension of his hair. He has 2 stars in his head, 1 in his left shoulder, 1 in his right elbow, 2 in the bow, 1 in the arrow, 2 in the back on his left side, 2 in the waist in the front, 1 on the right fore-knee, 2 on the right fore foot and 2 on the tail, or 16 stars in all.
- fol. 26r **SAGITTA** (labelled in red: DE SAGITTA) is depicted as a curving line reminiscent of the shape of a bow, with the last line of the *scholia* (...una est in principio (in the bow) MATERIA ALTERA IN MEDIO DUAE RELIQUÆ IN EO LOCO QUO FERRE SOLET AERE FIGI DIVERSE VIDENTUR.) forming the string of the bow. There are no stars marked.

- fol. 26v **SAGITTA**² (labelled in red: SUNT STELLĒ .IIII.) is an arrow pointing to the left. There is 1 star at the tip of the arrow, 1 in the middle and 2 at the notch, or 4 stars in all.
- AQUILA** (labelled in red: AQUILA. and SUNT STELLĒ .IIII.) is below Sagitta. It stands to the left and turns its head back to the right with its wings outstretched. It is drawn in red and brown ink with tan detailing in the feathers and a pale orange wash on its head. There are 4 stars in the bottom feathers of the right wing.
- fol. 27r **DELPHINUS** (labelled in red: SUNT STELLĒ .IX and DELPHINUS) swims vertically down the page so that its pointed nose is at the middle of the bottom of the page. Its back runs along the right side of the page. Its eye is marked by a spiral. It has 1 star on mouth, 1 on its back, 2 behind the dorsal fin, 3 on the belly and 2 on the tail, or 9 stars in all.
- fol. 27v **ORION** (labelled in red/black: ORION and SUNT STELLĒ .XVIII.) stands inside a temple. The structure of the *scholia* suggests that it has 4 columns, but the structure of the building is not clear. He is facing the viewer, wearing a short tunic and a cape that is clasped at his right shoulder, falls into a U-shape across his chest and then falls to his knees. He wears an empty scabbard on his left hip that seems attached to his waist by a strap. In his right hand, he holds a sword vertically. His right hand is raised with the elbow bent. He has 3 stars in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 at his right elbow, 1 in his right hand, 3 at the waist, 3 running down the right hip and thigh, 1 on each knee and 1 on each foot, or 17 stars in all. In addition, there 3 black [CHECK] dots which look similar to stars: 1 above the right shoulder, 1 on the left thigh and 1 on the left side below the scabbard. If these dots represent stars, the total number depicted is 20.
- fol. 28r **CANIS MAIOR** (labelled in black-red: SYRIUS and SUNT STELLĒ .XX.) is a dog that runs to the left. He has 1 star in his mouth, 1 on his forehead, 1 in each ear, 3 on his back, 2 on his chest, 1 on his right forefoot, 3 on his left forefoot, 1 in his groin, 5 on his tail and 1 in his left hind foot, or 20 stars in all.
- fol. 28v **LEPUS** (labelled in red: LEPUS and SUNT STELLĒ .VII.) runs to the left. It has 1 star in each ear, 2 on its body, 1 on its tail and 1 on each hind foot, or 7 stars in all.
- fol. 29r **ARGO** (labelled in red: ARGO and SUNT STELLĒ .XXVI.) is ½ a ship that sails to the left, with the figurehead on the stern and the broken pieces of the bow having become generalised into curled shapes. There is a needle-shaped mast at the right and 2 steering oars at the left. There are 4 stars on the stern, 4 on deck, 5 on keel, 5 in each oar and 3 in the mast, or 26 stars in all.
- fol. 29v **CETUS** (labelled in red: CETUS and SUNT STELLĒ .XIII.) is a classical sea monster facing to the left. The curl in the middle of its tail seems to spiral like a conch shell instead of curling into the end part of his tail. It has 6 stars on its belly, 5 in tail and 2 at end of tail, or 13 stars in all.

- fol. 30r **ERIDANUS** (labelled in red: ERIDANUS and SUNT STELLĒ XIII.) is seated beside a stream which flows from a urn upon which he leans with his right elbow. He holds a plant in his right hand. He has long hair and there are indications of a long wrap around his lower legs. He has no stars on his body, but there are 3 stars on the branch to the left, 3 on that to the right, or 6 stars on the stream. Owing to the fact that Eridanus and Piscis Austrinus are not on facing pages in this manuscript, the stream does not run continuously into the fish's mouth, but there are 7 stars at the end of the stream, or 13 stars in all
- fol. 30v **PISCIS AUSTRINUS** (labelled in red: PISCIS and SUNT STELLĒ .XII.) is a large fish that swims to the left. There are 12 stars on its back. It has a serrated 'stream' coming out of its mouth that looks like a tongue or flames with 7 stars on it which belong to Eridanus (see above). Below the fish's mouth, there is a large orange dot (labelled in red: STELLA CANOPUS.)
- fol. 31r **ARA** (labelled in red: ARA) is the outlined of a square altar with wider slabs at its base and top. There is red flame coming from the top. It has 2 stars above the flames and 2 at the base of the altar, or 4 stars in all.
- fol. 31v **CENTAURUS** (labelled in red: CENTAURUS and SUNT STELLĒ .XIII.) walks to the left with his right foreleg raised. He is bearded. The cape that usually flows from his shoulder to the right is depicted as an animal with a face and two tapering arms that rises diagonally from the Centaur's equine half. He holds a spear in the crook of his left elbow that has ribbons at the tip and holds **Lupus** (a rabbit) outstretched in front of him in his right hand. He has 7 stars on his head, 1 in each shoulder, 2 in the waist, 1 in the horse's chest, 1 in each elbow, 2 in the right hand, 1 in the rump, 1 in the horse's belly, 1 in each fore-knee, 2 in the right forefoot, 1 in the left forefoot, 1 in the left hind foot, 2 in the tail (but there may be other stars at the end of the tail, which have been cut off by the side of the page) and 2 in his animal that rises from his back, or 28 in all. **Lupus** has 5 in the face, 5 along the back and 5 in the hind feet, or 15 stars in all.
- fol. 32r **HYDRA** (labelled in red: YDRA) is placed vertically on the page so that left is at the top and right at the bottom. It crawls to the left and is slug-shaped and has two curls coming from its mouth. It has 3 stars in head, 6 in the first coil (from the head), 3 on the second coil, 2 on the coil between Crater and Corvus and 8 on the end of the tail, or 22 stars in all.
- CRATER** (labelled in red: CRATER .VII.) is a two-handled urn and has 2 stars on the rim, 3 in the centre of the bowl and 2 on the base, or 7 stars in all.
- CORVUS** (labelled in red: CORVUS .VII.) faces towards the front and it has 1 star on the head, 2 on its wings, 2 below the wings towards the tail, 1 on each foot, or 7 stars in all. Below Hydra, there is a label: (in red) SUNT OMNIUM STELLĒ .XXXVI.
- fol. 32v **CANIS MINOR** (labelled in red: ANTICANIS and SUNT STELLĒ .III.) is a dog that stands to the right with his left fore-paw raised. He has a collar. He has 3 stars in his belly.

notes

See below.

bibliography

Catalogue of mss in the Cotton Library 1802, p, 37.

VAN DE VYVER 1935, p. 142 and *passim*.

KER 1938, p.132.

SAXL-MEIER III 1953, 1, pp. 128-134.

SAXL-WITTKOWER 1953, pp. 1-3 and pl. 30.

SAXL 1957, p. 99.

‘**Harley 647** is a ms purely classical character which was brought over from France’ it was copied into **Cotton Tib BV**; **Cotton Tib C I**, **Harley 2506**, **Bodley 614** and **Digby 83**; (p. 102) **Cotton Tib C 1** was executed at Peterborough around 1100; the text is no longer one line per verse, but runs together; illustrations are well copied and the stars pretty faithfully reproduce the original; but the obsolete and illegible *capitalis rustica* is not used for the commentary; whereas **Harley 647** is fantastical, this ms has taken away the fantastical character and reduced to a linear formula; therefore it has become rather monotonous; no connection between this page and the gods or this page and the stars [!]; ‘The didactic poem on the stars, and the illustrations to it, begin their medieval career purely as a product of the libraries’.

KER 1959, pp. 262-79.

LEONARDI 1960, pp. 71-72.

this ms and **Harley 3667** are part of a larger one from Peterborough

KAUFFMANN 1975, reproduces 22v and 25v as nos 105 and 106.

MORTON 1975, pp. 362-82.

KER 1976, pp. 23-49.

REEVE 1983, p. 22.

HAFFNER 1997, p. 175: says c. 1100

DOLAN 2007, pp. 227-32 and 344.

'inspired by Harley 647' (format similar, but differences in execution); retains the *technopaignon* technique, where the words of a text form the figure; secure provenance only goes back to the 17th century, when appears in Sir Robert Cotton's collection; mixture of liturgical and religious texts, and an ecclesiastical computes for 1107;

(p. 231) says that the depiction of Sol and Luna is unusual and unlike any she has seen [meaning their closeness on the page?]; Four Winds and Four Seasons possibly borrowed from ps-Bede iconographic tradition; number of tars rarely agree with numbers in text and most are scattered along the outlines of the body.

(p. 344) lists three sections of the contents and the ff. on which there are pictures.