

Florence

Biblioteca Laurenziana

Plut. 89. sup 43

Germanicus Aratea ('Sicilianus')

* Hyginus, *Astronomica*

Italian (Florentine)

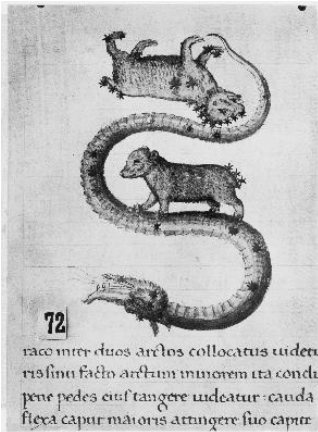
second half 15th century

text

- ff. 72r-169r Hyginus, *Astronomica*, Book III-IV and I-II (with Book III illustrated)
- fol. 72r Igitur incipiemus a polo boreo protinus dicere ... (= Hyginus, *Astronomica*, III, 1; cf. Viré 1992, p. 95)
- fol. 91v ... exoritur cum piscibus: sed est stellarum omnino 12. De circulis celi: De circulis celi (= Hyginus, *Astronomica*, III, 40; cf. Viré 1992, p. 124)
- ff. 92r-108r Que pertinent ad figurationem siderum ad hunc finem nobis dicta erunt reliqua protinus dicemus. Quoniam initio spere circuli quinque quomodo effcerentur ostendimus – cum sol ab ęstivo circulo descendens redit ad eundem. (= Hyginus, *Astronomica*, III, 40- IV,19; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 124-57)
- ff. 108r-108v De differentia temporum ortus signorum. Temporum quoque ipsorum signorum quibus ~~accidunt~~ oriuntur aut occident – isti habent in occasum. (= variant of Martianus Capella, *De Nupt.*, VIII, 844-45; cf. _____).
- ff. 109r-112v [] tarticos vocatur in triginta partes unum quodque emisperium – ad delectationem afferrent lectori . (_____)
- ff. 112v-117v Prima ergo ursa is est arctos calisto filia // (113r) lycaonis dicitur – daret. que cum pressisset mammam deformavit circulum (= abbreviated paraphrase of Hyginus, *Astronomica*, II; compare Viré 1992, pp. 15 -94; cf. Florence, Laur. 89 sup 43; Florence, BNC, Magliabecchiana XI. 114, 1; Pavia 490; Vat Urb lat 1358 and Vat lat 3110)

- ff. 117v-121r De circulis planetarum. Terra centron est spere celestis et omnium signorum – aut in latitudinem declinare aut retrogradari facit. (= Martianus Capella, *De Nupt.*, (expanded version), VIII, 855-87, cf. _____)
- ff. 121r-123v De polis. Duo sunt vertices extremi vertices mundi quos appellant polos – que ad ipsum usque decurrit accipiens. (*Excerptum de astrologia Arati*; cf. Maass 1898, pp. 309-12)
- ff. 124r-126v blank
- ff. 127r-129r INCIPIT LIBER IGINII. DE. IMAGINUBUS. Et si studio gramatice artis inductum te non solum – veniemus et intium rerum demonstrabimus. (= Hyginus, *Astronomica*, I, preface; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 1-4)
- ff. 129r-133v De mundo spera centro et axe. Mundus appellatur is qui constat ex sole et luna – posse constitui suspicamur. (= Hyginus, *Astronomica*, I, 1-9; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 129-33)
- ff. 133v-169r Ordo dicendorum. Sed quoniam que nobis de terre positione dicenda – omnium corporum deformationem dicere instituimus. Explicit Iginus non figuratus. (= Hyginus, *Astronomica*, II, preface - 43; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 14-94)
- ff. 169r-170v blank
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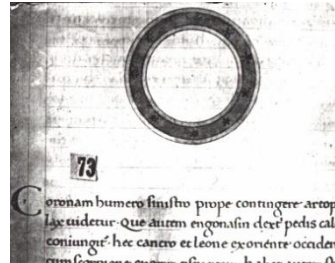
illustrations



fol. 72v



fol. 73r



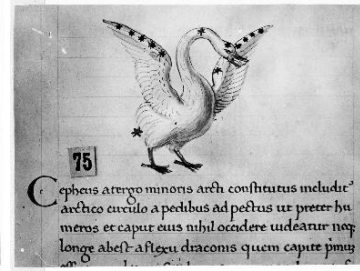
fol. 73v



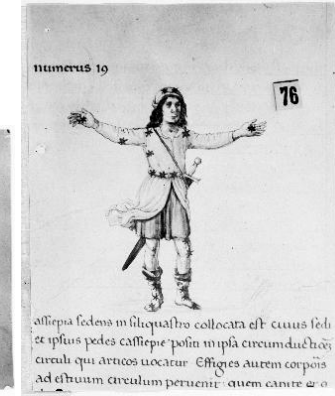
fol. 74v



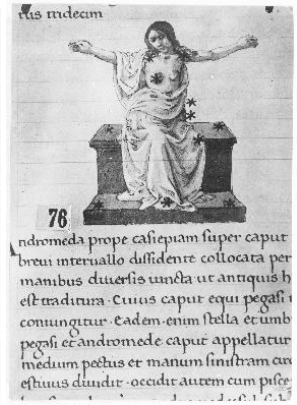
fol. 75r



fol. 75v



fol. 76r



fol. 76v



fol. 77r



fol. 78r



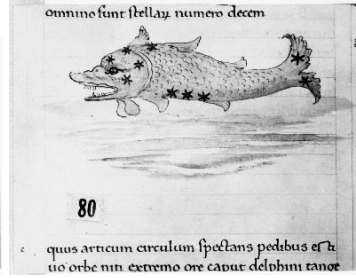
fol. 78v



fol. 79v



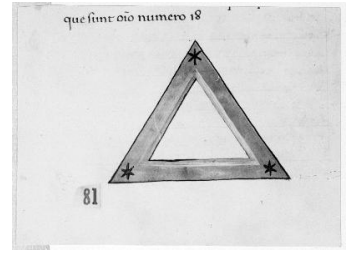
fol. 80r



fol. 80v



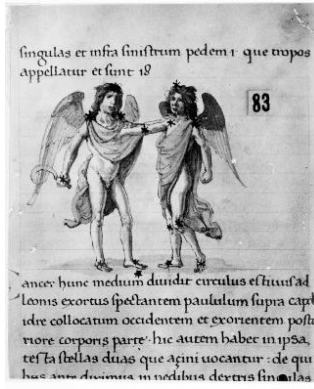
fol. 81r



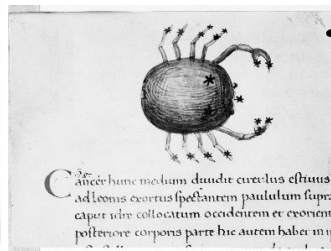
fol. 81v



fol. 82v



fol. 83r



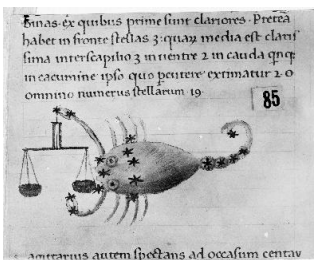
fol. 83v



fol. 84r



fol. 84v



fol. 85r



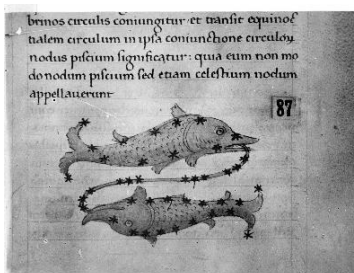
fol. 85v



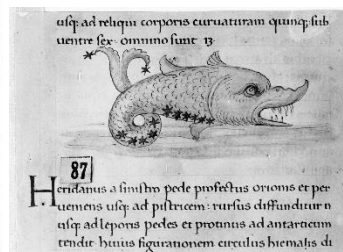
fol. 86r



fol. 86v



fol. 87r



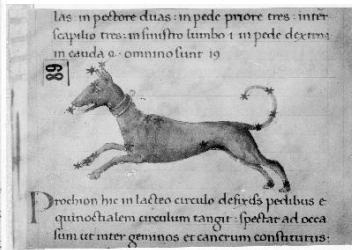
fol. 87v



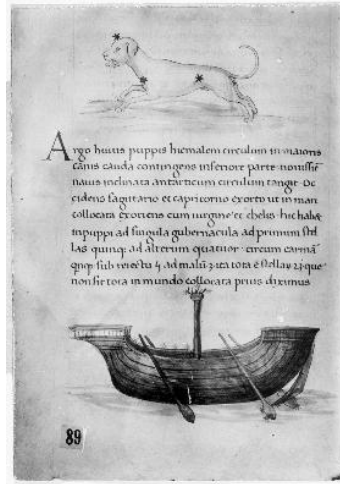
fol. 88r



fol. 88v



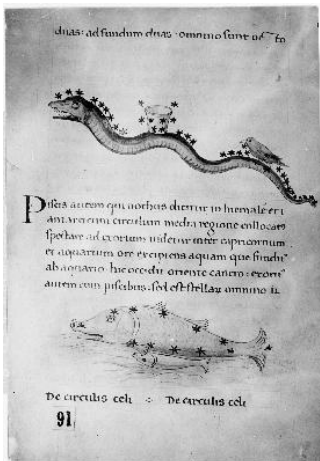
fol. 89r



fol. 89v



fol. 90v



fol. 91v

ff. 72v-91v

Coloured drawings of 38 constellation groupings with stars marked with gold stars (slightly larger than those in the illustrated Germanicus section of this manuscript).

fol. 72v

DRACO INTER ARCTOS with a green DRACO with his dragon's head toward the bottom of the page. He has a long pointed nose, an open mouth and a tri-partite tongue and teeth visible. His body has 3 bends and the Bears are placed back-to-back, facing into the curves in the second and third bends. DRACO has 1 star in his chin, 4 in his head and 10 in his body, or 15 stars in all.

URSA MINOR is brown with a short tail and walks to the left. It has 3 stars on its tail and 4 on its feet, or 7 stars in all.

URSA MAIOR is brown and walks to the right. It has a short tail and has 9 stars in

the head, 2 in the shoulder, 2 in the right forefoot, 3 in the tail, 1 in the rear right leg, and 2 in the left rear foot, or 19 stars in all. URSA MAIOR is lightly larger than URSA MINOR.

- fol. 73r **BOOTES** faces the viewer and stands rushing to the left. He is dressed in a short blue tunic, which is belted at the waist, and is barefoot. He holds a teardrop-shaped, tan shield in his left hand so that it covers the whole of his extended left arm. He raises a thin, branching stick behind his head with his right hand. There are blue clouds at his feet. He has 1 star in his head, 1 in each shoulder, 3 in his chest, 1 in his waist, 1 on each foot and 4 on his shield, or 13 stars in all.
- fol. 73v **CORONA BOREALIS** consists of a series of 3 concentric circles (white, blue, white) and has 9 stars
- fol. 74v **HERCULES** stands facing the viewer and sways slightly to the right. He is dressed in a short, loose, green tunic that is belted at the waist and he has brown boots. He has a lion's skin draped over his extended left arm (with the face, tail and 3 feet of the lion visible). He holds a branched stick above his head with his right hand. He has 1 star in his head, 1 in each shoulder, 1 in his right elbow, 1 in his chest, 2 in his waist, 1 in his groin, 1 between his legs, 3 in his right leg, 1 in his right foot and 6 on his lion's skin, or 19 stars in all.
- fol. 75r **LYRA** is harp-shaped and has 6 strings and 8 stars.
- fol. 75v **CYGNUS** is depicted as a swan, standing to the right, with a very long neck and its wings outstretched to either side. It has 5 stars in the right wing, 5 in left wing, 1 in head, 1 in neck and 1 in tail, or 13 stars in all.
- fol. 76r **CEPHEUS** stands facing the viewer, dressed in a short red skirt over which he wears a long-sleeved, short blue robe that is tied at the waist and the hem of which is rustled by the breeze. He has tan boots and a close-fitting white cap. He wears a grey-brown sword with a white grip at his waist that is carried by a strap slung over his right shoulder. He holds each arm out to either side with palms facing forward. He has 2 stars in head, 1 in each shoulder, 1 in his chest, 3 in his belt, 1 on his right elbow, 2 in his left thigh, 3 in each foot and 1 on each hand, or 15 stars in all.
- fol. 76v **CASSIOPEIA** is seated on a low, boxy, tan-coloured throne, facing the viewer, with her arms outstretched to either side. She wears a violet mantle that is draped over her right shoulder, but exposes her breast and upper torso. She has

4 stars on the throne, 1 on each shoulder, 1 in her breast, 2 on her side, 1 on her left knee and 1 at her feet, or 11 stars in all.

fol. 77r **ANDROMEDA** stands with her hands tied to two pollarded trees. She has long blonde hair flowing down her back and wears a long pink robe that is open at the chest, but does not overly expose her body. She has 1 star in her head, 1 in each shoulder, 4 in the waist and 3 below the waist, 1 on each elbow, 1 on each hand, 1 on each knee, 2 on the right foot and 2 on the left foot, or 20 stars in all.

fol. 78r **PERSEUS** stands facing the viewer and lunging to the left. He is nude, save a piece of blue-grey drape that is hung from both shoulders so that it falls into a U-shape in front of his genitals. He has a notched tan shield on his back and carries the Medusa's head by its hair in his outstretched left hand. He holds a blue-grey scimitar vertically in his outstretched right hand. He is bearded and has long, flowing locks. He has wings on his feet and clouds beneath his feet. He has 1 star on each shoulder, 1 on each hand, 1 on waist, 1 on his belly and 1 on his hip, 1 on each knee, 2 on left shin, 1 on right foot and 4 in Medusa's head, or 16 stars in all.

fol. 78v **AURIGA** stands in a boxy tan cart that is being pulled to the right by 2 tan oxen and 2 white horses. He is dressed in a short pink tunic that is belted at the waist and raises his right hand to one side. He holds the pink reins in his left hand. There are no goats. He has 1 star in his head, 2 on his chest, 1 each elbow and 2 in the left hand, or 7 stars in all.

fol. 79v **OPHIUCHUS** is nude and stands facing the viewer, swaying slightly to the right. He holds the green **SERPENS** in a horizontal position, wrapped once around his waist, with its head to the right. The head turns back and faces towards the man and sticks its tongue out. **OPHIUCHUS** has long brown hair. He has 1 star on his head, 1 on each shoulder, 2 on his waist, 1 on each knee, 1 in the right leg, 1 on each foot, 4 in his right hand and 3 on his left hand, or 17 stars in all. The **SERPENS** has 5 in its head, 8 in its neck and 10 along its tail, or 23 stars in all. Together, the group has 40 stars.

SAGITTA points to the right with violet feathers to the left and there is a bow with a violet grip placed beneath it. The arrow has 4 stars.

fol. 80r **AQUILA** is leaning to the right with his wings outstretched to either side and his head turned back over his shoulder with his mouth open. He does not stand on Sagitta. He has 1 star in his head, 1 in each wing and 1 in his tail, or 4 stars in

all.

fol. 80v **DELPHINUS** is a blue fish and has a pointed snout and sharp teeth and a waddle beneath its chin. It faces to the left. It has 4 stars in its head, 3 near the ventral fin, 1 on the back, and 2 on its tail, or 10 stars in all.

fol. 81r **PEGASUS** is half a winged horse that faces to the right with his front legs stretched out straight in front of him. His middle is wreathed in blue clouds and he seems to swim in the clouds. He has 1 star in each ear, 2 on his face, 2 on his nose, 1 on his breast, 6 in his neck and 4 on his legs, or 17 stars in all.

fol. 81v **TRIANGULUM** is a dark blue equilateral triangle with white highlights. It has 1 star in each corner, or 3 stars in all.

[There is no picture of **ARIES**. The capital N on 'Nunc protinus' is not marked as the other chapter headings are so, presumably, the artist missed the signal to include a picture.]

fol. 82v **TAURUS** is depicted as half a tan bull facing to the left and emerging from a circle of blue clouds and seeming to swim through the clouds set beneath its body. Its left foot is tucked under and its right foot is extended in front of him. It has 1 star on each horn, 1 at the base of each horn, 1 in its head, 1 in each eye, 3 on the back, 1 in the chest, 1 on each knee and 1 on the left foot, or 14 stars in all. There are also 6 stars in front of its nose, representing the **PLEIADES**.

fol. 83r **GEMINI** are beautifully coloured. They are shown as two nude youths resting their inner hands on each other's shoulders. They both wear long capes over their shoulders that flutter in the wind and are winged. The left Twin holds a sickle in his right hand and the right Twin clenches his left fist into a ball. The wings are green and pink and the capes are *changeant* pink/blue. The sickle is grey. The left Twin has 1 star in the head, 1 in each shoulder, 1 in the right hand, 1 on the right foot, 1 on the left foot and 1 beneath his left foot, or 7 stars in all. The right Twin has 1 star in the head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 in the right elbow, 1 on each knee and 1 on each foot, or 8 stars in all.

fol. 83v **CANCER** is shaped like a round crab, facing to the right with 2 large claws and 4 legs on either side. It has 2 stars in the left claw and 3 in the right claw, 1 in the mouth, 2 on the shell, 2 on the first left leg, 2 on the second left leg, 1 on the third left leg, 1 on the fourth left leg and 1 on each right foot or 18 stars in all.

- fol. 84r **LEO** rushes to the left with a tan body and a red tongue sticking out. His tail is raised. He has 2 stars in front of his nose, 1 on his neck, 2 on his chest, 6 on his body, 1 in his right forefoot, 2 in his hind legs and 1 in the middle of his tail and 1 at the end of it, or 16 stars in all.
- fol. 84v **VIRGO** stands facing the viewer swaying slightly to the right. She has large blue wings, held close to her body and wears a long pink robe. She holds three blades on wheat in her right hand and holds a sceptre in her left. Her head is uncovered. She has 1 star in her head, 2 in each wing, 1 in each shoulder, 1 in her left (and possibly one that has rubbed out on her right hand), 1 on her belt, 7 on her hem and 2 on her feet, or at least 18 stars in all.
- fol. 85r **SCORPIO** has a grey body and faces to the left with two large claws and 4 legs on either side. He has a segmented tail that ends in a fork. He holds the Scales in front of his face with his right claw. He has 2 stars in each claw, 3 in the nose, 5 on the body, 4 in the tail segments and 1 at the tip of the tail, or 18 stars in all. The Scales have no stars.
- fol. 85v **SAGITTARIUS** is a centaur who rushes to the left. He has horns on his head and wears a long, brown animal's skin as a cloak (with two lion's feet and a tail visible) that flows out behind him. He wears a blue-grey shirt on his human half and holds a stretched bow with a blue grip with his left hand, pulling the string with his right. He has 2 stars in the head, 1 in the left elbow, 1 above the left elbow, 1 in the left hand, 2 in the bow, 1 in the arrow tip, 1 on the front of each knee, 1 on the right front hoof, 1 in the tail and 1 on the tip of the animal skin's tail, or 13 stars in all. There are also 7 stars in the form of a circlet in front of the forelegs that represent **CORONA AUSTRINUS**.
- fol. 86r **CAPRICORN** faces to the left. It is bearded and has long curved horns and a curl in its tail that ends in a fork. It has 1 star on the nose, 1 on the chin, 7 in the neck, 7 on the body, 2 in the tail and 2 on the right foot, or 20 stars in all.
- fol. 86v **AQUARIUS** steps to the right and is dressed in a short blue tunic, pulled in with a belt, and a short red cloak that flows out behind him. He wears mid-calf tan boots and holds the urn out in front of him with two hands. The right hand holds the handle of the tan jug and the left holds the base of it. It pours a stream of blue-green water towards the ground. He has 2 stars in his head, 4 on his chest, 1 on his right elbow, 1 on his hand, 1 on each knee, 1 on his right shin, 1 on each foot, or 13 stars in all. There are also 5 stars on the urn and 12 on the water, or

17 stars in all. In all, there are 30 stars.

fol. 87r **PISCES** are shaped almost like blue-green dolphins with very long noses, but they have prominent gills and sets of fins. Both of their bodies are darker towards the bottom of the page. They swim in opposite directions, belly-to-belly, with their mouths tied by a cord. There are 12 stars in the top fish, 12 in the cord and 17 on the bottom fish, or 41 stars in all.

fol. 87v **CETUS** is shaped like an angry blue fish with a long pointed snout, prominent eyes, an open mouth with sharp teeth and a twist in his tail. He faces to the right. He has 6 stars in his body, 5 in the coil and 2 at the end of the tail, or 13 stars in all.

fol. 88r **ERIDANUS** is depicted as a nude youth lying on his stomach in or beside a stream with his head to the right. He has very long blonde hair. He supports his head with his left hand (as if resting on his elbow) and twists his body around so that his right hand reaches behind his back. Beneath him, in the water, there are 3 stars at the first bend, 3 at the second bend, 7 at the third bend, or 13 stars in all.

LEPUS runs to the left. It has 1 star in each ear, 1 in each forefoot and 2 on its belly, or 6 stars in all.

fol. 88v **ORION** steps to the right and is depicted wearing a full suit of grey-blue armour. He holds a yellow, teardrop-shaped shield in front of him with his left hand and holds a yellowish club vertically behind his back with his right hand. His head is uncovered and he has long hair. He has 3 in his head, 1 in each shoulder, 1 in his right elbow, 1 in his right hand, 3 at his waist, 3 in the club, 1 in each knee and 1 in each foot, or 17 stars in all.

fol. 89r **CANIS MAIOR** is a sleek dog rushing to the left and wearing a green collar with a ring and with its mouth open and its tongue sticking out. He has 1 star on his nose, 1 in each ear and 1 star in his head, 2 in his chest, 3 on his back, 3 on the right forefoot, 1 in the belly, 4 in the tail and 1 the hind feet or 18 stars in all.

fol. 89v **CANIS MINOR** is a white hound that rushes to the left. It has 1 star in its head, 1 on its chest and 1 on tail, or 3 stars in all.

ARGO is a full wooden ship facing to the left, with a mast from which flames issue, a balustraded bow and raised stern, a clearly delineated rudder and 4

oars. It has 3 stars on the mast, 5 on the oars, 4 on the deck, 5 on the keel and 4 on the poop deck, or 21 stars in all.

fol. 90v

CENTAURUS appears to be half-human and half-ox, with cloven feet and an ox's tail. He walks to the right and is bearded and with long hair. He holds a long spear over his left shoulder from which a dead hare hangs. In his extended right hand, he holds **LUPUS** (a goat), with its legs pointing upwards. Over his left wrist, he holds an urn with a circular body on a strap. His human half wears a pink shirt. He has 3 stars in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 2 on the human back, 1 on the horse's chest, 1 on each front leg, 3 on haunch, 3 in tail, 2 in each back legs and and 1 below the right hand or 21 stars in all. **LUPUS** has 3 stars in the head, 1 in each forefoot, 1 on the back, 1 on each hind foot, and 2 stars in the tail, or 10 stars in all. Together, they have 31 stars.

ARA is depicted as a rectangular violet altar with a small step at the bottom and red flames coming from the top. It is marked by 4 stars.

fol. 91v

HYDRA is a long snake with an open mouth and pointed teeth slithering to the left.

CRATER is a cylindrical cup placed in the middle of the Snake's body and **Corvus** stands towards the end of its tail, facing forward and not pecking. **HYDRA** is marked by the stars on the head, 6 in the first coil, 3 on the second coil, 4 on the third coil and tail at the end of the tail, or 26 stars in all. **CRATER** has 2 stars on the rim, 2 at the centre of the bowl, 2 at the sides and 2 at the base, or 8 stars in all. **CORVUS** has 1 star on the beak, 2 on the wings, 1 in each foot, or 5 stars in all.

PISCIS AUSTRINUS is a blue fish with a tubular snout swimming to the left. It has a smaller fish stuck to its belly and swimming in the same direction, but upside-down. It has 12 stars.

notes

has 2 sets of illustrations

Aratus (Germanicus) 3r-61r

Hyginus 72v-91v

According to BAUER 1983, the following features come from Michael Scot:

- the winged Gemini
- the cart of Auriga being pulled by 2 oxen and 2 horses
- the shield and military dress of Orion
- the small fish below Pisces
- the vessel on the arm of Centaurus

ELLY DEKKER points out that Hyginus describes VIRGO with a star in each hand; rubbing out the star in the right hand of VIRGO makes it agree with Ptolemy's catalogue. Also, that Hyginus usually places only 5 stars in the belly of CAPRICORN, giving it a total of 20 stars. Here the text lists 6 stars in the belly and makes a total of 21 stars.

bibliography

BANDINI III 1776, pp.310-11

ROBERT 1878, p. 220.

has shown that the scholia strozziana comes from a contamination between the *Basileensia* and *Sangermanensia scholia* (the latter being the re-managed Aratus latinus)

MARTIN 1956, p. 40.

says that the so-called tag of *scholia Stroziana* comes from Breysig, having read this ms (it was Stroziana XLVI); XIV c, says that Breysig published this as a *scholia* after Ms Laur Plut 89 sup 43* (Stroziana XLVI) from the 14th c; says not really a *scholia*; all come from an exemplar probably from the Carolingian period which was discovered by Poggio in Sicily which he called 'fragmentum Arati nuper in Sicilia repertum'; It is a kind of Aratean corpus where extracts from the *Aratus latinus*, Book 18 of Pliny, Hyginus, etc are mixed together; all the manuscripts have a star map, Zeus on the eagle and a series of constellations and the Sun and the Moon

LEONARDI 1960, pp. 45-46 w/bibl.

McGURK IV 1966, p. xv and pp. 26-29

Sicilian Germanicus *Aratea*; xxv: inconsistencies with Aratus tradition, but not sufficient to warrant notice of lack of uniformity within these texts;

pp. xviii-xix: Sicilian Germanicus mss of the 15th c seems to be accompanied by the same

group of excerpts:

(Aratus Genus)

Aratea

Germanici Caesaris Aratea

Arati Phaenom. Reliquiae

Aratea de Sole et Luna

excerpt from Pliny 18

Further excerpt from Ply 18

De polis mundi

Third excerpt from Pliny 18

pp. 26-29: 2nd 2 XvC; humanistic; parchment; Medici arms on fol. 3r; produced for the Medici guardaroba; Germanicus illustrations with stars marked from 6v-47v; Hyginus illustrations with stars marked from 72v-91v (says identical to the few found in Florence, BNC, Magl XI, 114)

Inc (6v): Ab love principium magno...

Expl (48v): in capit clarum unam in ala duas in cauda tres (gloss: in oedibus singulas ab unguibus sunt omnes sex omnes simul fiunt)

Inc (72r): Igitur incipemus a polo boreo protinus dicere quo...

Expl (107v): descendens redit ad eundem

REEVE 1980, p. 512, n. 21.

twins with Urb lat 1358 in illustrations (Saxl-Meier III, pp. 149-51); AC de la Mare says Florentine

VIRÉ 1981, p. 166.

15th century, Italian; ff 72-107 and 127-169r; 4 Books (books III and IV = ff. 72-104; ff. 127-169r = preface, Book I and Book II)

COX-REARICK 1984, p. 169, n. 35.