

LEIDEN

Universiteitsbibliotheek

Voss lat 8° 18

Hyginus, *De astronomia*

Italian?

15th century

text

- ff. 85r-144r Hyginus, *Astronomica*, Books I-IV.9 (Book II illustrated).
- ff. 85r-91r [H]IGINUS. M. fabio salutem & si te studio grammaticę artis inductum – illa quoque in simili causa posse constitui suspicamur. (= Hyginus, *Astronomica*, I, preface - 9; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 5-13).
- ff. 91r-126v Sed quoniam quę nobis de terrę positione dicenda fuerunt – Nos autem omnium corporum deformationem dicere instituimus. (= Hyginus, *Astronomica*, II, preface - II, 43; cf. Viré 1992, p. 14-94).
- ff. 126v-138r [I]ncip^emus igitur incipiemus a polo boreo protinus dicere – cum piscibus stellarum omnino xii – Quę ad figurationem siderum pertinent ad hunc sinem nobis erunt dicta. Reliqua protinus dicemus. (= Hyginus, *Astronomica*, III, 1-40; cf. Viré 1992, p. 95-124)
- ff. 138r-144r [Q]uoniam in initio spherę circuli quinque quomodo efficerentur - (ends imperfectly) ad eum locum ubi occidere dicatur, ibi montium magitudine ... (= Hyginus, *Astronomica*, IV, 1 - 9; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 125-136.)

illustrations

cauer cum leone uirgine preterea liba dimi- dia pars fempit et pte fempit cum fignis...



fol. 91v

diana cognita est non obferuaffe uirginitate, cui dea pro magnitudine fufpentionis non...

fol. 92r

faciam ab ea interfectam et poftea uocatum non fidera locum. Sed alia dicitur quum...



fol. 92v

de uiam de uouit uoluit et uoluit pugnabit et uoluit pugnabit et uoluit pugnabit...

fol. 93r

pellatur uerfan et boeuf cum apere dicit in quo non mehoritur uideur. Erat...

fol. 93v

cellamone dicitur cum ab inuentione ge ne phicum appellatur. Erant hoc uallo anpore offendunt inter...

fol. 94r



et ab hinc petre ut quo tempore. Camela ex- ertur diei quadraginta uentum daret qui...

fol. 96v

de suo femine paritit oppidum paton appel- larunt. Orna hoc ex- tinar fuffe...

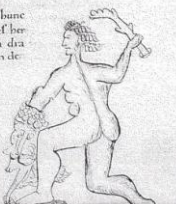
fol. 97r

nomine hyspionum dignum hoc feculo qui petunt libe de fententiam monftrare. Nunc...

fol. 97v

se poffum negare, ut qui uerum filius effer. Hinc nimef anulum autum de...

fol. 98r



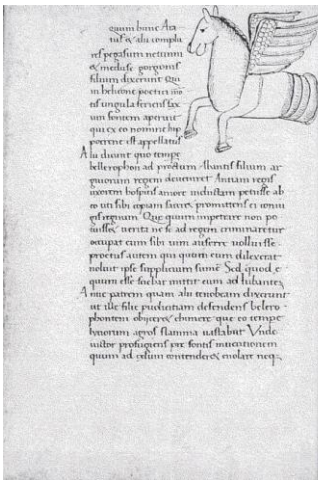
uoluerit afferre. Alii ptemoftra in monte caualto uuluum. Via inter aftra con...

fol. 99v

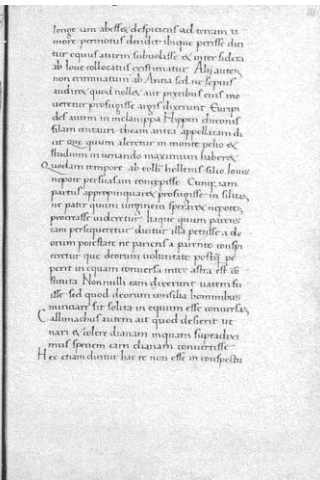
autem collecta membra fepulchre tradidiffe et hui quo maxime poterant benefico illa...

fol. 100r

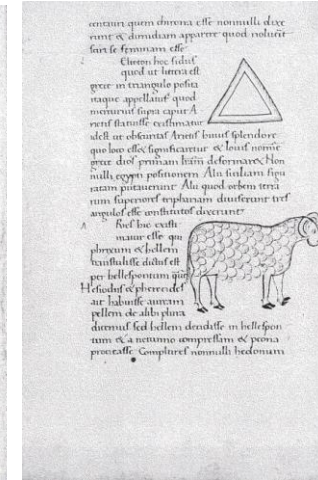




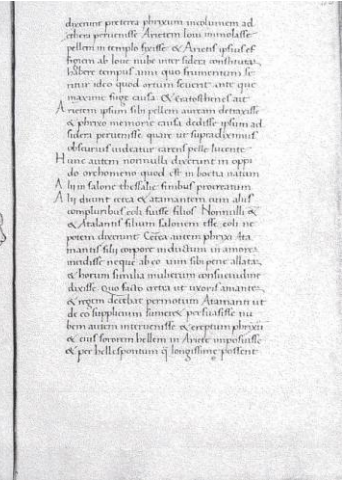
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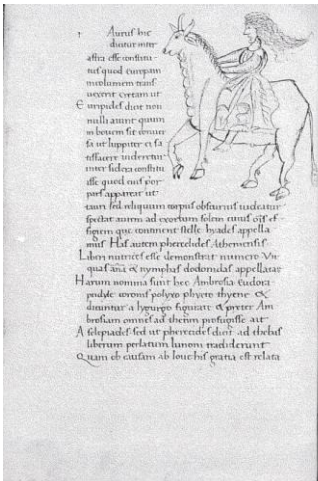
fol. 111r



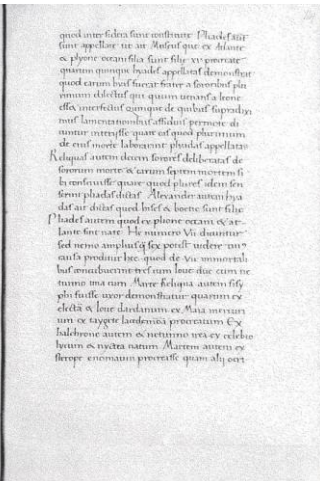
fol. 111v



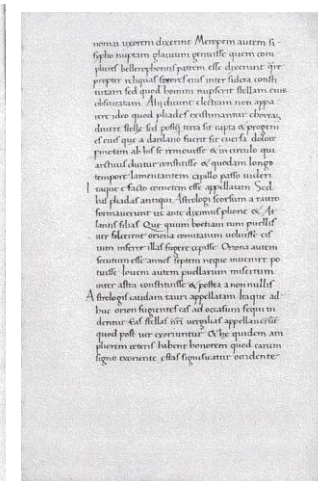
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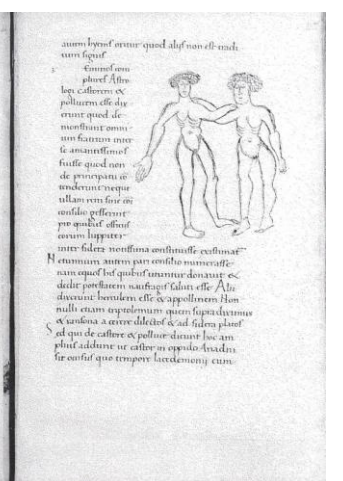
fol. 113v



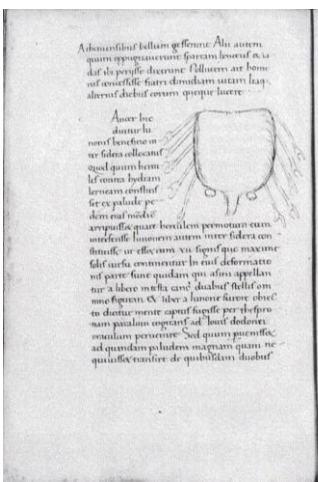
fol. 114r



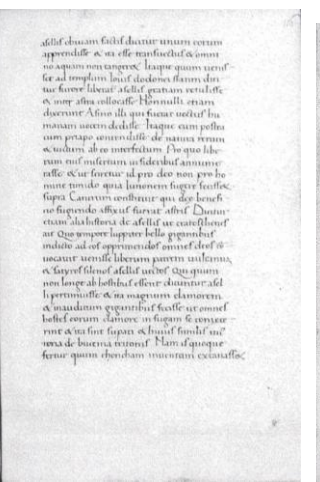
fol. 114v



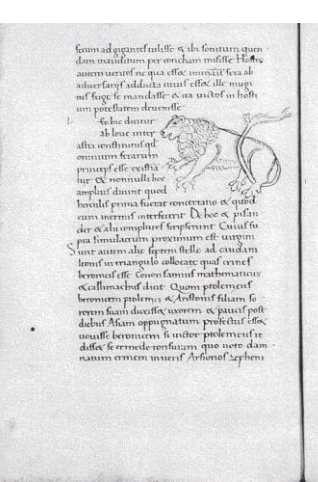
fol. 115r



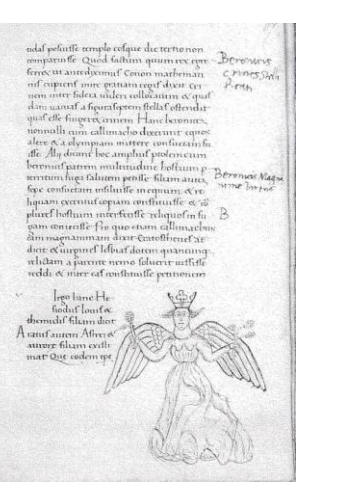
fol. 115v



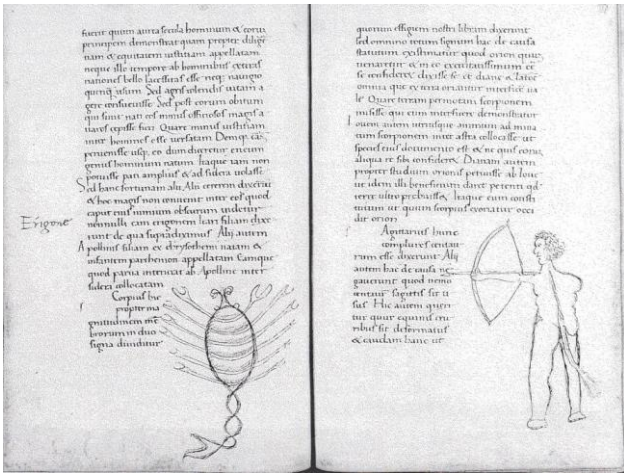
fol. 116r



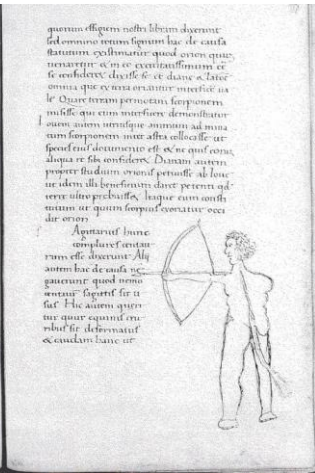
fol. 116v



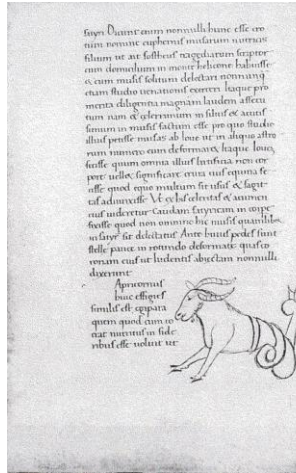
fol. 117r



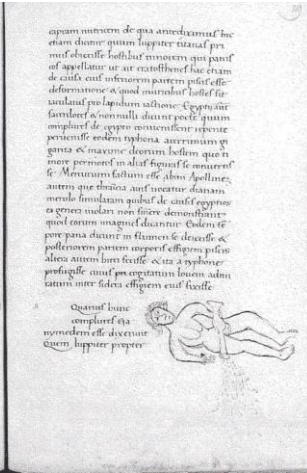
fol. 117v



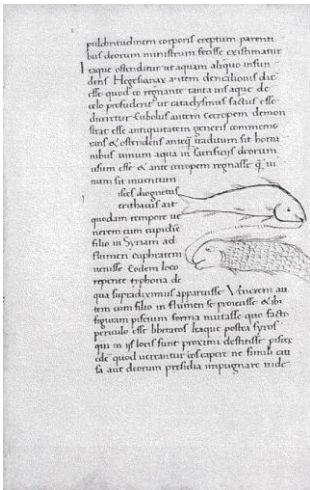
fol. 118r



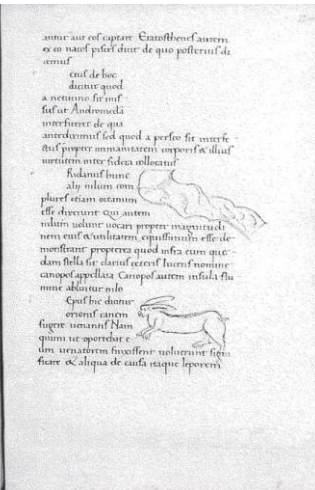
fol. 118v



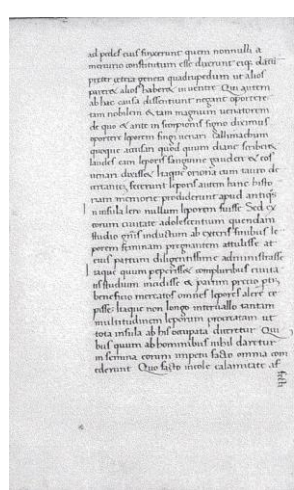
fol. 119r



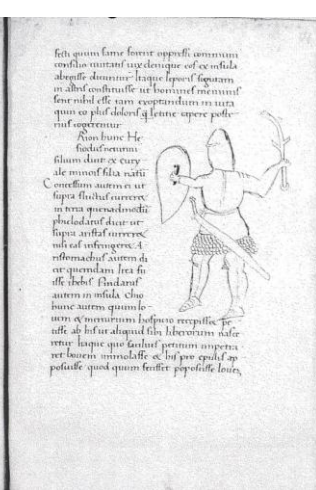
fol. 119v



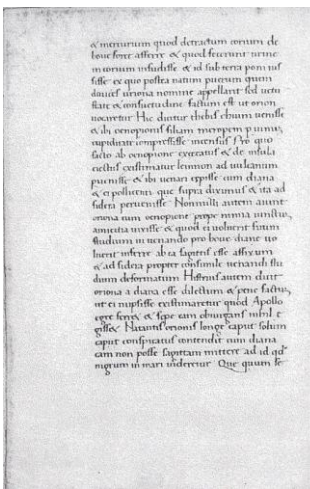
fol. 120r



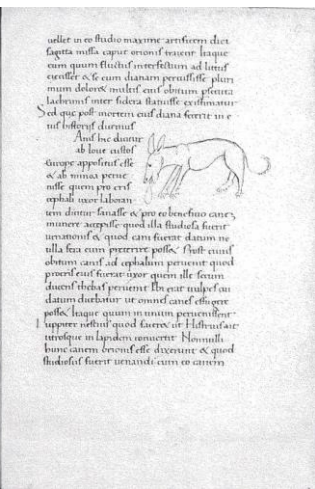
fol. 120v



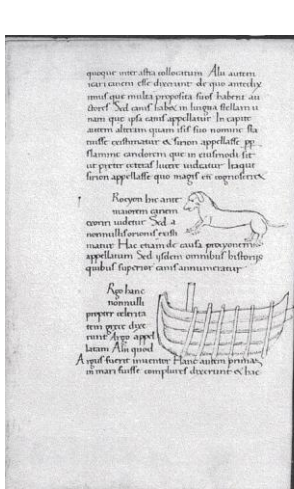
fol. 121r



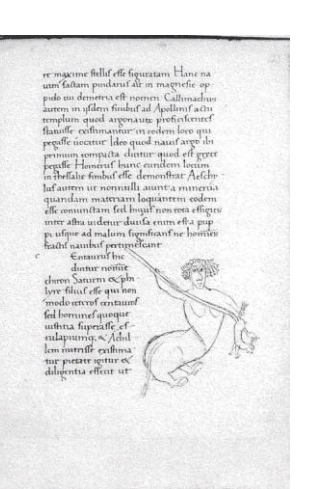
fol. 121v



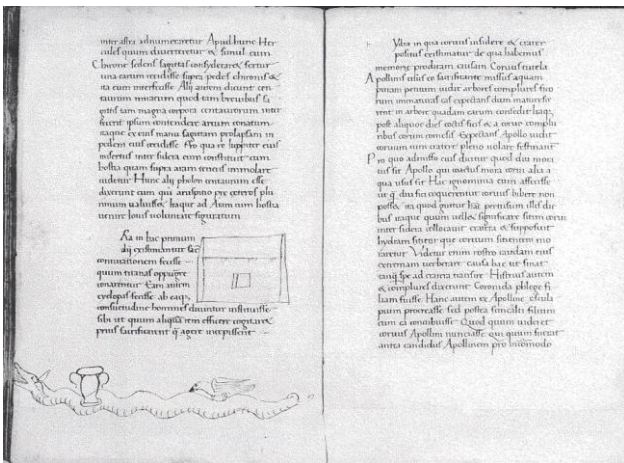
fol. 122r



fol. 122v

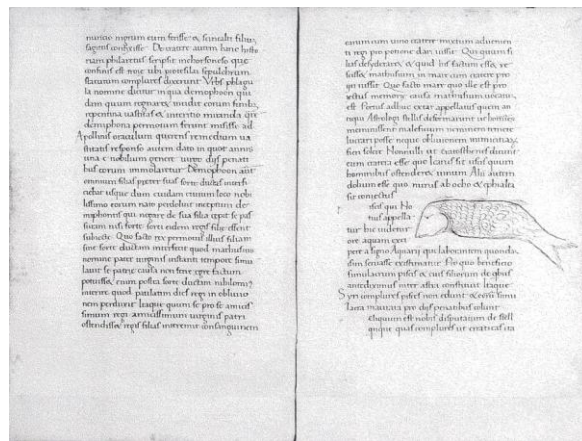


fol. 123r



fol. 123v

fol. 124r



fol. 124v

fol. 125r

illustrations

ff. 91v-125r

Very crude, scratchy line drawings of 39 of the constellations in black ink. DRACO is missing as a constellation, but there may be elements of his body in the drawings of Ursa Maior and Ursa Minor. The constellations are not marked with stars. CETUS is missing, though there is a space for it.

The humanist rotund script was obviously completed first and the scribe has left very small indentations in his block of prose for the illustrations. In some cases, no space has been left at all and the figures are inelegantly squeezed into the margins. Spaces for oversize initials have been left at the beginning of each chapter. As the quality of the drawings is much lower than that of the script, it would seem that the manuscript was not completed as originally planned and that the illustrations were added at a later date (probably a late 15th century) by an inexpert hand. See the notes, below.

fol. 91v **URSA MAIOR** stands facing to the left with her very large tongue sticking out. She stands on top of something that is hard to identify, but may indicate a vestige of the figure of Draco.

fol. 92v **URSA MINOR** stands at a slight angle to the left with its very large tongue sticking out. It stands on a wavy line that looks something like a stream (less likely to be remnants of **DRACO**)

- fol. 94r **BOOTES** stands facing the viewer dressed in a short tunic with a large belt. He has both of his arms out to the side and tilts his head slightly to the right. He seems to have a small head coming out from under the hem of his skirt.
- fol. 97r **CORONA BOREALIS** is a circlet of 9 star-shaped stars.
- fol. 98r **HERCULES** kneels to the left, with his weight on his right shin and he raises his left leg. He is nude and faces away from the viewer. He holds his left hand down in front of his body. It is covered by a lion's skin (with face, tail and one paw visible). He holds a club behind his head with his right hand.
- fol. 99v **LYRA** is depicted as a lute.
- fol. 100v **CYGNUS** faces to the left and bows its long neck. Its wings are upraised to either side.
- fol. 101v **CEPHEUS** is depicted facing the viewer, wearing a short tunic with a belt and long sleeves. He has a hat on his head and a beard. His hands are held loosely by his sides.
- CASSIOPEIA** wears a long dress that ends in a flourish around her knees. She seems to sit on a large cushion and raise her arms to either side with her elbows bent so that her arms form a 'W'.
- ANDROMEDA** stands facing the viewer in a long dress that ends in a series of flourishes around her waist. She points downwards with her right hand and upwards with her left.
- fol. 102r **PERSEUS** is dressed in a full suit of armour, including a helmet with only a slit for the eyes. He walks to the left and faces away from the viewer. He holds the Medusa's head by the hair in front of him with his left hand and raises a curved scimitar in his right hand behind his head.
- fol. 102v **AURIGA** faces towards the viewer and is dressed in a robe that ends with a series of flourishes around his knees. He has a circular, wheel-like object placed under his buttocks, like the end of a cushion. He holds both his hands upraised and has a small goat's head drawn into his left shoulder and two small goats (looking like sea-horses) in his left hand.
- fol. 104v **OPHIUCHUS** stands facing the viewer and is nude. The **SERPENS** wraps once around the man's middle above his genitals and its head is to the left and its tail, which has a large knot in it, is to the right. The snake has a beaky mouth and looks upwards.

- fol. 106r **SAGITTA** is an arrow that points to the top of the page.
- 108v **AQUILA** stands facing to the right, but turns its head back to the left, over its shoulder. Its wings are raised and outstretched to either side.
- fol. 109r **DELPHINUS** is a long fish with a pointed nose (like a pike) that arches its back to form a 'C'. The back is uppermost on the page.
- fol. 110v **PEGASUS** is depicted as half a winged horse flying to the left, with its wings raised. Its belly ends in three tubes, like a Michelin Man.
- fol. 111v **TRIANGULUM** is two concentric triangles.
- ARIES** stands facing to the right, with fleece that looks like fish scales and curly horns on its head.
- fol. 113v **TAURUS** is depicted as a full bull trotting to the left with his right forefoot raised. He carries a female figure on his back who wears a long dress and her hair is streaming out behind her.
- fol. 115r The **GEMINI** are two nude males who stand facing the viewer. Their inner arms are interlocked on each other's shoulders and their outer arms are held down by their sides.
- fol. 115v **CANCER** has U-shaped body with a long nose and faces towards the bottom of the page. He has two protruding eyes and 5 legs with forked ends on either side of his body.
- fol. 116v **LEO** stands to the left, with a very large mane, long claws on all four feet and his tail is curled beneath his back legs.
- fol. 117r **VIRGO** is a winged female figure wearing a crown on her head and with a long dress with a full skirt. She raises her hands to either side and holds bunches of flowers in each hand.
- fol. 117v **SCORPIO** faces towards the tops of the page and has 6 legs of almost equal length on either side. His nose is shaped a bit like a *fleur-de-lis* and he has two protruding eyes. He has a segmented tail and a forked sting.
- fol. 118r **SAGITTARIUS** is a satyr that faces to the left and is seen from the rear, showing his long horse's tail. He holds his bow in his left hand and pulls the string with his right.

- fol. 118v **CAPRICORN** faces to the left and has long, banded horns and a corkscrew tail that ends in a tri-lobe.
- fol. 119r **AQUARIUS** is nude and lying on his back with his head to the left, facing the viewer. He holds a long-necked urn near its foot in front of his hips and in pours water down the page.
- fol. 119v **PISCES** swim in opposite directions with both their backs facing upwards. They are tied by a line at their mouths. The top fish has no scales, but the bottom one does.
- fol. 120r **CETUS** is missing.
- ERIDANUS** is depicted as a bit of stream with small wavelets shown (possible Arabic influence here?).
- LEPUS** runs to the left.
- fol. 121r **ORION** is shown in full armour including a helmet with a slit for the eyes. It seems as though the upper part of his torso faces away from the viewer and the lower half faces towards the viewer. He holds a teardrop-shaped shield in his left arm so that the inner straps are visible and holds a knobby stick in his upraised right hand. He has a sword and scabbard at his waist.
- fol. 122r **CANIS MAIOR** stands to the left, with his head down and his tongue sticking out (his tongue is so large it looks like a speech balloon).
- fol. 122v **CANIS MINOR** looks like a dachshund and faces to the left.
- NAVIS** is just the hull of a wooden ship with a cut-off mast, 6 baton-like oars and two anchors at the right.
- fol. 123r **CENTAURUS** is an odd amalgam – seeming to be half-horse and half-man, but his hind half has only two legs (a similar shape appears in Vat Reg lat 1324). His human half is nude and he holds a spear in his raised right hand with which he impales **LUPUS** (a rabbit) that is held by the heels in his left hand.
- fol. 123v **ARA** looks like a simple building with a single, square window.
- HYDRA** is a long snake that has a dog's head and slithers to the left. His mouth is open and his tongue is sticking out. He has a two-handled **CRATER** on his back and **CORVUS** faces front, pecking at the snake's body.
- fol. 125r **PISCIS AUSTRINUS** is a fat fish with a pointed nose that swims to the left.

notes

See above for a description of the illustrations. The text certainly derives from Florence Plut. 29,30, since both end imperfectly at Book IV, 9. But the pictures are modernised (15th century) versions of those that appear in the Florence manuscript. As they are so crude, one suspects that these images are not the invention of the Leiden artist, so probably derived from an updated intermediary copy of the Florence Manuscript.

Note also that the depiction of HERCULES without his Garden and ERIDANUS as a stylised river segment shows possible echoes of Arabic or globe-based influence here (as in the St Paul im Lavantthal and Florence manuscripts).

Manuscript end 15th c; ff. 1r-83r: ARATI PHILOSOPHI ASTRONOMICON of Manilius; ff. 83v-84v: blank; ff. 85r-144r: Hyginus, *Astronomica*, Books I-IV.9.

bibliography

Not mentioned by BYVANCK 1949

McGURK IV 1966

VIRÉ 1992.

Information below taken from website:

Shelfmark	VLO 18
Title	M. Manilius, <i>Astronomica</i> . - C. Iul. Hyginus, <i>Astronomica</i> , cum figuris
Language	Latin
Place of creation	Italia
Date of creation	XV-d
Form	1 deel, geschreven op papier, 144 fol : ill. ; 210x140 mm.
Acquisition	Zie Collectie Vossius
Literature	Cat. 1716, p. 386 Cat. compend. I (1932), p. 14 Cat. De Meyier (1977), p. 44-45 Zie MMDC

Zie KB, Byvanck database