

Milan

Biblioteca Ambrosiana

Ms T. 47 sup

Hyginus, *De astronomia*

Italian

second half 15th century

text

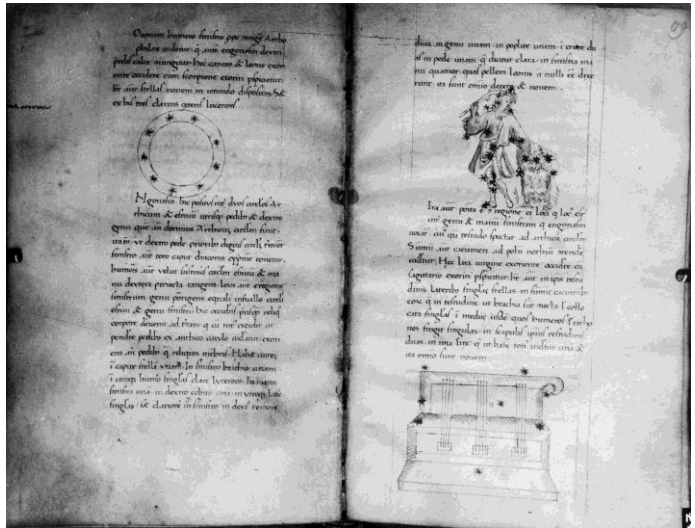
- ff. 47v-85v Hyginus, *De astronomia*, Books III and II (with Book III illustrated)
- ff. 3r-29v Ioannis Anglici de Sacrobosco libellus de spaera incipit feliciter/ [T]ractatum de spera quattuor capitulis distinguimus discentes – aut mundana machina dissolvitur. Explicit. (= Sacrobosco, *De Sphaera*, cf. Thorndike 1949). There are small diagrams in the margins.
- ff. 29v-47r [M]ultotiens mihi divina quaedam ac admirabilis quippe res – felix a principio confestim particeps esset. Explicit de mundo. (= ps-Aristotle, *De mundo*, cf. Lorimer, *Aristoteles Latinus*, 1951, XI, 1.2, pp. 55-78.)
- ff. 47v-61r [I]gitur incipiens A pollo boreo protinus dicere quo utreque arctoi nixe vehuntur – autum cum piscibus, sed est stellarum omnino. xii.
(= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, III, 1- III, 40; cf. Viré 1992, p. 95-124)
- ff. 61r- 85v [S]ed quoniam quae nobis de terre positione dicenda – deformationem dicere instituimus deo gratias amen. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, II, preface - 43; cf. Viré 1992, pp. 14-94)
- ff. 86r-89v Iesus Christus (?) Hermetis Centiloquium. [D]ixit hermes quia sol et luna omnium viventium est – (ends imperfectly) ad omnis erit bona ... (= Hermes, *Centiloquium*, ll. 1-30; cf. Carmody 1956, p. 53 (Stephanus de Messina transl.))

illustrations



fol. 47v

fol. 48r



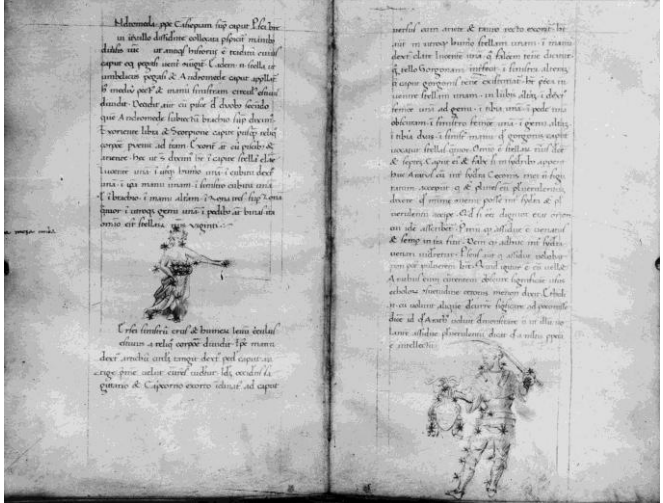
fol. 48v

fol. 49r



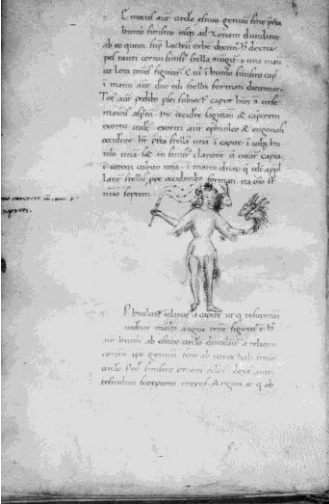
fol. 49v

fol. 50r

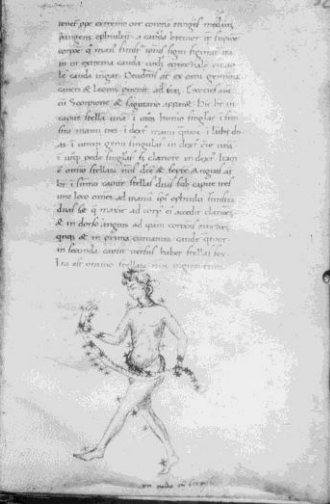


fol. 50v

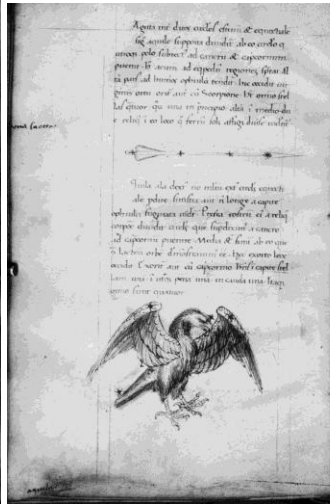
fol. 51r



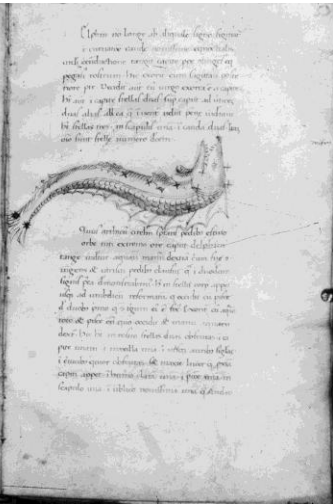
fol. 51v



fol. 52r



fol. 52v



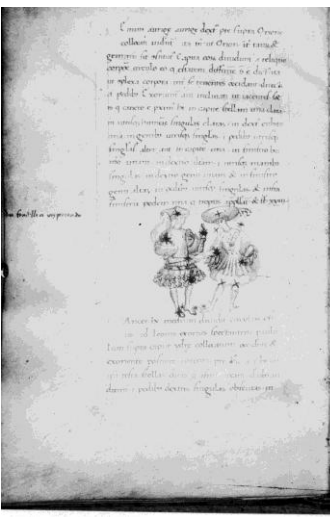
fol. 53r



fol. 53v



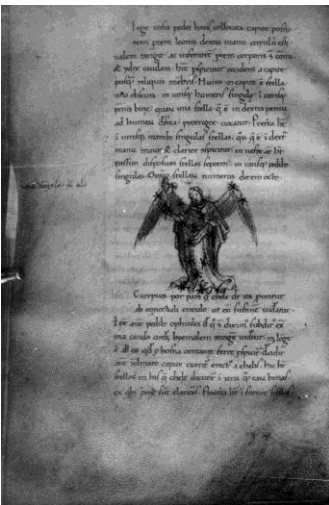
fol. 54r



fol. 54v



fol. 55r



fol. 55v



fol. 56r



fol. 56v



fol. 57r



fol. 57v

fol. 58r



fol. 58v

fol. 59r



fol. 59v

fol. 60r



fol. 60v

fol. 61r

ff. 47v-61r

Brown pen drawings with a slight wash effect of 38 constellations groupings with the stars indicated with small, red star-shapes. All the capitals are missing. Many of the figures are dressed in the height of contemporary Quattrocento fashion.

fol. 47v

DRACO INTER ARCTOS shows DRACO depicted as a dragon-headed snake with 2 big bends in his body and the third bend is more of a right angle. His head is placed towards the bottom of the page, faces to the left and has a pointed snout and pointed ears. The bears are set back-to-back and face into the curves. Both have short tails.

URSA MINOR is placed within the second curve and is marginally smaller. It has 1 star in each forefoot, 1 in each hind foot and 3 on its tail, or 7 tars in all.

URSA MAIOR is placed within the right angle of the last curve and is slightly larger. It has 6 stars on its head and 5 on its neck, 2 on its shoulder, 2 in its right foreleg and 1 on each hind foot, 1 behind its left rear foot and 3 on the tail, or 21 stars in all. Draco has 5 stars in the head and 10 along the body, or 15 stars in all.

- fol. 48r **BOOTES** faces the viewer and is standing to the right wearing a short Renaissance tunic that has a wide, pleated skirt and a fluffy, furred hem. He holds a curved club above his head with his right hand and has an elaborate shield in his left hand that is held out in front of him. He rests his foot on a box. He has 1 star in his club, 1 above each shoulder, 1 in his right elbow, 3 in his chest, 1 in each foot and 4 in the shield, or 13 stars in all.
- fol. 48v **CORONA BOREALIS** is two concentric circles with 9 stars marked.
- fol. 49r **HERCULES** faces the viewer and is dressed in a short, loose tunic that is gathered at the waist. He looks youthful and holds a knobby club over his head with his right hand and has a lion's skin draped over his left arm (face and the front paws visible). He has 1 star in his head, 1 over each shoulder, 1 at his right elbow, 1 in his left elbow, 1 on each side of his waist, 2 below the waist, 4 in and around the right knee, 1 on his right foot and 5 in the lion's skin, or 19 stars in all.
- fol. 5r **LYRA** is shaped like a 2-stepped zither with a curl at the right side with 3 sets of 4 strings and 8 stars.
- fol. 6r **Cygnus** stands facing to the left with wings outspread. It has 2 stars above its head, 1 in its neck, 5 in its right wing and 5 in its left and 1 on its tail, or 13 stars in all.
- fol. 7r **CEPHEUS** stands facing the viewer in a short tunic, which is belted below the hips and has fluffy fur trim around his elbows and on his hem. He has a *pilos* on his head and his hands are loosely extended to each side. He has 2 stars in his head and 1 in each shoulder, 1 in each hand, 1 in his right elbow, 1 on the right side, 3 in his belt, 2 on the hem over his left knee and 3 in each foot, or 19 stars in all.
- CASSIOPEIA** sits on a boxy throne with a step on which she rests her feet. She is dressed in a long robe and has a mantle held together by a round clasp at her

neck and then falls round her hips to cover her legs. Her head is uncovered and she holds her hands out to either side. She has 1 star in her head, 1 in each shoulder, 1 in her breast, 1 in her lap, 2 in her left leg and 4 on her throne, or 11 stars in all.

- fol. 50r **ANDROMEDA** faces the viewer and walks to the right. She is nude to the waist and wears a long skirt, which she holds at her right hip with her right hand. Her left arm is held out horizontally in front of her. She has 1 star in her head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each elbow, 1 in each hand, 3 at her waist, 4 above her waist, 1 on each knee and 2 on her right foot and 1 on her left foot, or 19 stars in all.
- fol. 9r **PERSEUS** seen from rear standing slightly to the left with his head in profile. He wears a full suit of Renaissance armour, but without a helmet on his head. He looks down at the Medusa's head which he holds in his left hand. He holds a long curved sword upraised in his right hand so the tip skims his head. He has 1 star on each shoulder, 1 in each hand, 2 on his hip and 1 in each of his upper thighs, 3 along his left leg, 1 in his right leg and 1 on his right foot, with 4 in the Medusa's head, or 17 stars in all.
- fol. 10r **AURIGA** stands facing the viewer in a short, garment apparently made from an animal's skin with ragged and frayed edges. His feet and head are bare. He holds a flail with 3 thongs upraised in his right hand and two goat's heads in his left hand. There is a third goat's head coming from the left side of his head. He has 1 star on his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each elbow, 1 on his left wrist and 1 on his left hand, or 7 stars in all.
- fol. 11r **OPHIUCHUS** faces the viewer and walks boldly to the left, with his head in profile but his torso turned towards the viewer. He is nude and has long hair. He holds the **SERPENS** so that it wraps once around his hips and turns to face him, sticking its tongue out. He has 1 star on his head, 1 star in each shoulder, 2 at his waist, 3 in his right hand, 3 on his left hand, 1 on each knee, 1 on his left foot, 1 on the right shin and 1 on his right foot, or 16 stars in all. The Serpens has 5 stars in its head and 20 (?) along its body.
- fol. 52v **SAGITTA** points to the right and has 4 stars.
- AQUILA** stands to the right and has both his wings outstretched on either side. His beak is open. He has 1 star in his head, 1 in each wing and 1 in his tail, or 4 stars in all.

- fol. 53r **DELPHINUS** is placed up-side down, on his back, and with his head to the right. He has a pointed beak with sharp teeth and a waddle beneath his chin. He has 4 stars on his head, 3 on his belly, 1 on his back and 2 on his tail, or 10 stars in all.
- fol. 53v **PEGASUS** is depicted as half a winged horse with his legs stretched out in front of him. He faces to the right and wears a bridle. He has 1 star in each ear, 3 in his head, 4 on his neck, 1 above his wing, 1 in front of his chest, and 1 on each leg, or 13 stars in all.
- fol. 16r **ARIES** walks to left with his head turned back to the right. He is depicted *intra Triangulum* (fol. 53v: '& exoriens caput infra triangulum') and may bite the right edge of the triangle. He raises his right forefoot. He has 3 stars on the right horn, 1 on the left horn, 4 in his chest (?), 3 in his rear haunch, 1 on his belly, 1 in his right forefoot, 1 in his right hind foot and 1 on his tail, or around 15 stars. The **TRIANGULUM** has 3 stars, 1 in each corner.
- TAURUS** is depicted as half a bull facing to the left. His body is cut off by a series of curved lines. He has 2 stars in each horn, 1 in each eye, 1 between his eyes, 4 on his shoulder, 1 on each knee and 1 on his right foot, or 14 stars in all. In addition, there are 7 stars in a circlet in front of his nose, representing the stars of the **PLEIADES**.
- fol. 54v **GEMINI** are presented as two Renaissance gentlemen, who stand facing each other. They are dressed in short tunics that are elaborated decorated with belts at their hips and frills and baubles. They also both wear huge hats bedecked with feathers and veils. They shake their right hands and the left Twin raises his left hand, pointing upwards with his index finger. The right Twin rests his left hand down by his side. The left Twin has 1 star in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 in each hand, 1 in his hem, 1 on his left thigh, 1 in his right foot and 2 in his left foot, or 10 stars in all. The right Twin has 1 star in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 in his right elbow, 1 on his left hand, 1 on each knee and 1 on each foot, or 9 stars in all.
- fol. 55r **CANCER** is a round-bodied crab that faces to the left. He has two large claws, 8 legs and a crescent around his bottom. He has 7 stars in front of his nose, 2 star on his body, 4 stars in his upper legs and 4 stars in his lower legs, or 17 stars in all.

LEO stands to the right, with his tongue out and his tail raised. He has 5 stars in his head, 6 in his body, 1 on his left forepaw (?), 2 in his haunch, 1 on his right rear foot and 3 in his tail, or around 18 stars.

fol. 55v **VIRGO** is enveloped in a large hooded mantle. She is winged, holding them raised to either side. She holds a sheaf of wheat upraised in her right hand and holds her left hand in front of her with its palm open to the viewer. She has 1 star in her head, 1 on each shoulder, 2 on each wing, 1 on each hand, 2 in the middle of her body, 3 in her legs and 1 on each foot, or around 16 stars in all.

56r **SCORPIO** faces to the left and has two large claws and 8 legs on either side. His tail is segmented and ends in a forked sting. He holds the Scales in his right claw. He has 2 stars in each claw, 3 in his head, 5 in his body, 5 in his segmented tail and 2 stars on the sting, or 19 stars in all. The SCALES have no stars.

SAGITTARIUS is depicted as a centaur prancing to the right. His human half is nude. He holds the bow with his left hand and pulls the string with his right. He has 2 stars on his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 in the upper right arm, 1 in his right elbow, 1 in his left hand, 1 by his left side, 1 in his foremost left hand, 2 in the bow, 1 on the tip of the arrow, 1 on each front knee, 1 on his left hoof and 1 on his tail, or 23 stars in all. In addition, there are 7 stars beneath his forefeet, which represent CORONA AUSTRINUS.

fol. 56v **CAPRICORN** faces to the left, has long straight horns, a beard, a twist in his tail and the tail ends in 3 fins. He has 1 star on his nose, 2 in his right hoof, 10 in the neck and chest, 6 along his belly and 2 on the end of the tail, or 21 stars in all.

fol. 24r: **AQUARIUS** is dressed in a very fancy Renaissance costume with very full and pleated skirt with a frilly hem and huge fur cuffs at his elbow, bangles at his wrists and a large hat. He stands facing the viewer and faces slightly to the right, with his right arm held out to the side and his left arm holding the foot of a faceted urn from which he pours water. He has 2 stars on his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each nipple, 1 on his right hand, 1 on his left elbow, 1 on his right hip, 1 on his each knee, and 1 on his right lower leg and 1 on each foot, or 14 stars in all. In addition, there are 16 stars outlining the urn and the water. Together, there are 30 stars.

fol. 57v **PISCES** swim in opposite directions and have both their back facing upwards. Their mouths are connected by a stream. The top fish has 17 stars, the stream has 11 stars and the bottom fish has 12 stars, or 30 stars in all.

CETUS has dog-like face, body and front legs. His tapering body has a curl and ends in a trilobe. He faces to the right with an open mouth. He has 6 stars in his belly, 4 stars in his tail and 3 on the end of his tail, or 13 stars in all.

fol. 58r **ERIDANUS** is depicted as a nude youth, who faces the viewer, but sways slightly to the right. He holds the urn out horizontally in front of him to the left, holding its base with his left hand and its neck with his right. He has 3 stars in the urn and 10 in the water, or 13 stars in all.

LEPUS runs to the left. It has 2 stars in its ears, 1 above its shoulders, 1 on its chest, 1 on each fore paw and 1 on its haunch, or 7 stars in all.

fol. 58v **ORION** walks to the left, dressed in a short tunic with a huge ruff along the bottom hem and a belt at his hips. His shoulders are covered with a cape that falls to his knees. He is bearded and holds a short, sharp sword upright vertically in his right hand and he holds the thumb of his left hand in his belt. He has 3 stars in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 in the right elbow, 1 in the right hand, 3 in his sword, 3 in his belt, 1 on each knee and 1 on each foot, or 17 stars in all.

fol. 59r **CANIS MAIOR** is a sleek hound that bounds to the left with his tongue sticking out. It has 1 star on its tongue, 1 on its nose, 2 on its ears, 5 in its shoulder, 3 on its right fore paw, 1 in its haunch, 1 on each hind foot and 3 in its tail, or 18 stars in all.

CANIS MINOR is a hound that leaps to the left. It has 1 star in its head, 1 on its shoulder, 1 on its haunch and on each of its hind feet, or 5 stars in all.

fol. 30r **ARGO** is a full ship with numerous pictorial details, such as two masts with numerous sets of pulleys running from the deck to the yard-arm, two steering oars and a set of vertical supports (flagpoles?) in the poop deck. It sails to the right. It has 3 stars in the bow, 5 stars in the body of the ship, 5 along the keel and 9 on the steering oars, or 22 stars in all.

fol. 60r **CENTAURUS** is a centaur that leaps to the left. He has two ribbons (?) flying from his hair. His human half is nude and he holds **LUPUS** (a rabbit) upside-down by its heels in his right hand. He holds his left hand by his side. He has 3 stars in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 4 in his breast, 2 in his belly, 1 on his left elbow and 1 on his left, 1 in each foreleg, 2 in each hind leg and 3 on his tail, or 22

stars in all. Lupus has 3 stars on its head, 2 in his forelegs and 2 in its tail, or 10 stars in all.

ARA is a round, two-level altar with 3 niches in the base and 5 niches in the second level and flames coming from the top. It has 4 stars.

fol. 60v **HYDRA** is depicted as a two-legged dragon with a dog's face, bat-wings held close to his body, and clawed feet. It faces to the left.

CRATER is a tall vase with 2 handles resting on Hydra's back and **CORVUS** stands on his haunches facing forward. HYDRA has 8 stars in the neck, 6 on the middle of the back, 3 on the back below CRATER and 5 on the tail or 22 stars along its backbone. CRATER has 2 stars on the rim, 2 in the centre of the bowl, 2 at the sides and 2 on the base, or 8 stars in all. CORVUS has 1 star below the beak, 2 on its wings, 2 below the wings towards the tail, 1 on each foot, or 7 stars in all.

fol. 61r **PISCIS AUSTRINUS** is a fish that swims to the left. It has 12 stars.

notes

The position of the stars is very close to those found in Cambridge Fitzwilliam 260.

Usually, there are only 5 stars in the belly of Capricorn and a total of 20 stars, but the text in this manuscript lists 7 stars in the belly and a total of 21 stars. The picture clearly shows only 6 stars.

bibliography

Not in Cipriani

SAXL-MEIER III 1953, 1, pp. liv and 328.

McGURK IV 1966, p. xix.

some Renaissance Hyginus mss share a limitation in Hyginus content, 4 place Book III before Book II (Milan N. 690, Milan T. 47; Cambridge, Fitzwilliam 260 and Oxford, Can misc 46).

pp. 44-46: second 2 XV c; parchment, 30 ff; 180 x 115. humanistic cursive; Hyginus III-II on ff 47v-85v, with illus to Book III, with stars indicated on ff. 47v-61r.

inc (47v): (I)gitur incipiemus a pollo boreo protinus...

expl (85v) deformationem dicere instituimus deo gratias amen.

VIRÉ 1981, p. 170.

15th century, Italian?, ff. 47v-85 = Hyginus: Books II and III.