

Milan

Biblioteca Trivulziana

N. 690 (E. 83)

---

Hyginus, *De astronomia*

North Italian  
end 15th century

---

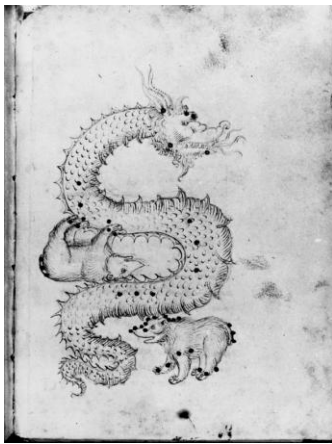
text

- ff. 1r-63v          Hyginus, *De astronomia*, Books III and II (with Book III illustrated)
- ff. 1r-33v          (Title page, with letters written vertically) IGITUR INCIPIENS `A // (fol. 1v) quo  
                          utraque arctos nixae vehuntur – ... Exoritur cum piscibus. sed est stellarum  
                          omnino .xij. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, III, 1-40; cf. Viré 1992, p. 95-124)
- note: there is no ‘polo boreo protinus dicere’ on fol. 1r, suggesting that it might  
have been planned as a decorative incipit at the top of fol. 1v, but was never  
executed.
- ff. 34r-63v          SEd quoniam quae nobis de terrę postione – omnium corporum deformationem  
                          dicere instituimus. (= Hyginus, *De astronomia*, II, preface - 43; cf. Viré 1992, pp.  
                          14-94)
-

illustrations



fol. 1r



fol. 2v



fol. 3v



fol. 4r



fol. 5r



fol. 5v



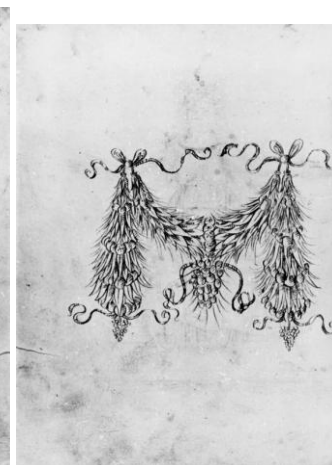
fol. 6r



fol. 7r



fol. 8r



fol. 8v



fol. 9r



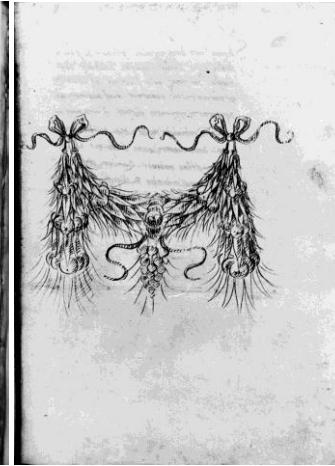
fol. 11r



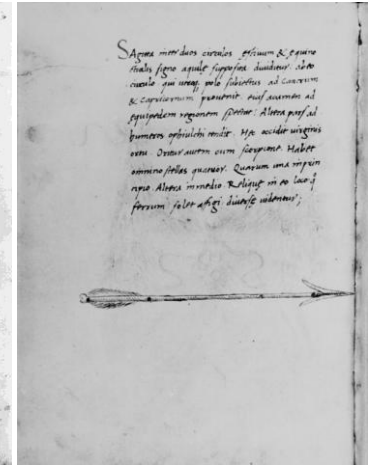
fol. 12r



fol. 13v



fol. 14r



fol. 14v



fol. 15r



fol. 15v



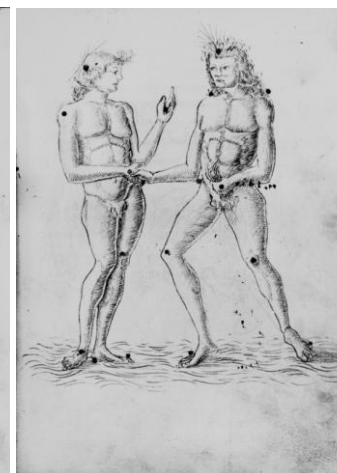
fol. 16v



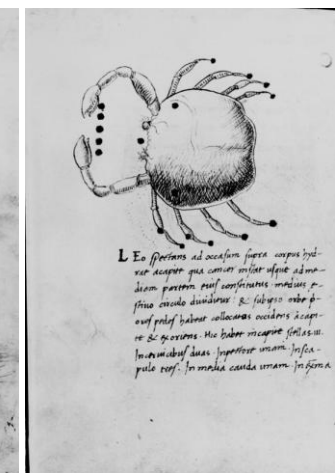
fol. 17v



fol. 18r



fol. 19r



fol. 20v



fol. 21r



fol. 22r

**S** Caprus prius pars que dicitur...  
 ...  


fol. 22v

**C** A puerus ab hacem pectus &...  
 ...  

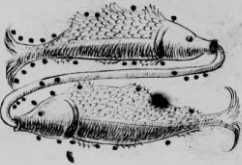

fol. 23v

**A** Quasi habet pedes in hunc...  
 ...  


fol. 24r



fol. 25r

**P** Isque arietis cauda dicitur...  
 ...  


fol. 26r

**P** Isque arietis cauda dicitur...  
 ...  

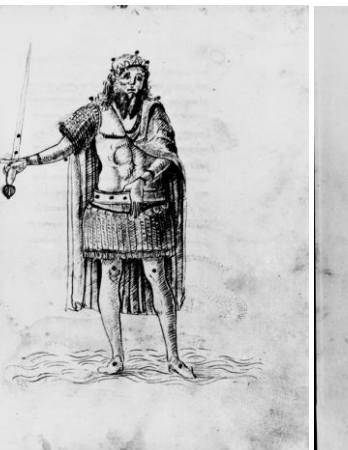

fol. 26v



fol. 27v

**L** E pul autem infus...  
 ...  


fol. 28r



fol. 29r

**C** Anus leporem...  
 ...  


fol. 29v

**P** Rorum in...  
 ...  


fol. 30r



fol. 30v



fol. 31v



fol. 32r



fol. 33r



fol. 33v

fol. 1r

Drawing in sepia ink of a winged male youth, who stands with his left foot on a globe and looks upwards. There is a decorative floral swag with ribbons above his head and he is nude, save a fluttering cape that is held by a large, cupid's-head brooch at his chest, and open-toed boots. His left leg is grabbed by a nude winged putto whose eyes are closed. The youth reaches down with both hands pushing the putto's head down or away. Beside him to the right, there is a column with flames coming from the top. The column top has as 'RADEUM' written on it, horizontally along the necking and above the astragal. To the right of the column, the incipit to Book III is written in red vertical letters: **IGITUR INCIPIENS `A**. There are golden highlights added (such as in the boots and the wings) and the drawing has been pricked.

- ff. 2r-33v Drawings in sepia ink of 37 constellation groupings, with stars marked with small gold dots. A number of the drawings have been pricked for transfer (the frontispiece, PERSEUS, GEMINI, LEO, SAGITTARIUS, CAPRICORN LEPUS CANIS MAIOR AND MINOR, CENTAURUS and HYDRA), and, in many cases, the inkings from this process has bled through to other pages. Also, one can see the lead underdrawings in a number of instances.
- fol. 2v **DRACO INTER ARCTOS** is depicted with **DRACO** as a dragon-headed snake with 3 big bends in his body and 3 smaller bends at the end of his tail and with his head placed towards the bottom of the page. His head faces to the left and has a pointed and curled snout, a beard, sharp teeth, a tongue with three parts and long, pointed ears. The Bears are set back-to-back and face into the curves. Both have short tails and their mouths are open.
- URSA MINOR** is set within the second curve and is slightly larger. It has 1 star in each of its feet and 3 on its tail, or 7 stars in all.
- URSA MAIOR** stands beside the flourish of small bends in the tail. It has 7 stars on its head and 4 on its neck, 2 on its left shoulder, 2 in its right fore leg, 1 in 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. 3v **BOOTES** faces the viewer and is standing to the right wearing a short ‘classical’ tunic that has decoration around the neck and is caught at the waist by a thin cord. He also wears shin-length sandals on his feet and has a cape fluttering out behind his shoulders to the left. He holds a slightly curved club above his head with his right hand and has a decorated horsehead shield in his left hand in front of him so that it covers his arm. He rests his left foot on a box and has firm ground under his feet. He has 1 star in his club, 1 above each shoulder, 1 in his right elbow, 2 in his chest, 2 on his belt, 1 in each foot and 4 in the shield, or 14 stars in all.
- fol. 4r **CORONA BOREALIS** is a very spiky crown with decorative inlay and there is a complicated, set of knotted ribbons coming from the bottom. The head-band of the crown is marked by 9 stars.
- fol. 5r **HERCULES** stands facing the viewer, lunging slightly to the left, but turning his head to look to the right. He is nude, with a cape tied around his shoulders. The

cape flutters behind him to the left. He holds a knobby club over his head with his right hand and holds a lion's body by its right back paw in his left hand (the whole lion is visible). He has firm ground under his feet. He has 1 star in his head, 1 over each shoulder, 1 on each elbow, 1 on the right side, 2 at his left hip, 4 in and around his right knee and 1 on his right foot and 5 in the lion's skin, or 18 stars in all.

- fol. 5v **LYRA** is shaped like a 2-stepped zither with a curl at the right side. There are ground lines under the lyre. It has 3 sets of 4 strings, a rosette sounding hole and 8 stars.
- fol. 6r **CYGNUS** stands facing to the left with its wings outspread and a smile on its face. There are firm ground lines under the bird. It has 1 star in its head, 1 in its neck, 5 in each wing and 1 on its tail, or 13 stars in all.
- fol. 7r **CEPHEUS** stands facing the viewer in a long robe with tight sleeves that has a decorated over-tunic on top. It is belted at the waist. He wears a large spiked crown on his head and has a jewel in the middle of his chest. He has his hands loosely extended to each side so they form a W-shape. He stands on undulating lines, which resemble clouds. He has 4 stars at the tip of the crown, 2 in the middle and 4 at the bottom, but only the two at the middle should be stars. These may be all decorative dots, rather than stars (see similar dots in **AURIGA**'s garment); only the 2 in the middle can be supposed to be stars. He has 4 dots in his collar only the top two of which should be stars), 1 in each hand, 1 dot above his right elbow and 2 below his right elbow (of which only 1 should represent a star), 1 at his waist, 3 on his hem, 2 in the left knee and 3 in each foot, or 17 or 29 stars in all.
- fol. 8r **CASSIOPEIA** sits on a boxy throne with a step on which she rests her feet. She is dressed in a long *peplos* that leaves her arms bare. Her hair is uncovered, but she seems to have some sort of decoration in it. She hand sandals on her feet. She holds her hands out to either side. The throne sits on undulating lines that resemble clouds. She has 3 stars in her head, 1 in each shoulder, 1 in her right breast, 5 in her lap, 2 in her left leg, 1 on her right foot and 5 on the throne, or 19 stars in all. [There is a picture of a decorative swag with ribbons on fol. 8v.]
- fol. 9v **ANDROMEDA** faces the viewer and rushes to the left. She is nude to the waist and wears a long skirt, which she holds near her pudenda with her right hand. Her left arm is held out horizontally behind her. Her hair is exposed and she

walks on undulating lines that resemble clouds. She has 1 star in her head, 3 on her face, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each elbow, 1 in her right hand, 3 at her waist and 4 below her waist, 1 on each knee and 2 on each foot, or 19 stars in all. In addition, there are 3 dots on her face, but it is unlikely that these are stars.

fol. 11r **PERSEUS** faces away from the viewer and walks to the left. He wears a suit of armour, but without a helmet on his head. He has a long sash around his waist that flutters in the wind behind his body and he wears knee-length sandals that have wings attached to the feet. He holds the Medusa's head by its hair in his left hand in front of him (the Medusa may be male and bearded) and holds a long curved sword upraised in his right hand so the tip touches his head. He walks on undulating lines that resemble clouds. He has 2 stars in his head, 1 star on each shoulder, 1 in each hand, 1 at his waist, 2 on his hip and 2 in his upper thighs, 3 along his left leg, 1 in his right knee and 1 on his right foot, with 4 in the Medusa's head, or 20 stars in all. [The figure of PERSEUS has been pricked so that it shows through the verso of the folio and on to fol. 12r.]

fol. 12r **AURIGA** stands facing the viewer wearing a short garment that is tied at the waist and ends in long pointed strips of fabric around his knees. His feet and head are bare. He holds something that looks like palm leaves or a thin paddle 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 stands on undulating lines that resemble clouds. 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. There are also a set of 6 stars at his breast that seems to be a decorative ornament and the hanging end of his skirt has 4 similar dots. Note the similarities to the extra dots in CEPHEUS.

fol. 13v **OPHIUCHUS** is a nude male with long hair, who walks to the right facing towards the viewer. He holds the **SERPENS** so that it wraps once around his hips and turns to face him, sticking its tongue out. The man and the snake seem to be blowing air at each other. He wears a cape on his shoulders that billows out behind him. He walks on undulating lines that resemble clouds. He has 1 star on his head, 1 star on each shoulder, 2 at his waist, 4 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 17 stars in all. The SERPENS has 4 stars in its head, 6 in the body after the head, 6 in the body surrounding OPHIUCHUS and 6 along the tail, or 22 stars in all. [There is a picture of a decorative swag with ribbons on fol. 14r.]



- fol. 14v            **SAGITTA** points to the right and has 4 stars.
- fol. 15r            **AQUILA** stands to the right and has both his wings outstretched on either side. His beak is open. He stands on undulating lines that resemble clouds. He has 1 star in his head, 1 on his right wing and 1 in his tail, or 3 stars in all.
- fol. 15v            **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, 1 in his neck, 3 on his body close to his belly and 2 on his tail, or 10 stars in all. There is also a small dot close to the back tail below his back, but it should not be a star.
- fol. 16v            **PEGASUS** is depicted as half a winged horse. He faces to the right with his legs stretched out in front of him seeming to swim in a sea of clouds, and wears a bridle. He has 5 stars in his head, 5 on his neck, 1 on his wing, 1 in his chest, 3 on his left knee and 1 in his right knee, or 16 stars in all.
- fol. 17v            **ARIES** is walking to left with his head turned back to the right. He is depicted *intra Triangulum* and bites the right edge of the triangle. He raises his right forefoot and he walks on undulating lines that resemble clouds. He has 3 stars in the right horn, 1 below the left horn, 2 in his neck, 4 in his right shoulder, 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 17 stars in all. There is also a small dot on the nose, but it should not be a star. The **TRIANGULUM** has 3 stars, 1 in each corner.
- fol. 18r            **TAURUS** is depicted as half a bull facing to the left. His body is cut off by a series of curved lines that resemble clouds and his legs are stretched out in front of him. He has 2 stars in each horn, 1 in each eye, 4 on his shoulder, 1 on each knee and 1 on his right foot, or 13 stars in all. In addition, there is a circlet of 6 stars in front of his nose, representing the **PLEIADES**.
- fol. 19r            **GEMINI** are both nude and stand towards each other, with the left Twin standing and the right Twin advancing towards him. They shake their right hands and the left Twin raises his left hand and points upwards with his index finger. The right Twin holds a handful of stylised flames in his left hand. They both have rays of light coming from their heads. They stand on undulating lines that resemble clouds. The left Twin has 1 star in his head, 1 on his right shoulder, 1 in each hand, 1 on his left thigh, 1 in his right foot and 2 in his left foot, or 8 stars in all.

The right Twin has 1 star in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 at his right elbow, 1 on his left hand, 1 on each knee and 1 on each foot, or 9 stars in all. In addition, there are a whole group of dots at his left elbow, the meaning of which is not clear.

- fol. 55r **CANCER** is a round-bodied crab that faces to the left. He has two large claws and 4 legs on each side. He has 5 stars close to the tips of his claws, 1 in front of his nose, 2 stars on his body, 1 on each right foot, 2 on the first left leg, 2 on the second left leg, 1 on the third left leg and 1 on the fourth left leg, or 18 stars in all. [This page also shows traces of prickings from SAGITTARIUS.]
- fol. 21r **LEO** leaps to the right, while turning his head to face the viewer. His tail is raised and he stands above stylised clouds. He has 3 stars in his head, 2 in his neck, 6 in the front part of his body, 1 on the haunch, 1 on his left forepaw, 1 in his belly, 1 below the belly, 2 on his right rear foot and 1 in the middle and 1 at the end of his tail, or 19 stars in all.
- fol. 22r **VIRGO** is winged and stands facing the viewer. She wears a *peplos* that is bound under her breast and at her waist. Over this, she has a long mantle and wears sandals on her feet. Her head is exposed. 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 stands on undulating lines that resemble clouds. She has 1 star in her head, 3 on each wing, 1 on each hand, 1 at her left side, 4 in the middle of her dress, 1 in her left knee and 1 on each foot, or 17 stars in all. She has a large circle holding the mantle at her chest.
- fol. 22v **SCORPIO** faces to the left and has two large claws and 4 legs on both 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, 8 in his body, 5 in his segmented tail and 2 stars on the sting, or 19 stars in all. The SCALES have no stars. [The traces of the pricking from SAGITTARIUS show on the picture of SCORPIO.]
- fol. 23v **SAGITTARIUS** is depicted as a centaur prancing to the right. His human half is nude and the meeting between his two halves is covered with fur. He holds the bow with his left hand and pulls the string with his right. His hind legs stand on stylised clouds. He has 2 stars on his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 in his right elbow, 1 by his side, 1 on each front knee, 2 in his left fore hoof and 1 on his tail, or 11 stars in all. In addition, there are 6 stars in an 'ω'-shape near his front hooves, which represent CORONA AUSTRINUS. (There should be 6 stars in

CrA, but 1 star has migrated to the left forefoot, which should be marked by only 1 star.)

- fol. 24r      **CAPRICORN** faces to the left and has a single straight horn like a unicorn. He has a beard, a twist in his tail and the tail ends in a tassel. He appears to be swimming in clouds. He has 1 star on his nose, 1 on his head, 8 on his neck, 2 (?) in his chest, 2 in his right hoof, 6 along his belly and 2 on the end of the tail, or 22 stars in all.
- fol. 25r      **AQUARIUS** is dressed in is a loose robe that is caught by a thin belt at his waist. He stands facing the viewer, slightly to the right with his both arms held out to the sides and bent at the elbows so that his arms form a W-shape. His right hand is empty, and in his left hand he holds the body of a 1-handled jug from which he pours water. He stands on undulating lines that resemble clouds. He has 2 stars on his head, 1 on each shoulder, 2 in his chest, 1 on his right hand, 1 on his left elbow and 1 on his left hand, 3 on his skirt, 1 on his right knee, and 1 on each foot, or 15 stars in all. In addition, there are 15 stars outlining the urn and the water. Together, there are 30 stars in all.
- fol. 26r      **PISCES** swim in opposite directions and have both their back facing upwards. Their tubular mouths are connected by a stream. The top fish has 17 stars, the stream has 9 (?) stars and the bottom fish has 11 stars, or 37 stars in all.
- fol. 26v      **CETUS** has dog-like face, and a lion's body and fore-legs. He has pointed ears and a ruff all round his chin. His tapering body has a curl and ends in a tassel. He faces to the right with an open mouth and seems to swim in the clouds. 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 turns slightly to the left. He has long hair and a scarf that is caught on his right shoulder and blows out behind him. He holds the lobed and 2-handled urn out horizontally in front of him to the left, holding its base with his left hand and its handle with his right. He stands on undulating lines that resemble clouds. He has 3 stars in the urn and 10 in the water, or 13 stars in all.
- fol. 28r      **LEPUS** runs to the left on undulating lines that resemble clouds. It has 2 stars in its ears, 1 on its shoulder, 1 on each fore paw and 1 on its haunch, or 6 stars in all.

- fol. 29r **ORION** stands facing the viewer. He is dressed in 'classical' armour, consisting of a formed cuirass and a pleated skirt, with a wide belt on his hips. He wears a crown. His shoulders are covered with a cape that falls to his calves. He is bearded and holds a short, sharp sword upraised vertically in his right hand and he holds the thumb of his left hand in his belt. He stands on undulating lines that resemble clouds. He has 3 stars in his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on his right elbow, 1 on his right hand, 3 in his sword, 3 in his belt, 1 on each knee and 1 on each foot, or 15 stars in all. [The page shows traces from the pricking of LEPUS shows through on the drawing of ORION.]
- fol. 29v **CANIS MAIOR** is a sleek hound that bounds to the left with his tongue sticking out. It has a thick collar with a ring. It leaps from undulating lines that resemble clouds. It has 1 star on its tongue, 1 on its forehead, 2 on its ears, 4 in its shoulder, 3 on its right fore paw, 1 in its haunch, 1 on each hind foot and 3 in its tail, or 17 stars in all. [The page shows traces from the pricking of LEPUS shows through on the drawing of CANIS MAIOR.]
- fol. 30r **CANIS MINOR** is a hound that leaps to the left. It has a thick collar with a ring. It leaps from undulating lines that resemble clouds. It has 1 star in its head, 1 on its shoulder and 1 on its haunch, or 3 stars in all. [The page shows traces from the prickings of CANIS MAIOR show through on the picture of CANIS MINOR.]
- fol. 30r **ARGO** is a full ship with numerous pictorial details, such as mast with a crow's nest and a full sail, a flagpole on its stern with a flag with SPQR on it, and two steering oars. It sails through the water to the right. It has ? stars in the bow, 5 stars in the body of the ship, 5 along the keel and 9 on the steering oars, or at least 19 stars in all. [It looks like a version of CENTAURUS different from the one in this manuscript has left its traces on the picture of ARGO.]
- fol. 31v **CENTAURUS** is a centaur that leaps to the left. His human half is nude and he holds LUPUS (a rabbit) upside-down by its heels in his right hand. He holds a stick in his left hand by his side. His hind legs are placed on undulating lines that resemble clouds. 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 hand, 3 in his right foreleg and 1 in his left foreleg, 1 in his haunch, 2 in each hind leg and 3 on his tail, or 25 stars in all. LUPUS has 2 stars in its hind feet, 2 in its tail, 1 on its forearms and 3 on its head, or 8 stars in all. [CENTAURUS has been pricked and its traces show on the depiction of ARA below.]

- fol. 32r      **ARA** is depicted as a classical altar with a square lower section and a cylindrical upper section from which flames issue. It stands on undulating lines that resemble clouds. There is a *bucranium* and a garland on the front of the altar and it is marked by 4 stars.
- fol. 33r      **HYDRA** is depicted as a two-legged dragon, with wings held close to his body, and clawed feet, facing to the left. He has a pointed nose and sharp teeth and long, pointed ears and a beard. His mouth is open and he breathes flames.
- CRATER** is a tall vase with 2 handles resting on Hydra's back and **CORVUS** stands on his haunches facing forward. HYDRA has 16 stars along its backbone. CRATER has 8 (?) stars and CORVUS has 6 (?) stars. All three stand on undulating lines that resemble clouds.
- fol. 33v      **PISCIS AUSTRINUS** is a fish that swims to the left. It has a circular mouth and has 7 (?) stars. [The page shows traces of the pricking of HYDRA, CRATER and CORVUS show through in the picture of PISCIS.]

### notes

i (vellum) + 65 + i (vellum); humanistic cursive; the vellum leafs with later (19th century) notations are not paginated; on fol 1r: Iginus de signis/Marsilius & amicorum' ; fol. 1r in much later hand ' D. Francesco Domenici Da Sinalonga'

There are a number of randomly placed dots that do not reflect the placement of the stars in the text. As the stars, in general, are quite well-placed, this superfluity suggests that the constellation images and their stars may have been copied (at some stage) from a non-manuscript source and the extra stars reflect those of neighbouring constellations.

### bibliography

PORRO 1884, p. 180

SANTORO 1953, p. 12, no. 14.

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. 45-46: end 15th century, humanistic cursive; North Italian; ii + 65; paper with parchment flyleaves, 235 x 170. ff 1r-63v = Hyginus, Book III/II with illustrations to Book III with stars indicated on ff. 2v-33v; v close to Oxford Can misc 46

inc (34r): sed quoniam quae nobis de terrae positione...

expl (63v): omnium corporum deformationem dicere instituimus.

VIRÉ 1981, p. 170.

15th century, North Italian, ff 1-63= Hyginus; Books II and III