## Padua <br> Biblioteca del Seminario

## Ms 48

Michael Scot, Tractatus de 36 ymaginibus et 12 signis atque 7 planetis

North Italian
early and late 15th century

## text

pp. 1r-53r Michael Scot, Tractatus de 36 ymaginibus et 12 signis atque 7 planetis (note: the pages are numbered twice: one in ink at the top of each page and one in the bottom right of each recto in pencil. The ink numbers have been used in this description.)
p. 1 (in sepia) Tractatus de. 36. ymaginibus et .12. signis atque .7. planetis. (in red) Ex Michele Scoto De Imaginibus xli \& d. 112 signis. (in sepia): Philosophi quidam multas experimenctis noverunt cellum esse stelatum - in rota in qua sunt depincta .12. figura cum graduum reperitur. De . 12. signis cum ymaginibus
pp. 5-53 de 12 figuris sum ymaginibus et primo de formam signum arietis. Aries habet multas stellas inter quas viginti sunt pariscibiles - [Vexillum] Et hec est forma sui aspectus in celo. (with later inscription: Biblioteca Seminario Epis. Patavini n. 48)

## illustrations pp. 5-53

Pen drawings of 46 constellations with stars marked with red star shapes and circlets. Sagitta is depicted 3 times; Draco, Scorpio and Deltoton are depicted twice. In addition, there are also the images of Clocha sive Gallina (the Pleiades), Vultur cadens, Figura sonantis canoni, Austronotus, Demon Meridianus, Equus secundus, Tarabellum and Vexillum.
(note: Tarabellum has been traced through from the other drawing on p . 54 Its tip is set on circle that it poised on top of a mountain. There are the initials: O.B.P.A.O.P.N.O. in the centre of the page and 602 in the upper right. The drawings were inserted after the text was written.)

p. 5 ARIES walks to the left, but turns his head back to the right. His head is encircled by a large TRIANGULUM. He has curled horns and a long tail. He has 3 circlets in front of his nose, 1 on his forehead, 1 in each horn, 2 on the neck, 4 on the back, 3 on the tummy, 1 on each foot and 1 on the end of the tail. The following star shapes have been erased/ covered with white: 5 in front of his nose, 3 on his neck, 3 on his side, 1 on his belly, 1 on each front foot, 1 on his left hind foot, and 4 on the tail. TRIANGULUM seems only to have two stars-shapes: 1 at the top and one at the lower left.
p. 6 TAURUS is a full bull and faces to the left. Both his front legs are raised in front of him. He has 1 circlet in each horn, 2 on the forehead, 1 on the nose, 3 on the neck, 1 on the chest, 1 on each knee, 2 circlets in the right front hoof, 2 circlets and 1 star on the back, 1 on the belly, 7 circlets on the rump and 1 star on the tail. A red line has been drawn vertically through his rump so that the 7 circlets and single star on
the back half have been isolated. Erased star-shapes are: 2 on the forehead, 3 on the face, 7 in front of the nose, 3 in front of the chest and 1 on the neck, 1 on each knee, 1 circlet and 1 star on the left front hoof.
p. 7 GEMINI are depicted as two Renaissance men in short, pleated tunics. They turn towards each other and clasp each other's right hands. The left Twin raises his left hand in salutation and the right Twin holds his by his waist. The left Twin has 1 large star on his head, 1 on each shoulder, a circlet on his right hand, a circlet on his right elbow, a circlet on each knee and a circlet on each foot. The erased star shapes are: 1 above each shoulder, 1 in his raised left hand, 1 on his right knee, 1 on his right foot and 1 between his feet. The right Twin star on has 1 star on his head, 1 on each nipple, 1 on each hand, 2 or 3 on his left elbow, 1 on his left knee and 1 on each foot. The erased stars are: 1 above each shoulder, 1 where the two hands meet, 1 below his right cuff, a circlet on his right knee and 1 star shape below each foot.
p. 8 CANCER is a round-bodied crab with a fanned tail facing to the left with 2 large claws and 6 legs on either side. There are 2 stars in the claws, 1 in 4 of the top claws, 5 in the lower legs, 1 in the head, 2 on the shell and 2 on the tail. The erased stars are: 5 in the claws, 2 on the face, 2 on the shell, 1 in the bottom legs.

p. 9

LEO stands to the right with his right front paw raised and his tail held upwards. His original left paw has been erased and another smaller paw drawn in so that it looks like his right paw and the other paw also redrawn so it looks like his left paw. The new stars are: 3 circlets at the top of the head, 3 dark dots along the cheek, 1 big star on the mouth, 1 big star on the chest, 1 in each front foot, 2 circlets on the belly, 1 star on the haunch, 3 circlets on the back, 1 circlet in the groin, 1 in the hind right leg, 1 circlet on each hind knee, 2 circlets and a star on the tail. The erased
stars are: 3 above the head, 10 in the mane, 2 in the rump, 2 on the belly, 1 on each foot, plus 2 in the new left foot, 1 between the hind legs, 2 in the right hind foot and 1 in the left hind foot and 1 star in the middle of the tail and 1 at the and. The large star in the mouth refers to the passage in the text: 'ante os 1 bene claram cui nomen est canis que non leoni attribuitur sed ymagini et hec forma sui aspectus in cello'.
p. 10
p. 11
p. 12

VIRGO stands facing the viewer with large, outstretched wings, a long dress that is covered by a mantle. Her head is covered and she holds 5 blades of what upraised in her left hand and holds her left hand with its palm open in from of her chest. The new stars are: 2 stars in the right wing and 1 circlet, 2 circlets in the left wing, 1 circlet in the head, 3 at the neckline, 1 star in each hand and 1 circlet in each elbow, and a line of 6 stars across the knees, and 1 circlet in each foot. The erased stars are: 1 above each shoulder, 1 star in each wing, 6 in the lap, at one in front of each foot.

LIBRA is depicted as a male figure wearing a short, pleated tunic and a funnelshaped hat. He holds the Scales at his waist with both hands. The correction of the stars seems to have ended here. He has 3 stars vertically in the balance handle, 1 star at either end of the beam and 1 in either pan.

SCORPIO faces to the left with two front claws, 4 smaller claws on either side of its body and 2 long, straight protrusions facing towards his tail behind that. His tail is segmented and ends in a point. He has 7 stars in front of his nose, 3 on his back, 2 on the bottom side and 5 and 2 in the tail, or 19 stars in all.

p. 13 SAGITTARIUS is a centaur that leaps to the left. There are horns on his head and a long lion-skin cape (with feet and tail visible) flowing from his shoulders. His human half wears a shirt and he holds the bow with his left hand and pulls the string with his
right. His horse's tail flies out behind him. He has SAGITTA pointing to the left between his front and hind feet. He has 2 stars in the head, 1 on his neck, 2 in the skin, 2 in the tail of the skin, 2 on his equine back, 1 on the belly, 1 on each front knee, 1 on the right hand, 1 on the left elbow, 4 on the bow and 2 on the arrow, 1 on his belly, 2 on his rump, 22 stars in all. SAGITTA has 5 stars marked. There are 3 dots behind his right front leg and 4 behind his left front leg which probably represents a misunderstanding of CORONA AUSTRINUS. The text here reads: '... sub cruribus sunt vij sed parve, quare raro videntur nisi qui habeat subtilem visum et longinquum, nemo videt unquam eas'.
p. 14 CAPRICORN has very long curved horns and faces to the left, with a beard and a trefoil tail. It has 2 stars on each horn, 1 on the nose, 2 on the head, 1 on the beard, 2 in the right front foot, 7 on the back, 5 on the belly and 2 on the tail, or 24 stars in all.
p. 15 AQUARIUS is nude and stands facing forward with the flowing urn held horizontally at waist height, with the water flowing to the left. He has a banderol across his head and another one across his genitals. He has boots on his feet. He has 2 stars on his head, 1 star in each shoulder, 4 in the chest, 1 on each elbow, 1 on each hand, 1 in the right hip, 1 in each knee, 1 on each shin (erased?) and 1 on each foot, or 19 stars in all. There are also 16 or 17 lighter stars in the water.

PISCES swim in opposite direction, both facing upwards, with their mouths connected by a stream. There are 12 stars on the top fish ( 1 on the head erased?), 12 in the cord and 17 in the bottom fish (with 1 on the jaw erased).
 body runs across the page. URSA MINOR is in the loop near the tail, with his head pointing downwards and URSA MAIOR is set leaping upwards in the curve near the
head and. They are set back-to-back, both with short tails and more-or-less the same size. DRACO has 3 circlets in the head and 12 in the body, or 15 stars in all. URSA MINOR has 3 stars on the back, 2 stars and a circlet on the tail, 1 star on the chest and 1 on the belly, or 8 stars in all. URSA MAIOR has 3 stars on the head, 1 big one on the head, 3 on the shoulder, 2 on the right front paw, 12 along the back and 2 on the left hind leg, or 23 in all.

DRACO is individually depicted as a dragon with two front, clawed legs. It is winged and is body ends in a trefoil tail. He has 3 circlets in his head, 12 in the body, or 15 stars in all.

HERCULES is depicted in the Garden of Hesperides with a snake climbing a green tree to the left. He is nude and kneels to the left, facing the viewer. He holds the lion's/human skin (with human face and 2 front paws/hands visible) over his extended right arm and holds a straight sword vertically behind him with his left hand. He has 1 star on the head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on the human head and the following circlets: the 1 on the left elbow and 1 on the left hand are shown at the top of the skin, 3 on the belly, 2 on the right thigh, 1 on the right knee, 1 on the right shin, 1 on the left knee, 2 on the left calf, 1 on the each foot and 4 on the arms of the skin, 1 on the sword and 1 on the left hand or 23 stars in all.

CORONA BOREALIS is a wreath with a square decoration at the top and bottom and two yellow ribbons coming from the bottom. It has 8 circlets.

p. 24 OPHIUCHUS is nude male, standing to the left and facing the viewer, with SERPENS wrapped once around his waist and with its head to the left, turning towards the man. Its tail makes a loop around his left hand and the tip of its tail touches the tip of Scorpio's tail. OPHIUCHUS stands with both feet on the back of SCORPIO, which faces to the left and has 2 large claws held in a circle, 2 legs on his top side and two
smaller, straight legs on his top side (the lower legs have not been included because of the presence of the text). Its tail is smooth and ends in a sting. OPHIUCHUS has 1 star in the head, 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each foot and 4 on the right hand and the following circlets: 1 on each hip, 1 on each knee, 1 on the left shin and 3 on the left hand, or 17 stars in all. SERPENS has 2 circlets on the tongue, 4 circlets on the neck, then 5 stars, 4 circlets, 6 circlets in the loop and 5 at the end of the tail, or 26 stars in all. SCORPIO has 1 star on his nose and 4 circlets in front of the nose, 2 circlets near the eyes, 3 stars on the body, 2 more circlets on the body and 5 along the tail with 2 at the end, or 19 stars in all.

BOOTES stands facing the viewer, lunging slightly to the right. He is dressed in a long toga, which leaves his right arm and shoulder exposed. He wears a wide-brimmed hat on his head and holds a sickle upraised in his right hand. He holds a long straight spear vertically in his left hand and he wears a long, straight sword behind his back so that the handle can be seen behind his left side, and the blade peeps out from behind his right side. He has 1 star on his head, 1 on his right breast, 1 below his right breast, 1 in his right elbow, 1 in each knee and the following circlets: 1 in each shoulder, 1 on the left breast, 4 in the right hand, 4 in the sickle, 1 on each foot and 3 in the spear, or 22 stars in all.


#### Abstract

AURIGA stands facing the viewer in a open-slatted wooden cart that is drawn by two horses, set alongside 2 oxen (which are not connected to the reins). He is dressed in a toga that exposes his right arm and shoulder and has a helmet on his head. He holds a spear with its arrow-head pointing upwards, in his right hand. On his left shoulder, there is a small goat and there are two additional goats standing on his outstretched left forearm. He holds the reins on his left hand. He has the following circlets: 1 on each shoulder (an erased stars beneath Capra), 1 on the right hand, 1 on each goat on the left hand, 1 on each knee, 1 on the nose of the leading horse, 1 on the ear of the following horse, 1 on the front hoof of one of the horses, and 1 on the rump of the foremost ox and 1 on the right hind hoof, or 11 stars in all.


CEPHEUS stands facing the viewer with his arms outstretched to either side. He has a soft cap with long ear-pieces on his head, wears a long robe, which is caught at the waist, and has a money bag tied at his waist. He wears a sword at his left hip that is hung from a strap the hangs from his right shoulder and crosses his chest. He has 2 stars on his head, 1 on each hand and the following circlets: 1 on each shoulder, 7 on the strap, 3 on the belt, 1 on each elbow, 1 on the right hip, 1 on the right knee (erased?), 2 on the left knee, 3 on the right foot and 2 on the left foot, or 22 or 23 stars in all.

p. 28

ANDROMEDA wears a short, pleated tunic that is caught by a cord under the breast. The skirt of the tunic is so short that it exposes her male (!) genitalia. She has a hooded cloak that covers her head and drapes over her shoulders before falling behind her to her knees. Her hands are extended to the side and each wrist is tied to a tree. She has 1 star on her head, 3 on her right arm, 1 on each knee, with the following circlets: 1 on each shoulder, 1 on each elbow, 1 on the right hand, 3 at the waist, 3 at the hem of her skirt, 2 on her right foot and 1 on her left foot, or 20 stars in all.
p. 31 PERSEUS is nude and faces away from the viewer, walking to the left. He has wings on his left foot only, a conical hat upon his head and he has a shield covering his left elbow. He holds a severed head by the hair in the left hand and raises a notched machete in his upraised right hand. He has 1 star on his head, 1 on each shoulder, 1
at his waist and 1 on his left hip, with the following circlets: 1 at the waist, 1 on the right elbow, 1 on each knee, 1 on each foot, 1 on the left hand and 1 on the machete, and 3 in the Medusa's head, or 16 stars in all.


LYRA is a ' $U$ '-shaped contraption with something that resembles cotton wool nestled in the curve of the ' $U$ '. The curved structure is striped like the twisting of a horn and the top of the horns are connected by a rectangular cross-bar with handles at either end. There are 7 vertical lines (strings) between this cross-bar and the base and numerous tuning pegs that are not connected to the strings. There is 1 star on the bridge and 1 at the bottom of the curve and the following circlets: 6 along the curve of the horn, 1 in each handle, 2 above the 'cotton-like' part and 1 in the middle of the strings, or 11 stars in all.

CYGNUS walks to the right, with its wings are raised and set back. It has 1 star on the head, 1 on the neck, 1 on the left wing and the following circlets: 1 in the breast, 5 in the right wing and 4 in the left, 1 in the tail and 1 on the right foot, or 15 stars in all.

p. 37 VULTUR CADENS is depicted as the eagle with Ganymede perched on his back. He
p. 38 CETUS is depicted as a large fish swimming to the right. It has 2 circlets on its face, 7
p. 36
p. 40

AQUILA stands on SAGITTA to the right, with its head turned back towards the left and with its wings outstretched. It has 1 star on the head and the following circlets: 2 in the wings, 1 on the chest and 1 on each foot, or 6 stars in all. Sagitta has 2 circlets: 1 at the tip and 1 at the end. stands on SAGITTA and faces to the right. The youth faces to the right and has billowing drapery around his head and holds an arrow in the crook of his left arm. The child has 1 star on his head, 1 circlet on each shoulder. The bird has 1 circlet in the chest and 1 in each wing, or 3 stars in all. Sagitta has 4 stars. on the back, 7 on the belly, 1 on the belly fin, 1 on each fin near the tail, 3 in the tail and 2 stars at the end of the tail, or 24 stars in all.

ERIDANUS is depicted as a male youth lying by or swimming in a river. He holds his left hand to his chin and raises his right arm out behind his back. His torso is twisted so that his upper half faces the viewer and his lower half is in profile with his buttocks facing upwards. He has 7 circlets surrounding his head, 7 in the right arm, 1 on the buttock, 1 in the right thigh, 1 on each knee, and 1 on his right foot, or 19 stars in all.

FIGURA SONANTIS CANONI is a seated male figure in a long robe with a round cap on his head. He sits on a seat with a cushion and plays a musical instrument with 6 sets of multiple strings. The man plucks its strings with a plectrum held in hi right hand. There is 4 circlets in his face, 1 circlet in each corner of the harp, 3 on the plectrum, 1 on each end of the cushion and 2 at the right elbow and 1 at the left elbow, and 1 on his left thigh, or 17 stars in all.


DELPHINUS is a long nosed fish with a pronounced set of dorsal fins, swimming to the left. It has 1 circlet on the mouth, 2 on the face, 5 on the body and 2 on the tail, or 10 stars in all.
p. 42 ORION walks towards the left and seems to face away from the viewer (according to the shape of the following hand, though the feet suggest he is facing towards the viewer). He is dressed in armour and an open helmet, with a skirt and greaves on his shins. He holds a teardrop-shaped shield in front of him with his leading hand in his left arm and raises a sword vertically with his following hand. He also has a long scabbard hanging from his following shoulder. He has 3 stars on his helmet 1 on each shoulder and the following circlets: 1 in the following elbow, 1 in the following hand, 3 in the sword, 3 at the waist, 1 in each knee and 1 in each foot, or 17 stars in all.
p. 44 CANIS MAIOR leaps to the left. He has 1 star on the tongue and 1 on the head and 1 on the right hind foot, with the following circlets: 2 on the neck, 4 on the chest, 3 on the left front foot, 1 on the right front foot, 2 on the belly, 3 on the back, 1 on each hind foot and 1 at the tip of the tail, or 21 stars in all.

LEPUS leaps to the right and has 1 circlet in each ear, 2 on the neck, 1 star on the body and 1 on each hind foot, or 6 stars in all.
p. 45 ARGO is depicted as a full ship set in water sailing to the right. It has a single mast, with its sail neatly bound to it and a funnel-shaped crow's nest. There is an urn on the raised poop deck and lattice work on the bow. There are 5 rowing oars. There is also a small dragon (Testudo) in the water behind the ship. There are 3 circlets on the mast, 4 stars and 3 circlets on the bow, 4 stars on the deck, and 4 circlets and 1 star in each oar, 3 stars behind the ship and 4 in testudo or 30 stars in all.

p. 46
p. 49

AUSTRONOTUS is depicted as a female figure that is half-human and half- horse (?), but with a thing doglike tail. She has breasts on her human half, and 4 hanging dugs along her animal body. She holds her hands out to the sides. She has 1 star between her human breasts and 1 on her haunch and the following circlets 9 around her head, 1 on her right hand, 2 circlets on her belly, 1 on the right front foot, 2 on the left hind foot and 3 in the tail, or 20 stars in all.

DEMON MERIDIANUS is depicted as two female figures: the one to the left wears a mantle over her head, and stares to the left with a melancholic expression. The figure on the right is placed horizontally, as if flying to the right. She wears a toga that exposes her chest and right shoulder and holds a mandorla with both hands in front of her that is marked with 14 stars.

PISCIS AUSTRINUS is depicted as a large upside-down fish with its head to the left. It has a smaller fish (Piscis parvus), with its back upwards, riding on the larger fish's belly. The little fish has 2 circlets. The larger one has 12 circlets.

ARA is a cup-shaped altar with red flames coming out of the top and standing on 3 steps. There are 4 demons with flying around it with red breath and red 'farts' coming from them. There are 2 stars in the flames and 2 circlets $p$. on the cup, or 4 stars in all.

p. 50
p. 51
p. 52
p. 53 are 3 circlets on the pole and 2 on the flag.

## notes

The manuscript has no cover, loosely bound in piece of parchment; paginated on each side of folio in ink and in bottom of each recto in pencil; paper. The title is written twice (slightly varying) in sepia and red ink, not lined or scored, pages slightly uneven in size. Traces of underdrawing. $28.8 \times 20$. ; quarto, 54pp

The paper, text and miniatures can be dated to two different periods.
$\mathrm{ff} .1 \mathrm{r}-10 \mathrm{v}$ has a paper watermarked for the first half of the 15 th century and the text is written in a script that derives from littera textualis with added notarial elements, suggesting that this section is from a similar date.
$\mathrm{ff} .11 \mathrm{r}-27 \mathrm{v}$ has paper that can be dated to the end of the 15 th century and has a north Italian/Paduan filgraine. The script is in a late 15th century humanistic hand There is a similar disjunction in the illustrations.

Also, in the first section (Aries to Virgo of the zodiac), a number of the stars have been painted over with white or erased, indicating that a second hand (the artist/scribe of ff . $11 r-27 v ?$ ) has tried to correct the positions of the stars, but abandoned the task half-way through
p. 17 has 'De figura solis and de figura lune with no pictures
p. 18: .. ut sibi tibus? Aquirant ?. Explicit de .36. ymaginbus et 12 signis.
p. 19 Greci enim vertices etremos..

## bibliography

Paduan catalogue (Padova - Biblioteca del Seminario vescovile, p. 19, by GMF).
Thorndike-Kibre, Incipits, 986; paper, 27 ff; illustrated in pen, in a modern binding; miniatures are northern Italian from the Po River area (Rimini, Cesena, Bologna) from 15th to early 16th century; ff. 11r-27 v additions from a later period (end 15th/early 16th century)

McGURK IV 1966, p. 73.
littera bastarda, for text, see Bodl. 266, ff. 105v-114v; crude drawings with stars marked occasionally pp. 5-53)
inc (4): Aries habet multa steallas inter quas...
Expl (53): est forma sui aspectus in caelo.

BAUER 1983, p. 8.

Revue of Bauer by Arcais in Boll mus pad, LXXIV, 1985, pp. 269-74

EDWARDS 1985, p. 322.

BOTTIN 198, p. 378, fig. 262.

MARIANI CANOVA 1994, pp. 190, 200, 205, 242, and 244 and figs. 65 and 68.

DONNELLO 1998, p. 19, no. 40, pls. XLIV.

CICCUTO 1999, pp. 74-75.

## PERUFFO 2000-01.

Scot manuscript hard to date because uses two kinds of paper for each section; 1r10 has a paper watermarked for 1st half 15th century and paper for the second half (after 11 r for end 15th century) has a north Italian/Paduan filgraine

Script of the Paduan manusctipt is distinct in its two halves; $1 \mathrm{r}-10 \mathrm{v}$ derives from littera textualis with added notary elements = early 15 th century; $21 \mathrm{r}-27 \mathrm{v}$ is humanistic hand dating from the end 15th century

ACKERMANN 2009, pp. 523-24.
N Italy (Padua?); early and late 15th c

BLUME - HAFFNER - METZGER 2016. II, 1, pp. 45, 60, 326-30 (no. 33); II, iii, figs. 228-35.
consulted 10.6.05; updated 14.6.05; updated 16.10.16

