

## St Gall, Kantonsbibliothek

---

Vadiana Ms 427

---

Ludovico de Angulo, *Liber de figura seu imagine mundi*

French? third-quarter 15th century (after 1456)

---

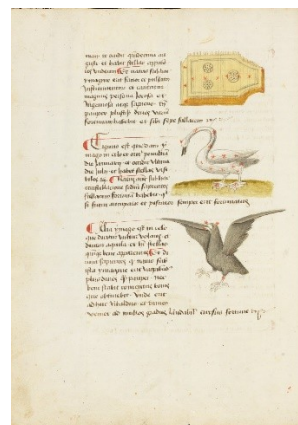
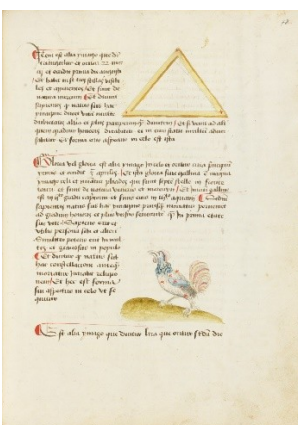
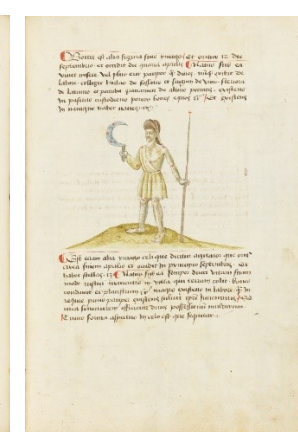
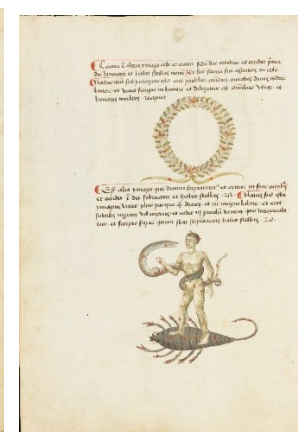
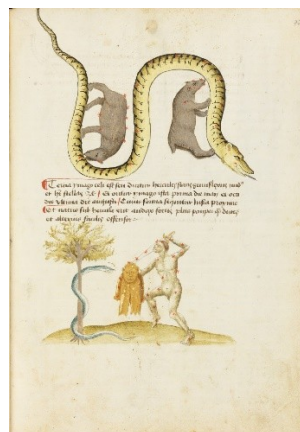
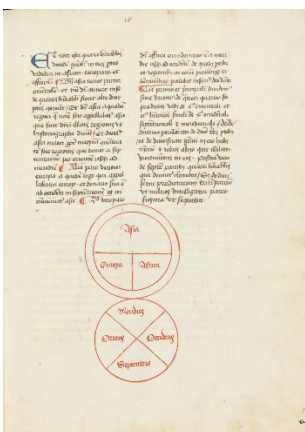
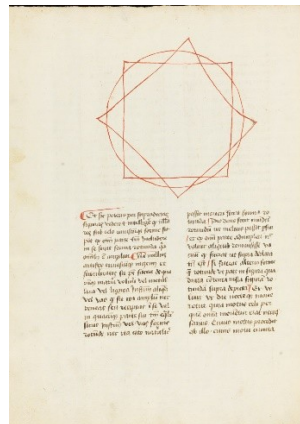
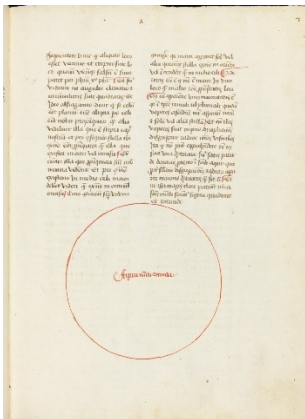
The full text of Ludovico de Angulo's (Louis de Langle) *Liber de figura seu imagine mundi*, with a fine series of drawings accompanying Book III (*De superiori spera celi et stellis fixis*).

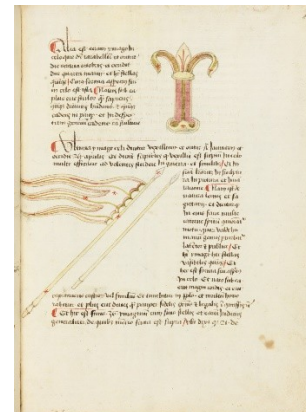
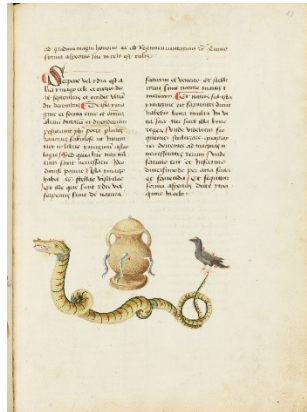
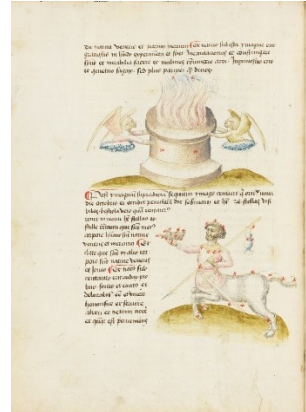
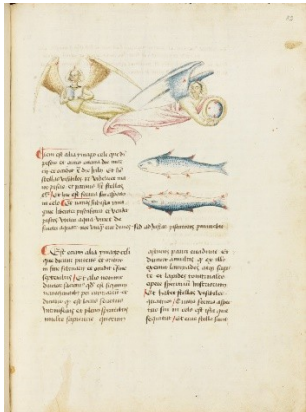
---

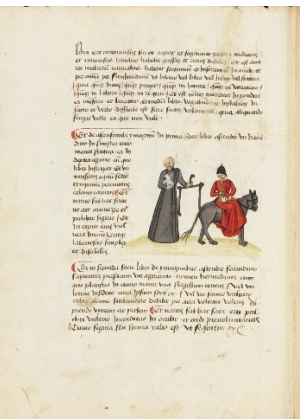
### text:

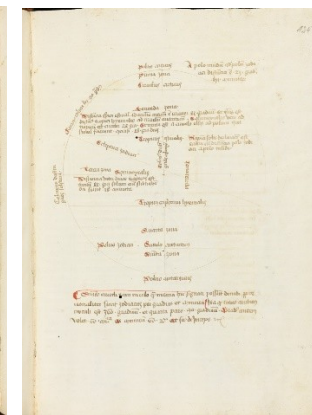
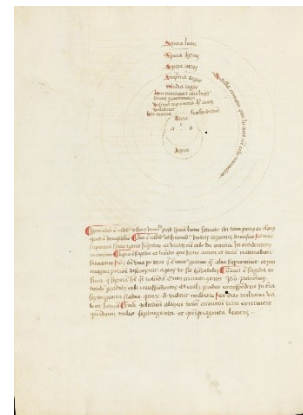
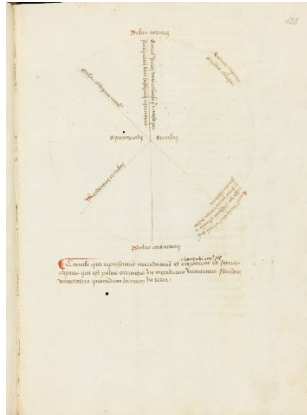
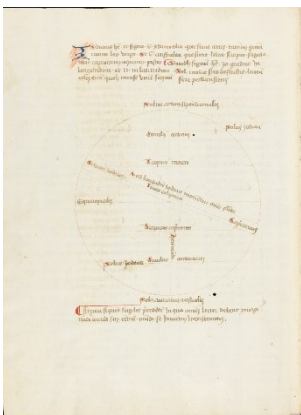
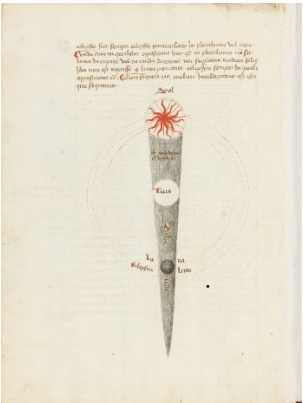
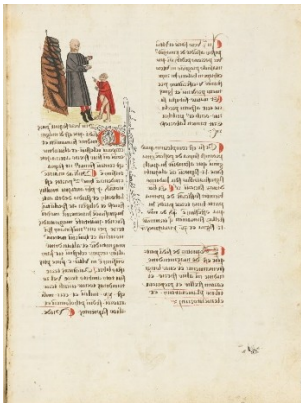
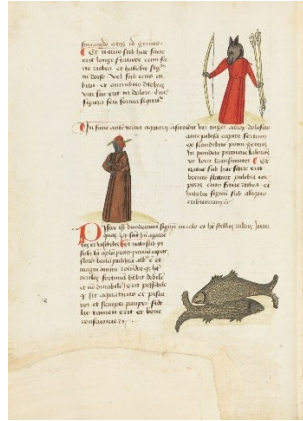
- ff. 1r-122r      Ludovicus de Angulo, *De figura seu imagine mundi*  
 Jhesus Maria. Cum secundum philosophum primo de anima omnium rerum noticiam seu scienciam habere certidusinaliter debemus estimare esse quoddam bomum - et semper fortitudo dictorum accidencium erit in cauda seu in fine pretaxati temporis, etc.  
 Et hec sunt que promisi in principio huius libri qui perfectus fuit divina gratia auxiliante anno domini millesimo ccccmo quinquagesimo sexto xviii mensis decembris in civitate Lugdunensi. Cf: edn HUSTACHE 1980 and HUSTACHE 1980a.
- n.b.** : The colophon here does not refer to the St Gallen ms, but to the completion of the original text by the author on 18 December 1456 in Lyon.
- ff. 122v-127r      10 cosmological diagrams  
 Zodiacus has 12 signis 6 septentrionliaque sunt Aroes, Taurus - sub polo vero artico contingit quod (?) una medietas tocuis anni est una dies artificialis. Et alia mediatas una nox.

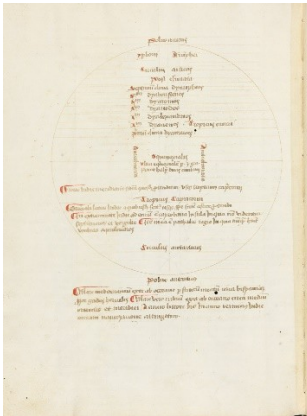
illustrations



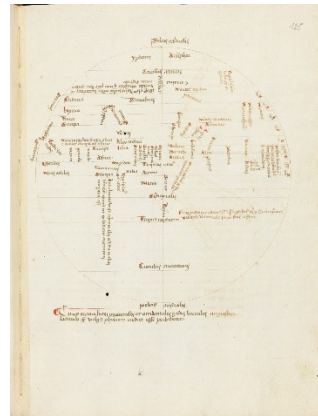




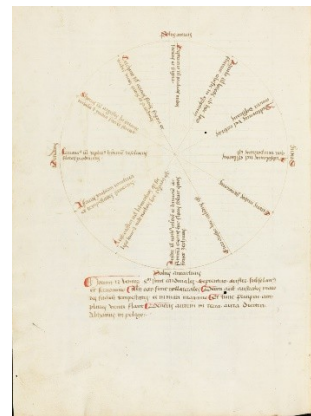




fol. 124v



fol. 125r



fol. 125v

- fol. 7r Image of 'figura mundi rotunda' = a red circle
- fol. 7v Circle set within two interlocking squares
- fol. 9v Diagram of the Ptolemaic universe, with earth at the centre, 4 elements, 7 planets, then 'firmamentum stellarum' and 'primum mobile'
- fol. 12v Diagram of men standing on the Earth with their heads in 4 directions
- fol. 16r Diagrams of the 3 continents and of the Earth divided into 4 parts: 'oriens', 'septentrio' and 'occidens' and 'meridies' (with south at the top)
- ff. 75r-84r Illustrations of 31 extra-zodiacal groupings of constellations with stars marked with red star-shapes.

fol. 75r **Draco inter arctos** with the **Draco** shaped like an 'S' and placed horizontally on the page. He is yellow and has a dragon's head, pointed teeth, small round ears and his tongue is sticking out. Draco has 15 stars. The Bears are grey-brown with white and tan highlights placed back-to-back, facing in opposite directions and both facing into the curves of Draco. **Ursa Maior** is the same size as **Ursa Minor**. **Ursa Minor** is in the first curve and has its head lowered and his right front foot advanced. It has 7 stars. **Ursa Maior** is in the second curve with its head lowered. It has 1 star in the head and 7 in the body

**Hercules** (Hercules) is nude and stands to the left in a grassy, green landscape. The blue snake is in its tree is at the left and its head comes out of the branches towards Hercules. Hercules holds a lion's skin, in his extended right hand, with its head visible and its body hanging like a coat. He holds a straight sword in his left hand, which he points to the

top of his victim's head. There are 18 stars in Hercules and 6 in the lion's skin.

fol. 75v **Corona Borealis** is depicted as a wreath with two ribbons at the bottom. It has 9 stars, 2 of which are in the ribbon.

**Ophiuchus** (Serpentarius) is nude and stands facing the viewer, slightly to the left. He holds his hands out to either side, with his arms bent at the elbows. The grey **Serpens** is wound about him in a series of loops: rising over his right forearm, then behind his upper torso, curling once around his hips, then in front of his left forearm, before making a loop and ending at the right side. The Snake's head is to the left side and he looks at the man. Ophiuchus stands on **Scorpio**, which faces to the left. It has 5 legs on each visible side and fish-hook tail. The man has 12 stars, Serpens has 13 stars and Scorpio has 20 stars.

fol. 76r **Bootes** (Boetes) is a farmer standing to the left on a hillock. He wears a loose, green *exomis* that exposes his left breast and is belted at the waist. On his head, he has a curved brimmed farmer's hat. He holds a sickle raised in his right hand at which he looks. He holds a long stick vertically in his left hand. He has 14 stars, including 3 in the sickle.

fol. 76v **Auriga** (Agitator) is a man sitting in a two-wheeled wooden green and pink cart that is being pulled to the right by two horses and two oxen. He wears a short, close-fitting blue tunic and holds a stick in his right hand and the reins in his left hand. He has two grey rabbits on his left forearm. He has 12 stars.

**Cepheus** (Zepheus) is standing slightly to the right, wearing a pleated green tunic, with a pink sash at the waist and with a wide collar. He has a money-bag held at the waist. He wears a long, straight sword on his left hip. He has 16 stars.

fol. 77r **Cassiopeia** is a young woman with long blonde hair seated on a rectangular chest. She is nude to the waist, with a blue skirt on her lower half and she holds her hands out to her sides with her elbows bent. There is blood coming from her right palm towards which she looks. She has 14 stars.

**Pegasus** is the front  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a grey horse with pink wings, facing to the left. His left front legs are crossed. He has 22 stars.

fol. 77v **Andromeda** stands suspended by her raised arms between two trees. She has long blonde hair and a belted pink dress that it parted at the waist to reveal male genitalia. She has 18 stars.

**Perseus** is dressed in armour, with a pink cuirass, with yellow bands at the neck, waist and arms and with blue stockings. He has no helmet and faces slightly to the left, while looking to the right. He holds a straight sword in his right hand above and behind his head, so that the tip points downwards and he holds a curved blue and yellow shield so that it covers the upper part of his left arm. He holds the bearded Demon's head by its hair in his lowered left hand. He has 17 stars.

fol. 78r **Triangulum** is a gold equilateral triangle with 3 stars.

The **Pleiades** (Glochea) are depicted as a cockerel with a yellow and pink tail and blue body, with a pink comb and wattle, walking to the left. It has 6 stars.

fol. 78v **Lyra** as a yellow, 'pig-nosed' psaltery lying on its side. It has 11 stars.

**Cygnus** (Cignis) is a white swan walking to the left. It has 15 stars

**Aquila** (Vultur volans) as a grey eagle with its wings raised high, flying to the left. It has 5 stars.

fol. 79r **Aquila** (Vultur cadens) is a falling grey eagle seen from the back with his wings outstretched, with a yellow Sagitta in its claws. The head of the arrow points downward. The bird has 1 star in the head, 1 in the neck and 1 in each shoulder, or 4 stars in all. The Sagitta has 4 stars.

**Cetus** is a large fish swimming to the left with 23 stars.

fol. 79r **Eridanus** is depicted as a figure nude male figure lying on his back in the water. He holds a 'pig-snout' psaltery in front of his chest with his left hand and his righthand rests in front of his genitals. He has no stars but the text reads: habet stellas multas



**Eridanus** (Pulsantis canonem) is depicted as a finely-dressed troubadour seated on a square cart and holding a psaltery in front of his chest.

There are no stars marked, but the text reads: *Et dicitur ymago ista canopus seu Ptolomeon quasi tangens timonem navis argo.*

fol. 80r **Delphinus** as a 'smiling' blue fish swimming to the left, with a pointed snout and teeth. He has fins along his top and bottom sides and a scalloped tail, with barbels at his chin. It has 9 stars.

fol. 80v **Orion** is dressed in armour similar to Perseus's, with the only difference being that he is bald. He has 16 stars.

**Canis Maior** runs to the left and has a yellow collar. It has 24 stars.

fol. 81r **Lepus** is grey-brown and lies to the right. It has 7 stars.

**Navis** is a full ship sailing to the right with four oars on its starboard side at the front and a mast in the middle. The rudder is centrally located on the stern. It has 29 stars (though the text reads: *habet stellas visibiles 26*).

fol. 81v **Austronotus** (autronatus) leaps to the left and has a female top half and a cow's bottom half. The two are joined by a frilly band. She has short blonde hair and holds her hands out to the sides with her elbows bent. She has 4 pink dugs along her bovine belly. She has 19 stars (though the text reads: *et habet stellas visibiles viginti*).

fol. 82r **Galaxia** (demon meridionalis) is depicted as two angels flying away from each other with their brown and blue wings held high above their heads. The one on the right, dressed in pink, holds a small ring in its hands in front of it. The one on the left, dressed in yellow, has an open book under its hands. They have 11 stars.

**Piscis Austrinus** are two equal-sized blue fish that swim belly-to-belly with both their heads to the left. There are 4 stars on the top fish and 12 on the bottom one.

- fol. 82v     **Ara** (puteus) is depicted as a cylindrical tan altar with pink, yellow and blue flames. It is held by a winged angel on each side, dressed in pink and yellow. It has 4 stars.
- Centaurus** is depicted as a centaur trotting to the left. His human half is dressed in a tight-fitting pink top with a yellow collar. He holds a large arrow-like spear in his left hand with the tip pointing downwards and there seems to be something like a censer hanging from its uppermost end. He holds his right hand out in front of him, with **Lupus** (dog? rat?) lying on its back with its feet in the air. Centaurus also has a long sword strapped to this waist. Centaurus has 21 star and Lupus has 10 stars.
- fol. 83r     **Hydra, Corvus** and **Crater** are depicted as a single group. Hydra is a green snake with blue bands, facing to the right, He has 2 curls in its body and a knot at its tail. Crater is a two-handled urn with 3 jets of water coming from the top and Corvus hovers above the very tip of the tail facing towards the front. Hydra has 28 stars, Crater has 10 stars and Corvus has 7 stars.
- fol. 83v     **Canis Minor** (anticanis) is a small hound-like dog waking to the left with its right front leg raised. It has 4 stars.
- Equus secundus** is a full winged horse, walking to the left, with its right front leg raised. It has wings on it heels and no stars.
- fol. 84r     **Tarabellum** is a pink, green and yellow *fleur-de-lis*.
- Vexillum** is a yellow and green flag striped with both ends of the shaft pointed. It has 5 stars.
- ff. 84v-93v     Illustrations of the 12 zodiacal signs and 36 decans [two pages are missing between ff 87v and 88r, so the figures of 2nd decan Cancer, 3rd decan Cancer, Leo, 1st decan Leo, 2nd decan Leo, Virgo and 1st decan Virgo are missing.
- fol. 84v     **ARIES** is blue and walks to the right, but looks back over its shoulder and has its front left foot raised.

fol. 84r First decan Aries: A dark-skinned man in a short pink coat and brown leggings walking to the left, holding a sword in front of him with both hands.

Second decan Aries: A well-dressed woman in a long red dress, standing to the left, combing her long blonde hair.

fol. 85v Third decan Aries: A smithy, dressed in red holding a rod in his hands. There is a forge with assorted tools in front of him.

**TAURUS** is a full bull lying to the right, looking upwards, with his tail curled between his hind legs.

fol. 86r First decan Taurus: composed of three figures— 1) a man walking to the right in a short and ragged tunic, who points to the middle figure with his right hand; 2) a man dressed in a long red habit and with a round hat on his head, facing the accusing man; and 3) a woman seated, facing to the left with a small child in front of her (there is also a pencil sketch for Taurus II in the right margin).

Second decan Taurus: A man (monk?) in a boat holding a large key.

Third decan Taurus: composed of two figures: 1) a man standing to the left, holding a large snake in his hands. He seems to have very large feet; and 2) a second man (?) watching him, dressed in red. The second figure is cut off by a tear in the page.

fol. 86v **GEMINI** are a nude embracing couple.

First decan Gemini: composed of two figures: 1) two men talking to each other. A taller one (one the right) is dressed in black and has a red hat and holds a stick in his right hand. The smaller one has a spear; and 2) a woman seated to the right, dressed in red and doing embroidery on a frame.

fol. 87r Second decan Gemini: a dark-skinned man in armour with a red cod piece, walking to the right, playing on a trumpet, with a bow over his right shoulder. He walks through a landscape with a tree to the right side.

Third decan Gemini: a man in armour walking to the right with three downward-pointing arrows in his right hand and a quiver at his feet.

fol. 87v **CANCER** is a shrimp with 5 sets of legs and a fan-tail, facing to the left.

First decan Cancer: a centaur, who walks to the left through a hilly landscape. He wears a blue top and has a red and green harness on his rear quarters with bells on it.

There are [two missing folii - lacking 2nd decan Cancer, 3rd decan Cancer, Leo, 1st decan Leo, 2nd decan Leo, Virgo and 1st decan Virgo]

fol. 88r Second decan Virgo: a grey-faced man in a long red dress, walking to the right holding both his arms crossed in front of him.

Third decan Virgo: A woman walking to the right with her hands in prayer and with a brown dress and a pink mantle over her hair. She walks towards a church standing in front of her.

**LIBRA** is depicted as a pair of Scales held by a disembodied hand.

fol. 88v First decan Libra: composed of two figures: 1) a bald male dressed in long grey robes, holding the Scales (or a harness?) in his left hand and holding a small white goat in the crook of his right elbow and 2) a youthful male in a red dress seated on a donkey facing to the right, playing on a flute, with a hatchet (?) in his left hand.

fol. 89r: Second decan Libra: composed of two groups of figures: 1) a man dressed in long tan robes with a bishop's mitre on his head and holding a stick with his right hand over his right shoulder; and 2) an eagle-headed and winged male figure wearing a grey jerkin and red tights.

Third decan Libra: composed of three groups of figures: 1) a nude man standing to the right with a stick in his belly (having been shot by the other figure?) and with his left hand clasped to the top of his head in a gesture of despair; 2) two figures with curled horns on their heads peeping out from behind the curve of the groundline; and 3) a horse-

headed human in a red jerkin holding a bow in his right hand and a downward facing spear in his left hand.

fol. 89v: **SCORPIO** is a paisley-shaped creature with two small front arms and 8 smaller arms and a tapered tail, facing to the left.

First decan Scorpio: composed of two figures: 1) a male in a red doublet with blue tights standing to the left with his arms outstretched and holding a with an arrow-shaped javelin in his right hand; and 2) woman with a red peasant's hat standing to the right, holding a stick in her left hand.

[n.b.: the pages are out of order]

fol. 90r Third decan Sagittarius: a male figure in long brown robes and a red hat standing to the left with his arms crossed in front of him.

**CAPRICORN:** a full goat, facing to the left.

First decan Capricorn: a dark-faced male peasant in a long grey tunic (a cleric?) stands on the left, facing a standing woman in a red dress with a grey wimple.

fol. 90v Second decan Capricorn: two women facing each other with their hands held crossed in front of them. One with a red dress and a blue wimple and the one on the right in a red hat and a grey dress.

Third decan Capricorn: A young woman in a brown dress with a blue wimple, standing to the left with her hands crossed in front of her.

fol. 91r Second decan Scorpio: two nude figures who appear to be Adam and Eve, facing each other and covering themselves with their hands.

Third decan Scorpio: a man dressed in a short red tunic, kneeling to the left, holding writing snakes in each outstretched hand and there is a wolf seated behind him, watching him.

**SAGITTARIUS** is depicted as a satyr with a red close-fitting top and a blue spotted bottom with a thin tail and griffin's feet (?). He holds a bow in his right hand and shoots the arrow upwards.

fol. 91v First decan Sagittarius: a cloven-footed satyr shooting an arrow to the right at a bull that is facing him.

Second decan Sagittarius: a female figure in a red dress with a large blue wimple seated on a camel walking to the left.

fol. 92r **AQUARIUS** is a young man in a blue doublet and red hose pouring out water with urns held in each hand.

First decan Aquarius: a dark-skinned male figure in red doublet and grey hose standing between two buckets, with his hands crossed at his waist.

fol. 92v Second decan Aquarius: A horse-headed human in long red robes, holding a bow in his right hand and a downward-pointing arrow in his left.

Third decan Aquarius: a dark-faced man standing to the left in long brown robes with a red hat with a wreath on it, with his arms crossed in front of him.

**PISCES** are facing in opposite directions, both back upwards.

fol. 93r First decan Pisces: a man stands facing to the left and dressed in long red robes with his hands held in front of him before a building.

Second decan Pisces: composed of two figures in a boat sailing to the left, with a huge steering oar. The figure in the bow is a female and is dressed in red. She seems to be studying the small tree in the landscape to the left. The man is dressed in a blue tunic.

fol. 93v Third decan Pisces: A man wearing long grey robes and red socks stands to the left and holds out his hands to a child that stands in front of him. The child wears long robes that part to expose his genitals. Behind the man there is a large rock face.

fol. 109 Diagram of epicycles

ff. 111r-113r	Illustrations of comets
fol. 119v	Diagram of a lunar eclipse
fol. 120v	Diagram of a solar eclipse
fol. 122v	Diagram of main celestial circles and zodiac band
fol. 123r	Diagram of meridians and horizons
fol. 123v	Orbs of the elements
fol. 124r	Diagram of terrestrial zones
fol. 124v	Diagram of the length of the days
fol. 125r	Terrestrial map without contours
fol. 125v	Diagram of the 12 winds

---

### notes

The watermarks are for papers dated 1460 and 1462. The high-quality illustrations are by at least two different hands. BLUME/HAFFNER/METZGER 2016, II, no. 141, note several minor variances between the stipulations of the text and the depictions of the images.

As with the other mss of the text, the illustrations of the constellations show several traces of influence by the illustrations of Michael Scot. Many of the details of the decans bear resemblances to those found in the Fendulus mss, while a few recall the illustrations in the *Picatrix latinus* and the *Lapidario segundo*, as well as

---

### bibliography

SCHERER 1864, p. 121

GUNDEL 1936, pp. 88f., 164ff., plate 30 (fol. 88v-89r Det.)

SAXL/McGURK 1966, p. XIV note 5, p. 36

HUSTACHE 1980

HUSTACHE 1980a, p. 98ff.

BAUER 1983, p. 116 note 111.

LIPPINCOTT 1985.

HUSTACHE 1988, p. 5ff.

KRISTELLER 1990, p. 125

SCARPATETTI/GAMPER/STÄHLI 1991, III, no. 900.

GARCIA AVILES 1995a, p. 43

ŚNIEŻYNSKA-STOLOT 1997, p. 92

WARBURG 1998, p. 630ff., Fig. 163 (fol. 89r Det.), 165 (fol. 86v Det.), 178 (fol. 89r Det.).

WARBURG 1999, pp. 473 and 552.

BLUME/HAFFNER/METZGER 2016, II, 2, pp. 131-34 and 927-33.

The manuscript has been fully digitized at

<https://www.e-codices.unifr.ch/en/description/vad/0427/>.

consulted Jan 2004