

MA Cultural Astronomy and Astrology
Astrology, History, Spirit and Soul
Week 5
Astrology in Medieval Europe: Optional reading
Nick Campion

Primary Sources

Warburg Institute database on sources in astronomy and astrology
<https://catalogue.libraries.london.ac.uk/search~S12/?searchtype=t&searcharg=astrology&searchscope=22&sortdropdown=-&SORT=D&extended=0&SUBMIT=Search&searchlimits=&searchorigarg=astrology>

NB – the above link is the result of a search. You can search on topics specifying online resources.

Katzenstein, Rane and Savage-Smith, Emilie, *The Leiden Aratea: Ancient Constellations in a Medieval Manuscript*, Los Angeles, Getty Publications, 1988.
<http://d2aohiyo3d3idm.cloudfront.net/publications/virtuallibrary/0892361425.pdf>

A 9th century copy of an illustrated work based on Aratus's *Phaenomena*. (Aratus of Soli 315 BC/310 BC – 240 BC).

Holden, James Herschel, *Five Medieval Astrologers*, Tempe AZ: American Federation of Astrologers, 2008. (Available of Google Books).

This contains translations by James Holden of some key works.

Hermes Trismegistus, *Centiloquium*, annotated by Deborah Houlding
<http://www.skyscript.co.uk/centiloquium2.html>

The following two papers are a translation of a dispute over astrology in twelfth century Byzantium by Demetra George. See under secondary sources for Demetra's commentary.

George, Demetra, 'Manuel I Komnenos and Michael Glykas: A Twelfth-Century Defence and Refutation of Astrology', Part 2, *Culture and Cosmos* Vol. 5 no 2, Autumn/Winter 2001, pp. 23-51.

http://www.cultureandcosmos.org/pdfs/5/5-2-george_12th_century_defence_refutation_astrology2.pdf

George, Demetra, 'Manuel I Komnenos and Michael Glykas: A Twelfth-Century Defence and Refutation of Astrology', Part 3, *Culture and Cosmos* Vol. 6 no 1, Spring/Summer 2002, pp. 23-43.

[http://www.cultureandcosmos.org/pdfs/6/6-1-George Manuel 1 Komnenos Part 3.pdf](http://www.cultureandcosmos.org/pdfs/6/6-1-George%20Manuel%201%20Komnenos%20Part%203.pdf)

Optional Reading: Secondary sources

Demetra George, 'Manuel I Komnenos and Michael Glykas: A Twelfth-Century Defence and Refutation of Astrology', Part 1, *Culture and Cosmos* Vol. 5 no 1, Spring/Summer 2001, pp. 3-48.

[http://www.cultureandcosmos.org/pdfs/5/5-1-george 12th century defence refutation astrology.pdf](http://www.cultureandcosmos.org/pdfs/5/5-1-george%2012th%20century%20defence%20refutation%20astrology.pdf)

Laird, Edgar, 'Christine de Pizan and Controversy Concerning Star Study in the Court of Charles V', *Culture and Cosmos*, Vol. 1 no. 2, Winter/Autumn 1997, pp. 35-48. (PDF on Moodle).

Tester, Jim, *A History of Western Astrology*, Woodbridge, Suffolk: Boydell Press 1987, pp. 98-203. (Available on Google Books).

Grant, Edward, 'Celestial Orbs in the Latin Middle Ages', *Isis*, Vol. 78, No. 2 (June, 1987), pp. 153-173. (Available on JSTOR).

Gunzburg, Darrelyn. 'Giotto's Sky: The Fresco Paintings of the First Floor Salone of the Palazzo Della Ragione, Padua, Italy.' In *The Imagined Sky: Cultural Perspectives*, edited by Darrelyn Gunzburg. 87-113. Sheffield: Equinox Publishing, 2016. (Available in the University Online Library).

An important exploration of a visual source.

Ladner, Gerhart B., 'Medieval and Modern Understanding of Symbolism: A Comparison', *Speculum*, Vol. 54, No. 2 (April, 1979), pp. 223-256. (Available on JSTOR).

Laistner, M.L.W., 'The Western Church and Astrology during the Early Middle Ages', *The Harvard Theological Review*, Vol. 34, No. 4 (Oct, 1941), pp. 251-275. (Available on JSTOR).

McCluskey, Stephen C. McCluskey, 'Gregory of Tours, Monastic Timekeeping, and Early Christian Attitudes to Astronomy', *Isis*, Vol. 81, No. 1 (Mar, 1990), pp. 9-22. (Available on JSTOR).

Thomson, Robert W., "'Let Now the Astrologers Stand up": The Armenian Christian Reaction to Astrology and Divination', *Dumbarton Oaks Papers*, Vol. 46, Homo Byzantinus: Papers in Honor of Alexander Kazhdan (1992), pp. 305-312. (Available on JSTOR).

Thorndike, Lynn, *History of Magic and Experimental Science* (8 vols, New York: Columbia University Press, 1923–58), Vol. 1, chaps 24-33, pp. 551-782/
<https://archive.org/details/historyofmagicex00thor>

There is no suggestion that you need to read every chapter. Instead, if useful, select any (one or two) that may strike you as relevant to your second essay.

Holden, James Herschel, *A History of Horoscopic Astrology*, Tempe AZ: American Federation of Astrologers, 1996, pp. 103-156. (Available on Google Books).

North, John, *Stars, Minds and Fate: Essays in Ancient and Medieval Cosmology*, London, The Hambledon Press 1989, chap 8: 'Astrology and the Fortune of Churches', Chapter 18 'Celestial Influence – The Major Premiss of Astrology'. This is a major work on the theory of medieval astrology but is **not** available electronically. You may be able to find a copy through a library.

Secondary sources. Magic

Kieckhefer, Richard, 'The Specific Rationality of Medieval Magic', *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 99, No 3 (June 1994), pp. 813-836. (Available on JSTOR).

Hartner, Willy, 'Notes on picatrix', *Isis*, Vol. 56, No. 4 (Winter, 1965), pp. 438-451. (Available on JSTOR).

Thomann, J., 'The Name Picatrix: Transcription or Translation?', *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*, Vol. 53, (1990), pp. 289-296. (Available on JSTOR).

Plessner, M., 'A Medieval Definition of Scientific Experiment in the Hebrew Picatrix', *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*, Vol. 36, (1973), pp. 358-359. (Available on JSTOR).

Pingree, David, 'Between the Ghāya and Picatrix. I: The Spanish Version', *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*, Vol. 44, (1981), pp. 27-56. (Available on JSTOR).

Fierro, Maribel, 'Bāṭinism in Al-Andalus. Maslama b. Qāsim al-Qurṭubī (d. 353/964), Author of the "Rutbat al-Ḥakīm" and the "Ghāyat al-Ḥakīm (Picatrix)', *Studia Islamica*, No. 84 (1996), pp. 87-112. (Available on JSTOR).

In Print

We do not have access to these books but you may be able to borrow them from a library or obtain a second-hand copy.

Burnett, Charles, 'Arabic, Greek and Latin works on astrological magic attributed to Aristotle', *Magic and Divination in the Middle Ages: Texts and Techniques in the Islamic and Christian Worlds*, Aldershot: Variorum, 1996, Chapter 6.

Eastwood, Bruce S., *The Revival of Planetary Astronomy in Carolingian and Post-Carolingian Europe*, Aldershot: Ashgate 2002.

Eastwood, Bruce Stansfield, 'Johannes Scottus Eriugena, Sun-centred Planets and Carolingian Astronomy', *Journal for the History of Astronomy*, November 2001, Vol. 32, part 4, pp. 2281-324.

A rare article examining the little-studied area of knowledge of classical astronomy in ninth century France and Germany, and an apparent knowledge of the Sun-centred universe. This is online at <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/002182860103200401>, but we do not have institutional access.

Flint, Valerie, *The Rise of Magic in Early Medieval Europe*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991.

Grant, Edward, *Planets, Stars and Orbs: The Medieval Cosmos 1200-1687*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1996.
This is in the UWTSD library so is available for loan.

Holden, James Herschel, *A History of Horoscopic Astrology*, Tempe, Arizona: American Federation of Astrologers 1996, pp. 129-146.

Hoskin, Michael, *Cambridge Concise History of Astronomy*, pp 68-74.

Kieckhefer, Richard, *Magic in the Middle Ages*, Cambridge: (Cambridge University Press, 1989.

McCluskey, Stephen C., *Astronomies and Cultures in Early Medieval Europe*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1998.

A very important book on the cosmology and astronomy of this period.

North, John, *Stars, Minds and Fate: Essays in Ancient and Medieval Cosmology*, London, The Hambledon Press 1989, chap 8: 'Astrology and the Fortune of Churches', Chapter 18 'Celestial Influence – The Major Premiss of Astrology'

Smyth, Marina, *Understanding the Universe in Seventh-Century Ireland*, (Boydell Press 1996) is a study of Irish cosmology at the height of the 'golden-age' of Irish monasticism. The book has been criticised though, for underplaying the possible role of indigenous traditions of astrology.

Thorndike, Lynn, *A History of Magic and Experimental Science*, Vols I and 2. New York: Columbia University Press, 1923 - 58.