

# PTOLEMAEUS ARABUS ET LATINUS

## Transcription Guidelines (Latin)

July 2020 (updated October 2021)

Each transcription is made from a selected manuscript or early printed edition called the ‘base witness’. The base witness is checked against at least one ‘back-up witness’ for problematic passages and to make sure that the text of the base witness is reasonably complete and correct.

1. The text of the base witness is respected, including in cases of internal inconsistencies and variations (but see standardisation, #12 below). In cases of obvious mistakes (grammatical, lexical, mathematical, misunderstanding of the Arabic or Greek original etc.), the text is also respected and the correct or conjectured form is indicated in a footnote. Exceptions to this rule are restricted to obvious typos (e.g. ‘possibile’ for ‘possibile’), in which case the correct form is retained and the reading of the base witness is indicated in a footnote. In cases of uncertain readings, especially with unfamiliar and transliterated words (e.g. ‘Catononim’ or ‘Catonomiz’, where the final letter can be read as either ‘m’ or ‘z’), choice is made and the alternative reading is given in a footnote.
2. Abbreviations are resolved (but see #3 below). In ambiguous cases (e.g. ‘numquam’ or ‘nunquam’, ‘tripartita’ or ‘tripertita’), the form normally used by the scribe/editor is followed. If there is no clue as to how the scribe/editor would have spelled out the word, then the classical spelling (acc. *Oxford Latin Dictionary*) is privileged. Symbols for the planets, zodiacal signs and aspects are also resolved when found in the plain text (but not in astronomical tables and horoscopes). The list of relevant symbols is provided p. 3 below.
3. Numbers are kept as numbers: e.g. ‘VII’ → ‘VII’, not ‘septem’, but ‘VII<sup>em</sup>’ → ‘septem’, ‘III<sup>or</sup>’ → ‘quat(t)uor’, etc. For numbers above 12, the form is kept as it is, e.g. ‘XX<sup>ti</sup>III<sup>or</sup>’ → ‘XX<sup>ti</sup>III<sup>or</sup>’, not ‘viginti quat(t)uor’. The use of Roman or Arabic numerals is respected.
4. Punctuation is modernised according to the English usage.
5. Capitalisation is generalised at the beginning of a sentence, and for both proper names and book titles. Proper names include the names of the planets (also ‘Sol’, ‘Luna’ and ‘Caput/Cauda Draconis’ – NB: ‘terra’ always with a lowercase letter), signs of the zodiac, stars and constellations, as well as nouns and adjectives referring to people and languages (e.g. ‘Latinus’, ‘Arabicus’...), and ‘Deus’. For book titles, only the first word is capitalised and only when it is unquestionably a book title, as opposed to a cursory description. For constellations, stars and groups of stars consisting of two names, both are capitalised (e.g. ‘Ursa Maior’, ‘Piscis Meridianus’, ‘Aschimech Aramech’).
6. Citations are indicated in inverted commas (‘...’).
7. Book and chapter numbers are added in angle brackets. Book numbers are given in Roman numerals (I, II, III...) and chapter numbers in Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3...).
8. Change of folio, page, signature or column is indicated between /.../ in **bold** (e.g. /1r/, /1/, /a1r/, /1ra/).

9. Tables are generated in Word and their layout is as close as possible to the layout of the base witness.
10. Diagrams and figures are either reconstructed or reproduced as JPEG images.
11. Letters denoting geometrical figures in the text are capitalised (e.g. ‘triangulum ABC’).
12. Standardisation is restricted to the bare minimum:
  - a) differentiation between ‘u’ and ‘v’ is introduced (e.g. ‘vult’, not ‘uult’), but not between ‘i’ and ‘j’ (e.g. ‘coniunctio’, not ‘conjunctio’).
  - b) ‘e’ is standardised as ‘ae’/‘oe’ or ‘e’ in accordance with the general practice of the scribe/editor.
  - c) ‘ci-’ vs. ‘ti-’ before vowels (e.g. ‘racio’ or ‘ratio’, ‘spacium’ or ‘spatium’): if these cannot be clearly differentiated, as is the case in some manuscripts, then ‘ti-’ is privileged.
  - d) obvious ‘typos’: see #1 above.
  - e) ambiguous abbreviations: see #2 above.
13. Editorial remarks and MSS sigla in footnotes are indicated in *italics*.
14. Sigla and abbreviations:
 

[...]	section to be deleted (section redundant or faulty in the base witness)
<...>	section to be added (section missing in the base witness)
†...†	problematic section (corrupt, illegible, etc.)
<i>add.</i>	added
<i>corr. ex</i>	corrected from
<i>corr. in</i>	corrected into
<i>del.</i>	deleted
<i>i. m.</i>	in the margin
<i>inv.</i>	inverted (two words)
<i>om.</i>	omitted
<i>sub lin.</i>	written below the line
<i>sup. lin.</i>	written above the line

## Symbols for planets, zodiacal signs and aspects (Unicode: Linux Libertine Display O)

♄	Saturnus
♃	Iupiter
♂	Mars
☉	Sol
♀	Venus
☿	Mercurius
☾	Luna
♁/♂	Caput/Cauda Draconis
⊕	pars fortune
♈	Aries
♉	Taurus
♊	Gemini
♋	Cancer
♌	Leo
♍	Virgo
♎	Libra
♏	Scorpio
♐	Sagittarius
♑	Capricornus
♒	Aquarius
♓	Pisces
♌	coniunctio
♍	oppositio
♎	Sextilis
♏	quadratus
♐	Trinus