

Dating of the VMs Zodiac Section

© Robert Teague
rteague@bellsouth.net

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Introduction

This paper presents the results of a search for astrological "fixed" stars matching the positions of the Crowned Nymphs in the Voynich Manuscript Zodiac Section.

Note: during research, the Voynich-101 transcription was used. But for presentation purposes, the EVA Hand 1 font is used in this paper.

Section 1: Reading the Zodiac Folios

The design surrounding the fish in the Pisces folio (f70v2) is found in only two other places; f67r2 and f67v1. On the latter two, it is drawn on the outside of the diagram. In the case of Pisces, it appears to mean, "Beginning". On the other two, it means something like "This is separate", or "This is self-contained".

In astrology, the degrees of a sign are counted 00-29, with the 00 degree marking the dividing line between two signs, and the ingress between the last sign and the next. The 30th degree becomes 00° of the next sign.

The missing Pisces nymph is the 00°. It's indicated by the labeled star with the fish, and marks where the end of Aquarius should be.

The drawn nymphs are numbers 1-29, starting in the inner circle where the two cans meet (~10 o'clock), counted clockwise in to out. Note that the labeled star is directly below the can opened to the right.

The nymph in Aries Dark inner ring at 10:00 would be the 30th nymph. It has a unique tether to the star, and is looking back across the folio *toward Pisces*. This is the 00° nymph for Aries.

In astrology, the longitudinal position is given as "degree-sign-minutes". Seconds are not usually considered. This method of counting the nymphs will be used in the remainder of this work.

Section 2: Star Matches

The Crowned Nymphs appear at 04 Cancer 00, 15 Libra 00, and 06 Leo 00.

Precession of the Equinoxes is accounted for in astrology, and is the approach utilized to make identifications. The "fixed stars" move at a rate of 1° every 71.6 years. For example, in 1900, Aldebaran was at 08 Gem 23, and in 2000 was at 09 Gem 47.

The range of dates investigated cover the period generally accepted for creation of the Voynich Manuscript; between 1400 and 1600 CE. The question to be answered was "if the Crowned Nymph was at 04 Can 00 in 1400 CE, where would it be in 2000 CE?". Calculations were carried out in two ways: one set for 50 - year increments, and the other for 1 degree increments. The positions of Aldebaran were used as a control and reference.

A utility program that converts decimal degrees to hours and minutes was utilized to clarify the positions. Other programs used were *HP Financial Calculator* and the astrology program *Astrolog32*.

A list of fixed star positions in 2000 CE was consulted to find any stars that currently reside there. The tables below tabulate the results. Because of the uncertainty, a match was considered to be any star within one degree of the calculated position.

Table 1: 50-Year Increments

Date	Position			
1400	01 Gem 25	04 Can 00	15 Lib 00	06 Leo 00
2000	09 Gem 47	12 Can 24	23 Lib 24	14 Leo 24
2000	09 Gem 47		23 Lib 50	
Star	Aldebaran		Spica	

Date	Position			
1450	02 Gem 07	04 Can 00	15 Lib 00	06 Leo 00
2000	09 Gem 47	11 Can 42	22 Lib 42	13 Leo 42
2000	09 Gem 47	11 Can 13	22 Lib 09	13 Leo 38
Star	Aldebaran	Alzirr	Foramen	Sertan

Date	Position			
1500	02 Gem 48	04 Can 00	15 Lib 00	06 Leo 00
2000	09 Gem 47	11 Can 00	22 Lib 00	13 Leo 00
2000	09 Gem 47	11 Can 13	22 Lib 09	13 Leo 19
Star	Aldebaran	Alzirr	Foramen	Kochab

Date	Position			
1550	03 Gem 30	04 Can 00	15 Lib 00	06 Leo 00
2000	09 Gem 47	10 Can 18	21 Lib 18	12 Leo 18
2000	09 Gem 47	09 Can 56		
Star	Aldebaran	Mebсутa		

Date	Position			
1600	04 Gem 12	04 Can 00	15 Lib 00	06 Leo 00
2000	09 Gem 47	09 Can 36	20 Lib 36	11 Leo 36
2000	09 Gem 47	09 Can 56	21 Lib 53	
Star	Aldebaran	Mebсутa	Heze	

Table 2: 1° Increments

Date	Position			
1400	01 Gem 25	04 Can 00	15 Lib 00	06 Leo 00
2000	09 Gem 47	12 Can 24	23 Lib 24	14 Leo 24
2000	09 Gem 47		23 Lib 50	
Star	Aldebaran		Spica	

Date	Position			
1471	02 Gem 25	04 Can 00	15 Lib 00	06 Leo 00
2000	09 Gem 47	11 Can 24	22 Lib 24	13 Leo 24
2000	09 Gem 47	11 Can 13	22 Lib 09	13 Leo 19
Star	Aldebaran	Alzirr	Foramen	Kochab

Date	Position			
1543	03 Gem 25	04 Can 00	15 Lib 00	06 Leo 00
2000	09 Gem 47	10 Can 24	21 Lib 24	12 Leo 24
2000	09 Gem 47	09 Can 56	21 Lib 53	
Star	Aldebaran	Mebuta	Heze	

Date	Position			
1615	04 Gem 25	04 Can 00	15 Lib 00	06 Leo 00
2000	09 Gem 47	09 Can 24	20 Lib 24	11 Leo 24
2000	09 Gem 47	09 Can 06		
Star	Aldebaran	Alhena		

The best matches occur between 1471 and 1500, in line with the time period most comfortable for many researchers.

It is also noted that one of the variations of “Aldebaran” appears on the Gemini folio, which is astrologically correct. The star entered Gemini from Taurus in 1299 CE.

An explanation of the astrological significance of the identified stars will have to come from someone versed in the lore of the art.