

DATING AND LOCALISATION OF THE
WATERMARKS FROM A 15TH CENTURY
MEDICAL MANUSCRIPT

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Introduction

J.B.VII.6.

This research is part of my graduation project in Book and paper Conservation, with the discussion scheduled in November 2023, at the Brera Art Academy (MI)

The manuscript is part of the Ancient Library Collection at the Archivio di Stato di Torino

It is a **medical** manuscript written in **french** (provençal dialect)



Background

The owners

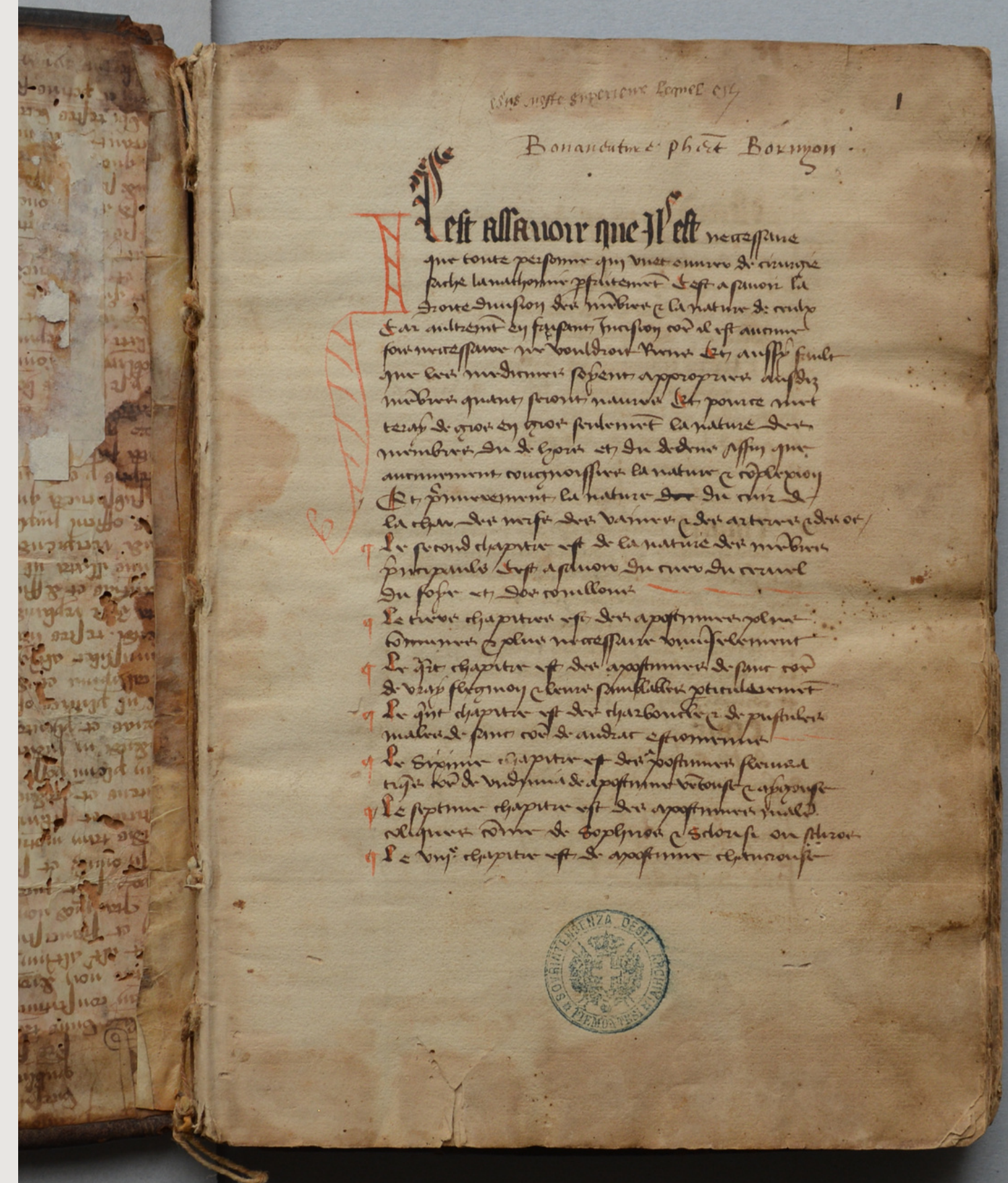
- XVIth century - Bonaventure Philibert Bornyon - Aosta
- XIXth century - Lawyer Vittorio Alessio of Turin
- August 1880 - Library of the Archivio di Stato di Torino

The binding

- Endbands / Cover - **Gothic binding** - XIV-XVI century
- Decoration - **Southern France**
- Parchment endleaves - from the **Tarentaise region**

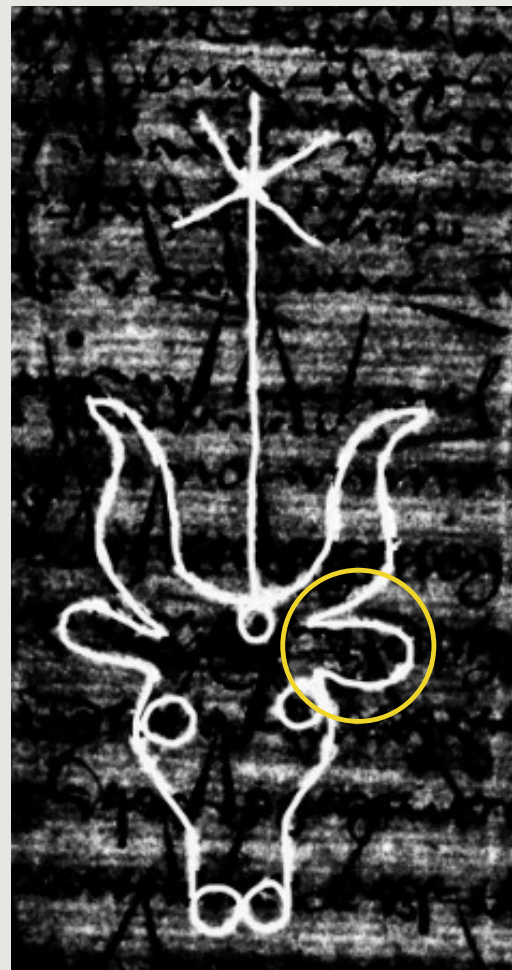
The language

- Linguistic Sciences Degree course, 2014/2015 thesis - **Franco-Provençal dialect**

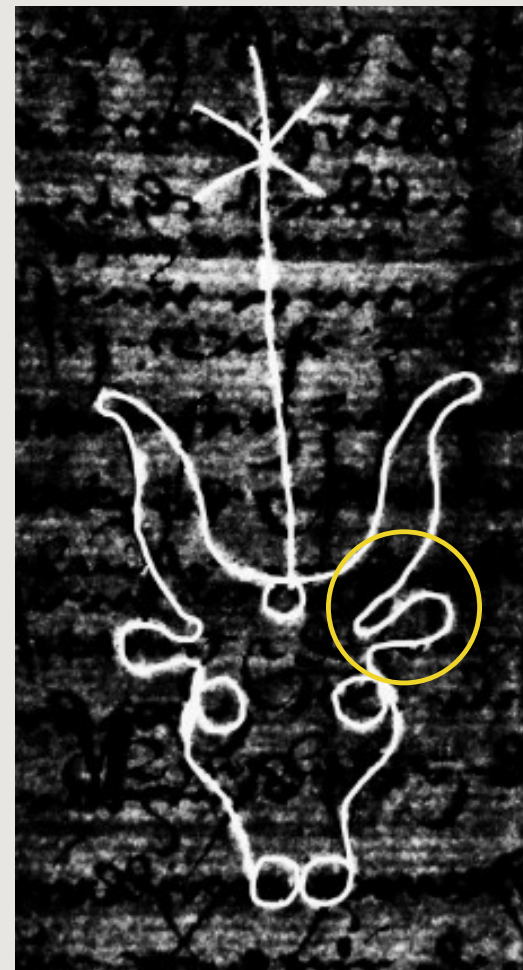


Bull's head

From page 1 to page 83 - 42 watermarks divided into 4 groups
For the identification, felt-side and mould-side are not being considered



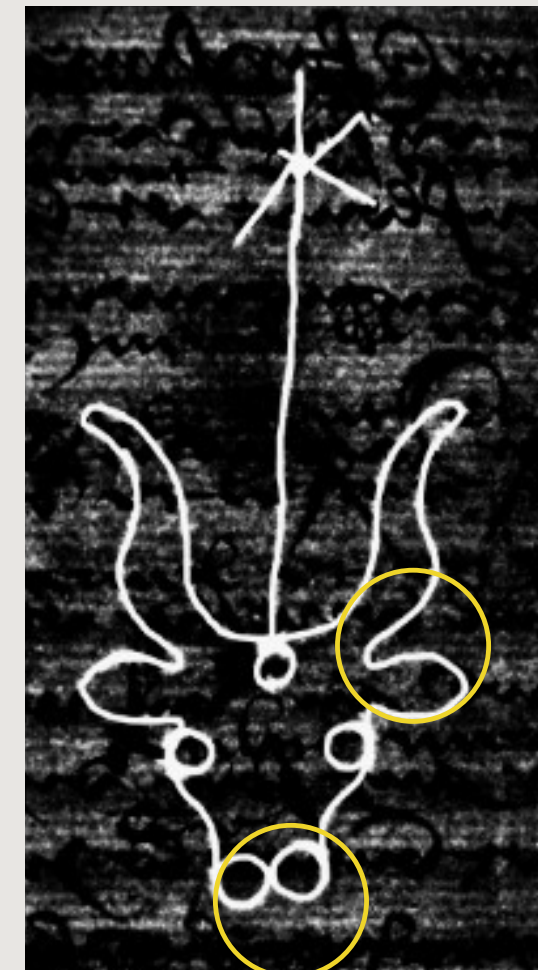
1 - tot: 21



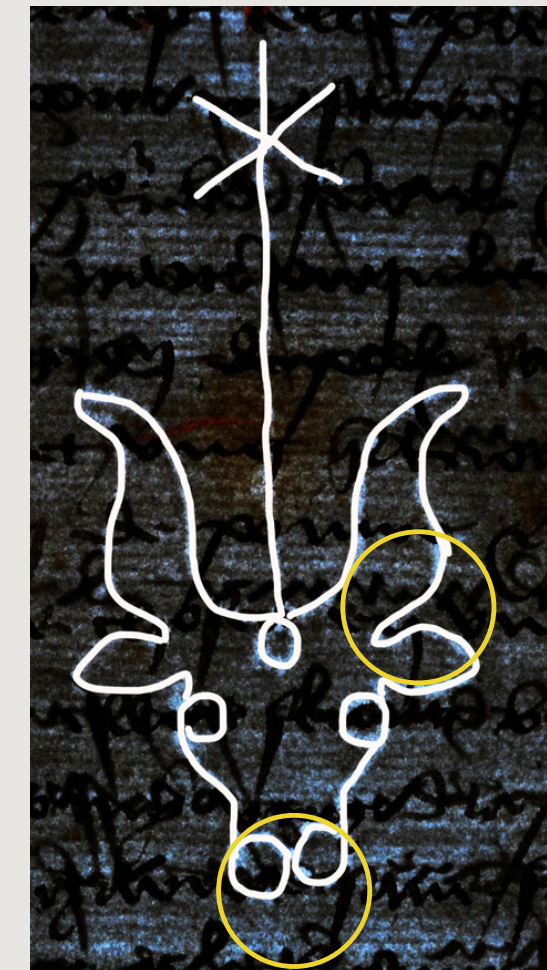
2- tot: 15

Differences

- The shape of the ears
- The roundness of the face
- The thickness of the horn(s)
- The length and position of the nostrils



3- tot: 4



4- tot: 2

Watermarks

Crescent

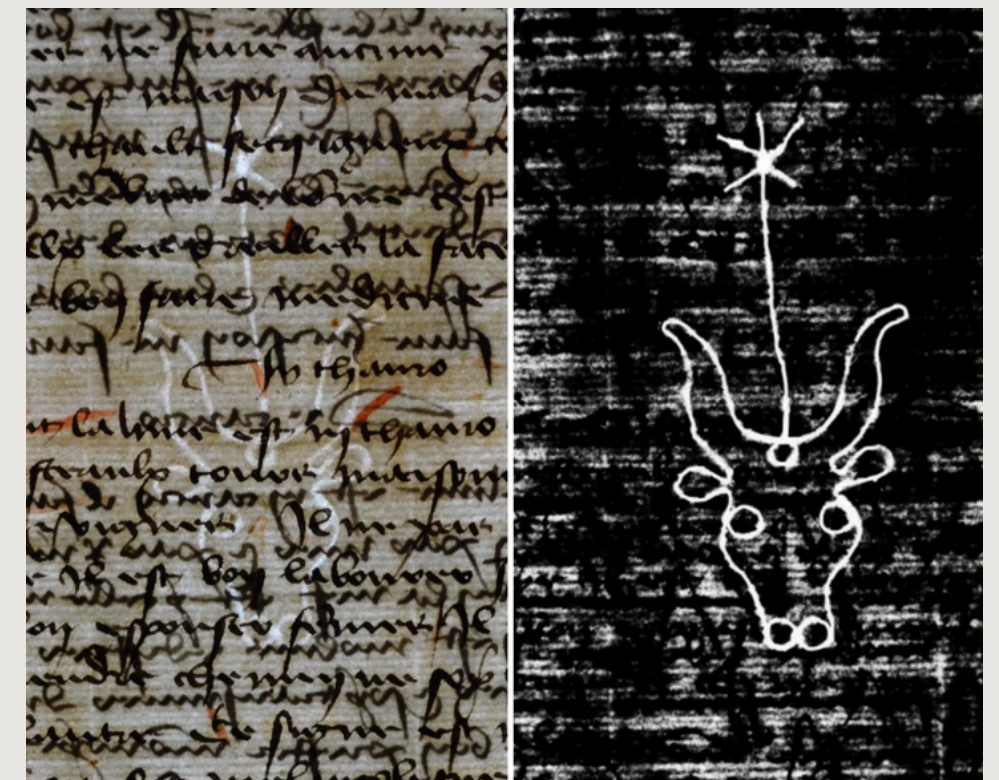
From page 84 to 128 - 25 watermarks divided into 1 group



Digital elaboration

with Photoshop

The division in groups did not take into consideration the direction of imprinting.



Search in databases

1 Piccard - bull's head - J.B.VII.6. matches

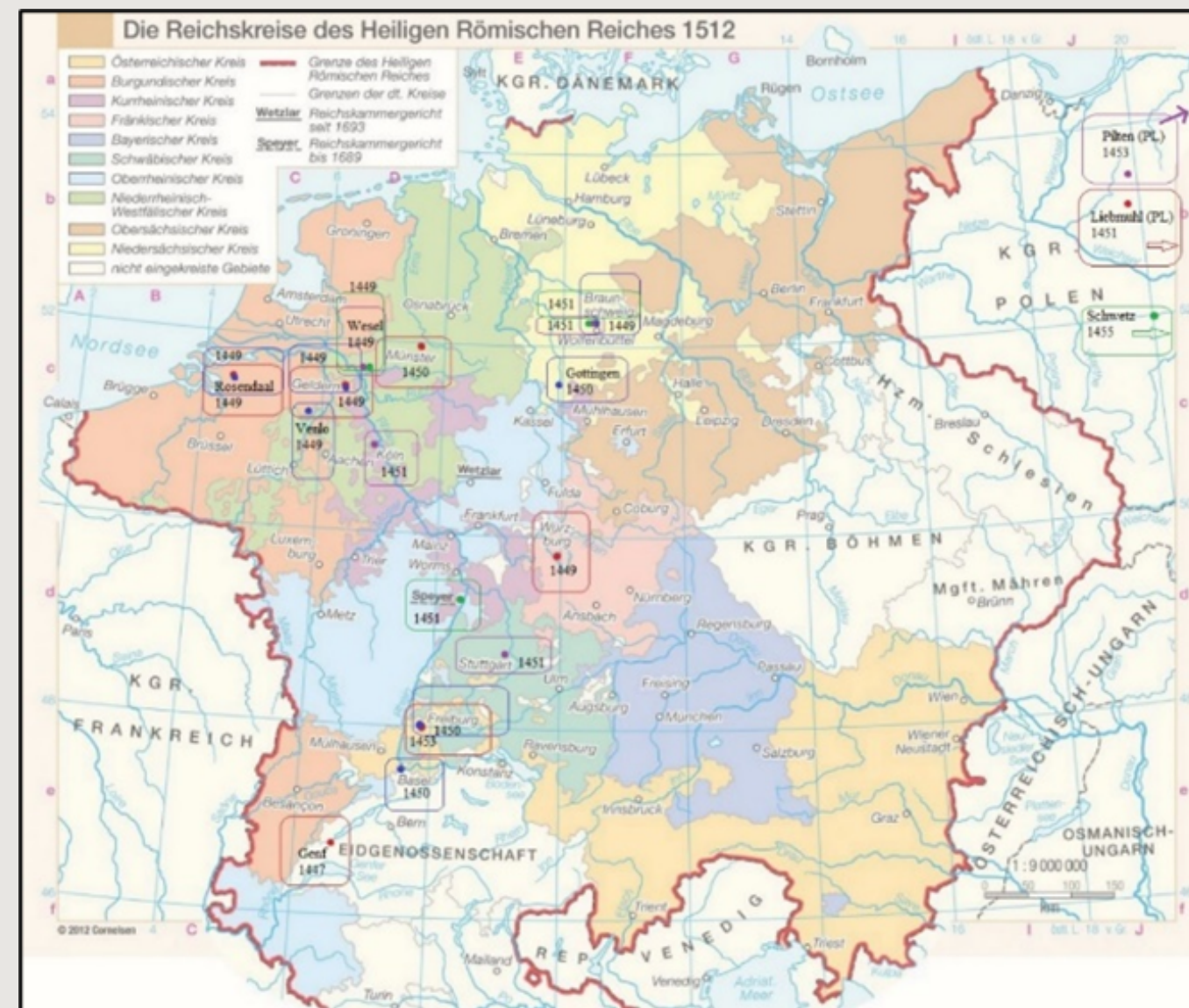
Holding institution + period + (geographical reference of use)
Mostly German entries

Geography

- 55,6% German area
- 11,1% Low Countries
- 7,4% Switzerland and Poland
- 3,7% Latvia
- 14,8 % ND

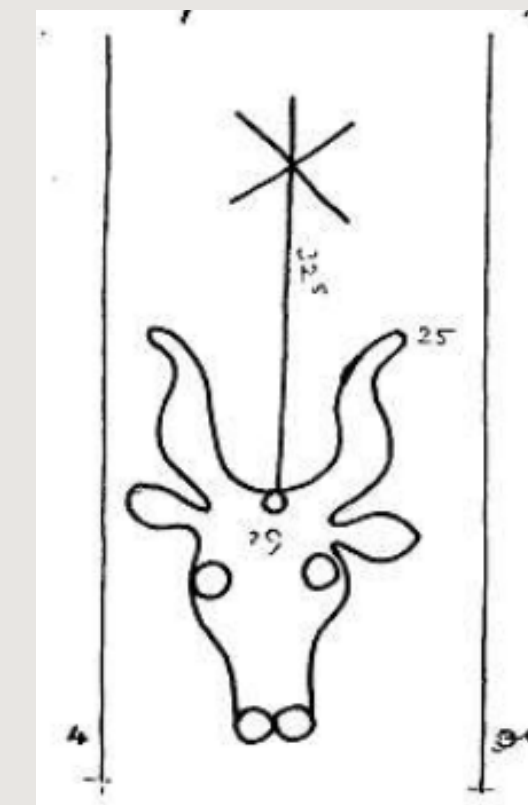
Period

- 63% 1447-1450 - (58,8% = 1449)
- 37% 1451-1455 - (60% = 1451)



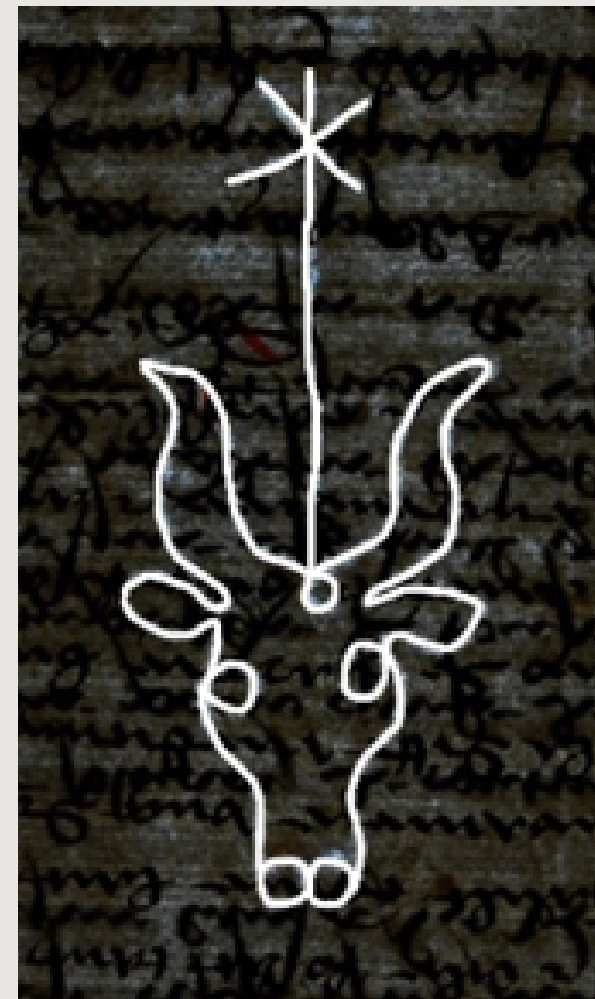
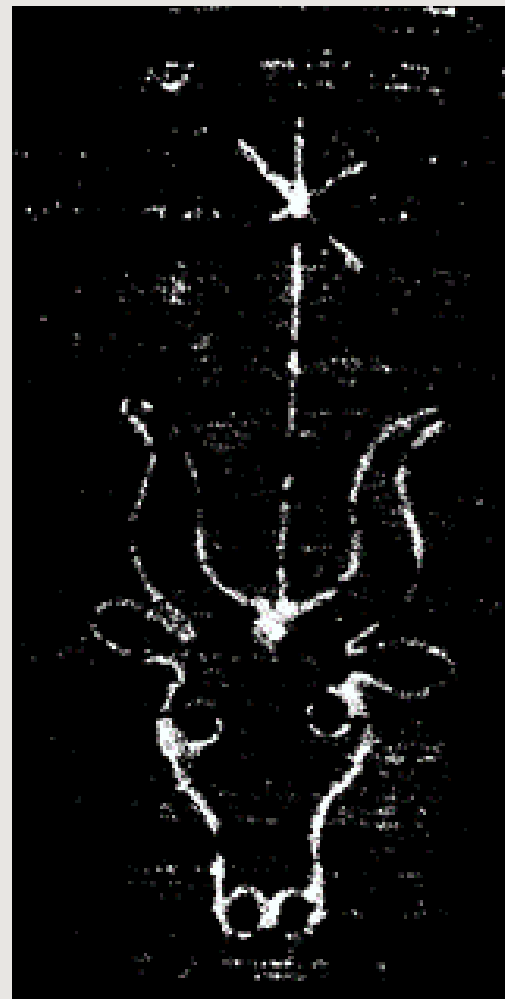
One direct match in **Turin**

Watermark n. 76843
from Genève 14^e Cat - ASTo
(=group 1 J.B.VII.6.)
Genève, 1447



Search in databases

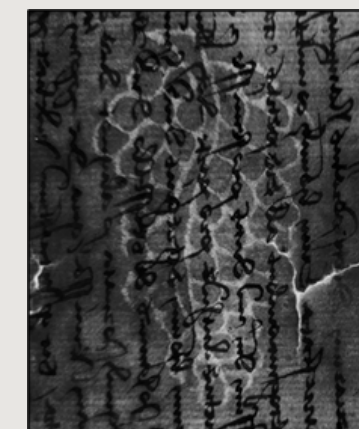
1 Piccard - *bull's head in Turin* - [a]



<u>Genève, 14^a cat.</u>	<u>Dossier</u>	<u>Bull's head</u>
<i>Bundle 1</i>	1444-1445	<u>Without circle</u>
	1447-1448	Match
	1448-1449	<u>Without circle</u>
	1449-1450	<u>Without circle</u>
	1450	<u>Without circle</u>
<i>Bundle 2</i>	1452-1453	<u>Without circle</u>
	1453-1454	<u>Without circle</u>
	1454	<u>Without circle</u>
	1456-1460	<u>Without circle</u>
	1448-1460	<u>Partial</u>
	1458-1460	<u>Without circle</u>

With circle =
variant of without circle

+ Grape



From *Genève 14^o cat*

1447-1448
(n° 76843)

1456-1460

J.B.VII.6.
Group 1

Search in databases

1 Piccard - *bull's head in Turin*

The finding of n. 76843 and many more similar (but not identical) watermarks in the Archivio di Stato have raised several questions:

- How many *bull's head* watermarks are there in Turin? (136)
- How many types? (2)
- Provenance and period?

Type

99 (72,8%) type [a]

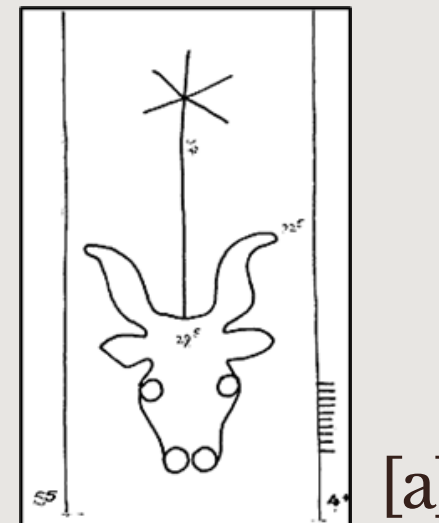
37 (27,2%) type [b] - only from Chambéry

Provenance

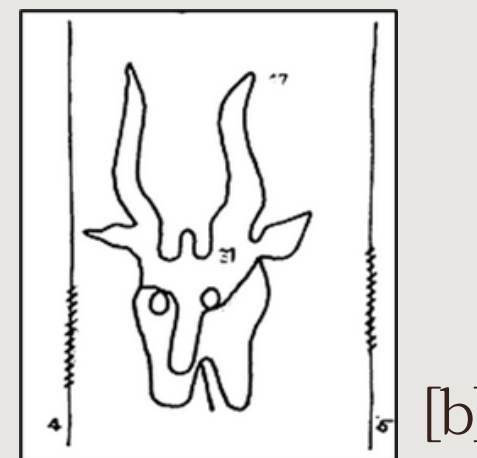
1 (0,7%) - Turin

121 (88,9%) - Chambéry

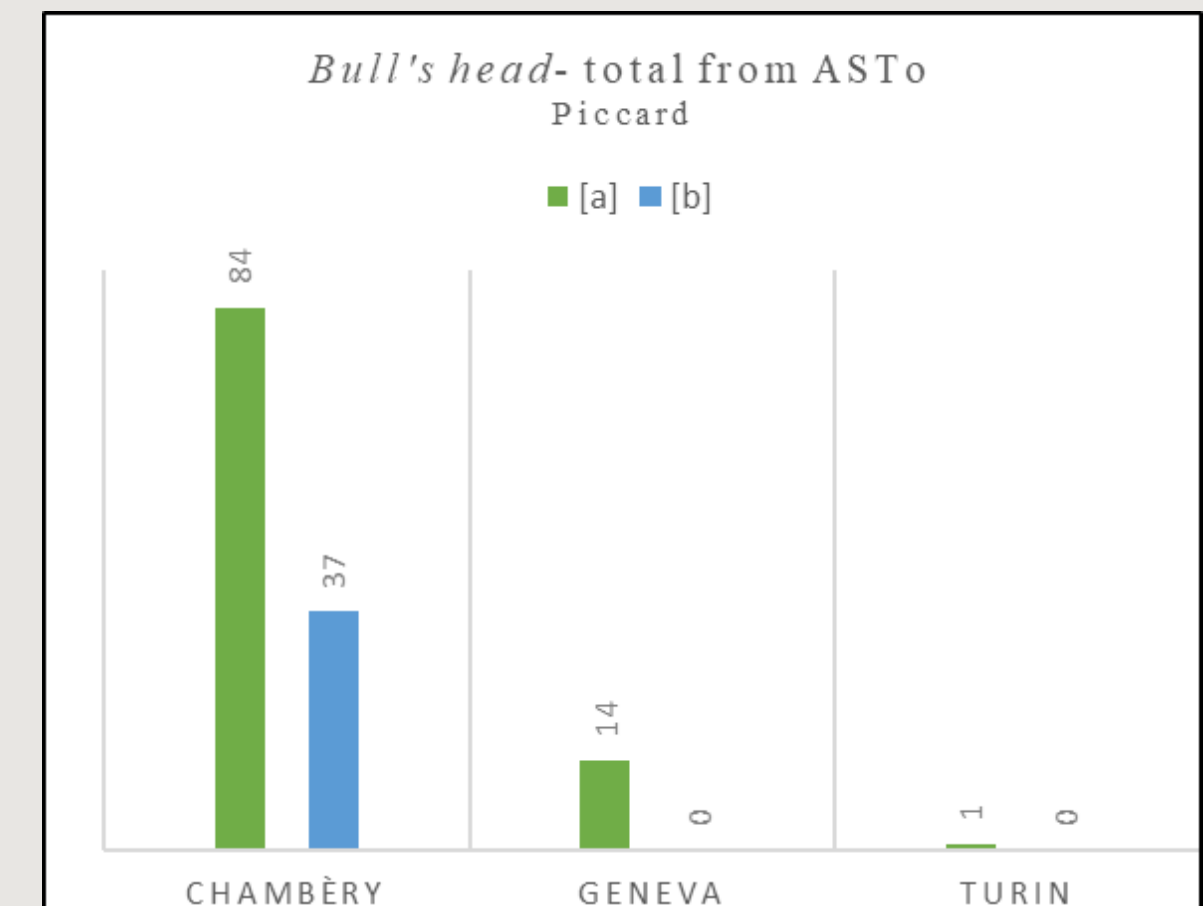
14 (10,4%) - Geneva



[a]



[b]

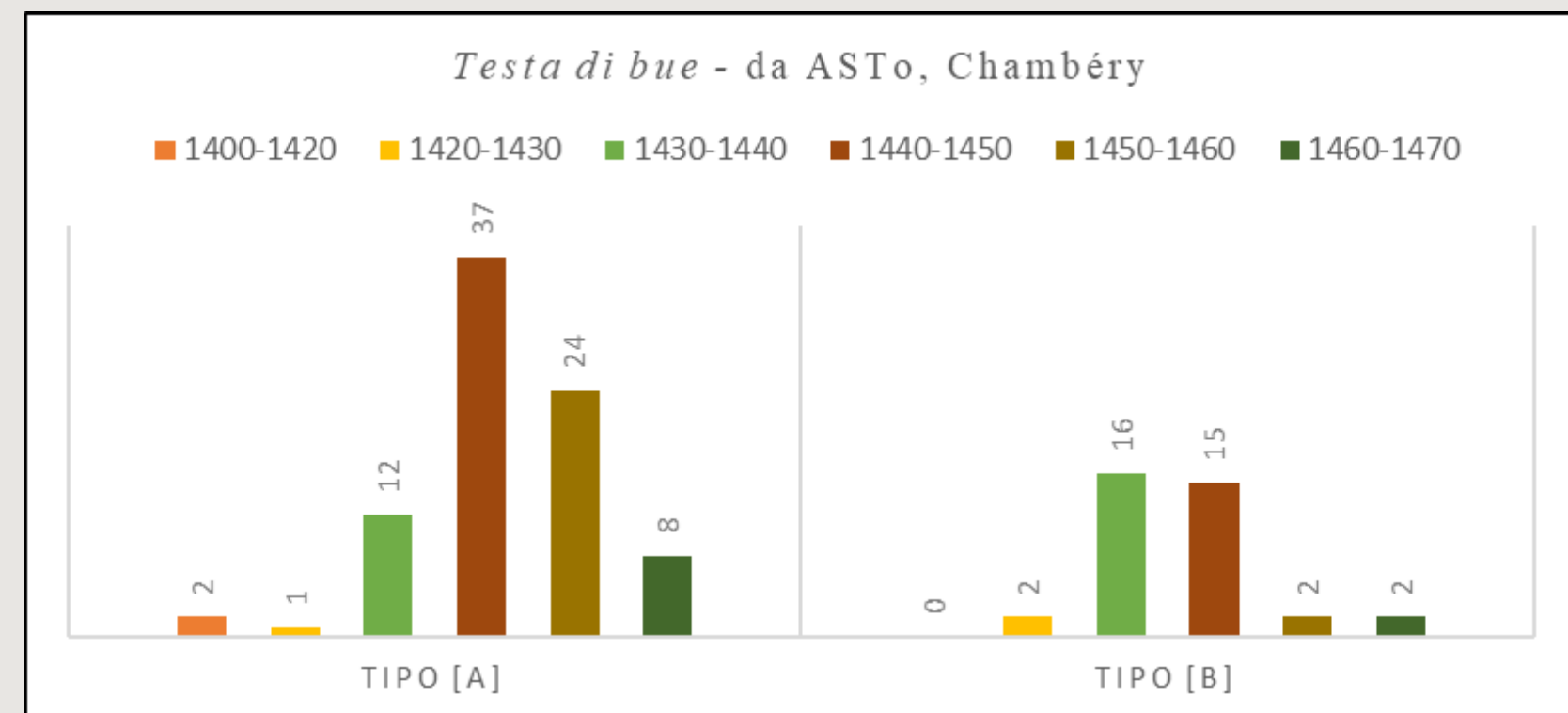
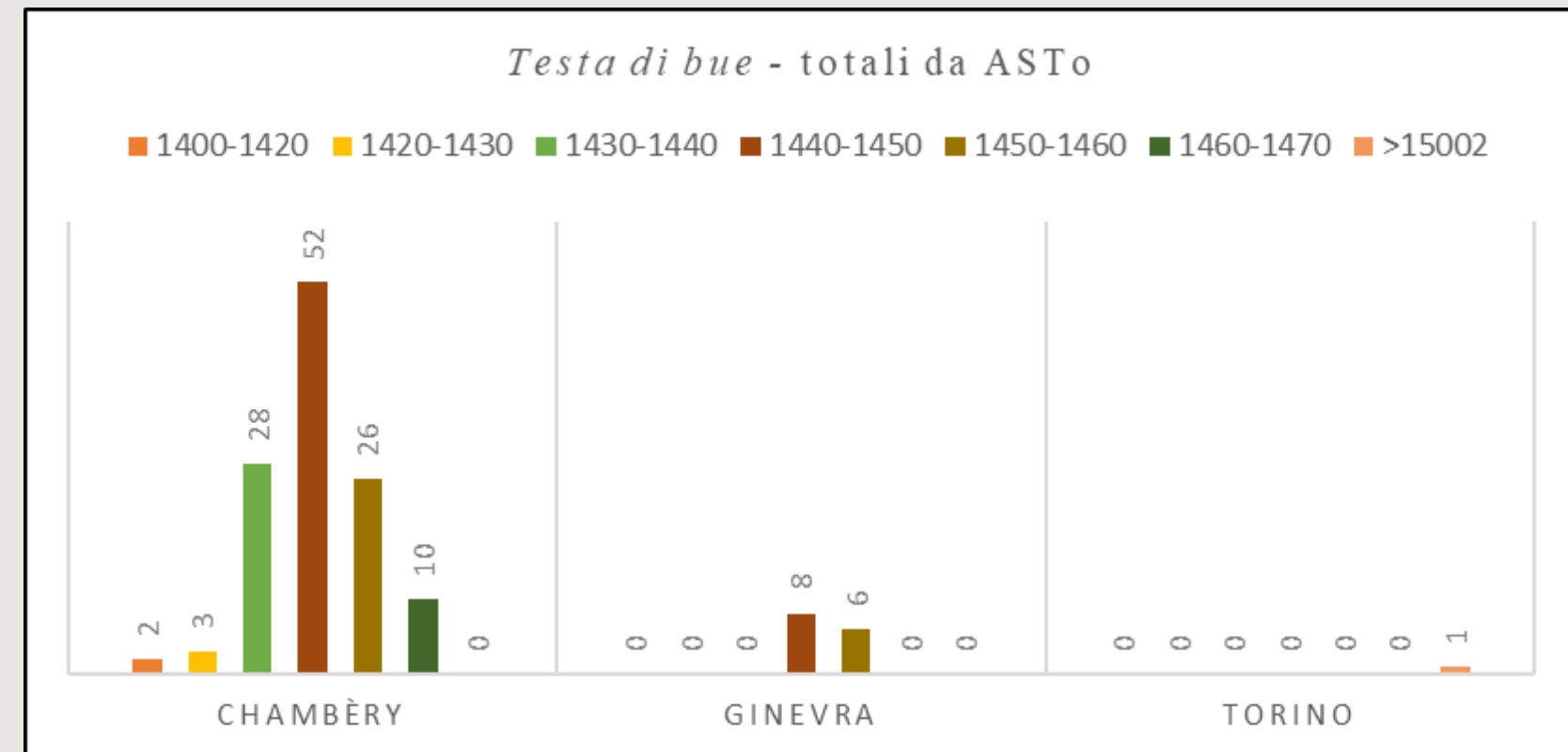


Search in databases

1 Piccard - *bull's head in Turin*

Period

- 2 (1,5%) - 1400-1420
- 3 (2,2%) - 1420-1430
- 28 (20,6%) - 1430-1440
- 60 (44,1%) - 1440-1450 (n° 76843)
- 32 (23,5%) - 1450-1460
- 10 (7,4%) - 1460-1470
- 1 (0,7%) - XV century



Search in databases

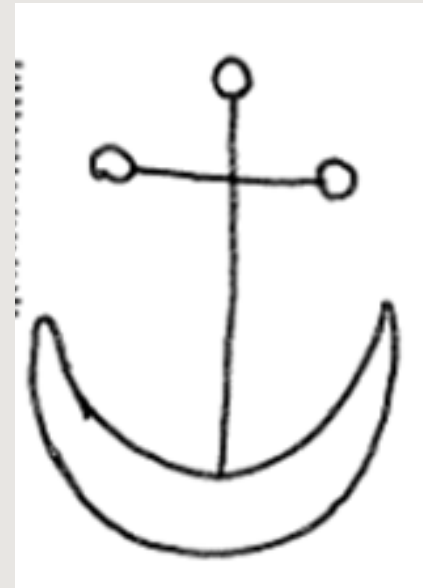
1 Piccard - *crescent*

Fewer matches - fewer localisations

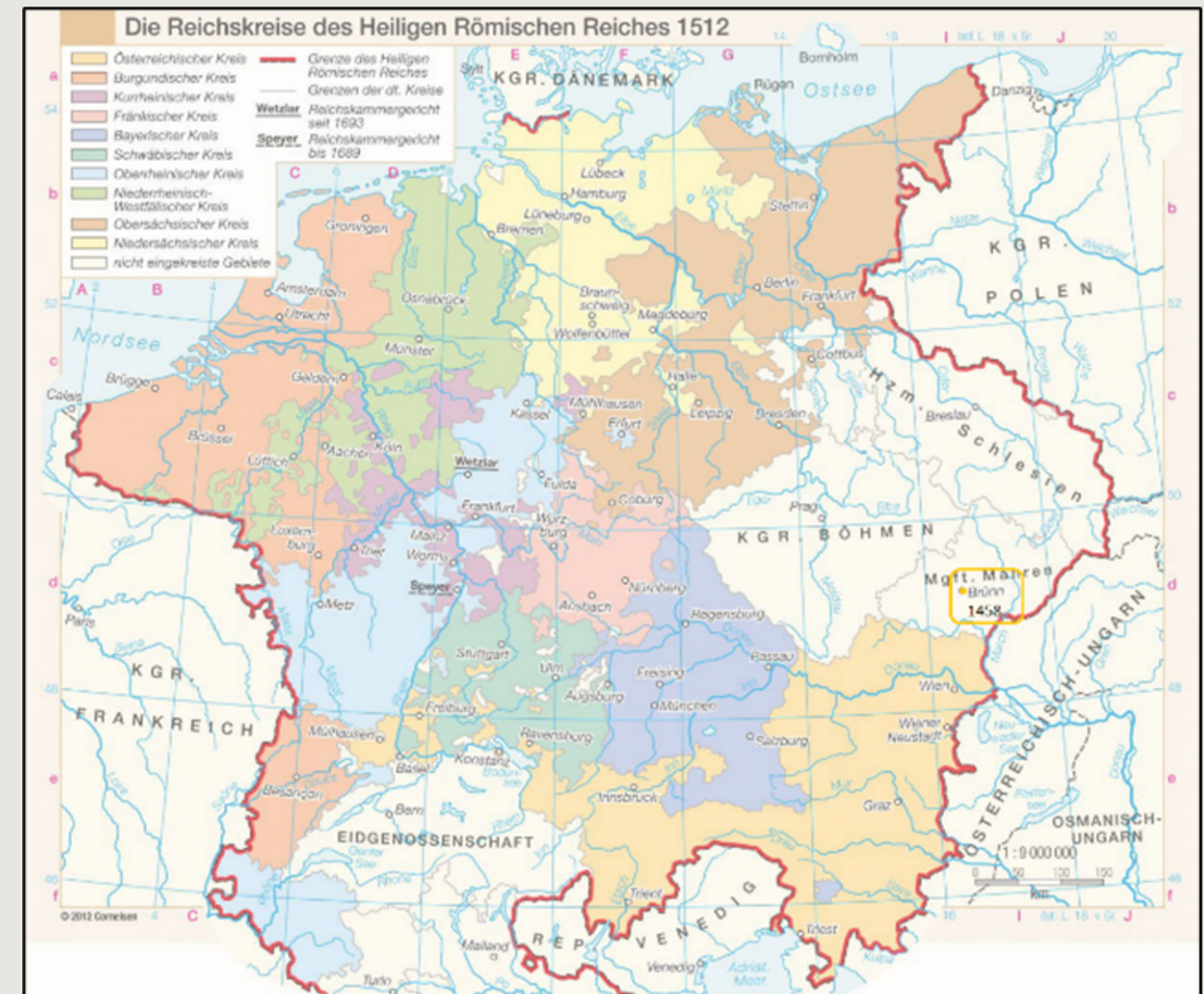
One direct match - watermark n. 41427,
Brünn - 1458

Holding institution and period

- (Archive of Cologne) - 1457
- [(Archivio di Stato di Torino)- Chambéry - 1452]



J.B.VII.6.



Search in databases

2 Briquet - *bull's head & croissant*

Holding institution + period + (geographical reference of use)

Mostly **French entries** (up to XVIIth century)

Fewer matches

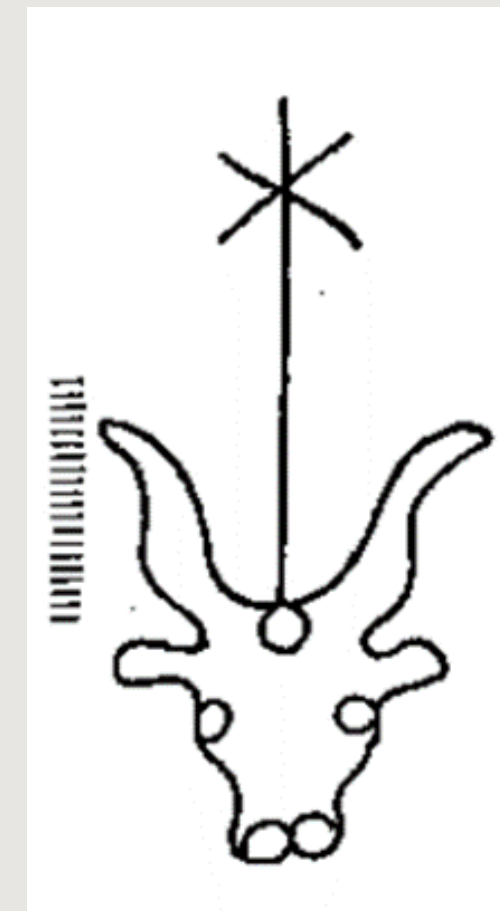
Provenance and period

Bull's head

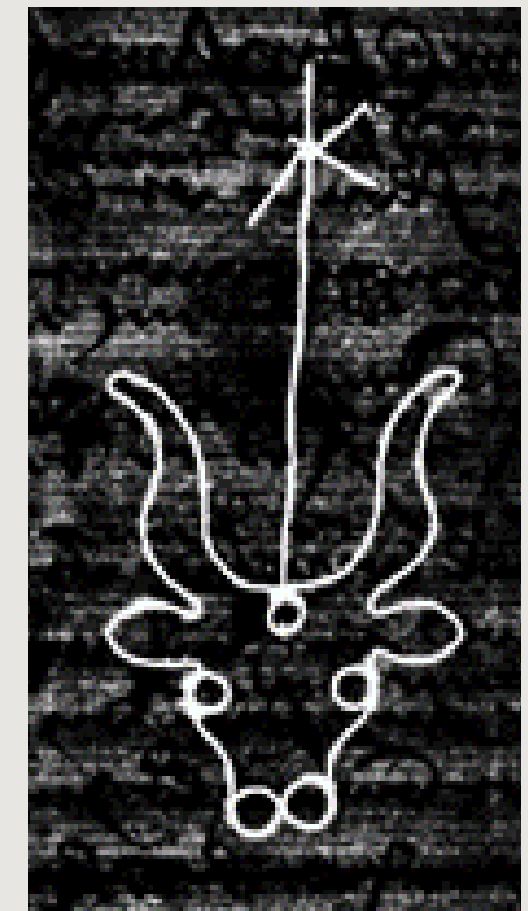
- Gr. 1 - [n. 15106 - Hildesheim (Germany) - 1452]
- Gr 3 - n. 15105 - Fribourg (Switzerland) - 1449

Croissant

- n. 5291 - Grenoble - Southern France - 1443



n. 15105



Gr. 3
J.B.VII.6.

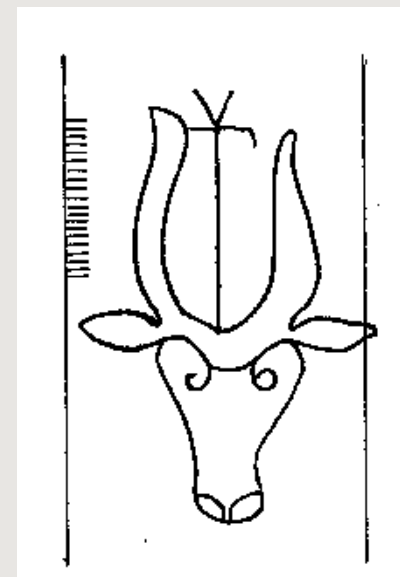
Search in databases

2 Briquet - *bull's head* reference

"Dans les n° 15.037 à 15.117, la tête de bœuf est surmontée d'un trait étoilé ou d'une étoile (...). (Les types 15.045 à 15.090) Il semble que la plus grande partie du papier ainsi marqué soit originaire du midi de la France, ou du Piémont. (...) Dans le groupe 15.103 à 15.112, la tête de bœuf porte au front un petit cercle, d'où s'élève le trait étoilé"



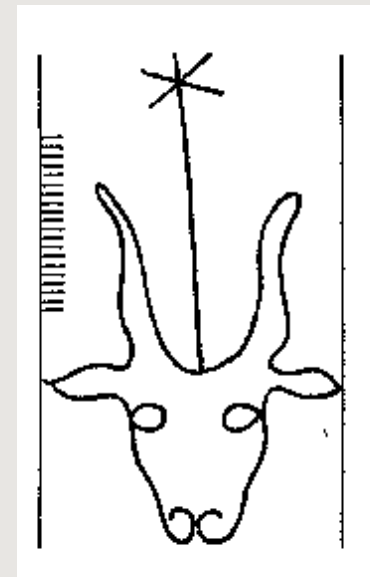
J.B.VII.
6.



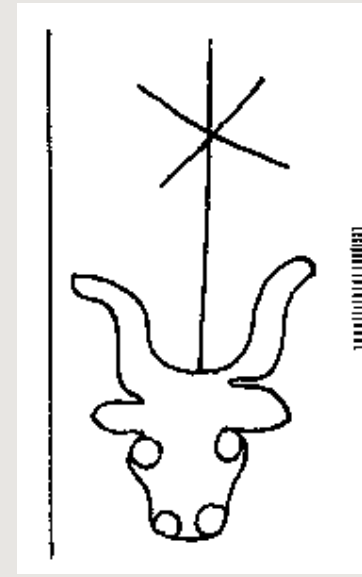
n. 15040
1391



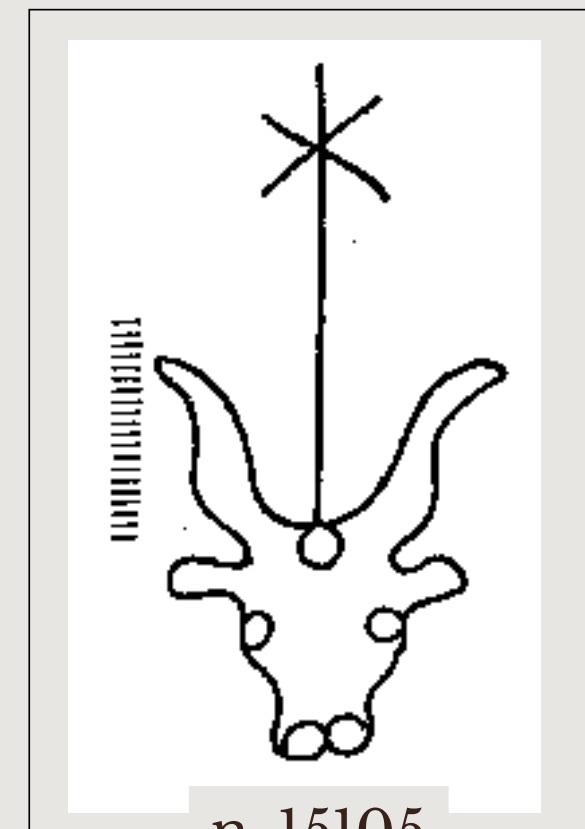
n. 15042
1404



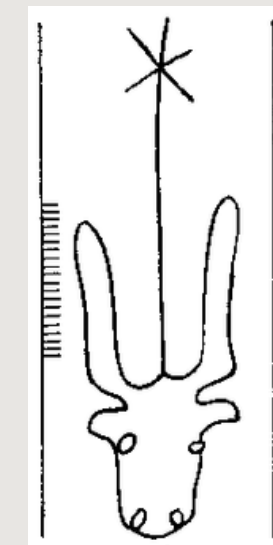
n. 15049
1427



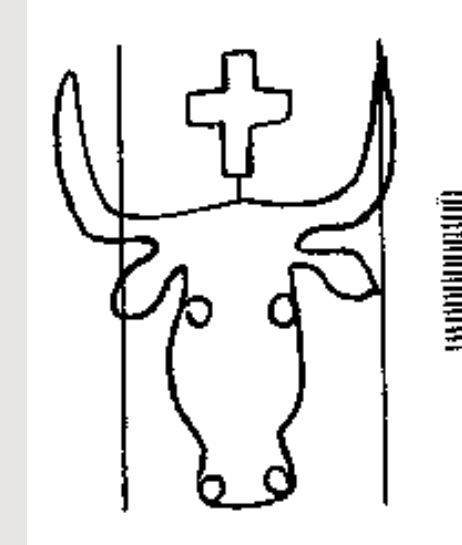
n. 15063
1450



n. 15105
1449



n. 15084
1471



n. 15037
1518

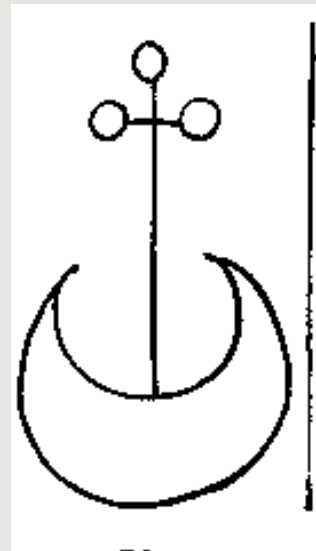
Search in databases

2 Briquet - *croissant* reference

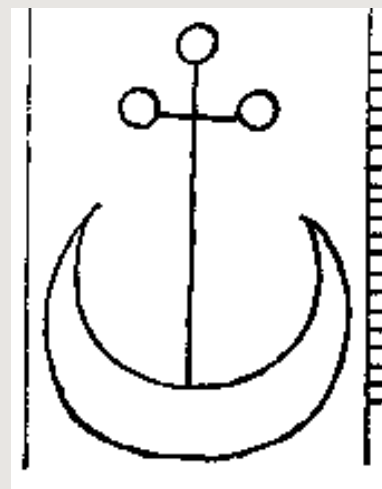
"Le groupe 5287 à 5293 à croix pommée est plus homogène et doit venir du midi de la France ou du Piémont"



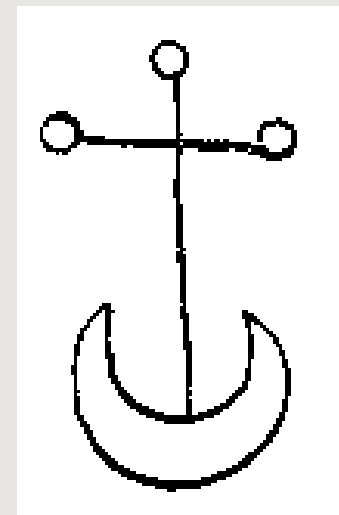
J.B.VII.
6.



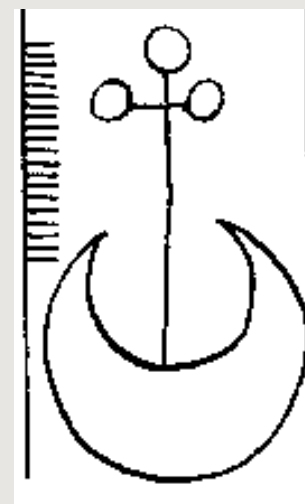
n. 5287
1399



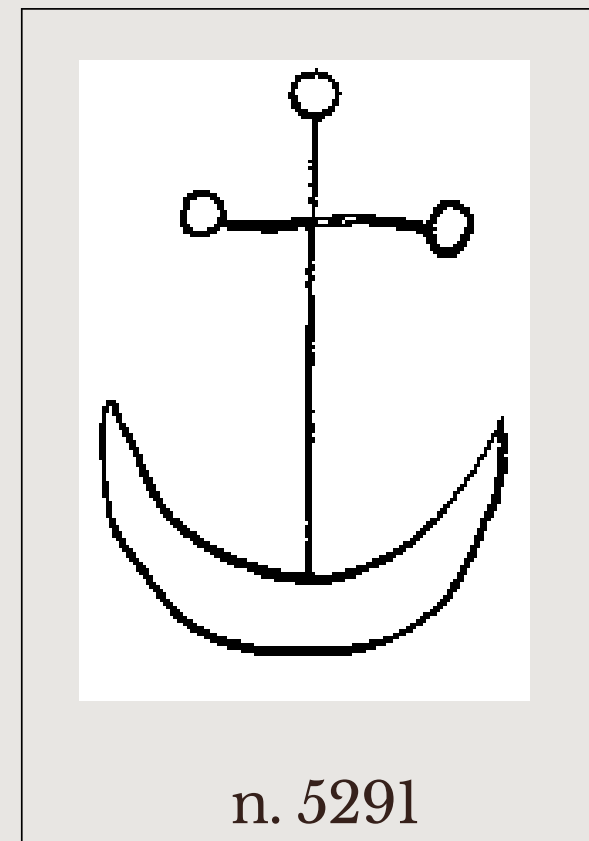
n. 5288
1414



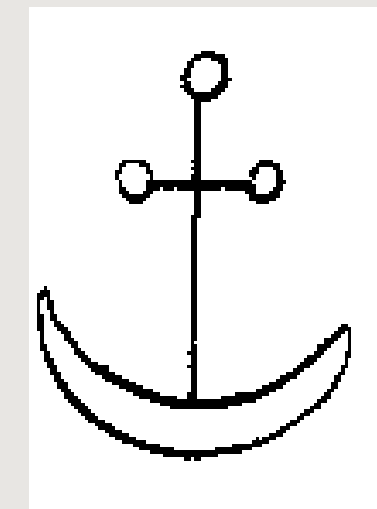
n. 5289
1418



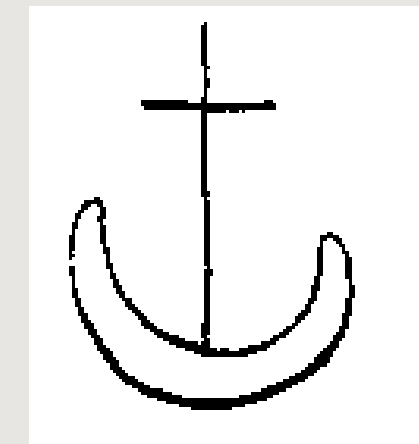
n. 5290
1420



n. 5291
1443



n. 5292
1471



n. 5293
1477

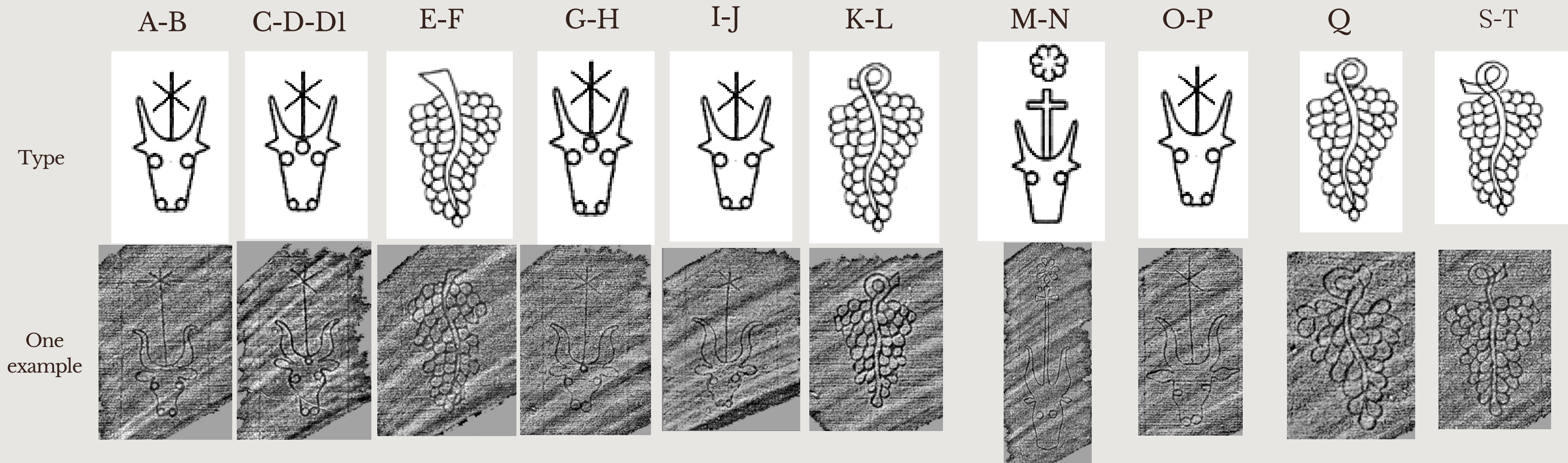
Search in databases

3 **WZMA** - *Wasserzeichen des Mittelalters* - *Watermarks of the Middle Ages* - *cod. 69*

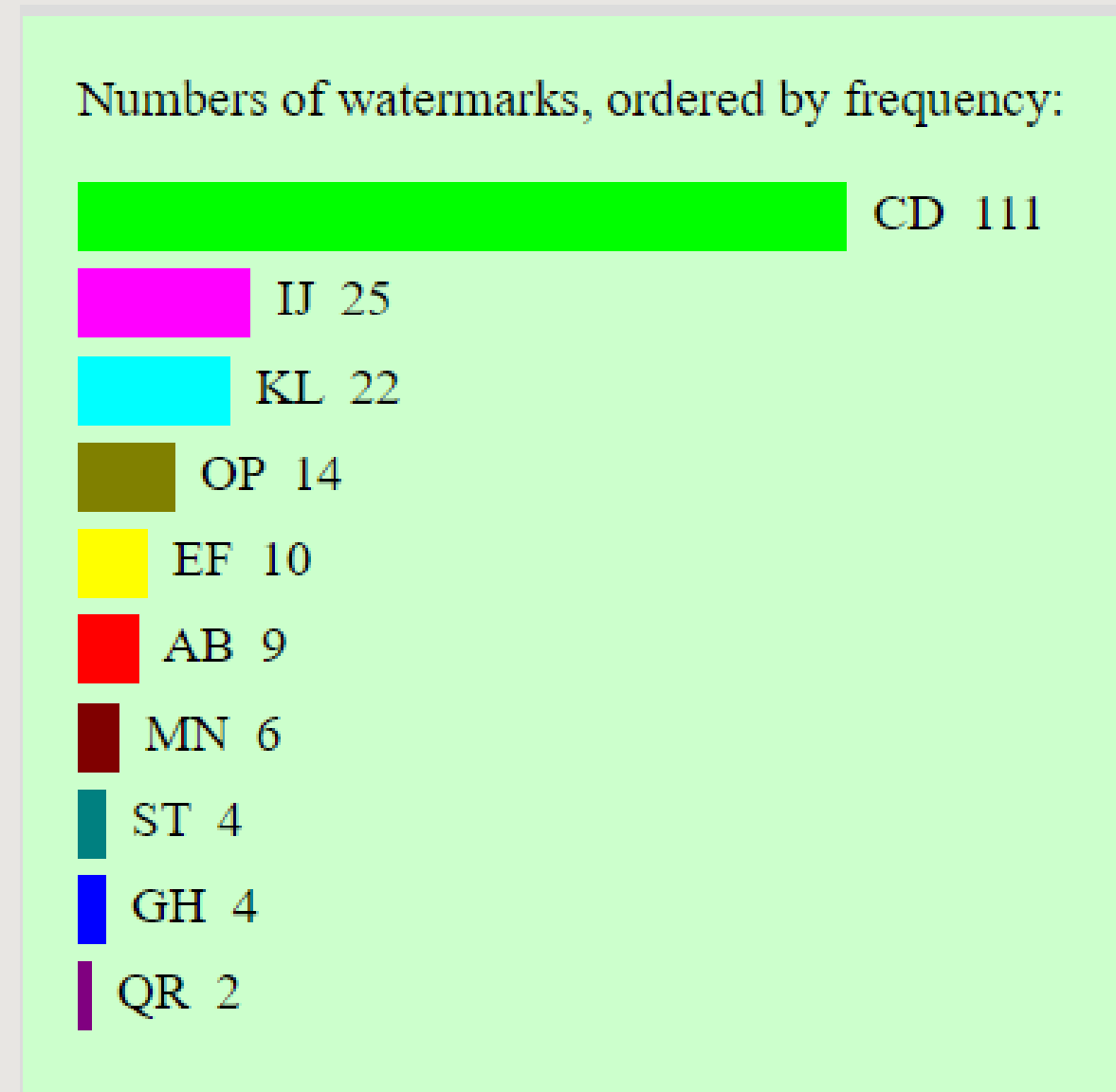
Holding institution + period -> no geographical matches

All *bull's head* matches are from **Cod. 69** - Insbruck University and State Library of South Tyrol - 1452-1455

There are no matches for the *crescent moon*



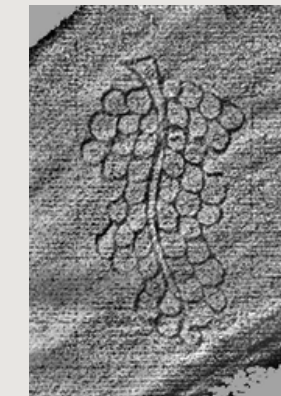
3 WZMA - *Wasserzeichen des Mittelalters* - *Watermarks of the Middle Ages* - cod. 69



I



B42



F



6b. Gr II, mL4

B42



C



Gr. 2
J.B.VII.6.

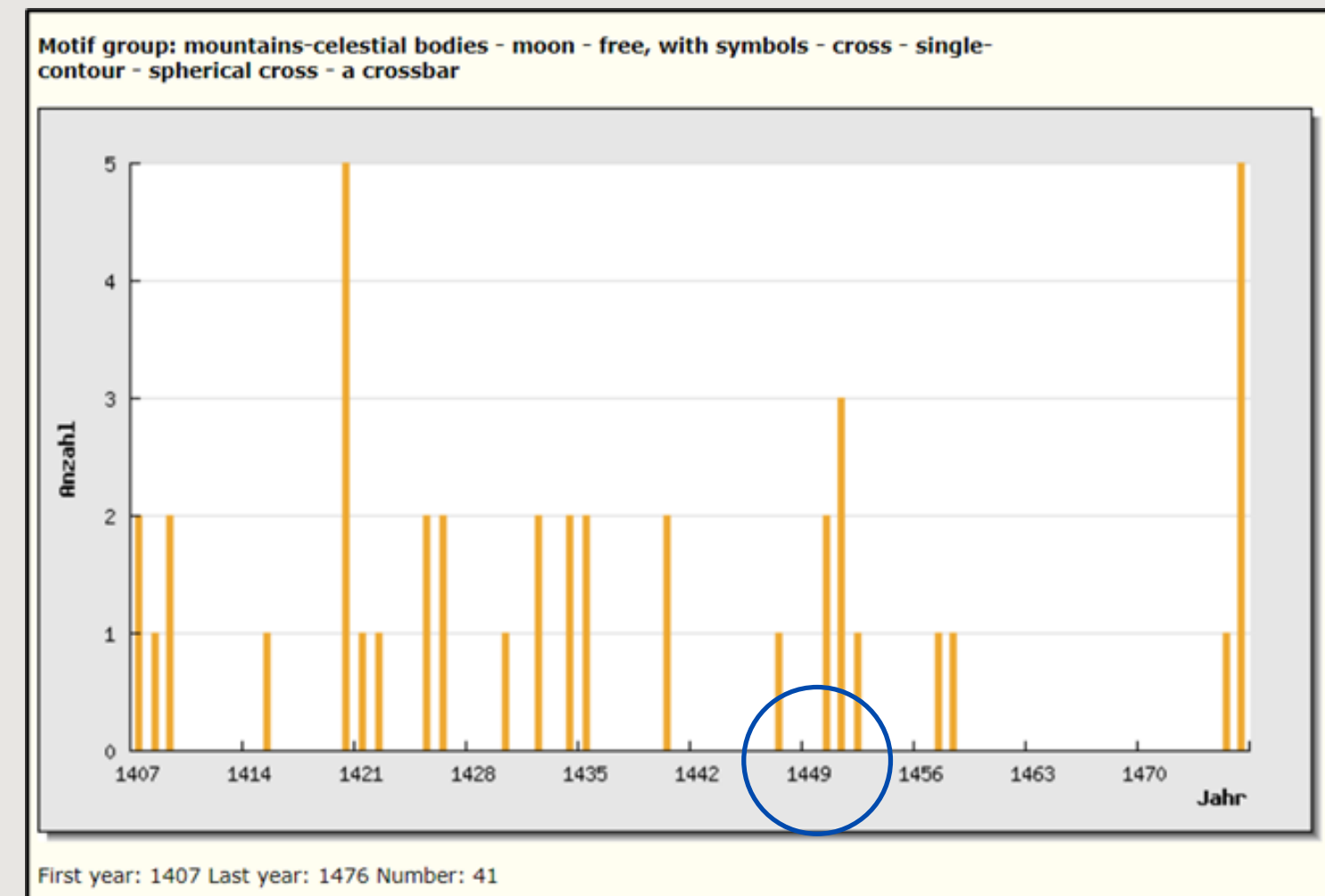
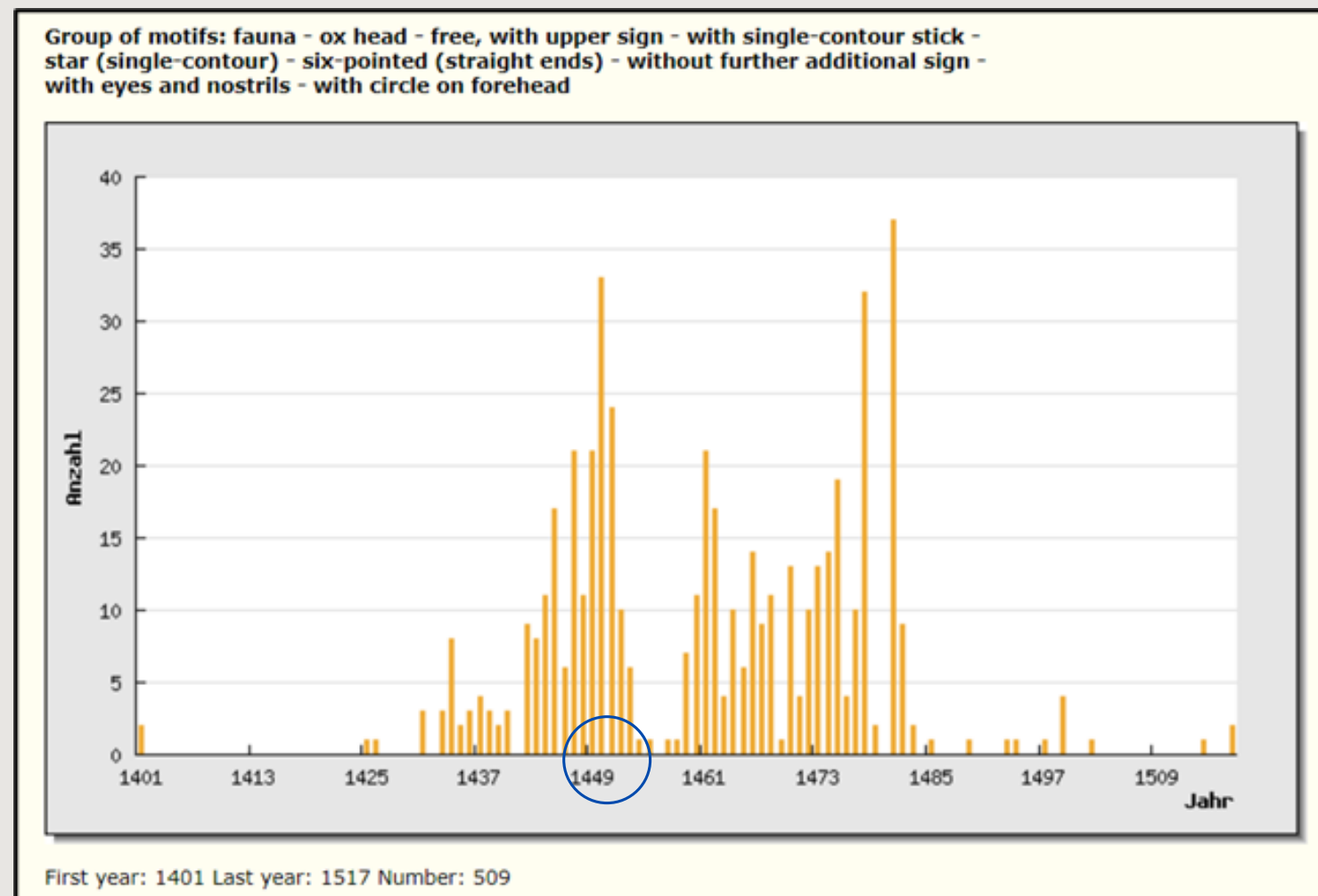
The co-presence in cod. 69 of the same watermarks found in B42 and J.B.VII.6.

Search in databases

3 WZMA - *Wasserzeichen des Mittelalters* - *Watermarks of the Middle Ages*

Mostly Austrian - South Tyrol entries

Graphs available of all watermarks -> data does not refer directly to J.B.VII.6.
High use in 1449 approx.



Descriptions

1

Piccard - Bernstein

Bull's head

Bull's head with eyes and nostrils, above star consisting of one line, rod over circle in head

2

Briquet

Tête de Boeuf, à yeux et à narines, surmontée d'un trait ou d'une étoile

3

WZMA

Oxhead, free, with upper sign, with a single-contour rod, with a star (single contour), six rayed (straight ends), without any further indication, with eyes and nostrils, with circle on the forehead

Crescent moon

Luminary, crescent with cross, cross with circular extremities

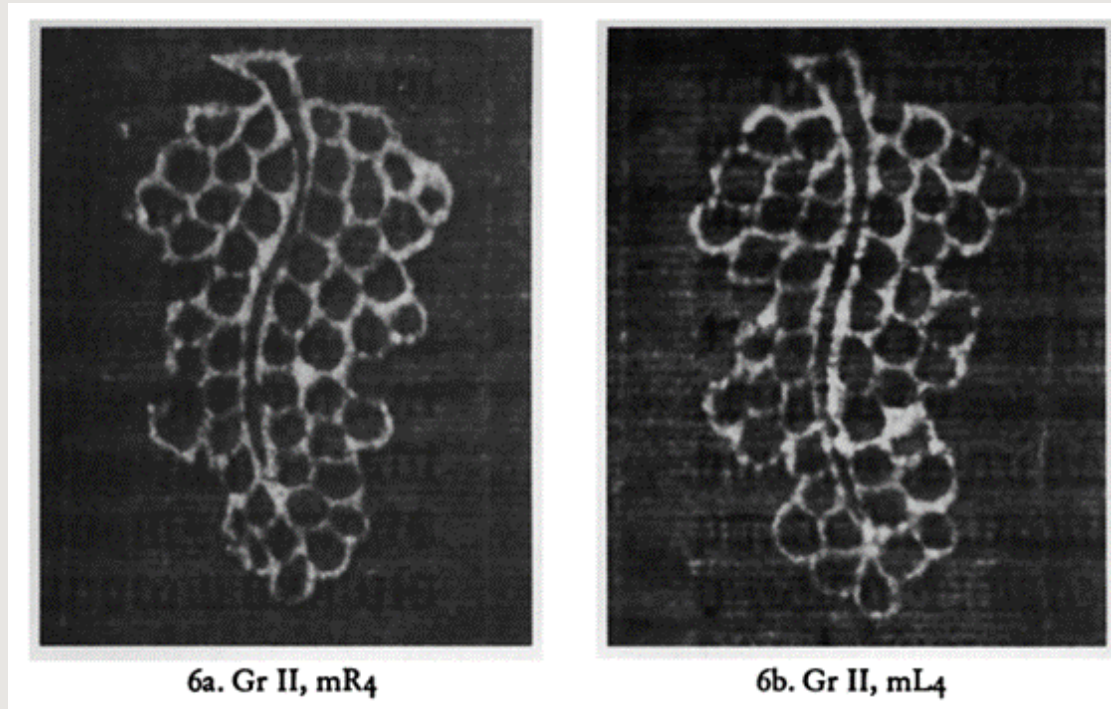
Croissant, les pointes tournées en haut on en bas, croix pommée

Luminaries, moon, detached, with additional motif, cross consisting in one line, pommety cross, one transverse fess

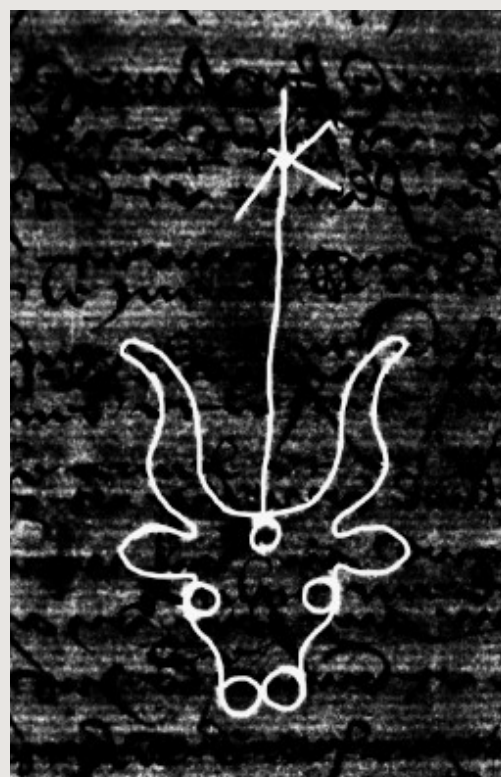
Search in bibliography

B-42

The paper of B-42 was produced in **Caselle Torinese** papermill



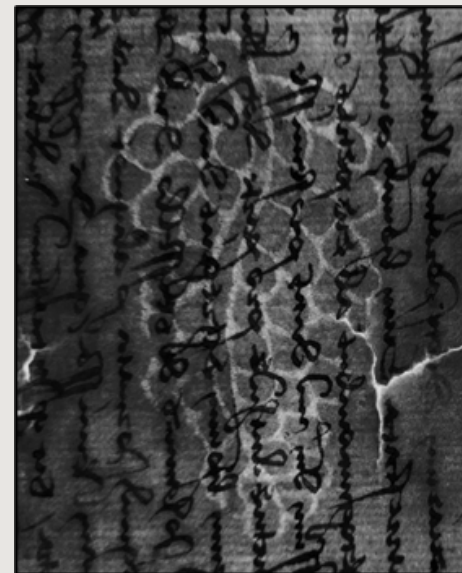
Gr II from B42



Group 3 -
J.B.VII.6.



Bull's head [a]
from B42



Grape from *Genève* -
ASTo - where n° 76843
from Piccard is found



Cod. 69 - where similar
watermarks to J.B.VII.6.
are found

Source

*The paper supply of
the Gutenberg Bible,*
Paul Needham
*The papers of the
bibliographical society
of america, vol 79,*
1985

Search in original material

Archivio di Stato di Torino

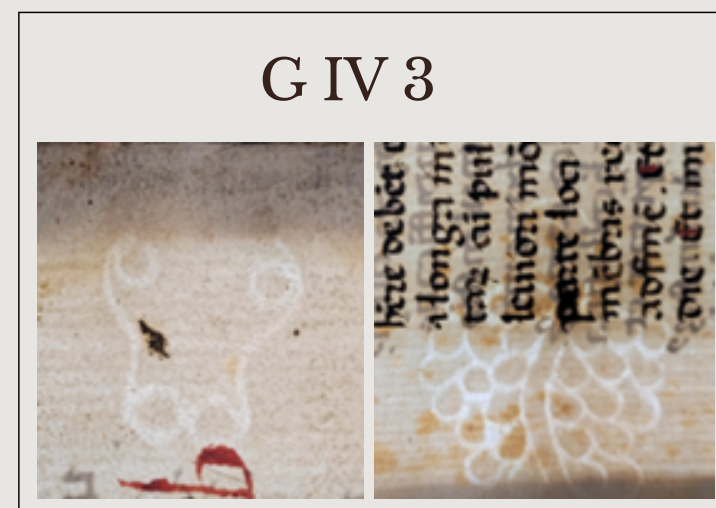
Genève 14° Cat in ASTo - all watermarks from 1444 to 1460

- **bull's head** without circle from 1444 to 1460
- *bull's head* with circle in 1447-1448
- other watermarks + **grape** as in B42 (and cod. 69)

National University Library in Torino

All paper manuscript from XV century:

- incomplete *bull's head*
- **Grape** as in B42



Diocesan Library in Aosta

In Bornyon Library there are no matches at all in: watermarks, binding, dimensions and content.

NB. the cataloguing of books is, at this day, to be completed

- Manuscripts
 - Liturgical = completed
 - Non liturgical = not completed
- Incunabola: completed
- XVI century printed books: work in progress

Paper structures

Dimensions

- height x width -> J.B.VII.6. = **290x412 mm**

Size

- Length + Height -> J.B.VII.6. = **702mm**

Proportion

- Height / Length -> J.B.VII.6. = **0,703**

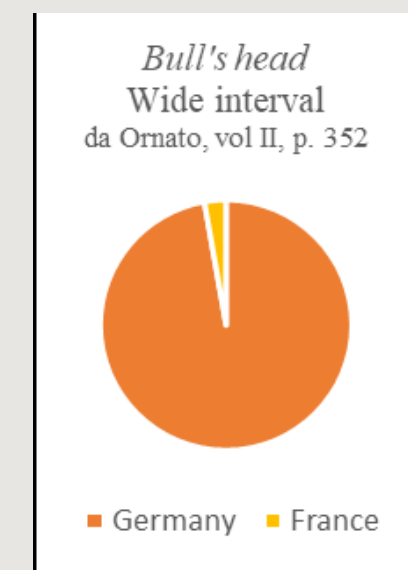
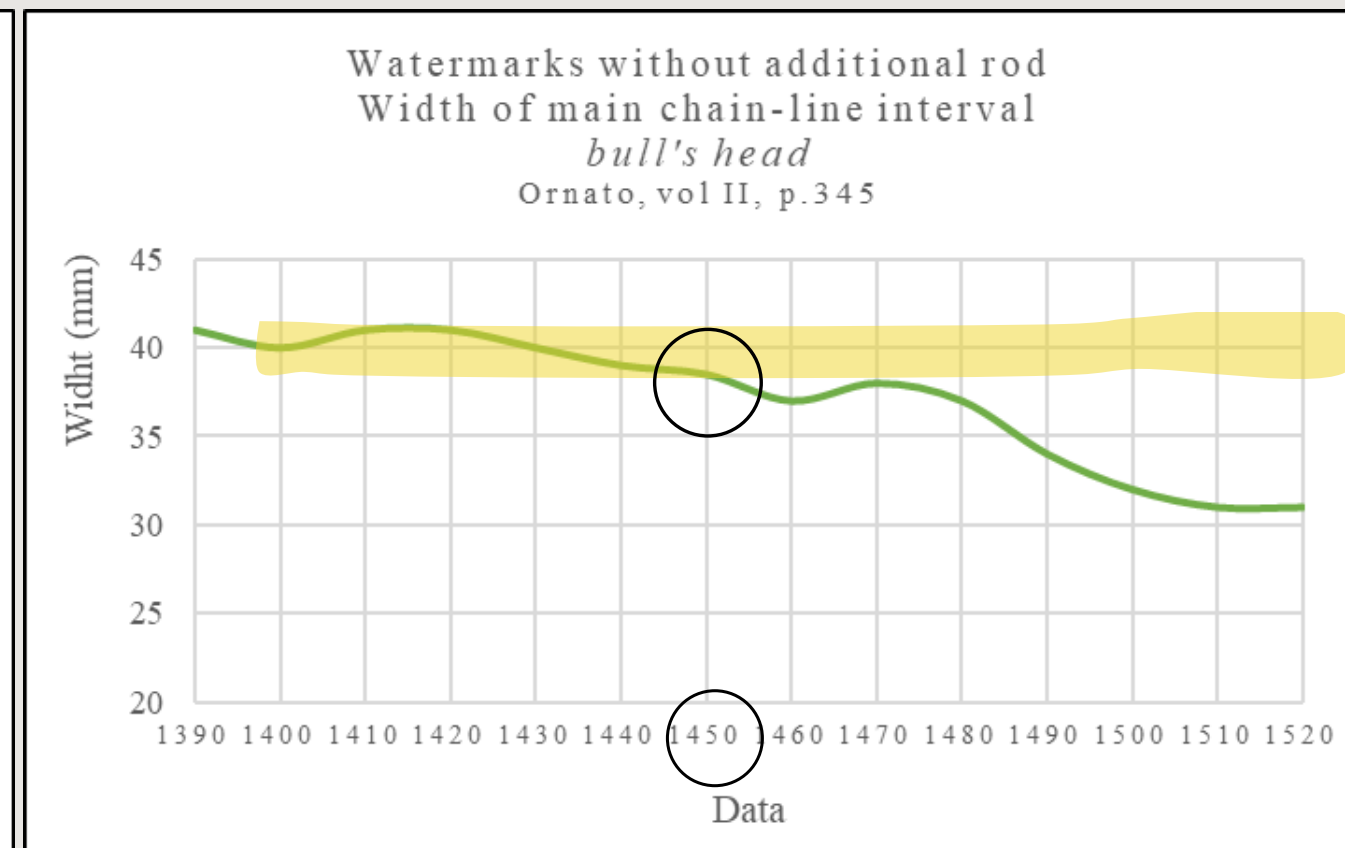
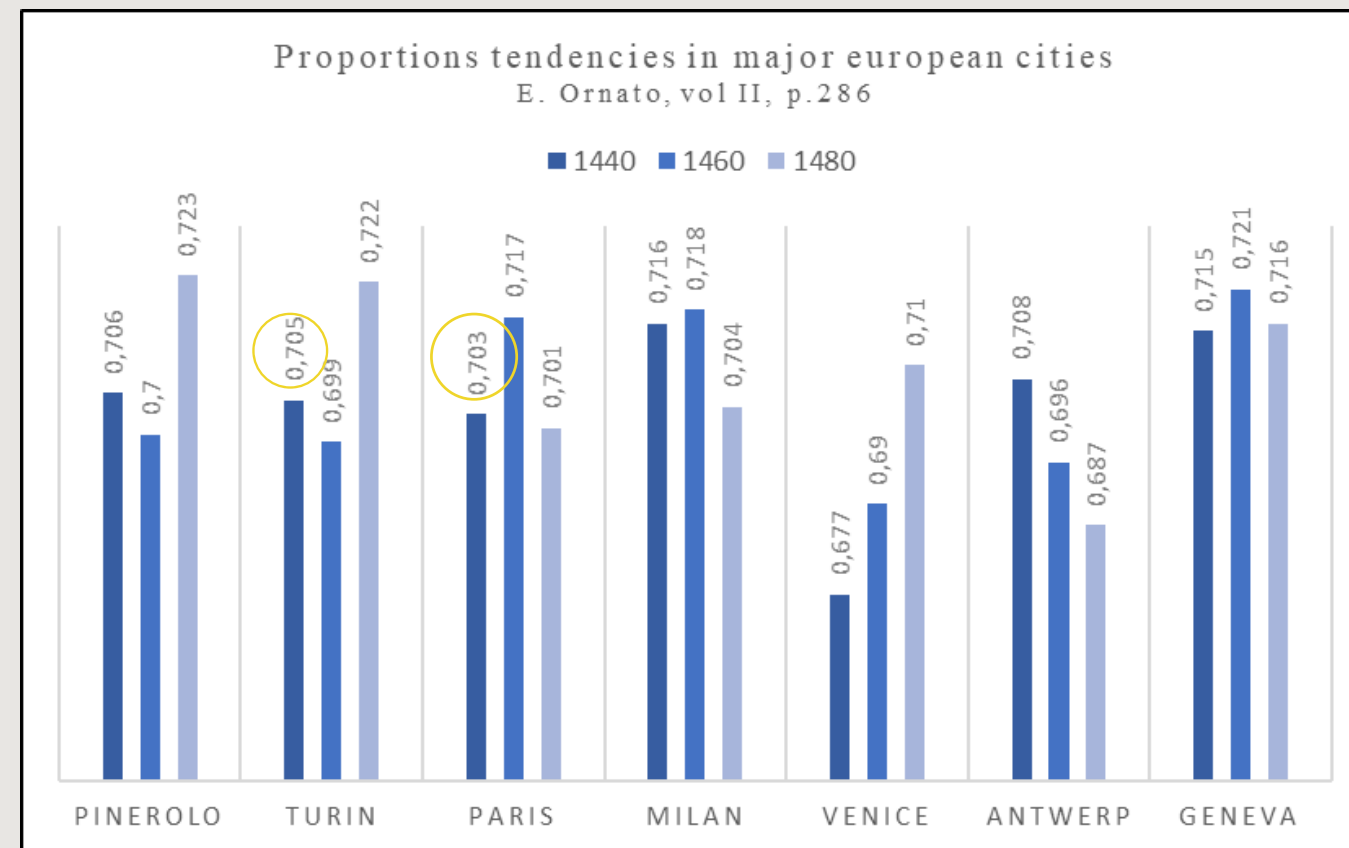
Main chain-line interval - >
J.B.VII.6. = **38mm**

- **Wide interval** : 33-44 mm
(J.B.VII.6. =38mm)
- **Narrow interval** : 22-33 mm

Source

Progetto Carta

E. Ornato, P. Busonero, P. F. Munafò, M. Storace,
La carta occidentale nel tardo medioevo,
Roma, 2001



Conclusions

Watermarks

Co-presence of similar watermarks to J.B.VII.6. and watermarks from B42

- Cod 69 (WZMA) - *bull's head* [a] with and without circle + grape B42
- *Genève* from ASTo - direct match for J.B.VII.6. + grape B42

Paper structures

- Size closer to Northern Italy
- Proportions closer to Northern Italy and France (especially Turin and Paris)
- High percentage of Italian books are *in-folio*
- Wider chain-line intervals are more likely found in France (than Germany)

Many elements support the hypothesis that J.B.VII.6.'s paper was produced in Piedmont, in Caselle Torinese paper mill, regardless of direct matches in catalogues and databases.

It can be said, with very little doubt, that the production period falls between 1442 and 1451.

THANK YOU

For Listening

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