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SELECTED GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS

Reference numbers in square brackets refer to sections of the relevant texts whose titles are abbreviated as follows: *Chiromantia parva* = Cp; *Chiromantia* in the Eadwine Psalter = Ce; *Main de home* = Mh; *Main de femme* = Mf; *Palmistria Salomonis* = Ps; quotations from Isidore of Seville are drawn from *Isidori Hispalensis Episcopi, Etymologiarum sive Originum libri viginti* XI,1, *recognovit brevique adnotatione critica instruxit* W.M. Lindsay, Oxford 1911, vol. II, p. 1182.

accidentales: see *lignes accidentales*

angle: the three natural lines on the palm of each hand which make up a triangle, namely *sovereins angles* 'upper angle', *angle plus basse en destre* 'lower right angle' and *terz angle* 'lower left angle', see Cp[12-14]

auriculere (deit): the fifth, or little finger, frequently used to scratch the ear, see Isidore, *Etymologiae* XI 1.72: "Quintus auricularis, pro eo quod eo aurem scalpimus.", see Cp[30]

auriculere (ligne): see *ligne auriculere*

coing: < lat. CONO, the mount (raised portion of flesh) of the thumb which together with the outer edge of the palm closes the concave part of the palm in which is inscribed the triangle, see Cp[34]

chef: The end of a line as opposed to its root, see *racine*

coste: the outer edge of the palm, or *acumen*, the fleshy part of the hand uniting the palm and back of the hand with which one strikes blows

demostrour/demotrer/demostrur/demestrer:

index finger, according to Isidore used to indicate, *Etymologiae* XI,1.70 "Secundus index et salutaris seu demonstratorius, quia eo fere salutamus vel ostendimus", see Cp[24]

decrevesce: a short, broken line, translating Lat. *rimula* and, in some texts, *virgule*, see Cp[18] ms D

destre: see *ligne destre*

eu[ri]gleus: little finger, see Mh[3]

figure: a visible sign in various parts of the hand or inscribed in a drawing of the lines of a hand, such as a star, a cross, a circle, a rhombus, or a dot, sometimes accompanied by letters and numbers

instance: judgement, see Cp[40]

leyse: breadth, see Ce[7]

lignes accidentales: lines which have no significance for *iudicia*, being generated by 'accidental' or 'extrinsic'

- factors such as cold, heat, manual labour etc., see Cp[6]
- ligne auriculere / auriculiere*: a line that stands at the base of the little finger, see Cp[30, 31]
- ligne destre*: the righthand line of the triangle, one of the three 'natural' lines
- ligne mensele*: the mensal – or table-line, 'line of Fortune', which runs above the triangle across the length of the table of the hand. It begins at the outer edge of the palm or beneath the little finger, here also called *ligne tabilouse*. see Wartburg, *FEW* VI,i 711a (1549)
- lignes natureles*: The three lines composing the triangle, namely the *destre ligne*, the *sovereigne ligne* and the *ligne plus basse*, together with the *ligne mensele* or *ligne tabilouse*. They are present in every man's or woman's hand and are very relevant to the *judicium*, see Cp[1], [4]
- lignes natureles et accidenteles*: The presence of these lines varies from person to person and is relevant to the judgement, see Cp[5]
- ligne plus haute*: also called *sovereigne ligne*, is the upper line of the triangle, one of the three 'natural' lines
- ligne plus basse*: the lower line of the triangle, also one of the three 'natural' lines
- men dey / mein dei / meyn dey / maien dey*: the third finger or *digitum medium*, also called *impudicus*, see Isidore of Seville, *Etymologiae* XI 1, 71: "Tertius impudicus, quod plerumque per eum probri insectatio exprimitur", see Cp[27]
- mensa*: the area between the mensal-line and the triangle, which in some texts seems to more or less correspond to the table of the hand, though no precise measurement is given
- mensele*: see *ligne mensele*
- natureles*: see *lignes natureles*
- natureles et accidenteles*: see *lignes natureles et accidenteles*
- ongle*: nail, see Cp[36], [38]
- paume*: the palm of the hand (Lat. *planities*)
- pertus*: translates Lat. *foramen*, 'hole, opening' see Cp[43] and *pertusees* 'pierced', Cp[3]
- poucier/pocier*: thumb. The first finger takes its name from its being considered the preeminent finger, see Isidore, *Etymologiae* XI 1. 70: "Primus pollex vocatus, eo quod inter ceteros polleat virtute et potestate", see Cp[34], Ce[16]
- racine*: the root of the finger, the point at which the finger meets the bones of the hand; 2. The end of a line as opposed to *chef*
- sovereine / sovereigne ligne*: one of the three natural lines, also *sovereigne naturele*, Ce[9]
- table*: translating Lat. *mensa*, also used to indicate the area of the hand which lies between the median line and the table-line, *table mensele* Cp[30]
- tabilouse (ligne), tablose*: the *linea mensalis*, because it crosses longitudinally the table. In other chiromantic texts it is also called the 'median', see Cp[1], [4], [8]
- triaungleltreangleltreangletryangle*: the triangle composed by the three natural lines, viz. the *sovereine ligne*, the *ligne destre* and the *ligne plus basse*