The preceding sections discussed the wealth of evidence available to scholars studying the navicula—the instruments and manuscripts that can tell us about this instrument—and the information they contain. The instruments and manuscripts give evidence for a standard design of navicula, with castellated sights and mast-top, and many of the manuscripts are illustrated with diagrams showing the geometry of the instrument. One of these, in AB, shows a navicula very similar to the surviving instruments (figure 9). Although this manuscript does contain a text about the construction of the navicula, whose text refers the reader to a figure, it is very unlikely that this is the missing diagram from that text. It is in a different quire to the navicula text, on a folio that has been re-used, with a list of zodiac signs written on it after the navicula was drawn, and then a lunar and solar volvelle constructed after that, and labelled by a different scribe to the one that copied the text on the navicula. The diagram shows a completed instrument, accurately drawn, although the sights at the upper left and right of the instrument are rather roughly copied. There is no trace of construction lines, suggesting that this diagram was copied or traced, whether from an instrument or another image. Whichever was the case, the illustration shows a navicula very similar to the four surviving fifteenth-century instruments, and of a similar size—72mm between the noon and midnight lines, with a mast measuring 68mm from the 0 to 60 degree points. The drawings also show a navicula with a zodiac date table exactly the same as those on surviving instruments, but because the back of the mast is not shown there is no information about whether it would have had a list of towns and their latitudes on it. The decorative features of the diagram show many similarities with the design of the surviving instruments, details that are not fully specified in any of the known texts on constructing the navicula.

No other manuscripts have diagrams like this, showing the whole instrument; other sets of diagrams are more geometrical. This section considers the relationship of these diagrams to the surviving instruments and to the standard design, and therefore their function. Were
Fig. 9 The navicula, front and back, from Aberdeen University Library, MS 123, f. 65v and ff. 65r. Reproduced by permission of the University of Aberdeen.