

NCGR GEOCOSMIC

JOURNAL

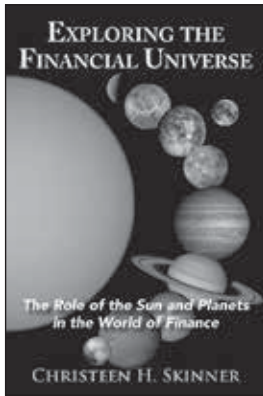
Winter 2017

**THE MANY FACES OF
ASTROLOGY**

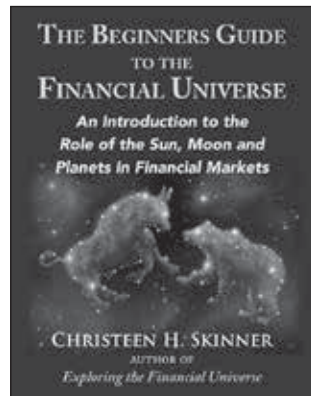


IBIS PRESS

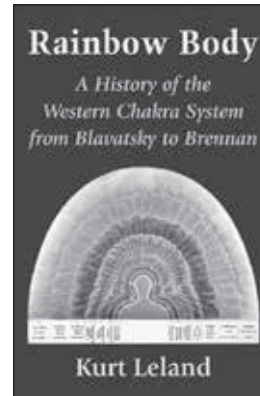
ASTROLOGY FOR ASTROLOGERS



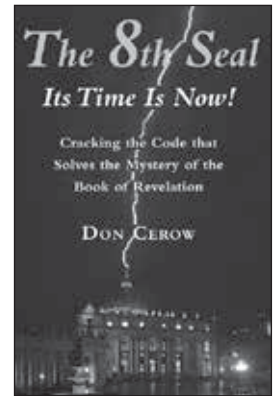
Exploring the Financial Universe
CHRISTEEN H. SKINNER
224 pp. • 6 x 9 • \$22.95



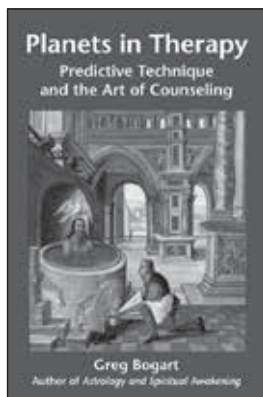
Beginners Guide to the Financial Universe
CHRISTEEN H. SKINNER
208 pp. • 8½ x 11 • \$24.95



Rainbow Body
Western Chakra System
KURT LELAND
530 pp. • 6 x 9 • \$26.95



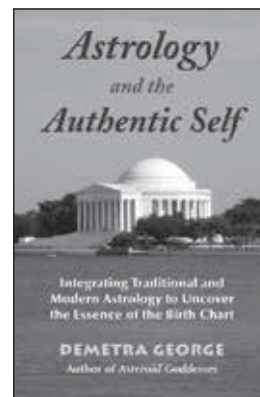
The 8th Seal
Book of Revelation
DON CEROW
368 pp. • 6 x 9 • \$26.95



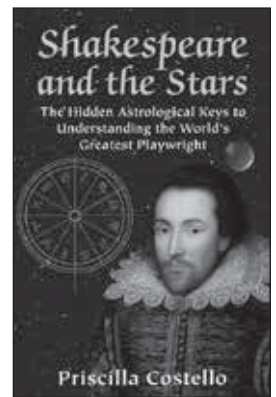
Planets in Therapy
The Art of Counseling
GREG BOGART
384 pp. • 6 x 9 • \$24.95



When the Dragon Wore the Crown
DON CEROW
240 pp. • 8½ x 11 • \$26.95



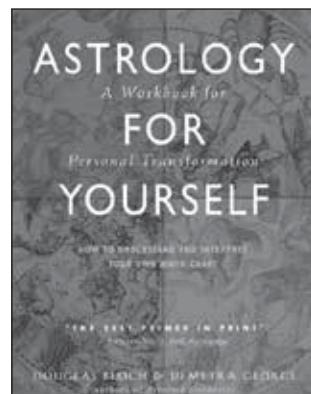
Astrology and the Authentic Self
DEMETRA GEORGE
320 pp. • 6 x 9 • \$24.95



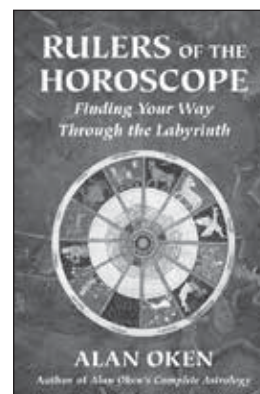
Shakespeare and the Stars
PRISCILLA COSTELLO
552 pp. • 6 x 9 • \$29.95



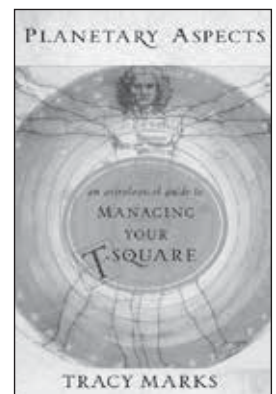
Planetary Threads
Patterns of Relating
LYNN BELL
320 pp. • 6 x 9 • \$21.95



Astrology for Yourself
DOUGLAS BLOCH AND
DEMETRA GEORGE
272 pp. • 8½ x 11 • \$19.95



Rulers of the Horoscope
ALAN OKEN
320 pp. • 6 x 9 • \$19.95



Planetary Aspects Managing T-Square
TRACY MARKS
280 pp. • 6 x 9 • \$19.95

**EDITOR AND
PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR**

LEIGH WESTIN

**REVIEW AND EDITORIAL
COMMITTEE**

DAVID PERLOFF
SCOTT SILVERMAN

**FORMAT AND GRAPHIC
DESIGN**

LORETTA LOPEZ

ADVERTISING

ARLENE NIMARK
1242 E. 8TH STREET
BROOKLYN NY 11230
718-377-0482
ARLENENIMARK@GMAIL.COM

NCGR HEADQUARTERS

ALVIN BURNS
SECRETARY
1351 MARYLAND AVE., NE
APT. B,
WASHINGTON DC 20002
212-838-NCGR
EXECSEC@GEOCOSMIC.ORG

SUBMISSIONS

SEE GEOCOSMIC JOURNAL
WWW.GEOCOSMIC.ORG

Featured on the front cover is the Horsehead Nebula, one of the most famous celestial objects. Located just south of the star Alnitak in Orion's belt and in the same constellation, the nebula is about 1,500 light years from Earth. Also known as Barnard 33 since the American astronomer, Edward Barnard, was the first to catalogue it in 1913; but it was first recorded on photographic plate in 1888 by Scottish astronomer, Williamina Fleming, at the Harvard College Observatory. Even so it's discovery may go back to 18th century William Hershel who described a hole in the heavens which some claim to be the dark spot created by the Horsehead Nebula.

Copyright © 2017 NCGR, Inc.
Printed in the United States of America
Single Issue \$10.00

Contents

- 4 Mundane Prediction with Eclipses
By Bill Meridian
- 6 Outer Planet Alignments and Stock Market Crashes
By Christeen Skinner
- 15 Toward a Multi-Dimensional View of Retrograde Motion
By Gary P. Caton
- 21 Bad Fortune of the Sixth House
By Baris Ilhan
- 23 Mental Chemistry and US Presidential Elections
By David Perloff
- 27 Does the Birth Chart Live On After Death?
By Alpee Lavoie
- 30 Reality Astrology: What is Your Style?
By Meira Epstein
- 33 Stock Market Forecasting Tools
By Kathy Allan
- 37 Vibrational Astrology: Harmonic Astrology for the 21st Century
By David Cochrane
- 43 Declination Dynamics
By Leigh Westin
- 49 The 2020 cycles: The Saturn-Pluto Conjunction on Planetary Nodes
By Maurice Fernandez
- 51 Introduction to Astrological Predictive Techniques
By Mónica Escalante-Ochoa
- 59 Astrology as Spiritual Path
By Brad Kochunas
- 63 Psychological Astrology
By Margaret Gray
- 66 The Horoscope of the Federal Reserve
By Bill Meridian
- 74 The Tell-Tale Chart
By Elizabeth Hazel
- 75 The Case of the Precious Pachyderm
A Book Review by Scott Silverman
- 80 NCGR Board, Chapter Contacts & SIGS

From the Editor

This Geocosmic Journal was planned to focus on articles from those that would present at the NCGR 2017 Conference, *The Many Faces of Astrology*. Yet there was little time to do so. Only three months earlier had the Research Journal been released to the publisher and mailed. Now this one was to be submitted by early December in order to be received by our membership before the conference.

What happened next, betwixt and between, was nothing short of stunning. A very special group of authors rose to the quest, prepared captivating articles, and with such diversity that included would-be-approaches for everyone, from beginner to professional to even the seeker of thought-provoking reading.

Bill Meridian leads off this issue with a manifested prediction. Bill demonstrates his eclipse technique and simplistically lays out the principles so that they easily can be followed.

Our second feature is a chapter from **Christeen Skinner's** new book, *Exploring the Financial Universe*, and printed herein with permission of the publisher, Ibis Press. Described are 10 of the worst stock market crashes since 1900 and the planetary signatures involved in each.

Next is an innovative, new approach to retrogrades originated by **Gary P. Caton**. Using Mars as a lens, retrogrades are described so that they may never be looked at in quite the same way again after seeing them through the words of this author.

Baris Ilian, provocatively intrigues with her title, "Bad Fortune of the Sixth House," and goes on to explain how such can be positively approached and contained.

Following is **David Perloff's** rendition of determining a type of mental chemistry, using the speed of the Moon and the positioning of Mercury relative to the Sun. This practical information is related to US Presidents and former candidates in a clearly written style that easily can be adapted and applied.

Our next writer, **Meira Epstein**, wisely highlights important considerations in order to navigate the sometimes rocky road to learning astrology and does so using "good old-fashioned," reality checks.

Alphee Lavoie examines the idea of a chart continuing to function after the native dies. A fascinating case ensues as the chart for John F. Kennedy is applied to several family events after Kennedy's death.

Monica Escalante-Ochoa offers an excellent introductory piece on applying various predictive techniques, including progressions, solar arc, transits, etc., and demonstrates as they manifest on the physical, emotional and spiritual levels.

David Cochrane, candidly shares for the first time how he became interested in our craft, and describes the idea of Vibrational Astrology as a different and separate entity apart from other major traditions of astrological thought.

Using several predictive tools, the lunar Nodes, eclipses, occultations and stations, **Kathy Allan** analyzes in case studies, the astrological factors that were in operation on days when the stock market was significantly affected.

Our next feature by **Brad Kochunas** looks at astrology philosophically with an entirely different viewpoint and poetically refers to the sky as "*the perfect container for a global spirituality for it is something under which we all gather and share in common.*"

Following is a riveting piece by **Maruice Fernandez**, focusing on cycles that converge in the year, 2020, especially the Saturn-Pluto conjunction and the Jupiter-Saturn conjunction at 0° Aquarius.

Next **Leigh Westin** presents salient features of declination, including major power points, different types of parallels, how they appear in the sky, and the often overlooked evidence of the relationship to midpoint theory.

Following is **Margaret Gray's** piece on psychological astrology that addresses the human quest of not only seeking happiness in life, but also of finding understanding, clarity and meaning.

We conclude the articles from the conference presenters with **Bill Meridian's** "Horoscope of the Federal Reserve." Although this is a reprint from a 1985 NCGR Journal, it has since been updated and is most timely, considering the current emphasis on the economy.

The next article serves as a timely announcement from an NCGR Chapter that decided to change its name and set up in time a more friendly chart. Using traditional techniques, **Elizabeth Hazel**, describes the methodology and the process to make such a change and does so in a lively fashion that will keep you engaged right to the end.

Our final piece focuses on **Karen Christino's** book, *The Precious Pachyderm*, as reviewed by **Scott Silverman** in his always entertaining, individual style.

To each of our authors, please accept my sincere appreciation for rising to the occasion so that this issue could be brought to fruition.

To **David Perloff** and **Scott Silverman**, please my sincere thanks for agreeing to join the Geocosmic Journal Review Committee and for all the hours of work that was done, evaluating and editing articles.

To **Loretta Lopez**, please accept my thanks once again for taking on the job of formatting this issue right on the heels of the former and meeting both almost impossible deadlines.

Now as our reader, it is hoped that you will enjoy this issue and overall find much reading pleasure.

Leigh Westin

From the Chair

As I sit down to write this, we have passed the last square of Saturn to Neptune and are moving into a time with Saturn trine Uranus and Jupiter opposing Uranus. Hopefully, this will enable the country to move forward, balancing the best of the old (Saturn) for what's needed with the new (Uranus).


NCGR's stated mission is *"building community through astrological research and education."* And this is precisely what we try to do with all our educational programs from online classes and webinars to conferences, and most of all, through our local chapters where members can get to know one another.

Our upcoming conference in Baltimore in February, 2017 (see <http://ncgrconference2017.com/>) is another step in that direction. This conference features many long-time NCGR favorite speakers as well as more new speakers than any conference before it.

All but one of the articles in this Journal are written by conference speakers. In line with the title for the conference, *The Many Faces of Astrology*, this journal and the conference focus on the many branches of astrology – from traditional to mundane, financial and predictive to psychological and spiritual to research.

This is in line with NCGR's mission to be a *large tent* for all types of astrological interests. As astrologers, we have many different points of view (after all we are ruled by Uranus). Hopefully despite what branch of astrology we focus on, we can come together and learn as one community.

Joyce Levine
Chair Pro Tem



Solar Fire 9

Let the reviewers speak

A pleasure to interact with! Easy to use, fluid and can be custom fitted to suit your own individual requirements. More than enough applications to keep even the most experimental of you in a sustained state of bliss!—*The Dublin Astrologer*

A terrific teaching tool and/or professional asset.—*Dell Horoscope*

An astrological program you are unlikely ever to outgrow.—*Caduceus Journal*

Solar Fire tops our list of the best astrology software. Gets a perfect 10 in all categories (Features, Chart Tools, Extras, Help & Support and Overall Rating).—*TopTenReviews.com*

Outselling all other astrology software on the market. Is it any wonder?—*The Horary Practitioner*

You can use Solar Fire 9 on Windows Vista to 10, Windows 8 or 10 Pro tablets, and Windows-enabled Macs.

ASTROLABE • SERVING ASTROLOGERS SINCE 1979 • ALABE.COM
Box 1750 • BREWSTER, MA 02631 • 508/896-5081 • 1 800 843-6682

Mundane Prediction with Eclipses

By Bill Meridian

This article analyzes a successful mundane prediction and summarizes the principles that were utilized. The analysis was derived from the “Planets and You” column in the September issue of *Dell Horoscope*. It reads:

“In September, there are two eclipses. On September 1st, there is a solar eclipse at 9 Virgo 21 (Figure 1), and there is a lunar eclipse on the 16th at 24 Pisces 20 (Figure 2). The solar eclipse is tough. It makes many hard aspects including an opposition to Neptune, a square to Saturn and Mars, and a 135° angle to Uranus. Saturn-Neptune has been associated with scandals in the past. It is also deflationary, so anyone who is over-extended financially will likely have difficulty. Mars-Neptune can bring epidemics or contamination. On August 21-22, Mars squared the eclipse point, giving us some idea of what to expect.

The eclipse opposes the natal Sun at 7° Pisces of Turkey’s Prime Minister Erdogan (February 26, 1954, Figure 3). The eclipse also squares his Mars at 9° Sagittarius and equals Neptune on a 90° dial. He came to power on March 13, 2003 with the Sun at 23° Pisces. The 24° Pisces lunar eclipse will be conjunct this Sun. The natal Sun in this

Solar Annular Eclipse (NM)
 Natal Chart
 Sep 1 2016, Thu
 11:02 am EET -200
 ISTANBUL, TURKEY
 41°N 01' 028"E 58'
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node

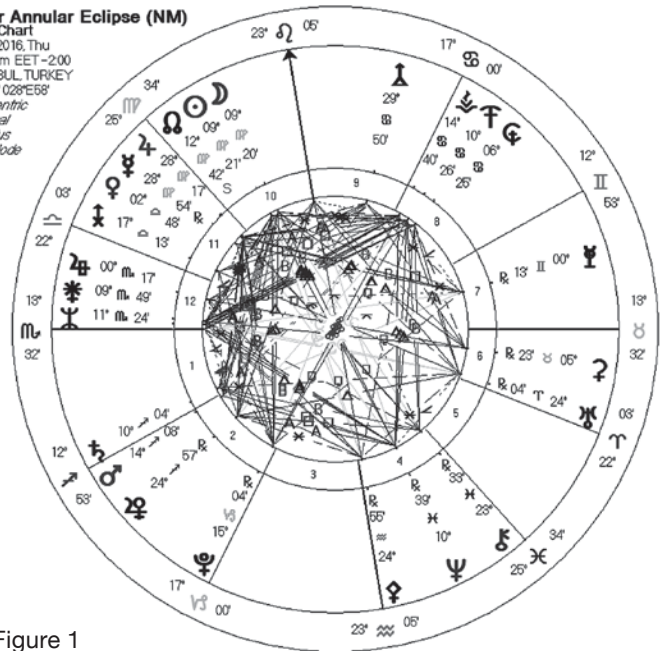


Figure 1

chart is square Saturn at 22° Gemini. Note how the Suns in both charts are eclipsed. The opposition to a natal (or progressed) Sun knocks one down in stature. It reduces one’s power. The lunar eclipse highlights his position of power so that people take notice. Uranus is 135° to his Mars on the 7th, and Neptune is square his Mars. Progressed Mars in the horoscope of the Turkey Republic (October 29, 1923) is at 7° Sagittarius, also aspected by the eclipse. It appears that the Turkish leader will also have to fight to hold onto his position. Neptune tells us that he is under deception, and Uranus in hard aspect to his Mars. He will not know who is against him or when they will strike. He is likely caught between those that wish to have a secular state and those who are religiously inspired.”

Eclipses begin to have an effect up to 90 days in advance. In July, Erdogan apparently suppressed a coup attempt. Here are the principles that were followed that enabled me to zero in on his chart and to anticipate the events:

1. The most important body in mundane astrology is the natal Sun, followed by the progressed Sun, both direct and converse.
2. Eclipses are the most important energizers.
3. Breadth is essential in mundane astrology.

I learned these themes from Charles Jayne. I maintain databases of mundane horoscopes. Eclipses conjunct and opposite the Sun are important. A scan was run for such contacts with an orb of 5° applying and separating. The same scans can be run to the direct and converse progressed Suns. If the birthday is in the week prior to the eclipse, the year will bring unexpected developments. If the birthday is in the week after the eclipse, the person is likely to rise in stature. Eclipses opposite the Sun tend to knock one down. Scans can also be run for eclipses square to the

Appulse Lunar Eclipse (FM)
 Natal Chart
 Sep 16 2016, Fri
 9:05:02 pm EET -200
 ISTANBUL, TURKEY
 41°N 01' 028"E 58'
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node

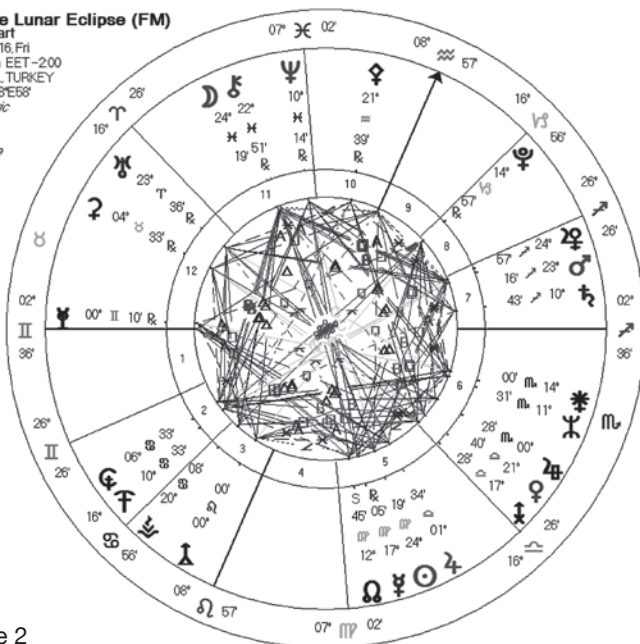


Figure 2

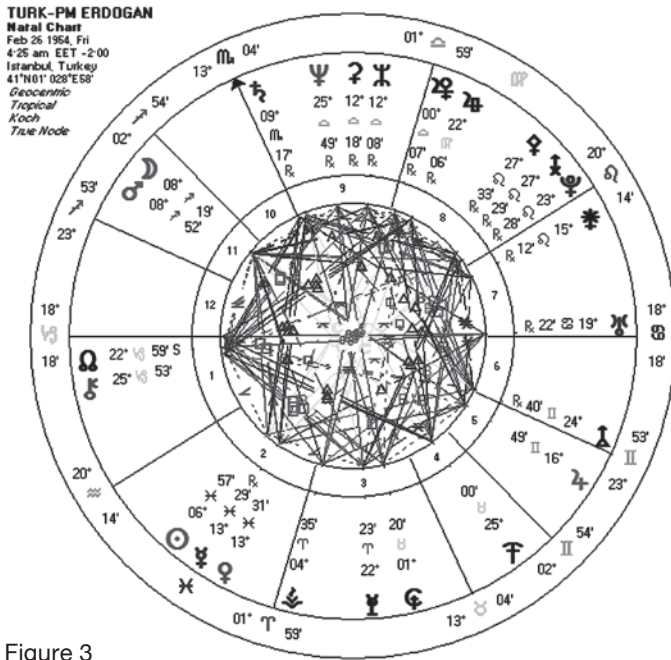


Figure 3

Sun, but the orb is reduced to 2-3 degrees. These eclipses tend to knock one off balance.

This process is likely to generate several horoscopes of nations or national leaders. One then analyzes the solar axis in the natal chart, a task best done on the 90° dial. We quickly see that Erdogan's natal Sun is square natal Mars and Moon. One would turn to such a chart first because the solar aspect is dynamic, possibly more so than the charts of other national leaders.

We then turn to the third principle. The astrologer seeks supporting information from related horoscopes. This entails such charts as those of the nation or the chart set for the day of the leader's taking power. In the absence of a timed chart, I

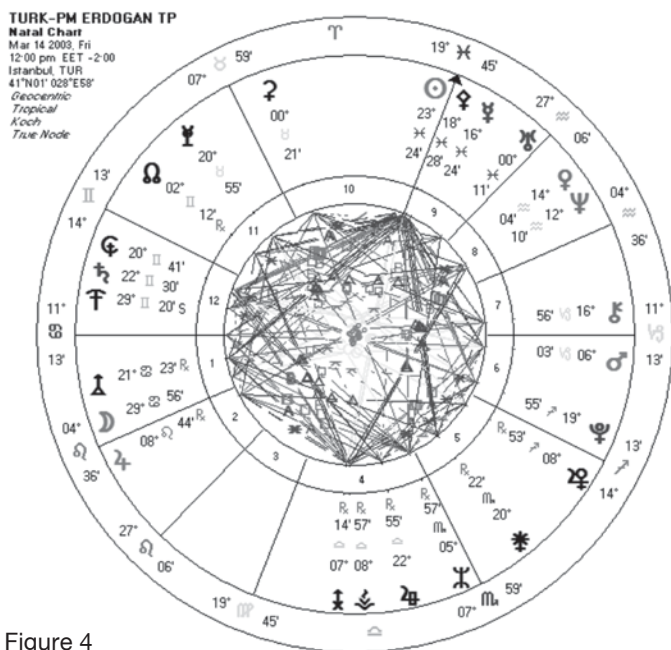


Figure 4

set the latter for noon for the capitol. Erdogan took power on March 14, 2003 (Figure 4). As written above, the lunar eclipse aspected the Sun in this chart. We see that the natal Sun is square Saturn. The squares to both natal Suns are energized by the eclipses, and we can say that both aspects appear difficult. I can add that the solar eclipse opposed Turkey's (October 29, 1923 at 8:30 pm in Ankara) national Uranus with a 4° orb. The solar eclipse was also square the national progressed Mars at 7° Sagittarius.

That would be an alert that there would be an unexpected upset, but these contacts are not strong enough to indicate a major change in leadership. The national chart did not indicate a shift in leadership, so the conclusion was that there would be an unsuccessful challenge to Erdogan's rule.

Note how the adherence to three principles of mundane astrology enabled the prediction.

All Rights Reserved.

All charts from Solarfire software by Astrolabe

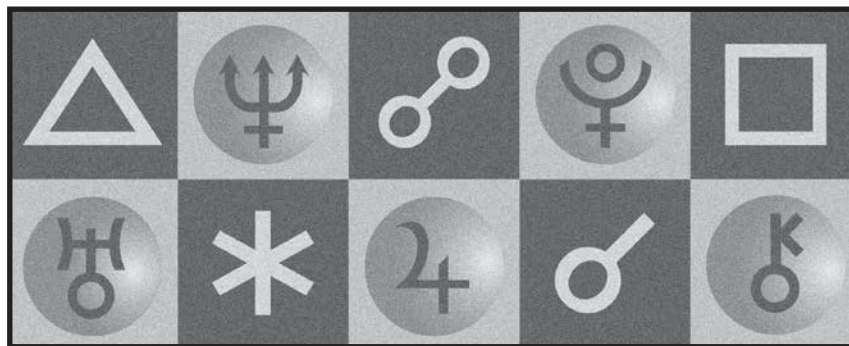
Editor's Note: The **2017 NCGR Conference** offers a rare opportunity to hear **Bill Meridian**, a top ranked international market timer, describe materials and techniques that are completely new and presented for the first time in his post conference workshop, "Recent Developments in Planetary Stock Selection" on **Monday, February 20, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm.**

On **Sunday, February 19, from 2:30-3:45 pm, Bill Meridian** will present, "Great Historical Eclipses and Their Paths," describing key eclipses in time, how eclipses are later re-energized, revisiting old themes and issues, and their projections for the future.

Bill Meridian



obtained his BS in banking from NYU in 1971 and his MBA in corporate finance in 1972. He began to study cycles in the same year. A nine-year psychotherapeutic training apprenticeship with Dr. John Pierakos in NYC followed. Many of his concepts concerning crowd psychology derive from that period. Since the 1970s, he has been on Wall Street combining fundamental, cyclical and technical analysis, developing his own software in the process. The software proved that value is added by applying planetary cycles. From 1972 to 1990, he worked on both the buy and the sell sides of Wall Street. From 1990 to 2004, he was with the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, where he was the technology fund manager, North American strategist, and a member of the currency hedging committee. Since 2004, he has been operating his own money management and consulting service from Vienna, Austria. His publications include: *Planetary Stock Trading*, *Planetary Economic Forecasting*, *Predictive Power of Eclipse Paths* and *In Search*. Bill is active in groups that focus on the future and upon cycles. He is a member of the Kenos Circle, a Vienna-based group of futurists. Website: billmeridian.com E-mail: bill@cyclesresearch.com



Outer Planet Alignments and Stock Market Crashes

By Christeen Skinner

In this article we will look at the ten *worst* stock market crashes since 1900 and observe the different planetary signatures involved in each. The aim is to observe the conditions both at the start and finish of each period of loss. As we study these events, we will also consider when there might be a *re-enactment* allowing us to forecast future periods of instability.

While individual planetary cycles repeat regularly (Sun-Moon every month, Mars-Uranus about every two years, Jupiter-Saturn every 20 years, for example), their placement in the zodiac, and the phases of other cycles, taken together, only repeat about every 26,000 years. Even then, the repetition is not exact. Consequently each stock market crash has its own exact planetary signature. Yet we find that when similar themes, similar planetary configurations, are at work, traders (and then markets) react in the same way.

This article then offers an exercise in astro-detection where we will discover areas of the zodiac that are high profile when markets across the world lose value and the phases of specific planetary cycles form the backdrop for such events.

Before moving on, we should recall that Pluto was not discovered until 1930 and it was 1977 when Chiron, the planetoid orbiting between Saturn and Uranus, was added to our charts. Only since 1977 has the link between the Chiron-Pluto cycle and major market moves been discerned. This goes some way to explain why the track record of financial astrologers in the last 50 years has been superior to that of their forebears. The limitations unconsciously experienced by early astrologers demanded that they pay more attention to the shorter cycles of the Sun, Mercury, Venus and Mars in particular. As we shall see, the discovery of Chiron and Pluto and calculation of their respective orbits and positions has led to increased understanding of the *bigger picture* and why some periods of negative activity last longer than others.

1900-1905

Analysis of sunspot activity from 1900-1905 shows numbers to have been extremely low. Low solar activity often coincides with high crop prices as demand exceeds supply. With the benefit of hindsight and understanding of solar cycles, it was to be expected that the opening years of the 20th century would be economically difficult, as was the case.

Over 46% of the value of stocks was lost in the near 30 month period between June, 1901 and November, 1903 when a severe drought in the US promoted alarm over rising food prices. Many regard this as being the first crash experienced by the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). During the next solar minima, the suggestion is offered that another severe drought will be experienced between 2019 and 2021 at the next solar minima.

The opening years of the 20th Century encompassed an opposition of Uranus and Pluto, a planetary picture indicating profound (Pluto) and sudden upheaval (Uranus). It is acknowledged by astrologers that when these two planets are either conjunct, at apparent right angles, in opposition or when they share degrees of declination, then disruption – and even chaos – is likely. At best, these angles coincide with exercises in redeployment of resources.

Though, as explained, Pluto was not discovered until 1930, its position at any time prior to that year can be calculated. Major aspects, i.e. conjunctions, squares (90°) and oppositions (180°) of Uranus and Pluto occurring since the 18th century, include 1756, 1792-3, 1820-21, 1850, 1876, 1901-2, 1932, 1965, and between 2010 and 2015.

The opposition between Uranus and Pluto through 1901-1903 had last occurred in 1793 – coinciding with revolution in France. It is never enough to note only the aspects between any two planets, but it is also important to note exactly where in the zodiac aspects took place. In 1793, Uranus was in Leo

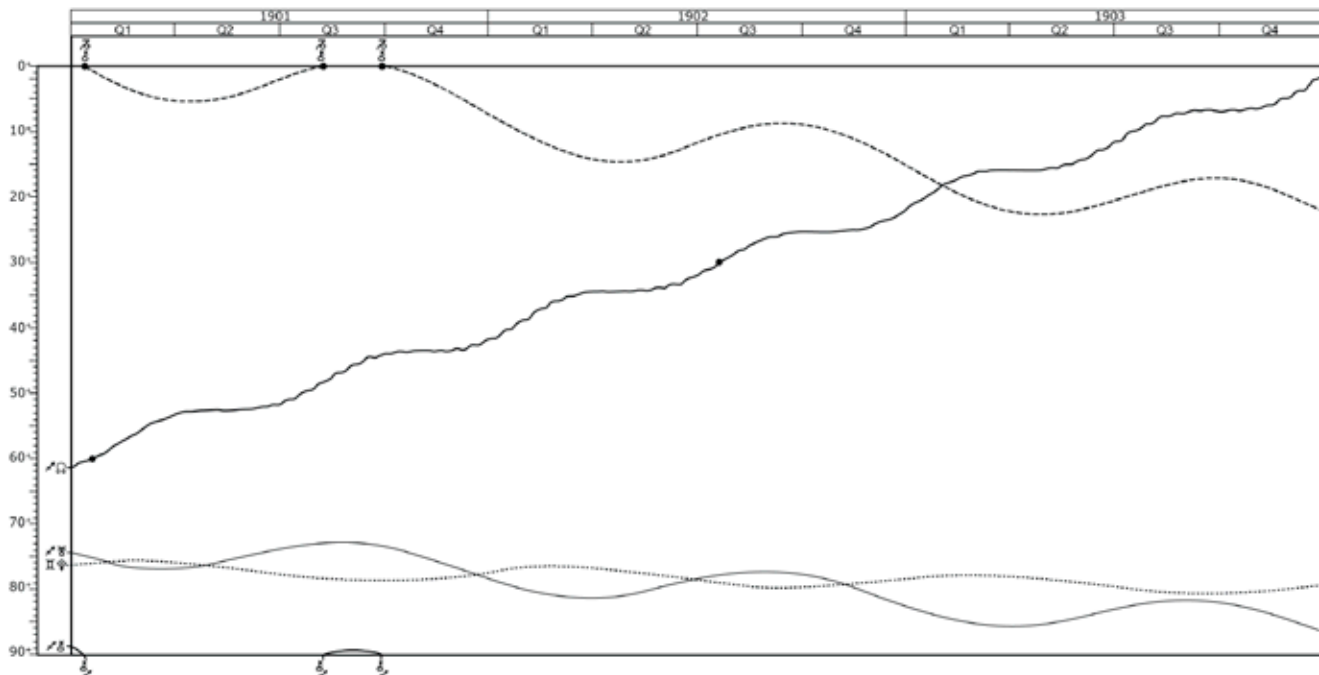


Figure 1. Longitude graph based on *Solarfire* software.

and Pluto was moving through Aquarius. The actual signs involved indicate the likely theatres in which action will be played out. (Leo has connection with royalty and Aquarius with the *common man* – fitting symbolism for the revolution in France of that period).

The next opposition will occur between 2046 and 2048 and, as with these other periods, will no doubt coincide with sharp upheaval and correction in market indices. The signs involved then will be Virgo and Pisces suggesting that the sector most likely to experience great loss will be that of bio-technics, pharmaceuticals and, most probably, energy.

In 1901, the two planets opposed one another from Gemini to Sagittarius, the two signs associated with communication, connections and travel. It should come as little surprise that it was investments in the growing railroad system in the USA that bore the brunt of losses.

The first of five (geocentric) oppositions of Uranus to Pluto took place in late January, 1901 and the last in November, 1902. Equities began to lose value with the first of these geocentric oppositions and continued to fall for a further twelve months *after* the last of these oppositions took place.

We should first ask why recovery did not happen sooner. If we accept that the Uranus-Pluto opposition is destabilising, why was there no immediate improvement when the two planets moved away from this angle?

To understand this, we must look to another cycle that demands frequent attention when analysing periods of poor economic activity: the cycle of planetoid Chiron and the Lunar Node.

Chiron may be the remnant of a trapped comet. It has been described as the *wounded healer* and holds prominent position in the charts of those for whom the medical profession has particular significance. Yet it seems important too in the charts of auditors and accountants. It appears to act as some sort of *adjuster*. As we shall see, Chiron's position on, opposite or at right angles to the Lunar Nodes marks a likely correction in the market-place.

As Uranus (the faster moving planet) drew away from the opposition with Pluto, Chiron and the Node were moving into a square relationship with one another, the angle becoming exact on February 10, 1903, at 19° of Cancer.

To illustrate this, consider the graph in longitude shown as Figure 1 (known as a graphic ephemeris). In this instance, a 90° version of the graphic ephemeris is used. Where planetary lines cross, we know that the planets concerned must be either conjunct, in opposition or in square. Here we can see Uranus and Pluto (the lines close to the bottom of the graph) criss-crossing one another. Each crossing marks an opposition between the two planets.

The line moving from the left hand side of the graph to the top right, is the Lunar Node which moves backwards through the zodiac. It crosses Chiron's line, marking the square between them, in February 1903.

As viewed from Earth, planets – and Chiron – at times give the appearance of moving backwards. Chiron was retrograde for much of 1903. Significantly, it was after Chiron moved on from 19° Cancer in late November, 1903 that stock values increased even though the Chiron-Node right-angle or square aspect concluded at the start of the year.

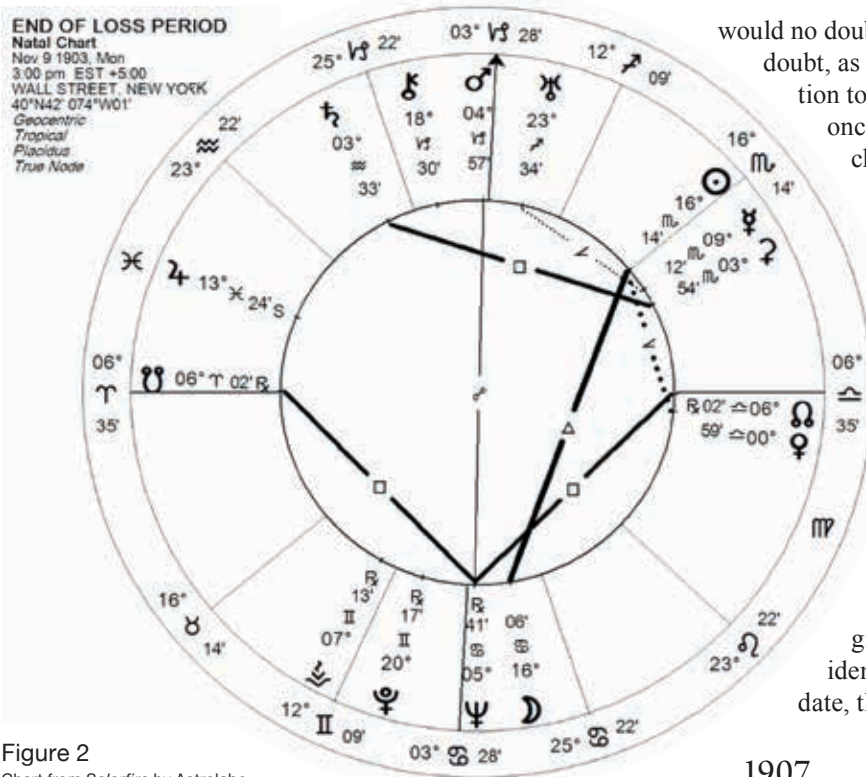


Figure 2
Chart from Solarfire by Astrolabe

Study of those crashes since 1900, where over 40% of the value of stocks was lost shows that the axis 19° Cancer-Capricorn to be a highly sensitive axis of the zodiac as regards financial matters. Astrologers reading this will be aware that Pluto is presently moving slowly through the latter sign, a fact which says something about the probability of severe market turbulence between 2016 and 2019 when Pluto passes 19° Capricorn.

The opposition of Uranus to Pluto was not the only major cycle at work in 1901-3. During that period, Chiron formed a conjunction with Jupiter and an opposition to Neptune. Let us take a moment to consider the implications of this. Though Jupiter and Neptune oppose one another roughly every 12 years, the opposition of Chiron to Neptune occurs just every 50 or so years. For these two cycles to coincide is rare indeed.

Chiron's opposition to Neptune took place on five occasions between 1900 and 1901. It could be argued that the first of these, in 1900, marked cracks in index values that later became fissures. (The two did not oppose one another again until 1989/1990. The next opposition of these two bodies occurs in 2048/49)

History records the period of loss as beginning on June 17th, 1901, a few days ahead of the Summer Solstice. The first opposition between Chiron and Neptune occurred 16 months earlier in January 1900 and the first opposition of Uranus and Pluto a year later.

Today's financial astrologer might have advised getting out of the market as 1901 opened – and yes, some investor loss

would no doubt have occurred as a result. However, no doubt, as the market started to fall, the investor's attention to the astrology of the period might have stirred once more. The investor would be looking for the chance to buy back in.

The closing date of this period of loss is given as November 9, 1903 and the chart is shown in Figure 2. The planetary picture for that date is indeed significant. To start with, the Sun was exactly half-way between the Equinox and Solstice. (W.D. Gann was a highly respected financial trader whose legacy is a remarkable trading strategy. It is recognized that the cycle of the planets were part of his arsenal of trading tools). That same day, Mars opposed Neptune and the two were at right angles to the Lunar Nodes, forming a fixed grand cross. This would most likely have been identified as a potential bottom or floor. From that date, the Dow Jones index rose for some years.

1907

During what is now known as the Panic of 1907, stocks in the US lost over 48% of their value. The crucial dates for this study are January 19, 1906, October 14, 1907 and November 15, 1907.

The dominating astro-theme of 1907 was the opposition of Uranus and Neptune, whose synodic cycle is 179 years. From the geocentric perspective, the aspect occurred 11 times, beginning on March 1, 1906 and concluding in 1910.

Keywords associated with Uranus are sudden, shocking, disruptive, flash, deviant, different, curious, electric, quick, surging, magnetic, technical, brutal, metallic, streaking, urgent, demanding and eccentric. These words do not fit well with those associated with Neptune which are more to do with illusion, dreams and fantasy. The opposition of the two planets could indeed result in panicked behavior.

Many more people were affected by the panic of 1907 than the financial woes of 1901-3. Astrologically this can be explained by the Uranus opposition to Neptune (1907) rather than Pluto (1901-3). Neptune has widespread effect. If the 1901-3 panic affected institutions and large scale investors, losses were felt as keenly by small-time investors in 1907.

As we saw earlier, planets do not always oppose one another from the same corners of the zodiac. In 1906, Uranus was in Capricorn whilst Neptune was in Cancer. Capricorn is the sign associated with banking and Cancer with household savings and private investment. Perhaps we should not be surprised that the Panic of 1907 is also known as the Banker's Panic; and yes, there are some parallels here with the global

financial crisis of 2008 when it was Pluto's turn to transit through Capricorn.

In 1906, Uranus was at greatest declination where it is termed *out-of-bounds*. As is recognised, Uranus has a track record of being a deviation from the norm. When *out-of-bounds*, that deviation is exaggerated. Panic is an appropriate word for this stock market crash which centered on October 14, 1907, but was clearly growing in the months prior to this.

It is interesting to note that during London market opening hours that day, the Moon was passing 19° Capricorn and aligned with its South Node. As mentioned above, this 18-19° of Capricorn is often accented where there is marked market negativity.

As with the bear period of 1901-1903, Chiron played a part. Through the autumn of 1907, Jupiter moved to oppose this planetoid. The date given for the end of this loss-making period is, remarkably, the day of their exact opposition – across 13° of, respectively, Leo and Aquarius. On October 14, the day when greatest losses occurred, Mercury was at right angles to Chiron. This aspect, lasting only a day or so, seems to have been the final trigger that precipitated severe reaction.

Of course, financial astrologers of 1907 would not have known about this aspect and so would be unlikely to have suggested mid-November 1907 as offering *buy* signals. Even so, they might well have chosen a date about a week later when the Sun moved from Scorpio into Sagittarius, aware as they would have been, that a change in sign often brings change in market direction.

1916-17

Aspects between the outer planets, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, together with those aspects involving Chiron, have provided the cosmic background to the periods of economic difficulty in the first decade of the 20th century. Those themes continue through the crashes of 1916-1917 and 1919-1921.

During the 13 months between November 21, 1916 and December, 1917, US stocks lost 40% of their value.

In the earlier examples, Pluto was moving through Gemini. In 1914, Pluto moved into Cancer. Astrologers recognise that as Pluto moves through this sign, there is a strong tendency for people to identify *their territory* and to jealously guard it. Pluto takes nearly a quarter of a millennium to move through all twelve signs. Due to its elongated orbit, it moves through



some signs quickly (in just over a decade) and through others more slowly (in excess of 20 years). Pluto was in Cancer from 1914 to 1938. During this period many small investors sought to have a stake in what they believed to be growing industries.

History records stocks as reaching a high on 21st November 1916. On this date, the Lunar Node was at 22° Capricorn. Note that the Node moves backwards through the zodiac at a rate of approximately 1° every three weeks and so was due to reach 19° Capricorn – that very sensitive *financial* zone of the zodiac – a few weeks later, in January 1917. Had astro-financiers of that time been aware of the financially sensitive nature of this degree area,

they would surely have advised extreme caution and, perhaps, suggested moving into cash a few weeks ahead of the alignment. They would also have been aware of the major aspect, the conjunction between Saturn and Neptune forming a backdrop to these years.

Saturn and Neptune form conjunctions approximately every 45 years and their cycle has been termed the *socialist cycle*. Defining periods in socialist, labour and communist development have coincided with major aspects between these two planets. The two conjoined in 1917, during the Russian Revolution.

A suitable image for the combination of Saturn and Neptune is a deflating balloon. This combination brings de-valuation on a grand cycle. What has been hyped-up will surely be grounded.

Recall that Neptune's entire circuit of the zodiac takes approximately 164 years, thus it spends many years making its passage through each sign. Saturn moves faster, taking about 30 years to make its orbit. The alignment of Saturn and Neptune in Leo is rare. Indeed, prior to 1917, the conjunction last took place in Leo in 1594 and, prior to that, in 1271. Thus the cosmic influences of 1917 were unusual; Saturn's alignment with Neptune in Leo had not been experienced by investors of the period – or by their parents, grandparents or their great-grandparents.

Leo is one of the Fire signs. Saturn is more suited to earthy Capricorn and Neptune to water signs. The presence of both Saturn and Neptune in Leo could be described as sand and water being poured on fire. Within the stock market, hopes were dashed as values fell. Investors in 1915 may have held laudable ideals and great expectation, but these surely gave way to crushing disappointment when stocks failed to deliver.

Not only did Saturn and Neptune provide a miserable backdrop to this period, but Chiron was travelling through Pisces and formed a right-angle to the Galactic Center. This angle between Chiron and the Galactic Center has, on each occasion in the 20th Century, coincided with market negativity.

Perhaps more importantly, Chiron's move into Aries coincided with the Saturn-Neptune conjunction in June 1917, accentuating the probability of cold water being thrown onto investment fires.

The Detail

The astro-historian, whilst recognising the likelihood of loss during a particular period, needs to understand the dates which frame it. Precisely, what were the planetary conditions which saw a top on November 21, 1916 and which led to stock market growth post-19 December, 1917?

Analysis of great moments in stock market history shows that it is clusters of planetary events that mark specific dates. November 21st, 1916 certainly falls into this category. Firstly, there was a conjunction and parallel aspect between the Sun and Mercury in late Scorpio. Scorpio is one of the fixed signs and this alignment could be viewed as a cosmic punctuation mark – a full stop.

On that same date, an *out-of-bounds* Mars formed a conjunction with Vesta in neighbouring Sagittarius. This is a four-year cycle that plays a key role in financial rhythms, particularly those involving foreign exchange. With Mars *out-of-bounds*, there was probability of November being a month of high volatility with high probability of stocks exceeding earlier values. The high of that date could probably have been determined in advance even without knowledge of the existence of Pluto or Chiron.

But why then did prices collapse even as the Sun moved on into Sagittarius – another of the fire signs and one known for being more positive than negative? As values fell it was as though an earthquake hit indices; there were fractures in prices across all sectors.

The driving factor may well have been another angle between Uranus and Pluto; this time that of 135° (a multiple of eighths of a circle and considered to be an action-packed aspect). As this aspect became exact, deep cracks began to show and losses built.

We next turn our attention to December 19, 1917 to see if there were any signals here to identify this as offering a buying opportunity. At first glance the aspects are not obvious – at least not through use of the regular horoscope. If, however, we look at the position of the planets by declination, we find a series of important aspects at work.

After this date – and as share values began to increase – Venus moved away from its contra-parallel aspects with

Neptune and Pluto. Mercury, which had been out of orb, came back into orb and the Sun began its annual separation from the Galactic Center degree.

It is, of course, quite possible that the financial astrologer would not have isolated this date as being the moment to move back into the market (assuming they had given the advice to pull out of these investments a year earlier). It is probable though that with the Lunar Node about to cross from Capricorn into Sagittarius that they might have thought there was high probability that stocks would rise from the end of 1917 and that 1918 would prove a better year.

1919-1921

Between November 3, 1919 and August 24, 1921, stocks lost 46.6%, bringing a devastating blow to those who thought that the worst was behind them.

The over-arching aspects of the period 1919-1921, were the opposition of Jupiter and Uranus and that of Saturn and Uranus. (Similar aspects were at work during the dot-com crash at the start of the 21st century as we shall see later).

Recall that with the first crash discussed, Saturn and Uranus were an eighth of a circle apart. They were in multiples of eighths apart from one another in 1909 and in 1915 reaching their opposition phase in 1919. Given that the earlier angles had coincided with negativity in the market-place, it was always likely that the opposition of the two planets would witness another period of negativity. It might also have been deduced that any negativity would be exaggerated by Jupiter's opposition to Uranus. Though Jupiter moves faster than Saturn, the coinciding effects can be devastating. So it was that the end of one decade and opening of the next witnessed great losses – something we must bear in mind when forecasting the approaching end of decade a century later in 2019.

1929

As we know, the *Roaring 20s* were brought to an abrupt end by the legendary Wall Street crash in 1929. Nothing was quite as dramatic as that of the fourth quarter of 1929 when the dominating alignment was of Chiron with the North Node – a conjunction which formed on October 23, 1929 at 12° Taurus. This coincided with Mars at the lunar South Node, opposing Chiron and with Saturn's transit of the Galactic Center. History records October 24th of that year as a day of spectacular loss.

An astro-historian with today's understanding of the solar system, would surely have been concerned as to the possibility of negative trading as Pluto made its passage across 19° Cancer whilst Chiron and the Node drew close to conjunction in the autumn of 1929. Having noted outer planet cycle aspects – and Chiron positions in earlier periods of difficulty, he or she might be expected to come to the conclusion that

1929 through 1932 would be a long period of economic discontent and loss.

Yet even financial astrologers of the time – without knowledge or understanding of either Pluto or Chiron’s position – were aware of factors at work in 1929 that raised the possibility of a crash.

Firstly, Jupiter formed a conjunction with the Node in May 1929, suggesting a market top. Secondly Mars was out of orb in the first five months of the year, neatly concluding this position as Jupiter and the Node formed their conjunction. An out-of-bounds Mars is indicative of high energy and high prices. Yet Saturn was moving toward the Galactic Center in late Sagittarius; and it was likely that the closer Saturn moved toward this degree, the more weaknesses in the system would be apparent.

Financial astrologers might indeed have singled out the New Moon on September 3 as being a selling opportunity. This was within hours of Mars’ opposition to Uranus. As we shall see, this cycle is often called the *Crash Cycle*. Highs are often reached at the opposition before strongly negative moves. Please be aware that this does not happen every time; in every case, it is essential to assess all planet cycles and especially those involving the slow-moving planets. Yet this opposition, coinciding with Saturn’s approach to the Galactic Center, might have led financial astrologers to advise this as being a time to leave the market place – at least until Saturn had moved beyond this degree.

Those same astrologers might well have identified a buying opportunity mid-November, 1929. Indeed, they may have seen this as an excellent purchasing opportunity.

What seems to happen is that as planets move from one sign to another, there is a distinct change in human (and therefore market) reaction. Mid-November, 1929, Mercury separated from its conjunction with the South Node of the Moon (an expected *low*), Chiron and the North Node too were separating, Venus moved into Scorpio but, most important of all, Jupiter and Pluto formed a parallel. If Mars-Uranus forms a *Crash Cycle*, then Jupiter and Pluto offer the possibility of wealth creation.

True, the advisor would still have had some qualms given that Pluto had yet to move on from 19° Cancer. However, it is as likely that study of the movements of the faster moving



planets would have led to the conclusion that there might be short term gains to be had, at least whilst the Node continued its journey through Taurus. That sign change would occur on June 18, 1930 – within days of the Summer Solstice and so likely to have great impact.

By the time the Node reached Aries (remember that the Node always moves backwards through the signs), and made hard aspect with some of the outer planets, the position would be very different. Any study of outer planet movement would have resulted in the conclusion that a Great Depression was on the way – particularly as Saturn moved to right angle position with Uranus and opposed Pluto.

Recall, it was the opposition between these two planets Saturn and Pluto that was at work in the earlier crashes. It was always likely that markets would have a similar reaction to the square aspect between the two. Take into account too, Saturn’s position in Capricorn – and the fact that it would transit over 19° Capricorn, that tender degree area accented in previous crashes. (Note that Saturn crosses this degree area again in 2019.)

Saturn could be described as a *cosmic headmaster*. A Saturn transit demands that details are addressed. Cutting corners is not acceptable under Saturn’s influence; there is no room for maneuver. There is no buy now, pay later or quantitative easing; Saturn demands that issues are addressed there and then. Austerity and hardship are nearly inevitable. The combination of Saturn with Pluto demands reassessment of resources, hard pruning and sets the task of living on a shoestring. This is a harsh and unforgiving combination made even more cutting by Uranus’ position within this planetary picture. There was little prospect of recovery until Uranus pulled away from the right angle with Pluto and Saturn moved away from its aspects, both with Uranus and Pluto and its opposition with Jupiter.

Economic historians give a date of April 17, 1930 as the start of the Great Depression and set its conclusion as July 8, 1932. Between these dates equities lost 86% of their value, crippling many and leaving some destitute. This period of appalling hardship has left marks on the collective memory and even today, nearly a century later, there is real fear of a return to these times. It is salutary to note that the planetary alignments of 2019-2021 has resonance with this earlier period and that we could yet see a period of global financial tensions at the end of this decade.

Assuming that the financial astrologer had indeed suggested climbing back into the market in November, would he or she have noted April 17, 1930 – just four short months away – as the moment to sell? Perhaps. Jupiter was retrograde in November. It subsequently stationed and then returned to this degree the following spring. Perhaps the advice to make a few purchases after Jupiter stationed would have been given.

It is perhaps more likely that the astute and well-versed astro-financier would have advised caution and, perhaps, suggested waiting until at least the summer of 1932 by which time the worst of the hard aspects between various outer planets would be concluded.

It is just possible that July 8, 1932 would have been selected as a perfect buying opportunity. Though it is not clear from study of the regular horoscope, even a cursory glance at the declinations of the planets that day shows interesting – and rare – alignments. There was a regular parallel aspect between Mercury and Venus (often a buying opportunity). Decidedly rare though was the triple parallel between the Sun, Mars and Pluto. This could well be viewed as marking a bottom and therefore a potentially ideal date for purchase.

Given that we do have the benefit of hindsight – and knowledge of the position of several major asteroids, including Ceres – it is worth noting that Ceres was in opposition to Pluto for much of this period and that the aspect separated after July 8.

A word about Ceres: Ceres is the largest of the major asteroids orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter. These may be remnants of another planet. The prominence of Ceres and of another asteroid, Vesta, in the charts of significant financial events cannot be ignored.

Ceres had been known about since the early 19th century when it was discovered by a Sicilian monk. The naming of this orbiting piece of rock is interesting; there is a theme here with the concept of abduction and the lengths a mother will go to protect her child. There is something of a Persephone and Pluto theme at work. The opposition between Pluto and Ceres could be viewed as a period when the cupboard is bare and when *mother* has nothing left to give. As Ceres, the faster moving of the two objects, moves away from this opposition, the nurturing process begins anew and the cupboard is replenished.

Several things are clear from analysis of the five periods of stock market loss so far reviewed. Firstly that a trigger factor is alignment of two or more outer planets or asteroids with particular regard to the positions of Uranus, Pluto, the Lunar Nodes and Ceres. Secondly, it appears that there is a troublesome degree area around the axis of 19° Cancer-Capricorn.

Eclipses

So far there has been no mention of eclipses – either solar or lunar. These certainly yield useful information and assist in the timing of particularly stressful dates. The solar eclipses of 1901-3 were in the signs of Taurus and Scorpio (two signs often associated with financial matters) and in Aries and Libra. The accompanying lunar eclipses took place in those same signs. There was also considerable emphasis on 12° of Taurus and Scorpio (both Fixed signs) which, as with 19° Cancer-Capricorn, seem to be a delicate area for finance.

The eclipses of 1906 and 1907 were somewhat different; though again 1° of a fixed sign (the lunar eclipse of August, 1906) was highlighted. The solar eclipse at the start of 1907 was at 22° Capricorn – slightly wide of the 19° area, but close enough to be regarded as *within orb*.

We have now considered five periods where losses greater than 40% were experienced. As we have seen, the actual planetary aspects involved differed. What we can conclude, however, is that when the outer planets form major aspects – particularly when they are at right angles, opposition or share declination degrees – traders and investors react in such a way that indices lose value. Just as similar patterns may be shown to coincide with times of war, it seems history continues to repeat whenever these angles form.

1937-38

The next period of serious loss (49%), occurred between March 1937 and March 1938. It could be concluded that the triggering factor here was Chiron's conjunction with the lunar South Node at the start of April 1937. This was followed by a series of oppositions by Jupiter to Pluto. This latter cycle is relatively short (approximately 12 years). Many economic historians attribute the crash of 1937-8 to the decision by the US President to take the dollar off the gold standard.

From a planetary perspective, the key to this being a depressive or negative period is the opposition of Saturn to Neptune and the right angle to both made by Chiron.

The first signal of decline was apparent shortly after the opposition of Mars to Uranus (the crash cycle) and as Mars moved from Scorpio to Sagittarius. A financial astrologer would probably have advised sale at the Mars-Uranus opposition or a couple of days before it.

It is fascinating to note that the end date for this crash is March 31, 1938 and at the Mars-Uranus conjunction. The financial astrologer might well have advised this as a buying opportunity as this alignment was close to both a New Moon and to



the Nodes moving from Sagittarius into Scorpio. Over and over again, we see that it is the combination of planetary events that results in major moves.

1939-1942

The next market crash for us to consider occurred in the opening months of World War II. Between September 1939 and late April 1942, 40.4% value was lost. Given what we have learnt so far, we should not be surprised to discover that Chiron was within a degree of 19° Cancer at the start of this period which concluded at the conjunction of Saturn and Uranus. Note that the latter aspect occurs just every 45 years. Whereas the opposition (1907) brought stress to the marketplace, the conjunction signalled potential for improvement.

Between 1939 and 1942, Pluto made its conjunction with Chiron. Of course financial astrologers would not have known this, as the latter was not discovered until 1977. As we have seen though, the phases of this planetary cycle, coincides with periods of significant economic difficulty. Their next conjunctions take place in 2069 and 2070.

In September 1939, Saturn moved into Taurus and formed a conjunction with the lunar South Node. Saturn formed this aspect in November 1905, September 1916 and January 1928. Although each of these aspects took place in different signs of the zodiac, on each occasion relative highs were reached.

By 1939, Pluto had moved from Cancer into Leo. Saturn, the faster-moving of the two planets, was about to form a right-angle (square) aspect with that planet. This is a *pruning* aspect when much is cut away and only bare bones left. There is something harsh and austere about this cycle and this aspect especially.

In any cycle, two right-angle aspects form – one before and one after the opposition. These are similar to the First and Last Quarter phases of the Moon. The 1939 angle was equivalent to the Last Quarter phase, a period of reckoning when all that's occurred since the conjunction is examined and reviewed.

The conjunction that began this cycle took place in the early degrees of Cancer and, geocentrically, formed on three occasions in 1914 and 1915. The previous last quarter aspect took place in 1907 – coinciding with the panic of that year.

Astro-financiers of the period, having studied those earlier times might well have concluded that sharp falls would be experienced as the new Saturn-Pluto square formed. Had they also been aware that Chiron was approaching the sensitive 19° Cancer area, they might

also have concluded that the September New Moon would be a good opportunity to leave the market.

There was also another square aspect at work, this one between Uranus and Neptune. Recall that the opposition between these two planets coincided with the market losses experienced at the turn of the century. Again it might have been expected that echoes of that earlier time would be heard.

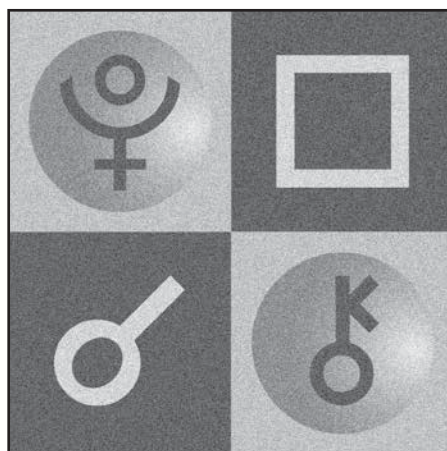
As we now know, markets fell over a period of some 30 months, a duration not dissimilar to that of 1910-3 and of 1931-33. To understand this time frame we should look to the 20 year cycle of Jupiter and Saturn; 30 months is an eighth of this cycle.

In September 1939, the two planets were 24° apart with Jupiter, the faster moving of the two, moving to form a conjunction with Saturn in early Taurus in 1940. In late April 1942, Jupiter, having moved through Taurus, was at 20° Gemini and again approximately 23° from Saturn. The distance covered from the start to end of this period was roughly 45 degrees.

An investor looking to the planets for guidance as to when to move back into the market, might well have come to the conclusion that the optimum time to buy back in would be after the coming Jupiter-Saturn conjunction. They might also have wondered, given that both planets would also form conjunctions with Uranus, if major gains might be made between this conjunction and Jupiter's arrival at 19° Cancer the following year. In this, they would not have been disappointed as indeed, considerable gain was made.

1972-74

The penultimate period to be considered covers January 1972-74 and embraces both the Vietnam War and Watergate. This period began with Jupiter conjunct the Galactic Center. Recall that Jupiter seems to act as an exaggerator. Alignment with the Galactic Center – even without any other operating factors – has often coincided with a market high. Post this alignment, equity values fell and, by December 1974, had lost 45% value.



The planetary back-drop to this period is Saturn's opposition to Neptune and Uranus' conjunction with Chiron and with Neptune at 135° from Chiron. Though again, financial astrologers, still unaware of Chiron's presence could not have factored in two of these aspects. The opposition of Saturn to Neptune, based on those earlier instances of significant negativity, would have suggested economic storms on the horizon.

With the benefit of our relatively recent knowledge of Chiron, its approaching

station at 19° Aries (another of the cardinal signs) in late December 1974, would have alerted the astrologer to the probability of a change of market direction once this degree had been negotiated. The *buy* signals here were the conjunction of Neptune and the Node, Jupiter's right angle to the node and Chiron's station.

2000-2002

To conclude this appraisal of the links between market crashes and planet cycles, we turn to what is now termed the *Dot Com* crash or *Tech Bubble* of the early part of the 21st century.

From January 15, 2000 to October 2002, equities lost 37.8% of value. Of course, by this time, financial astrologers were well aware of the presence of Chiron and its role in earlier periods of difficulty. Its approach to the South Node of the Moon, combined with Saturn's opposition to Pluto and, of course, Pluto's aspect to the Lunar Nodes had many of us on red alert.

During this period, in May 2000, Jupiter and Saturn formed their last conjunction in one of the earth signs for 240 years. They formed this conjunction with both at almost exact right-angle to Uranus and Neptune. Journalists wondered if the curious planetary formation would result in major incident whilst financial astrologers sensed the high probability of – at the very least a change of market direction and, most likely – a major down-turn. They then were looking for optimum dates for leaving the market.

Investors who left the market-place on January 15, 2000 left on a high. The planetary picture that day was unusual. The Sun was exactly aligned with Mercury (often a signal for change of trend) and a major stellium (group of planets) formed in Sagittarius. With the Sun applying to the square with Jupiter, and taking into account the looming negative aspects, the astrologer might well have selected this as a date when markets would reach a high – an optimum moment to sell.

As various negative aspects formed, financial astrologers searched for an appropriate date on which to buy back in. That buy signal came on a date after Saturn and the Node had formed their final aspect for the period, a parallel exact in October.

Conclusion

The extraordinary planetary pictures of the end of the last decade warranted a chapter of their own in my book, *Exploring the Financial Universe*. Suffice it to say that, Pluto's Capricorn ingress, the Neptune-Pluto declination cycle and the extraordinary Full Moon of September 2008 each signalled the potential for a financial meltdown that would affect the global economy.

Without wishing to be a doom-monger, I suspect that there is more to come. Saturn has yet to cross the Galactic Centre degree (2017) and Pluto to pass 19 degrees of Capricorn (2017). In 2017 too, Jupiter opposes Uranus whilst Pluto is in position directly between the two planets. This planetary picture speaks of upheaval on a grand scale. With the lunar Node moving from Virgo through Leo, business confidence may well diminish.

That said, the latter part of 2017 could bring significant buying opportunity for those playing for the longer term.

All Rights Reserved.

Editor's Note: We'd like to thank **Christeen Skinner** and **Ibis Press** for graciously allowing this article to appear in this issue of NCGR's Geocosmic Journal. This article was taken almost in its entirety from Chapter Three, "20th Century Stock Market Crashes," in Christeen Skinner's latest book, *Exploring the Financial Universe*. Lake Worth, FL: Ibis Press, 2016.

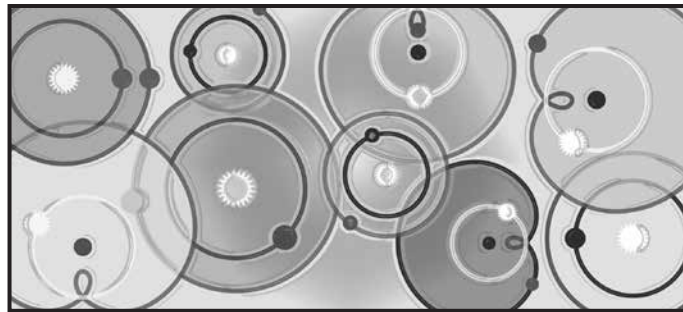
Editor's Note 2: At the **2017 NCGR Conference**, explore the world of financial astrology at **Christeen Skinner's** pre-conference workshop, "A Beginner's Guide to Financial Astrology" on **Thursday, February 16, 2:30-5:30 pm**. Then on **Friday, February 17, 4:15-5:30 pm**, learn how various currencies might fair in the coming years, including Bitcoin, in **Christeen Skinner's** presentation "A Basket of Currencies."

Christeen Skinner

is author of *The Financial Universe* (published 2004) in which she forecast the global financial crisis. She works in London, UK and has a broad clientele: from city traders, to entrepreneurs and private investors. Christeen was Chair of the Astrological Association of Great Britain, is a Trustee of the Urania Trust and Director of Cityscopes London which specialises in future-casting. She is also Chair of the Advisory Board for the National Council for Geocosmic Research and a Director of the Alexandria I-base Library working to preserve texts and documents. She publishes a free monthly newsletter and offers courses on financial astrology. Her latest work *Exploring the Financial Universe* will be published in October 2016 and is followed by *The Beginner's Guide to Financial Astrology* which will be available in February 2017. She lectures widely in the UK and USA and via International Webinar events. Skype: christeen51; Phone (44) 77 88 416 805; E-mail: christeenskinner@gmail.com Website: www.financialuniverse.co.uk



Toward a Multi-Dimensional View of Retrograde Motion



By Gary P. Caton

“The literature on retrograde planets is conflicting... it is necessary to examine what retrogradation is in astronomical terms... much more work needs to be done concerning retrograde planets and their effects.” –Robert Hand¹

Although many excellent books on the subject have been published since Rob Hand wrote the words quoted above (most notably, Erin Sullivan’s classic work, *Retrograde Planets*²), it may be that we, as astrologers, and as a community, have a collective journey ahead of us if we wish to attain a clear understanding of retrograde motion. From lists of *don’t do this or that* to outright *the sky is falling* interpretations, it appears that many, if not most, people retain a view of retrograde motion as essentially malefic in nature. That is, they expect bad or unpleasant things to happen. Given all the trouble the astrology community went through to update much of the old terminology, this seemingly archaic vestige is perplexing.

In recent years, I’ve personally researched the actual celestial mechanics of retrograde motion. This research often seemed to contradict some of the more modern assumptions underlying the nature of retrograde motion as a phenomenon. My hope is that readers will open their minds to the possibility that if the actual motion is not quite what we had previously thought it was, then perhaps its effects are not quite what we had thought, either. In fact, this process of review, re-working and revision, is probably one of the best possible uses of a retrograde transit.

First, let’s briefly describe and conceptualize retrogrades, simply in terms of east/west motion on the ecliptic. The vast majority of planetary motion is direct, or westward, along the ecliptic. This appears as counter-clockwise motion on a flat zodiac wheel or horoscope. The Lights (Sun and Moon) are *never* retrograde; they always move westward through the Zodiac.

Venus and Mars, the two planets closest to Earth, are rarely retrograde since each of them moves eastward less than 10% of the time. Jupiter and Saturn are retrograde about a third of the time (between their trines to the Sun). Direct motion therefore, accounts for approximately 86% of all motion for the visible planets.³ So, if the two brightest objects in the sky are always direct, and the visible planets are direct most of the time, then it seems reasonable to assume that direct motion generally refers to some kind of base truth or consensus reality. That is, direct motion should generally refer to the social construct of *normality*.

If direct motion signifies what is *normal*, then it follows that retrograde motion signifies something that somehow runs counter to, or flies in the face of, one or more norm(s) or socio-cultural expectations. Thus, it makes sense that in medieval astrology, retrograde motion was considered a kind of debility. In medieval times, it was often quite dangerous to go against the flow of consensus reality. While it may not be quite as physically dangerous to flaunt social norms today, there are still some very strong socio-political and psychological pressures to conform. Yet, from a modern Jungian perspective, conformity is considered a death-sentence for true psycho-spiritual growth or individuation. Perhaps, it is to this psychological conundrum that retrograde motion ultimately speaks.

For instance, consider Nicolaus Copernicus, the person whose work eventually popularized the modern Heliocentric model of the universe. Copernicus was born with all of the seven classical planets in direct motion.⁴ This may at first seem odd, considering how revolutionary his theory was, but most people don’t know that Copernicus was very reluctant to publish his theory. Despite having it largely worked out by 1532, it wasn’t until just before his death 11 years later that he finally relented to pressure and consented to publication.

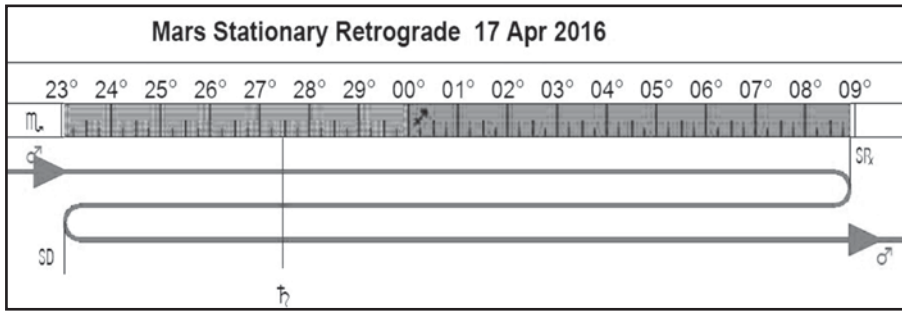


Figure 1. This image is to Retrogrades, as Epicycles were to Ptolemaic Astronomy (that is, demonstrably false and out-dated).

On the other hand, Galileo, the person who did the most to actually prove the theory, was born with both social planets (Jupiter and Saturn) conjunct and retrograde.⁵ Galileo was more than willing to defy norms, and did so almost compulsively; but, as a consequence, suffered house arrest for his defiance of the Church. It was not until 1687 and Newton's *Principia*, which unified terrestrial and celestial mechanics, that the heliocentric view became generally accepted. Newton's horoscope also happens to be one with all seven classical planets direct.⁶ It seems somehow both ironic and fitting that the work of these two men, with no natal retrogrades in their horoscopes whatsoever, forms the bedrock of the modern scientific world-view. And yet, has the astrologer's views of retrograde motion really changed that much?

In his now classic work, *Horoscope Symbols*, Robert Hand takes the (heliocentric) view that the problem with retrogrades concerns a planet's proximity to Earth. It is important to remember that from a modern Copernican point of view, retrograde motion is an illusion. Planets never appear retrograde from a heliocentric perspective. The *apparent* backward motion of a planet in the sky (from a geocentric perspective) is mainly due to a difference in relative orbital speed with Earth. Because of its (heliocentric) proximity to Earth, the retrograde planet is either being passed by, or is passing by, Earth. Thus Hand feels that just as a retrograde planet is making its closest approach to Earth, we also are psychologically *too close* to the issues symbolized by retrograde planets.⁷ Like Galileo, we are somehow too deeply, intensely or intimately involved in the process – such that we have no real objectivity.

Indeed, the same thing can be said of astrologers with regard to retrograde motion itself! Despite living in the digital age, as a community we still do not have a proper, astronomically correct view of retrograde motion. Though Sullivan succeeded in partially remedying this situation by giving us a wonderful understanding of a planet's retrograde motion within the context of its larger cycle with the Sun (aka synodic cycle) more than a decade ago⁸, it is nevertheless still

painfully easy to demonstrate that we do not come anywhere near, as yet, to understanding retrograde motion in the same objective manner as astronomers do.

One of the common assumptions about retrograde motion to which astrologers often fall prey is that a retrograde planet is passing across the same section of the sky three times (Figure 1.). This is not actually objectively true. It only appears to be true when one is viewing

the sky from a flat one-dimensional perspective. Yet that is what a horoscope or astrological chart is – a flat, top-down, one-dimensional representation of the zodiac, depicted strictly in terms of east/west motion, or celestial longitude. A quick glance at any of the popular astronomy periodicals or websites shows a very different picture. You will see the retrograde motion mapped out against the stars, but more importantly, also from a side-on view and in two dimensions – which creates a completely different picture!

The most recent retrograde of Mars is the only one of Mars' retrogrades (yes, there are at least eight different retrogrades, more on that later!) that bears any astronomical resemblance whatsoever to the usual astrological image. Nevertheless, there are still significant and important differences. Notice in Figure 2 (*below*) that when Mars stationed retrograde in April, it was considerably further North (higher above) than the star Antares, the heart of the Scorpion (located at 250° west longitude or 10° Sagittarius), and again when it passes direct in August. This vertical north/south dimension of the ecliptic is known as celestial latitude, and it is all but forgotten to most modern astrologers. To the experienced stargazer, rather than the sort of flat *squished S* of the previous image,

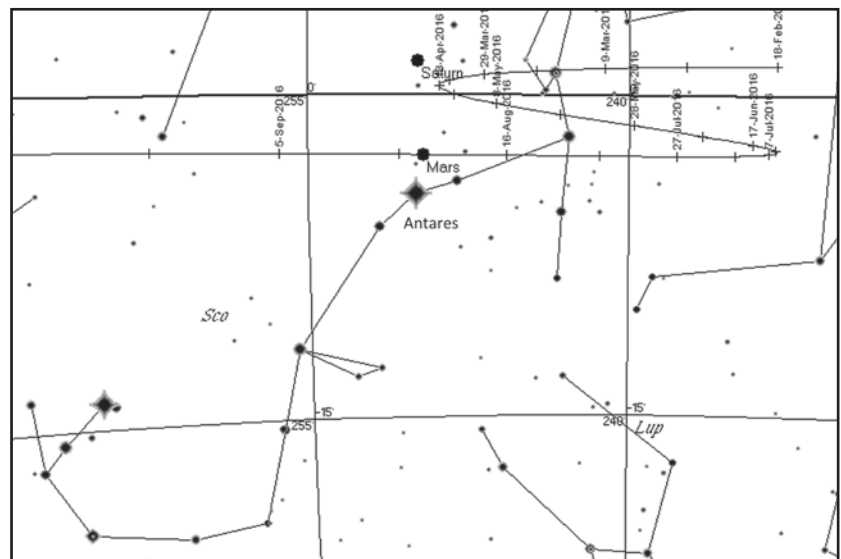


Figure 2. Mars Retrograde in 2016 (drawing created from SkyMap Lite Software).

it is seen that Mars never actually crosses the exact same part of the sky during this retrograde, because it is seen in two dimensions. Mars *does* cross the ecliptic during this particular retrograde (which is rare, actually) and moves several degrees south in latitude as well. If Earth's proximity can be considered as part of what is driving the retrograde experience, then it seems that its visual proximity to stars and/or the ecliptic itself, should be a valid consideration as well.

The next common mistake astrologers make regarding retrograde motion is to assume that all retrogrades are basically the same. For instance, we hear the oft repeated assertion that Mercury's retrograde periods are times "when we experience communication, travel and information breakdowns."⁹ From an objective point of view, this assertion is so ridiculously easy to debunk, that it ought to be either retired or seriously modified. For instance, a *New York Times* article demonstrated that major traffic incidents actually *decreased* and trains were *less likely* to arrive late during some retrograde periods; plus, my Facebook feed is often absolutely replete with anecdotal reports of retrograde foul-ups.¹⁰ How do we explain the difference? It's simply the difference between objective and subjective reality. Confirmation bias is the tendency to interpret new evidence as confirmation of one's existing beliefs or theories. So, if we believe that Mercury retrograde means foul-ups, then *by the Gods* – we are going to find them! Since it feels good to have someone or something to blame when things go wrong, we tend to project our own shortcomings onto an available scapegoat – even a God, it seems, if one is available!

Just as it makes no objective sense that all retrogrades should be experienced in a primarily negative fashion, it also makes no astronomical sense that they should even be experienced similarly. For instance, Robert Blaschke pointed out that there were at least three different kinds of Mercury retrogrades,¹¹ and yet somehow the expectations and predictions of many astrologers were for a repeat of the 2000 presidential chaos in the 2012 election. The idea that all retrogrades are the same, appears to be one-dimensional thinking, and only in terms of east/west longitudinal motion. When viewed in two dimensions, with the addition of north/south celestial latitude, retrogrades are startlingly diverse! Practically speaking, this means that when Mercury is in the first part of its retrograde (nearer the retrograde station) as it was on Election Day in 2012 – it makes a noticeably differently shaped loop than it does when near the last part of the retrograde (nearer the direct station – as in 2000).

As I began to train myself to be a better stargazer, I became intensely fascinated by these curious looping diagrams of the planetary retrogrades found in astronomy publications. There are a confusing variety of shapes that these loops can make, and I wasn't sure if this variety was due to orbital peculiarities between the planets themselves, or something else altogether. My friend and colleague, Adam Gainsburg, shared how Venus makes five different loop shapes for each

of her retrogrades; but upon exploring these further, I noticed how the shapes gradually morphed over long periods of time. It was a confounding mystery, until one day I was introduced to an amazing book, *Tantra Vidya*, which had an appendix that extensively catalogued all the loop shapes for the planet Mars.¹³ Lee Lehman had met the author, astrologer Oscar Marcel Hinze, while in Europe lecturing, and knowing of my interest in cycles, she mentioned it to me. Even though I couldn't read a word of it, because it was written in German, I instinctively knew Hinze could help unravel the mystery of these loops – so I hired my publisher Jenn Zahrt to do a translation of the appendix.

Although upon first examination, there appeared to be seven basic loop shapes, Hinze was insistent that if the readers were to carefully draw them all, they would come to the same conclusion as he – that there are really eight basic shapes. This idea was fascinating to me, because I knew that Mars completed seven synodic cycles with the Sun before his retrogrades returned to nearly the same part of the sky. But shouldn't there then be only seven loops for Mars, as there are five for Venus? Where was this eighth shape coming from? Did it hold the secret to the strange morphing I had seen?

Being an impatient Aries, rather than drawing all the loops as Hinze demanded, I decided to further invest in astronomy software which could draw the loops for me. Quickly, I realized that Hinze was correct. There are eight basic loops shapes, though I have taken the liberty of re-arranging them in Figure 3 (*below*) according to their north/south latitudinal direction.

Once I had categorized the loops according to their latitudinal properties of N/S, I realized that two of the loops stood out as different, but were also a mirror reflection of each other. The

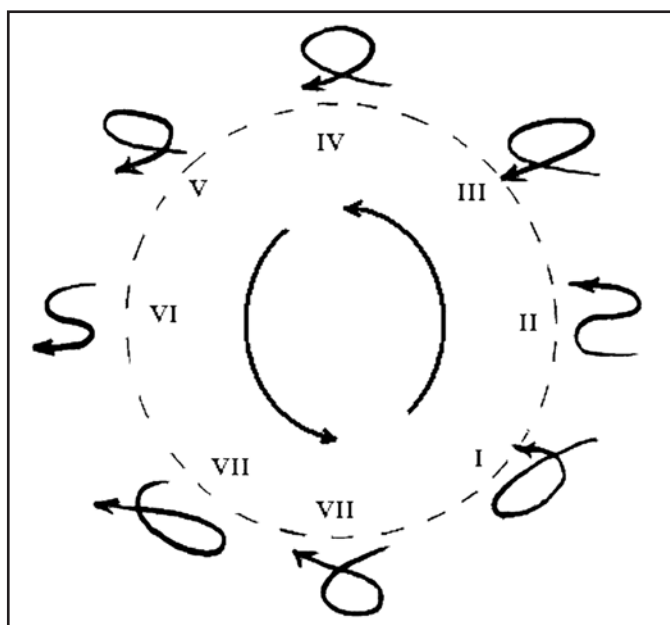
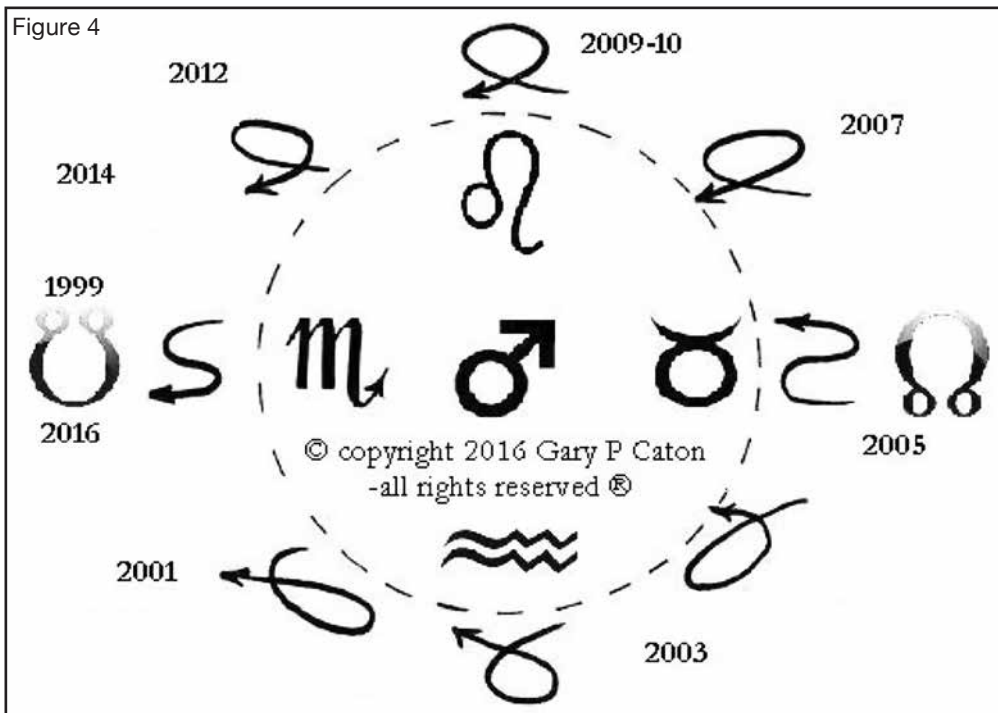


Figure 3. Eight Basic Loop Shapes

Figure 4



If we refer back to Figure 4, we can see that Mars was last in the part of its latitudinal cycle where the retrograde loops are south and descending during the 2001 retrograde loop (in Sagittarius). *Was this a foolish time to begin a war?* Let's look at a few examples.

Consider the situation in Afghanistan: It took until 2011 to get Osama bin Laden, the supposed mastermind of 9/11; the US and NATO had major ground forces in place until 2014; and portions of the country still remain under control of the Taliban, al-Qaeda, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. Now, consider what's been happening with Iraq. The country was invaded in 2003

difference in appearance of these loops is due to the retrograde movement of the planet in proximity to the location of its heliocentric nodes, i.e., the places where its orbit intersects the orbit of the Earth. Just like the Moon the planets also have nodes, though these planetary nodes move much slower (than even the rate of precession).

For the planets, these nodes mark the two places in the planets latitudinal cycle where they will cross the ecliptic during its retrograde, and make the characteristic Z-shaped loop. At the north or ascending node, the planet will make an upward moving Z loop. At the south or descending node, the planet will make a downward moving Z loop. For Mars, we can then anticipate the shape of his loops to be as shown in Figure 4.

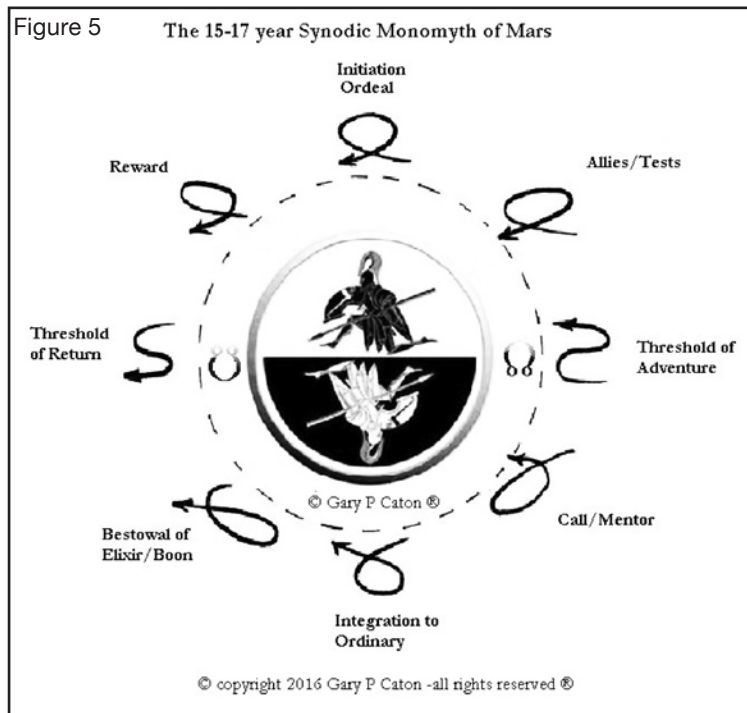
As far as interpretation, what in the world are we supposed to make of these curious loops? This depends a lot on how we interpret celestial latitude. In classical astrology, the main application of latitude was as a kind of minor dignity/debility. The latitude and direction of this latitude were seen to say something about a planet's power and fortitude. For a planet to be in northern latitude and increasing in latitude was seen as a kind of dignity, that is, an augmentation to the power of the planet to do its thing. For a planet to be in southern latitude and decreasing was seen as a kind of debility, that is, a hindrance to its ability to do its thing. For instance, in the old texts we might see a warning saying something to the effect of: *"Don't start building your house if the Moon is in Scorpio or Pisces, in south latitude and descending in latitude."* The obvious connotation is that to begin building under such auspices would be to assume the role of the proverbial fool in the Bible, who builds their house upon the shifting sands.

when Mars was still in south latitude, although no longer descending (Mars was retrograde in Pisces later in 2003). Despite the infamous *mission accomplished* speech by George W. Bush, the US was increasing troop strengths in Iraq as late as 2007 (aka *the surge*) and did not formally withdraw combat troops until 2011. Since 2014, Iraq has remained embroiled in a civil war and the US again has air strike forces there. Finally, consider the fact that US military involvement in Viet Nam began in 1955,¹⁴ also after a Mars retrograde in Pisces! An objective answer to the question posed in the paragraph above is that Mars in the south latitude portion of its retrograde loop cycle does *not* appear to be an optimal time to begin any major military activity – assuming, of course, a long drawn out conflict is not desirable.

I would encourage you to examine your own life for trends during the 2006 to 2015 period when Mars was making northern loops. In my own career, this period marked the time when I was finally able to make astrology a full-time practice. Though I have been an avid astrologer since 1993, it wasn't until 2006 (after two lay-offs in quick succession from jobs in the mental health field) that I decided it was time to take a risk and establish a full-time astrology practice.

At the time, I did not know, but Mars was also crossing a significant threshold – the previous retrograde had been in Taurus, with Mars crossing its north node and thus moving from south to north latitude in its cycle. Ten years as a full time astrologer (and professional networker) has allowed me to devote enough time to begin to decode the meaning of these retrograde loops. Now, as Mars has recently made a retrograde loop across its south node, moving from north to south latitude in its cycle – I find myself with some significant new insights to share.

In *Handbook for the Humanistic Astrologer*, Meyer describes planets in north latitude as functioning in the “*personalizing aspect*” and toward intake of power and personal growth, while planets in south latitude are operative in their social aspect and toward release of power and expansion of consciousness.¹⁵ I take this to mean that, as a cycle, the intake of power and resulting personal growth of the north, ideally results in the growth of consciousness and release of gifts which allows service to the collective in the south. This seems to be modeled after the ideal of the Monomyth or *Hero/ines Journey* of Campbell, wherein the hero/ine’s personal adventure of self discovery/growth leads to the sharing of a boon or elixir upon their return. From these theories and my own experiences, I developed the idea that these eight loops can perhaps be seen and experienced as a series of initiations along the journey of the hero/ine, as shown in Figure 5. I am still in the process of working out basic models, and have other ideas that borrow from Jungian psychology regarding the persona/shadow complexes, but these need to be tested with clients.



Perhaps someone else will find another way altogether to work with these loops, and that would be a good thing! I feel that what is most important is for us to keep refining our craft and moving it forward in order to keep from getting stuck in dogmatic positions that don’t really work or yield good results. On that note, I would like to close with the most important principle that I think these loops illustrate. When examined carefully, it is obvious that both before and after retrograde motion proper, there are often radical north/south latitudinal shifts during direct motion. This is important and meaningful.

Most philosophers believe that, all other things being equal, simpler theories are better. In that sense, rather than using theories about mysterious longitudinally based *shadow* zones, the pre/post retrograde changes often experienced by many people during direct motion, are better attributed to the actual, observable and often radical N/S latitudinal shifts during direct motion. These shifts only become apparent when we understand the retrograde holistically, as a looping kind of circuitous motion.

When retrogrades are visualized as different shaped loops, it becomes obvious that some loops have more pre/post retrograde latitudinal changes than others and that these latitudinal shifts occur in different sectors of the various loops. This could mean that in some loops (especially the Z loops), where the latitudinal change occurs largely during Rx motion proper, the experience of change will be *compressed* and experienced, for the most part, right before and after the stations, as well as during the retrogrades.

In other loops, we find drastic latitudinal shifts during direct motion on one side of the retrograde, but less drastic on the

other. More work needs to be done in order to ascertain if these latitudinal shifts correlate more accurately with objective experience. However, I think that no matter what results ultimately emerge from this research, such work will only serve to enhance our understanding of retrograde motion and our ability to serve as guides for others through those times.

In the professional community, we often hear astrologers saying they yearn for and deserve more acceptance from the wider intelligentsia. In my opinion and experience, banishing one-dimensional theories from our minds and practices, and taking the time to discern, explore, and map out additional dimensions would be a good step toward the realization of that goal.

Endnotes

1. Hand, Robert. *Horoscope Symbols*. Gloucester, MA: Para Research, 1981, pgs 42-46.
2. Sullivan, Erin. *Retrograde Planets: Traversing the Inner Landscape*. York Beach, ME: Samuel Weiser, 2000.
3. Rozek, Gregory. “Retrograde Planets and their Number in the Natal Chart.” First appeared as “People with many retrogrades.” *The Astrological Journal*. The Astrological Society of Great Britain, March, 2014. Accessed online 9/11/16. <http://gregoryrozek.com/en/retrogradeplanets/>
4. Astrodatbank gives: 19 February, 1473 Jul.Cal. (28 Feb 1473 greg.) at 17:13 (= 5:13 PM) AA rating.
5. Astrodatbank gives: 16 February, 1564 Jul.Cal. (26 Feb 1564 greg.) at 15:41 (= 3:41 PM) A rating.
6. Astrodatbank gives: 25 December, 1642 Jul.Cal. (4 Jan 1643 greg.) at 01:38 (= 01:38 AM) C rating.

7. Robert Hand, *Horoscope Symbols* (Gloucester, MA: Para Research, 1981) pgs 42-46.
8. *Ibid*, 2.
9. Massey, Anne. Quoted in *The New York Times*, from a no longer existing website.
10. Newman, Andy. "Yes, Mercury is in Retrograde. So What?" *The New York Times*, Nov 11, 2006. Accessed online 9/11/16. http://www.nytimes.com/2006/11/11/nyregion/11mercury.html?_r=0
11. Blaschke, Robert P. "Retrograde Mercury in Taurus: Recurring Cycle for Goldman Sachs & Global Financial Crises." *The Mountain Astrologer* website. Blog post dated April 26, 2010. Accessed online 9/11/16, <http://mountainastrologer.com/tma/retrograde-mercury-in-taurus-recurring-cycle-for-goldman-sachs-global-financial-crises>
12. Astrology News Service, "Retrograde Mercury on Election Day Could Prove Dickey!" Online news article, September 14, 2012. Accessed online 9/11/16. <http://astrologynewsservice.com/news/astrology-alert-retrograde-mercury-on-election-day-could-prove-dickey/>
Based on a Blog post by Chris Brennan, "Mercury Retrograde and the 2012 Election" August 24, 2012. Accessed online 9/11/16. <http://politicalastrologyblog.com/2012/08/24/mercury-retrograde-and-the-2012-election/>
13. Hinze, Oscar Marcel. *Tantra Vidya: Wissenschaft des Tantra*. Theseus Verlag: 1976.
14. The establishment of the Military Assistance Advisory Group, Vietnam, on Nov. 1, 1955, is now formally recognized as the

earliest qualifying date for addition to the Department of Defense (DoD) Southeast Asia Casualty Database and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.
<https://web.archive.org/web/20131020044326/http://www.defense.gov/Releases/Release.aspx?ReleaseID=1902>

15. Meyer, Michael R. *Handbook for the Humanistic Astrologer*. New York, NY: Anchor Books, 1974.

Editor's Note: Join **Gary P. Caton** for his presentation, "Secrets of the Retrograde Loops" at the **NCGR 2017 Conference**. Gary will offer a complete outline of retrograde loops for all the visible planets and in that process will uncover the secret meanings of the individual dances. Date and time: **Saturday, February 18, at 4:15-5:30**

Gary P. Caton

has been an astrologer for two Jupiter cycles and is co-founder of Sky Astrology Conference (SAC), a new type of astrology gathering with immersive experiences out under the night sky. He is looking forward to witnessing the brightest apparition of Mars since 2003 at the next SAC in Moffat, CO, August, 2018. Find out more about bringing the sky back into your chart at www.SkyAstrologyConference.com Website: www.DreamAstrologer.com
E-mail: gary@dreamastrologer.com



ORDER THE LATEST REVISED NCGR-PAA STUDY GUIDE!

NEW FEATURES!
NEW SIZE!
(174 Pages!)

INCLUDES:

- ★ A detailed and expanded syllabus of each of the four exam Levels, outlining what topics must be studied to prepare for each Level of testing.
- ★ A whole new section on chart calculations
- ★ New astronomical illustrations for astrologers
- ★ Improved astronomical information
- ★ A re-organized segment on House Divisions
- ★ An updated bibliography for each Level of testing
- ★ Comprehensive coverage of historical and cultural periods in the history of astrology from its earliest beginnings to modern times

EDUCATION CURRICULUM
and STUDY GUIDE
for
CERTIFICATION TESTING



NCGR - Professional
Astrologers' Alliance

Still ONLY \$20.00
+ shipping!
Order your copy NOW!
(Price goes up in 2016!)

AND the **Study Guide's** usual **GREAT** features are still here including the **NCGR-PAA** Code of Ethics, Classical Astrology, Uranian, Horary, Electional, Mundane, Relationship Astrology, informative techniques for Vedic, Chinese, and Mesoamerican Astrology, along with detailed, useful information on how to apply and prepare documentation and materials for each Level IV track, **PLUS much, much more!**

Order your copy at
www.astrologersalliance.org

BAD FORTUNE OF THE SIXTH HOUSE

By Baris Ilhan

The sixth house, which is related to illness, servants, and work, is one of the most debilitated houses in astrology. Why? Because it doesn't see the ascendant and it is cadent. According to classical astrology, *not seeing* is the worst case. It is worse than the opposition, which is enmity. If you can see your enemy, you can do something about it, but if you can't see the problem (if it is hidden), then there is nothing you can do. That's why the quincunx is the aspect of readjustment and redirecting. Only after the hidden is revealed, can you adjust. Only after realizing that you are ill, can you try to recover.

In his *Ancient Astrology Theory and Practice*, when writing about the four debilitated houses, Firmicus Maternus says:

*The last of the four are those of Mala Fortuna and Malus Daemon. Mala Fortuna is located in the sixth house from the ascendant, but the Malus Daemon in the twelfth from the ascendant.*¹

*The sixth house is located in the sixth house from the ascendant . . . In this house we find the cause of physical infirmities and sickness. This house is called Mala Fortuna because it is the house of Mars. This is also a passive house because it is not aspected to the ascendant. But sometimes the unfavorable influence is removed from this house if a planet in this house is in favorable aspect to another planet in the tenth house from the ascendant.*²

Here we see that the 6th house is also called Mala Fortuna (evil fortune). In Hellenistic system, while the sixth house is the *bad fortune*, the fifth house signifies the Good Fortune.

Fortuna was the goddess of fortune and personification of luck in Roman religion. She might bring good luck or bad, and came to represent life's capriciousness. Her identity as personification of chance events was closely tied to *virtus* (strength of character). Public officials who lacked virtues invited ill-fortune on themselves and Rome. Roman historian Sallust uses the infamous Catiline (Roman senator) as illustration – “Truly, when in the place of work, idleness, in



*place of the spirit of measure and equity, caprice and pride invade, fortune is changed just as with morality.*³

Fortune, as a personified or deified power, is regarded as determining human success, apportioning happiness and unhappiness, and distributing arbitrarily or fortuitously the lots of life. In modern days, fortune is known as chance, accident, or luck. It is the arrival of something in a sudden or unexpected manner. An accident is a specific, unpredictable, unusual and unintended external action which occurs in a particular time and place, with no apparent and deliberate cause, but with marked effects.

Robert Schmidt writes that “In the astrological context, the fortune-like fate of the 5th and 6th houses has a more impersonal character, as when you go downtown to buy something and ‘accidentally’ meet up with someone who pays you money he has owed you (5th-house fate), or have a car accident that gives you whiplash (6th-house fate); this kind of fate is what accompanies your own deliberate activity but was not something that you yourself intended. By contrast, the spirit-like fate wears a more personal face, as when fate seems to

embody itself in a benefactor or 'good angel' (11th-house fate), or in an enemy who despoils you like an 'evil demon' (12th-house fate); this kind of fate can be a godsend and the fulfillment of your expectations, or else the material manifestation of your worst fears."⁴

Good or Bad?

In modern view, when we hear the words, *bad fortune*, we usually don't like or prefer it; but in reality, bad fortune is not necessarily bad, and good fortune is not necessarily good. We can see its examples quite often in our daily lives. Imagine a young person who just graduated from university and started working in a company. This person may, by chance or luck, become the manager in one year; but without much experience, the person may have hard time dealing with the problems and responsibilities of this position, and eventually may have to resign. Then since the person became a manager at a very young age, trying to find another job may have difficulties. Companies may prefer more experienced managers, and cannot offer the person a lower position or the person may not accept an inferior position.

Plutarch in his book *On Fortune* says:

*"Never to welcome
Any gifts from Zeus of Olympus,
but always return them,*

*meaning the gifts of chance and external advantages; as if he were advising him not to play the flute if ignorant of music, nor to read if illiterate, nor to ride if unused to horses, thus advising him not to hold public office if a fool, nor to be rich if miserly, nor to marry if ruled by a woman. For not only is it true, as Demosthenes has said, that 'undeserved success becomes a source of misconception for fools,' but undeserved good fortune also becomes a source of misery for the unthinking."*⁵

According to Islamic Mysticism, fortune is not distributed arbitrarily. Both good and evil are from God. Because light can only be recognized through its opposite. God wills evil, but approves only the good.

*"In the same way, when a person wants to teach, he desires the ignorance of the pupil. For there can be no teaching without the pupil's ignorance, and to desire something is also to desire the thing's concomitants. However the teacher does not approve of the pupil's ignorance, or else he would not teach him. The physician desires people to be ill, since he desires to practice medicine. For his skill in medicine cannot be manifested unless people are ill. But he does not approve of their illness, or else he would not treat them and heal them."*⁶

But, *"Man sees only the outward phenomena and takes them at face value. However, the mystic can understand that God's wrath is mercy in disguise, and that the pain He inflicts upon*

those who love Him are necessary for their spiritual growth –just as bitter medicine is necessary for the sick. How often is the man misled by the delusion of outward appearances:

*How many enmities were friendship,
How many destructions were renovation.*

*Rumi*⁷

From these explanations, we can see that for a Sufi, pain, bad luck, a bad accident are only chances to get closer to God, or getting closer to know and actualize oneself. In a way, through the bad fortune of the sixth house, we can meet and recognize our good fortune or good spirit that helps us to find the right path to ourselves.

All Rights Reserved.

Endnotes:

1. Maternus, Firmicus. *Ancient Astrology Theory and Practice: Matheseos Libri VIII*. Astrology Classics, 2005, p. 47.
2. Ibid., p. 50.
3. "Fortuna," from Wikipedia.com.
4. "Facets of Fate," <https://www.scribd.com/document/175520223/The-Facets-of-Fate-Robert-Schmidt>.
5. "On Fortune" by Plutarch as published in Vol. II of the Loeb Classical Library edition, 1928. http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Plutarch/Moralia/De_fortuna*.html
6. Chittick, William C. *The Sufi Path of Love: The Spiritual Teachings of Rumi*. State University of New York Press, 1984, p. 56.
7. Schimmel, Annemarie. *Mystical Dimension of Islam*. The University of North Carolina Press, 2nd edition, 2011, p. 198.

Editor's Note: To learn more, attend **Baris Ilhan's** presentation on "Astrology's Bad Boys: Houses Six, Eight, & Twelve," at the **NCGR 2017 Conference**. Baris will further discuss how we can deal with the bad fortune of the sixth house, and what kind of roles can other, so-called bad houses of astrology, play through this journey. Date and time: **Friday, February 17, 2:30-3:45 pm**.

Baris Ilhan

C.A., NCGR, since 1993, is one of the leading astrologers in Turkey where she provides a publishing house and an astrology school, Ilhan Astrology Institute. While teaching, writing and lecturing regularly, she is also a researcher on Ottoman and Islamic astrology; a member of NCGR, ISAR, AFA, AFAN, AA, OPA and the Advisory Board of NCGR; the President of NCGR Turkey Chapter; and the author of two books, *The Puberty Age of Adults: Planetary Cycle* and *Astrology Lessons*, a text book for students. Website: www.barisilhan.com E-mail: barisilhan@superonline.com



Mental Chemistry and US Presidential Elections

By David Perloff



Mental Chemistry is a concept developed by Marc Edmund Jones. Dr. Jones was one of the most prominent US astrologers of the 20th century until his death in 1980. Charles Jayne called him “*the best teacher of astrology this country ever produced.*”¹ This article will examine the role of Mental Chemistry in the electing of Presidents of the United States.

Mental Chemistry has to do with how a person picks up and processes information. The concept is based on two factors in the natal chart: the speed of the Moon at a person’s birth, and the position of Mercury relative to the Sun. In most cases, as long as a person’s date of birth is available, their Mental Chemistry can be determined even without a birth time.

The Moon’s motion can either be fast or slow, and Mercury can rise either before or after the Sun. Based on those two factors, there are four Mental Chemistry types:

- Moon Fast, Mercury Ahead
- Moon Fast, Mercury Behind
- Moon Slow, Mercury Ahead
- Moon Slow, Mercury Behind

To make sense of those four types, let’s briefly examine the role of the Moon and Mercury. The Moon has to do with how a person receives information of all sorts. Think of it as a satellite dish. The

Moon starts the action. Mercury has to do with how the information that the Moon picks up is processed. Picture Mercury as a computer, hooked up to that Moon / satellite dish.

Let’s take a brief look at each of the four Mental Chemistry types.

The Moon Fast, Mercury Ahead folks are quick-witted and alert. Not much gets by them, and they are usually fast to respond. Lots of information is picked up, and that data is analyzed rapidly. They need to guard against being too hasty. Becoming bored can be an issue. They are often *on to the next thing*, and may not be that great at sticking with projects until they are completed.

Some examples of this lively group are: Stephen Colbert, Kristin Wiig, Condoleezza Rice, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Don Rickles, Rachel Maddow, Jerry Seinfeld.

The Moon Slow, Mercury Behind Mental Chemistry type is the opposite of the group we just discussed. This is the slowest of the four types – not in terms of intelligence, but in their mental operation. They pick up the input slowly, and then need time to digest that information. They want to make sure they understand what is being said. Sometimes they feel that things are going by too quickly. Rather than pick

up a broad spectrum of input, the aperture of their satellite dish is less open. They often will see and hear what they are focused on, and miss other details. The big positive of this type is that once they have fully grasped a subject, they tend to have great retention.

Some examples of this group are: Alfred Hitchcock, Colin Powell, Germany’s Angela Merkel, Harry Reasoner, Bill O’Reilly, Lindsay Lohan.

The remaining two types are a mixture – faster Moon, slower Mercury and slower Moon, faster Mercury. These two categories were described by Marc Edmund Jones as being “*a healthy balance and the desirable norm.*”²

As much as I respect the genius of Marc Edmund Jones, I have two problems with that characterization:

- (a) It makes the other two Mental Chemistry types seem less advantageous. I strongly disagree with that.
- (b) In fact, the focus of this article is that one of the *healthy balance* combinations may not be as all-around rosy as Dr. Jones indicates.

Let’s look further.

With Moon Slow, Mercury Ahead, the natives might pick things up slowly, but they can quickly process what they have picked up. President Barack Obama is a good example. His pace often seems slow, as he bit-by-bit gathers the information he needs, but then his *computer* is able to put all of that together, and respond in cogent sentences.

In general, there is a relaxed quality to the folks with this combination. Part of that relates to the smaller aperture of their satellite dish; they are not overwhelmed by a flood of input. They are not nervous about items that haven't entered their awareness.

In my opinion, even though all of the Mental Chemistries are perfectly workable (especially if understood), if there is an exalted Mental Chemistry, it's Moon Slow, Mercury Ahead. Why would that be? Well, the Moon is exalted in Taurus, so the Moon is comfortable with the unhurried pace of a slow Moon. With the Moon ruling Cancer, that smaller satellite dish opening suits the Crab just fine. Mercury Ahead is just right for the fleet-footed messenger of the gods and goddesses.

Some examples of this relaxed, confident dynamic: Cary Grant, Brian Williams (think of him pre-scandal), Michelle Obama, Arianna Huffington, Maya Angelou, Meryl Streep.

So, what does that say about the opposite dynamic - Moon Fast, Mercury Behind? Well, before those of you with this Mental Chemistry start looking for a trade-in, be aware of this list of your fellow Moon Fast, Mercury Behind natives: Mohammed Ali, Barbara Walters, Madonna, Robert DeNiro, Johnny Carson, Jay Leno, Jimmy Fallon, Jennifer Lopez, Albert Einstein. A pretty successful, accomplished group, wouldn't you say?

But what is it about this Mental Chemistry that might be a bit difficult? There can be the following dynamic: The information is picked up more quickly by the Fast Moon than the Mercury Behind can comfortably process. Albert

Einstein once said: *"I used to go away for weeks in a state of confusion."*²³

The Fast Moon can lead to a feeling of being somewhat overwhelmed by the stimulation of day-to-day living. A good life strategy is to build in time to chill out, to decompress, and give your over-worked computer a chance to catch up and rest.

So, what does all of this have to do with US Presidential elections? After researching all of the elections, going back to George Washington, this is what I discovered.

U.S. Presidential Elections

There have been 57 elections for President of the United States, prior to 2016. Admittedly, that is not a huge sample size, but I think the following observations about Mental Chemistry (MeCh) and presidential elections are worth considering.

Radio did not become available across the US until the 1920's. The first election in which radio was believed to have played a key role was 1928. The differences in results between the pre-radio (and TV) era and the timeframe since those were a factor are quite striking. Prior to 1928, the MeCh distribution among the candidates was fairly evenly distributed, as you would expect. Interestingly, as it will turn out, the most common MeCh was Moon Fast, Mercury Behind.

Here are the specifics:

Mental Chemistry of the elected president, 1789-1924 (35 elections):

Moon slow, Mercury ahead: 6 (17%)
 Moon slow, Mercury behind: 7 (20%)
 Moon fast, Mercury ahead: 9 (26%)

Moon fast, Mercury behind: 13 (37%)

For those interested in the details:

Moon Slow, Mercury Ahead
 (6 elections):

Thomas Jefferson (1800, 1804), James Madison (1808, 1812), Grover Cleveland

(1884, 1892). [Fun fact: Grover Cleveland was the only president elected to non-consecutive terms. He lost in 1888, but came back to win in 1892.]

Moon Slow, Mercury Behind

(7 elections):

John Adams (1796), Andrew Jackson (1828, 1832), William McKinley (1896, 1900), William H. Taft (1908), Calvin Coolidge (1924).

Moon Fast, Mercury Ahead

(9 elections):

George Washington (1789, 1792), Martin Van Buren (1836), William Henry Harrison (1840), Zachary Taylor (1848), Franklin Pierce (1852), Ulysses S. Grant (1868, 1872), Theodore Roosevelt (1904).

Moon Fast, Mercury Behind

(13 elections):

James Monroe (1816, 1820), John Quincy Adams (1824), James K. Polk (1844), James Buchanan (1856), Abraham Lincoln (1860, 1864), Rutherford B. Hayes (1876), James A. Garfield (1880), Benjamin Harrison (1888), Woodrow Wilson (1912, 1916), Warren G. Harding (1920)

When we move into the radio and TV era, we see a dramatic change:

Mental Chemistry of the elected president in the radio and TV era, 1928-2012 (22 elections):

Moon slow, Mercury ahead:	8
winners (36.35%)	
Moon slow, Mercury behind:	8
winners (36.35%)	
Moon fast, Mercury ahead:	6
winners (27.3%)	
Moon fast, Mercury behind:	0
winners (0%)	

So in the radio and television era, the US has never elected a president with Moon fast, Mercury behind (22 elections in a row).

As recently as the early 1900s, Moon Fast and Mercury Behind candidates were popular. In the four elections just prior to radio playing a key role in presidential elections (1912, 1916, 1920

and 1924), three of the four winners had Moon Fast and Mercury Behind: Woodrow Wilson (1912 and 1916), Warren Harding (1920).

In the 22 presidential elections in the radio and TV era, only three major party candidates with Moon Fast and Mercury Behind even made it far enough to receive their party's nomination: Barry Goldwater, Gerald Ford, and John McCain. (Gerald Ford was President, of course, but he was not elected President. In fact, he was the only President who was never elected as either Vice President or President. He had been appointed Vice President by Richard Nixon after the resignation of Spiro Agnew. Ford became President when Richard Nixon resigned.)

Here are some Moon Fast and Mercury Behind presidential candidates who did not get their party's nomination: Robert Kennedy, Jerry Brown, John Edwards, Paul Tsongas.

In the 2012 Presidential election, MeCh was not an issue, in that both Barack Obama and Mitt Romney have the same MeCh: Moon Slow, Mercury Ahead.

In that year, as you will probably recall, there were quite a few Republican candidates. Of the eight who made it to the CNN debate (Mitt Romney, Herman Cain, Ron Paul, Newt Gingrich, Rick Santorum, Rick Perry, Michele Bachmann, and Jon Huntsman), only one has Moon Fast and Mercury Behind. It's the one who was marginalized right away, Ron Paul.

Of the seventeen 2016 Republican candidates⁴ (Donald Trump, John Kasich, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, Ben Carson, Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, Rand Paul, Mike Huckabee, Scott Walker, Carly Fiorina, Rick Santorum, George Pataki, Lindsey Graham, Bobby Jindal, Rick Perry, Jim Gilmore), only two have Moon Fast and Mercury Behind. One is Ron Paul's son, Rand Paul. His candidacy never gained any traction.

The other is the biggest surprise of the 2016 campaign on the Republican

side, other than the unexpected rise of Donald Trump. Early on, it was widely viewed as a given that Jeb Bush (Moon Fast, Mercury Behind) would be the 2016 Republican nominee. But Jeb proved to be less than adept on the presidential campaign trail. Trump's characterization of Jeb as *low energy* perhaps reflected that Jeb would rather be home decompressing than answering reporters' questions.

On the Democratic side, there were six major candidates, according to Wikipedia:⁵ Lincoln Chafee, Lawrence Lessig, Martin O'Malley, Bernie Sanders, Jim Webb, Hillary Clinton. The only one with Moon Fast, Mercury Behind is the one you are least likely to have heard of: Lawrence Lessig.

What about Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump? They each have Moon Slow, Mercury Behind. At first look, that MeCh seems to fit Hillary better than it does Donald Trump.

This is a good time to point out that MeCh does not overpower the rest of the chart. However, it does move the needle. Believe it or not, Donald Trump would probably be even quicker on the draw if he had a different MeCh.

Just a few things about Trump's chart:

--He has a very prominent Uranus, which makes an exact trine to a stationary Jupiter. Uranus always *speeds up the movie* – even more so with the aspect to Jupiter.

--His Mars near the ascendant also speeds things up.

--And he has an out-of-bounds Mercury, which can certainly correspond to unfettered off-the-cuff verbal expression.

If you think that he doesn't seem to be a typical Moon Slow, Mercury Behind person, I agree. But there are clearly powerful components to his chart that counter the Moon Slow, Mercury Behind tendencies.

So, for the 23rd election in a row in the radio and TV era, we will not have a

Moon Fast, Mercury Behind President, after it being the most frequent MeCh in the prior 35 elections. Why might this be true? Prior to the radio and TV time period, people would just read about the candidates' positions and prior accomplishments. Very few actually saw or heard them in person.

As I mentioned in an earlier article, my childhood friend has this placement. He used to extend both hands, making a *stop* gesture, and say: "*Wait a minute. Wait a minute. Let me just think.*" He often wanted time for his Mercury Behind to catch up with the situation at hand. Asking for more time is perfectly acceptable and understandable, but there is often an unease with that. It certainly seems that in our current radio / TV / and now social media era, the American public has decided to vote the Moon Fast, Mercury Behind candidates *off the island*.

What would I counsel if asked for astrological advice by a Moon Fast, Mercury Behind potential presidential candidate?

--First, are you sure you want to subject yourself to the public scrutiny and rigors of a presidential campaign? If so:

--Try to rely more on well thought-out campaign themes, rather than give-and-take with reporters. Prepared speeches are good; Town Hall events may prove to be more challenging. (Just ask Jeb Bush.)

--Remember this: It is perfectly acceptable to say: "I'll get back to you on that." Einstein didn't have all of the answers right away.

--Be prepared. Know your stuff. Improvising on the spot may not be your strong suit.

--One option: Consider trying to control the narrative. Think about setting the agenda. Some Moon Fast Mercury Behind natives are quite adept at this, not letting anyone else get in a word edgewise. As Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld (Moon Fast, Mercury Behind) was quite the expert at this

adaptive behavior. He often asked and answered his own questions at his press conferences.

--Make sure you build in some serious down time as part of your campaign schedule.

All Rights Reserved.

Endnotes:

1. <http://www.astrologyweekly.com/natal-charts/marc-edmund-jones.php>
2. Jones, Marc Edmund. *The Essentials of Astrological Analysis*. Sabian Publishing Society, 1960 (reprinted 1970), p. 383.
3. https://www.aip.org/history/exhibits/einstein/great1_text.htm
4. Birth dates and Mental Chemistry of 2016 Republican candidates from AstroDataBank and other public domain resources:
 - Donald Trump: June 14, 1946 - Moon Slow, Mercury Behind
 - John Kasich: May 13, 1952 - Moon Fast, Mercury Ahead
 - Ted Cruz: December 22, 1970 - Moon Slow, Mercury Behind
 - Marco Rubio: May 28, 1971 - Moon Slow, Mercury Ahead
 - Ben Carson: September 18, 1951 - Moon Slow, Mercury Ahead
 - Jeb Bush: February 11, 1953 - Moon Fast, Mercury Behind
 - Chris Christie: September 6, 1962 - Moon Slow, Mercury Behind
 - Rand Paul: January 7, 1963 - Moon Fast, Mercury Behind
 - Mike Huckabee: August 24, 1955 - Moon Slow, Mercury Behind
 - Scott Walker: November 2, 1967 - Moon Fast, Mercury Ahead
 - Carly Fiorina: September 6, 1954 - Moon Slow, Mercury Behind
 - Rick Santorum: May 10, 1958 - Moon Slow, Mercury Ahead
 - George Pataki: June 24, 1945 - Moon Slow, Mercury Behind
 - Lindsey Graham: July 9, 1955 - Moon Slow, Mercury Ahead
 - Bobby Jindal: June 10, 1971 - Moon Fast, Mercury Ahead
 - Rick Perry: March 4, 1950 - Moon Fast, Mercury Ahead
 - Jim Gilmore: October 6, 1949 - Moon Slow, Mercury Ahead

5. Birth dates and Mental Chemistry of 2016 Democratic candidates from AstroDataBank and other public domain resources:
 - Hillary Clinton: October 26, 1947 - Moon Slow, Mercury Behind
 - Lincoln Chafee: March 26, 1953 - Moon Slow, Mercury Ahead
 - Lawrence Lessig: June 3, 1961 - Moon Fast, Mercury Behind
 - Martin O'Malley: January 18, 1963 - Moon Slow, Mercury Behind
 - Bernie Sanders: September 8, 1941 - Moon Slow, Mercury Behind

- Jim Webb: February 9, 1946 - Moon Fast, Mercury Ahead

Editor's Note: If you would like to learn more about Mental Chemistry, check **David Perloff's** Mental Chemistry article in the 2015 *Geocosmic Journal* and read an updated version on his website: <http://davidperloffastrology.com/>. However, the best way is to attend the **NCGR 2017 Conference on Saturday, February 18 at 9:30 am** when David will lecture on "Mental Chemistry--A Legacy of Marc Edmond Jones."

David Perloff

is a Boston-area astrologer whose specialty is the works of Marc Edmund Jones. Dr. Jones was one of the most prominent astrologers of the 20th century, and in recent years, David has been a frequent guest speaker at Marc Edmund Jones-founded Sabian Assembly conferences. He has had articles published in *The Mountain Astrologer* and NCGR publications. His article "Another Look at Mental Chemistry" appeared in the Winter-Spring 2015 edition of the *Geocosmic Journal*.
Web site: www.davidperloffastrology.com



NCGR Statement of Purpose

The purpose of NCGR shall be to provide an environment to foster and publish research of a geocosmic nature and to pursue educational programs in various interdisciplinary fields related to geocosmic studies. The term "geocosmic" is defined as "of or pertaining to the study of correspondences and cycles involving earthly phenomena and cosmic (celestial) events." This purpose is implemented by: disseminating information through NCGR publications, including journals, newsletters, books or monographs; providing financial and technical assistance, guidance, or professional help to individuals or groups for approved research projects, sponsoring interdisciplinary educational programs, chartering regional, semi-autonomous chapters of NCGR having the same goals and purposes; promoting and encouraging the highest professional standard and ethical behavior among astrologers.

Does the Birth Chart Live On After Death?

By Alphee Lavoie

Many years ago, I remember reading a book by Ivy Jacobsen in which she mentioned that the natal chart keeps living on even after you pass away. I decided to test this concept and see if this is really true. In order to do so, an accurate birth time for the native is necessary. A few years back my 'Gators research group decided to rectify some of the charts of the past presidents of the United States which required us to collect birth information. Fortunately for us, there are a few books containing this data but each one states a different birth time. I decided to test the birth chart of President John F. Kennedy with Ivy's statement that *the chart lives on*. Astro-databank lists John Fitzgerald Kennedy's birth time as 3 pm which gives him a 20° Libra rising.

Doris Chase Doane gives him 19 Libra 59 rising with a time of 3:15:28 pm LMT in her book, *Horoscopes of U.S. Presidents*¹ while *A Rectification Manual: The American Presidency*² by Regulus Astrology presents the time of 3:39:15 pm, providing him with a rising sign of 27 Libra 37.

I rectified President John F. Kennedy's chart time to 3:17:32 pm which brings his ascendant to 23:24:07 of Libra. (See Figure 1).



The events that I used to verify John F. Kennedy's chart are listed below. All the events occurred after his untimely and tragic death on November 22, 1963.

- 1) Father died November 16, 1969.
- 2) Mother died January 22, 1995.
- 3) His son, John, died July 16, 1999.
- 4) His wife, Jackie, May 19, 1994.
- 5) Jackie married Ari Onassis October 20, 1968.
- 6) His son, John, married September 21, 1996.

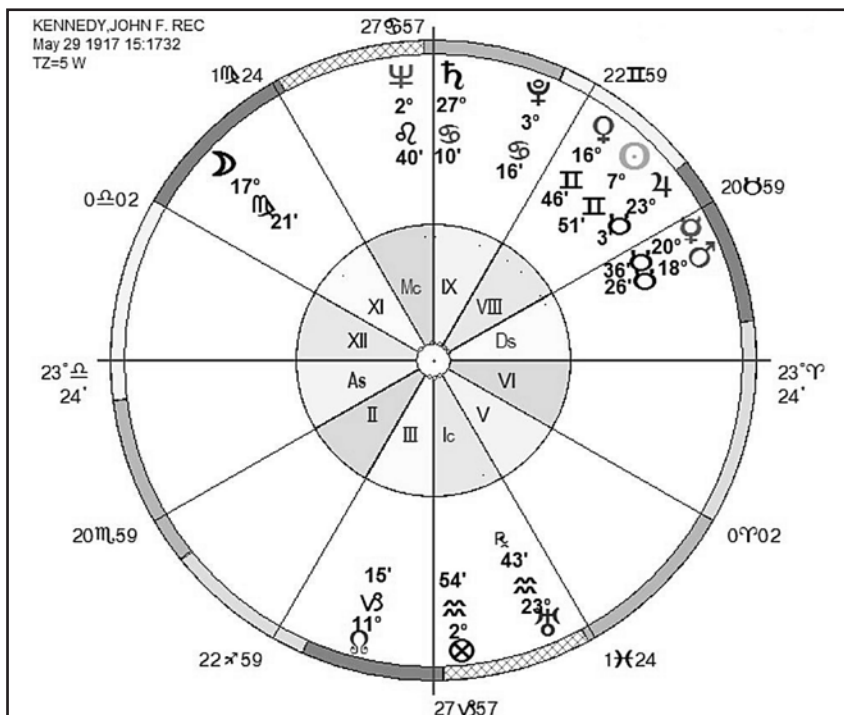


Figure 1. Kennedy's rectified birth chart (Chart from Air Software.)

Father's Death

Kennedy lost his father on November 16, 1969 when the solar arc Sun was exactly conjunct his midheaven (Figure 2, next page). This ruled his intercepted 10th house bringing his 8th house Sun to the parents' 10th house. I use the 10th house to represent the mother and the 4th house to represent the father. But here the Sun was on the 10th house cusp in opposition to the 4th house cusp of the father.

The eclipse prior to his father's death was in his 11th house on his natal Moon ruling his midheaven. The 11th house was the 8th from the 4th of the father. Eclipses and New Moons play a very major role in predictive astrology both in transit and backward transit.

In backward transits, the New Moon was exactly in opposition to his 8th house Sun. The tertiary progressed Venus, ruler of his natal 8th house, was conjunct his 8th house Venus.

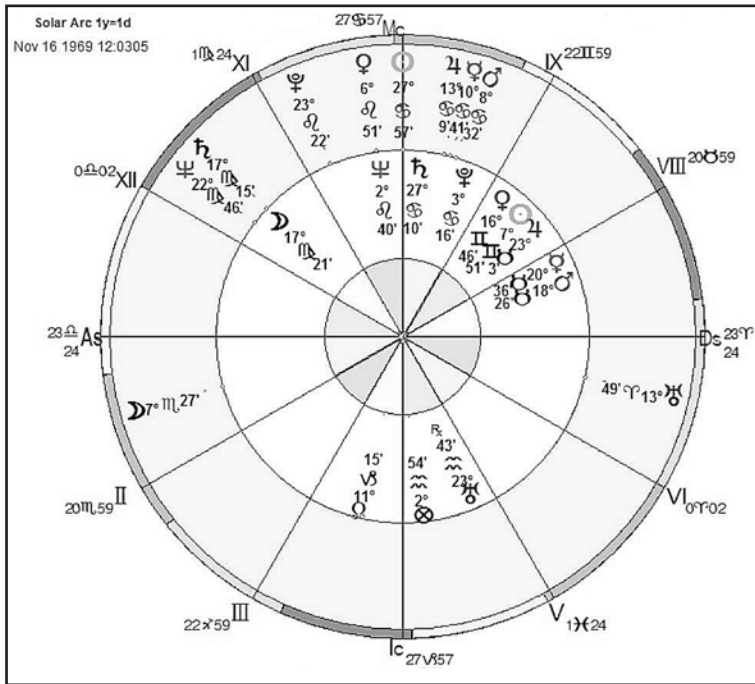


Figure 2. Kennedy's birth chart on inside; Solar Arc for November 16, 1969 on outside. (Chart from Air Software.)

The minor converse progressed midheaven was in opposition to Uranus, the ruler of his intercepted 4th house.

All of the above predicted the loss of his father.

Mother's Death

In Kennedy's natal chart, transiting Neptune exactly squared the ascendant. Neptune in his 10th house natively brought the 10th house energy of the mother's house to him. In backward transit, both the New Moon and the eclipse was conjunct his Moon in his 11th house. The Moon ruled the 10th of the mother. In backward transit, Jupiter was conjunct the ascendant, bringing in an 8th house energy to his chart. He had Jupiter in his 8th house in his natal chart.

The secondary progressed Moon was exactly conjunct his midheaven. In minor converse progression, the Moon squared the ascendant; the Moon was the ruler of his 10th house.

In solar arc converse, the intercepted ruler of the 4th house, Uranus, opposed the Sun in his 8th house. His natal Sun was in the 8th house, bringing the 8th house energy to the 4th house of family. The progressed Moon was conjunct the midheaven (Figure 3, right→). The prior eclipse was conjunct his 5th house cusp which was the 8th from the 10th.

Again all this points to a very strong probability of John F. Kennedy losing his mother at this time.

Death of his son, John, in a plane crash

The previous eclipse was conjunct the 5th house cusp. In transit, Jupiter squared the planet Neptune, ruling the 5th house and Jupiter in his 8th house, brought together the 5th and 8th houses, tying John, Jr with the house of death. In backward transit, the prior eclipse was in an exact opposition to the Sun in the 8th house.

In minor progression, the Sun was conjunct his midheaven, while the Sun was in his 8th house of death. Although not shown in this article, it is amazing to also clearly see John, Jr.'s death in the chart of Jackie Kennedy Onassis.

Jackie, his wife, died May 19,1994

In transit, the prior eclipse and the New Moon were in the 7th house of marriage partners. In backward transit, Mars, the ruler of the 7th house, was conjunct the 8th house Sun, bringing the 7th house energy to the 8th house of death. Also the New Moon was conjunct the Sun in his 8th house.

In secondary progression, Mercury was conjunct the Moon. Mercury was in his natal 7th house. The tertiary converse Moon opposed Saturn exactly, while tertiary Venus exactly opposed Saturn, both indicating losing a loved one. The progressed tertiary midheaven was conjunct Jupiter in his 8th house.

Converse solar arcs showed a tight square between Jupiter and the Sun, both in his 8th house. Solar arc Pluto also made a

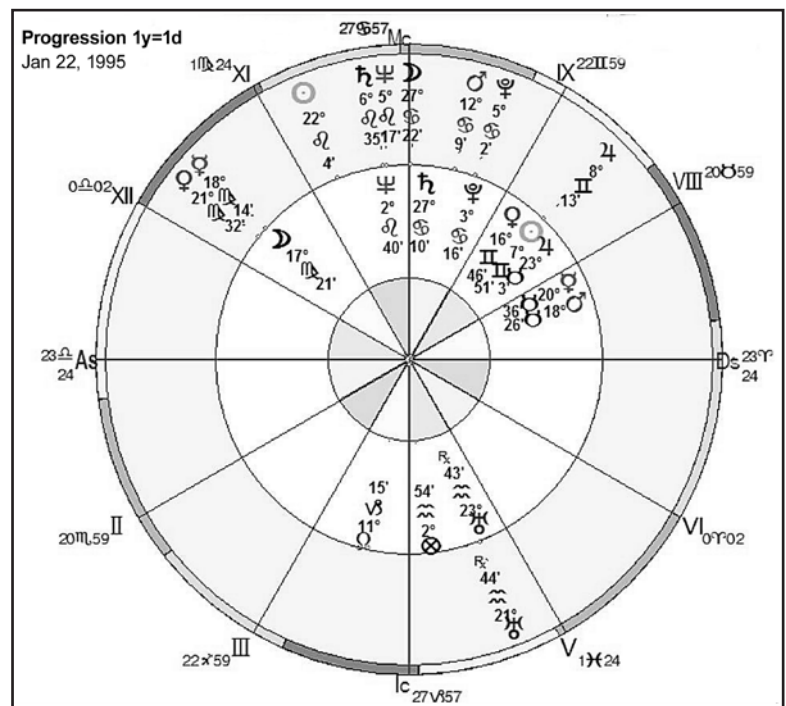


Figure 3. Kennedy's birth chart inside; Progression for January 22, 1995 outside. (Chart from Air Software.)

tight square to Venus in the 8th house. The planet Pluto ruled the 2nd house, the 8th from the 7th house of his wife. The tertiary converse progressed Moon opposed his natal Saturn and the delineation of that can be losing a loved one.

Did John F. Kennedy attend the wedding when Jackie married Ari Onassis?

It looks like he made a quick appearance, but that's all! The minor progressed Moon was conjunct the 7th house cusp in backward transit as Mercury sextiled the ascendant. Mercury was in the 7th house. The prior eclipse was in his 1st house in opposition to Mercury and Mars. It appeared that he might not have been particularly in favor of the wedding.

These are just a few astrological correlations found among the many other events which are too numerous to mention here.

John Jr. married on September 21, 1996

Did John F. Kennedy attend the wedding of his son? The houses involved in Kennedy's chart when his son, John, Jr., married, accented his 5th and 11th houses. The New Moon was conjunct his Moon in his 11th house. The 11th house is the 7th from his son which is the house of his son's marriage. In backward transit, Jupiter was exactly conjunct his 11th house Moon, again indicating the house of his son's marriage. Tertiary Jupiter was conjunct Neptune, ruling the 5th house. In minor converse progression, Neptune, ruler of the 5th, was sextile Mercury, ruler of the 11th of John, Jr's marriage.

The chart even reveals when both of Kennedy's brother's died.

Robert Kennedy died June 6, 1968

The houses involved were the 3rd house of the brother and the 10th which is the 8th from the 3rd. The planets involved were the Moon ruling the 10th house and Jupiter ruling the 3rd house.

In transit, the New Moon was in John's 8th house and the eclipse was in the 1st squaring the 10th house Neptune. In backward transit, the New Moon was in the 8th house conjunct Jupiter, ruler of the 3rd house. The planet Jupiter, ruler of the 3rd, was station direct in opposition to Neptune in the 10th house. In minor progression, the midheaven was conjunct Jupiter in the 8th house, ruler of the 3rd. In solar arc converse, the Moon was exactly conjunct the midheaven, the 8th from the brother's 3rd house.

Edward Kennedy died August 25, 2009

When Kennedy's brother Edward passed on, transiting Venus was conjunct the 10th house cusp, bringing his 8th house Venus to the 10th house of his brother's house of death. Additionally the New Moon was in the 10th house. In tertiary progression, Jupiter was exactly conjunct the 4th house cusp in opposition

to the 10th house cusp, while the tertiary Moon was conjunct the 10th house cusp. Meanwhile, converse solar arc Moon was conjunct Venus in his 8th house.

A Provocative Idea, indeed!

It's amazing how the chart can live on forever! Seeing that this concept does hold validity, I wonder--does it mean that we could predict when the soul is reborn again? Just when did John Fitzgerald Kennedy's soul energy really begin? I guess this is a metaphysical question that has plagued so many of us to question our origins. Did he (and we) live in another life with a chart that prepared the way for this present one? Did John F. Kennedy's essence truly manifest on his birthdate of May 29, 1917 or did it already previously manifest elsewhere? If the chart of a person who has passed on still lives, what are the possible ramifications of the chart for future incarnations?

Wow! It seems that the chart holds even more than we are aware of and offers much to seriously ponder. I would like to thank my idol, astrologer extraordinaire Ivy Jacobson, for making me aware of this concept.

All Rights Reserved.

Endnotes:

1. Doane, Doris Chase. *Horoscopes of U.S. Presidents*. Professional Astrologers Inc, 2nd edition, 1971.
2. *A Rectification Manual: The American Presidency*. Regulus Astrology LLC, 2007.

Editor's Note: At the **NCGR 2017 Conference, Alphee Lavoie** will present "My New Research on Eclipses and New Moons Will Blow your Mind." Alphee will show how eclipses and New Moons direct attention to areas of life that will assist in both forecasting and in rectification; and he will discuss why he regards the statistical research proving the importance of these celestial phenomena as one of the most helpful discoveries. Date and time: **Friday, February 17, 2:30-3:45 pm.**

Alphee Lavoie

Certified Astrologer, NCGR Level IV, for over a half century, has earned his living as a professional astrologer. He was Research Director for NCGR for 12 years and has lectured worldwide at major conferences. For the past six UAC conferences, he was nominated for the Research and Innovations award. Alphee has authored three best selling horary books and has been writing the monthly horary column in *Dell Horoscope* for 24 years and still makes time to counsel clients. His AIR Software company offers 23 astrology software programs and award winning Astro-financial software. He personally conducts Astro-financial conferences in Hartford, CT and teaches mentoring classes through his live online astrology school. Alphee founded the Astro Investigators group, better known as the 'Gators, in 2002 whose international membership continues their extensive astrological research.



ABSTRACT

The road to astrology can take many turns. We all come from different places and directions, but I can safely say that we all end up united in the love for its beauty and truth. Some people study astrology for its own sake, while others continue to become professionals. Navigating this road involves knowledge and study, and this brief article highlights some of the important requirements and considerations along the way.



We all have our personal stories of how astrology came into our lives, what motivated us and how it changed our view of life and of ourselves. This experience, plus our professional, educational and philosophical background are the things that we bring to our practice of astrology when we begin to read for other people/clients.

Some practitioners come to astrology from the fields of social studies and therapy, which primarily deal with people's inner dilemmas and emotional issues, and how these help or hinder in the response to life's situations. It came into vogue in the 1950s, with the advent of psychology in the United States, and was called *humanistic astrology*, emphasizing the inner experience rather than the objective reality. Such discussions tend to focus on how past negative environmental or family circumstances may have impacted or distorted one's self-image and expectations, and prevented the client from achieving total fulfillment. That was the *modern* practice in the second half of the 20th century. I call this approach *blame the parents*.

Other astrologers practice what can be called a metaphysical spiritual approach, which is trendy these days, and is considered more modern and enlightened. Nowadays, we may notice a new vogue dubbed as *evolutionary astrology*. All these combined can be described as New Age, tending to focus on spirit vs. matter, on karma and lessons from

past life, and on spiritual development in general. It is based on the belief that the power of positive thinking can rid our life of negativity and bring the desired change and success.

Yet, good old-fashioned astrology, which can be described as event-oriented, and is focused on the life situations, is alive and well and is still the backbone of astrology. A typical astrological analysis will include phrases like *this happened because planet-x was going*

over your MC or you cannot find relationship because Saturn afflicts Venus in your natal chart. In other words, cause and effect result from the chart alone. From my own observations, all astrologers, whether they admit to it or not, include such language in their readings.

Bernard Rosenblum in his book, *The Astrologer's Guide to Counseling*,¹ which represents the psychological approach, discusses the role of the professional astrologer as a counselor.

Reality Astrology: What is Your Style?

Meira Epstein



Resorting to the field of patient-therapist relationship, he makes a distinction between what he calls *education*, *counseling* and *therapy*.

As Rosenblum puts it, typical *education* is when the astrologer mostly gives out information, with minimum client's participation. *Counseling* is working with the client in a dialogue mode, aiming to resolve specific issues and allowing the client to take more responsibility in the process. The purpose of *therapy* is to engender lasting behavioral changes, through a longer process established according to the psychoanalytical model.

I am suggesting another term to be considered here - *consultation*, as many of us prefer to call ourselves a *consultant*. This mode implies some level of professional objectivity and personal detachment. At the risk of over-simplifying, I will summarize it as: *Here are the facts and your alternatives. It is up to you to decide what you want to do about them, and which way to go.*

THE QUESTIONS

Whether we are *educators*, *counselors*, *therapists*, *metaphysicians* or simply *consultants*, I maintain that even the most evolved souls that come for a personal chart reading, still ask the mundane, perennial, down-to-earth questions about personal finance, housing, relationships, health, career, children, etc. You know the list.

It is in these situations that we are called upon to be able to tell the person if, how and when something will come to pass. It is about the future, yes, the future. In the older days this was called *fortune telling*. Divination of the will of the Gods, or of God. Some astrologers who dislike or disagree with this deterministic aspect of astrology, avoid making predictions altogether and limit the reading to character analysis only.

By the way, there is a glaring inconsistency in this *character only* approach:

Astrologers predict, whether they know it or not! When you look at a chart of a new born and make a statement, such as *she will be very communicative* or *this baby needs emotional support from parents*, you are actually making a prediction about a situation or development that will take place in the future, and projecting from the natal chart into the adult future.

But for those of us who do not shy away from prediction, it is the practice of *what is vs. what isn't*; *what we have vs. what we wish for*. It is about identifying the potentials as well as the limitations of the possible. Let me coin a new term here: *Reality Astrology* (as in the term, *realpolitik*) occurs at the level of questions such as: When will I get married? Will I find a job? What is the best career direction for me, and when will it change? When will I sell the house? Will my financial situation improve? These are the questions that drive the client to astrologers, and no matter what, they always pop up at the reading.

THE ANSWERS

The ability and skill needed to answer such reality questions, depend on two things – comprehensive education in astrology, as well as building up experience. The latter requires another extensive article, so here I will briefly address the education process.



Education

The complexity of life is matched by the complexity of the chart, and vice versa. In order to identify these properly, nuanced detailed study is required. High-level primary symbolism remains just that – high level, with no specifics. The client wants and needs specifics, and that is true for natal analysis as well as future situations and predictions.

What it takes to get to that level, is simply persistent study – of the foundations, of the time-honored always-true principles, of all the technicalities of the chart as a map of the sub-lunar earthly here-and-now existence, of the individual journey with all its mundane specifics.

This study must be based on Classical Traditional Astrology. It is there that we find the answers to the practical question. I am stating this categorically, without elaboration, since the scope of this article is limited.

The title *modern astrology* appeals to people who believe that we are capable of evolving from the old ways of materialistic being...*modern* is equated with good, hopeful, promising, while *traditional* is equated with old-fashioned, antiquated, outdated, irrelevant form of being. But the truths of human life and astrology are simple and found in *the old ways*. No asteroid, no Lilith, no Black Moon, no *evolutionary astrology* will answer the question, *Will I have a relationship*, as Venus, Saturn, Mars will do. So, for all these reasons, the message is – learn the traditional old style, the foundations, the truths that have never changed.

Making Predictions

This skill goes beyond the natal chart, requiring advanced knowledge of various cycles and techniques. Here too, study and integration is key. In our times this knowledge has been reduced to the use of transits and progressions, which are very limited in scope. There is a wealth of techniques from the ancient and the classical past, that

unfortunately got dropped by the wayside in the rush to modernity, especially in the second half of the 20th century.

Those are techniques that can provide deeper insight into the natal chart, as well as the personal evolution over a lifetime. Predictive techniques, such as *Aphesis from Fortune & Spirit*, *The Diurnal Quadrants*, *Profection*,² stand out in their simplicity, elegance, profundity and usefulness. It is all there, just for the taking, when we care to look. Again, I cannot elaborate further here, but I will say that these classics have become the touchstone in my own tool-kit.

Astronomy and Calculations—Why Study?!

Not the least is the question on the study of astronomy and chart calculations, especially in our time when a chart is available at the click of a computer button. There are a number of important intellectual, didactic practical reasons to do that. Yet, one of my philosophical answers is — so that we remember where we came from.

Astrology is not the calendar — the calendar is astronomy/astrology — the sky in all its glory. Most of the astrological attributes come from the physicality of the celestial bodies and movements, not from human mental projection, nor through correlation, nor as synchronicity (whatever that means), nor what have you.

Meira Epstein

C.A., NCGR-PAA, is a professional certified astrologer, a teacher on the New York NCGR faculty, and a speaker at international conferences. Specialties: Created and teaching the NCGR Online Education Program, preparing for all levels of NCGR-PAA Certification—including Astronomy, Calculations, Hellenistic & Medieval Techniques and the Uranian system. Publications: Translations of the medieval astrological works of Rabbi Abraham Ibn Ezra from Hebrew, and many articles published in the US, England and Europe. Recent publication is the series of “Excellence in Astrology” Level-I & Level-II, which focuses on learning chart calculations. Meira’s extended parallel career of 30 years was in computers systems as a programmer-analyst, and a prior career in teaching ESL. Website: <http://bear-star.com>



We came from there, and we were given the gift of astrology so that we don’t forget, and eventually find our way home again.

The NCGR Education Program and NCGR-PAA Certification

Here is where it all comes together — in the four levels of study and certification that cover astrology from the fundamentals to the level of professionalism. It takes the student from the basics of the natal chart, through predictive techniques, expanded background knowledge of history, the classics and exposure to astrology in non-Western cultures, all the way to chart rectification and client consultation. It is a journey that all those who have taken it are proud of. It is an *investment* that

demands some serious sacrifice in the adult life, since everyone has other responsibilities, and as such, it is doubly rewarding.

The education curriculum, as laid out in the NCGR-PAA Study Guide, reflects the trends at the time when it was initiated. Revisions over the years added more traditional foundations, 20th century contributions, as well as revivals from the classics of antiquity.

Find a good teacher-master and aim to cover all this ground, and the whole community will be uplifted in the process. As in the old Chinese proverb,³ “it is a journey of a thousand miles that begins with a single step,” so let’s get on the road.

All Rights Reserved.

Endnotes:

1. Rosenblum, Bernard. *The Astrologer’s Guide to Counseling*. Crco Publications, 1983.
2. A note about these methods: *Aphesis from Fortune & Spirit* is allotment of major life periods, based on the Lots. *The Diurnal Quadrants* is based on the quadrants formed by the diurnal motion of the sphere in twenty four hours. It appears un-named in ancient texts, so I have named it as such. *Profection*, which has become more familiar nowadays, is based on 12 year cycles through the Houses.
3. Phrased by the Chinese philosopher Laozi (c 604 BCE - c 531 BCE).

Editor’s Note: Learn more at the **2017 NCGR Conference** during **Meira Epstein’s** pre-conference workshop, “Spotlight on NCGR Education: Toward Mastery & Professionals” on **Thursday, February 16, 2:30-5:30 pm**. For a solid understanding of the Lunar Nodes, their cyclical shift, and how they represent the relationship between the Sun and the Moon, attend **Meria’s** presentation, “Astronomy: Charts are made in Heaven” on **Friday, February 17, from 11:15 am-12:30 pm**.

Stock Market Forecasting Tools

By Kathy Allan



The lunar Nodes, eclipses, occultations, and stations are excellent tools in predicting the timing of natal and mundane affairs, including the stock market. On a basic level, the lunar Nodes point out the locations of eclipses, which take place on the ecliptic, the path of the Earth around the Sun.¹ The plane of the lunar orbit is tilted 5.08° to the plane of the ecliptic. The intersections of these two orbits are the lunar Nodes (Figure 1).

Every month as the Moon travels around the Earth, there is a New Moon (conjunction of Sun and Moon), a Full Moon (opposition of Sun and Moon), and the Moon crosses the ecliptic twice (conjunct the Nodes). At the North Node, the Moon is coming up from below the plane of the ecliptic into the *North*. A week later, the Moon reaches the zenith of the lunar orbit at a maximum latitude of 05N08 at the North Bending. In another week, the Moon conjuncts the ecliptic at the South Node and then travels below the plane of the ecliptic into the *South*. In another week,

it reaches the nadir of its orbit at the South Bending before heading back toward the ecliptic.

An eclipse is a special type of lunation that takes place near the lunar Nodes, for it is only at this time that the Moon is on the ecliptic and aligned with both the Sun and Earth. Eclipses take place six months apart and in general, every year, there are four eclipses aligned with either the North or South Node.

Stationing of the Lunar Nodes

The lunar Nodes are always opposite each other (unlike the nodes of the other planets), and form an axis that moves mostly retrograde through the signs (clockwise motion) approximately 3' a day, or 19° per year. A couple of times a month the Nodes station and reverse course and move direct for a period of one to six days. The Nodes traverse a sign in 18 months, and the zodiac in 18-and-a-half-years, a Nodal cycle. The speed the axis moves varies over time. During the month of an eclipse, the Nodes appear stationary, often remain-

ing in the same degree for two months. For the three months surrounding an eclipse, the Node travels only 2°. A month after the eclipse, the Nodes pick up speed, and for the next three months move an average of about 3°, for a total of about 9°, before slowing down before the next eclipse.

The planets (except for the Sun and Moon)

also go retrograde. Since a planet/node strength is in part measured by its speed, stationing planets which spend a lengthy time in one degree, are expected, and often do, exert a stronger astrological force than is typical. Retrograde planets, unlike the lunar Nodes, retrace a swath of the ecliptic during their retrograde cycle. In contrast, a lunar Node stations in a degree with no zodiacal retracement, thus emphasizing a degree for approximately two months. Robert Blaschke held the opinion that it was the degree of the stationing Node, rather than the eclipse degree that was the sensitive point.² In Vedic astrology, the lunar Nodes when stationary direct or moving direct are viewed as more powerful and more benefic, acting as if they are exalted.³

Declination

Whereas longitude is the measurement along the ecliptic through the zodiac, declination is the measurement relative to the Earth's equator, extended to infinity as the celestial equator. It is bounded by the Tropic of Cancer to the North and the Tropic of Capricorn to the South. The points of intersection of Earth's equator and the plane of the ecliptic are 0° Aries (Vernal Equinox) and 0° Libra (Autumnal Equinox). When the Sun is at these degrees, it has 0° declination. When the Sun reaches the Tropic of Cancer at the Summer Solstice, it has a longitude of 0° Cancer and declination of 23N26. The Sun is at a maximum south declination of 23S26 at the Winter Solstice at a longitude of 0° Capricorn (Figure 2).

Planets that travel beyond 23°26 are *out-of-bounds*. At this point they are

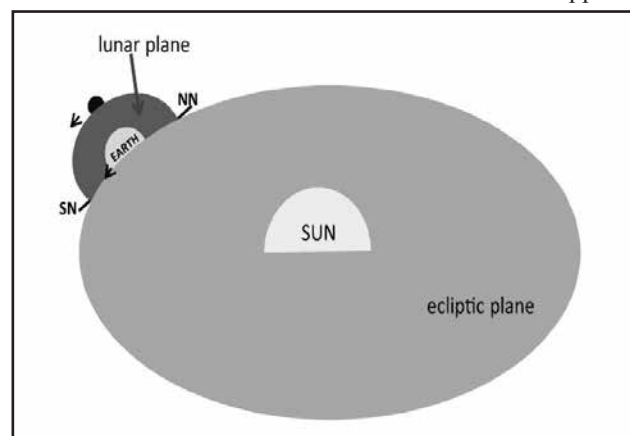
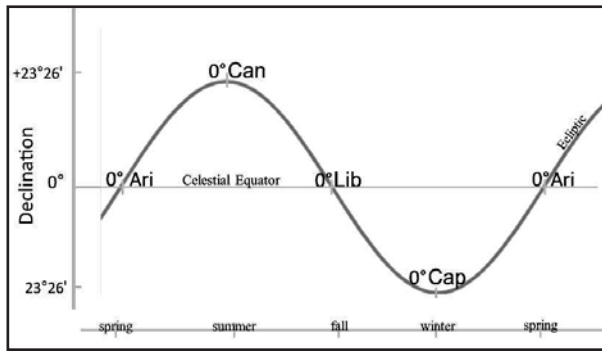


Figure 1: The path of the Sun, Earth, and Moon along the ecliptic and Lunar plane, with the lunar nodes at the intersection of the planes.

Figure 2: The Relationship between longitude and declination



off the ecliptic and beyond the reach of the Sun. While Saturn and Neptune do not go out-of-bounds, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Uranus, and Pluto frequently do. Jupiter can go minutely out-of-bounds, but does so rarely. The Sun which sets the boundary, is never out-of-bounds. Planets that go out-of-bounds can be extreme and unpredictable. Kt Boehrer found them “*more adventurous*” and “*more daring*.”⁷⁴

The phase of the out-of-bounds Moon is related to the nodal cycle. For approximately 9.5 years when the North Node travels backwards from about Cancer to Capricorn, the Moon goes out-of-bounds a couple of days every month. The peak of this phase, the Major Lunar Standstill, where the declination of the

Moon is the greatest, occurs when the North Node is near 0° Aries. After the Node nears Capricorn, the Minor Lunar Standstill phase ensues, which is an approximate nine year period when the Moon is never out-of-bounds.⁵

There are two aspects in declination, the parallel and the contraparallel. Planets form a parallel aspect when they are in a similar degree of declination and on the same side of the celestial equator. Planets in contraparallel have a similar degree of declination, but are on opposite sides of the celestial equator, so that one is in North declination and the other is in South declination. The parallel acts as a powerful conjunction, whereas the contraparallel acts as an opposition. In a solar eclipse, the Sun and Moon are both conjunct and parallel and occupy the same space in the sky.† In a lunar eclipse, the Sun and Moon are opposite and contraparallel. An occultation, similar to an eclipse, occurs when two celestial bodies (other than Sun-Moon) are both parallel and conjunct.

Case Studies

What does all this mean in predicting the market? By analyzing the astrological features evident during significant days, we can see which factors are operating when the market really moves.

Case Study 1

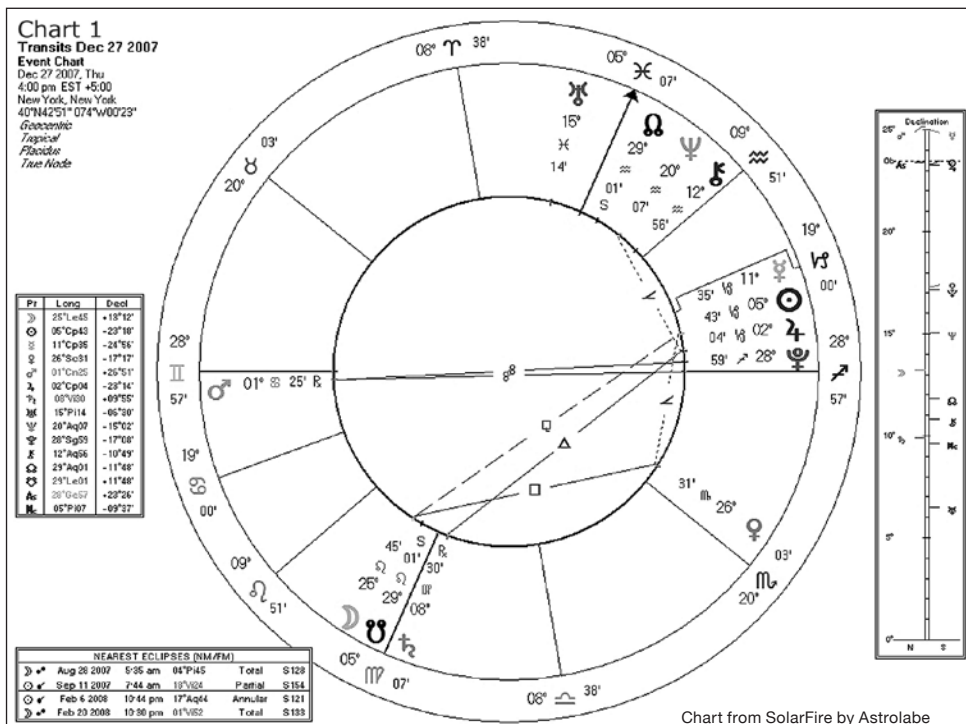
The beginning of the recent financial crash that saw a 52% loss of the Dow began in mid-July 2007 with the collapse of the hedge fund Bear Stearns.⁶ By autumn, the Dow was routinely gaining and losing 200-300 points on any given day. On December 27, 2007 (Chart 1), there was an unmistakable down turn.⁷ The North Node was at 29° Aquarius and stationing direct. It had been in Aquarius for a week. Mars was retrograde and about to enter Gemini, while Jupiter had just entered Capricorn, the sign of Jupiter’s fall. Uranus at 15° Pisces was conjunct the degree of the lunar eclipse of September 17, 2006. On the day marking the turnaround, there was an occultation of the Sun and Jupiter with the pair both parallel and conjunct. While the pair were 3° degrees apart in longitude, their arc separation in declination was 4’. In addition, both Mercury and Mars were out-of-bounds and there was a Venus-

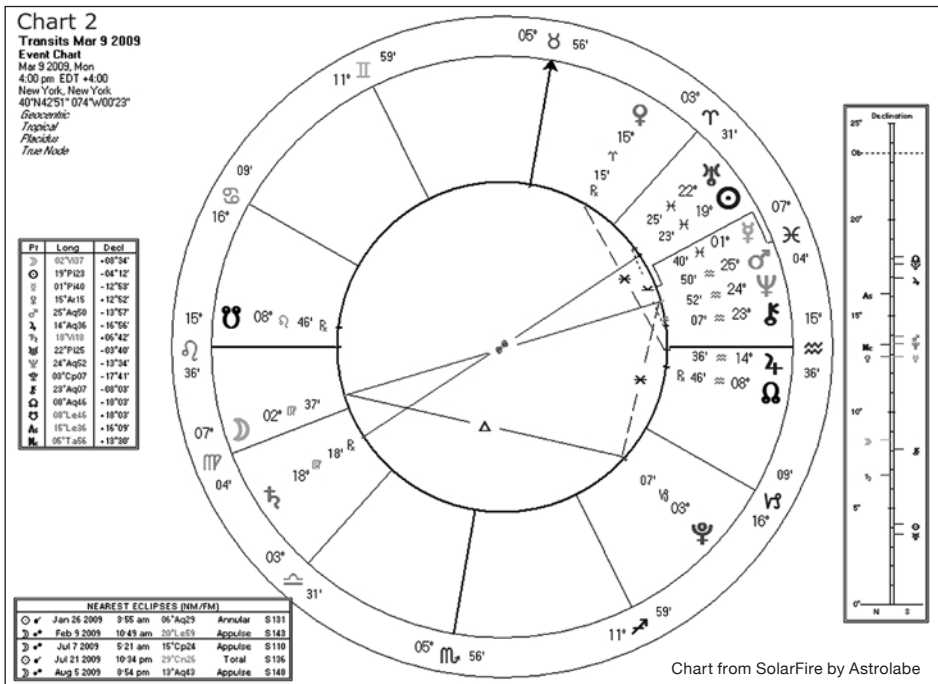
Pluto partile parallel, with Venus in Scorpio at the South Bending of the Nodes.

The Moon at this time was in the phase of the Major Standstill and traveling out-of-bounds for a few days each month. Congruently Mercury and Mars were out-of-bounds and on December 23, 2007, there was an out-of-bounds occultation of the Moon and Mars. Jupiter and Pluto were in a separating conjunction, marking the beginning of a new cycle. Taken together, these events heralded a change of market direction.

Case Study 2

Fifteen months later the Dow found its bottom on March 3, 2009 (Chart 2).⁸ At this time there were





Cancer. The Sun at 11° Libra was also square the July 1, 2011 solar eclipse at 9° Cancer, the solar eclipse of January 4, 2011 at 13° Capricorn, and the lunar eclipse of December 31, 2009 at 10° Cancer. Mars and Jupiter (conjunct and parallel in late April), were now square with Jupiter contraparallel Neptune. After this time, the Dow rose steadily until May 19, 2015.

Case Study 4

From December 31, 2015 (Chart 4) to February 11, 2016, the Dow fell over 2000 points, losing 11% of its value. At the beginning of the downturn, Jupiter was in Virgo in the degree of its upcoming retrograde station conjunct the North Node that was stationing direct at 24° Virgo. There was a partile Mars-Neptune parallel (about 9°S), and a forming Mercury-Saturn-Pluto parallel (around 21°S) that would remain in place for days as Mercury stationed in early January at 1° Aquarius. Around the turn of the year, three planets changed signs: Mercury entered Aquarius, Venus entered Sagittarius, and Mars entered Scorpio. Two planets also went retrograde (Mercury on January 5th and Jupiter on January 8th at 23° Virgo). For all of January to mid-February, while the Node and Jupiter

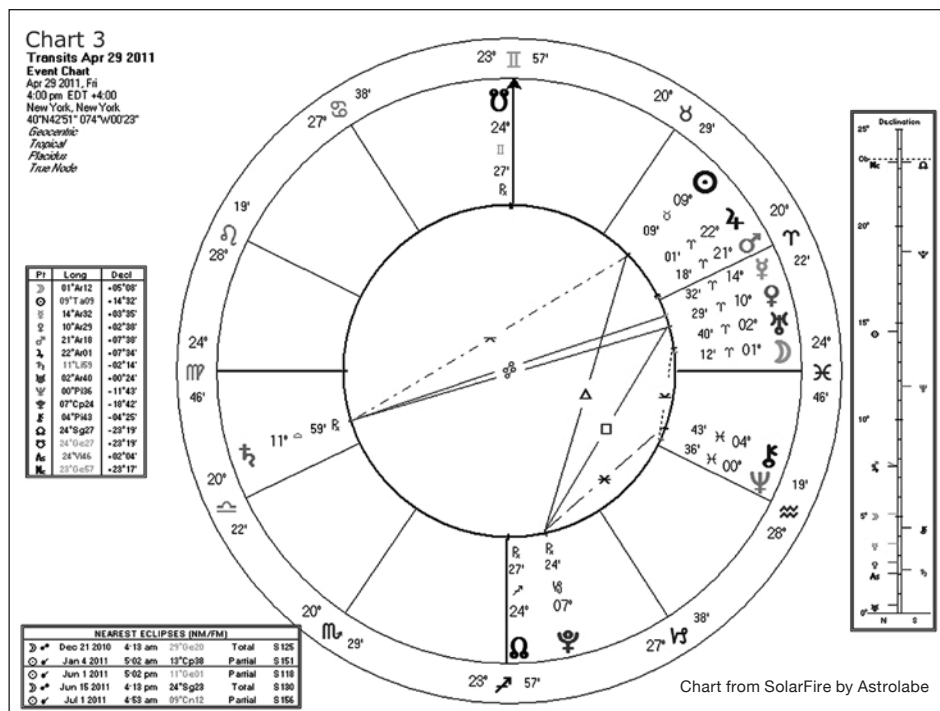
two occultations: the Sun was parallel and conjunct Uranus, and Mars was conjunct and parallel Neptune. Neptune was especially significant because it was conjunct the lunar eclipse degree of September 16, 2008 of 24° Aquarius. On the weekend, the Sun and Saturn were in opposition, with Saturn conjunct the degree of the September 11, 2007 solar eclipse that occurred immediately prior to the downturn. In addition, Venus had turned retrograde on March 6, 2009 and was still in the degree of her station at 15° Aries and contraparallel Mercury. The end result of the combination of factors was a booming bull market.

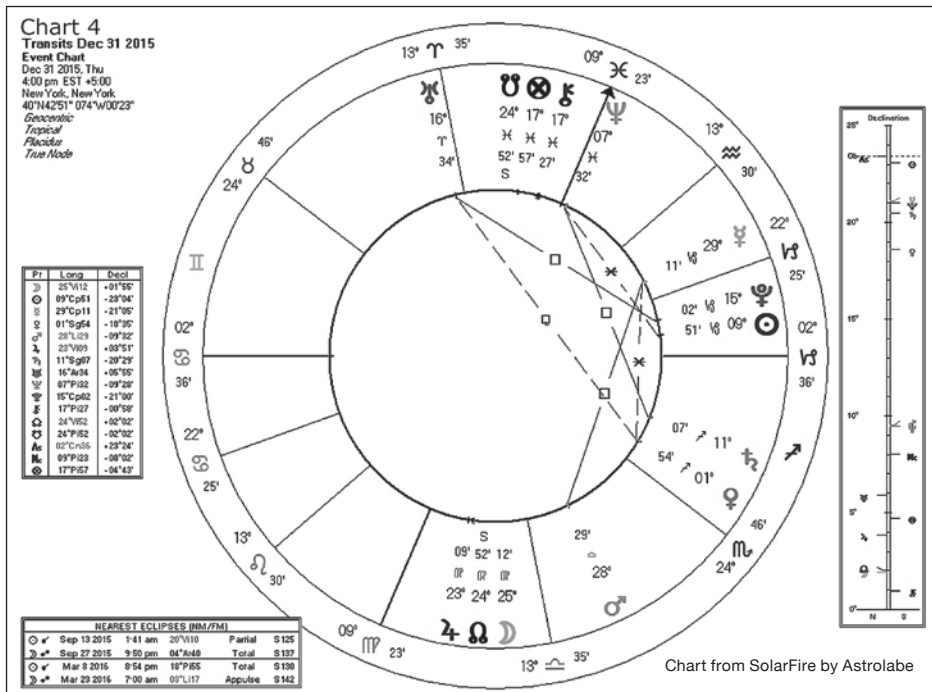
Case Study 3

The Dow reached a peak on April 29, 2011 (Chart 3), followed by a reversal that lasted until early October, during which time the market lost 2100 points. What happened astrologically on April 29 to suggest a downturn? There were two occultations that day. Mars and Jupiter were conjunct and parallel, while Venus and Saturn were opposite and contraparallel. In addition, Venus and Saturn were square the January 4, 2011 solar eclipse at 13° Capricorn, and square the lunar eclipse at December 31, 2009 at 10° Cancer. It should be noted that on

April 21, 2011, the phase of the Major Lunar Standstill came to a close and the Moon went out-of-bounds for the last time for the next nine years. In the market, there was a temporary loss of exuberance.

The upturn came five months later on October 4, 2011 with a partile Mars-Pluto contraparallel, and a Mercury-Saturn occultation with Saturn squaring the July 11, 2010 solar eclipse degree at 19°





- Chart data: Stock Market at closing: 12/27/2007, 4.00 p.m. EST, New York, (40N43 74W00).
- Chart data: Stock Market at closing: 3/9/2009, 4.00 p.m. EST, New York, (40N43 74W00).
- Chart data: Stock Market at closing: 4/29/2011, 4.00 p.m. EST, New York, (40N43 74W00).
- Chart data: Stock Market at closing: 12/31/2015, 4.00 p.m. EST, New York, (40N43 74W00).

†**Editor’s Note:** In a total solar eclipse, the Sun and Moon will be shown as conjunct and likely parallel, but more often within close parallel orb. Because the Sun and the Moon both occupy about 0.05° in the sky, when a eclipse is less than total, the parallel still will be within orb, but likely a greater orb than when total. The same logic exists for a lunar eclipse.

moved retrograde in partile conjunction (around 22° Virgo), the market fell. The turning point came on February 11 when the North Node again stationed direct, this time for six days, enabling Jupiter to separate. After this time, the market began to climb in a rally that led to a gain of over 2400 points that concluded with the retrograde station of Mars in mid-April.

Up the Road

The point of astrologically studying past events is to be able to recognize similar patterns when they arise in the future. In the stock market, predicting tops and bottoms is difficult as there are no consistent indicators that reliably signal a change in momentum. As we have seen however, major turning points correlate with a build-up of planetary phenomena. Perhaps the most important is the occultation (with the exact parallel and not the longitudinal aspect timing the effect). In addition, hard aspects to prior eclipses are routinely evident.

Looking ahead in the ephemeris, the next occultation occurs on January 1, 2017 with Mars and Neptune both parallel and conjunct (at 9° Pisces). While the market is closed at this time, on January 9th there is another occultation as Venus and Neptune are parallel and conjunct

(at 10° Pisces). Each occultation is also in hard aspect to the solar eclipse of September 1, 2016 (9° Virgo). In addition, Mercury stations direct on January 7, 2017 at 29° Sagittarius in square to the solar eclipse of March 20, 2015. These factors all point to a downturn in the market after this time. In summary, long term market movements are correlated with planetary phenomena that are known well in advance and can be used to predict future trends.

All Rights Reserved.

Endnotes:

- Allan, K. *When Worlds Collide: Another Look at the Lunar Nodes*. Pollux Press: Fort Pierce, Florida, 2012, p. 21.
- Blaschke, R, “Direct Versus Retrograde Lunar Nodes,” *Geocosmic Journal*, Winter 2009, pp. 5-9.
- Braha, J. *Ancient Hindu Astrology for the Modern Western Astrologer*, Hermetician Press, 1986, p. 35.
- Boeher, K, *Declination The Other Dimension*, Fortunata Press, 1994, p. 33.
- Westin, L. “Astronomical Notes on the Lunar Nodes,” *Geocosmic Journal*, Winter 2009, p. 2.
- <http://www.investopedia.com/articles/07/bear-stearns-collapse.asp>

Editor’s Note: Attend **Kathy Allan’s** presentation, “Predicting Daily Stock Market Movement Using Astrology and Technical Analysis,” at the **NCGR 2017 Conference** to learn a valuable strategy for maximizing profits and minimizing losses in both an up and down market. Date and time: **Friday, February 17, 2:30-3:45 pm.**

Kathy Allan



is a practicing astrologer certified at the professional level by The American Federation of Astrologers (AFA). She has a PhD in Molecular Toxicology and was a postdoctoral research associate in Infectious Immunology. She has taught weekly classes in all levels of astrology and has lectured at the Florida Atlantic Chapter of NCGR. She has been a contributing writer for *The Mountain Astrologer* since 2008 and is published in NCGR’s *Geocosmic Journal*. She is the author of the book *When Worlds Collide: Another Look at the Lunar Nodes*. Website: <http://www.kathyallan.com> Email: kathyoallan@gmail.com

Vibrational Astrology: Harmonic Astrology for the 21st Century

David Cochrane

How I Became Fascinated by Astrology

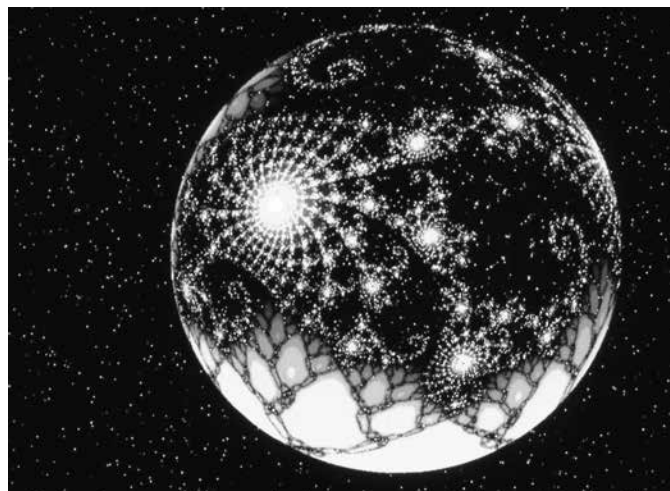
In September, 1972, I fell in love with astrology. This love became a passion that has lasted until now and no doubt will endure for the remainder of my life. Many readers of this paper likely share a similar obsession.

Fortunately, in the 1970s, I had a tremendous amount of free time as well as few responsibilities, but little money. I read hundreds of astrology books, corresponded by mail with several astrologers, and a local astrologer helped me tremendously. A Vedic astrologer from India, Dr. Chandrashekhara Thakkur, regularly visited the town where I lived and I studied under him. During this time, I interviewed thousands of people. A typical interview lasted about two hours with questions about people's lives; then my observations of their charts were compared with what they shared. Charts of husbands and wives were compared, as well as charts of colleagues and of friends, plus many kinds of forecasts were tried. Amazingly, free access to a local college computer became available and I learned computer programming. Then weekends were spent running calculations used during the week in interviews.

What I Discovered

Usually the astrological ideas worked well, but I also interviewed three people in a row with Sun and several other planets in Aries, who seemed to lack initiative and strength of character. I looked at the ruling planets of the signs, etc., but for these three people the sign and house placements seemed to fit better with Vedic charts. When I read interpretations to them from a Vedic book on their nakshatra charts and their yogas (particular planetary patterns), these struck a deep chord for them. However, for most of the people that I interviewed, the basic astrological ideas from books that were relatively simple and straightforward like those from Isabel Hickey, seemed to work best.

All this was exciting, but also a bit confusing. Fortunately, there were a few astrological ideas that gave very consistent results: midpoint structures and harmonic astrology. By the mid-1970s, I had a group of about two dozen enthusiastic students to whom I taught my ideas. All of them loved the ideas in harmonic astrology and cosmobiology (which astrologer,



Reinhold Ebertin, called his system of interpreting charts primarily through analysis of midpoint patterns). People gave donations for the interviews and the interviews gradually turned into consultations and readings. Then I began charging a small fee for the consultations, which brought in enough money to pay for food and the few other things needed to survive.

The Need for Speed: Computer Software

The nearly miraculous free access to a college computer for the entire weekend made it possible to calculate hundreds of harmonic charts. In addition, aspects in every harmonic chart were listed, and Vedic calculations like Vimsottari periods could be calculated as well. By the mid-1970s, I had software to calculate midpoint structures, solar arc direction positions and progressed charts as well. Without this computer software, I would have spent weeks performing calculations for each client.

I also wrote interpretations for solar arc to natal midpoint structures and produced interpretation reports that were sold. Neil Michelsen was running Astro Computing Services in New York at the time, and telephoned that he would help get planetary calculations running on my computer in exchange for the interpretations that I had written. This was a deal made in heaven. It would no longer be necessary to calculate charts by hand, which will save even more time! Neil flew down to Gainesville, Florida where I lived (and still live today). In one weekend, we had the planetary calculations running and Neil went home with my interpretations all on computer punch cards.

Now all I had to do was look up the time zone and daylight saving time information and the computer did the rest. My computer skills became quite advanced and sometimes when there was insufficient money even for minimal expenses, I taught evening classes on computer programming. I was delighted that college students and professors attended some of these classes and we learned a lot from each other.

The Elephant in the Room: Can Astrology Produce Measurable Effects?

Some things come easily to us and some things require more effort. For example, I have very little talent in the visual arts. My drawings are stick figures. My daughter is an artist so if artistic talent is even mildly hereditary, she definitely did not inherit it from me! Music, mathematics, computer programming, and mysticism come much more naturally to me. I was inclined to mystical experiences from an early age and began meditating, stopped eating meat, etc. by my early 20's. I had used the I Ching frequently in my college years (1967-1971) and I loved the work of Carl Jung. In fact, Jung's involvement in astrology helped inspire me to study astrology. However, the fact that Sri Yukteswar (the teacher and guru of Paramahansa Yogananda) was also an astrologer served as an even greater inspiration. Sri Yukteswar suggested that astrology was a science and the early theosophical astrologers of the early 20th century like Max Heindel, also viewed astrology as a science. On the other hand, Dane Rudhyar downplayed the importance of empiricism and viewed obtaining measurable results in astrology as tangential to the primary purposes and goals of astrology.

If astrology was some form of divination or revelation in the moment that existed outside the realm of science, that would be okay with me, but it never felt like my interviews and consultations were purely divinatory. I always experienced astrology as actually working -- astrology informs me of things that I otherwise do not know. If that is true, then why has nobody ever discovered with unambiguous clarity that astrological factors correlate with some behavior or personality trait?

By the 1980s, the relationship of astrology to science seemed to become even more controversial. Just bringing up the subject would sometimes incite heated discussions that threatened to flare up into contentious arguments. I did not and still do not want to argue with people, so for many years I avoided sharing my obsession with trying to figure out if astrology can produce measurable results. I re-evaluated the findings of the Gauquelins and other researchers and found the results not as impressive as others seem to think that they were.

After attending graduate classes at the University of Florida in statistics and research methodology, I developed ideas on research methods and added features to our commercial astrology software programs to help with the research. I also made 250 tutorial videos to share information about the software, research, and to teach basic, intermediate and advanced astrology to people for free.

The Flowering of Vibrational Astrology

Since the 1980s, most of my time has been devoted to writing astrology software and working with our team of software developers. Software development is more time-consuming

than most people probably realize. With the exceptional business management skills and unwavering determination of my wife, Fei, and the good fortune of having a great team of other people to work with, we have made tremendous progress. Somehow in the midst of all this work, time was found to study, learn, share ideas and conduct research. Over the decades, basic ideas gleaned from harmonic astrology and cosmobiology have evolved and blossomed into what we now call *Vibrational Astrology*.

We now have a small team of researchers who work on various projects. We feel like we are at last cracking the code and that the elusive discovery of measurable astrological effects is not far away. Skeptics of scientific astrology may think we are deluded; and it is true that until a finding is replicated numerous times, there is no assurance that the discovery has actually been made.

The majority of astrologers most likely find that the search for measurable astrological effects to be boring, tedious, and unexciting. Also, it can arouse those previously mentioned heated debates that all too easily turn argumentative. For these reasons, I have avoided initiating discussions about this within our larger community. I can make tutorial videos, rather than discuss it in person, and share this information without running as high a risk of getting into fights with people! To my delight, feedback on our free tutorial videos has been almost unanimously positive. Tutorial videos have been made on our discoveries of astrological indicators of talent in rock music and athletics. We also have had success in predicting the performances of athletes, and gold price cycles. We have conducted impressive research on the astrology of extraversion-introversion and other areas. All of these developments are exciting!

Progress in our research has been attained through endless hours of astrological analysis; but these advances would also not be possible without the huge database included in the software, new research tools, breakthroughs in research methods, and creative insights by a small team of Vibrational Astrologers. We now use ideas that exist far outside the box and different from what the vast majority of astrologers believe to be possible, or important. For example, we use harmonics up to 360 and we believe that midpoint patterns in higher harmonics are extremely significant.

In some recent online classes, I analyzed the ninth harmonic midpoint patterns in the birthchart of Maya Angelou and examined the 17th harmonic charts of many famous actors. Today, for example, I am uploading a tutorial video on the importance of the 23rd harmonic in the chart of Donald Trump. In Vibrational Astrology, we speak enthusiastically about an augmented pyramid pattern in the 35th harmonic of the great baseball player, Tony Gwynn, with the same fervor and enthusiasm that other astrologers might talk about a heavy emphasis in fire signs or a T-square pattern.

Vibrational Astrology has evolved with surprising speed and flowered into a whole new language with its own vocabulary and a very detailed and specific set of rules. Perhaps its rate of evolution will even accelerate as we obtain results from new research and profit from the welcomed novelty of now having a few dozen people who are expertly trained in these new techniques.



The enormous progress made in Vibrational Astrological theory, the breakthroughs in research, the vast improvements in software features, the growing number of people trained at a professional level, and the large amount of free information available are propelling Vibrational Astrology forward with tremendous momentum and power.

If you teach astrology classes, don't be surprised if some of your students begin

asking you about Vibrational Astrology and enquire about the videos, online discussions, and other resources to which people now have access. There are also now graduates from the online educational programs in Vibrational Astrology. Some of these graduates are practicing astrologers, teachers and writers.

One of my biggest hopes is that the booming interest in Vibrational Astrology can be integrated with other astrological systems of thought, and that all of us can enjoy these new discoveries and explorations without settling into competing camps. We have already made progress in finding fascinating connections between Vibrational Astrology and Hellenistic, Vedic and evolutionary astrology.

Astrology is fascinating and also often elusive. We astrologers have gone off in many directions and we have found something of value in a great many different traditions. I hope that the introduction of Vibrational Astrology into what may appear to be a discipline that is already overly saturated with different perspectives and points of views will nevertheless be healing, unifying, and elevating.

Chart Interpretation with Vibrational Astrology

One of the fundamental ideas of harmonic astrology and VA (Vibrational Astrology) is that minor aspects are not minor in importance! Aspects like the 1/5 (quintile, 72°), 2/5 (biquintile, 144°), novile (1/9, 40°), binovile (2/9, 80°), and quadnovile (4/9, 160°) are considered to be very important in VA.

Consider the relationship of actor Brad Pitt and actress Angelina Jolie. These superstars of Hollywood were married in 2014. Angelina Jolie (Chart 1, *next page*) was born¹ with Sun sextile Moon with a 20' orb. The majority of western astrologers believe that a marriage to someone who has planets making aspects to her Sun and Moon would be excellent. The theories of VA agree with this idea. A sextile is a harmonious aspect, and in VA we consider a sextile to be different from a trine in that a sextile is more inclined to sharing and relating to others than is a trine. Both trines and sextiles are soft aspects, but trines are less inclined to share with others. The sextile aspect is 1/6 of a circle and 6 equals 3 times 2. In VA, we factor the denominator to better understand the aspect. The 2 in 3 times 2 inclines the sextile to share with others

The Future of Vibrational Astrology

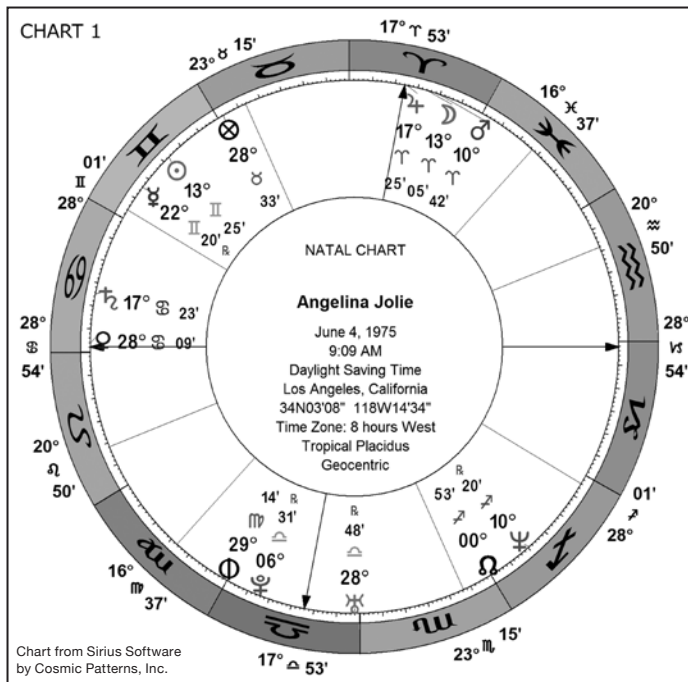
Is Vibrational Astrology just another little eccentric blip on the radar of astrological ideas, or will it grow to be an alternative to some of the major traditions like Vedic astrology, Hellenistic astrology, classical (medieval), and modern psychological astrology? While Vibrational Astrology was developed primarily from ideas popularized during the second half of the 20th century, its language, methods, and paradigms remain clear and quite distinct from that of the other major traditions. While it has been, as mentioned, built upon the foundation blocks of harmonic astrology and cosmobiology, it emerges as a separate entity in the landscape of astrological thought.

Interest and enthusiasm about Vibrational Astrology is growing by leaps and bounds.

However, growing from less than 1% of the astrological literature, discussions, and presentations at conferences to perhaps 2% or 3% raises Vibrational Astrology from near complete obscurity to a rare phenomenon. This is still hardly a big impact on the overall development of modern astrological thought. Will Vibrational Astrology continue to grow and impact astrological thought? Needless to say, my opinion is biased in this regard, but there are several indications that it will.

First, there are the youtube videos. The videos currently are receiving about 200,000 views a year. Not all the videos, or even the majority of the videos, are on Vibrational Astrology, but those that are, attract a lot of attention. People who are currently outside of the field of astrology often find Vibrational Astrology especially appealing. They are attracted to the clear rules, the impressive results from research, and the conceptual framework that emphasizes that we live in a fractal reality of intricate, elegant, and sophisticated vibratory systems. This is appealing in both a mystical and a scientific way.

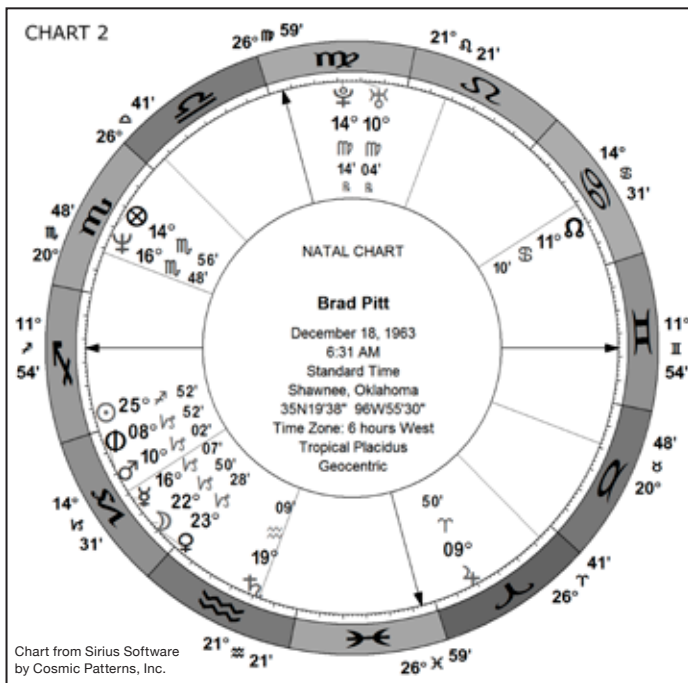
On the other hand, for trained astrologers who have developed a wealth of experience using a very different language, Vibrational Astrology can appear very uncomfortably foreign, with rules that intuitively seem unlikely to be true, and to even sometimes contradict that to which the astrologer has come to be very certain.



because 2 indicates polarity and an interest in responsiveness from others.

Brad Pitt (Chart 2, below) was born² Moon conjunct Venus with a 38' orb. A marriage to someone who has planets making aspects to Pitt's Sun and Moon would be very good.

The only major synastry aspects with small orbs are Brad's Pluto square Angelina's Sun and quincunx her Moon, and Angelina's Mercury quincunx Brad's Moon-Venus conjunction. Using the usual rules of astrology, this might indicate some difficult adjustments (quincunx aspects) and power struggles (Pluto square Sun) and we can look at the house placements and house rulerships to get more information.



In VA, however, we focus on aspect patterns using what we can think of as beats, vibrations, or frequencies in the chart. By frequencies, we mean that we use aspects like the 1/5, 2/5, 1/7, 2/7, 3/7, 1/9, 2/9, and 4/9 aspects as well as the 1/3 (trine), 1/2 (opposition), 1/4 (square), etc. aspects. The ninths of a circle (1/9, 2/9, and 4/9 aspects) are very important in relationships because they incline the people to bond closely and to support and care for one another, and also to be tolerant and accepting. However being tolerant and accepting is not always good as it can also lead to indulgence and acceptance of bad behavior; but in general, this is a quality that it is helpful in marriage.

Another idea in VA is octaves. An octave of an aspect is created by doubling the denominator. Thus, 10 is an octave of 5, 14 is an octave of 7, and 18 is an octave of 9. Aspects that have a denominator of 28 and 56 are also octaves of 7. There are also very clear rules about what size orbs to use. The allowable orb of an aspect with a high denominator is extremely small so the number of aspects in a chart is not as overwhelming as it might seem at first. But, let's not try to get into all of the details of VA too quickly and get overwhelmed. My main point is this: in VA we believe that aspects like 1/9, 2/9, and 4/9 are very important; and we also believe that aspects like 1/18, 5/18, and 7/18 are also important. (Notice that 2/18, 3/18, 4/18, etc. reduce to smaller fractions and listed here are only the fractions with a given denominator that do not reduce to a smaller fraction.)

Now look at the biwheel of Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie (Chart 3, opposite page). We have drawn into the biwheel an aspect line to indicate that Angelina's Moon is in 2/9 aspect to Brad's Moon-Venus conjunction, and her Sun is in 7/18 aspect. This is wonderful! We could not ask for synastry aspects that are much better than this! We have the aspects of bonding and mutual support connecting Angelina's Sun sextile Moon aspect with Brad's Moon-Venus conjunction. Perfect! I won't go into the details of allowable orbs used in VA, but all of these aspects are well within the allowable orb.

Given these aspects between their charts, we are not surprised that Angelina and Brad got married and that they are busy raising children and involved in various humanitarian activities.

The Great Divorce

Despite the beautiful planetary patterns we see in the biwheel of Brad's ninth harmonic chart and Angelina's ninth harmonic chart, Angelina filed for divorce from Brad in mid-September, 2016! How is it possible that they are getting divorced when the analysis using VA shows that this is a marriage made in heaven?

There are two reasons why excellent synastry aspects do not ensure a successful and long-lasting relationship: (1) the relationship is no better than the individuals that make up the relationship, and (2) these beautiful synastry aspects make the people in the relationship emotionally vulnerable;

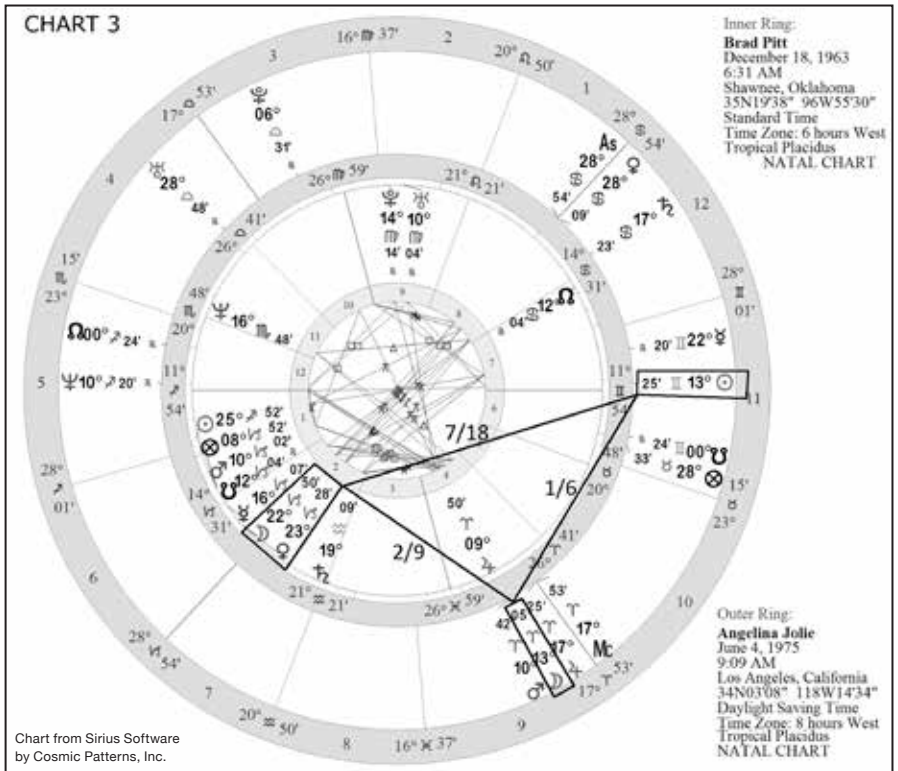
they really care about each other and any hurtful or negative behavior from the other person tends to really sting.

These ninth harmonic aspects incline the people to care deeply about each other and also to focus the attention of the people in the relationship on their families, their communities, and the way in which they participate in the larger social context outside of their own individual preferences and desires. We can see clear symptoms of this process in the lives of Brad and Angelina with their six children and the efforts that they make to build family. Some journalists have mentioned that Angelina seems to have made family a greater priority than her career.

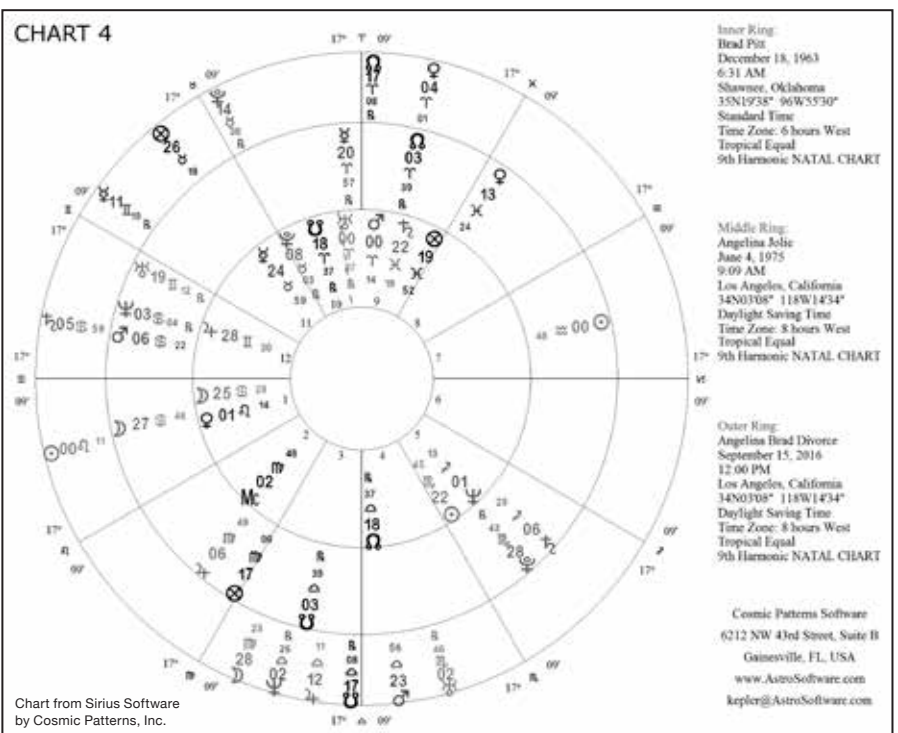
However, Brad and Angelina still have their own natal charts, their own personal issues, and their own personal agendas. Perhaps one or both of them feels like they are being pulled into a lifestyle that is very different from their lives before marriage. Either, or both, people may sometimes long for the freedom, independence, and selfishness that they enjoyed before marriage. Now life is all about the family and being healing and supportive. No matter how beautiful the potential of a relationship may be, people *can* fight the natural flow of energy that the astrological charts reveal to us.

On September 20, transiting Uranus was exactly square Brad's Venus. Nearly all astrologers agree that this is a configuration that can break up a romantic relationship or a marriage, or start a new one. Venus-Uranus combinations indicate sudden excitement that often leads us to fall in love or fall out of love very rapidly.

Journalists reported that September 15, 2016 is the date that divorce papers were handed to Brad. In a triwheel (Chart 4) that has Brad's ninth harmonic chart in the inner ring, Angelina's ninth harmonic chart in the middle ring, and the ninth harmonic chart of the transits on September 15 in the outer ring, we see that transiting ninth harmonic Uranus is not only square Brad's ninth harmonic Venus, but it also squares Brad's Moon, Angelina's Sun and Moon, and transiting Sun! Transiting Uranus is causing an emotional earthquake by forming a T-square with the extremely important planetary pattern in their ninth harmonic charts!



If Brad's Venus was not involved with his Moon and both of Angelina's lights (i.e., Angelina's Sun and Moon), then transiting Uranus square Brad's Venus would not be as likely to cause this disruption in their relationship. Why is it that sometimes an outer planet transit rocks our world in a classic textbook fashion as in this case, where transiting Uranus square natal Venus occurs exactly when Brad receives the divorce papers from Angelina, and sometimes the effects



are rather mild? Very often the answer is clearly seen in the important vibrational planetary patterns as, for example, we see in this case.

Note also that in the triwheel, we see transiting Neptune is in opposition to Angelina's Venus, and square her Venus as well as in opposition to Brad's Mars and Uranus. With transiting Neptune activating Angelina's Venus-Neptune square in her ninth harmonic chart, Angelina feels disillusioned. We also see in this triwheel that transiting Saturn is conjunct Angelina's Mars; she is not going to put up with what she perceives as threats to the harmony, health, wholeness, and peace of her children, and would rather evict Brad than keep him as part of the family. Of course a divorce is extremely disruptive, but the astrological analysis indicates that Angelina would rather go through a relatively short period of disruption rather than what she anticipates will be a marriage that does not embody the high level of nurturing, kindness, and dedication to healing and public service that she has become inspired to pursue from the Sun opposition Moon and other strong planetary patterns in her ninth harmonic chart.

In short, transiting Uranus did what Uranus often does: suddenly explode and radically alter a situation. In this case, it happens because the aspect hits a powerful nerve, the *nerve* shown in the biwheel of the ninth harmonic charts of Brad and Angelina. These aspects from transiting Uranus, did not have to break up the marriage. As stated earlier, one reason why excellent synastry aspects do not guarantee a long and successful marriage is because the individuals must also be considered. Clearly Brad's behavior recently has suggested to Angelina that he is not as devoted and focused on her vision of healing, nurturing, and dedication to family and social causes as is she. Angelina gave Brad the freedom that he is consciously or unconsciously seeking with transiting Uranus in partile aspect to his Venus at nearly the exact time that she filed for divorce.

This divorce will be painful for both Brad and Angelina. Most likely they will sometimes doubt that this was a good idea. They do care about each other. On the other hand, we must follow the highest potential within us and the ninth harmonic charts of Brad, Angelina, and the date of the filing of divorce papers makes it clear that this divorce is about disruption of the ninth harmonic, which means that the primary issue and priority is the family, mutual support, and healing. Although it is ironic that divorce is pursued to bring healing, sometimes we are faced with a situation where we feel that it is best to go through a short period of disruption rather than a chronic state of being dysfunctional or lacking deep devotion and dedication. This is the decision that I believe that Angelina made.



Concluding Comments

In this example of how we analyze charts using Vibrational Astrology, I am not attempting to make a convincing argument that VA provides accurate and helpful information, but rather to show how VA can lead to a different analysis and interpretation of the astrological charts. One example of the application of an astrological system can only demonstrate the ideas. Based on our analysis using VA, we are able to come up with evaluations of a situation such as this: Brad's and Angelina's large family of children and their humanitarian work is not put on display as a publicity stunt, but rather is a sincere expression of their interest in family, healing and supporting one another.

The aspects that are ninths of a circle (1/9, 2/9, and 4/9 aspects) can also be seen in the ninth harmonic chart. The ninth harmonic chart is also used in Vedic astrology and is known as the navamsa chart. The navamsa chart is often referred to as a chart of marriage and also as a chart for your spiritual path. I believe that this is because ninths of a circle bring inclusiveness, healing, and integration into our lives, and that this is what we seek in both marriage and in our spiritual path.

All Rights Reserved

Endnotes:

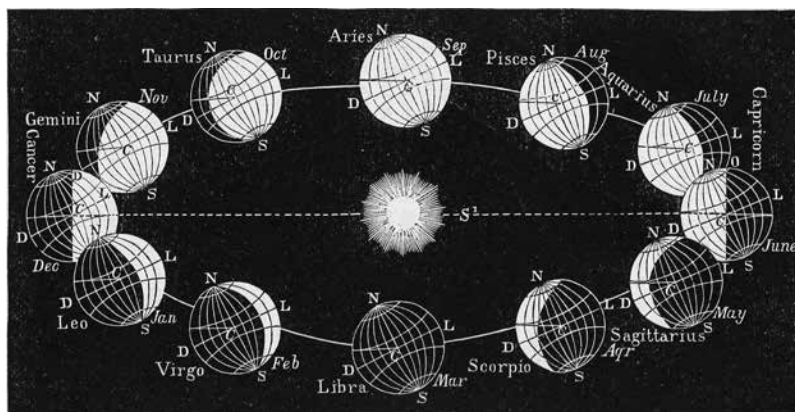
1. Angelina Jolie, birthdata: Astrodatbank, Rodden Rating: AA (Marc Penfield quotes birth certificate).
2. Brad Pitt, birthdata: Astrodatbank, Rodden Rating: A (LMR quotes a trusted colleague from Pitt).

Editor's Note: At the **NCGR 2017 Conference**, in his talk on the "The Zodiac, Sacred Geometry, Fibonacci Numbers & Prime Numbers," **David Cochrane** will explain why the sections of the zodiac have different qualities, using recent breakthroughs that reveal a beautiful sacred geometry and relationship of Fibonacci and prime numbers. Date and time: **Sunday, February 19, 2:30-3:45 pm.**

David Cochrane

a computer programmer for Cosmic Patterns Software (www.AstroSoftware.com) and Matrix Software (www.AstrologySoftware.com), author of two astrology books, a regular lecturer at international astrology conferences, instructor at the Avalon School of Astrology (www.AvalonAstrology.com), past President of the ISAR, an advisor to NCGR, creator of over 240 free tutorial videos available at youtube (www.youtube.com/c/DavidCochrane100), author of numerous articles and research papers, and pioneer in the development of Vibrational Astrology. He has collaborated with dozens of astrologers on astrological software products and research projects. David is a popular speaker and lecturer because he presents fresh, exciting ideas clearly and in an engaging manner that inspires as well as educates.





Declination Dynamics

By Leigh Westin

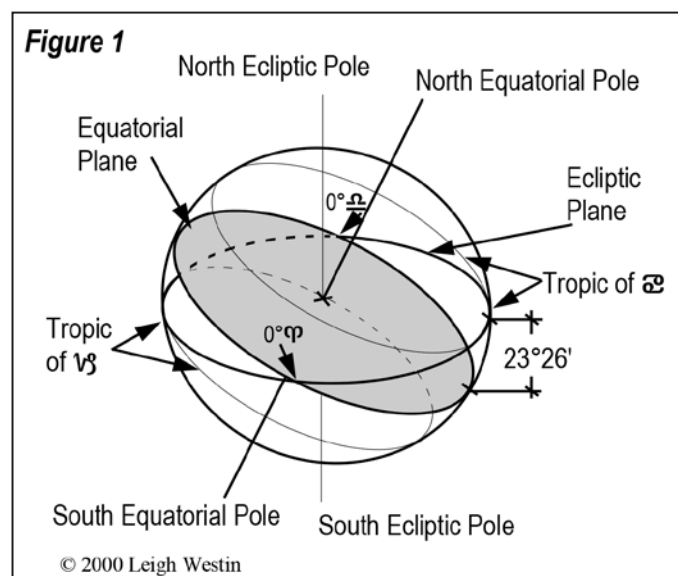
Declination, along with right ascension, belongs to the Equatorial System of celestial measurements, a system that actually was derived from Earth itself. The word, *equatorial*, literally refers to Earth's equator which in the equatorial system is considered to extend to infinity. One way of looking at the sky is as if all the action is taking place on the inside of a gigantic ball. The plot thickens however, when it is recognized, that with the exception of the Sun, each of the lights in the sky is represented by four *different* measurements.

There are the two measurements in the Equatorial System, right ascension that measures around the celestial equator, and declination which gives the distance above and below the celestial equator. Then there are the two measurements in the Ecliptic System, the familiar (celestial) longitude that measures around the ecliptic (the orbital path of Earth around the Sun) and its counterpart, celestial latitude, which measures above and below the ecliptic plane. Yet these four different

measurements represent just one point in the sky -- all at the same time!

One more important factor is that Earth's polar axis is tilted $23^{\circ}26'$ to its orbital path around the Sun, the ecliptic (Figure 1). The $23^{\circ}26'$ tilt is known as the *obliquity of the ecliptic*; further, these two planes, Earth's equator and the ecliptic, are joined together at the equinoctial points (0°) so that their distance apart at the height, reaches to only $23^{\circ}26'$ (the height of the Solstices) then gradually comes back down to 0° . All it's pieces fit together like a gigantic puzzle.

Another important factor are the terms for declination aspects, the parallel and contraparallel. A parallel occurs when two or more celestial bodies have the same declination either above the equator as a north parallel or below the equator as a south parallel. A contraparallel occurs when two or more bodies have the same declination, but one or more are above the celestial equator and one or more are below the celestial equator, similarly spaced as an opposition in celestial longitude.



The Visible Parallel

However, the idea of the parallel is the most applicable to that which is actually seen in the sky. A straight forward parallel involves two or more bodies located either north or south of the celestial equator, and found on the same side of a Solstice. The bodies in a straight forward parallel will be very close together in the sky and look like they are joined as one might expect a conjunction in longitude to appear. But all conjunctions in longitude are not created equal and many will *not visually appear* in the sky to be joined, like the word, conjunction, implies.

An example of the latter was a conjunction of Mars and Saturn on August 24, 2016, 5:30 am, as seen at Denver, Colorado (Figure 2, next page).

Mars		Saturn
09Sag52	Longitude	09Sag52
02S47	Celestial Latitude	01N34
247.46	Right Ascension	248.28
24S41	Declination	20S22

Mars and Saturn were shown in an ephemeris to be conjunct by longitude at 09Sag52, but were 4°+ degrees different by declination, thus they were not parallel, nor did they visually appear like a conjunction might thought to be. Although both bodies were in south declination, Mars was some distance below Saturn, and actually out-of-bounds since it was beyond the South Solstice at 23S26. Notice also celestial latitude; Saturn was north of the ecliptic at 01N34 while Mars was south of the ecliptic at 02S47. Although both bodies were south of the celestial equator, Saturn was north of the ecliptic and Mars was south, indicating that ecliptic plane was between the two bodies. Finally, neither Saturn nor Mars was *actually on the ecliptic*, even though they were shown to be in longitude conjunction.

In comparison, an example that was more visually descriptive of the word, conjunction, occurred on January 8, 2016. On this date, Venus and Saturn as seen at Portland, Oregon, formed a conjunction at 8:17 pm and a straight forward parallel about 10 hours later on the 9th (Figure 3).

8:17 pm on January 8 - conjunction

Venus		Saturn
12Sag00	Longitude	12Sag00
01N42	Celestial Latitude	01N38
250.45	Right Ascension	250.44
20S31	Declination	20S36

6:30 am on January 9 - parallel

Venus		Saturn
12Sag32	Longitude	12Sag03
01N42	Celestial Latitude	01N38
251.18	Right Ascension	250.44
20S36	Declination	20S36

Because Venus and Saturn were so close together in declination and celestial latitude, they looked in the sky like they were conjunct in both cases. In fact Venus almost occulted Saturn (occulted: totally covered by another body), but not quite as they were about a half a degree apart.

So which of the above conjunctions would seem to be the stronger? In the Venus-Saturn case, all measurements from longitude through declination were fairly close; while in the case of Mars and Saturn, declination was off by 4°+; and celestial latitude for Mars was south while that for Saturn was north. Venus-Saturn appeared visually close together, and like a conjunction by the very definition of the word. To answer the question, many esteemed astrologers have stated that the parallel and conjunction together is the strongest aspect of all.



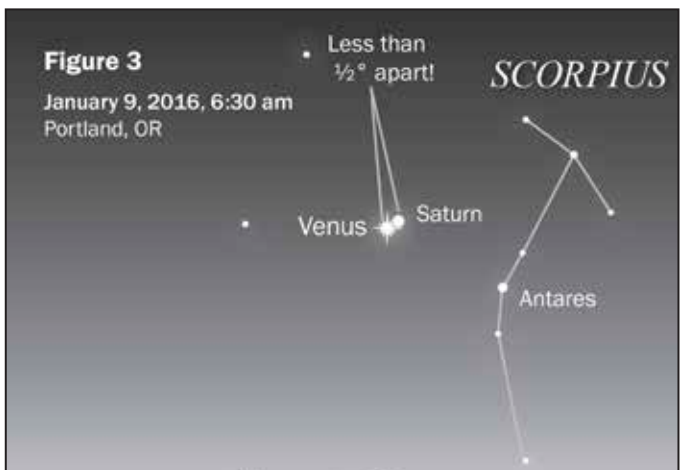
On the other hand, not all parallels visually appear together in the sky.

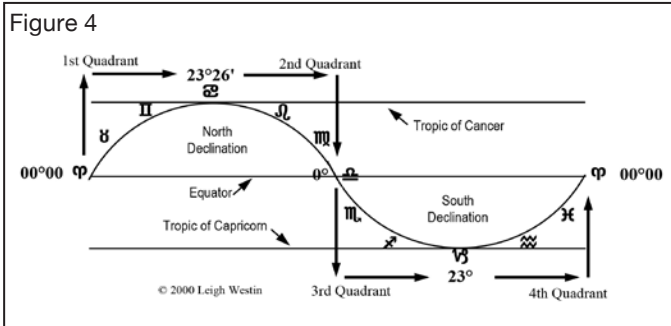
The Non-Visible Parallel

The sections on either side of the Solstices can be thought as quadrants or quarters of the sky, two in north declination and two in south declination (Figure 4, *opposite page, top left*). In the case of the first quadrant, declination degrees run from 00N00 (0°Aries) to 23N26 (0°Cancer); in the second quadrant, from 23N26 (0°Cancer) to 00S00 (0°Libra); in the third quadrant, from 00S00 (0°Libra) to 23S26 (0°Capricorn); and in the fourth quadrant from 23S26 (0°Capricorn) back to 00N00 (0°Aries).

Thus, the same declination degrees are found on both sides of the Solstices. As a result, when one or more bodies are on one side of the Solstice and another or more bodies are on the other side of the Solstice in the same declination degree (*same degree* being the operative factor), another type of parallel is formed: the *antiscion* parallel.

The word, *antiscion*, meaning *opposite shadow*, is derived from Greek (*anti-* = *opposite* and *-scion* = *shadow*). Opposite shadow relates to the length of the Sun's shadow as can be seen on a sundial. For example, when the Sun is at 10° Aries, the sundial's gnomon at high noon casts a shadow that is the same





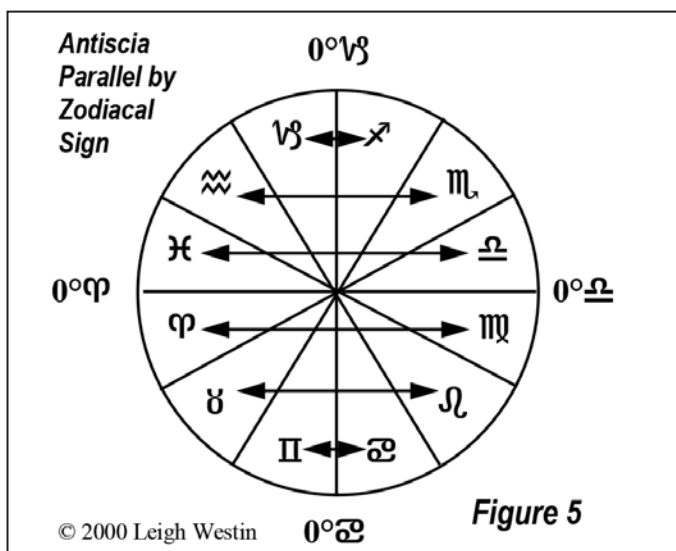
length as that when the Sun is on the other side of the Solstice at 20° Virgo. Even though these positions are on opposite sides of the North Solstice, they share not only the same shadow length, but also the same declination degree, 03N57.

The same logic follows for the South Solstice. When the Sun is at 20° Pisces, its same shadow length or opposite shadow occurs when the Sun is at 10° Libra, both of which share the declination degree, 03S57. In both cases, south and north, the antiscion of a cardinal sign is found in a mutable sign. (Figure 5).

Declination Orbs

Many people still apply a 1° orb to parallels and contraparallels. Yet, this is too great an orb at the higher degrees such as 23N/S00 to 23N/S26 in declination. Though a mere 26' difference, these few minutes represent over 20° in longitude in both directions (from about 20° Sagittarius to 10° Capricorn and about 20° Gemini to 10° Cancer).

Charles Jayne called declination orbs “a knotty issue,” and went on to suggest a somewhat graduated orb, i.e., approximately 1° from 00N/S00 to 14N/S00, 0°58' to 18N/S48, 00°45' to 23N/S12, and 00°10.5 to 23N/S26; for “higher declination,” Jayne applied only a one minute orb.¹ Using about a 10' orb from 23N12 to 12N26 or 23S12 to 23S26 would equate to a reasonable 5° orb in longitude. This also shows why all of the 23rd degree in declination shouldn't be considered a power point.



Points of Power

However, both 23N/S26 and 00N/S00 in declination, representing the Solstices and Equinoxes, were shown through research to be power points by Charles and Lois Hannan.² Kt Boehrer gave the same idea when she wrote that these positions were “the most serious generations of energy.”³

In contrast to the slow motion at the Solstices as celestial bodies move around the turn, declination moves the quickest at the Equinoxes where energy changes from south to north or vice versus, thus, “. . . a change in consciousness,” ensues, the latter noted by Nelda L. Tanner, from her research of some 40 years ago.⁴

Just like in longitude, the Solstices and Equinoxes in declination represent the powerful cardinal cross of initiation and change. The energy implied at the Solstices “is a greater height in ability, ambition and execution of action . . .” while “the opportunity of action generated by the Equinoxes . . . is powerful integration.”⁵

Another set of power points falls at the midpoint between these degrees, and carries a weighty implication as the fixed cross at 15° of the fixed signs.

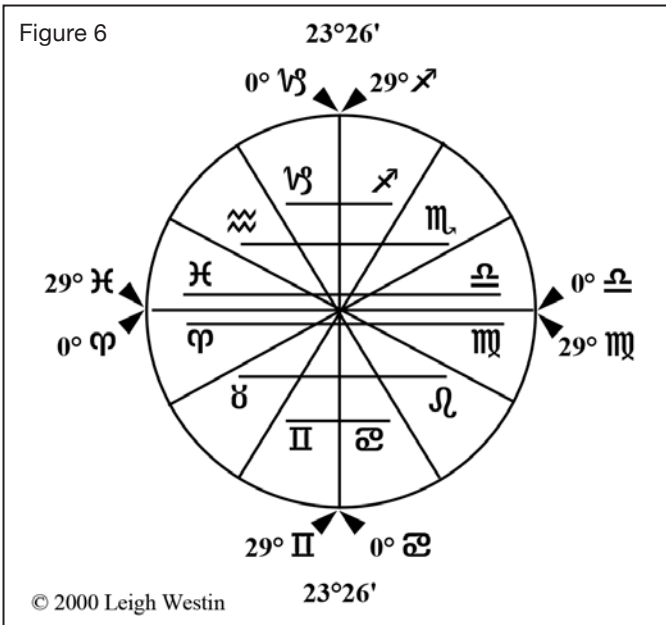
In declination, 15° fixed relates to 16N/S20 and equates to 15° of each of the four fixed signs. This one degree strongly relate to each of the four signs in ways that no other single degree does. In longitude these degrees are square or opposite to each other; and in declination, they relate to each other as antiscia and counter-antiscia as the antiscion of a fixed sign is always another fixed. This one degree, 16N/S20, is the most concentrated energy point of the entire zodiac, and was determined to be the manifestation degree.⁶

Now that crosses have been shown in declination for both cardinal signs and fixed signs, what about the mutable cross? Actually 29° of a mutable sign is the antiscion of 0° of a cardinal sign. Furthermore 23N/S26 equates not only to both 0° Cancer or Capricorn, but also to 29° Gemini or Sagittarius; while 00N/S00 equates to both 0° Aries or Libra and also to their antiscia which for 0° Aries is 29° Pisces and for 0° Libra, 29° Virgo (Figure 6, next page). With their solid adjacency and solstitial power, these four adjoining cardinal and mutable positions can be considered as one cross, yielding a similar significance as the concentrated intensity of the fixed signs at 15° fixed.⁷

Now the two crosses in declination, encompass all three qualities. One is the combination of cardinal and mutable energies, which are compliments of each other in that one acts and the other adapts, thus both exhibit motion, in stark contrast to the cross of fixed signs which is just that--fixed.⁸

When both crosses are superimposed on each other, an eight-sectioned configuration appears (Figure 7, next page). It has been highly suggested that the configuration so derived was the original octagon chart.⁹ On further analysis, it is seen that

Figure 6



each of the eight points also can relate to the ancient Celtic holidays. The Solstices and Equinoxes, representing, the turn of the seasons and the fixed cross, the four holidays in between: Imbolc, around February 11; Beltane, May 1; Lammas, August 12; and Samhain, November 1.

Yet there is still another important connection. Note that the fixed cross falls exactly 45° away from the cardinal-mutable cross, thus effectively dividing the circle in eight 45° increments, 0, 45, 90, 135, 180, 225, 270, 315 -- the same as the eighth harmonic of midpoint fame. In fact, Charles Jayne, in 1978 in writing about parallels stated, *“The antiscion parallel . . . is also based on the symmetry principle which is at the base of Midpoint Theory.”*¹⁰

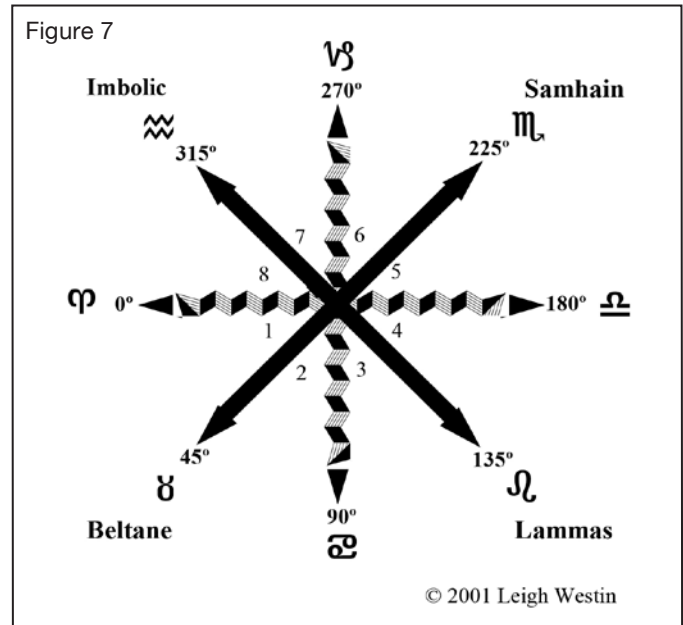
With articles by two of Alfred Witte’s student colleagues, Richard Svehla and Otto Wilms, it was established conclusively that declination was the original source from which the brilliant Alfred Witte, conceived his theory of planetary pictures.¹¹

Wilms stated: *“With the Antiscia, Witte obtained the research base which later enabled him to establish his theory of planetary pictures. The starting point of the numbers was the Spring Equinox or 0 Aries.”*¹² Thus established was the Aries Point or World Axis, relating to the world events or the public in general.

Out-of-bounds Theory

Another important thread in declination is the phenomenon called out-of-bounds. Out-of-bounds (oob) indicates that a body has traveled beyond the maximum declination of the Sun at the Solstices (currently, 23N/S26). When a body reaches oob, the energy is as powerful as the Solstices, but the further it travels oob, the less controllable the energy becomes. Nor does the energy as it goes oob suddenly become

Figure 7



radical; the body is already powerful with great expectations being at the heights, but as it swings further oob from the confines of the Solstices, the more susceptible it is to turbulence, i.e., *“The individual may feel different than others, be perceived so, and even more, be different.”*¹³

Kt Boehrer labeled and defined oob theory as early as 1975.¹⁴ Significant in Boehrer’s research was the Moon paradigm: a natal oob Moon related to a childhood that was unusual or different in some manner. The situation could be as severe as an abused or orphaned child, to somewhat less, such as detachment of a parent; nor did it necessarily mean an unhappy childhood. But the paradigm did seem to result in a sense of a lack or void. Boehrer found such led the native to unconsciously compensate in a way to exceed the normal, negatively or positively, based on the aspects of other natal bodies.¹⁵

Boehrer also found that the Moon paradigm didn’t hold true when one or more bodies were additionally oob natively. In other words, it was the combinations of oob bodies that *“produced the extremely interesting personality type.”*¹⁶ The general indication of oob is that the individual’s behavior can manifest as if policies, standards, conventions, policies, rules or laws don’t apply to him or her. The higher the oob degree, the further the bodies are oob, and the more deviations that they have, then the greater the latitude taken.

It is important to recognize that normal appearing and acting people can have oob planets, while others that are bizarre or even deviant may not. A few examples of the bizarre or deviant are: Joseph Merrick, the elephant man; George Lippert, who had three legs; Benito Mussolini, tyrannical dictator; Cameron Hooker, sadist; and even Marquis de Sade, himself. In fact, out of the famous and infamous in Lois Rodden’s Astro-Data books, only 34.55%, had one body oob; with two oob bodies, the count diminished to 14.24%. Examples with three oob bodies were only 3% of the total and with four bodies, 0.29%.¹⁷

Out-of-bounds Frequency

The frequency of a planet reaching beyond the Solstices depends on its cyclical nature. Saturn and Neptune do not currently reach oob. Nor is it the Moon that is oob the most often. That status belongs to Mars!

At least once a year, and sometimes twice, Mars extends beyond the Solstice and can remain so from 10 to 200 days. The Moon, next in frequency, is a special case, and saved for last. Mercury is the third most frequently oob, reaching the Solstices at least once a year, sometimes two or three times, and remaining beyond from a day to a month. Venus is fourth, usually oob once a year, sometimes up to three times, and remaining so from a couple of days to a rare 60 day maximum.

Although Pluto, next in line, reaches the Solstices the least often, its last venture was from 1938-1953, reaching oob and in-bounds for about 15 years. However, that is about to change. Pluto's next excursion in 2025-2035, will be its last venture oob, for untold thousands of years!¹⁸

Uranus, even though currently next to last in frequency, will truck on seemingly for millennia, achieving the oob state every 39 to 44 years and remaining so for two to three years; the last event was in 1987-1991. On the other hand Jupiter, the least frequent planet to reach oob, was last so in 2002 for 27 days at the staggering amount of 1', with its next venture to occur in 2055.¹⁹

Now for the Moon. The Moon remains in-bound for about nine years, retreating from the Solstices to reach no higher in declination than about 18° N/S at the center of the nine-year period. That center point is called the Minor Lunar Standstill which last occurred September 21, 2015 (Figure 8). The nine-year span alternates with a 10-year period wherein the Moon reaches oob every two weeks. This period begins with the Moon peeking oob for a few hours to gradually remaining oob for up five days, reaching as high as 28° N/S in the middle of the period, a point called the Major Lunar Standstill. The last 10-year oob portion took place from 2001-2011, while the Major Lunar Standstill occurred in 2006.

The nine- and 10-year periods together yield the 18.6 year lunar Nodal cycle wherein the North Node reaches 0° Aries during Major Standstill and 0° Libra during Minor Standstill. The next 10-year period when the Moon once again steps oob will begin in 2020, lasting to 2030, while the Major Lunar Standstill will occur in the center of the period in 2025.²⁰

Another Deviation

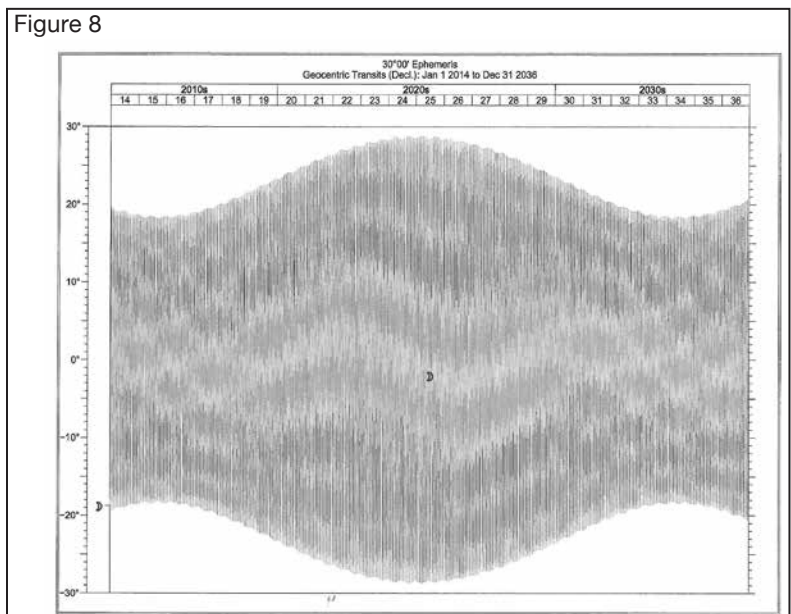
The majority of the time when a body reaches oob, it will be in one of the signs on either side of the Solstice. In north declination, the signs will be

Cancer or Gemini and in south declination, the signs will be Capricorn or Sagittarius. It was generally accepted that Pluto could be oob in non-solstitial Aquarius since that was case early on in US history (by 1779), and that Pluto could be oob in Leo since that was the case for WWII. It was also known that during the lunar oob periods, the Moon would reach oob while in the fixed signs. But no one had ever researched oob in the non-solstitial situation.

Then one day, while thumbing through an ephemeris, quite surprisingly, Mars was found oob in *Leo* -- then stunningly, Venus was found oob in *Scorpio*!²¹ No question, that the oob condition is a deviation from the norm, just like being retrograde is a deviation from the normal orbit of a planet; but a further deviation on top of another seemed -- well, downright *maverick*,²¹ a word to me, that epotimized celestial bodies oob in fixed signs.

Consider just the Moon. The lunar landscape has to do with nurturing, safety and security. Cardinal signs by their nature take action, while mutable signs, adapt to an issue. Yet having to reach beyond the familiar comfort zone of the Solstices, is the very antipathy of the fixed signs' need to control and conserve; thus, the cardinal and mutable signs are innately better equipped to deal with the nature of reaching into the nethers, than a fixed sign with nothing to grasp.²² Perhaps the Moon oob in Taurus is a *little* easier since it would be in its exaltation, in contrast to being oob in Scorpio where it is debilitated.

Later after considerable research, oob bodies in fixed signs were found to rare indeed, yet repeated cyclically with a certain regularity. In the case of the Moon about three years into the 10-year oob cycle, the Moon first reached oob in Leo and Aquarius; in the middle of the cycle, it reached oob in all four fixed signs; and toward the end of the cycle, just Taurus and Scorpio -- albeit for only short stays in all cases.²³



In the case of Mars oob in Leo and Aquarius, there were only five events in the past 100 years, with a decided preference for oob in Leo. The cycle for Venus was different yet, reaching oob in Taurus and Scorpio; first in Taurus for about 100 years; both signs for about 50 years; and Scorpio for 100 years -- the last cycle ending in 1994. Thus no one could have Venus oob in Taurus from 1889 to when the new cycle began in 1996.²⁴

After seeing the recent Vice-Presidential debate, one probably would concur that Tim Kaine could have an oob Mars and it could be in Gemini. One might agree too, that Mike Pence could have an oob Mercury, also in Gemini. Now, contrast those oob positions with some of the fixed *mavericks*. Bruce Jenner (Caitlyn) has Moon oob in Aquarius.²⁵ How about Clint Eastwood's oob Moon in Leo; that consistent, macho, on-screen style is the reflection of the real man. James Dean of *Rebel without a Cause* fame had Mars oob in Leo.²⁶ Susan Sarandon, actress and political activist with an interesting love-life, has Venus oob in Scorpio.²⁷ When elected as President, Bill Clinton had progressed Venus oob in Scorpio; and they say this stuff doesn't work.

Final Thoughts

Recently much of the current chaos has been attributed to the Pluto-Uranus square and even to a cardinal cross, the latter by applying a wide 10° orb, all in longitude. Yet what about Saturn very near its south Solstice and within orb of parallel Pluto since December 2015?

Right on election day, Saturn-Pluto, 9' apart in declination were joined in parallel by Mars and Mercury, all near the south Solstice -- yes, on election day, November 8th -- and the 9th, when the election was called. Saturn as structure, authority or even government melding with Pluto agent of change, transformation, death/rising Phoenix, building in energy throughout the year. Doesn't that read like what happened, a change in government direction, accompanied with hostile rhetoric (Mars-Mercury), then that same rhetoric continuing after for some time (Mercury oob)? Mercury will again parallel Saturn-Pluto when the electoral college votes on December 19 -- and I'm nowhere near noting all the fun in 2017!

Charles Jayne wrote: "*Parallels are of major importance in horoscopy. Some Charts cannot be interpreted in their main thrust if Declination is omitted.*"²⁸

All Rights Reserved

Endnotes:

1. Jayne, Charles. *Parallels: Their Hidden Meaning*. Astrological Bureau; Monroe, NY, p. 21.
2. Hannan, Charles and Lois. "Declination, Power Points and Out-of-Bounds Planets," *Today's Astrologer*, AFA, Vol.53, No. 11, Nov., 1994
3. Boehrer, Kt. *Declination: The Other Dimension*. Fortunata Press, El Paso: TX, 1994, p. 61.

4. Tanner, Nelda L. "Life Diagram by Declination." NCGR *Geocosmic Journal*, Winter, 1998, p. 59.
5. Westin, Leigh. *Beyond the Solstice by Declination*. Gheminee: 2001, p. 95.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Jayne. p.17.
11. Bertucelli, Penelope. *Uranian Astrology and Alfred Witte*. Penelope Publications: Weston, FL.
12. Wilms, Otto. "The Uranian System." (Circa 1940).
13. Westin, p. 94.
14. Boehrer, Kt. "The Ecliptic Where the Action Is," *Stellium Quarterly*, Vol.1 No.1, 1975.
15. Boehrer, Kt. . *Declination: The Other Dimension*. Fortunata Press: El Pas,: TX, 1994, p. 14.
16. Ibid.
17. Westin, p. 87.
18. Ibid., p. 40.
19. Ibid., p. 30.
20. Ibid., p. 84.
21. Ibid., p. 17.
22. Ibid., p. 95.
23. Ibid., p. 87.
24. Ibid., p. 61.
25. Oob Moon in Aquarius parallel oob Venus (in Sag), both contra-parallel Uranus north which is close to Pluto.
26. Mars oob in Leo, parallel Jupiter, close to Pluto, all north in the 8th; Jupiter contraparallel Mercury-Saturn and contra-antiscion Asc; Mercury-Saturn antiscia parallel to Asc.
27. Venus oob in Scorpio parallel Moon oob in Capricorn, both contraparallel Pluto and Uranus.
28. Jayne, p. 5.

Editor's Note 1: Parts of this article recently appeared in NCGR's *E-News* as "Declination Dynamics: A Mini Series."

Editor's Note 2: Leigh Westin invites you to her presentation, "Declination's Many Faces," at the **2017 NCGR Conference** in Baltimore on **Saturday, February 18, 4:15-5:30 pm** to explore much more about the importance in using declination.

Leigh Westin

(MS; MA; D.F. Astrol.S.; CA, NCGR), NCGR's Chapter and Publication Director and Examiner for NCGR-PAA, pioneered research founding a declination premise from Earth's dynamics, the LunarSeasons™ theory, Venus and Mars out-of-bounds in fixed signs, and a declination basis of antiscia. Dave Roell's "best books list" cited Leigh's *Beyond the Solstice*, "*rich in analysis....and startling insights*," while *The Mountain Astrologer* noted its "*wealth of information . . . by a highly creative astrological thinker.*"



The 2020 cycles: The Saturn-Pluto Conjunction on Planetary Nodes

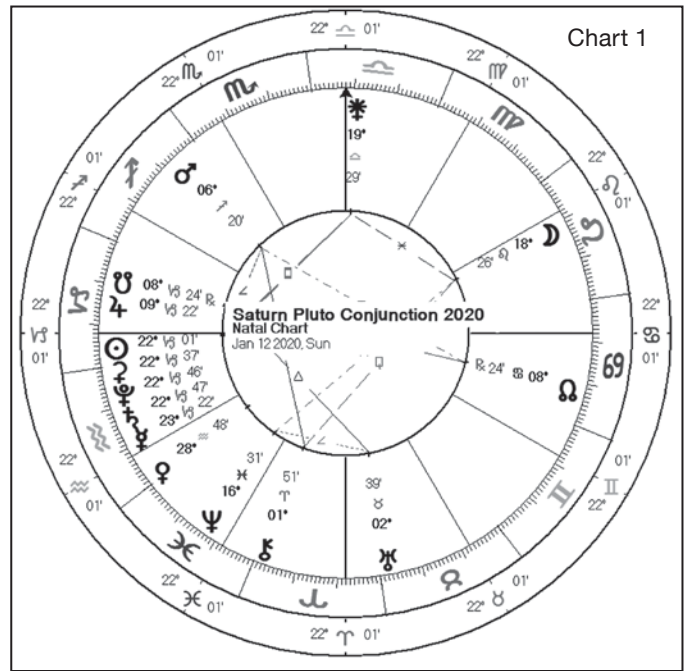
By Maurice Fernandez

Cardinal, Mutable, Cardinal Again

The world has gone through intense transitions during the cardinal transits of Uranus in Aries to Pluto in Capricorn. This cycle initially began in 1965 when the two planets last conjoined at 15° Virgo, a time remembered for radical social change and a strong yearning for liberation from the confines of obsolete values and structures. The civil rights movement was in full bloom and the concerns of African Americans were strongly voiced by Martin Luther King and other pioneering activists. It was also a time for the sexual liberation movement, in the backdrop of Neptune in Scorpio. Fast forward, the first opening square between Pluto and Uranus came within orb in 2010, bringing massive social movements across the globe, from the Arab Spring to the Occupy movement, and of course the worldwide emancipation of gay and transgender rights.

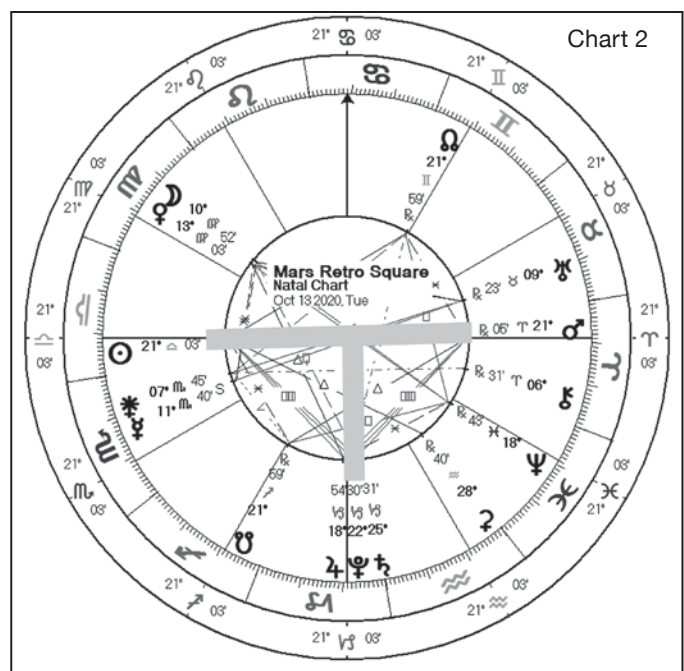
We had an interlude from the cardinal climate with a flash of mutable influence during the course of 2015 and 2016 when Saturn, Neptune, Jupiter, and the Nodal Axis were in Sagittarius, and Pisces/Virgo, respectively. Among other things, this influence accelerated the impact of globalization while at the same time created a strong backlash against it, which resulted from the rapidity of the process and the porous boundaries intrinsic to mutability. The massive wave of exiles from Syria to Europe and to the West, stimulated an *existentially imposed* mix of cultures that led to both relief and anxiety. This exodus was received simultaneously with an unprecedented warm welcome and an intense increase in racism, with Islamophobia becoming further fueled by numerous terrorist attacks in both Europe and the US. The race problem was also highlighted with an increase in reports of excessive use of violence by US police on African Americans, prompting the Black Lives Matter movement. Saturn in Sagittarius reflects the need for multi-culturalism in society, and yet equally so, the fear of foreigners.

Now Jupiter has moved into cardinal Libra, realigning in cardinal territory with Pluto in Capricorn, and Uranus in Aries. On the eve of 2018, Saturn will also step into Capricorn, with Jupiter following late 2019. This will no doubt, be the cardinal decade to remember! Cardinal signs essentially represent



the aspiration for new beginnings, albeit beginnings accompanied by knee jerking hesitation between the yearning for security and the urgent need for change; they help us reinvent ourselves. We can all benefit from a healthy dose of identity crisis by *cardinally* growing into our new selves. However, what comes ahead, culminating during the year 2020, may be very intense, even for hard-core transformation addicts.

Why bother looking at transits three years ahead of time? I personally believe that with greater awareness of the meanings intended in these coming cycles, we can learn to use these energies more beneficially; since these influences are of a high octane caliber, three years is perhaps not that much time.



Pluto, Saturn and Jupiter in 2020

Pluto, Saturn, and Jupiter will meet and dance together all along the year 2020. These cycles will begin in early January with the dramatic five-planets-alignment, including the Pluto-Saturn conjunction at 22° Capricorn on January 12, 2020 (see Chart 1). The following step will be the Jupiter-Pluto conjunction at 24° Capricorn on April 3, 2020. The trio will remain in 20° Capricorn most of the year, and eventually be squared by retrograde and forward Mars in Aries (see Chart 2) from August to December 2020, all the way until the Jupiter-Saturn conjunction at 0° Aquarius on December 21, 2020.

The intricacies of these influences are material for a whole book, limiting this article to only touch on some of the aspects therein. A greater exploration of the implications of these unprecedented influences for humanity and our personal lives will be provided during my presentation at the 2017 NCGR conference in Baltimore (Feb 16-29, 2017). Three years ahead of the big year may be enough for preparation. In this article, I would like to highlight other important facts about these coming cycles:

The Pluto-Saturn conjunction will occur on their respective planetary nodes.

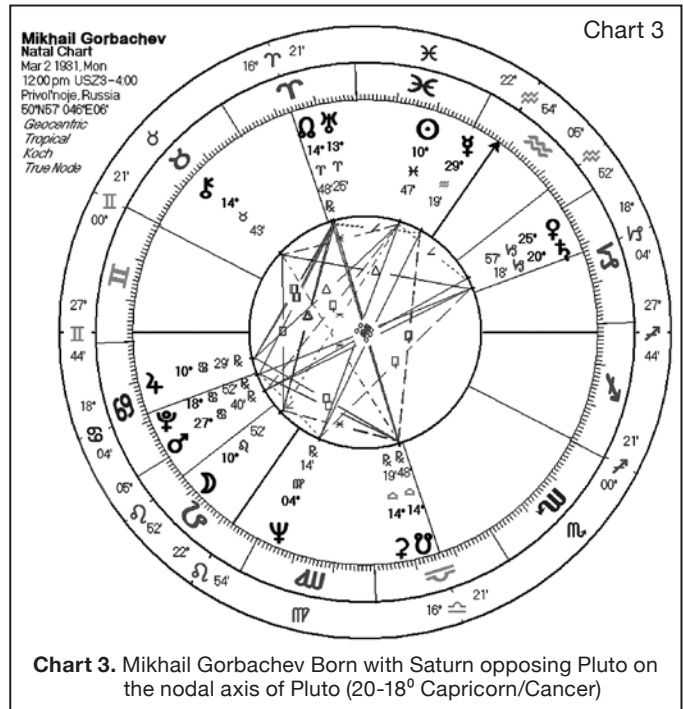
Saturn's south node will be at 23° Capricorn, and Pluto's south node will be at 20° Capricorn.

Most of us are well aware of the importance of the Moon's Nodes, but planetary nodes are not as well recognized even though their importance is perhaps no less important. Just as it is with the Moon, planetary nodes are the points of intersection between the planet's orbit and the ecliptic. However, unlike the Moon's Nodes, the planetary nodes have a repeating fixed pattern over a solar year that varies only with the Precession of the Equinoxes, that is 1° per 72 years. So they routinely cover the same range of degrees in the course of a year. The more distant the planet is from the Sun, the narrower their range of travel.

The Nodes of Saturn travel between 17° and 28° Cancer/Capricorn every year.

The Nodes of Pluto travel between 18° and 21° Cancer/Capricorn every year.

We can write extensively about the meanings of planetary nodes, but to get a quick reference to their influence, we may say that the degree where the planetary nodes are situated, captures very powerfully the energy of the planet associated. For example, if the south node of Pluto is at 21° Capricorn, then this degree will deeply activate *Plutonian themes*. What is compelling about the Pluto and Saturn conjunction in January 2020, is that both planets will be positioned in tight proximity to



their own south nodes—high octane degrees—so don't say we didn't warn you!

To learn more about the influence of these planetary nodes, we can look back at historical events. It is interesting to note that when Pluto was on its own north node in Cancer, (18° Cancer), the US experienced the well-known Wall Street Crash of 1929, which led to the Great Depression. It was only by 1954 that the stock market reached the peak prior to that crash—this time Uranus and Jupiter visited that range of degrees on the Pluto north node.

The year, 1930, was also the year that Pluto itself was discovered by Percival Lowell, who happened to be born with his Moon on Pluto's south node. (Interestingly, the Lunar North Node was transiting his Pluto at the time of the discovery!)

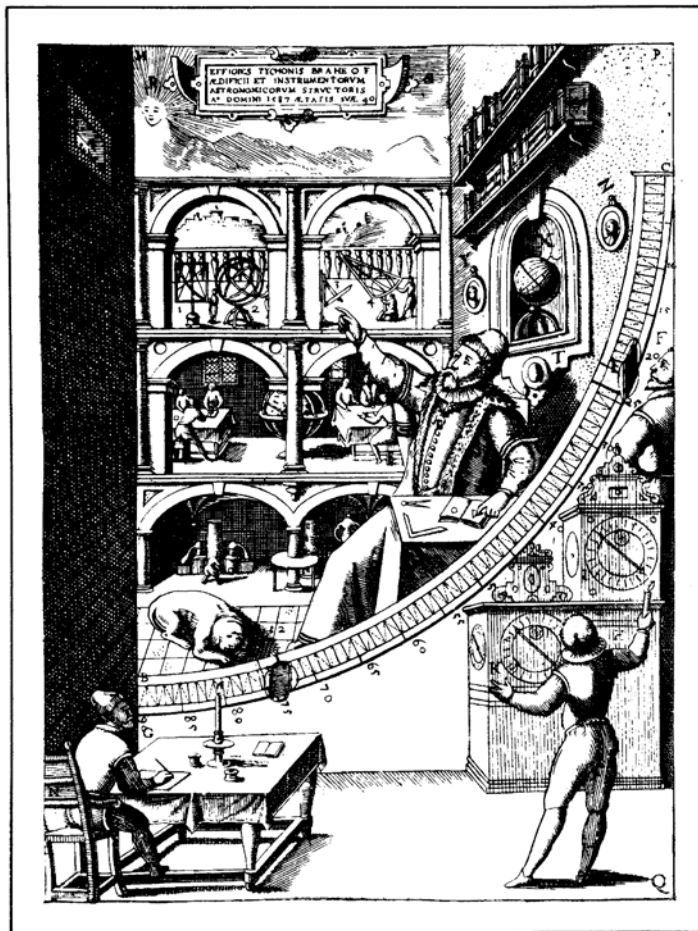
When Saturn transited its own south node between 1990 and 1991, it marked the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the restructuring of Eastern Europe. This whole process was instigated by Mikail Gorbachev, who himself was born with a Pluto-Saturn opposition at 18-20° Cancer/Capricorn on the nodal axis of Pluto (see Chart 3).

In 2020, when both Pluto and Saturn will be conjunct on these nodes, we can surmise that these configurations will bring about fundamental and far-reaching global change on political and economic levels. While the actual time of the conjunction may send powerful tremors, both

Continues on page 58

Introduction to Astrological Predictive Techniques

By Mónica Escalante-Ochoa



The predictive techniques used in Astrology show the energy types and the areas which will be activated in the future. Each predictive technique tells when the planet's energy will be manifested; however they add nothing that is not promised in the natal chart.

It is very useful to recognize the astrological opportunities that could open up, because in this way we can approach them positively and choose what to do with them, instead of letting them play out in our lives without focusing on what might be best. It is important to remember that planets don't choose for us; instead we are the ones who make the decisions about what to do or not do in the circumstances that we live.

Even though many people may believe so, astrological predictive techniques are not fated routes that God has imposed on us and which we must follow without arguing. What is important is our level of consciousness, flexibility, detachment, responsibility and willingness to change.

Predictive techniques, such as transits, secondary progressions, solar arc directions, eclipses, and solar returns touch three levels:

1. Physical level.

This is the most basic level, with typical external circumstances.

2. Emotional level.

This is the intermediate level, where the person recognizes their emotions and the reasons behind them.

3. Spiritual level.

This is the highest level, where the person recognizes the emotions and the reasons behind them, but also clearly understands that they are part of an evolutionary path and how to make the best of them. Changes produced on this level help people find their true self and mission in life.

For example, a woman that had been married for many years had transiting Uranus making a square to her natal Venus. On the physical level, she might get a divorce. On the emotional level she might feel that her relationship is not going well and needs more freedom. Yet on the spiritual level, the person felt that her relationship was not going well. She recognized that she needed more freedom, but she also recognized, deep inside of her, that the problem might not be only her love relationship. Maybe she noticed that she has been paralyzed in many ways and that her values were not the same that she used to have. So this was a time to free herself independently of what she did with her relationship, to be free of old ways of being and old ways of thinking. In this way she evolved into a new person, thus found many new opportunities to which to relate and to be valued.

Although astrology expands human freedom, it has limitations. As the energies change, whatever we create depends on our personal and social options as well as our own energy. The greater the person's consciousness, the easier the person can manage the energies activated and feel the most freedom; on the other hand, the more unconscious the person is, the more the feeling will be like a *fall into destiny* or that *everything is fated*.

The purpose of an astrological consultation is to explain the astrological options that are opening to the client, and after that to respect whatever decision the client decides to make (even if we believe that the wrong decision is being made). The real purpose of astrological changes is on the spiritual level, and on this level is where the concentration should be, either as a client or a consultant.

In summary, we could say that predictive techniques offer the exact time to grow in a specified area, giving physical, emotional, and spiritual facts required to reach the goal's moment. As the Bible says in Ecclesiastes 3, 1-8¹:

*For everything its season, and for every activity under heaven its time:
 A time to be born and a time to die;
 A time to plant and a time to uproot;
 A time to kill and a time to heal;
 A time to pull down, and a time to build up;
 A time to weep and a time to laugh;
 A time for mourning and a time for dancing;
 A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;
 A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
 A time to seek and a time to lose;
 A time to keep, and a time to throw away;
 A time to tear and a time to mend;
 A time to for silence, and a time for speech;
 A time to love, and a time to hate;
 A time for war and a time for peace.*

Classification and Generalities

In most predictive techniques, planets move forward, and what changes from one technique to another is the planet's velocity.

The most used predictive techniques in modern western astrology are:

1. Transits.
2. Solar Returns.
3. Eclipses.
4. Secondary progressions.
5. Solar Arc directions.

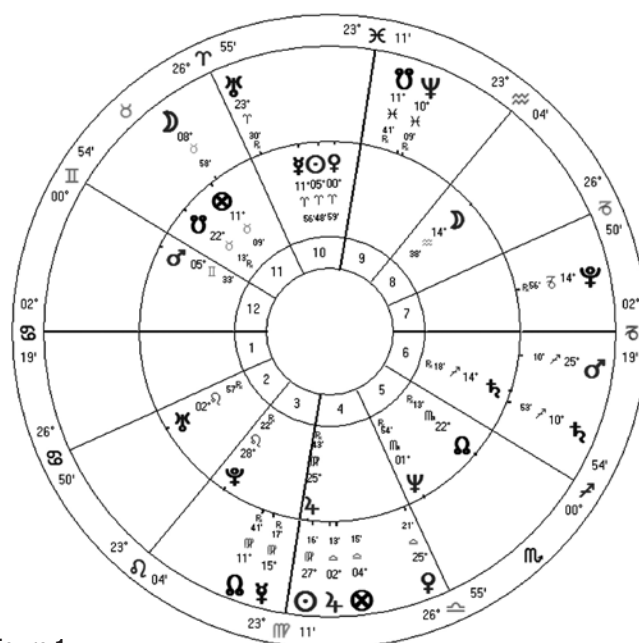


Figure 1:
 Inside, Andrea's Natal Chart: March 26th, 1957; 11:56 am, México City, México
 Outside, Transits for September 19, 2016

An Example of Transits

In the ephemeris, planets are shown to move a day at a time, representing a day in life. This is the most used technique and only requires looking for the planet's position on the date that is being studied. The advantage in using transits is that it is very easy to find a planet's position in an ephemerides and see if it is aspecting the natal positions. The most important transits are those made to natal positions by the slow moving planets, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. The aspects that create the bigger changes are the conjunction, square and opposition.

For example, let's look at Andrea's natal Chart shown on the inside of Figure 1 (March 26th, 1957; 11:56 a.m.; México City, México); and on the outside, the transits of September 19, 2016.

In checking the charts, we find transiting Jupiter opposite natal Sun. To make an accurate interpretation of a transit, it is important to take into account:

1. Area of the chart that the transiting planet is activating.
House 4 has to do with family, parents, home, the sense of security.
2. The nature of the transiting planet.
Jupiter is the Great Benefic, brings lots of effects, mainly positive, and looks for a deeper sense.
3. Relationship between the natal planet and the transiting planet.
Jupiter is a friendly planet, so the Sun will be happy to

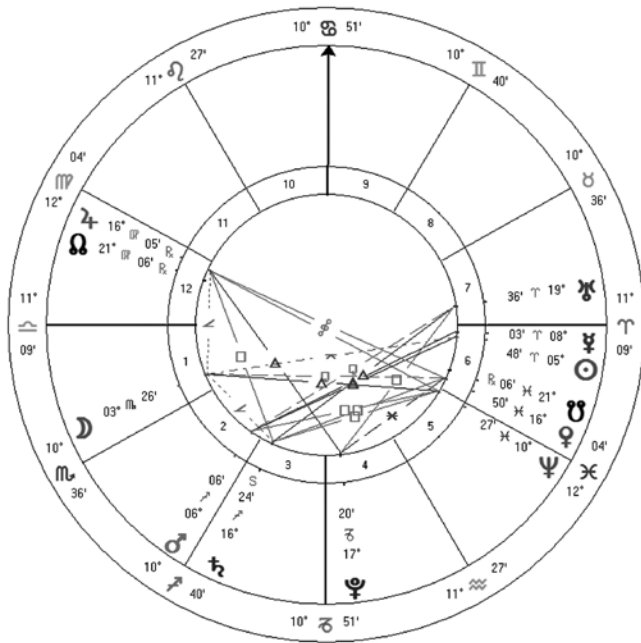


Figure 2:
Andrea's 2016 Solar Return in México City, Mexico.

5. Most elevated planet.
Jupiter
6. First planet.
Moon in Scorpio
7. Configurations.
T-square: Jupiter-Saturn-Venus
8. Natal Ascendant in the solar return chart.
House 9
9. Solar Return Ascendant in the natal chart.
House 4
10. Retrograde personal planets.
None
11. Planet in a house that it rules.
Mars in the 2nd house, Scorpio on the cusp
12. Planet aspecting the ruler of the house of its domicile.
Saturn square Jupiter; Venus opposition Jupiter
13. Planet is in conjunction to a natal planet.
Moon conjunct Neptune; Saturn conjunct Saturn; Mercury conjunct Mercury

have his energy. Andrea's Sun will feel positive and self-confident, but Andrea also might need to look inside to understand why she is as she is and to find a new and deeper meaning for her life.

4. Type of aspect formed by the transiting planet and the natal planet or personal point.
Transiting Jupiter opposes natal Sun (with a 3° orb). Some event (maybe originating from the parents, the family or the country which is felt as home) is activating the consciousness of Andrea asking her how could she get more out of her life and have more recognition and meaning.

Example of a Solar Return

The Solar Return is a horoscope calculated at the exact moment when the transiting Sun conjuncts the natal Sun each year of life; it could be calculated for the natal birth place or other coordinates. It works for about one year.

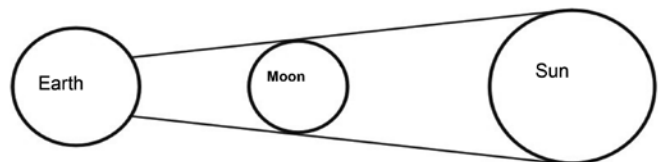
The most important points to consider and an example from Figure 2 are:

1. Angular planets.
Mercury conjunct Des
2. Moon by sign and house.
Moon in Scorpio, in the 1st house
3. Sun by house.
House 6
4. Planets in the 1st house.
Moon in Scorpio

Eclipses

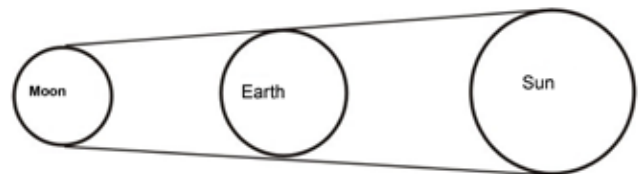
There are two types of eclipses, the solar eclipse and the lunar eclipse. In a solar eclipse, the Moon is between the Sun and Earth. This happens only at a New Moon. Earth is shadowed by the Moon (See Figure 3). The Sun and Moon conjunct one of the Nodes and are in parallel by declination.

Figure 3: Diagram of a Solar Eclipse



In a Lunar Eclipse, Earth is between the Sun and the Moon and the Moon is shadowed. This eclipse occurs at Full Moon while the Sun and Moon are conjunct the Nodes and are in contra-parallel to each other.

Figure 4: Diagram of a Lunar Eclipse



Solar Annular Eclipse (NM)
Natal Chart
 1 Sep 2016, Tue
 4:03:02 am CDT +5:00
 Mexico City, Mexico
 19°N24' 09" W09°
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 Mean Node

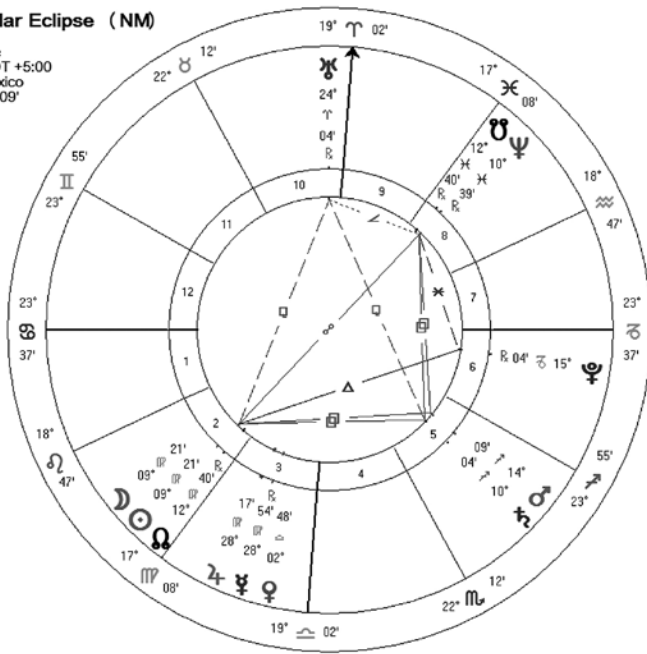


Figure 5: Solar Eclipse, September 1, 2016, Mexico City, Mexico

The Eclipses in 2016 are:

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Solar Eclipse | 18°56' Pisces | March 9 th |
| 2. Lunar Eclipse | 03°27' Libra | March 23 th |
| 3. Lunar Eclipse | 25°52' Aquarius | August 18 th |
| 4. Solar Eclipse | 09°21' Virgo | September 1 st (Figure 5) |
| 5. Lunar Eclipse | 24°20' Pisces | September 16 th (Figure 6) |

The principal points to take into account with examples from Figure 1 (natal chart in the center) and Figure 5 (solar eclipse, September 1, 2016, Mexico City, Mexico) are as follows:

- Natal planet or personal point conjunct the eclipse degree with an orb no more than 5°.
Lunar eclipse # 5 at 24°20' Pisces conjunct MC.
- Natal planet or personal point opposing or squaring the eclipse degree, with an orb no more than 3°.
Lunar eclipse # 2 at 3°17' Libra opposite Venus and Sun.
Lunar eclipse # 5 at 24°20' Pisces opposite Jupiter.
- If the eclipse repeats its zodiacal position from 19 years ago, any event 19 years ago will be important.
- Natal house where the eclipse degree falls.
Houses 9, 3 and 4.
- Eclipse's Chart
Solar eclipse # 4 Sun-Moon conjunct at 9°21' Virgo forms a T-square, opposite Neptune, square Saturn.
- Eclipse's Lord.
Solar eclipse # 4: eclipse lord is Saturn squaring the Eclipse degree (9°21' Virgo) with only 0°43' orb.
- Eclipse's shadow on earth.
Solar Eclipse # 4: Africa, Zaire.

Secondary Progressions

In secondary progressions, each day in the ephemerides equals one year of life, *a day for a year*. Secondary progressions have three disadvantages:

- They need to be calculated individually.
- Most of the time, only the fast moving planets, Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars and the angles, move enough to be considered.
- Because the slow planets, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, move very slowly, their secondary progressions are not generally considered, unless the body changes signs, direction or house, or makes an exact aspect to a natal or progressed planet or personal point.

On the other hand, secondary progressions have two advantages:

- Fast moving planets, Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus and Mars, are studied in an appropriate way. (Their transits are just too fast; therefore, they only represent fast situations).

Appulse Lunar Eclipse
Event Chart
 16 Sep 2016, Tue
 2:05:01 pm CDT +5:00
 Mexico City, Mexico
 19°N24' 09" W09°
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 Mean Node

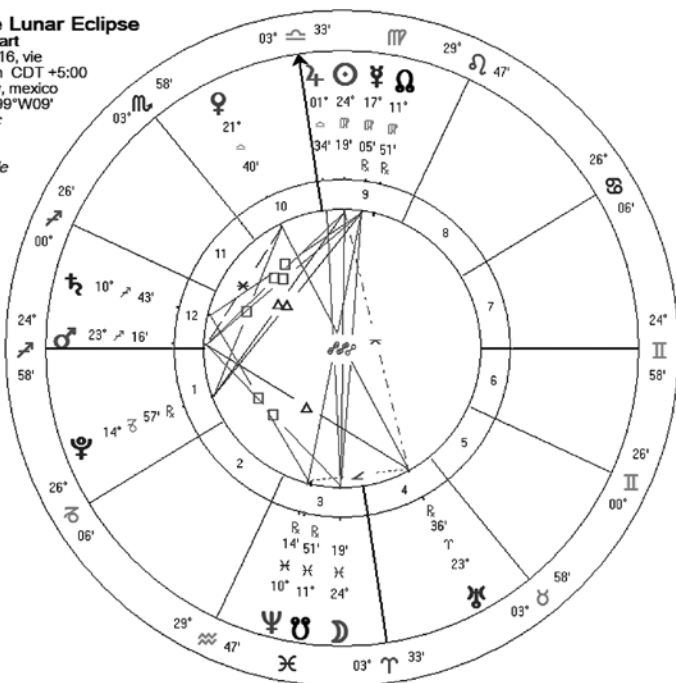


Figure 6: Lunar Eclipse September 16, 2016, Mexico City, Mexico

- The main aspects taken into account are between progressed planets and natal planets.

The main points to consider in secondary progressions along with examples from Figure 7 are:

- Sun and Moon progressions. Change of sign or house
Progressed Sun in Gemini for more than three years; in the natal 10th house, and in the progressed 12th house.
Progressed Moon at 12°44' Aries in the natal 10th house, and the progressed 8th house.
- Mercury, Venus and Mars progressions. Change of sign or house.
No changes.
- Progressed planets aspecting natal or progressed planets or angles.
Progressed Moon square progressed Mars.
In two months Mars will trine natal Saturn, sextile progressed Venus and sextile natal Moon.
Progressed Venus opposite natal Saturn.
- Progressed angles aspecting natal or progressed planets or angles.
- Planets or angles at the beginning of a sign (0° or 1°).
- Planets or angles at the end of a sign (28° or 29°).
- Progressed lunar phases (at the progressed chart).
Last Quarter.
- Personal planet that changes direction (retrograde or stationary).
- Change of Asc or MC.
- Secondary progression of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto only if they changes signs, direction or house, or make an exact aspect to a natal or progressed planet or personal point.

Solar Arc Directions

Solar arc is the distance that the progressed Sun moves from its natal position, approximately 1° a year. In the solar arc technique, all natal planets advance the same amount that the Sun does each year. In other words, all the bodies, Sun, Moon, planets and angles move at the same speed. Solar arc directions are artificial planetary positions, while in other predictive techniques, planetary positions are actual and real. Only aspects between solar arc directed and natal planets are taken into account.

The most important points are:

- Aspects between solar arc directed planets and natal planets and angles, especially the conjunction.
Solar arc directed Moon conjunct Natal Mercury
Solar arc directed Mars conjunct Natal Uranus

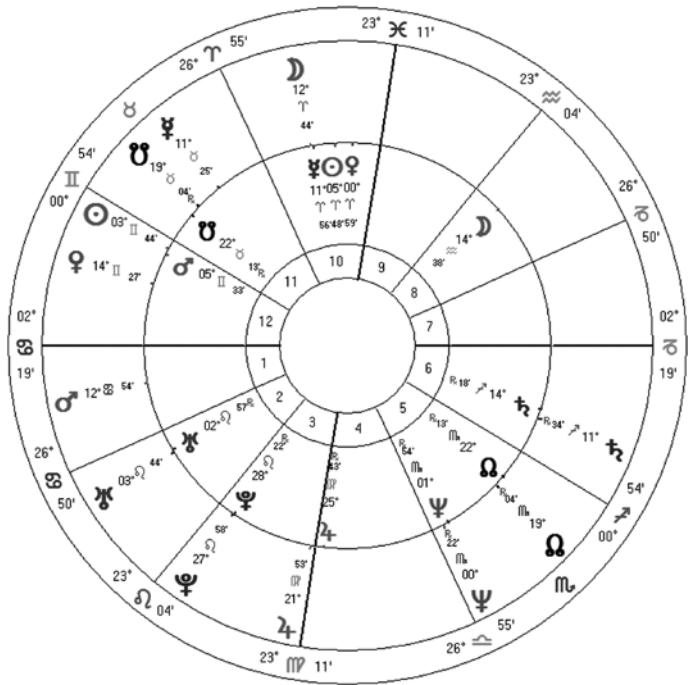


Figure 7: Andrea's natal Chart on the inside; Andrea's secondary progressions for September 19, 2016 on the outside

Solar arc directed Jupiter conjunct Natal North Node
Solar arc directed Uranus opposite Natal Venus

- Planets and angles that change signs.

Solar arc directed Uranus at 00°53' Libra
Solar arc directed Neptune at 29°50' Sagittarius

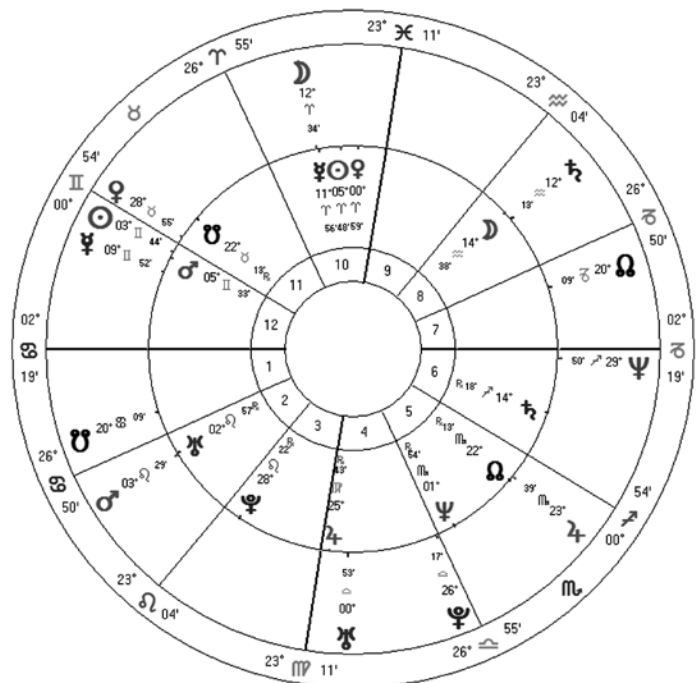


Figure 8: Andrea's natal Chart on the inside; Andrea's solar arc for September 19, 2016 on the outside.

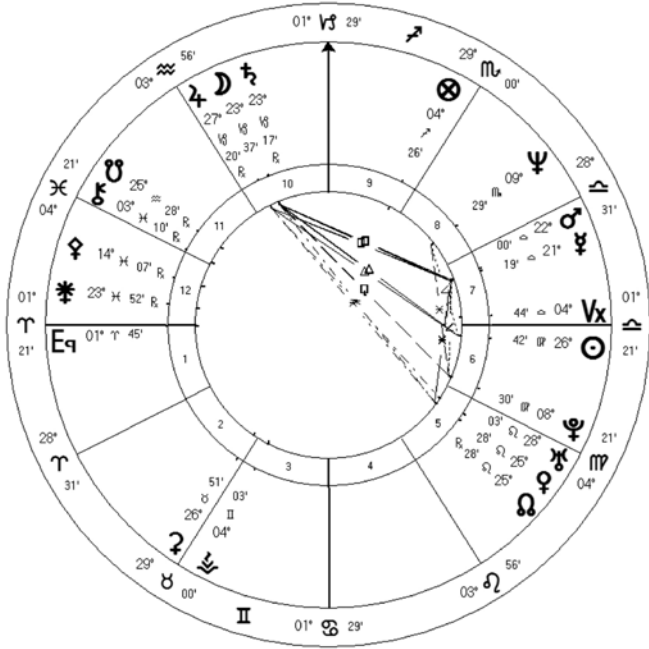


Figure 9: María's Natal Chart
September 19, 1961, 12:47:16 pm Buenos Aires, Argentina

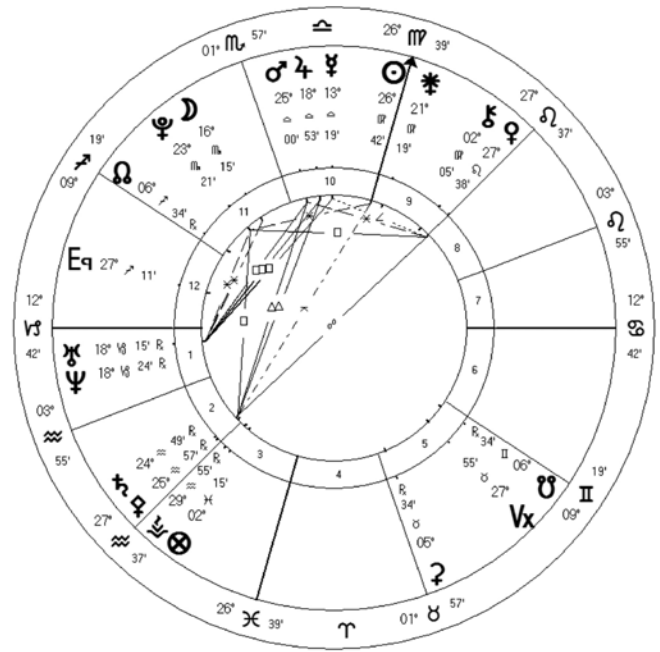


Figure 10: María's Solar Return
September 19, 1993, 7:06 p.m. Buenos Aires, Argentina

How to Use the Five Predictive Techniques

It is important to follow the rule of the *Three Predictive Techniques*. The rule means that the most important energy possibilities of the year should be seen at least in three predictive techniques. The five techniques, just explained, should be taken into account; if a situation is shown in only one technique, that means that the situation won't be very important.

For an example subject, we will look at Maria (Figure 9), and the year to be studied is 1994. Figure 10 shows her solar return for September 19, 1993; Figure 11 shows Maria's secondary directions on July 14, 1994 and Figure 12 shows Maria's Solar Arc directions on the same date.

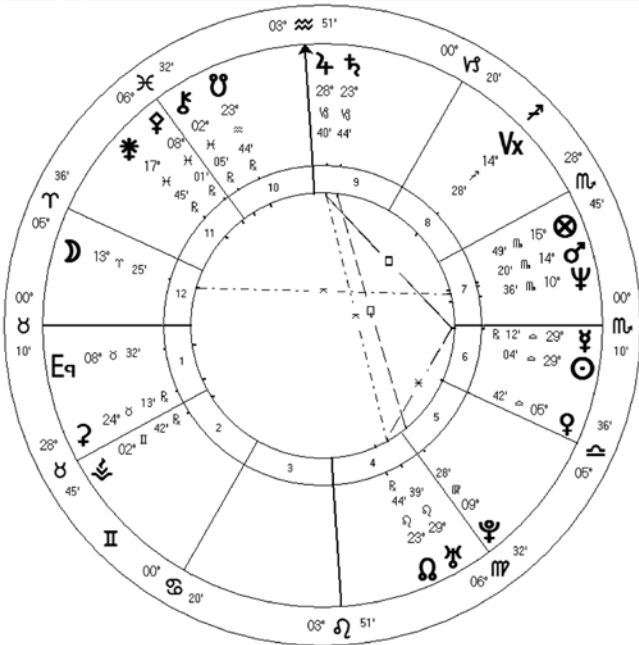


Figure 11: María's Secondary Progressions
July 14, 1994

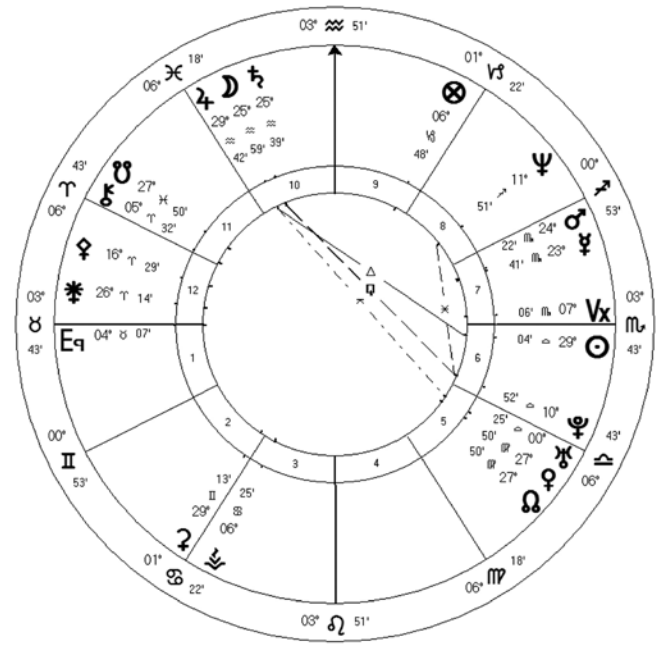


Figure 12: María's Solar Arc Directions
July 14, 1994

Information to be included are the solar eclipse of November 19, 1992 at 21°Scorpio 32' and transits of July 14, 1994:

Jupiter	04° Scorpio 58'
Saturn	12° Pisces 03' Rx
Uranus	24° Capricorn 29' Rx
Neptune	21° Capricorn 58' Rx
Pluto	25° Scorpio 18' Rx.

Case Conclusion

The following shows that important personal changes are possible:

- Secondary Asc moves into 0° Taurus from Aries.*
- Secondary Sun and Mercury at 29° of Aquarius, both about to enter Capricorn and sextile Uranus progressed.*
- Progressed Full Moon in 16 months.*
- Solar Return Sun conjunct Solar Return MC.*
- Solar Return Uranus conjunct Asc.*
- Solar Return T-square, Pluto-Moon at apex, square Venus, opposite Saturn.*
- Solar Return Uranus and Neptune conjunct in Solar Return 1st house.*
- Solar Arc Uranus at 0°Libra on natal Des.*
- Solar Arc Jupiter at 29° Aquarius conjunct secondary Sun and Mercury.*
- Transiting Uranus conjunct natal Saturn.*
- Transiting Uranus conjunct natal Moon.*
- Transiting Pluto square natal Uranus.*
- Transiting Saturn opposite natal Pluto.*
- Solar Eclipse (21° Scorpio 32' square natal Nodes).*

The following shows relationship/love indications:

- Solar Eclipse square natal Venus.*
- Solar Eclipse conjunct Solar Arc Mars and Mercury in the Solar Arc 7th house.*
- Progressed Moon square progressed Vertex.*
- Progressed Venus conjunct natal Vertex.*
- Solar Arc Moon and Saturn conjunct natal South Node and Venus.*
- Transiting Uranus conjunct natal Jupiter, Moon and Saturn; quincunx natal Venus.*
- Transiting Pluto T-square natal Nodes, square natal Venus.*

The following implies change of residency:

- Solar return Sun conjunct Solar Return MC*
- Natal Asc in Solar Return 4th house and Solar Return Asc in natal 10th house.*

Year of Change for Maria on 3 levels

1. Physical level

When Maria was on holiday in 1994, she met the love of her life, a foreigner who lived in another country. Maria decided to move to where he lived, to leave everything behind and to completely change her current lifestyle.

Maria moved from Argentina to Germany, a big change in every way. Her degree in anthropology from an Argentinian University was not valid in Germany, so she had to give up working as an anthropologist and become a cleaning lady. In Argentina, she lived alone in her own apartment and had many love affairs. Whereas in Germany she lived in her partner's place and decided to have only one committed relationship, instead of many uncommitted ones. She left her family, as well as all her friends, with the hope of making new friends.

2. Emotional level

Maria was unhappy and frustrated with her lifestyle. Finding someone that she really could care about, gave her optimism and hope that she could possibly change her lifestyle.

3. Spiritual level

Maria recognized that she had an opportunity. She realized that in order to free herself from her current unhappy state, she would have to make substantial changes. By opening her heart to her newly found love and her mind to adjusting her life to an entirely different environment, a foreign country, she had the hope of changing, evolving and restarting her life over. She had to deal with leaving all that was familiar behind and trust that she could have a much better life abroad. She knew that to have a meaningful and stable life, she needed to be able to trust her heart and mind, and not let fears control and paralyze her, even if this meant being unstable for a period of time.

Maria's life in 2016

Even though people cannot change what is in their chart, ways can be found to best live their lives and to evolve according to the very special moments timed by the activation of their charts. Today, 22 years later, after Maria decided to accept her great life-changing opportunities that the planetary energies offered her in 1994, she is a very happy person and feels self-realized.

In 1999, she and her love bought a house in Germany. In 2001 she married her German love. Since 1994 when she changed her life to be with the person that she loved, they are still together. Most of the time they have a good love life, but as we can see in Maria's natal chart (Venus conjunct Uranus conjunct North Node, all in Leo in the 5th house; the three positions sextile Mars, chart ruler in Libra in the 7th house) she played around with having affairs so even if she had a

committed love relationship, sometimes she had the potential to bring problems into her married life. However, the couple engaged in therapy and grew and evolved in consciousness so that they worked out their problems and are still together.

As can be seen in María's natal chart, she found it important to have a traditional and well-respected job position. She is shown to be a very hard working and responsible person and would not be happy as cleaning lady the rest of her life (Capricorn on the 10th house cusp, containing a triple conjunction of Jupiter, Moon and Saturn; thus Saturn, the dispositor of both Jupiter and the important Moon; 6th house cusp in Virgo, ruled by Mercury in Libra square the triple 10th house conjunction; 6th house Sun trine the triple 10th house conjunction). After she married and knew that she was going to continue to live in Germany, she decided to go back to school and earn a degree that would allow her to obtain a better job. By then, she was not interested in anthropology, so she decided to become a professional Spanish teacher. In order to do so, she studied a combined program of German and Spanish which eventually allowed her to teach at the European universities. Now she works full time as Director of the Spanish Department in a prestigious German university.

Because of all the economic and political instability that Argentina experienced for decades, Maria lived in fear and felt that the country was always going to be dangerous and unstable. When she was a child, her father had to escape to another country to save his life from the military government. She, along with her mother and sister, always feared for their own lives. So even if in 1994, María's life in Argentina seemed apparently stable, she still felt very insecure living there. As can be seen in her chart (Capricorn Moon partile conjunct its strong dispositor Saturn, and both trine Sun in Virgo), security is a very important factor for her. So the move to Germany not only brought love, but also an organized and stable lifestyle that adds to her happiness and security.

Continued from page 50

physically, through Earth events, and collectively, through political events, far-reaching changes may not necessarily occur at the actual time of the conjunction, but rather within the entire time range between 2019 and 2025, until Pluto finally exits Capricorn and Neptune exits Pisces.

All Rights Reserved.

All charts from Solarfire software by Astrolabe

Editor's Note: **Maurice Fernandez** invites you to learn about the intricacies of these cycles during his presentation offered at the **NCGR 2017 Conference** in Baltimore where he will explore the Saturn/Pluto cycle in history in greater depth. This talk will also cover the meanings of the Jupiter-Saturn conjunction occurring at 0° Aquarius on December 21, 2020—a date that many of us look at with great intrigue and fascination. Date and time: **Saturday, February 18, 2:30-3:45 pm.**

The year 1994 was a very dramatic time for Maria, in that she left a stable job, abandoned an earned university degree, left her home country of birth, and accepted a new love. Life worked out well for her. At 22 years later, the facts show that all those changes and risks that she decided to take worked toward her evolution and therefore her happiness and self-realization.

All Rights Reserved

All charts from Solarfire software by Astrolabe

Endnote:

1. *The New English Bible with the Apocrypha*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1971.

Editor's Note: At the **NCGR 2017 Conference**, **Monica Escalante-Ochoa** will discuss an even more accurate predictive method, "The Harmonic Age Chart." As Monica will show, this predictive technique can be applied by month or even by day and is an excellent rectification tool. Date and time: **Saturday, February 18, 11:15 am-12:30 pm.**

Mónica Escalante-Ochoa

C.A. NCGR-PAA, is a Mexican astrologer. Monica is founder and president of the AstroMéxico Chapter in Mexico City. Mónica has been a practicing astrologer since 1996, both as a national and international lecturer and teacher. She has written astrological articles as well as four books: *Astrology: Path of Light*, *Astrological Predictive Techniques: Walking with Light*, *Astrology III: Deepening into the Path of Light*, and *Advanced Astrology: Exploring Different Paths towards Specialization*. She has been a speaker at International conferences NCGR, UAC and at Astro Lodge. She also teaches at The International Academy of Astrology. e-mail: astromonica@yahoo.com



Maurice Fernandez,

author of the books, *Neptune, The 12th House and Pisces (New Edition)*, and *Astrology and the Evolution of Consciousness -Volume One*, is a leading Evolutionary Astrology counselor and teacher, currently based in Hawaii. Maurice currently serves as the President of The Organization of Professional Astrology (OPA). He directs a correspondence and on-location professional certification program in astrology and organizes spiritual retreats in sacred places around the world. He has organized several conferences in the US and Europe, notably *The River of Stars* in Hawaii (2011, 2015). Email: info@mauricefernandez.com Website: www.mauricefernandez.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/Maurice.Fernandez.Cosmic



ASTROLOGY AS SPIRITUAL PATH

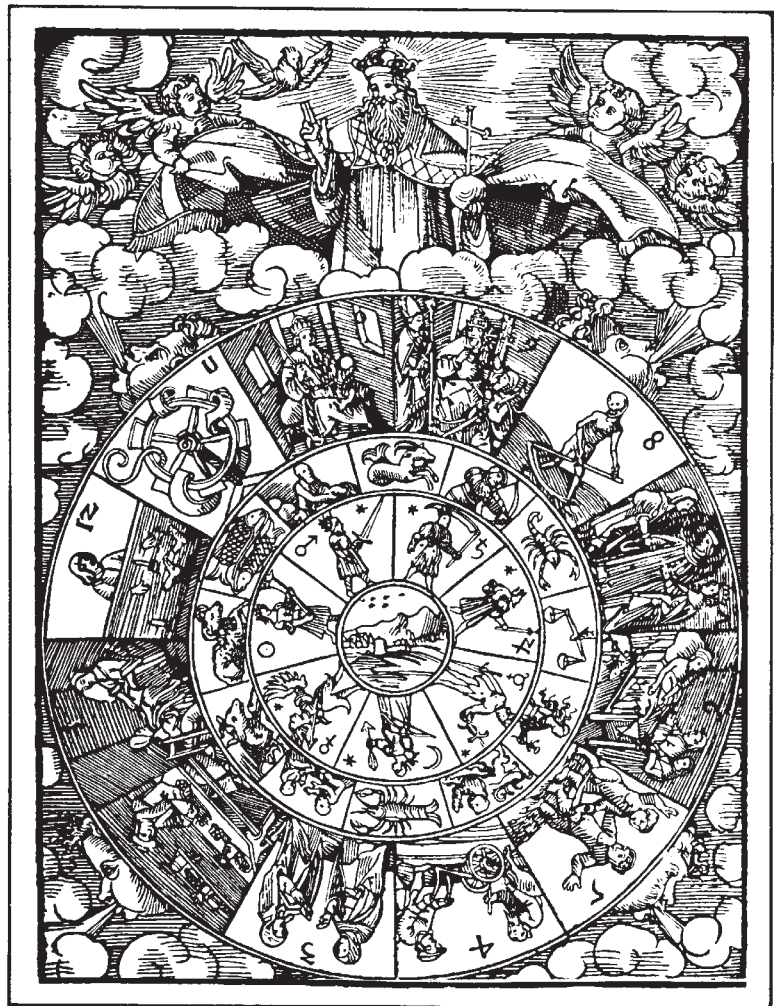
By Brad Kochunas

In Robert Bly's translation of Rilke's poetry, titled, *Selected Poems of Rainer Maria Rilke*, we find the following:

*I live my life in growing orbits
which move out over the things of the world.
Perhaps I can never achieve the last,
but that will be my attempt.
I am circling around God, around the ancient tower,
and I have been circling for a thousand years,
and I still don't know if I am a falcon, or a storm,
or a great song.¹*

Astrology is in essence not a belief, a method, a science or pseudoscience, or even an art. At base, it is a form of relationship between human life and the world, a relationship in which we learn about ourselves by observing the sky. The idea that we have a sky within allows us to imagine as our interiority turned inside out. In the mysterious dynamics of macrocosm/microcosm, the *anima mundi* is the interiority of all things.

In communicating what follows, it is necessary to define the terms, *astrology*, *spiritual* and *path*, to avoid any misunderstandings since these terms can have many meanings. Let us begin with *astrology*. Because of our literalistic perspective and our scientific prejudice, many people believe that astrology is a hodgepodge of superstitious star lore filled with fatalistic pronouncements about ourselves and our futures. But in a more imaginative time in Western history, astrology held legitimacy. It infused art, medicine, literature, drama, philosophy, architecture and social institutions during the Middle Ages and Renaissance. In fact, every major culture in the last 5000 years has had a form of astrology. I contend that this did not so much represent a nascent and primitive science in its attempt to understand the natural world as much as it reflected the ontological recognition of the interdependent unity of humanity and cosmos.



Among the many types and approaches to astrology, I wish here to write about natal astrology. This is the definition I'd like to work with: astrology is an archaic wisdom tradition similar to the Kabbalah, the Tarot, and alchemy, that holds as its fundamental assumption, the tenet that the positions of the Sun, Moon and planets at the time of a person's birth are related in a significant and discernible manner to the intrinsic character and development of that person. There is no causality associated in any manner with this statement.

This definition implies an ecological model of humanity, viewing people as interdependent expressions of a living cosmos, an integral part of a larger cosmic community, the Great Chain of Being (wholes within wholes within wholes) where all the various links resonate with one another in ways about which we have little or no understanding. This is not hard to entertain when we realize that each and every atom in our bodies was formed in the fiery heart of a star. In other words, as Joni Mitchell proclaimed in the 70s, we are stardust.² She wasn't kiddin'.

Thomas Moore writes in "Astrology's Truth" which appears in *The Re-enchantment of Everyday Life* that "Astrology is a form of imagination emerging from nature and having direct relevance for everyday life. It's an applied poetic, a vision of

life on earth stimulated by movements in the heavens, which can take us into areas of self-reflection as no other system of symbols and images can.”³ The same structuring principles and processes at work in the world are indeed at work within us. This suggests that the form and movement in our lives is reflected in the movements in the sky.

As readers know, the primary tool an astrologer uses is the natal or birth chart which is literally a stylized map of the solar system as seen from the particular place and time of a person’s birth. More imaginatively however, it is an image of psyche or soul, a mapping of the topography of our inner landscape. As a map it is used for purposes of orientation, helping us fathom where we are in life, sounding out our centers, and getting our bearings.

The chart provides a framework for imagining a profound intimacy between ourselves and our world. We hear this deep intimacy echoed in the words of early Church Father, Origen when he states “Know that you are another world in miniature and have in you Sun and Moon and even stars.”⁴

But for our charts to say anything to us, astrology must of necessity hinge on the fantasy that our world is a living being capable of speaking to those who have the ears to hear and the eyes to see. Historically we find this thinking in the Old Testament in Psalm 19, “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.” What is this psalm but a faith statement about the world’s capacity to speak with us, to communicate with us. Whether it’s the birds singing their message, the wind in the trees, the clouds on the horizon conveying the weather, the days becoming shorter, or the dance of the planets, the world affords us the opportunity to understand our situations. The world discloses itself to us and also reveals us to ourselves.

There is no Muslim Moon or Catholic Sun, no Buddhist season or sign; the heavens do not play favorites. The sky is all inclusive, it speaks to everyone. It’s the perfect container for a global spirituality for it is something under which we all gather and share in common.

Even Martin Luther in a more provincial tone wrote, “The gospel is written not in the Bible alone, but on trees and flowers and clouds and stars.”⁵ Luther recognizes that the good news is spoken throughout nature.

Philosopher, Vincent Vycinas suggests, “Truth as revelation is not located in the mind,...but in the world itself. Since the world is the interrelation of earth, sky, gods, and mortals, this interrelation, this mirror-play is the primary revelation, the primary truth.”⁶

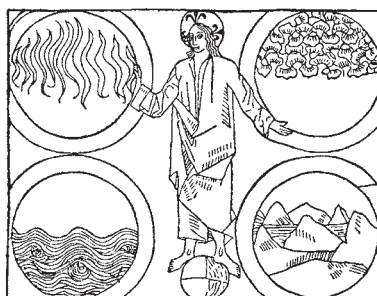
Additionally, philosopher Paul Ricoeur notes, “To manifest the ‘sacred’ on the ‘cosmos’ and to manifest it in the ‘psyche’ are the same thing...Cosmos and Psyche are two poles of the same ‘expressivity’; I express the world in expressing myself; I explore my own sacrality in deciphering that of the world.”⁷ Here we can see the interface of cosmos with psyche as mirroring each other and are essentially two sides of that coin we call Reality.

Let us slip more toward the direction of the spiritual. I use the word, spiritual, when I’m engaged in thinking and conversation about Ultimacy, about the Sacred, about Holy Imagination, or Divine Mystery. I’m somewhat at odds with the word, God, as it has so many meanings. The popular image of God as a benevolent being, expressly anthropomorphic, and lodged somewhere off in the distance is fairly meaningless to me though I admit that having a cosmic parent to take care of me and grant my wishes is a comforting thought. This image of God became empty for Jews after the holocaust as well established by theologian, Richard Rubenstein in *After Auschwitz*.⁸

For Christians in the 1960s, theology encountered the Death of God movement which effectively killed God as *papa* for me and many of my contemporaries. The image of God as cosmic parent began to dissolve as a satisfying truth for many, and new images of Divinity arose. Several theologians like Sallie McFague⁹ and Grace Jantzen¹⁰ imaged the world as God’s body, thus reclaiming an archaic idea of the world itself as sacred and others like Rosemary Radford Reuther feminized the Divine,¹¹ granting it greater maternal over paternal attributes, less hierarchical and more relational in our fantasies of the Divine.

The image of God as panentheistic, meaning that God is in All and All is in God, was reawakened by Charles Hartshorne in process theology¹² and Matthew Fox and others in the creation-centered tradition,¹³ lending divinity to the cosmos. This ecospirituality is quite attractive and consonant with astrological thinking since much of astrology depends on the natural world for its meaning. The symbols of the zodiac for instance derive their meanings from the rhythms and seasons of Earth in its orbit around the Sun. This structure of the natural yearly cycle in terms of birth, growth, culmination, decline, demise, and rebirth lend significant meaning to various symbolism in astrology.

A creation-centered spirituality (including astrology) is inclusive and does not have the lopsidedness of traditional fall-redemptive spirituality where we’re all hoping to catch the elevator up to God in his azure Heaven. Typically, the focus is on illumination/ascension imagery with little mention of darkness and descent imagery.



A creation-centered spirituality as its name implies recognizes the sacredness of Creation which includes not only the fire/air imagery but perhaps even more importantly, earth/water imagery that takes us into the depths of our being even when we wince, tremble, shudder and shake. It gives us the experience of Persephone and Innanna in their descents into the heart of darkness in which much was suffered and much was gained.

Sometimes a person's spirituality can include prayer, i.e., petitions to the Divine for intervention. Oftentimes I think this kind of prayer shows a lack of trust in life, it tends to express our longing and personal desires for matters to be different. It suggests that the universe is not conspiring for our benefit. I think rather than petitionary prayer, a prayerful attitude is best, a deep sense of reverence, gratitude, and a willingness to be open to awe, both awesome and awful, to find the dark seed of the Sacred buried in the most ordinary and difficult events. It's a willingness to say yes to life.

Saying yes to life includes honoring the claims that soul makes upon us as envisioned in the image of our natal chart. As James Hillman points out, the planetary gods, Mars, Venus, Jupiter, etc. are not so much to be believed in as to be imagined, to see their presence in our styles of consciousness, attitudes, affective states, and archetypal behaviors.¹⁴

I come at last to the word *path*. I follow Fox's thinking here.¹⁵ A path is not necessarily a way to get from point A to point B, moving from spiritual novice to spiritual master for example. Sometimes a path is not goal-oriented but rather, it is the way itself, a meandering of sacred moments and holy interludes. In other words, we are blessed with the revelation that it is not the destination, but the journey. It doesn't matter if we wander in well-worn ruts, onto side trails, or trackless lands. It all counts and it's all reflected in the birth chart.

We can explore the features in our birth map in order to deepen our understanding of our experience and situation. People often come to astrologers to seek answers to their problems. I gently frustrate these efforts. As I do with my own practice, I try to help them find the questions. I rely on Rilke here, that apostle of Trust. He encourages us in *Letters to a Young Poet* to "have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and to try to love the questions themselves...don't search for the answers which could not be given to you now, because you would not be able to live them."¹⁶

When we believe we have found our answer, it closes off the imaginative flow and extinguishes the very exploration that sinks us more deeply in the ground of our being. It is important to cultivate imagination by engaging the natal chart as a catalyst for generating questions that lead the person onward. One fantasy about the horoscope consistent with this approach is attributed to psychotherapist, Charles Ponce, "The horoscope is a field of imagination and reflection . . ."¹⁷

We can explore these astrological images without having to resort to a literal belief in the influence of the physical planets upon us, or as simply, mere metaphor, but rather as a way to be as Thomas Moore says "*connected to the mystery in the world around us by means of a vivid, concrete, trusting imagination.*"¹⁸

Imagination then provides the opportunity to construct a worldview that takes the world into account as the source and ground of our being. The astrological images remind us of this fundamental connection to the world. Moore again suggests when I "*place my birth in relation to the planets out there, am I not also establishing a connection with the planets within and with the vast universe of my interior life?*"¹⁹ After all, where is it that I begin and end? I heard Alan Watts once say, "*Trying to define yourself is like trying to bite your own teeth.*"²⁰ What are the boundaries of my being? We are creatures of such depth and mystery that we never come to the end of exploring our charts. In Philip Wheelwright's translation, the Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, wrote that "*you could not discover the limits of soul even if you traveled every road to do so, such is the depth of its meaning.*"²¹ This form of thinking suggests an ecological soul, a boundless energy spinning variety and novelty into being. Humanity can be viewed as the universe becoming aware of itself.

Let me end where I began with Thomas Moore writing in *The Re-Enchantment of Everyday Life*. Our path can be re-enchanted he says, "*by a fresh appraisal of astrology, moving away from any hint of superstition toward an intelligent, sensitive, poetic, and existential intimacy with nature, who shows herself in the enchanting light display of the night sky. We can look deeply into that night sky and see ourselves.*"²²

All Rights Reserved.

Endnotes:

1. Rilke, Rainer Maria. *Selected Poems of Rainer Maria Rilke*. Translated by Robert Bly. NY: Harper and Row, 1981, p. 13.
2. <http://jonimitchell.com/music/song.cfm?id=75>
3. Moore, Thomas. *The Re-Enchantment of Everyday Life*. NY: Harper Collins Publishers, 1996, p. 317.
4. Ibid, p. 320.
5. <http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/215399-god-writes-the-gospel-not-in-the-bible-alone-but>
6. Vycinas, Vincent. *Earth and Gods*. The Hague: Martinus-Nijhoff, 1969, p. 235
7. Cited in Kearney, Richard. *Poetics of Imagining*. NY: Fordham University Press, 1998, p. 1
8. Rubenstein, Richard. *After Auschwitz*. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Publishing, 1966.
9. McFague, Sallie. *The Body of God: An Ecological Theology*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.
10. Jantzen, Grace. *God's World, God's Body*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1984.

11. Reuther, Rosemary Radford. *Sexism and God-Talk*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1983.
12. <http://www.archetypalastrology.com/>
13. Fox, Matthew. *Whee! We, wee, All the Way Home*. Santa Fe: Bear and Company, 1981.
See also:
Goodenough, Ursula. *The Sacred Depths of Nature*. NY: Oxford University Press, 1998
Berry, Thomas. *The Dream of the Earth*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1988.
Swimme, B. and Tucker, M. E. *Journey of the Universe*. New Haven: Yale University Press. 2011.
14. Hillman, James. *Re-Visioning Psychology*. NY: Harper Row Publishers, 1975, p. 169.
15. Fox, Matthew. *Creation Spirituality*. San Francisco: Harper, 1991.
16. Rilke, Rainer Maria. *Letters to a Young Poet*. Translated by Stephen Mitchell, Boston: Shambhala, 1993, pp. 49-50.
17. <http://www.archetypalastrology.com/>
18. Moore, p. 319.
19. Moore, p. 320.
20. Lecture delivered in the Spring of 1971 at Baldwin Wallace College, Berea, OH.

21. Wheelwright, Philip. *Heraclitus*. New Delhi: Isha Books, 2013, reprint of 1959 edition.
22. Moore, p. 322.

Editor's Note: At the **NCGR 2017 Conference**, **Brad Kochunas** will present, "Elemental Spirituality." Brad will show how a focus only on light and ascension (fire and air) fractures the wholeness of spirituality, while a true incorporation of earth and water is a way for coming back to our senses, thus adding substance and depth to both spirituality and astrology. Date and time: **Saturday, February 18, 4:15-5-30 pm.**

Brad Kochunas

is a retired mental health professional who spent three decades behind the scenes employing astrology in a prison environment. He holds undergrad and graduate degrees in Religion and certificates in Advanced Graduate Studies in Counselor Education and Gestalt Approaches to Counseling. He also received certificates of proficiency from ISAR and the Academy of AstroPsychology. He is the author of *The Astrological Imagination: Where Psyche and Cosmos Meet*, and is a popular speaker at conferences. He can be reached via email at Brad@AstroCare.net.



NCGR MEMBERSHIP...

Join the Geocosmic Family!

NCGR members are part of a vibrant astrological community. Members receive first-rate publications, discounts on conferences and education programs, the opportunity to become involved in our extensive network of local astrology chapters and special interest groups, access to online discussion groups and more! NCGR offers one-year, three-year and lifetime memberships to individuals and couples worldwide.

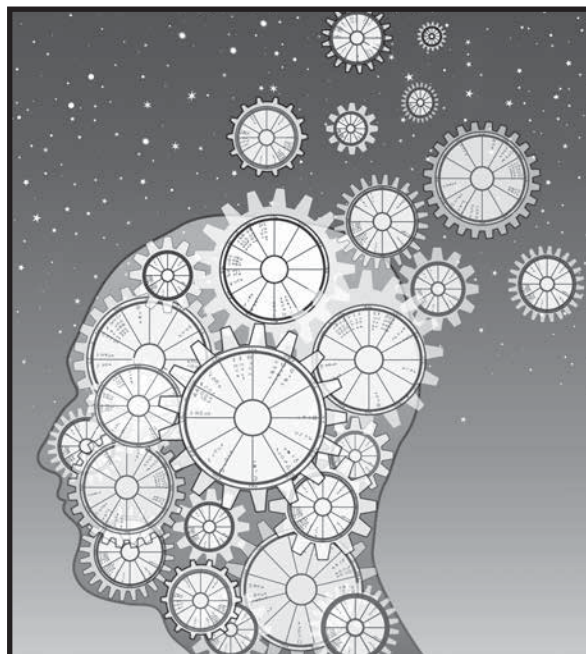
You can join NCGR or renew your membership in two easy ways:

- **Online:** Go to www.geocosmic.org and select "**Join NCGR**" from the navigation bar.
- **By Mail:** Send your name, contact information and dues payment to Alvin Burns, NCGR, 1351 Maryland Ave., NE, Apt.B, Washington DC 20002

NCGR is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Membership dues are tax deductible charitable contributions.

Membership Type	1-Year	3-Year	Lifetime
Individual			
United States	\$55	\$150	\$900
Canada/Mexico	For special pricing on new memberships and renewals visit www.ncgr.org		
International			
Couples*			
United States	\$75	\$210	\$1300
Canada/Mexico	For special pricing on new memberships and renewals visit www.ncgr.org		
International			

*Couples members receive one set of publications, but two votes in NCGR elections.



Psychological Astrology:

A Tool to Help Us on the Journey to Becoming Ourselves

By Margaret Gray

Like the old Roman god, Janus, psychological astrology has a double face. It can provide a surgical scalpel which cuts through to the underlying motives, complexes and family inheritance which lie behind the manifest problems and difficulties which the individual faces; and it can also provide a lens through which can be viewed the teleology and purpose of our conflicts in context of the overall meaning of the individual's journey.¹

As thinking beings, our quest is not merely to seek happiness, but one of finding understanding, clarity and meaning. Throughout our lives and in particular when we reach the powerful junctures of adolescence, late 20s, midlife and early 60s, we are prone to feel an internal pressure to seek answers to the crucial underlying questions – why am I here? What is my purpose? What is my potential? Am I fulfilling it and if not how can I do so?

Self-understanding with a view to individuation lies at the center of most western psychologies. In the words of James Hollis “*individuation is the humbling task to serve what our deepest nature asks of us.*”² It involves attempting to become more fully ourselves, who we are at our core, rather than who we think we need to be or are told we have to be. This is neither easy nor painless. Hollis describes how individuation,

which was one of Carl Jung's biggest contributions to psychology, “*is misunderstood as egotism or self-absorption. Rather, individuation has to do with becoming, as nearly as one can manage, the being that was set in motion by the gods. Such a path is seldom if ever the path of ego gratification, creature comforts, vacillation and flight. It is the cruciform path of the self which will seek its own fullest being whether the ego cooperates or not.*”³

The path involves finding and re-owning and living the bits of ourselves that we never met as well as the bits that got squashed, distorted, or sacrificed along the way. However, often it is easier to “*walk in shoes too small and live in lives too small*”⁴ Like the bird in the cage that refuses to leave the familiar however limiting it may feel, we too can find the possibility of living our truth too frightening to even contemplate. As Nelson Mandela said in his speech “*Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.*”⁵

So how do we begin the process of re-owning all the bits of ourselves? What are some of the questions we must ask ourselves and how does psychological astrology help us to find answers? The following may be a useful starting point: ⁶

1. Where do you feel stuck in your life? (If something from your past dominates your present life, it signals that you are stuck, thus blocking your energy and your possibilities of moving forward and limiting your real choices.)
2. Where are you asking for others to take responsibility for your life?
3. Where is your unlived life, which haunts, summons or intimidates you?
4. Where is the spontaneous child you once were?
5. In what way are you carrying the unlived life of your parent?
6. Where is your unresolved relationship with your parent/s preventing you from finding real fulfillment in your adult relationships?
7. What complexes run your life?
8. Can you risk being a larger person; can you bear the pain of growth over the pain of remaining afraid, small and lost?
9. What are your fears and which of them are based on childhood experiences?

Can you bear them happening and what will happen to you if you do not bear them and stay stuck? Jung and Freud were pioneers in naming and exploring the unconscious: that part of us that we are not aware of and yet, if left unexplored, can play havoc over our behaviors and our lives. As Jung said, “*When an inner situation is not made conscious, it happens outside, as fate.*”⁷ This can be particularly evident in relationships. For example, the individual who has an unconsciously strong innate need for freedom and fails to recognize that they are living it out either through choosing partners who act it out for them by leaving the relationship or by their choosing partners who are unavailable or unable to commit.

The astrological chart is a superb map for navigating this mysterious terrain, for it is not only a portrait of those parts of us which we are willing to acknowledge or are happy for the world to see, it tells the whole story, revealing all the characters, and exposing aspects of our natures we may try to conceal – not only from others, but from ourselves as well. Nor do astrological symbols moralize or pass judgment on what is good or bad. Each astrological symbol contains a spectrum of positive and negative qualities and a teleology or inherent meaning. We can to some degree educate and manage or at the very least provide constructive outlets for what we are conscious of in ourselves. But if we are unconscious of something, it will sooner or later find a way to dominate and control us. That of which we are unconscious has

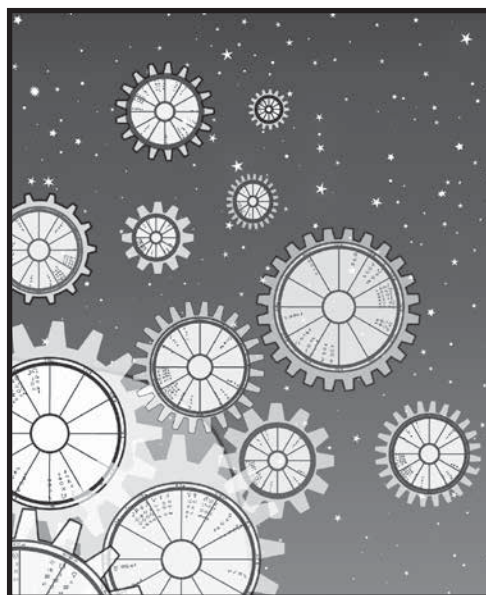
a way of not only erupting from within, but of materializing from without.⁸

A psychological astrology consultation is a dynamic process between the astrologer and the client. The client is deemed to be the expert on his/her self. The astrologer can assist her/him on their journey by translating the symbolic language of the natal chart into a comprehensible form. However, it is the client alone, who knows how much and which areas of her/his chart s/he has been able to live out and integrate. As well as by personal choice, this is also determined by cultural/societal parameters.

Our journey to find ourselves is mythologized in most cultures of the world through the story of the hero’s journey or quest.⁹ The stories differ in the nature of the hero and the obstacles or tests he/she has to face. Astrologically, the hero’s journey is the *Solar Quest*.¹⁰ By this, I mean the journey to find our astrological Sun, which effectively means the journey to understand our chart as a whole. The driving force behind the hero’s journey is the desire to find his true origins – the answer to the question: who am I?

The first phase of the Hero’s quest inevitably involves leaving his/her comfort zone, which in many myths such as Parsifal and the Holy Grail is represented by having to leave one’s mother. Psychologically, this entails leaving behind the pull of the womb, the familiar things which have embodied security and comfort for us, and our primal and often literal home. Astrologically, this means leaving the comfort of our Moon sign, which we tend to live in mostly as children and in taking risks in unfamiliar territory in order to become our Sun - our essence. The hero leaves because he hears the call to adventure through a dream or a crisis or through other adventurers going by and urging him to join them. This first call to adventure usually happens at the first Saturn return at age 28/29. It comes again later in life particularly during the midlife transits and during the transits of Saturn, Chiron or the outer planets to our natal Sun. If we have not heeded the call to adventure in the past, it will knock on our door even more loudly as time goes on. If we keep refusing to heed it, we sacrifice a part of ourselves. In doing so we risk a sense of deep unfulfillment and possibly depression, as well as the possibility of trying to live our unlived life through our children, thereby unwillingly putting immense pressure on them.

Sometimes the hero starts his journey alone and meets helpers along the way. In other cases, he gathers or finds a group of supporters or companions as in the story of “Jason and the Argonauts.” Astrologically, the



companions we take with us or meet are represented by the planets in our chart, which form helpful aspects as well as some of the planets transiting our chart at particular times in our life. Often the hero is taught skills along the way by the other gods. Astrologically, we all have resources in our chart, of which often we are not aware and which will not flourish without some training.

The hero needs to become physically and emotionally tough and self-sufficient to survive, hence he needs to learn discipline as well as survival skills. Along the way, the hero is faced with many challenges and obstacles, which he needs to learn to overcome. These are threshold crossings. If he fails in any of the tasks, he has to extend the journey for a longer period of time so that he can meet the same challenges yet again and try a different method of dealing with them as he grows into maturity. (The natal chart describes the type of hero we need to be and the nature of the dragons we are likely to be faced with. It will not describe whether we will succeed or not.) The journey entails the hero facing his deepest fears and dealing with the envy and anger of others who have not heeded their own calling. This means learning to be alone.

Many of the tasks are physical like slaying dragons and lions, but the hero needs to use his mind as well as physical courage to overcome the hurdles. The hero is also aware that the slaying of monsters is not about needless slaughter and cruelty. He must take only what the gods have required and thank them at the end of the journey. Often the hero represented this through wearing the pelt of the animal he conquered, such as Hercules with the lion's pelt. This was a sign of respect for the animal's strength and courage.

Finally the hero arrives in a new place and is faced with the biggest challenge. If he has learnt the lessons he needed to learn along the journey and succeeds in this final task, he usually inherits a kingdom and becomes the reigning monarch. He also discovers his true origins and members of his family as well as a spouse. Often he meets a dying king who turns out to be his grandfather. Hence he has found the archetype of the father within him and is now a man ready to take on the responsibilities of adulthood.¹¹ Astrologically, this is the place of understanding what our purpose is in life and what our strengths and weaknesses are with humility and compassion for ourselves and others. It is where we truly see and accept ourselves. This is maturity and in reaching this point, we inherit the responsibility to be the elder and help others.¹² The son or daughter becomes the parent.

All Rights Reserved.

Endnotes:

1. Greene, Liz and Howard Sasportas. *The Development of the Personality*. Weiser Books, p. XIV.
2. Hollis, James. *Creating a Life: Finding your Individual Path*. Inner City Books, p. 135.

3. Ibid p. 69.
4. Hollis, James. *On this Journey we Call our Life, Living the Questions*. Inner City Books. p. 16.
5. Mandela, Nelson. Inaugural Speech, South Africa, 1994; taken from quote by Marianne Williamson.
6. Some of these questions were adapted from James Hollis' *Creating a Life*, Chap. 20 pp. 119-122.
7. Hollis, James. *On this Journey we Call our Life, Living the Questions*. Inner City Books. p. 31.
8. Greene, Liz and Howard Sasportas. *Dynamics of the Unconscious*. Arkana, p. IX
9. Many of the Greek and Roman myths describe the hero as male - this is mainly due to the patriarchal culture of the time although there are myths such as Innana's descent into the underworld, which clearly portray a heroine on the Solar Quest. For the sake of simplicity, I have used the term hero to refer to both female and male.
10. For further information on the Solar Quest, see Liz Green's *Apollo's Chariot, The Meaning of the Astrological Sun*. CPA publication.
11. Both men and women need to understand the mother and father archetype and how it is constellated for them.
12. Sadly many of us forget to find ourselves before we try to help others, thus ending up burnt out, as there was no *I* there in the first place to give to *you*. A wonderful healer called Elaine Heller regularly reminded me many years ago that we can only give from a position of fullness. To be full, we need to be true to who we are.

Editor's Note: To learn more, attend **Margaret Gray's** talk, "Understanding and Transforming Compulsive and Addictive Relationship Patterns" at **NCGR's 2017 Conference**. Margaret will discuss the key astrological, mythological and psychological features of these patterns and how to transform them by choosing new life, while enhancing ways of living the powerful planetary archetypes at their core. Day and Time: **Saturday, February 18, 9:30-10:45am**.

Margaret Gray

B.A. ESS (TCD) MSW D. Psych. Astrology, trained at the CPA with Liz Greene. Margaret's main focus is relationships. As well as teaching and offering astrological consultations, Margaret works as a mediation consultant. She trained with Dr. Brain Weiss in past life regression and is a Reiki master practitioner. Margaret is a member of the ISAR board and lives in Ireland, with a foot in Hawaii! She runs Astrology Ireland and has written a chapter on relationships in *Transpersonal Astrology: Explorations at the Frontier*.





The Horoscope of the Federal Reserve

By Bill Meridian

On December 23, 1913 at 6:02 pm, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Federal Reserve Act into law (Chart 1). The time is well documented in many encyclopedias because it was on one of the first live radio broadcasts from the White House. Historian accounts report that Wilson said that he was affixing his signature to the Act at the designated time. The Federal Reserve actually began operation on November 16, 1914, time unknown. This chart is set for 9:00 am EST in New York, NY. (Chart 2).

The Fed was charge with two tasks upon its creation:

- 1) to ensure monetary and price stability
- 2) to prevent bank failures.

As Charts 1 and 2 reveal, the Fed has succeeded in neither respects. How could such a seemingly well-intentioned effort fail so completely? With the above intention in mind, would any competent astrologer entrust these tasks to the entity described in Chart 1?

The Chart's Major Configurations

The Fed's horoscope is dominated by three major axes or groupings:

- 1) Mars and Neptune rising opposite Jupiter.
- 2) The Sun opposite Pluto, both squaring the 0° Aries midheaven.
- 3) The Moon in mutual reception with Pluto, the former ruling the ascendant and the later the fifth house.

The first grouping is descriptive of the Fed's tendency to inflate the currency. How could any entity with a hard

Mars-Jupiter-Neptune aspect be expected to exercise restraint and maintain a stable currency? An insider tells me that these planets do describe the idealistic zeal or misguided ideas with which most Fed employees go about their jobs (note Neptune ruling the ninth house and Mars the tenth).

The Sun-Pluto-midheaven T-square describes the Fed's propensity to accumulate power in subtle fashion without the knowledge of most citizens (Pluto in the twelfth). As we shall see in the next section the Sun's rulership of the second house is the Fed's ability to control the dollar value of all the country's assets, which, in fact, is accomplished by a fifth house method (Pluto's rulership).

The Moon-Pluto-fifth house relationship describes the Fed's open market operations, the principal process by which the currency's value is controlled. Of course, the Moon in a mundane chart such as this, rules the people, and the Fed has an enormous impact upon all of us. Pluto's presence is especially noteworthy here because this is the Fed's most powerful, yet convert and least understood tool. Mythologically, did not Pluto wear a helmet that rendered him invisible when he went above ground?

The Fed's Origin

On the evening of November 22, 1910, a group of distinguished men met at a railway station in New Jersey to board a private train for Jekyll Island, Georgia. The group included Senator Nelson Aldrich, the presidents and senior partners of the largest New York banking and financial houses, a German banker named Paul Warburg, and J.P. Morgan's personal

Wilson Signs Fed Reserve Act
Natal Chart
 Dec 23 1913, Tue
 6:02:08 pm EST +5:00
 Washington
 38°N 53' 42" 077°W 02' 12"
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Koch
 True Node

Chart from Solarfire software
 by Astrolabe

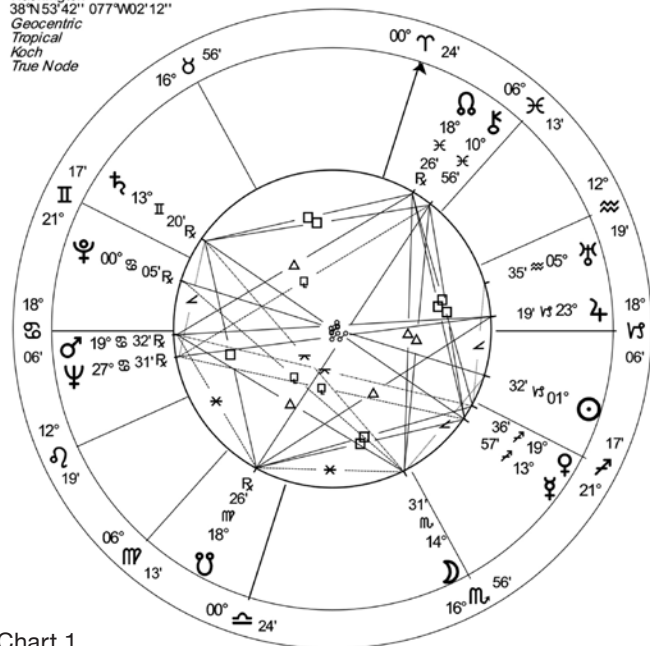


Chart 1

assistant, Benjamin Strong. So secret was the journey, that the travelers addressed each other by the first name only, and Jekyll Island's regular staff of servants was sent on holiday lest the exclusive gathering attract attention. Jekyll Island was owned as a private sporting lodge an retreat by some of the country's most influential industrialist and financiers. At the time, the members estimated that they controlled one-sixth of the world's wealth (membership by inheritance only).

Why did the group seek such a remote location to formulate a new monetary bill for the country? The reason lies in the event surrounding the Panic of 1907. Demand for monetary reform soared following the Panic. The average citizen was very opposed to the big city banking interests, which they felt caused financial upheavals through their manipulations. The National Monetary Commission, under Senator Aldrich, was charged with the writing of a reform bill. How would the public have reacted if they had known that the Jekyll Island group and not the Commission, authored the legislation?

Over the next two weeks at Jekyll Island, the group constructed the Aldrich Plan, a document that came to be known as the Federal Reserve Act. Instead of securing monetary reform, the Act gave monopoly control of the country's credit to a small group. This group could charge the population a fee for using this credit -- a fee which we call the interest rate. In light of these facts, the subterranean power and control of the Sun-Pluto-midheaven T-square now takes on much greater meaning.

The purpose of this article is two-fold. First, we will see how astrology can be useful in answering questions such as those posed above. Second, the Fed's real effect on this country and

Fed Begins Operation
Natal Chart
 Nov 16 1914, Mon
 9:00 am EST +5:00
 New York, New York
 40°N 42' 51" 074°W 00' 23"
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Koch
 True Node

Chart from Solarfire software
 by Astrolabe

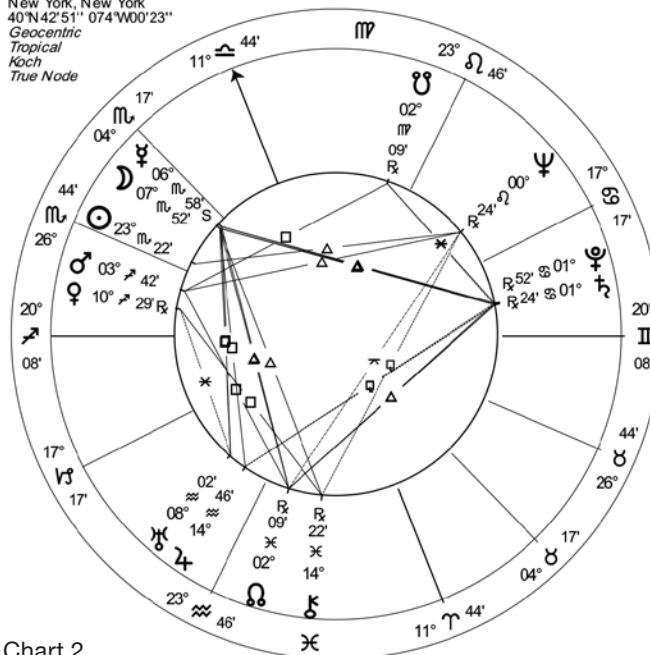


Chart 2

the world, accurately described by the natal horoscope, will be explored. This is not an easy task because the country's intricate banking system is so misunderstood by so many. Indeed, a recent survey of Midwestern youths revealed that 75% of the respondents believed that the Federal Reserve was a branch of the military. To fully explain this subject and related phenomena such as inflation and deflation requires much more space than is available here, but the author hopes to leave you with a greater understand of our monetary system by which better political choices can be made.

In its original conception, the Fed was to be a bank, controlled by Congress, which would supply funds to the economy in time of stress. However, the Act created a corporation, the Fed, in which the country's major bankers purchased the stock and were themselves appointed to key positions. In fact, as of July 26, 1983, 53% of the Fed's outstanding shares were owned by the five largest New York City banks. The Federal Reserve Board of Governors is appointed by the President to 14-year terms. However, the true seat of power is the Fed Advisory Council which is appointed by the directors of the 12 district banks. So the President and Congress have little effect on Fed leadership. This is a curious arrangement in view of the Constitution which gives Congress the exclusive power to coin money and regulate the value thereof. Further study shows that Congress cannot delegate this authority. The power to create money is a great one.

In the words of Baron Nathan Rothschild:

"I care not what puppet is placed upon the throne of England to rule the empire on which the sun never sets. The man that controls Britain's money supply controls the British Empire, and I control the British money supply."

If you think about it, money is one-half of any non-barter transaction. In a barter deal goods are swapped for goods. Of course, the vast majority of today's dealings are goods for money. If one has the power to regulate the value of money, one can influence half of all business transactions. Why should one group be granted this vast power? Would Congress give a monopoly over all car sales or food sales to any one entity? How did the Plutonian powers manage to establish this institution?

A public relations campaign reflective of the chart's strong Neptune, plus the lunar South Node in the third house was the major tool. Note the December 23 date -- two days before Christmas, when most lawmakers were already on holiday and little opposition could be mustered. So effective was the Neptunian public relations blitz that voters in the 1912 Presidential election had their choice of the Democratic platform of the Federal Reserve Act, or the Republican platform of the Aldrich Plan -- which was the foundation of the Federal Reserve Act. In fact, the December 24, 1913 New York Times carried the front page headlines: Who would oppose a law which would bring such benefit?

The Strength of the Fed

In order to exercise control over the nation's money credit, the new institution was granted the following three powers (a fourth power, that of bank examination, is incidental and need not be discussed here):

- 1) Control of the discount rate
- 2) Control over bank reserve requirements
- 3) The ability to conduct open market operations.

The first power is the weakest -- the ability to regulate the interest rate charged on borrowings from the Fed by member banks. This was a more powerful instrument when the member banks had only the Fed as the major lender; there are other sources. In fact, one of my instructors at the university showed us how the discount rate actually just follows the Fed Funds rate, the pure interest rate between banks. The second and third are at the heart of the Fed's ability to influence currency and credit conditions.

Control over bank reserve requirements is most important and deserves some historical explanation. The term reserve requirement simply means that member banks must keep on hand only a portion of depositors' money -- the remainder can be loaned out. Obviously, the lower the requirement, the greater the extent of the loans that can be made. How great? To determine the amount by which the money supply will be increased by any given reserve requirement, simply convert the percentage, say 10%, to a fraction (1/10) and take the reciprocal. So a 10% requirement leads to a ten-fold increase, 20% leads to a fivefold increase, and so on. This is the fractional reserve banking system, and the requirement currently ranges from 3% to 12%.

Obviously, such a system collapses if we all go down to the bank to withdraw our funds simultaneously. (It is interesting



to note that nowhere in American banking theory, or in British theory upon which it is based, is the safety of the depositors' money of any consideration at all).

The third power, open market operations, is probably the most difficult to comprehend. This is a process by which the Fed purchases government debt in the form of treasury notes and bonds. The debt is then added to the Fed's balance sheet as an asset while the cash (credit, in reality) is injected into the economy through the banking system. The fractional reserve system then multiplies the effect in a Jupiter-Neptune fashion. If the Fed wishes to restrict the money supply, it sells bonds into the market, thereby withdrawing money from the system. This is accomplished through the Fed's own trading desk which is operated daily. I believe that this is symbolized by the Moon-Pluto-fifth house relationship. It is a lunar or daily trading activity (fifth house) which has an enormous, but hidden effect on the people.

Of course the abuse of these powers could result in an enormous increase in the money supply, so great responsibility is necessary. (In the absence of such responsibility, a gold standard is needed to limit the amount of currency that is created.) How much restraint would be exercised by an institution with Mars and Neptune rising opposite Jupiter? The result of the granting of these powers to the Fed has been, as we know, massive inflation.

The Meaning of Inflation

The dictionary defines deflation as the increase of the currency of a country, especially by the issuing of paper money not redeemable in specie, (specie being defined as hard money) and a substantial rise of prices caused by an undue expansion in paper money or bank credit. Note that the key is a rise in money or credit supply which leads to a drop in the value of the currency and rise in prices. In other words, each individual unit of currency becomes worthless and prices seemingly rise. Remember, the currency is actually becoming worthless, the goods are not becoming worth more. There are different types of inflation, but we will concern ourselves only with credit inflation which has troubled modern man.

To gain a better understanding, visualize two rectangles, one representing the total amount of goods produced by an economy while the other represents its supply of money. If industrial production rises in a given year, one rectangle grows. All other matters being equal, the same amount of dollars chase more goods--so prices fall. Very basically, the aim of sound money management should be to keep this equation represented by these two rectangles in balance. Increases or decreases in industrial production should be met by related increases or decreases in money supply. If the balance of this equation gets too far out of kilter, nature attempt to restore order through the markets.

Free markets are a wonderful mechanism in that they always speak the truth, mirroring society's honesty or lack of it. The level of interest rates, unemployment, etc., are one of the electorate's prime measuring sticks for determining a government's performance. So of course, free markets are the enemy of totalitarian governments. It is truly amazing to see the measures politicians will employ to warp the market mechanism, such as subsidies, off-budget spending, the graduated income tax (an invention of socialists), etc.

On an overall basis, money supply has exceeded industrial production substantially, particularly in the last quarter century. Our rectangular equation has been thrown out of balance. The result has been the great inflation that we witnessed in the 1970s. What happens to the excess credit that is issued? It flows into speculation. If all of the factories that are needed are in operation, why open more? One can buy commodities (such as in the 1970s) or stocks (such as in the 1920s and 1990s).

These inflationary periods seem to coincide with Neptune's journey through fire signs while deflations tend to be related to Neptune's trek through earth signs. The table below depicts this relationship:

1807-1820 Neptune in Sagittarius (fire):

Period of growth, inflation, and speculation. Boom ended with collapse in 1819.

1820-1834 Neptune in Capricorn (earth):

Second Bank of US gradually imposes restraint on a chaotic banking system. Slow and managed economic growth.

1871-1875 Neptune in Aries (fire):

Inflation and speculation. Collapse in September 1873

1875-1888 Neptune in Taurus (earth):

Contraction of the money supply led to the deflationary 1880s.

1915-1929 Neptune in Leo (fire):

The boom known as the Roaring Twenties.

1929-1942 Neptune in Virgo (earth):

The Great Depression. Loss of blue collar jobs.

1970-1984 Neptune in Sagittarius (fire):

The 1970s inflation which was fueled by Nixon taking the US completely off of the gold standard. It is magnified

by three Jupiter-Neptune conjunctions. The 1980 Jupiter-Saturn conjunction brings the 1980-1981 recession.

1984-1998 Neptune in Capricorn (earth):

Reagan and Volcker wring the inflation out of the system. Loss of white collar jobs.

2025-2039 Neptune in Aries (fire):

Next big inflation.

2039-2053 Neptune in Taurus (earth):

Next big deflation.

Deflations occur when the natural forces of the market take over and purge the excess money (debt) from the system through bankruptcy and default. Thus, our equation of the two rectangles is brought back into balance, and the new, debt-free economy is ready to start growing again.

Who would want to bring on such a destructive phenomenon as inflation? --those who have similar financial interests. Bankers, such as David Rockefeller (whose natal Jupiter trines Neptune) can loan the excess money and earn progressively higher interest rates. Politicians, such as Ted Kennedy (natal Jupiter trine Neptune), can spend the new cash on social programs. Heads of struggling corporations, such as Chrysler's Lee Iacocca (whose natal Jupiter trines Neptune), can borrow to see their companies through hard times. In fact, the chief architect of the Federal Reserve System, Paul Warburg, was born August 10, 1868, with a fiery Sun trine a Jupiter-Neptune conjunction in a fire sign.

Opponents of inflation have Saturn-Neptune connections, such as former Fed governor Paul Volcker (square), the free-market advocate Ludwig Von Mises (conjunction), and myself (semi-square). Inflation, if you have not guessed by now, is a Jupiter-Neptune phenomena--the illusion of wealth. Recall the opposition in the Fed's chart, and if you still need convincing, check the past effect of hard angles of these two planets on bullion prices. In fact, one reason that the 1970s inflation was so severe was due to the fact that not only was Neptune in Sagittarius, but Jupiter was too. There were three conjunctions, and near the time of the last one, President Nixon took the US off of the gold standard by signing the Smithsonian Agreement. Deflation is ruled by Saturn-Neptune. Paul Volcker revealed his plan to fight inflation on October 7, 1979 with Saturn square Neptune.

Analysis by the Uranian system yields similar and striking interpretations. The combination of Jupiter + Apollon represents the money supply. In doing this research, I formulated Jupiter + Apollon - Hades to mean destruction of the money supply. Calculate this formula with a 90° dial and the combination of Jupiter + Apollon - Hades = 0° cardinal, The Federal Reserve Sun, Pluto, and midheaven. In this task, the Fed has been succeeding.

Now that we have explored the origin, function, and inflationary effect of the System, let's look at the timing of some of the more important events in Fed history.

Timing with the Fed Chart

In its first few years of existence, the Fed's power grew via favorable legislation. In June of 1917, the Federal Reserve Act was amended, lowering the reserve requirement that the Fed could impose on member banks. Of course, this greatly expanded their ability to make loans through the multiplier effect. Gold bullion was moved from the Treasury to the reserve banks. This is a most curious development. The gold belonged to the US government through the Treasury, but was shifted to a private corporation, the Fed. In short, the powers that had been left out of the original Act were added by legislation in the one or two year periods following 1913. Astrologically, the Sun-Pluto-midheaven T-square moved to various degrees of exactitude via progressions or solar arc directions during this period, a most fitting description.

Much like a teenager who had just learned to drive, the young Fed was reluctant to push down on the accelerator and did not exercise much of its power during the first few years of its existence, but that would soon change. The Fed began open market operations in 1915. In the period from 1916 to 1920, the Fed began to force credit into the system to finance World War I. From 1916 to 1918, no less than seven lunar and solar eclipses landed on the degrees from 2 to 29° Cancer-Capricorn. Of course, this set off the Mars-Jupiter-Neptune configuration in the chart. Here was the Fed's first big inflation. The results were shocking. From 1913 until 1920, the consumer price index rose from 100 to 225.3. Realizing that this could not go on, the Fed decided to cut back when Saturn squared its natal Saturn. They raised the discount rate and from May 1920 until July 1921, the consumer price index fell from 247 to 141, the Fed's first big deflation. It is interesting to note that Jupiter conjoined transiting Neptune in November of 1920, the month the inflation peaked and the prices began to turn down.

The next important period occurred in the years 1922 and 1923 when the government decided that it should control prices. The mechanism employed would be open market operations, rather than the discount rate. At this point a progressed New Moon occurred in the Fed chart, and as anyone who has read Rudhyar knows, this is the beginning of a new cycle. In the words of Leyla Rael, *"A person can almost always identify an important trend in his or her life as having subtly begun around that time. It is a time of inner reorientation."* Neptune also squared the natal Moon during this period, the Moon being related to open market operations as previously outlined. Of course, it is also representative of the people who are unaware of the importance of this event.

The next significant aspect in the horoscope occurred in August of 1929, when Pluto moved onto the Fed ascendant.

During the 1920s, the Fed tried to cope with the genie that it had let out of the bottle, but as Richard Nixon said in the Watergate tapes, *"It's hard to get the toothpaste back in the tube."* Neptune also squared the natal Moon during this period, the Moon being related to open market operations as previously outlined. Of course, it is also representative of the people who are unaware of the importance of this event.

It is important to note that this period differs significantly from the inflation that we suffered in the 1970s, in that the money went into paper assets such as stocks and bonds. There was a minor real estate boom that ended in 1926 and 1927, but the important point to remember is that the dollar was still linked to gold in the 1920s. Therefore, there was no reason to flee paper assets as there was in the 1970s. So with the newly created purchasing power, people bought stocks. Because stocks are not part of the consumer price index, the inflation was not reflected so much in the form of rising prices. But let's remember that the definition of inflation is an excess creation of purchasing power, and no rising prices.

The meaning of Pluto's passage over the Fed's ascendant and Mars can be viewed in different ways. In August, 1929, the Fed raised the discount rate to 6%, a level not to be reached again until 1969. They did this in order to curb the speculation that raged in the New York stock market. As we all know, they succeeded too well -- in September the market collapsed. Did the Fed deliberately cause the crash by raising the discount rate, or did they simply lose control of an overheated situation?

Some believe that the Fed deliberately caused the crash to reduce price levels and to put banks that were not under its control out of business. They may have wanted to do this because, forearmed with this knowledge, insiders could have raised cash at the top of the stock market rally, and then sat back and waited for prices to collapse. They then could rush in to buy companies and property at a fraction of their previously inflated value. Most believed that the Fed simply lost control of the situation because they did not understand what was happening. As an example one large corporation, after hearing warnings from the Fed that they should clamp down on stock market speculation, simply thumbed their noses by withdrawing their money from the banking system. They then placed it directly on deposit with a New York brokerage house, thereby bypassing the banking system altogether. No matter which theory you choose, I think that the Pluto transit describes both.

During the years that followed, Pluto conjoined the Fed's Jupiter. It assumed many new powers and more banks fell under its control. The foundation for the *New Deal* was laid. The Fed was to be the prime financier (at the expense of the American people through the invisible



taxation called inflation). On February 27, 1932, an important legislative amendment was passed. The Fed was allowed to hold government bonds as collateral for its currency issues. Prior to this time, the Fed had only been allowed to buy commercial paper which is the short term debit of corporations. The act was passed in order to ensure liquidity during times of tight money. However now the Fed could simply finance government debt by purchasing Treasury bills and Treasury bonds. This was a most significant occurrence because it laid the groundwork for the lion's share of the inflation that we have experienced since that time.

In April of 1935, the Fed's inflationary powers were expanded yet further as Pluto opposed the Fed's Jupiter. The open market committee was strengthened and centralized in New York City, and the board of governors was authorized to alter bank reserve requirement without emergency. I could go on but the main point is that the Fed chart is a power gatherer and an inflator. The only question is how much power is being assumed or how much purchasing power is being forced into the system.

The next significant event was the outbreak of World War II. From June of 1940 to December of 1945, the US money supply more than tripled from 40 billion dollars to 127 billion dollars. During these years, Neptune moved back and forth over 0° Libra, while two more eclipses activated the Fed's ascendant and Sun. As an outgrowth of the war, many Fed powers became permanent and the significance of Neptune and the 0° Aries midheaven became obvious.

In 1945 the Fed was to begin to play a key role in such construction and foreign aid programs as the Marshall Plan and the International Monetary Fund. In order to fully appreciate the power of the 0° Aries midheaven, one must realize that the mechanism by which the Fed could import inflation to all countries of the world was now set in place. (For those who are not familiar with Uranian astrology, 0° of the cardinal points are considered world points. Planets located on these points or passing over them find ready expression in the world.)

In warfare, the victors always receive the spoils. The institution of the dollar as the world's reserve currency was one of the major prizes that the US garnered at the end of World War II. The US had two-thirds of the free world's gold in Fort Knox, and foreign countries considered dollars to be as good as gold. Therefore, whenever they received dollars, these funds were added to the country's reserves. The banks within that country could issue new loans versus the new reserve dollars. The multiplier effect then took place within the country and greatly expanded the money supply. Of course, this was welcomed at first because the funds were needed to rebuild.

However, US monetary authorities were to grow very irresponsible in the years following the war. They began to issue

dollars and credit far beyond our ability to repay in gold bullion. So foreign countries greatly expanded their own internal money supplies without having access to gold to back their newly-issued currency. In the 1960s, foreign claims against US gold became excessive, and bullion began to flow out of the US rapidly. This was finally brought to a halt in August of 1971 when Richard Nixon closed the gold window. Few American realized that this action constituted an admission that the country was essentially broke in terms of its foreign obligations. We could no longer redeem dollars for gold. The dollar declined sharply in value on world markets -- the damage had been done. The inflated dollars were already loose in the world's monetary system and the subsequent rise in prices was worldwide, thus the importance of the 0° Aries midheaven. (It is interesting to note that a horoscope set up for the signing of the Bretton Woods monetary agreement has 0° Aries on the ascendant according to Roy Whitney.) Of course, the preceding description of events following World War II again point to the importance of Neptune in the chart and its ninth house rulership. Closer to the present, the Saturn station at 0° Aries on December 3, 1996 coincided with Chairman Greenspan's comments about market exuberance. The Dow plunged over 300 points over the next two weeks.

More recently, we can look at the passage of Pluto as having described changes in the Federal Reserve System. From the fall of 1971 until the fall of 1972, Pluto passed back and forth over 0° Libra. The president was given the power to nationalize the bank industry via the Fed in what has become known as the Economic Emergency Act. In June of 1980, stationary direct Pluto made its last square to the Fed's Mars. The Monetary Control Act was passed. This act essentially gives the Fed the power to reduce bank reserve requirements to zero, granting the power to inflate to infinity. Almost as important was the provision of the law that enables to Fed to purchase any debt. This means that the Fed is no longer limited to purchasing US government debt, but can purchase obligations of corporations or of bankrupt nations. Efforts to find out whether this power is being used to bail our bankrupt countries have been blocked. The Fed simply refuses to reveal whether they are purchasing foreign debt, information that their publications formerly disclosed. Again we see the South Node in the third house and the Mercury-Saturn opposition at work. (It is amusing and yet tragic to note that when I contacted the Fed to receive samples of the publications distributed to the public, I received a comic book. The comic book blamed inflations on Arabs, greedy businessmen and housewives.)

The 2000 Outlook

In late 1998, Neptune exited Capricorn and lifted its deflationary effect. On April 6, 1999, Saturn squared Neptune and the deflation began to lift. Prior to that date, most felt that inflation was dead. After that date, the Fed began to raise rates, energy prices rose, and fears of inflation returned. I was able to predict this change in advance. The early signs were

the strengthening of the Canadian and Australian currencies as well as the move up in oil. The return of the eclipses to Cancer-Capricorn will stimulate the natal planets in the Fed chart and will likely lead to above-average increases in the money supply.

A Deeper Look

What does this mean on a deeper level? Are we the victims of the Fed? In all things, there is a mutuality. I do not think that there is anyone reading these words who has not benefited in some indirect, if not direct way, from the inflation of the 1960s and 1970s. If you received a student loan or any type of financing at all, you paid less interest than you should have. Many government programs and individual jobs were created through inflation. This is the Neptunian side of inflation--it is addictive. The debt has a Plutonian side--the debit issuer controls the debtor.

Why did we do it? I believe that when the spiritual search stops, the material ambitions increase proportionately. Having been lost spiritually, we become extremely acquisitive materially. We wanted to have more than we were willing to give, so we mortgaged the future to satisfy our appetites in the short run. In addition, we misunderstood contraction and expansion. We greatly emphasized the economic expansions and minimized the economic contractions to avoid economic pain. But healthy contractions have a positive side. They cleanse the system of excesses and inefficient businesses, a process that eventually leads to greater benefit for all. Nothing can keep expanding forever. If you do not believe this, try inhaling for the next 30 minutes!

By misunderstanding the positive functions of contraction and pain, we have simply postponed the day when we will have to undergo a much greater contraction with much greater pain. In that period, we will learn the positive sides of these seemingly frightening phenomena and feelings. With the material taken away, we will be left to search for deeper values. As anyone who researches the human condition and process can tell you, individuals create crises to get themselves back to a more truthful foundation. Or, as some say, a conservative is liberal who has been mugged.

Has Anyone Ever Noticed?

The Congressional Record was filled with the remarks of Congressman Louis T. McFadden, Speaker of the House. He spoke against the Fed, exposing it, "*Some people think that the Federal Reserve Banks are United States government institutions. They are not government institutions. They are private monopolies.*" He was fired upon while exiting a cab in the Capitol. He then became very ill after eating food at a Washington banquet. He was saved by a physician friend who happened to be present. He finally succumbed on October 3, 1936 from "*heart failure sudden death after a dose of intestinal flu.*"

Charles Augustus Lindbergh, Sr., father of the famous aviator, opposed the Fed in 1913. He ran for governor of Minnesota in 1917, but attacks by the NY Times and raids on his home and office by federal agents hurt his campaign.

When Senator La Follette charged that a money trust of 50 men ran the country, George F. Baker, partner in J.P. Morgan & Co., replied that the comment was completely false. As far as he knew, not more than eight men ran the country.

The Committee on Banking, Currency and Housing (of the House of Representatives, 94th Congress, second session, August 1976) issued the following report: *Federal Reserve Directors: A Study of Corporate and Banking Influence*. The report concluded: "*In summary, the Federal Reserve directors are apparently representative of a small group which dominates much of the economic life of this nation.*" End of Congressional Report.

The facts of the Fed's creation have not gone entirely unnoticed as the following quotes indicate. The Wall Street Journal of December 8, 1984 quoted Representative Jack Kemp, the nation's only supply-side quarterback, "*An elitist Federal Reserve is determining the course of the American and the world economy.*"

In the late 1980s, the Morton Downey, Jr. Show invited Eustace Mullins, author of *Secret of the Federal Reserve* and myself to speak about the Fed on the air. I declined and Eustace accepted. About a month later, major sponsors pulled their backing and the show was cancelled. I recall reading an article in which Downey lamented that he could not understand why his life had suddenly taken such a downturn.

All Rights Reserved.

Recommend Reading:

1. Groseclose, Elgin. *American's Money Machine*. Books Inc., NYC, NY.
2. Groseclose, Elgin. *Money and Man*. University Press, Norman, OK.
3. Griffin, Edward. *The Creature from Jekyll Island*. American Opinion Publishing, PO Box 8040, Appleton, WI. 54913.
4. Mullins Eustace. *Secrets of the Federal Reserve*. Bankers Research Institute, Box 1105, Staunton, VA. 24401.
5. Congressman McFadden on the Federal Reserve Corporation, Remarks in Congress 1934, Arizona Caucus Club, PO Box 60, Mesa, AZ 85201.
6. Riott, Pat. *The Greatest Story Never Told*. Nanoman Press, Oak Brook, IL. 60522.
7. Homer, Sidney. *History of Interest Rates*. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, NJ.
8. Homer, Sidney and Richard Johannesen. *The Price of Money*. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, NJ.
9. Garvy, George and Martin R. Blyn. *The Velocity of Money*. Federal Reserve Bank of NY, NYC, NY.
10. Friedman, Milton and Anna Jacobson Schwartz. *The Great*

Contraction. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ.

11. Warburton, Clark. *Depression, Inflation, and Monetary Policy*. Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, MD.
12. Smith, Warren. *Readings in Money, National Income, and Stabilization Policy*. Homewood, IL.
13. Brown, A.J. *The Great Inflation*. Oxford University press, Amen House, London.
14. Anderson, Clay J. *A Half Century of Federal Reserve Policy Making*. Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA.
15. Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. Annual Report, FDIC, Washington, DC.
16. Historic Beginnings--The Federal Reserve, The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Boston, MA.
17. Statfacts--Understanding Federal Reserve Statistical Reports, Federal Reserve Bank of NY.

Editor's Note 1: This article was first published in 1985 in the NCGR Journal and was then updated. It is included here to complement other emphases on finances in this issue.

Editor's Note: The 2017 NCGR Conference offers a rare opportunity to hear **Bill Meridian**, a top ranked international market timer, describe materials and techniques that are completely new and presented for the first time in his post conference workshop, "Recent Developments in Planetary Stock Selection" on **Monday, February 20, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm**.

On **Sunday, February 19, from 2:30-3:45 pm**, **Bill Meridian** will present, "Great Historical Eclipses and Their Paths," describing key eclipses in time, how eclipses are later re-energized, revisiting old themes and issues, and their projections for the future.

Bill Meridian

obtained his BS in banking from NYU in 1971 and his MBA in corporate finance in 1972. He began to study cycles in the same year. A nine-year psychotherapeutic training apprenticeship with Dr. John Pierrakos in NYC followed. Many of his concepts concerning crowd psychology derive from the period. Since the 1970s, he has been on Wall Street combining fundamental, cyclical and technical analysis, developing his own software in the process. The software proved that value is added by applying planetary cycles. From 1972 to 1990, he worked on both the buy and the sell sides of Wall Street. From 1990 to 2004, he was with the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, where he was the technology fund manager, North American strategist, and a member of the currency hedging committee. Since 2004, he has been operating his own money management and consulting service from Vienna, Austria. His publications include: *Planetary Stock Trading*, *Planetary Economic Forecasting*, *Predictive Power of Eclipse Paths* and *In Search*. Bill is active in groups that focus on the future and upon cycles. He is a member of the Kenos Circle, a Vienna-based group of futurists. Website: billmeridian.com
E-mail: bill@cyclesresearch.com



About **NCGR E-News memberletter**, and **Geocosmic Journal**

The E-News is published every week: *Commentary* alternates with *Around the World from NCGR*. **Memberletter** publishes submissions by NCGR members about anything astrological, and is e-mailed to NCGR members on a bimonthly basis. *Around the World from NCGR* is a listing of events in NCGR Chapters and other non-profit astrological groups from all over the world, and is sent to anyone who is interested in astrology.

- Information about NCGR events is also available at the NCGR website: www.geocosmic.org and in the bi-monthly **memberletter**.
- To contact the **memberletter** editor, Ronnie Gale Dreyer, email: memberletter@geocosmic.org
- To contact **E-News**, email Rita Chabot, E-News commentary Editor: roseemma@aol.com
- For the **Geocosmic Journal**, email Publications Director, Leigh Westin at: leighwestin@sbcglobal.net

The Tell-Tale Chart

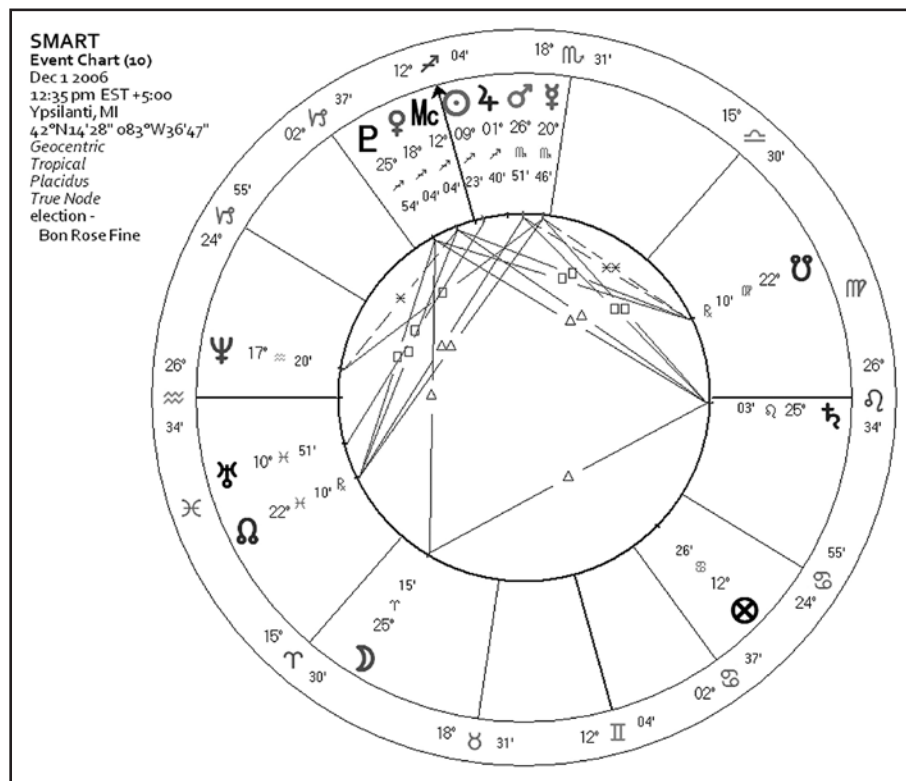
By Elizabeth Hazel

When the title of an article mimics Edgar Allan Poe, the subject will be strange and possibly fatal. And so it is, because this is the story of the tell-tale chart! It hinges on the controversial issue of using ancient or modern sign rulers in elected charts. The proof is in the pudding as the significations of the election chart unfold.

Election charts are twitchy little buggers. It's nearly impossible to cast a perfect election. The goal is to find a chart with the fewest potential problems. Prospects improve when there isn't a hard-and-fast deadline for making the selection. A good election is worth the wait.

The election at the center of this tale is an NCGR chapter-founding election. It was elected with the premise that Uranus is the significator of astrology. The ancient significators of astrology are Mercury-Saturn contacts, the ninth house, and its ruler. The chart is for December 1, 2006 at 12:35 pm EST, Ann Arbor, Michigan (Chart 1). It features a 26° Aquarius Ascendant with Uranus in Pisces in the first house. The packed ninth house includes Mercury and Mars in Scorpio and Jupiter and the Sun in Sagittarius. The Sun is conjunct the 12° Sagittarius midheaven. Venus and Pluto occupy the tenth house. So far so good.

The Moon is the catalyst for problems. She's at 26° Aries in the second house, separating from a trine to Saturn Rx in Leo (opposite the Aquarius ascendant) and applying to trine Pluto in Sagittarius. In ancient terminology, the Moon translates Saturn's light to Pluto.



What's more worrisome is Saturn, the ancient ruler of the Aquarius ascendant, in detriment, retrograde, and cadent in the sixth house. Saturn also rules the eleventh house of groups and organizations! Saturn squares Mercury and Mars in the ninth house, while Mars squares the ascendant. Jupiter, the ruler of the midheaven, is combust. The Sun and Jupiter square Uranus.

This is not a pretty picture. The rulers of the critical houses for a group—the first, tenth and eleventh houses—are in deep trouble. Even if one uses the modern sign rulers, the fiery Grand Trine is dubious. The Moon is absolutely critical in elections. There are three considerations:

1. the Moon's applying aspect is what will manifest immediately;
2. the ruler of the Moon's sign shows how the chart's action proceeds over time; and
3. the tenth house and its occupants signify overall outcomes.

Pluto is invariably destructive and Uranus squares signify upheavals and upsets. While Pluto can be transformational and Uranus can be inspirational for individuals, they're much more

likely to behave like *agent provocateurs* in an election for a group. It's more sensible to choose planets that can do a better job as house and sign rulers.

It Ain't Nothing, but a Chart-ache

As might be expected, the group's founding occurred amidst contention and personality battles. Over time, the group's first leader experienced personal, health, and financial problems. The condition of the president is shown in the tenth house: the MC ruler Jupiter (combust) and Sun square Uranus, with elevated Venus trine a severely debilitated Saturn. Bubble, bubble, toil and trouble! The tell-tale chart deteriorates from Poe to Shakespeare.

Finding meeting locations was problematic with Uranus square the midheaven. Communications between the chapter and national were sporadically foiled with Mercury square Neptune. This pair also scrambled event publicity information, news outlets, and record-keeping. The group nearly collapsed in 2010. Two dedicated members stabilized the situation. A new board was elected and

Continued on page 77

The Case of the Precious Pachyderm By Karen Christino

A Book Review by Scott Silverman

Last winter, I went through a period where I devoured, in ascending order, the first dozen volumes of the original Perry Mason mystery series by Erle Stanley Gardner which were recently reissued by the American Bar Association. Many of them have amusing and alliterative titles that trip off the tongue easily--*The Case of the Caretaker's Cat*, *The Case of the Lucky Legs*, *The Case of the Dangerous Dowager*, and, even, the yet to be reprinted, *Case of the Vagabond Virgin*.

So I can only hope that the author of *The Precious Pachyderm: An Evangeline Adams Mystery* will forgive me for recommending her new novel to friends desperate for distraction (have you watched the news lately?) as *The Case of the Precious Pachyderm*--an accidental misnomer.

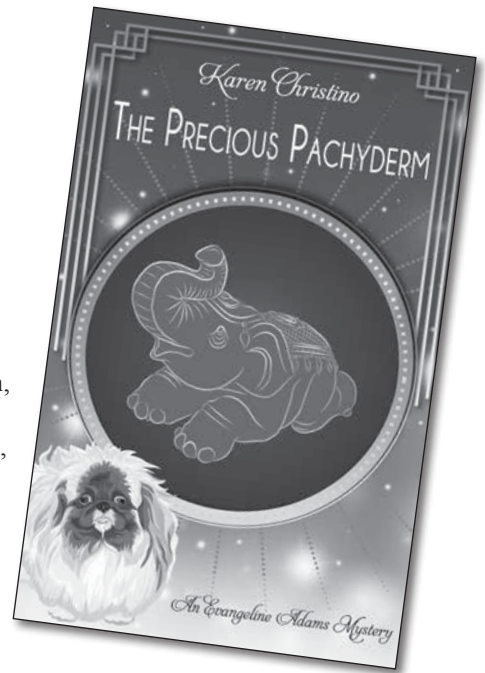
Christino's mystery captures the genuine flavor of early 20th century urban America as adroitly as those initial Perry Mason books do, a feat of authorial finesse not to be taken for granted since *The Precious Pachyderm* was written almost 90 years later, whereas the Gardner books were an actual product of that period. It is every bit as entertaining and satisfying, although assuredly less violent, as many of those traditional mysteries that were penned (and are often reissued) in the aftermath of the Roaring Twenties.

If you're reading this review and you don't know who Evangeline Adams was (hereafter referred to as EA), then you must be a relative newcomer to the world of astrology! Welcome! Please have a seat. Perhaps you'd like to sign up for some online classes, very reasonably priced?

Because I still miss the late Jim Holden, rather than concoct my own brief synopsis of EA's life and accomplishments, I'll simply quote the entry on Adams from Holden's encyclopedic, *A History of Horoscopic Astrology*, which I'm sure all of you must own. Go on, get it down from the shelf and read along with me. I'll wait.

Holden writes: "*In the first third of the 20th century the most famous American astrologer was Evangeline Adams . . . she began to practice professionally in Boston, but in 1899, she moved to New York City. There she achieved almost instant fame . . . by predicting a hotel fire] . . . and the hotel burnt to the ground. The next day her prediction was headlined on the front page of the newspaper and it made her reputation. Thereafter, she set up a studio at Carnegie Hall and became America's foremost astrologer . . . Adams wrote two popular astrology books that went through many printings. She also invented a new subsidiary method of judging horary charts (by inserting the natal planets in the horary houses)...*"¹

Holden emphasizes that the legal precedent that Adams helped establish remains every bit as important to this day as her legacy of popularizing astrology: "*Evangeline Adams is also remembered for her legal triumph against the forces of bigotry in New York State. In 1914 she was the target of legal action brought against her as a 'fortune-teller'. The first suit was thrown out of court . . . but the crusaders . . . initiated a second suit. Miss Adams . . . fought the case . . . she stated to Judge Freschi that astrology was a science that operated according to stated rules . . . then offered to illustrate her statement by*



drawing up a horoscope and preparing a reading of it. The judge accepted the offer and, unbeknownst to her, gave her the birth data of his own son."²

Holden continues: "*The horoscope she prepared described the son's character and circumstances so well that the judge was greatly impressed. His decision of 11 Dec 1914, in favor of Evangeline Adams, contains this sentence, 'the defendant raises Astrology to the dignity of an exact science'. The landmark case settled the question in New York and has served as a precedent since [that astrology is not fortune-telling].*"³

We all know what a fine astrologer EA was. But what kind of a *detective* was she, since this book is subtitled, *An Evangeline Adams Mystery*? I hope that I would have liked the real life EA as much as I liked her fictional counterpart in *The Precious Pachyderm*. Herein, she emerges as an arch, compassionate, perceptive, worldly, and wise figure, with a lion's share of Miss Marple's kind-hearted cunning. You may even become inspired to track down some of EA's original works⁴ after reading *The Precious Pachyderm*; her books have remained mostly in print for almost a century, educating successive generations of astrological acolytes.

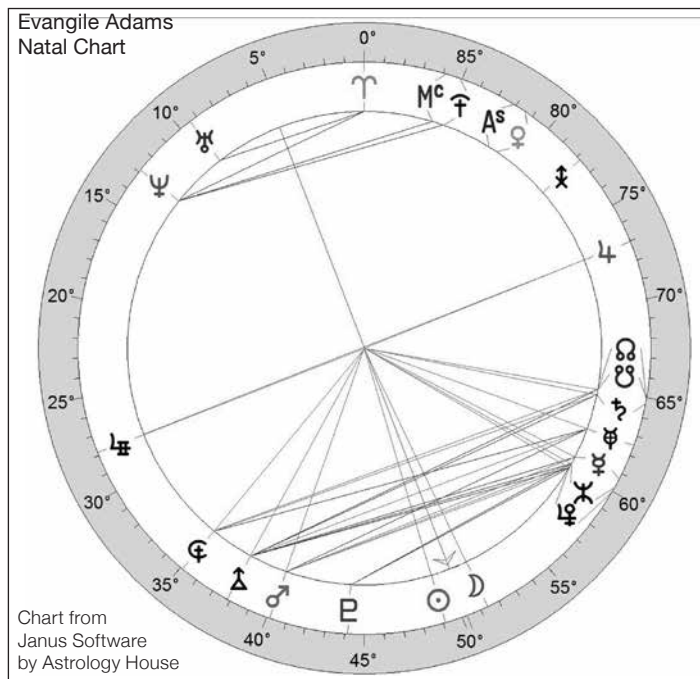
For the moment, we'll steer clear of any controversies involving Adams and Aleister Crowley⁵, and who may have written which passages of what books, and when. EA, the head of what was arguably the first truly mass market astrological publishing operation that specialized in mail order horoscopes, was not averse to hiring ghost writers⁶ to punch up some of her popular works, as a subplot in Christino's book makes clear.

Better yet, here's EA's birth data⁷: February 8, 1868, 8:30 am, Jersey City, NJ, USA. Go have a look at her chart.

Uranian astrologers, please take note of her Sun/Moon axis on the 90° dial, with Jupiter and Apollon at the quadrature points. Not too shabby, eh?

Christino's mystery novel is engaging, well plotted and paced, with dialogue that feels true to the time. I didn't stumble across a single anachronistic *historical* detail, although, non-spoiler alert, EA does stumble across her fair share of shady operators, elephant aficionados and hard boiled detectives. After all, it's a *mystery*.

High society matrons, condescending cops, delightful dog-walkers, and enigmatic emissaries of eastern mysticism are all present and accounted for as compelling secondary characters. Although Ms. Adams remains the focus of this mystery tale, the rightful protagonist of the novel is her personal assistant, Mary Adler⁸, who, along with a sweet and scatological⁹ co-worker, Clara, figures prominently in the plot to the point that much of what the reader comes to see and understand about EA is filtered through Mary's point of view. Sub-plots involving a missing manuscript, Mary's teen-age daughter, Jeannie, and the collectively sanctioned office politics of the era, so redolent of misogyny and sexual harassment, further propel events along.



of interpretation. That client whose husband died an unexpectedly violent death at the hands of another? Of course, her chart had transiting Saturn opposition Mars!

Elsewhere, a brief discourse on the astrology of gemstones delivered by EA to one of her secretaries is as informative as anything one is liable to find in most English language text-books on Hindu astrology from the early 20th century.¹² Adam's teacher, J. Heber Smith, was a student of old Sanskrit texts.

I was fascinated by the descriptions of the routine details of how EA conducted her daily business, pre-computer and *analog* recording devices (not to mention *copy machines* and *scanners*). Much of the action unfolds at the workplace and, of course, EA was famous for having both home and office adjacent to one another in Carnegie Hall. Most sessions with EA were limited to half an hour! The extensive horoscopes by mail operation was attended to by other employees: "As part of the office's mail order work, [Clara] would calculate the full horoscope charts for the customers who had provided their exact times of birth. Then she'd pass the horoscopes along to the other secretaries in the outer office, who would then pull Evangeline's mimeographed sheets pertaining to each planet and zodiac sign in their birth chart, and bind them into a nice report. The customers would receive a somewhat personalized report without the expense of a personal interview."¹³

Yet *The Precious Pachyderm*, for all its topical social realism, remains an essentially light hearted and entertaining *capser*, suitable for either oceanside or fireside perusal, depending upon the season or climatic zone one inhabits. The primary mystery involves the murder of the husband of one of EA's clients, and the disappearance of a priceless jewel in his possession, a jewel artfully carved--as you may have already guessed--into the shape of an elephant.

EA as depicted by Christino, believes in a strong interplay between fate and free will: "We can't escape destiny but we should do whatever we can to uplift ourselves as described by the horoscope. You're given a road map. Do you purposefully drive off the avenue and into a bottomless pit? No, you do not and that's the end of it."¹⁰ EA declares a few pages later, "You don't need astrology to predict the future, just a rational and objective mind."¹¹

No matter how rational and objective this Evangeline Adams strives to be, there are plentiful astrological asides sprinkled throughout the story. Astrologers in particular will enjoy mulling over the astrological advice EA gives to her clients and employees and may even learn some new nuances

Now, what about those personal interviews? How were *they* written up? "As [Mary had] been instructed when she first started working for Miss Adams, she'd simply type out Evangeline's side of the conversation, which was not that long. Then she'd add some of the mimeographed boilerplate interpretations that had already been prepared."¹⁴

These days, of course, most of us generate charts and reports with sophisticated software rather than a clerical staff, hit *print* and *send* and maybe attach a MP3 recording of our reading with the client to the email. But boilerplate interpretations retain their limitations, no matter what the century or decade!

This reviewer hopes that *The Precious Pachyderm* is but the first of a new series that will continue to use Evangeline Adams as a pivotal figure in criminal investigations. Christino is the author of two previous biographical tomes on EA,¹⁵ and, in addition, edited and published an anthology of the work of one the great astrologians¹⁶ of the 20th century, *The Best of Al H. Morrison*.¹⁷

Come to think of it, I wonder what kind of detective Al H Morrison would have made--? *The Case of the Acerbic Astrologian!* I like the title. How about it, Ms. Christino? An irascible astrologer solves *cold cases* without ever leaving his book laden lower Manhattan apartment. Could happen!¹⁸

All Rights Reserved.

Endnotes:

1. Holden, James H. *A History of Horoscopic Astrology, 2nd edition*. Tempe, AZ: AFA Inc., 2006 pp. 225-226.
2. Ibid., p. 226.
3. Ibid.
4. *The Bowl of Heaven* (1926); *Astrology: Your Place in the Sun* (1927); and *Astrology: Your Place in the Stars*(1930).
5. Christino, Karen. *Foreseeing the Future: Evangeline Adams and Astrology in America*, Amherst, MA: One Reed Publications, 2002, pp. 101-110.
6. Joseph Mankiewicz appears herein as an affable young ghostwriter, hired to add some brio and pizzazz to Adams' autobiography; he actually did work for Adams in his youth and went on to become the writer-director-producer of such memorable films as *Letter to Three Wives*, *All About Eve*, and *The Barefoot Contessa*.
7. Holden, James H. *Biographical Dictionary of Western Astrologers*. Tempe, AZ: AFA, Inc., 2012, p. 13.
8. Evangeline Adams had a real life assistant named Mary Scheinman.
9. Only insofar as she discourses upon bathroom habits in the vernacular of the era.
10. Christino, Karen. *The Precious Pachyderm*. p. 65.
11. Ibid., p. 67.
12. Ibid., see chapter 8.
13. Ibid., p. 21.
14. Ibid., p. 23.
15. *Foreseeing the Future: Evangeline Adams and Astrology in America* (see note 5) and *What Evangeline Adams Knew*. Brooklyn Heights, NY: Stella Mira Books, 2004.
16. Al H. Morrison always made a firm distinction between astrologers, those who practice *the science of the stars* professionally, and astrologians, those who immerse themselves in the study and philosophy of astrology. William Lilly often referred to himself as an astrologian but may not have made the same distinction!
17. See *The Best of Al H. Morrison*, Brooklyn Heights, NY: Stella Mira Books, 1998.
18. *Doubting Thomas'* are referred to the recent work of Cody, Wyoming based astrologer Martha Lang Wescott.

Scott Silverman is a practicing astrologian in Miami Beach, FL. He is an alumnus of the Hamburg School.

Continued from page 74

the group remained intact, but the second president experienced personal and professional problems during her term.

A third president was voted in at the end of 2012 for the 2013-2015 term. He didn't make it all the way through his term because of severe health issues. The group hurtled toward another implosion. Membership and attendance dropped to an all-time low. The group was seven years old, and the foundation chart was in the midst of its first Saturn-square-Saturn transit. With the original condition of Saturn being so poor, systemic reorganization was a do-or-die mandate.

The president pro tem stepped in during the summer of 2014. Saturn's transit of Scorpio made for a perilous transition! Within a month of assuming the presidential mantle, a whole range of

personal problems began to manifest. The board circled the wagons. New policies were implemented in early 2015. The nosedive was reversed and the group's condition enjoyed fairly swift improvements. The president's personal problems, however, remained grim. Another board member resigned because of severe health concerns.

Wearing Your Chart on Your Sleeve

The tumultuous string of events from 2007 to 2014, along with the continual personal problems faced by the group's leader and board members, appeared to be more than random coincidence. The negative implications in the foundation chart could be concluded as the origin, yielding what appeared to be a *presidential curse* since the negative group karma seemed so apparent in the personal life of the president.

The Norse concept of *ørlög* zooms into prominence with the Moon applying to Pluto. *Ørlög* is the impact of group karma. The past deeds of all group members become a subterranean force affecting the collective fate of the group, or in this case, the group's president and board as signified by the tenth house. The Moon takes the collective energy of Saturnian group karma and distills it into a chthonic Plutonian compulsion brew that's enacted through the experiences of the elected leader. Saturn is just below the descendant. The sin-eater's brew is ingested by the Saturnian scapegoat elected to become the fearless leader, Pluto. Fire signs don't monkey around! The effects manifest immediately when a person assumes the mantle of leadership. This appears more to be a chart for black magic and hexes, than that for an astrology group.

Administrative Steps for a New Chapter Election Chart

1. Let the Chapter Director know that your group wants to elect a new chart.
2. Choose a chart that gives the board members sufficient time to perform the administrative adjustments and lead time for making announcements in the group's publicity outlets and the organizational publications.
3. Decide on the kind of change that will best serve the intention of the new election. Completely re-founding a group requires submitting a fresh application for a new charter to national and all the other steps necessary for founding an entirely new group. If the group's board and membership will remain intact, it's easier to re-name the group, perhaps by adjusting or modifying the group's name and/or its anagram.
4. The group's by-laws have to be adjusted to reflect a name change. The revised by-laws have to be signed, dated, printed, and submitted to the Chapter Director for final approval.
5. The group's new name has to be registered with the IRS. This job has to be accomplished in the autumn when the group's financial report is submitted and the e-card is filed.
6. The group will have to change the name on the bank account and the bank will require new signature cards.
7. Make sure too, to notify all the publications that print Chapter's names, website, memberletter, E-news, etc.

Powerful Mars in rulership and the Mercury-Mars trine to first-house North Node kept the group from dissolving. The group weathered its first Saturn square with improvements in membership and attendance. Nevertheless, the president's condition remained grim. Finding meeting locations and important information exchanges were still a sporadic spotty mess. The chart makes work out of work.

The 2006 election has Venus as the ruler of the eighth and Mercury as ruler

of the fourth, the houses of death and legacies. Both planets are in aspect to the excessively malefic Saturn. As a kid I took the 4-H oath to leave things better than I found them, and it's seared into my adult moral code. Passing this problematic legacy to the president taking the seat in 2017 would be reprehensible. If it was at all possible, this problem must be repaired!

Many Charts Beat As One

It was proposed to the group board (who enthusiastically agreed) and to the Chapter Director (who also agreed), to elect a new chart for the group. The election had to be accompanied by a genuine change in the group. A full re-incorporation was too much rigma-role. The Treasurer Emeritus provided a brilliant solution with her suggestion to modify the group's name and anagram. Names are a foundation of identity! When the opportunity to talk to the organizational Chair arose at a conference, the seal of approval was given to the plan. Positive support was integral to making this effort possible.

Once approval was secured, the next step was conferring with members to select a new election chart. This was a collective decision for the betterment of the group and the health and well-being of future presidents and board members.

The topic was presented at the May 2016 event. There was a short overview of chart election techniques followed by a discussion about the original 2006 election chart. Several potential new chart elections were considered. Mercury and Mars were both retrograde in May 2016, so the final decision was put off until the group's July meeting.

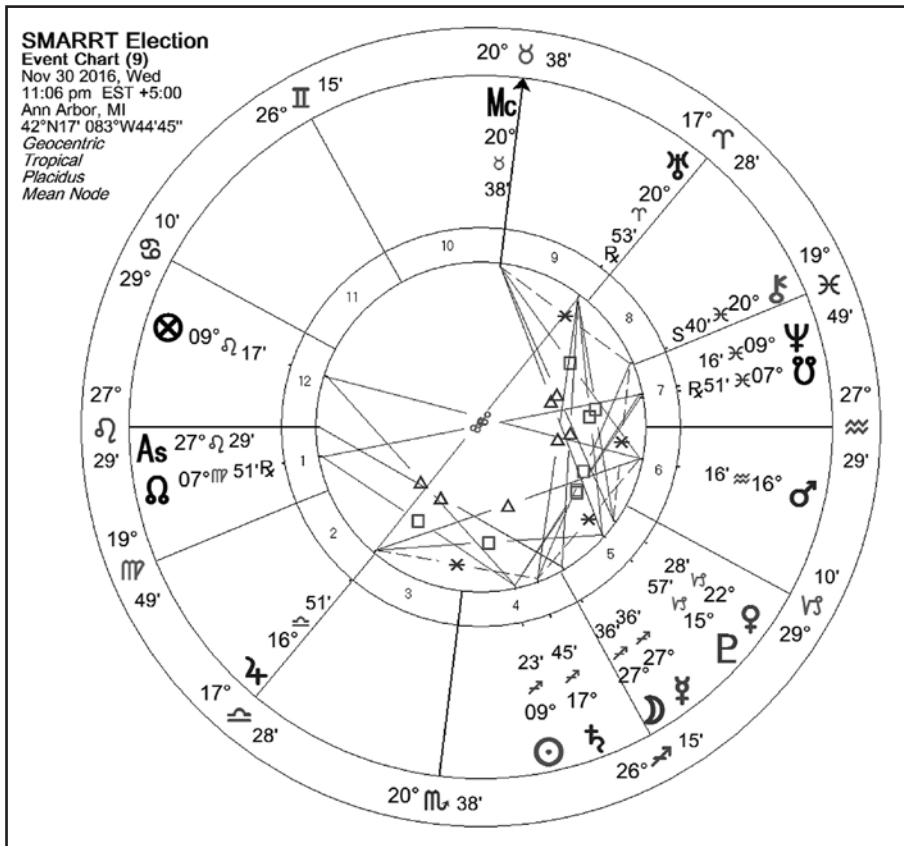
The new chapter chart is set for November 30, 2016, 11:07 pm, Ann Arbor, Michigan (Chart 2). The first quarter, fifth house Sagittarius Moon separates from a trine to Uranus in the ninth house and applies to Mercury, ruler of the eleventh house. This precisely defines the purpose of the chart: an astrology (ninth/Uranus) group (eleventh/Mercury). The Moon and Mercury

trine the ascendant. The chart's purpose is easy to manifest and gives immediate benefits. Tenth house ruler Venus trines the midheaven. The group and its leaders are fortified in several ways. Venus's ruler Saturn is angular in the fourth house, sextile and in mutual reception with Jupiter in Libra. Venus is also the ruler of the third house. Meeting locations, publicity efforts and overall communications are stabilized.

Mars in Aquarius is the ruler of the ninth house. It trines Jupiter, and sextiles Saturn and Uranus. Mars is in joy in the sixth house. This combination signifies good working relationships, efficiency, and enthusiastic energy funneled into ninth house activities, i.e. astrology! The good relationship between Mars and Uranus in the ninth is a bonus. The fourth house Sun is angular and in a fire sign with Saturn, a co-ruler of the fire triplicity. The Sun is a fortified ascendant ruler and it trines the Part of Fortune in Leo, too.

This chart does have glitches! They were unavoidable, as is usually the case with election charts. The Sun separates from squares to Neptune and the Nodes. Group focus may be a bit fuzzy, or pass through stages of periodic reorientation. Jupiter squares Pluto and applies to an opposition of Uranus. These planets occupy succedent and cadent houses, which somewhat reduces the impact of the T-square. The Jupiter-Uranus opposition is further modified by a fantastic wedge configuration of sextiles and trines with Saturn and Mars, rulers of the seventh and ninth houses. Jupiter and Uranus are not rulers of the critical first, tenth or eleventh houses. The mutual reception between Jupiter and Saturn means that these two planets can be excellent sign and house rulers, which gives benefits to the critical house rulers placed in Sagittarius and Capricorn.

The critical house rulers are inner planets: Sun (Leo/first); Mars (Aries/ninth); Venus (Taurus/tenth); Mercury (Gemini/eleventh). These rulers neatly side-step the issue of ancient versus modern sign rulers. The election is a nocturnal chart, which makes the



Moon-Mercury conjunction focal. The sect members of the nocturnal team are well-placed. Venus is in good condition in the earth triplicity, and Mars by house placement and the sextile to his sign lord, Saturn. The Sun and Venus have mutual antisicion conjunctions. The Sun's antisicion trines the MC, and tenth house ruler Venus's antisicion is angular. The positivity and stability of long-term outcomes is further reinforced.

Open Chart Surgery

The criteria for an election chart for an astrology group begins with a fortified eleventh house ruler. The signifiers of astrology (Mercury-Saturn, ninth ruler, and Uranus) should be prominent. The Moon should apply to a well-placed ruler of the first, tenth, or eleventh houses—or better yet, translate light between two of those house rulers (that is, separate from an aspect to one critical house ruler and apply to another). The Moon could also apply to a signifier of astrology. Mercury is a particularly good planet for that job. Look for good connections between Saturn and

Mercury, a strong ninth house and ninth ruler, and a decently placed Uranus to ensure beauty in diversity! Out-of-town speakers, books and articles by the group's writers, long-distance communications, and ties with the national organization are signified by the ninth and tenth house and their rulers. A healthy second house ruler is needed for stable group finances. A happy third house ruler offers good meeting places and community outreach.

Some features of an original foundation chart may be worth preserving in a fresh election to provide continuity. The relationship between Jupiter and Saturn is important for long-term group stability. A fiery Moon and Sagittarius Sun chart reiterate the fiery 2006 planets, this time with trines to Uranus in Aries. The new chart chosen by this group enables a shift from embattled survival to a thriving regional astrological community.

Like any well-wrought tale, there's a moral to this story. It's far too easy to see troubles and crisis situations

as individual events, rather than as evidence of a long-term pattern. When patterns become apparent, think like an astrologer! Return to the chapter's foundation chart and check the transits. This Chapter's Saturn-square-Saturn period was so awful it was suspicious. Problems stemming from the original election reached the point of culmination. Why continue to struggle with a difficult election when it's easier to simply pick a new election and tweak the group's name? These are chapters of NCGR, not some muggle business! The folks at national aren't going to faint if a chapter's board wants to revise a problematic election chart.

The second moral of the story is: elections can be dangerous. *Always check the condition of the ancient sign rulers even if you prefer to use the modern ones.* Whether you're using an election chart for yourself or generating it for someone else, avoid the Moon applying to aspect the invisible outer planets. The planets that rule focal houses must be fortified and in good condition. People's lives—their health, personal relationships and financial well-being—depend on it.

Elizabeth Hazel



author, luckily survived her term as president of the SMART-Ann Arbor Chapter of NCGR. She continues to serve on the board as a president emeritus. Liz is a tarotist, astrologer, writer, lecturer, and artist. Contact: ehazel@bex.net

NCGR Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Joyce Levine, Chair Pro Tem
Executive Board, Clerk
Linda Wilk, Treasurer

ELECTED DIRECTORS

Judy Johnson, Volunteers
Jackie Slevin, Education Director
Liane Thomas Wade, Membership
Leigh Westin, Chapter & SIGS
Publication Director

APPOINTED DIRECTORS

Jagdish Maheshri, Research Director
Christeen Skinner, Advisory Board
Kyle Ukes, Media & Communications

STAFF

Alvin Burns, Executive Secretary
Ronnie Gale Dreyer, Memberletter
Editor,
Kenneth Irving, Webmaster
Arlene Nimark, Advertising

ADVISORY BOARD

Bernadette Brady Ph.D. (UK)
Nicholas Campion Ph.D. (UK)
Gary Christen
Bradley V. Clark C.P.A.
David Cochrane
Priscilla Costello M.A. (Canada)
Adrian Duncan (Denmark)
Michael Erlewine
Monica Escalante-Ochoa (Mexico)
Madel Ezcurre
Linda Fei
Steven Forrest
Irene E. Goodale
Robert Hand Ph.D.
Charles Hannan
Madalyn Hillis-Dineen
Baris Ilhan (Turkey)
Warren Kinsman (Costa Rica)
Babs Kirby M.A. (UK)
Arlene A. Kramer
Alphee Lavoie
Michael Lutin
Vivian B. Martin Ph.D.
Michael Munkasey
Arlene Nimark
Ingrid Petroff (Austria)
Bill Sarubbi (Austria)
Maria Kay Simms
Gloria Star
Rod Suskin (South Africa)
Richard Tarnas Ph.D.
Donna Van Toen (Canada)

NCGR CHAPTER CONTACTS

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles County Chapter
Jack Taube, President, 818-716-1765,
arlenekrmr@aol.com, www.ncgrla.com.

Sacramento Area Chapter
Linda Byrd, President, 916-721-4838,
info@ncgrsacramento.org,
www.ncgrsacramento.org.

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
Cathy Coleman, President,
ccoleman829@gmail.com,
ncgrsanfrancisco.org.

San Diego Chapter
Tina Miles, President,
president@ncgrsandiego.org,
760-271-6777; Kelly O'Tillery,
publicity@ncgrsandiego.org,
760-533-8618;
www.ncgrsandiego.org.

COLORADO

Rocky Mountain Chapter (Denver)
Jill Pitts, President,
Theastrodancer@yahoo.com.

FLORIDA

Florida Atlantic Chapter
Mimi Alonso, President, 954-296-1211,
mysticmimi@gmail.com; Trish Vidal,
954-249-7620, justtrish@msn.com,
www.astrologyfla.com.

ILLINOIS

Northern Illinois Chapter
Janet Berres, President, 847-965-9916,
janetberres@gmail.com,
www.chicagolandastrology.com.

MARYLAND

Annapolis Chapter
Lynn Koiner, President, 301-589-2074,
koiner@starpower.net; Linda
Furiate, lmfuriate@verizon.net.

Baltimore Chapter

Eliza Graney, President,
elizakgraney@gmail.com,
www.baltimoreastrology.org.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston Chapter
Joyce Levine, President,
joycel@joycelevine.com, 617-354-7075,
www.ncgrbostonastrology.org.

MICHIGAN

**NCGR Southeast Michigan
Astrologers' Research Round Table**
Elizabeth Hazel, President,
419-242-1696;
Sue Bacon, smart2010@gmail.com.

MINNESOTA

Minnesota Stars Chapter
Linda Michaels-Laine,
President, 612-281-5462,
linda@energeticfoundations.com,
Linda Fei, 651-698-1691,
www.mnstars.org.

NEVADA

Las Vegas Stargazers Chapter
Carol Dimitrov, President,
cadimitrov@aol.com,
Lasvegasstargazers@yahoo.com,
702-286-3325, www.facebook.com
NcgrLasVegas Stargazers.

NEW JERSEY

Northern New Jersey Chapter
Joanne Castro, President, 908-418-0365,
Jocat0413@aol.com,
Jackie Slevin, 973-744-5347,
jcslevin@verizon.net.

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico Enchantment Chapter
Sandy Bryan, President,
505-255-5001; sstars@thuntek.net,
www.swcp.com/~nmncgr,

NEW YORK

Long Island Chapter
Bonnie Simms, President,
bringlite@aol.com, Robert Blumberg,
robb1225@gmail.com,
www.lincgr.com.

Mid-Hudson Upstate Chapter

Nancy Sorvino, President, 845-549-6558, voyager07@optonline.net, www.midhudsonupstatencgr.net.

New York City Chapter

John Marchesella, President, astrojohn@earthlink.net, NCGR Hotline: 212-255-3236. www.astrologynyc.org.

NORTH CAROLINA

Network Triangle Raleigh-Durham Chapter

Elizabeth Wilson, President, 919-602-6507, TWilson851@aol.com, www.ntastrology.org.

OHIO

Ohio Valley Chapter

Sandie Friedrich, President, SandieNCGR@gmail.com, www.ncgrohiovalley.org.

OREGON

Southern Oregon Chapter

Mary Plumb, President, 541-488-3048, mary@maryplumb.com, Doug Kellogg, 541-482-8988, www.astrologyinashland.org.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia Chapter

Ellen Zucker, President, info@ncgrphilly.com, www.ncgrphilly.com, 267-992-8019.

TEXAS

Gulf Coast Chapter (Houston)

Jagdish Maheshri, President, jmaheshri@astroinsight.com.

VIRGINIA

Richmond Chapter

Kathryn Berlekamp, President, farouche3@juno.com, Cheryl Hopkins, ncgrrichmondva@gmail.com.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee Chapter

Nancy K. Simpson, President, nksimpson@wi.rr.com, 414-339-5428, Maria DeSpears, rigel@earthlink.net, 414-384-4954.

JAPAN

Tokyo Chapter

Terumi Kondo, President, tk_ncgr@yahoo.co.jp, tel. 81-90-7823-6159, www.astrology.jp.

MEXICO

AstroMéxico Chapter

Mónica Escalante-Ochoa, President, 525 651-6598, astromonica@yahoo.com; www.astromexico.com

Mexico City Chapter

Cecilia Ortiz Bullé Goyri, President, cmig@gmail.com, facebook.com/astrocmig, www.cmig-astro.org.

TAIWAN

Taiwan Chapter

Shibata Maki, President, president@tw.ncgr.asia, Minna Chuang, execsec@tw.ncgr.asia, http://tw.ncgr.asia/events.

THAILAND

Thailand Chapter

Winai Ouypornprasert, President, 662-935-4252; buddhaluck2002@yahoo.com.

TURKEY

Turkey Chapter

Baris Ilhan, President, barisilhan@superonline.com, www.ncgrturkey.com.



SIGS (Special Interest Groups)

AST SIG (Asteroids)

Dave Campbell, President
623-463-6286,
theastrologystore@gmail.com,
www.geocosmic.org/astsig.

URANIAN SOCIETY SIG (Uranian/Cosmobiology)

Liane Thomas Wade, President
917-855-8824, liane@panix.com,
www.uradiansociety.com.

DECL SIG (Declination).

Nelda L. Tanner, President,
PO Box 153, Chino Valley, AZ
86323.

NCGR NATIONAL CONFERENCE

February 16-20, 2017 • Baltimore, MD

THE MANY FACES OF ASTROLOGY

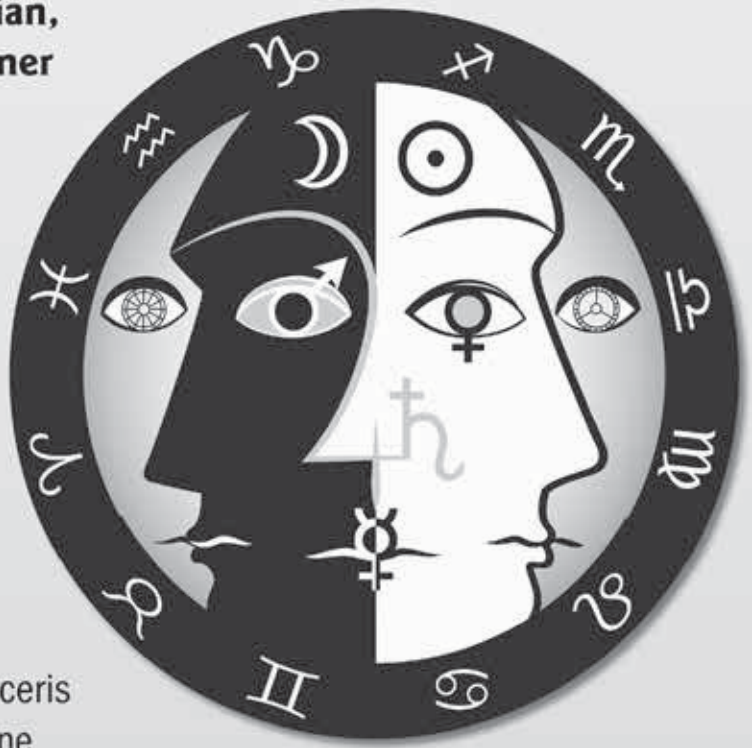
At the HYATT REGENCY HOTEL on the Harbor

Workshops & seminars with

**Robert Hand, Lynn Bell, Bill Meridian,
Demetra George, & Christeen Skinner**

Speakers include:

Kathy Allan • Janet Berres
Chris Brennan • Gary Caton
Gary Christen • David Cochrane
Ronnie Gale Dreyer • Meira Epstein
Monica Escalante • Maurice Fernandez
Peter Gadek • Adam Gainsburg
Eliza Graney • Margaret Gray
Kitty Hatcher • Madalyn Hillis-Dineen
Baris Ilhan • Ken Irving • Kirk Kahn
Brad Kochunas • Lynn Koiner • Misty Kuceris
Alphee Lavoie • Joyce Levine • Rick Levine
Mitchell Lewis • Michael Lutin • Jagdish Maheshri
Eileen McCabe • Ken McGhee • Nadia Mierau • Susan Miller
Grace K. Morris • Jeanne Mozier • Laura Nalbandian • Chris Nemec • Arlene Nimark
Shawn Nygaard • Winai Ouypornprasert • Kate Perry • Victoria Peltz-Smoot
David Perloff • Jose Manuel Redondo • Christopher Renstrom • Kate Rusko
Leisa Schaim • Sandra-Leigh Serio • Nadiya Shah • Gene Shaw • Maria Kay Simms
Jackie Slevin • Gaia Somasca • Ursula Stockder • Kelly Surtees • Kira Sutherland
Ian Waisler • Patricia Walsh • Leigh Westin



- Pre-Conference Seminars • Pre & Post-Conference Workshops
- Lectures and more...



Register today at ncgrconference2017.com