

# THE ASTROLOGER'S APPRENTICE

*THE TRADITION AS IT LIVES*

Issue 8.

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**“Death & The Devil” Issue**

## THE ASTROLOGER'S APPRENTICE

Prospective contributors are advised to write or phone first with an outline of their projected article. They should bear in mind that The Apprentice's bias is towards sound traditional practice. Some charts have a crystalline beauty all their own; we would generally, however, prefer to see charts that illustrate or elucidate some particular point of technique.

All submissions should be accompanied by an SAE; while due care will be taken, we cannot guarantee their return. Articles are submitted gratuitously.

The Astrologer's Apprentice is edited by John Frawley QHP  
Write to: 85, Steeds Road, London N10 1JB  
Phone: 0181.365.2553  
E-mail: j@apprentice.demon.co.uk

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## LILLY'S COTTAGE

Lilly's Cottage, where William Lilly was born and raised, is a beautiful timber-framed thatched cottage, little altered since his days of occupancy. It sits in a large, idyllic country garden in the picturesque village of Diseworth, Leicestershire, in the middle of England.

This property has now come onto the market and 'The Traditional Astrologer', the Astrological Association and the Urania Trust are launching an appeal to raise funds to buy the property and found a museum and heritage centre. The building offers potential as a centrally-based focus of astrology. One of the long-term aims of the project is to create an extensive library servicing mail-order loans as well as allowing access to valuable, historical works. Our vision is that the building would be an astrological 'retreat' where students and scholars could visit for quiet relaxation and inspiration in this historic setting, as well as a centre for workshops and seminars.

The house is for sale at £350,000. If we are to act we must do so quickly. You can play your part by giving this your serious attention now. Please don't wait: by then it will be too late. To proceed we need your immediate action. Every astrologer has surely felt some debt to astrology. If you've experienced this yourself, please see this as a once in a life-time chance to give something back to astrology.

The AA and the UT have indicated a generous intention to invest in this project if we can gain appropriate support. We have a large target to reach in a short time, so our appeal for donations is urgent. Our hope is that some financially-blessed astrologers will donate large sums of capital - so if you are wealthy, do remember that it would take only 350 astrologers to donate £1000, or 35 to offer £10,000 for the full purchase price to be raised. But we are not interested only in large amounts: every contribution, large or small, makes a statement that we value what astrology has given us and wish to give something back.

Rather than sending donations now, we suggest you make a pledge that we will utilise if the appeal is successful, or send a cheque or credit card authorisation which will be cashed only once we know that this project has the backing it needs. All money sent will be used only for this purpose; cheques should be made out to 'The Lilly Trust'.

Write to: 'The Lilly Trust' c/o Deborah Houlding, 3 Avondale Bungalows, Sherwood Hall Road, Mansfield, Notts., NG18 2NJ, England. Tel:+44(0)1623.634012, Email: 101572.1131@compuserve.com, Fax: +44(0)1623.422676. Details are available on the Web at: <http://astrology-world.com/lilly.html>

## ME AND THE DEVIL

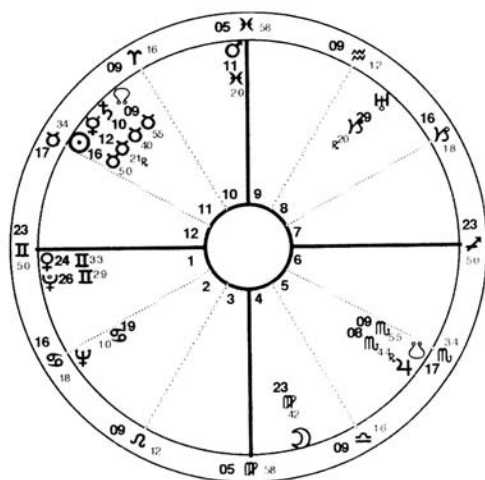
One moonlit night, the story goes, a wandering blues singer of limited musical ability went down to a Mississippi crossroads to seal a pact with the Devil. In return for his soul, the Devil gave the young lad a galvanic guitar technique to match his driven vocal style. This new-found skill brought him local notoriety; he recorded a few songs, one of which achieved minor success; he was granted national exposure at the Carnegie Hall. But before he could make the appearance that would have transformed popular music, the Devil collected his due. Nonetheless, the influence of Robert Johnson on blues and rock, by direct line of transmission and through his recorded legacy, can be equalled by few.

So what really happened? Maybe we can find some evidence in the stars. Even if not, it might be fun to try.

Johnson was born on May 8th, 1911, probably in Hazlehurst Mississippi, or at least, somewhere thereabouts. Time is unknown; the chart given is a rough attempt at rectification, based primarily on appearance. The few surviving photographs, which are probably of him, show a man of extreme mercurial build; the particular quality of his voice makes it difficult to imagine him otherwise. This gives us Gemini or Virgo Ascendant. Mercury is combust, so we have to find a way to give it some strength. If we choose a Gemini Ascendant, we can have



Venus, with which Mercury has mutual reception, rising, while dignified Mars, exalting Venus and sextile Mercury, is angular. An emphasised contact between Venus (music) and Mercury (dexterity) is



Robert Johnson  
 May 8 1911 7.30am LMT  
 Hazlehurst, Mississippi

recurrent in musicians' charts.

The paucity of known facts about his life suits someone with the Lord of the Ascendant combust, and therefore hidden. This, the double-bodied sign rising and Neptune close to the second cusp reflect that much of this obscuring fog derives from his having had more surnames than any one person has a right to. With the Lord of the fourth combust and opposed to the Lord of the tenth we can begin to see some of the familial tangle from which this resulted. It was not until he was aged seventeen that Johnson learned of his true father, Noah Johnson (Lord fourth combust) and took his surname.

While Pluto rising shows his intensity, Venus on the Ascendant in mutual reception with its lord indicates his evident attractiveness to women. The peregrine Moon on the Ascendant/Descendant midpoint that this chart provides, however, suggests that his relations with them were not noted for their tranquillity. With the ruler of the seventh conjunct the South Node and retrograde, opposed to a conjunction of Saturn and the debilitated Lord of the Ascendant, we should not be surprised to learn of his reputation for mistreating them. This chart would put the Part of the Marriage Partner - referring, of course, to any partner, not just one to whom he was legally wed - at 9 Leo, exactly square the Nodes and squaring the opposition between Mercury/Saturn and Jupiter. The Sun, dispositor of the Part of the Marriage Partner, not only combusts, and hence destroys, Mercury, but also exactly trines the eighth cusp: accounts of his death differ in detail but agree that he was poisoned either by or on account of a girlfriend. The star Lesath on the seventh cusp is traditionally connected with poison. The Part of Marriage falls exactly on it. We have a chart which seems at least plausible.

#### *Went Down to the Crossroads*

The legend seems to have started with Son House, one of the main performers in the local music scene. Johnson had been a competent enough harmonica player, but a poor guitarist. He was a wanderer, and

at some time between 1930 and 1933, his guitar technique advanced dramatically during a brief absence from home, leading House to remark that “he sold his soul to the Devil to play like that.” Like all blues singers, House was noted for his understated manner and eschewing of dramatic effect, so we may take this as literal truth.

Son House abandoned music while still young, emerging from obscurity only shortly before he died. Many of his recordings are very mellifluous; others give as close an aural picture of Pluto as we are ever likely to hear. Had the influence that Robert Johnson exerted been his, we may wonder whether rock music might not indeed have become the terrifying beast that it has always pretended to be.

Attempts to date any event in the history of the blues disappear rapidly into an all-consuming fog, its practitioners seemingly inhabiting some aboriginal dream-time where dates do not exist, and places and even people merge or duplicate themselves by laws unknown. That said, the probable date for Johnson’s educational walkabout is in late 1930; by early the next year he already seems to be developing a local reputation.

Before searching for a more accurate time, however, we need to know something more about what may have happened. Seeking to locate the Devil in a chart, the modern astrologer will doubtless turn to Pluto; as traditionalists, our first thought is of Saturn. But if Johnson wishes to play guitar, he needs to do business with a devil who has guitar-playing in his gift; grumpy old Saturn most definitely does not. We must look to the ruler of virtuosity and facility: Mercury. Far from being the cosmic cheeky chappie with which we are familiar, a kind of articulate Norman Wisdom, Mercury has its dark side, most familiar perhaps as Loki, or the malevolent trickster figures of other mythologies. Mercury is absolutely amoral; it matters not to him whether he serves dark or light. This amorality will often be perceived as deliberate evil, although the modern slaves of Mercury look up from their microscopes to assure us that they are just foolish.

Mercury’s local incarnation in Hazlehurst Mississippi is Legba. In time of trouble or desire, the adherent will travel to the crossroads that is Legba’s haunt to leave some suitable offering in return for the favour asked. Usually, the offering will be sweets or toys; in times of utter desperation, something stronger. Towards the end of 1930, Johnson’s wife died in childbed, so then, if ever, we might suspect him of desperate means. Legba, however, true to his Mercury nature, is a tricky character; he who sups with him is well advised to take a long spoon. Often the gift bestowed will be the reverse of what was requested, or will be given with an unintended and unfortunate literalness. The wise supplicant may well ask for the opposite of his

desire. Perhaps Johnson, poisoned, apparently through jealousy, while performing his repertoire of Carry-On double entendres took too short a spoon.

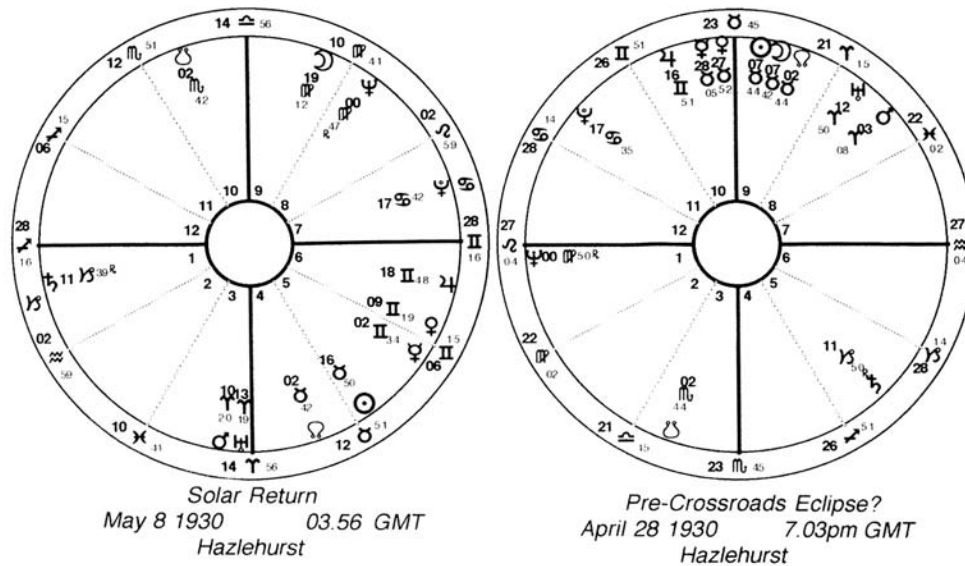
Returning to the nativity, we find the Lord of the Ascendant conjunct Saturn and Venus conjunct Pluto, either of which gives us 'me and the Devil, walking side by side.' The Part of Fame falls at 25 Pisces, and so is disposed by Jupiter. Mars, prominent in the Midheaven, is in close aspect and mutual reception with Jupiter. If we cast a composite between Johnson's 1930 Solar Return and his nativity - ie what effect will the return have on his life? - Mars is exactly on the Ascendant, 25 Pisces, suggesting, as we relate back to the nativity with the invaluable help of hindsight, that he is about to take some decisive action in pursuit of fame. (We see other testimonies supporting this, such as transiting Uranus reaching the Part of Fame of his prenatal eclipse. Progressed Mars also falls at 25 Pisces).

This prominent Mars, which also exactly aspects his natal Mercury/Saturn conjunction, is, among other things, significator of 'the King's gift', the eleventh house; that is, of what the native will receive from higher powers. So who is the King? Lord of the tenth, Jupiter. But opposing Saturn, retrograde and conjunct the South Node, we might suspect that this king means him no good. Particularly as it is, by antiscion, exactly opposite the Part of Murder and Violence. As this emphasis falls on his Part of Fame, he undergoes a kind of rebirth, as his progressed Moon catches his progressed Sun, giving a personal New Moon. This falls at 5 Gemini, on his natal Sun/Ascendant midpoint: the achievement of recognition or, perhaps more relevantly, the *desire* to



a c h i e v  
recognition. And he was in the right place to do so, for in the chart for the eclipse of April 28th, 1930, cast for Hazlehurst, this degree is the Jupiter / M C midpoint attainment of success and presents from the gods. The debility of Jupiter in both



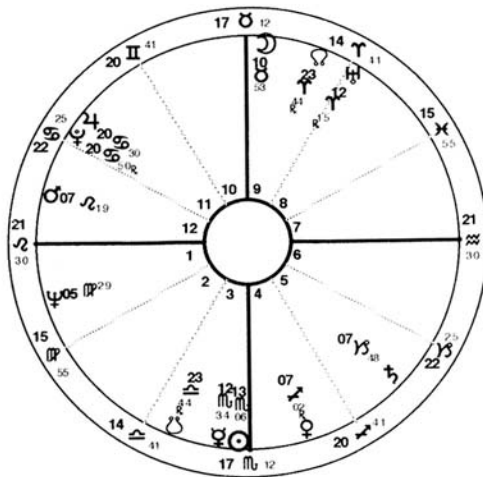


his nativity and the eclipse chart repeats the suggestion that this gift is from a dubious source.

In his *Annus Tenebrosus*, reviewed elsewhere in this issue, Lilly says that a solar eclipse in the first decanate of Taurus ‘compels men to undertake unnecessary businesses’. This will be the same the world over; the particular unnecessary businesses happening under the influence of this eclipse in Hazlehurst, Mississippi will be shown by the angles. The midpoint of the eclipse and the Ascendant in this chart falls on the Jupiter/Pluto midpoint, for which Ebertin gives: ‘the striving for the development of power either in the purely spiritual and mental spheres or the material sphere...successful use of extraordinary physical or mental powers, the creation of magical effects.’ With Jupiter debilitated (specifically, it must be noted, dispossited by Mercury), this will have a malign significance.

The ruler of the eclipse, Venus, is already getting into dubious company with Mercury, their close conjunction squaring the Ascendant, on which falls the antiscion of the nodes. The conjunction is on the midpoint of the eclipse and debilitated Jupiter, Lord of the fifth house of music and entertainment, which is afflicted by retrograde Saturn in close square to Uranus. Their midpoint falls on the Descendant. We have enough evidence here to explain the birth of a tormented musicality, and more than a whiff of brimstone.

With the eclipse of April 1930 on the fixed star Hamal, indicative



*The Meeting?  
Nov 6 1930      Midnight  
Hazlehurst*

of 'evil associates' we should not be surprised to see anyone influenced by it falling into bad company. It is tempting to see the fixed angles of this eclipse as the crossroads in question, and who do we find loitering with intent but Venus and Mercury, at once the usual signature of musical facility and also, perhaps, music and Legba. On Johnson's natal Moon/Uranus, this might find unusual things happening to his soul. The eclipse opposes his natal Jupiter, Lord of his MC and dispositor of his Part of Fame, and falls by antiscion on his Part of Violence.

In the gospel according to Hammer Films, one sells ones soul at the Full Moon, so we need a Full

Moon within the bounds of this eclipse, preferably late in the year. That of November 6th seems most promising. Exactitude was a couple of hours before dawn; we might expect that Legba opened for business at midnight.

Exactitude gives us an interesting conjunction of exalted Jupiter and Pluto exactly on the local Midheaven; midnight puts Johnson's natal Sun on the MC. With either, we have the lunation picking up his powerful natal opposition of Jupiter and Node/Saturn/Mercury/Sun. At midnight, the transiting Moon has just separated from conjunct his natal Saturn and applies immediately to his Mercury, which we might see as translating light from the dispositor of his Part of Spirit to Legba. Transiting Moon also applies immediately to oppose transiting Mercury, which is exactly opposite its place in Johnson's nativity. The Moon on the natal Mercury/Node indicates 'the arrangement of business contracts', while lunation Mercury on Alphecca is one of many indications of the artistic ability bestowed.

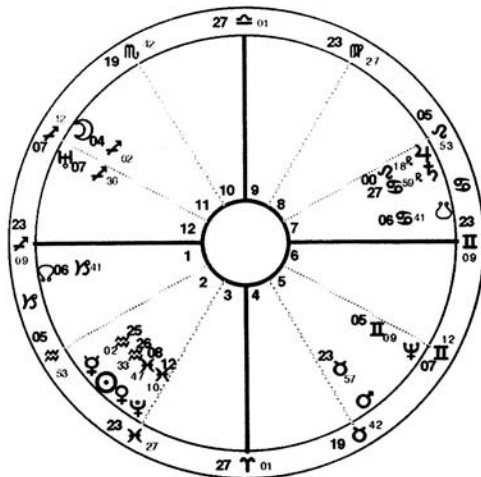
Two thousand years earlier, Moschus wrote Johnson's epitaph: "Poison came to thy mouth, thou didst know poison. To such lips as thine did it come, and was not sweetened? What mortal was so cruel that could mix poison for thee, or who could give thee the venom that heard thy voice? Surely he had no music in his soul."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>: Thanks to Voodoo Queen Louise Hutson for her assistance on this article

*Come, you spirits that tend on mortal thoughts...*

The deliberate recreation of Man's first disobedience is a story with perennial fascination. Its most familiar modern form is the Faustus myth. Documented stories based around Faustus date from the early sixteenth century. If, as seems probable, he really existed, he may have died in the 1540s. Various lurid accounts of his activities were published 'as a friendly warning to all arrogant, insolent-minded and godless men'. Then, probably in late 1592, Christopher Marlowe - one of the most arrogant, insolent-minded and godless of men - poured his troubled soul into the legend, aspiring and achieving far beyond his apparent capacity in a drama that still sears the stage. A few months later he was dead, probably murdered to prevent him telling of magical and political misdeeds among the great and good.

The key to Marlowe's particular talent must be the square from Mars to the conjunction of Sun and Mercury, all three debilitated, showing the inherent lack of power fuelling the insatiable lust for power that drives his characters. The mutual reception between Mars and Venus, by far the strongest planet in the chart and falling on the midpoint of Mars and the Ascendant, gives the possibility of artistic expression to this drive. His Part of Fame on Procyon suggests that he will be known for 'sudden and violent malevolence, sudden preferment by exertion, elevation ending in disaster', while the opposition from its dispositor to Neptune keeps these traits in a world of illusion rather than daily life. Mars afflicting Sun is especially obvious in his conclusion to Faustus:



Christopher Marlowe  
Feb 6 1564 4am LMT  
Canterbury



Believed to be Christopher  
Marlowe

*Cut is the branch that might have grown full straight.  
And burned is Apollo's laurel bough...*

The Part of Death at 24 Leo forms a T-square with Mars and the Sun/Mercury; how appropriate that this is on Regulus, death and aspiration seemingly inseparable in Marlowe's mind.

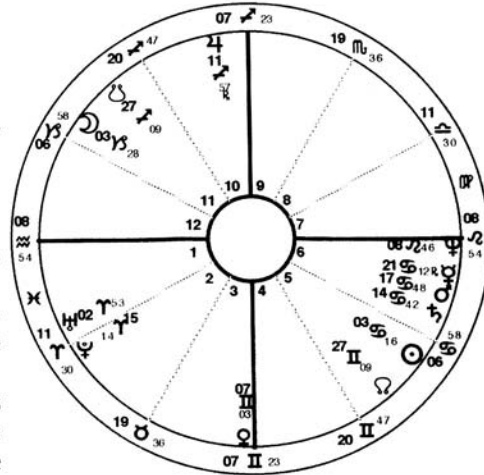
From the nativity we might expect to find some indication of why it was in Faustus, rather than Dido, or Tamburlaine, or Edward II that Marlowe's talents found their finest expression. As Faustus is recreating the Fall, the positions of the planets when that happened may be relevant: that is, in their exaltation degrees. The Sun is exalted at 19 Aries, Marlowe's Mars/Pluto midpoint: 'an upset or shock caused through the intervention of Higher Power'. The Moon's exaltation degree at 3 Taurus is by antiscion directly opposed his Sun. His own Sun/Moon is on the exaltation of Jupiter. Mars/Node falls on Mercury. Venus, ruler of his tenth, and Neptune have their midpoint - dreams or illusions of achievement - on the exaltation of Saturn. All these points have specific meanings pertinent to the argument; but it is not so much these exact meanings that are important as the fact that these points, each of them associated with his personal creative drive, show a chart so closely engaged with the chart for the Creation and Fall. Thence the impression that Marlowe put into Faustus all that he had to give.

Dating the play with certainty is impossible: it was probably first performed late in 1592; it was probably completed shortly before production; it was probably written over a short space of time. This points to the eclipse of June 24th, 1592 as the trigger which released the potential in Marlowe's nativity. According to Lilly, a lunar eclipse in the first decanate of Capricorn 'declares an untimely death unto some Person of worth'. The ruler of the eclipse is Saturn, but Jupiter first commands attention: the most elevated planet and the only planet with any strength. It falls on Sabik, a star indicative of 'perverted morals and success in evil deeds'; the high aspirations that we might expect of Jupiter in Sagittarius being themselves perverted by retrogradation. By antiscion, this opposes Marlowe's Part of Fame. The Lord of the Eclipse on Castor gives 'sudden fame and honour but often followed by loss of fortune and disgrace', while Mars, which is also emphasised as the Moon, the relevant luminary, is in strong mutual reception with him as well as with Saturn, falling on the other twin star, Pollux, repeats the same message: 'high position but final ruin'.

This conjunction of Mars and Saturn to which the eclipse points, close to opposition with eclipse Jupiter by antiscion, falls on the exaltation degree of Jupiter, which we have seen as one of Marlowe's points of engagement with the idea of the Fall. Exalted Jupiter, of course, in our fallen world suggests overweening pride, aspiration beyond

bounds; Faustus is offered the chance to be 'on Earth as Jove is in the sky'. With eclipse Pluto on the antiscion of Mercury's exaltation, we see the combination of Mercurial means and Plutonic ends in his conviction that 'A sound magician is a demi-god'; falling on Marlowe's Sun/Neptune, this becomes (Ebertin) 'a tragic illusion', involving (eclipse on Marlowe's Pluto/MC) 'sudden ruin through the misuse of power'.

The eclipse before someone's birth is like a consignment of seeds: nothing can be planted in the nativity that has not been delivered in the eclipse. An eclipse after someone's birth is like a shower of rain: it makes things grow; but what will grow from any given nativity depends on the seeds that have been sown at birth. The close relationship of Moon and Saturn in the eclipse can work in many ways; falling on a chart with that potential, it will nurture ideas of selling the soul (Moon) to the Devil (Saturn), in this case for Jupiterian aims. We are not seeking Legba here: Faustus wanted rather more than musical virtuosity - a confused mix of wisdom (Saturn) and power (Jupiter); part of the tragedy being that one product of wisdom is the realisation that selling ones soul is not a smart idea. As Moon/Saturn, with its Jupiterian involvement, is such a keynote in this eclipse, it is not surprising that their midpoint falls on the midpoint of Marlowe's Mars and Sun/Mercury, which we have seen as the wellspring of his creative drive.



Pre-Faustus Eclipse  
June 24 1592 10.10pm GMT  
London

*Stand still, you ever-moving spheres of heaven,  
That time may cease, and midnight never come;*

Faustus begs. From the charts, we can well see why. Advance Marlowe's nativity to midnight and his Part of Death reaches the Midheaven. Advance the eclipse chart to midnight and the Part of Death exactly opposes Marlowe's own, while Facies, portending violent death, sits on the MC. With Pluto on the point of rising, we have the stage direction 'enter Devils'. Faustus pleads,

*You stars that reigned at my nativity,  
Whose influence hath allotted death and hell,*

*Now draw up Faustus like a foggy mist  
Into the entrails of yon labouring cloud,*

for he can see Neptune, so strongly angular at the eclipse and exactly on the MC in Marlowe's 1592 Solar Return: perhaps it was all an illusion. But no; Neptune cannot rescue him.

In his desperation, he attempts to jettison half of the fatal square in the nativity: Mars/Mercury must go.

*I'll burn my books!*

- almost his final words. But not enough; Mars/Sun must have its due; Apollo's laurel bough itself must be consumed, that Faustus' hellish fall

*may exhort the wise*

*Only to wonder at unlawful things,*

*Whose deepness doth entice such forward wits*

*To practise more than heavenly power permits.*

—————

## OF THE SPACE OF LIFE

Astrologers of modern bent, skipping gaily through the sun-lit meadows of Greeneland, pausing in their play only to juggle a few biquintiles or graze on an archetype or two, are prone to regard us students of the traditional school as the sadly deranged relatives of the astrological family, who should be kept locked away in the North Tower of Horoscope Castle lest our macabre fascination with death frighten away those unsuspecting members of the public who have wandered into the grounds. And we must confess, they do have a point; for in our dark and archaic world some people do indeed die.

Our modern brethren inform us that since the arrival of the true Messiah, Carl Jung, death is no more; death having been abolished, people now undergo 'transformative experiences' instead, being translated onto that other plane about which so many people today are evidently able to write with such expert knowledge. Blinded by ignorance and superstition as we are, however, we stick to our belief in death; and as this is an event of considerable significance in the life, it seems only reasonable that we should direct some attention towards it.

In the past, the prediction of death was an essential preliminary to the judging of the natal chart. As the judgement of nativities today seems so often to involve little more than the intense mutual contemplation of the client's navel, it is not difficult to understand why

this is no longer considered so. But judging the nativity by traditional means we are concerned with making specific predictions, and there is little point in predicting true love, fame and riches for a native who will be dead ten years before any of these seeds bear fruit.

The typical modern text-book tells the student in no uncertain terms that the one thing he must never, ever do is to suggest to his client that they might one day die. This is in the most striking contrast to Ptolemy's statement that "The consideration of the length of life takes the leading place among inquiries about events following birth, for, as the ancient says, it is ridiculous to attach particular predictions to one who, by the constitution of the years of his life, will never attain at all to the time of the predicted events;" a contrast the more puzzling as a prediction of death is the one judgement an astrologer can make which is sooner or later certain to be correct. "Never say something which might upset the client."



*The traditional astrologer  
researches*

Now that death has been abolished, the modern astrologer finds a gaping hole in his chart where the eighth house stands. To fill this void, sex has been made into an eighth house matter, though we might suggest that an even more urgent warning to the student would be "Never get involved with anyone who regards sex as an eighth house issue!" As any study of the ancients makes clear, the only occasion when sex becomes an eighth house matter is when the native insists on a cigarette afterwards.

Much is made of the Elizabethan poets' usage of 'die' as a euphemism for orgasm to point a connection between sex and death. This emphasis and the conclusions drawn from it do suggest a rather shaky understanding of the concept of metaphor: in case our gentle reader is in any doubt, the bedrooms of Elizabethan England were not filled with the corpses of decaying poets. The literalist who decided this was evidence for eighth house sex was later arrested breaking into a chicken-farm in search of a good lay.

The difficulty with predicting death is that from our point of view, it is a total stop. The end. We would expect the heavens to observe at least a minute's silence, but they don't; they just keep ploughing on: the wheel still revolving with the hamster no longer in it. We can calculate our Solar Returns and directions for a hundred or two hundred years hence; unfortunately, this doesn't mean that we shall be here to enjoy them. As Ptolemy suggests, the movement of which, in our arrogance, we assume the birth-chart is the beginning just keeps on flowing, like the scenery that continues to flash by on an arcade-game, regardless of whether Super-Mario is still running through it or not. Regrettable as it is, we do not find a moment where 'Game Over' flashes up on our chart.

The tradition has tried to identify such a moment: one clear, incontrovertible sign that this is it. We must conclude that the tradition has failed.

The tradition is built on the shoulders of Claudius Ptolemy. There is no rival to his position as most influential astrological writer ever. Before examining the principles which he has described, we should consider his value.

Ptolemy lived in the second century AD in Alexandria, at that time the hub of the intellectual world. He was an encyclopaedist, making a fair stab at recording all that was to be known. His works included what were to become the standard texts on both astronomy and astrology. His work on astrology, known as the *Tetrabiblos*, has until this century been the touch-stone against which most astrological work was tried. Every now and again an ardent fundamentalist would arise, insisting that our science be swept clean of its accumulated grime and restored to its pristine Ptolemaic splendour.

For all his influence, there is doubt over his value. There is no evidence to suggest that he ever cast a horoscope in his life; this is not,





of course, to say that he could not have accurately recorded current practice of how to do so. He stands accused of deliberately falsifying astronomical data: in his *The Crime of Claudius Ptolemy* Robert R Newton concludes, "All of his own observations that Ptolemy uses in the *Syntaxis* (*Almagest*) are fraudulent, so far as we can test them. Many of the observations that he attributes to other astronomers are also frauds that he has committed. His work is riddled with theoretical errors and with failures of comprehension...His models of the Moon and Mercury conflict violently with elementary observation and must thus be counted as failures. His writing of the *Syntaxis* has caused us to lose much of the genuine work in Greek astronomy."<sup>2</sup> The jury is still out and is unlikely ever to return a verdict, but there is a strong case to answer. This means we must, at the very least, keep our wits about us as we study his astrological work.

Indeed, much in the *Tetrabiblos* - his theory of why particular planets rule each triplicity, for instance - reads like a man groping to make sense out of something that has been handed down to him and is quite beyond his comprehension. Groping without much success.

There is a school of thought, reminiscent of the Pre-Raphaelites, that turns its eyes resolutely to that Golden Age before Ptolemy sullied the pure well-spring that was Hellenistic astrology. Again, there is a case to answer; though we must suspect that the greatest advantage of pre-Ptolemaic astrology is that records of it are sufficiently patchy that we can recreate it in our own image, which is indeed a fine thing. Only the most jaundiced, however, could deny the achievement in both intellectual structure and result of the tradition which is built on Ptolemy, no matter how faulty a foundation he might be.

The astrological and astronomical changes which he may have wrought are not perceptible without external reference; but no reader of the *Tetrabiblos* can fail to have been alarmed to find, after page on page of plausible text, a reference to, for example, women giving birth to cats. Yet, no matter how bizarre this might sound, we cannot allow this as evidence against him. As we do not share the benighted thought-processes of the scientists, we cannot assume that what does not happen now could not have happened then. In gullible mood, Ptolemy was very possibly relating groundless travellers' tales; fundamental to astrology, however, is the understanding that things change over time. The tradition tells us that life was once far less firmly rooted into the material than it is today. Forms were less solid, more flexible. The tradition tells us that Man and animals are different creations, and it is suggested that when forms were more fluid, it was possible for degenerate men to breed with animals. Monkeys and apes are the result

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<sup>2</sup> John Hopkins Univ Press 1977

of these unions - not our parents but our children. It is perfectly possible that Ptolemy was relating something still within the memory of the oral tradition; we may not agree, but we cannot dismiss.

It is in Ptolemy that we find the statement of calculation of hyleg that has been dutifully repeated down the centuries. We shall not go into the technique here, as it is readily available elsewhere, but it is, in principle, the selection of one planet or place in the chart which is the *hyleg*, or giver of life, and another planet which is the *anareta* or giver of death. Hyleg meets anareta, native dies. This is very elegant. Unfortunately, it doesn't work.

Lilly had no success with this technique, so abandoned the classical method for selecting hyleg and just took the Ascendant and its Lord. This too is unreliable. We cannot say that hyleg didn't work in the past, no matter how clear it is that it doesn't work today; perhaps in a less materially bound age the relationship between life and death was more straightforward. As we have previously discussed in articles on time and planetary hours, our sense of time is now so hopelessly out of joint that little of true nature can force itself into our experience.

We must also observe that the technique for selecting hyleg that we are given is designed to ensure that the planet concerned has at least some strength. This may be desirable, but is not necessarily correct. This desire recurs throughout the tradition: the desire to give a judgement which is not so much correct as pleasing. If the astrologer is in the employ of a king, this may be politic, but it is not good astrology. We see it clearly in the ancient instructions for selecting the Lord of the Year, or in the considerations before horary judgement. We must also remember that what was written down was not necessarily what was practised.

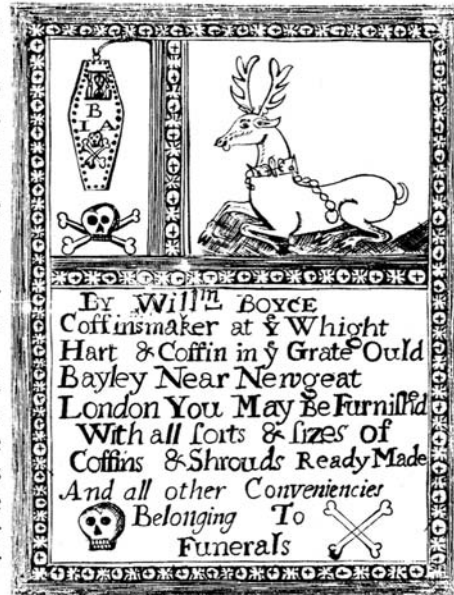
What seems to happen is that there are various sensitive places in the chart, notably the luminaries, the Ascendant and its Lord, and Fortuna. When by progression, transit and revolution we find sufficient number of sufficiently unpleasant things happening to these places, the native may die. If there is sufficient redeeming testimony, they won't; if there isn't, they will. Concentration on that planet which is technically the hyleg can be misleading: while we are watching that, the other points are being mugged behind our back and the native is dying without our permission. Concentration on what is technically the anareta seems quite groundless.

One or two testimonies alone, no matter how dire, will not have fatal consequence: we are looking for a whole pile of congruent indications, so our gentle reader should not be overly dismayed on finding that Chiron is about to perfect a biquintile with his natal Juno. For this reason, and to avoid tedious repetition, in the charts that follow

we have limited the techniques used. Converse progressions and transits; day to a month and day to a week progressions; critical days from revolutions; midpoints; all these and yet more methods will confirm our answer and provide further information; but death is an event of some moment - if it is not shown clearly by the major techniques it is not necessary to root around in others to find it.

Placidus houses and unprocessed revolutions seem to work rather better than the alternatives. Mundane as well as celestial aspects must be considered. Antiscia seem to occur in charts related to death rather more often than might be expected;

perhaps this has something to do with their nature as 'shadow' planets. Above all, consideration of the fixed stars is crucial. In the traditional cosmology, they are the gateway to the divine; we should not be surprised if they are most apparent as we pass through that gate.



#### *Celestial Astrology*

Why read Fletcher when we can turn back to Shakespeare? Why read any one of the great majority of astrological texts, old or new, when we can so much more profitably spend our time with Lilly? One of the few exceptions to this principle is John Worsdale's *Celestial Astrology*, a book which deserves the earnest attention of any serious student of our art.<sup>3</sup>

Worsdale practised 'Near the Cathedral, Lincoln' in the early decades of the last century, publishing his book around 1836. Of English writers, he esteems only Lilly and Partridge, whose works 'are of more value than all the others that have been published in this Kingdom', although he criticises Lilly's natal technique for his ignorance of the true method of computing directions and reliance on Regiomontanus rather than 'the correct division of the heavens by duplicate horary times', or Placidian house system. 'But,' he continues, 'if the industrious Students are disposed to purchase the works of other Authors, which are altogether a confused heap of rubbish, they are at liberty to do so, as

<sup>3</sup>: Available from Ascella Press, 3 Avondale Bungalows, Sherwood Hall Road, Mansfield, Notts, NG18 2NJ. Its date of 1798 is contradicted by the text.

Booksellers may always be found, who will be very ready and willing to supply their customers with works on Nativities, at enormous prices, if the deluded purchasers think proper to dispose of their cash for articles that are of no use, or value whatsoever.' Plus ca change.

The bulk of his treatise on 'Genethliacal Astronomy' ('in which the infinite Wisdom of the grand Architect of the Universe is so manifestly apparent in all his stupendous designs'), is a substantial series of worked nativities, with particular emphasis on the occurrence of serious illnesses, accidents and death. We shall examine in detail the sorry fate of young Joseph Kent, born in Liverpool on June 6th, 1817.

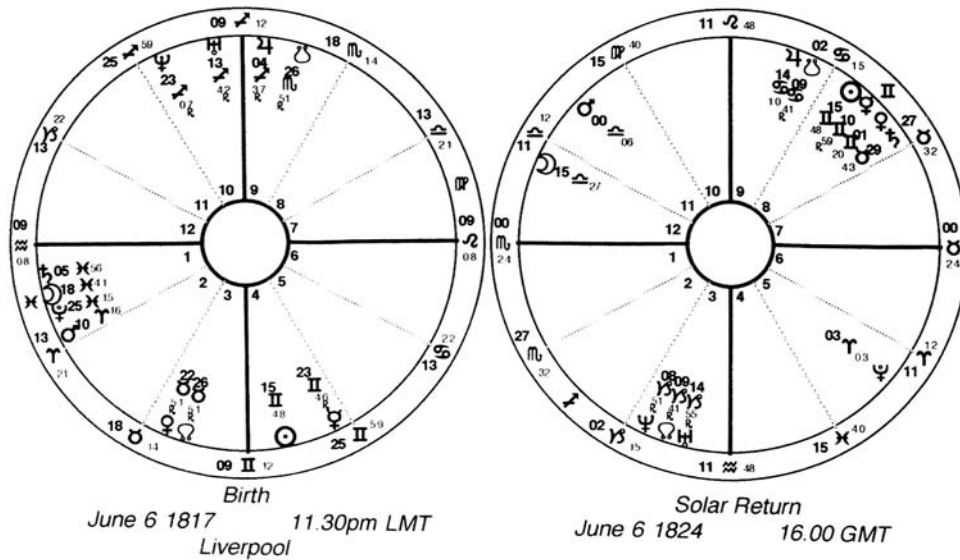
By 1824, Joseph and his parents were living in Lincoln. On July 12th, he failed to return home from school. The following morning, his parents asked Worsdale's opinion on whether the boy still lived. The judgement - from the nativity, not a horary - was that he had drowned, and that the river, which had been cursorily searched the previous day, should be explored with more care. The boy's body was duly recovered.

#### *The Nativity:*

A necessary preoccupation of astrologers until recently was determining whether the new-born infant would survive his first year of life. Given enough weakness and enough affliction in the birth-chart, the native will 'not be reared', *unless there is sufficient redeeming testimony*. A strong aspect from a well-placed benefic, for instance, will balance the darkest of charts. A violent chart that is yet strong enough to survive babyhood may still show an early death. It must be remembered, before our reader pulls out his own nativity and decides that he died in childhood, that the traditional reading of a nativity is as a series of promises: only the progressions and revolutions will tell if or when these promises will be kept.

Young Master Kent's birth-chart is not a happy one. The fixed star Armus on the Ascendant bestows, according to Robson, a nature disagreeable, contemptible, nagging, troublesome and contentious, while Antares, the Heart of the Scorpion, close to the MC can give give fortune but is more typically violently destructive. Worsdale takes the Moon as hyleg. This conjuncts Markab, a fixed star indicative of a violent death, and opposes Mars by antiscion. As the Part of Death falls at 20 Virgo, the Moon applies to oppose it and Mars conjuncts it by antiscion. Violent Mars, it must be remembered, rules the water triplicity - note also Mercury, dispositor of this Part of Death immediately applying retrograde to oppose Neptune.

Venus is ruler of the eighth. Despite its benefic nature, therefore, it is signifier of death: a benefic will kill you just as dead as Mars or Saturn. Retrograde and conjunct the most malefic of fixed stars, Caput



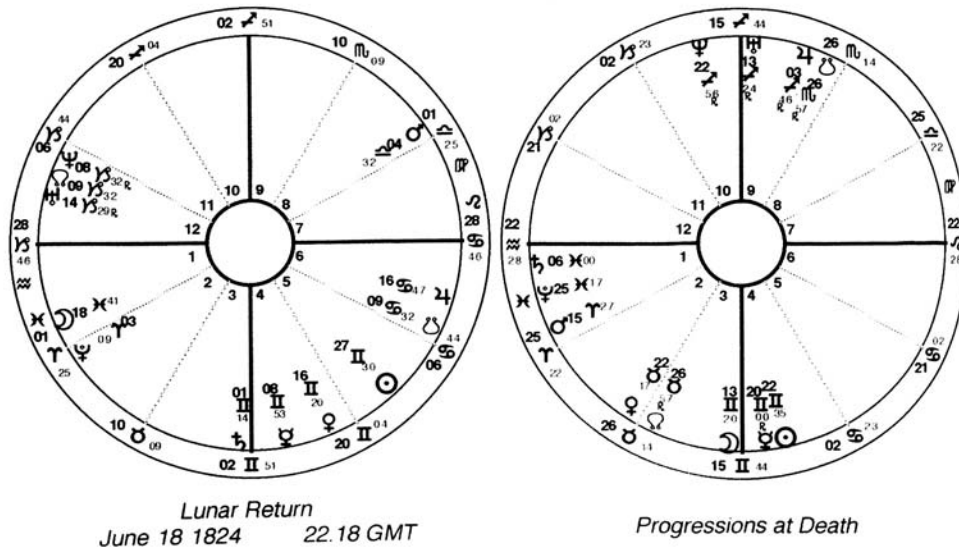
Algol, its close, mutually applying sextile to the Moon is ominous. Venus, which is approaching its station, also applies to oppose the Ascendant by antiscion, and is closely square the other Part of Death at 23 Leo.

Jupiter and Uranus are in mundane square to the Ascendant. Jupiter, which is of particular significance as it disposes the Moon, is heavily afflicted by close square from Saturn. With this list of afflictions, both the lights peregrine and the Lord of the Ascendant having dignity only by face, we have a very weak chart. It is probably only the dignity, albeit severely limited in both cases, of the dispositors of the lights and the rather distant angularity of the Ascendant ruler that took the boy as far as his eighth year.

*The Solar Return:*

With the revolution chart for June 1824, we see the seeds of the nativity sprouting into life. The Moon in a Solar Return chart is of utmost importance: Worsdale observes that it is in an unfortunate house, separating from opposition to the natal Mars and about to enter the Via Combusta. Jupiter squares the natal Mars and Mars itself applies to oppose its natal position. Although they are not in the same sign, he takes Venus as conjunct Saturn amid violent fixed stars - Prima Hyadum and Alcyone.

Worsdale, of course, did not know about Neptune, and makes no mention of Uranus - although rather longer had elapsed since its discovery than it has taken modern astrologers to become expert in the



ways of Chiron. The revolution shows a tight, mutually applying opposition between Jupiter and Uranus. The Moon, which is on the natal eighth cusp, makes this a T-square. Just separating from this square, it applies immediately to trine the (natal) Sun, carrying the malign influence of the Jupiter/Uranus opposition to the Sun. This contact is all the stronger as this opposition falls by antiscion exactly (2 minutes of arc) on the Sun, so activating the natal Sun/Uranus opposition.

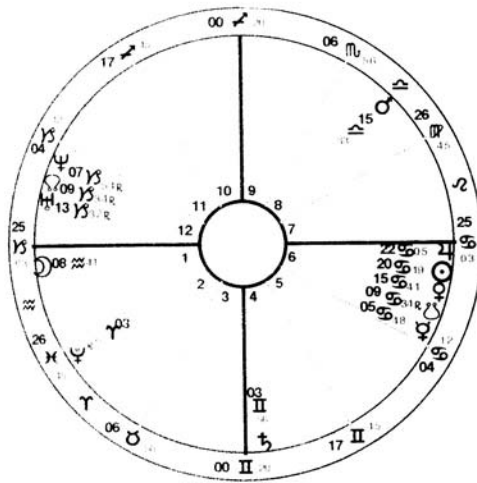
Jupiter is the Great Benefic, but in the context of the picture that is building here, this antiscial conjunction with the Sun is not fortunate. Charles Carter found Jupiter and Neptune to be of great importance in death charts, relating them to 'the actual liberation of soul from body'.<sup>4</sup> We have not found this so with Neptune, but Jupiter is discovered at the scene of death with incriminating frequency. More than ever here, as it falls on Wasat, a most malefic star giving 'violence, malevolence and destructiveness as a first principle.'

*The Lunar Return:*

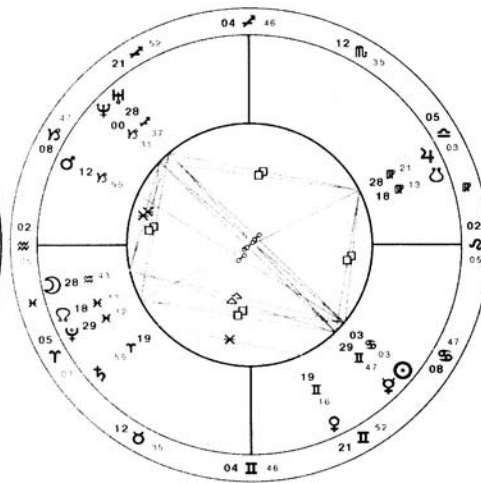
As the solar revolution indicates the year in which the fatal seeds will grow, the lunar return narrows us down to a month. We can then define the time further by casting charts for the critical days within that month, by classic medical theory.

Although a revolution must be read primarily in relation to the radix, with one malefic on the IC and the other just inside the eighth

<sup>4</sup> : Symbolic Directions in Modern Astrology, Theosophical Publishing House. 1929



Death Chart  
July 12 1824 8.30 pm LMT  
Lincoln



Composite: birth/death

house this stands alone as a difficult chart. As the Moon in a solar return, so the Sun in a lunar return is the key: here, it falls on the star Menkalinen, indicative of violent death.

Venus, which rules the eighth both here and in the nativity, afflicts both the natal lights, squaring the Moon and being just a degree past the natal Sun. Pluto fans will note that Mars, by antiscion, exactly conjuncts the natal Pluto. Pluto does not appear to play any great role in deaths, and, of course, astrologers managed to predict death before the discovery of either it or any other of the outer planets.

#### *The Progressions:*

Worsdale didn't like the conjunction of progressed Sun and progressed Mercury. Had he considered it, he would doubtless have liked the angular opposition of Moon and Uranus even less. He points out that the Moon conjuncts the natal Sun, squares the natal Moon and applies to aspect progressed Mars.

The Moon's progression to Rigel is most unfortunate. Lilly says 'it stirs up Saturnine, aged men against him', perhaps in consequence of his 'troublesome and contentious' nature. Progression from a natal conjunction with one violent malefic to a conjunction with another violent malefic is exactly the kind of trigger that is of such significance in traditional natal work, unleashing the promise of the nativity. The Sun too has progressed to a violent fixed star, Al Hecka, while progressed Mars, the watery malefic, sextiles the natal Sun. The Sun has

by now almost perfected the natal opposition to Neptune.

This progressed Mars is important: it is exactly opposed the solar return Moon. That is, progressed Mars turns the T-square in the revolution chart into an even more difficult Grand Cross involving both the lights, Mars, Jupiter and Uranus, all focussed around the natal eighth cusp.

Of perhaps even greater significance is the progression of the Ascendant to an exact square of natal Venus, ruler of the eighth and conjunct Caput Algol, and opposition to the natal part of Death.

#### *The Transits:*

We do not have an exact time of death. Worsdale must have taken a time around 8pm, as he notes the conjunction of the Sun, Venus and Jupiter in a watery sign just below the western horizon and conjunct the violent twin stars, Castor and Pollux (it is easy to gain the impression that it is impossible to place a planet anywhere in a chart where it is not on a violent fixed star, but these are necessarily unfortunate charts). They are squared Mars, which separates from opposed its natal position, while 'the giver of Life (the hyleg - Moon) was also near the radical Horizon, afflicted by the baneful stations of the Enemies.'

Transiting Moon squares the natal Part of Death and opposes natal Venus, ruler of death, both by antiscion; transiting Venus, again by antiscion, conjuncts the natal Sun. Transiting Mars falls right on the solar return Moon; that is, it opposes progressed Mars in the Grand Cross that we have seen building through these charts.

If we cast a composite of the natal and death charts, we find the nodes on the natal Moon and a tight Grand Cross involving the Sun, Mercury, Jupiter, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, with the Moon tied in by trine. There is an exact sextile between Saturn, natal Lord of Life, and Venus, natal Lord of Death.

Overall, we have seen clear afflictions to both luminaries, though by means specifically to the Moon, the technical hyleg. The Lord of the Ascendant, Saturn, has escaped relatively unscathed, although the Ascendant itself is severely afflicted. We





have a great deal of Jupiter and very little Pluto. What we have above all is a mass of congruent testimony, of which what is presented here is only the most notable fraction, piling up from chart to chart and enabling us to define ever more closely the boundaries of time within which the event will occur.

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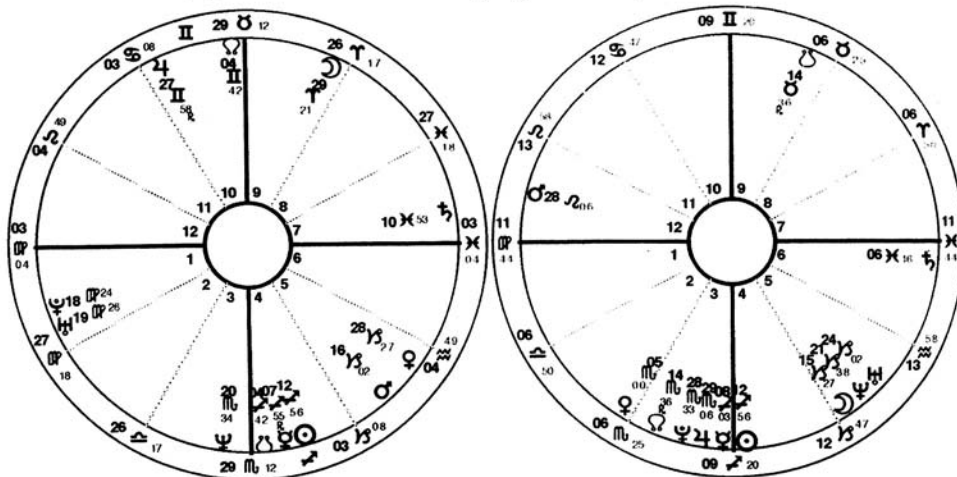
# DEATH AND THE DEAD

*It is recommended that the previous article be read first.*

Whatever may be the myth, more rock & roll deaths are caused by the perils of incessant travelling than by unusual forms of recreation. Add the odd murder and a few trade hazards such as electrocution, and deaths from dissipation become but a small minority.

Making sterling efforts to redress this imbalance, the Grateful Dead might seem to have spent more time at band funerals than in concert, until we remember over just how long a period these deaths have been spread. Playing keyboards seems particularly life-threatening, with Pigpen, Brent Mydland and Keith Godchaux all staggering into the unknown, although Godchaux, despite achieving the remarkable feat of being sacked by the Grateful Dead for being too spaced out, died after a road accident.

In our articles on the history of LSD (Apprentice 1 & 2), we took the chart for the first Acid Test as the birth-chart of the Dead. The timing of this was our guess at what 'after the Stones concert' might represent: midnight. For reasons that will become clear, it seems probable that this was fractionally early. In a band with that name, Jupiter is an appropriate ruler of the eighth; it seems that Mercury should be Lord of the Midheaven. To have both, there is a window of only a few minutes after midnight (or a short distance from the given location - my gazeteer doesn't list "Big Nig's house").



The Acid Test  
Dec 5 1965 0.00am PWT  
San Jose

Solar Return  
Dec 5 1994 07.42 GMT



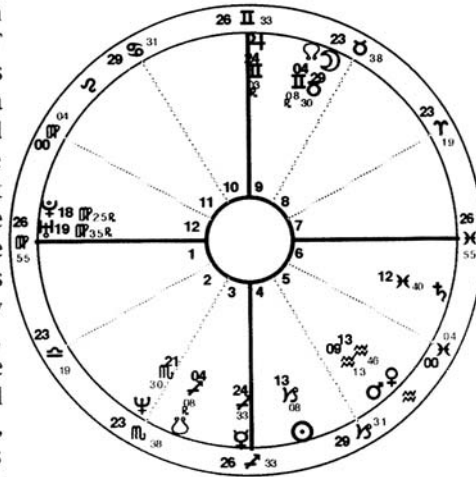
*Live Dead: Garcia, Pigpen et al.*

However much all concerned might always have denied it, Jerry Garcia was de facto leader of the band. If Mercury rules both MC and Ascendant, the death of the leader will, as it did, inevitably kill the group. By appearance, Garcia was the least mercurial of people, the mutual reception with Jupiter no doubt packing on the pounds; by nature he was the very image of a Mercury/Jupiter combination, curiosity matched only by benevolence, both manifest in a music noted above all for its communication (Mercury) of joy (Jupiter). The peculiar importance of Mercury with Jupiter runs like a thread through the significant charts in the history of LSD, Mercury/Jupiter being, quite literally, 'psychedelic'. In what is a remarkably tight chart, the Mercury/Jupiter midpoint falls on the conjunction of Uranus and Pluto, sextile Neptune. Mars by antiscion conjuncts the Sun, which is square Saturn, their midpoint falling on Venus, which is square the Moon. With this emphasised Mercury/Jupiter, Garcia's nickname of Captain Trips is hardly a surprise.

Like Django, the Captain demonstrated that a shortage of fingers need be no barrier to guitar virtuosity; Django too had Mercury, ruler of hands, retrograde and combust. Mercury seems a more plausible ruler of the MC in this Dead nativity than the alternative, Venus.

All the more so after looking at the Solar Return before Garcia died, for Mercury is on the IC, a powerful testimony of death (though we stress again that we are concerned with an accumulation of

testimony: a planet on your IC in your last Solar Return does NOT mean that you are dead). This is also a Mercury return, as if a journey has been completed, and return Mercury is squared by the Saturn, meaning, of course, that natal Mercury is so too. The conjunction of Jupiter, Lord of the radical eighth, and Pluto approaches the natal IC and opposes by antiscion the Part of Death at 1 Leo, as malefic Mars, ruler of the revolution eighth, squares the natal MC/IC from the twelfth house, trines the natal Moon and is quincunx Venus. The Moon falls on natal Mars, a most unfortunate indication.



*Progressions at Garcia's Death*

In the progressed chart for the time of Garcia's death, Mercury is again on the IC, conjunct Lesath, a star traditionally associated with poisons and drugs. The opposition with Jupiter (Lord of the eighth), which has been closing for some years as Garcia made several day-excursions into the beyond, is now lethally tight, with Jupiter on Al Hecka, a thoroughly malefic star which, with Jupiter, is particularly associated with dissipation. Progressed Jupiter, moving so slowly, would have been on this star for a long time - lots of practice. Progressed Mars is on the natal Part of Death, at around 9 Aquarius, and opposes natal Neptune by antiscion ('self-destroying forces and agents, such as narcotic poisons and drugs', is Ebertin's verdict on difficult Mars/Neptune contact). The Moon has progressed to Alcyone, one of the most unfortunate of stars, bringing weeping and bereavement.

On August 9th, 1995, transiting Mars sextiled the natal Sun, Uranus fell on Venus, the malefic South Node on the natal Moon, and, by antiscion, Neptune (drugs) on Mercury (the leader of the band). As Garcia died, the Moon exactly squared the Moon in the Grateful Dead birth-chart, perfecting the timing. This selection of major indications from a limited number of the more significant techniques shows clearly the death of the group's leader, bereavement and the death of the group itself.

## GRAND COMPETITION

Jerry Garcia, Anna Pavlova and Nellie Melba share an unusual claim to fame. What is it, and how is it shown in their natiivities?

Provider of the best plausible answer wins a subscription to The Astrologer's Apprentice for themselves or for a friend and an astrological T-shirt in the sun-sign of their choice. Entrants should use either Garcia's birth-chart, the chart for the Dead given above, or - preferably - both. Entries may be published. Closing date: June 15th. Don't forget to state which sun-sign T-shirt you would like.

Anna Pavlova: Jan 31st 1882, 9.00 AM LMT, Leningrad.

Nellie Melba: May 19th 1860, 7.00 PM LMT, Melbourne

or: May 19th 1861, 6.45 PM LMT, Melbourne

Jerry Garcia: August 1st 1942, San Francisco, time unknown.

Data from Matrix' excellent bank on: [http://205.186.189.2/ms/ms\\_astro\\_search.html](http://205.186.189.2/ms/ms_astro_search.html)

"Sure beats the National Lottery!" *W Lilly, Walton-on-Thames*

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*Squabbles among astrologers?* We are not alone: as this extract shows, even those level-headed folk over in the Hall of Science have their fallings-out: "In 1856 at the Eclectic Medical institute of Cincinnati, the professors and their allies among the students split into two factions over the financial management of the school and the introduction of new 'concentrated' medications. One party seized control of the school building and locked out its opponents, who then massed outside the doors. 'This was a declaration of war,' writes the school's historian. 'Knives, pistols, chisels, bludgeons, blunderbusses, etc. were freely displayed.' The battle was finally settled when one side brought in a six-pound cannon!" - *Paul Starr, The Social Transformation of American Medicine, New York 1982*

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## THREE LEOS ON MY SHIRT

In June, the final stages of the World Cup football tournament begin in France. As over a hundred nations have been competing for a place in these finals, for no other purpose than to give astrologers a means of sharpening their predictive technique, it behoves us to take notice - especially as our good friend and benefactor Mr William Hill promises to pay us well for so doing.

There are, we understand, those who regard the sight of twenty-two men chasing a ball around with complete bafflement; but there is far more to football than that. We might give as example the recent statement by the newly appointed manager of Manchester City, who distilled a lifetime's experience in the game to produce this strategy for success at his new club: "We're going to play football, and hopefully score a few goals." Perhaps you begin to see what you're missing.

Thirty-two teams have qualified for France. They are divided into eight groups of four, in which each team plays each of the others once. The top two teams in each group go on to the knock-out stages.

Prediction of sporting fixtures becomes much more straightforward with the increasing singularity of the event, so results in the later stages of tournaments like this are much easier to predict than those at the beginning, where three or even four matches take place on the same day. The last two matches in each group kick off at the same time, to limit the possibilities of collusion between the teams: these will be the trickiest to judge. The knock-out stages have the added advantage that somebody must win; draws are difficult to foresee and occur with irritating frequency in football matches.

When two games start at the same time, we have found

## ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

AND HOW TO PLAY IT

By  
**John Cameron**

SECRETARY  
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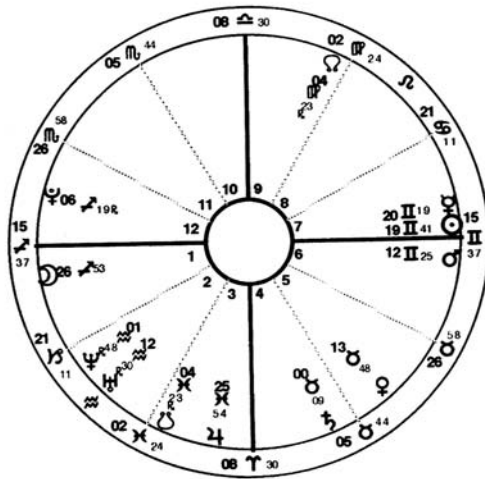
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Norway v Morocco  
June 10 8pm BST  
Montpellier

that clear favourite-win testimony suggests that the favourite will win in both; clear favourite-lose testimony that both favourites will be beaten; while mixed testimonies tend to give one of each result - rather like twins claiming different facets of a personality. In this World Cup, most of the matches that share a kick-off time are being played sufficiently far apart to give quite distinct charts; even when differences between such charts are apparently clear-cut, however, we have not found them to be reliable.

What follows is a preview of the group stages of the tournament. We shall consider the knock-out stages in our next issue. We must

stress that, as the works of both Ptolemy and William Lilly on predicting football results have unfortunately been lost, these methods are empirical and, while they have given good results in the past, are far from perfect. Space precludes our printing start times for all the matches. These are available on the Fifa website, <http://www.fifa2.com/>, or in the press - though times given in the press should be treated with circumspection. All times below are in BST, all dates are in June.

*Group A: Brazil, Scotland, Morocco, Norway.*

Brazil are favourites to win the tournament; Scotland are as unconvincing as ever, notably lacking the flair players that made them so watchable in the past; Norway should have no trouble in winning the special award for Most Boring Team, and Morocco will be considered to have done well if they manage to get a kick. Morocco are, however, higher than Scotland in Fifa's highly eccentric rating system, which must cast doubt on whether Scotland will justly be favourites to beat them - a consideration of vital importance to us, as our charts are based on favourite (Ascendant) versus underdog (Descendant).

With the MC applying to sextile the Ascendant ruler and Saturn afflicting the Descendant, Brazil should beat Scotland (10th, 4.30, St-Denis), though these testimonies are not powerful and we do not expect many goals. Scotland should also lose to Norway: Norway will be favourites, and the Moon applying to square their main significator



should be enough to give them victory. Malefic Pluto applies retrograde to their second cusp, but at over two degrees is probably too far off to matter. The Moon goes on to sextile Scotland's significator, but must travel six degrees to do so: this is usually just too far, though it might possibly show Scotland scoring a late equaliser.

The match between Morocco and Norway could be a surprise, and readers interested in applying for William Hill Awards are urged to consider its chart (10th, 8pm, Montpellier). Morocco are underdogs, and so shown by the Descendant. Its ruler applying to conjunct Fortuna is a powerful indication of them winning. The Moon separating from aspect to the Ascendant ruler is a second indication of the game running away from the favourites, MC applying to square the antiscion of the Descendant ruler may give the Norwegians one goal. Brazil, however, are in a different class, and with the Moon applying to sextile their significator should beat Morocco without difficulty.

As in all the groups, the two final games kick-off at the same time (8pm, 23rd), making predictions (even) less reliable. The Scotland/Morocco chart is very muddled, the position complicated still further by uncertainty about the true favourite. The Moon there is inside the seventh house, which, in itself, seems to have little effect. In the Brazil/Norway chart, kicking-off in Marseille rather than St. Etienne, the Moon is applying to conjunct the seventh cusp. In an individual chart this is a reliable testimony of the favourite losing, so this is another match that warrants investigation.

Overall, we expect Brazil to top the group, qualifying probably with Norway, and Scotland to come bottom.

#### *Group B: Italy, Austria, Chile and Cameroon.*

Whether we look at this group from an astrological perspective or from the footballing form-book, it is a mess. Italy are favourites to win it, but since their adoption of the traditional English policy of eschewing any player possessed of visible talent, they have been noted more for ineptitude and bizarre tactical decisions than success. Austria are usually competent but rarely display an interest in winning. Cameroon played well eight years ago and are still resting on those laurels; while Chile, although far the weakest of the South American qualifiers, did manage to outclass England in a recent friendly - largely through the typical Johnny Foreigner tactic of selecting players who are quite good at football.

Italy's opening match with Chile should be close (11th, 4.30, Bordeaux). The Descendant ruler, signifying Chile, is applying to conjunct Fortuna, while the Lord of the IC, Chile's tenth house, is applying to conjunct the Descendant. These may be enough to give Chile



the game, but Lord IC would be stronger had it less than a degree to travel, and Italy have one very powerful testimony in their favour: the antiscion of Fortuna is just inside the MC. This is one of the most reliable indications and should be enough to give Italy the match by the odd goal, perhaps 3-2 or 2-1.

The Ascendant ruler applying immediately to square the antiscion of Fortuna should be enough to carry

Austria through as favourites against Cameroon (8pm, 11th, Toulouse), especially as it is supported by the Moon's application to trine the Lord of the MC. Again, the Lord of the IC applies to the Descendant; again, we would be more concerned if it were under a degree away, though Mars is likely to be a little more active than the Italy game's Saturn. The Descendant ruler applies to conjunct the antiscion of Fortuna, but, rather surprisingly, we haven't found this to show the favourite losing.

In Chile v Austria (4.30, 17th, St Etienne) retrograde Uranus makes an immediate opposition to Fortuna: we shall be watching with interest to see what effect this has. It would be no surprise if it were to give unfancied Chile the match. The Moon's application to conjunct the antiscion of Fortuna should allow Italy to beat Cameroon. It does carry on to square the Descendant ruler, but there is enough supporting testimony for Italy to claim an unconvincing victory.

In the final two games the Moon separating from the Descendant ruler and applying to trine the Ascendant should see Italy home against Austria. Who is justly favourite between Chile and Cameroon is anybody's guess: football writers still fall off the edge of the world as soon as they venture outside European coastal waters. It is probably Chile, in which case they too should win.

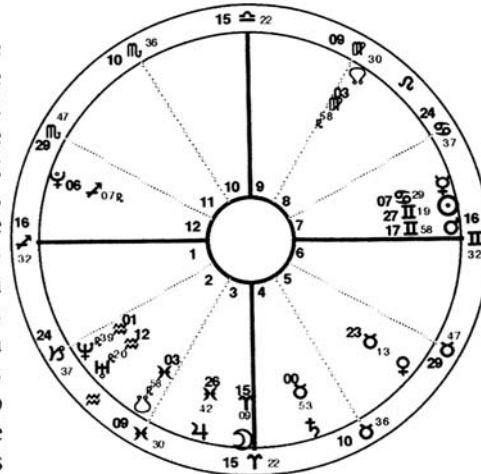
Overall, Italy to top the group with maximum points, despite not playing well. Second place seems to hinge on Uranus's behaviour in the Chile/Austria match.

#### *Group C: France, Denmark, South Africa, Saudi Arabia.*

With home advantage, France are expected to do well, though they are highly over-rated and still show the inability to score goals that they exhibited in the last European Championships. Denmark are one of the better second-division teams; South Africa have achieved much, but mainly in Africa; the Saudis are there to make up the numbers. Denmark are one of the safer teams to watch without risk of falling

asleep.

With the antiscion of the Descendant ruler falling just inside the tenth house, Denmark should beat the Saudis with all the expected ease. France's opening match, against South Africa (12th, 8pm, Marseille) looks a little tighter. The Moon applies first to quincunx the Descendant ruler, then to trine the Ascendant ruler: this should be enough to give the French the match, especially as it is supported by the MC moving to trine the Lord of the IC and sextile its own Lord. But the Moon's quincunx could well be enough to give the South Africans a goal: 2-1 seems a plausible score.



France v Saudi Arabia  
June 18 8pm BST  
St Denis

No such problems for the Danes against the South Africans: Moon going to sextile the Ascendant ruler without contrary testimony should see them home by one or two goals to nil. Then (18th, 8pm, St Denis) comes what could be the shock of the tournament: France versus Saudi Arabia. Unless we have overlooked something, all the testimony points to a Saudi victory. The Moon conjuncts the IC - this has proved to be a strong and reliable indication of the favourite losing - and also applies to sextile the Lord of the IC. The Ascendant ruler separates from conjunct the antiscion of Fortuna: separating aspects seem to be negative indications in these charts. The ruler of the IC is just inside the seventh house: we haven't found this to have much effect, but what influence it does have will help the underdogs. If the two teams were more evenly balanced, we would confidently predict a victory for Saudi Arabia; with such an apparent mismatch, even the strongest of testimonies can sometimes result only in a draw, as if the gradient is just too steep to climb. With that caveat, we will go for the Saudis - quite possibly by more than one goal.

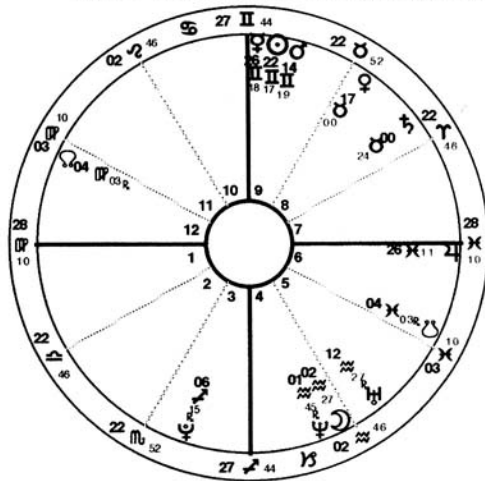
Both the final matches look drawish, though the Moon separating from the antiscion of the Descendant ruler and the Lord IC applying to oppose Fortuna could be enough to give favourites France victory against the Danes. Overall, France and Denmark to qualify, probably with the Danes topping the group.



*Group D: Spain, Nigeria, Paraguay and Bulgaria.*

Spain are favourites, although they never seem able to combine their undoubted gifts into a coherent and successful team. After their Olympic gold medal, Nigeria are the latest country from outside the traditional bastions of Europe and South America to stick their heads above the barricades of expectation. Bulgaria did well last time, but the team seems to be past its best, while Paraguay might as well come from Mars for all anyone in Europe knows about them.

The Paraguay/Bulgaria game looks very drawish, and we suspect that it is only eurocentricity that makes Bulgaria favourites. In contrast to the general absence of notable testimony there, however, the Spain/Nigeria chart brims over (13th, 1.30, Nantes). This has every promise of being the match of the round: if you watch only one game on TV, this seems to be the one to go for. The Ascendant ruler (Spain) applies immediately to conjunct the MC, taking the game to Spain. But the Descendant ruler is only two degrees away from the seventh cusp. The Moon goes to quincunx the Ascendant ruler, then to trine the antiscion of the Descendant ruler. It will square Fortuna, but at six degrees of separation, this is usually too far off to be relevant. So there are two powerful testimonies in favour of the Nigerians, though we expect the Ascendant ruler on the MC to outweigh them, giving the game to Spain. With several testimonies there are usually goals, so 3-2 might be a reasonable stab at the final score. As both these teams traditionally regard football as a martial art, it may well hinge on whichever of them has the last surviving player. Unmissable - even the stable-lads will have the afternoon off for this one.



Spain v Nigeria  
June 13 1.30pm BST  
Nantes

We cannot be confident of who is favourite when Nigeria play Bulgaria, and the chart is similarly inconclusive, while there is nothing in the Spain/Paraguay chart (19th, 8pm, St Etienne) to deny Spain the victory there. In the final matches, the antiscion of Fortuna just inside the first house should give Nigeria their anticipated success over Paraguay; Spain versus Bulgaria is more intriguing. The Ascendant ruler squaring Fortuna would be expected to see the favourites, Spain, win. But Neptune is only half a degree inside the second cusp, applying retrograde onto it. When

Neptune does work in these charts, it does so as a malefic, and Pluto in this position is reliably destructive to the favourite's hopes. It will be interesting to see what happens here.



Spain will head the group; Paraguay won't qualify. Who will come second from Nigeria and Bulgaria is anybody's guess.

*Group E: Holland, Belgium, Mexico, South Korea.*

The Dutch are, as ever, expected to do well, although usually let down by dressing-rooms rows over who gets the last space-cake. Belgian teams tend to be solid enough, while never threatening to achieve much. Neither Mexico nor South Korea are serious contenders even for qualification to the knock-out rounds. This is regarded as the most easily predictable of the groups; any breach of the above pecking-order will be a major shock.

Yet shock there will be as South Korea take on Mexico in the group's opening match (13th, 4.30, Lyon). As readers of Astrologer's Apprentice Issue 1 have seen, retrograde Pluto enabled us to escort Mr Hill to the cleaners during the European Championships two years ago, and to our delight, here he is again, just where we want him, applying immediately to the second cusp. This seems to show the favourites cutting their own throats. There are some mild contrary testimonies in Mexico's favour - the Moon applies to square the Ascendant/Descendant axis and the Ascendant ruler applies, though from four degrees of separation, to conjunct Fortuna - but Pluto should be strong enough to see the Koreans win.

There is every indication that the Dutch will get off to their customary lethargic start: the charts for their games with both Belgium and Korea are unspectacular. Both look drawish, though there may just about be enough evidence to see the Dutch sleep-walk to victory. Much the same can be said about Belgium versus Mexico (20th, 4.30, Bordeaux). The Moon is in the seventh house, but experience suggests that over three degrees away from the cusp is too far to affect the result; so its immediate application to the antiscion of the MC will probably be sufficient for the Belgians to win. If you are going to have to move from the sofa at some point during June, any of these games will give a good opportunity for doing so.

With the Ascendant applying to square the antiscion of the Ascendant ruler and the Moon going to trine the Lord of the fifth house, the final matches should both go to the favourites, with Holland and Belgium beating Mexico and Korea. So as expected, Belgium and Holland

will qualify, probably with Holland coming top.

*Group F: Germany, Yugoslavia, USA, Iran.*

This is one of the more intriguing groups. Germany are second-favourites to win the tournament; although wobbly in some of their qualifying matches, they are rarely less than ruthlessly efficient when it matters. The Yugoslavs, on the other hand, have been most impressive during the qualifying tournament, and are regarded as potential dark horses. Rumours that their team is trained by the PLO have been denied, all evidence to the contrary. The Americans are still trying to convince the world they can play a proper sport, with increasing conviction since an honourable performance in the last World Cup. Iran qualified with a narrow victory over Australia - 'nuff said.

Iran's odds in their matches against Germany and Yugoslavia promise to be some of the longest in the tournament; Pluto suggests that we may benefit accordingly. Testimonies in the Yugoslav game (14th, 4.30, St Etienne) point unequivocally to an Iranian victory. The Moon is just inside the IC: this alone is a reliable indication of defeat for the favourites, but here it is supported by trusty Pluto, applying retrograde onto the second cusp. The Moon goes to trine the Ascendant ruler and then to square the Descendant ruler, another indication of the favourites losing, while the ruler of the eighth and eleventh houses conjuncts the antiscion of Fortuna. Whatever the odds suggest, astrologically this would be a surprise if the Iranians fail to win, quite possibly by a couple of goals to nil.

The Germans too look set for a rocky start when they face the USA (15th, 8pm, Paris). The Moon going to the South Node favours the underdogs. Were it not that it also separates from trine the Descendant ruler, showing the game running away from them, we might be tempted to back the Americans. As it is, they will push Germany hard and may well get a draw. This is another match that demands to be seen.

With the Moon going straightaway to conjunct the Ascendant ruler, the Germans should be back on track against Yugoslavia (21st, 1.30, Lens). Saturn on the eighth cusp, the house of the Yugoslavs' resources, suggests that they may have a key player either sent or carried off. Not a match for the faint of heart.

There is not a great deal happening in the chart for the USA/Iran game, although this is one of several matches with Pluto applying closely to the twelfth cusp. It will be interesting to see what effect, if any, this has. The final matches look straightforward: with the Moon going from conjunct the Descendant ruler to first trine the Lord of the Ascendant and then conjunct the antiscion of the MC ruler, both favourites, Germany and Yugoslavia, should win.

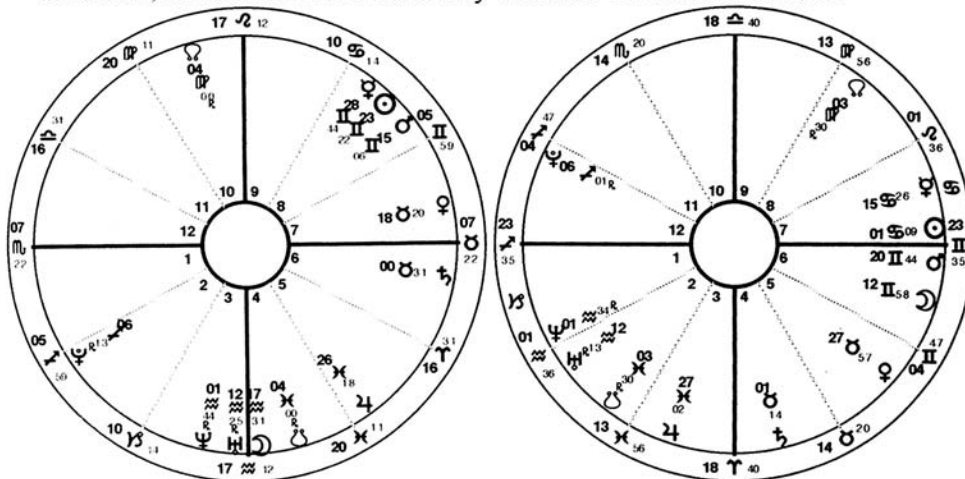
We expect Germany to take their anticipated position at the top of the group; Iran may well qualify ahead of Yugoslavia.

*Group G: Romania, England, Colombia, Tunisia.*

England are, of course, expected to top this group with ease. Exactly who it is who expects this, and what medication he is on, we do not know. Romania's record in qualifying - in, admittedly, a weak group - was by far the best in Europe; they are certainly over-priced against England. Colombian teams are noted more for their eccentricity than their results; they did qualify ahead of Chile, however, who looked in a different class to England recently. After the last World Cup, one of their star players was murdered by a gambling cartel for not pulling his weight, so they may have a certain incentive that others might lack. It is hard to justify their odds against England.

But England are rightful favourites against Tunisia, who, by all accounts, devote far too much attention to mugging the opposition and too little to kicking the ball (15th, 1.30, Marseille). Not surprisingly, we find Saturn on the eighth cusp, often an indication of sending off or injury. With the Ascendant ruler applying to sextile the antiscion of Fortuna, England should win without conceding a goal - maybe 2-0.

We cannot place much faith in the bookie's odds between the other three teams; unfortunately, our method depends on knowing who is favourite. Romania probably just about deserve favouritism against Colombia, in a match where testimony is mixed. We should see some



Yugoslavia v Iran  
June 14 4.30pm BST  
St Etienne

England v Romania  
June 22 8pm BST  
Toulouse

goals, so maybe a 2-2 draw, unless the Moon applying to conjunct the South Node is enough to tip the match to the Colombians. They too should beat Tunisia, unless the Moon going to trine retrograde Uranus proves to be a testimony of defeat.

Then our brave boys take on the dastardly Romanian (22nd, 8pm, Toulouse). Who is really favourite? Without much conviction, we shall give England the benefit of the doubt. If this is correct, they will lose. Pluto applies retrograde to conjunct Fortuna, while the Moon goes to the antiscion of the Descendant ruler: two reliable testimonies of defeat. Supported by the Lord of the MC separating from sextile the Ascendant ruler, this should see the under-dogs home quite easily, perhaps 2-0. Depending on the exact location of the ground, Neptune may well be applying retrograde onto the second cusp: it will be worth watching to see what this may bring - perhaps even news of some over-fraternization with the Colombian contingent.

In the final matches, England play Colombia while the Romanians take on Tunisia in a game that promises to enthrall connoisseurs of unarmed combat. Again, we are unsure that England deserve favouritism, although their case is a little more convincing than it was against the Romanians. Testimonies for the favourites losing are strong and have little of note to contradict them. The Descendant ruler applies to oppose Fortuna; the IC ruler is just inside the seventh house; the Moon opposes Uranus; the Ascendant ruler separates from sextile Fortuna. It seems that at least one, and quite possibly both, favourites will lose. In the England/Colombia match (26th, 9pm, Lens) we again see Pluto on the twelfth cusp, and so may be able to apply the lessons of Iran/USA.

If - and this is a big if - England are justly favourites for this group, there is every chance that they will be making their way home rather earlier than they anticipate. Colombia and Romania to qualify must be the suggestion.

*Group H: Argentina, Croatia, Jamaica and Japan.*

Rampant drug-taking, bribery at even government level, the 'hand of God' - and they can play a bit too: the Argentine national side is nothing if not colourful, and are favourites to win the weakest of the groups. Croatia impressed during the European Championships, but seemed to be playing beyond their abilities in a way they are unlikely to repeat. Both Jamaica and Japan are expected to be well out of their depth, with Jamaica marginally the more competent of the two.

Even if the amphetamine mines close down, Argentina should have no trouble beating Japan in their opening match (14th, 1.30, Toulouse). The Ascendant ruler applies to conjunct Fortuna, although



five and a half degrees is a long way in one of these charts; the Moon separating from trine the Descendant ruler and applying to square the Ascendant ruler confirms the result - expect 2 or 3-0. Jamaica, however, look set to expose the Croats' limitations (14th, 8pm, Lens). The Moon trining the dispositor of Fortuna and the MC ruler going to conjunct the antiscion of Fortuna are both moderately strong testimonies for the favourites; but the Moon going to square the antiscion of Fortuna usually gives victory to the underdog. Croatia will be stretched; Jamaica look good for at least a draw.

Croatia's disappointing form continues against Japan (20th, 1.30, Nantes), where some mixed testimony suggests that Japan too should get at least a draw. Then on the 21st (4.30, Paris), Argentina play Jamaica: reserve your place on the sofa now. The Moon applies immediately to conjunct the Descendant ruler, so we could well see the Reggae Boys getting above their station by scoring first. It continues to sextile the Lord of the fifth - mild testimony for the favourite - and then to oppose the antiscion of Neptune: we must wait and see what that might bring. With the antiscion of Fortuna on the fifth cusp and the Ascendant applying to trine the antiscion of the Ascendant ruler, Argentina will probably win, though it would be neither a surprise nor, after this match, a regret if they failed.

Croatia will finally pull themselves together in their last match. The antiscion of Fortuna just inside the IC is one of the most reliable indications of the favourite losing in single matches, though less dependable when, as here, two games start at the same time. There is also an accumulation of contrary testimony, but it is hard to see why Argentina should win. Jamaica will probably be favourites to beat Japan, and here too there are balanced testimony: the Ascendant squaring the antiscion of Fortuna powerfully supports the underdog, but the Moon conjunct MC does just the reverse. We expect a draw, or perhaps the favourites to lose.

This is one of the more unpredictable groups. Argentina will probably come top, but predicting draws is highly speculative and any of the other three could qualify with them. Jamaica seem least likely to do so. What does seem clear is that Croatia will do worse than expected while Jamaica endear themselves to millions.

In our next issue we will cover the knock-out rounds. Any of our readers who wish to be in a position to say "I told you so" are invited to send their conflicting predictions, with astrological reasoning, *before* the match in question. Information from members of the Argentinian government will be received with particular interest.

## CORONATION STREET

The nation holds its breath: Deirdre Barlow - or Deirdre Rachid as now is - is in court, facing a heap of charges of fraud, obtaining money by deception, assault with a deadly acting technique, and the like. Led astray, poor woman, by the silver tongue of one John Lindsay, who stands in the dock beside her.

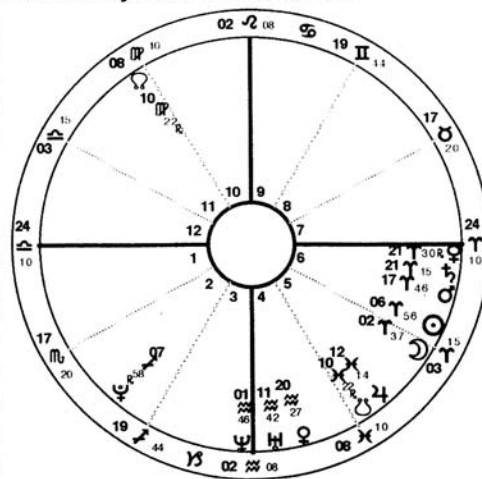
"Have you reached a verdict on which you are all agreed?"

"We have, your honour." But no more can be said: time's winged chariot arrives, bearing its burden of commercials, and for two whole days we and Deirdre wait breathlessly to hear her fate.

But hold! Armed with his trusty chart, the astrologer can leap through time. "Will Deirdre go to prison?" he asks. Femme fatale though she be, her charms leave him unmoved, so she is shown by the seventh, the capacious house of 'anyone you have no reason for putting somewhere else'. So she is signified by Mars.

Like the sixth and eighth, the twelfth house of prisons is read usually from the radical rather than the turned chart; but while it is invaluable to know what we are looking for, we must also always be aware of where the chart is leading. The heavy emphasis on the turned twelfth tells us that this is the relevant house. Mars is in it, applying immediately to conjunct Saturn, which, severely debilitated, is even more malefic than usual, and is the natural ruler of prisons. The verdict is clear: yes, she is going down. And so she did: eighteen months, while John Lindsay walked out of court with a smile.

But Mars is strong, and has mutual reception by triplicity with Jupiter, Lord of her eleventh, which is also strongly dignified. The planets are exactly opposed by antiscion now - one of her friends' testimony helped put her away (South Node in her eleventh shows where she will be hurt) - but the mutual reception will see them rallying to her aid. Mars reaches her cusp in six and a half degrees: expect a release in mid-May.



*Will Deirdre Go To Prison?  
March 27 1998 19.58 GMT  
London*

## BOOK REVIEWS

### *Graphic Ephemeris for Forecasts, by Astrid Fallon*

One of the rooms above our stable is occupied by Orlando, who writes Sun-sign columns. Once a month the Master orders him taken out into the yard to be hosed down, while a couple of the more robust stable-lads are sent in to sweep out his room. Among the half-gnawed bones and general refuse, we find many scraps of paper with sketches depicting planetary transits. Given a book, we fear that Orlando would probably eat it; but if he did not, he would find this volume invaluable.

Ms Fallon, 'astrologue internationale', has given us, in clear graphic form, transits from 1920 to 2040. Other information includes an annual listing of outer-planet aspects (Jupiter-Pluto, plus conjunctions involving Sun and Venus), eclipses and a useful pointer to those degrees particularly affected by the year's celestial goings-on. The brief explanatory text is given in French and an unknown tongue with sufficient resemblance to English to make it readily comprehensible.

Anyone working extensively with transits might find this repays investigation: a large amount of information is rendered clearly and in a fashion which, given a little time to gain familiarity, can be taken in at a glance. This has the air of a book which, for those who do have use for it, would quickly become indispensable.

*Ephémérides Graphiques et Prévisionnelles, 1920-2040; Editions du Rocher; 158ff.*

### *Annus Tenebrosus, or The Dark Year*

On the ball as ever, the Apprentice is pleased to review *Annus Tenebrosus*, the latest publication by a certain Mr William Lilly, printed for H Blunden at the Castle in Corn-hill as recently as 1652.

Young Mr Lilly seems to be building quite a reputation for himself, not only as an astrologer but also as a thoroughly enjoyable writer, a reputation which this book, lately retyped, appended and annotated by Mistress Sue Ward and republished by Deborah Houlding at the sign of the Ascella in Mansfield, can only augment. This is Lilly in more expansive mood than was possible in the straightforwardly didactic *Christian Astrology*, and what a delight it is to sit at the great man's table as he discourses on the effects of the lunar and solar eclipses of 1652.

We also have a lengthy introduction defending astrology against the attacks of the evangelicals, forty astrological aphorisms and, the most directly useful section of the book, 'an easie and familiar method

whereby to judge the effects depending on eclipses either of the Sun or Moon'. Finally, we find some vintage Lillian invective in his address to the citizens of Bristol, "or as many of them as had the misfortune to hear Ralph Farmer prattle in the Colledge Church 5 Novem. 1651", and "A word or two unto Mr Radulphus" himself, who, we are given to understand, has "so small a Magazin of wit in such a Lobster's head". Fine stuff!

Much to instruct us; much to delight: this reprint is highly recommended. Mr Lilly should go far, and Sue Ward deserves our thanks for preparing this volume. We look forward eagerly to her forthcoming editions of *The Starry Messenger*, *Monarchy or No Monarchy*, *The World's Catastrophe* and *The Occurences in England*.

*Annus Tenebrosus, or the Dark Year* is available from Ascella Publications, 3 Avondale Bungalows, Sherwood Hall Road, Mansfield, Notts NG18 2NJ. £22.50 inc. p&p.

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## THE NOSTRADAMUS TAPES

Dauphin: There is no garlic in this marijuana cigarette! Are you an English spy?

Cyrano: What are you saying! I roll ze best joints in all of France!

Nostradamus: Taisez-vous, mes amis. Pass it over 'ere. Oh la la - zis is ze good gear, non?

Cyrano: Mais oui. 'Ere, I will roll one more.

Nostradamus: I say - 'ave you seen zat Maria de Medici? Is she cute, or what?

Dauphin: Oui, she is some babe. But Nostradamus, you can never 'ope to win ze 'and of one like 'er.

Cyrano: But for l'amour, all is possible! Pass me zat joint; let me think....

Nostradamus: Helas! Zere is no 'ope.

Cyrano: Wait - I 'ave it! Put down zat snail and listen to me. We can make you famous for ever - zen she will love you.

Nostradamus: But 'ow can I be famous? I am nothing but a second-rate star-gazer. I 'ave even lost my spot on ze National Lottery Show.

Cyrano: Yes, my friend, but listen. You know I am ze best at everything - ze best swordsman, ze best poet. But zere is one thing at which you, Michel de Nostradamus, alone excel.

Dauphin: Of course, Michel - you talk ze best crap in all of France!

Nostradamus: Oh yes, you are right; so I do!

Cyrano: So you talk crap and I will put it into verse; it will be something ze world 'as never seen before. She will be so amazed, she will be 'elpless before you.

Nostradamus: OK - give me another 'it on zat cigarette, and I will start....  
"Venus is in your Midheaven, in semi-square to Mars."

Dauphin: Oh, mais non! Zat is nowhere near good enough!

Cyrano: No, something more bizarre - you talk more crap than zat when you are talking sense.

Nostradamus: OK, I try again: "Ze giant chicken will come out of ze East. It will 'ave three 'eads and cross ze great river." 'Ow is zat?

Dauphin: Magnifique!

Nostradamus: "Ze wolf with jaws aflame forgets 'is bicycle."

Dauphin: What is a 'bicycle'?

Nostradamus: I 'ave no idea; but it sounds good. Cyrano, skin up another, I'm on a roll. "Once ze mole is found in winter, ze 'edgehog will turn to dust." Are you writing all zis down?

Cyrano: What will zey think if zey find zis paper in three 'undred years time!

Dauphin: Zey will think we 'ad some righteous blow in zese days, non?  
Cyrano: Oh, zey will laugh!  
Nostradamus: I fear not, mes amis; I fear not.

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## NEPTUNIA REPLIES...

- a word from our sensitive seer

*Dear Neptunia,* How can I thank you? Your advice has rescued my relationship and my boyfriend is now behaving as he should. In fact, we are planning to go on holiday together this summer. Do you have any suggestions on where we might go? *Yours radiantly, Tracey.*

*Dear Tracey,* Have you considered a trip to Lillyland, the astrological theme-park in the heart of the English countryside? There is something for everyone here: those with nerves of steel will enjoy the white-knuckle rides, such as the Qualifying Horary Diploma Course (height restrictions may apply), while those whose tastes are more sedate will delight in a game of Hunt the Fish or Pin the Cauda on the Draconis. The terrifying plunge into a dark, bottomless abyss has been closed for redesign after it was realised that any astrologer can achieve the same sensation merely by reading his bank statement; but a breathtaking new replacement will be open by the summer.

In the House of Horrors you will encounter passages from American astrology books, a truly disturbing experience, while Fantasy Island - suitable for all the family - is populated by mythical creatures such as The Astrologer Buying a Round and the Punctual Client. Those with legs as nimble as their wits might like the Astrological Dodgems, where you try to dodge people who insist on showing you their birth-charts, although there have been several fatalities among those who couldn't get out of the way quickly enough. There are plenty of candy-floss stalls, where you can have a psychological natal reading done, and a Hall of Mirrors in which it will appear to fit you perfectly. There is even a Wall of Transformative Experiences, and - for the traditionally minded - a machine which not only speaks your weight but tells you where your warts are too!

Above all, Tracey, don't miss the Grand Parade, where Mickey Mouse distributes astrological qualifications to all and sundry. This is a trip you will remember forever. Book now, and don't forget to send me a postcard! *Your loving, Neptunia.*

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The Astrologer's Apprentice,  
85, Steeds Road, London N10 1JB  
Phone: 0181.365.2553  
e-mail: [j@apprentice.demon.co.uk](mailto:j@apprentice.demon.co.uk)  
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