

THE ASTROLOGER'S
APPRENTICE

The Tradition as it Lives

Issue 13.

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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.



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EDITORIAL

We are unfortunately far from surprised to read in the Astrological Association's magazine *Transit* of the reaction of the intrepid colonists to the Pope's latest statement on astrology. That the Pope does not approve of astrology seems to have come as something of a shock to them. No doubt they are also amazed to find a big yellow ball rising in the eastern sky every morning; but we jaded folk in the Old World know that this is how things are.

The Pope has explained that, "If we plan our lives well, we must learn to decipher the design written in the mysterious signals that God has put in our daily stories. For this, neither horoscopes nor magic forecasts work. What works is prayer, real prayer, coupled always with a choice of life that conforms with the Law of God." The Association for Astrological Networking has taken umbrage at this suggestion; its Media Watch Chair (or presumably the person who sits in it) is 'preparing a response to send to His Holiness.'

Rather than the Pope's disapproval, it is the reaction of AFAN that we find remarkable. Can we really claim that our astrological fumbings are superior to the hot-line to the Divine offered by 'prayer, real prayer'? AFAN must contain fine astrologers indeed. The over-estimation of their abilities implicit in their reaction is even more apparent in their evident belief that their views might be of interest to His Holiness. In a world where knowledge has been replaced by opinion, perhaps this might be so; in a world where it has not, we are reminded of a very large rhinoceros being troubled by a very small flea.

Astrology is, in the true sense of word - now all but forgotten - a science. As such its end can only be the knowledge of God. Within true science, all knowledge is ordered to that end, for the simple reason that whatever is not so ordered is not knowledge but error. There is ultimately only one knowledge; all that appears to be knowledge is but facets of this. This fact is what underpinned astrology until it was killed off by the Enlightenment and remade in mockery of its true self by Mr Leo and his successors. No amount of vain posturing can replace the correct ordering in which our craft must be set. The product that the irate colonists produce in the name of astrology shows exactly this point only too clearly.

The End is Nigh?

Garry Phillipson has arrived at the gates of our workshop bearing a parchment the contents of which he wishes us to make known to our

readers. As he presented us with a very fine chicken and a new smock for young Silas, we are pleased to do this.

“The eclipse on 11th August 1999 is attracting a good deal of attention in the astrological media, being billed as the astrological entry point to a new millennium. But, in concrete terms, what effects will it have? Readers are invited to submit predictions relating to the impact of the eclipse on a publicly known entity, person, company, country, whatever.

“The point of this exercise is to place a number of specific predictions on record before the fact, creating a snapshot of the current state of the predictive art in astrology. The most striking results will feature in Garry Phillipson’s forthcoming study of the astrological community, *Astrology in the Year Zero*, and, with luck, may also find their way into the media through other channels.

“Terms, conditions, requests:

1. Submissions should be capable of verification: predictions relating to events out of the public eye, and predictions which mean everything and nothing (such as “X will experience a change of consciousness”) will not be welcomed as warmly as more specific entries.
2. Give a brief account of the astrological points of judgement.
3. Although most will probably want to submit their own judgements, anyone who wishes to draw attention to someone else’s is very welcome to do so. But in such cases please specify whose it is, and where it is documented.
4. Submission of a personal entry is taken as bestowal of authority to publish the entry, in whole or in part, in any medium.
5. While it is anticipated that most entries will be connected with the eclipse, any other stories of predictions will be gratefully received for possible inclusion in the above-mentioned book.
6. This is not a competition, and all entries are submitted solely for the joy of furthering astrological knowledge. A year’s subscription to *The Traditional Astrologer* will be awarded to one entrant, once sufficient time has elapsed for the accuracy of most judgements to be assessed. Because a qualitative comparison between one successful entry and another would be meaningless, the recipient will be decided by a draw in which all successful entries will participate.
7. Correspondence will be gratefully received, but replies may be disappointingly brief or altogether non-existent.
8. Closing date for entries is 11th August 1999 at 11.13 am BST.
- 9: Entries to: Garry Phillipson, Churchill Development Ltd, Southbank House, Black Prince Road, London, SE1 7SJ, UK. Or fax to: 0171-587-0944. Or e-mail to: astrologers@btinternet.com

LET'S GET THIS STRAIGHT

In the plush penthouse suite of Apprentice Towers, from whose vista windows we idly watch the cormorants at play over the silver waters of the gliding Thames, one might often hear the heated debate as we resist proprietorial demands. "No, Rupert," we cry, "The Astrologer's Apprentice is not the place for the directly tutorial. Our brief has always been 'You know what you're doing; where do we go from here?'" But finally his insistent Aussie twang has prevailed, with his demands that we straighten out a few points of misunderstanding, else the use of the executive washroom will be denied us. Our readers might be reassured, however, that we still draw the line over his attempts to incorporate an Astrologer of the Month on page 3.

So listen up and let's get this sorted out once and for all. Our flying-squad of examiners will be calling on you in the near future to make sure you've been paying attention.

Arabian Parts:

Arabian Parts, if used correctly, can be quite invaluable. Alternatively, they can make a nonsense out of any chart. The first misapprehension that must be corrected is the idea of Parts 'helping' in any way. Time and again we read accounts of chart judgements where



we are told 'the Part of (whatever) was sextile our main significator, but as it was in the twelfth house it could not be of any help' or similar. Parts are; they do not do. They are not bodies; as such, they have no light. What has no light has no power to act.

The planet dispositing the Part signifies whatever that Part represents. So if the Part of Death falls in Aries, Mars signifies death. Main significator conjuncts Mars: strong testimony for death. Part of Melons falls in Cancer, Moon signifies melons. Moon conjuncts Jupiter: my melon crop does splendidly.

The opinions of modern astrologers can be disregarded

The common practice in astrological software is to get the judgement of Parts exactly the wrong way round. We find the chart and are given a list of all the Arabian Parts that fall conjunct planets in it. But if my question is "Will she marry me?" the fact that the Part of Turnips happens to be conjunct Chiron is quite irrelevant. Correct practice is not to scan a list of Parts to see which ones are drawn into the chart, but to calculate the Part for whatever it is that interests us and then see what is happening to it.

Antiscia.

The calculation of antiscia is simplicity itself. Given a little practice, it takes but seconds to glance around the chart to see if the antiscia of any of the relevant planets are doing something interesting. The antiscion should be regarded as an alternative placement of the planet (or Arabian Part) concerned. It is just as if the planet were in that place as well as in its own. Conjunction or opposition to an antiscion (opposition to antiscion being a simpler way of regarding contrantiscion, it being always worth avoiding the unnecessary proliferation of technical terms) will work just as well as conjunction or opposition to the original position of the planet. Other aspects are not so strong, and should be regarded as supporting testimony only. All other things being equal, a horary chart can be judged on an unsupported antiscial conjunction or opposition, as we have done on various occasions with verifiable results. Conjunction and opposition with antiscia carry exactly the same meanings as normally, except that the antiscia (if the context supports this) tend to imply a sense of the covert, presumably through their, literal, nature as shadows.

The common stumbling-block is movement. Do not try to move antiscia - you will tie your brain in knots! Yes, as the planets move forward their antiscia theoretically move backwards, and vice versa if they happen to be retrograde; but working with this is a quick way to the insane asylum: in the workshop we always make sure a bucket of water is kept handy to throw over any young apprentices who try it. Take it as a rule: things apply to antiscia, antiscia do not apply to things.

The Rule of Three:

The above comments on antiscia raise the question of the so-called 'rule of three': the idea that we must have at least three testimonies saying the same thing in order to make a judgement on a chart. We should be so lucky! This, like the extreme over-emphasis given to the Considerations before Judgement and their elevation into 'strictures' is one more example of the Rule of Rules in modern horary: "Never give judgement if you can possibly avoid it."

Your Place or Mine?

We note with a familiar mixture of amusement and despair the propensity of astrologers, particularly it seems those in the traditional field, to take up cudgels against each other in preference to applying ten seconds' thought to the issue at hand. With the possible exception of the bloody field that is the Considerations before Judgement, nowhere is this more marked than in the question of whose location we use to cast the horary chart: the astrologer's, or the querent's. If astrologer and querent are both in the same place, as would most usually, but by no means exclusively, have been the case for Lilly, we have no problem. As today many consultations take place by phone or post, it might seem that we have a valid point of debate; but if we adopt the traditional First Rule of Astrology - "Switch on brain before starting" - we find we no longer have a problem, no matter where our querent may be secreting himself.

The horary question is a request for information. It does not, in the terms of classical logic, exist until it meets the person who is able to provide this information. Until that point it is a no-thing, with no more real existence than any of the other ephemeral trash that floats through our heads. It is only when question meets astrologer that it becomes real. This can happen only at the astrologer's own location, unless he is in the habit of leaving his brain at home when he goes for a walk.

We may compare the horary chart to a nativity. This is commonly cast for the moment of birth. There exist techniques for rectifying this to the moment of conception. No one, so far as we are aware, has seriously suggested casting the chart for the instant at which the particular spermatozoon that fertilised the egg was generated in the father's body; yet this is the equivalent of taking the querent's location as the basis for our horary chart.

So much for theory. We might also refer to practice. Our forebears did not have the luxury of computer atlases which can set a chart for any location at the touch of a button; nor even the capacious tables of houses with which we are familiar from *Raphael's Ephemeris*. A chart for a location other than his own would have involved the astrologer in a deal of work. For a nativity, this would have to be done. For a horary, he would undoubtedly have applied the Second Rule of Astrology: avoid unnecessary effort wherever possible. As we have pointed out in these pages before, our predecessors and models were professionals. The hallmark of a professional is efficiency of effort. We suggest that those who are so ardent in their claims that the querent's location should be used might spend a day or two calculating Regiomontanus cusps for distant locations from scratch. We should be more than surprised if this does not lead them to revise their opinions.

The Numbers Racket

Lilly gives us a list of various essential and accidental dignities and debilities, each numbered on a scale from 1 to 5, which scale originates with the Arab authorities. This has proved a snare in which those of Virgoan nature persistently entangle themselves, having in many cases been enticed inside by software programmers who know no better. This list is neither exclusive nor definitive, and should not be treated as if it were: its only purpose is as a rule of thumb guide to assist the student in appraising planetary strength. The only meaningful way in which such strength can be expressed is not '15' or '7', but strong/weak/middling, which, most particularly in horary, frequently reduces still further into a simple division of whether a planet is or is not *strong enough*.

We must first note that there are many points well worthy of consideration which are not listed; to avoid becoming tedious, we shall note just a few that come to mind. A planet gains strength through being in the house of its joy, and loses it through being in the house opposite. It gains by having north latitude and loses by south latitude (north latitude bringing it higher in the sky, assuming we are in the northern hemisphere). It gains by being in its hayz - some of the Arab authorities, indeed, regard this as a necessity if it is to act. Algol, Regulus and Spica are not the only fixed stars of consequence. Besiegement by Venus and Jupiter is as strengthening as besiegement by Mars and Saturn is debilitating (*pace* Mr Louis, whom we hope has by now read the texts to which he so cavalierly refers).

The second point vital for correct understanding is that the numbers given were originally intended only to demonstrate the



How many times must I tell you - cars are a second house matter!

respective importance of the factors in question; thus combustion or conjunction with Spica (at 5 points) is more significant than dignity by face or by falling in the third house (just 1 point). What must never, ever, be forgotten is that like so much in the texts, there is always the rider "all things being equal". We see this most clearly in the lists of aphorisms, for a good number of which it would be easy to cite examples which are patently absurd, did we not remember that they are given "all things being equal"; so also here.

Combustion, for instance, scores -5. Yet there is a world of difference between a planet which is 2 degrees away from the Sun and getting closer and one which is 8 degrees away and separating. Being slow in motion scores -2; but again, what a difference between a planet which is in station and one which is only slightly below its average speed having recently turned direct: we cannot seriously think they are both debilitated to the same extent. Even when we have two stationary planets, we must remember that first station is far more debilitating than second, and amend our judgement accordingly.

Let us run through the list, marking some of the pitfalls. A planet in the first or tenth house is given +5; but, as Bonatus explains and practice confirms, a planet gains this strength only if within a degree or two of the cusp. Any further within the house and its influence is strongly diminished. This applies to all houses. This is most strongly marked when the planet is in the house, but in a different sign to that on the cusp: it is almost as if it were not really in that house at all, but just there on sufferance, rather like a soldier billeted on a peasant household. On this point, we refer in passing to the 'five degree rule': that is, that a planet within five degrees of the next house cusp is regarded as being in that house. As Mr Culpeper's esteemed brethren, Dr Reason and Dr Experience, explain, this is only if planet and cusp are in the same sign; if they are not, it doesn't matter how close they might be, the planet will still be regarded as falling in the previous house.

The Moon gains strength when it is increasing in light. The mere fact that it is increasing is not, however, the point at issue: it is how much light it has that counts, not how much it is going to have. So the Moon in separating trine from the Sun is far stronger than it is at separating sextile ("all things being equal", of course: if that trine places it in Capricorn, it is still very weak). From separating trine, the Moon continues to increase in light as it approaches opposition to the Sun; but as soon as it is within about eighteen degrees of full it starts to lose strength rapidly, despite its gain in light, until when at the full - with maximum light - it is just as weak as when new. Similarly with its decrease in light (scoring -2): once it has left the area of 'combustion' around full, the Moon still has plenty of light, and so power to act: far

more than when at her last dying crescent before conjunction.

Partile aspects with benefics and malefics are listed and scored for good or bad. This does not mean that a close, but not partile, aspect has no effect. Suppose, for instance, our main significator were at 15.59 Taurus. Saturn is at 16.00 Taurus. The aspect is not partile, but is plainly of great importance - all the more so as it is immediately to perfect. We might take this opportunity to clarify the meaning of *partile*, and the whole question of degrees. An aspect is partile if the planets are within the same degree. This is not the same as saying that they must be within one degree of each other, for which reason the planets in our example above are not in partile conjunction. A degree is, literally, a step: no matter how close to the edge of the step we might be standing, the point of importance is whether we are or are not on the same step as the other planet. Only if we are is the aspect partile. The degrees of the zodiac are a staircase, not a slope.

If Regulus, Spica and Algol are the only stars affecting a planet's strength, we might wonder how Aldebaran, Castor, Antares and Lucida Lancis give 'admirable Preferment, great Honours, &c' to an extent three times greater than any other testimony.

Now on to the subject of mutual reception. We dealt with reception at some length in Issue 9, so here will deal only briefly with the assessment of strength of planets in mutual reception. The score-sheet mentions only mutual reception by sign (+5) and by exaltation (+4). This does not mean that receptions by triplicity, term or face are of no value: they are. Nor indeed does it mean we can ignore mutual reception by detriment or fall. If mutual reception is like friendship, such reception by debility is like getting into bad company: we cannot pretend that our association with those nasty boys at the end of the street is doing us any good. These rank as negatives as strongly as reception by sign or exaltation do as positives.

Mixed receptions are not excluded (eg Mars in the sign of Venus while Venus is in the exaltation of Mars). It must be remembered that the difference between the various levels of reception is one of quality, not merely of quantity. Planets in mutual reception by exaltation partake of the nature of exaltation; this is sensibly different from reception by sign, beyond the mere difference in strength. So also with the minor receptions.

Most importantly, we must consider the strength of the planets concerned. To say that two planets in mutual reception by sign gain by +5 if both planets are in detriment is simply not good enough. In a just society, a week in the pillory would be the only fit remedy for such nonsense. Planets in mutual reception are helping each other. A planet can help another only to the extent that it itself has strength. So mutual



A collection of Venus hours begin their training

reception with a planet in its own sign is a lot more helpful than mutual reception with a planet in only its own face. Some authorities state that planets in their detriment or fall cannot be involved in mutual receptions at all: this is probably overstating the case - my friend may not be able to help me much,

yet I still appreciate his sympathy - but it is a good deal more accurate than according great power to any mutual reception simply because it exists.

Just as I cannot help my friend if I am weak, neither can he help me if I am too weak. A planet that is badly debilitated cannot make use of the strength it is offered by another, much as a sick man may be too weak to hold down the food that would nourish him and speed his recovery. I am about to play football; my friend lends me his £200 boots; but if I am a hopeless player, it does me no good at all.

The key to the assessment of receptions - other than buying Astrologer's Apprentice Issue 9, if you have not already done so - is to remember always that we are concerned with qualities even more than quantities. So long as we understand how the various permutations of strength and weakness affect the quality of the reception, correct judgement of its strength will follow naturally. This is not reducible to a simple numerical formula.

We have explained often enough the reasons and shall not do so again, but two other common illusions on reception bear refuting yet once more: a planet without essential dignity of its own is peregrine, no matter how much mutual reception it might have; planets in mutual reception do not swap places.

Hush Yo' Mouth, Mr Lilly!

Those of a delicate constitution might like to make themselves a reassuring cup of tea before reading further, but Lilly is mistaken on the question of hayz. This is something which he only rarely uses; though he feels he ought to give it a mention, his memory has let him down. He says correctly that a masculine planet is in its hayz if it is in a masculine sign, above the horizon, in a day chart. The Arab authorities,

however, who do use hayz, make it clear that a feminine planet should be above - not below - the horizon, in a feminine sign, in a night chart.

Another dignity which Lilly mentions by rote without giving any indication that he uses is that of 'increasing in number'. The usual formula is "if a planet is direct in motion and increasing in number." The common explanation for the term - that the planet is moving from one degree to another of higher number, as it does in direct motion - renders the phrase so plainly tautological that we may wonder why he keeps repeating it. *Increasing in number*, however, means something quite different, as it refers not to a planet's position relative to the sign through which it is passing, but to its position on the epicycle. The point in question is whether the planet is approaching or receding from the Earth, not its direction of motion against the zodiac.

As with hayz, some authorities - notably Abu Ma'shar - place considerable emphasis on increase or decrease in number. Remembering the Second Law of Astrology, however, it is a consideration which we can do without. While such an attitude may seem offhand, it must seem so only to those who do not work with astrology as a daily practice. Had we but world enough and time, we could tease every nuance of judgement from every chart; we have not. So numerous are the tools at our disposal, that no astrologer, no matter how painstaking, has ever used them all; nor is this a failing: there is no virtue in making judgment more complicated than it need be. And so we are returned to the point repeated so often by Mr Lilly: the absolute necessity always in our judgements of combining 'discretion with art'.

* ————— *

WE APOLOGISE

to readers for the late appearance of this issue.

*Our scribal pool has been fully occupied in completing our book,
"Crowned with Stars: Ancient Astrology and Modern Superstition".
Details to follow in due course. The scribes have now been equipped
with new goose-quills, so normal service should be resumed.*

* ————— *

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DECREASING IN LIGHT

- a study of blackouts, by Alexandre Nigri

A Not-So-Bright Side of Jupiter

We had here in Brazil a big blackout in March, affecting ten Brazilian states and also Paraguay. For an event on this national scale, we can start the astrological analysis with Brazil's Independence Chart. The first step is to examine the planets and houses involved in the distribution of electricity.

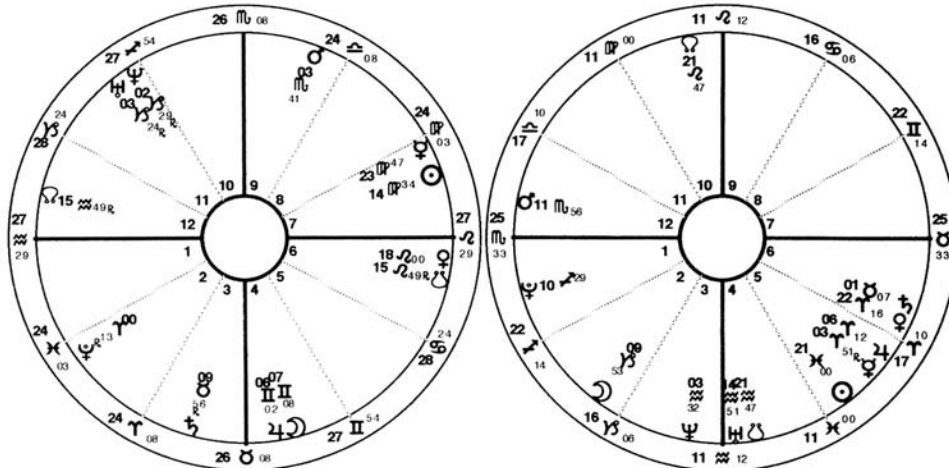
Mars rules energy. It is strong essentially, but cadent: there is great energy in potential, but the manifestation of this is difficult. Mars conjuncts the Ascendant by antiscion. As Mars is a malefic, this is an affliction, showing the country to be afflicted by energy shortages. The problem can also be seen by the opposition of Mars to Saturn, the Ascendant ruler: there will be interruptions in the energy supply from time to time.

Electrical energy can also be read as the radical fifth house - the second from the fourth, so the resources of the fourth house. Mercury rules the fifth. It is in Virgo, a sign where he has rulership and exaltation, but in the eighth, so again we have the combination of strong potential with difficulty in manifestation. Hence the blackouts. So we have seen that Brazil has a good energy potential, beset with interruptions. The next step is to determine when these interruptions happen.

The solar eclipse of February, 16th, 1999, the last one before this major blackout, fell at 27.08 Aquarius, exactly conjunct Brazil's Ascendant: a convincing pointer that Brazil will be affected by it. As we have seen, Mars is conjunct the Ascendant of the Brazil chart by antiscion, so the eclipse acts as a trigger, setting off the energy shortages that are promised in the Independence chart.

The chart for the blackout event is set for the Itaipu power plant. Just glancing at the chart, we notice the square between the eclipse and the ascending degree. Jupiter, ruler of the fifth house of resources of the fourth, is exactly conjunct Mercury, Brazil's fifth house ruler, by antiscion. This is all-important, as it links the event to the Brazil chart. The mutual separation of Mercury and Jupiter in the event chart picks up this theme, showing the failing of the distribution of energy. The separation of the Moon from square to these planets adds emphasis. Her application to sextile Mars, ruler of the first house, links this event to the nation.

Mars is in tight aspect with Neptune and Uranus in the Brazil



Brazil Chart
 Sept 7 1822 4.30 pm LMT
 25S01 50W35

Blackout #1
 March 11 1999 10.16 pm BZT
 25S32 54W35

chart. We might have expected this contact to be repeated at the time of the event. There are indeed square aspects between the same planets; outer planet fans, however, would have a hard job convincing us of their relevance as the orbs of these aspects are so wide, compared to those of the aspects between the traditional planets. And Mars never completes his square with Uranus, turning retrograde before he does so. We can find no evidence here for assigning electricity to Uranus.

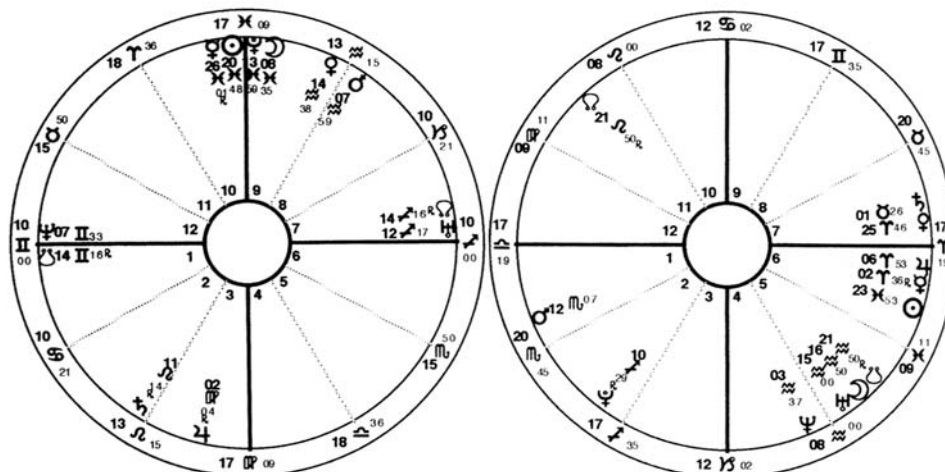
To sum up: we first ascertained Brazil's potential for blackouts, then checked the solar eclipse, which showed us the event during the forthcoming period of time. Jupiter hitting Brazil's Mercury by antiscion showed the day. The Moon's position by degree between Jupiter and Mars furnished us with the approximate hour. The ascending degree fine-tuned the timing almost to the exact minute.

The official story was that one electrical substation was struck by lightning, setting off a series of shut-downs in a domino effect until 22 thousand megawatts of electrical energy were cut off. This is one third of the energy generation capacity of the country. A big score for Jupiter the Thunderer!

An Obscure Dark Side of Saturn

There was another blackout in Rio de Janeiro, just three days after the one we have discussed. This one affected only one city, but is nonetheless of astrological interest, as it confirms the steps followed above.

We begin by assessing indications of Rio de Janeiro's innate



Rio Foundation Chart
 March 1 1565 2.50 pm GMT
 Rio de Janeiro

Blackout #2
 March 14 1999 7.17 pm BZT
 Rio de Janeiro

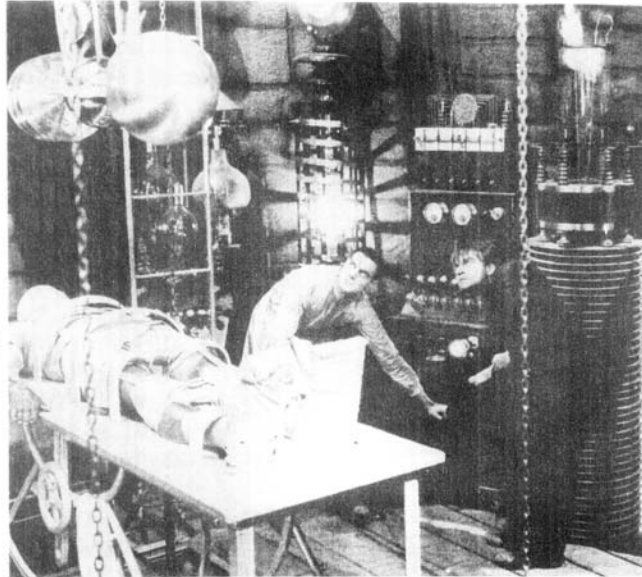
susceptibility to power failure. Again, we see Mars opposing Saturn: as in the Brazil chart, this suggests interruptions of the availability of energy. Venus rules the fifth house, the house of electrical energy. She too is opposed by Saturn: electrical energy interrupted.

The lunar eclipse of January 31st, 1999, fell at 11.20 Leo, activating these oppositions: an indication that another interruption of energy was about to occur. The Full Moon of March 2nd fell at 11.15 Virgo, tightly conjunct Rio's 5th/11th axis by antiscion. This narrows our time-window, giving us the two following weeks to look for power-cut events. For this, we must look at the Moon - not at an outer planet - as it is she that always indicates the trend of events. In the event chart, we have the Moon in the sensitive fifth house separating from square to Mars and applying to sextile Venus. These two planets, as we have seen, are involved in Rio's electrical matters, and Venus is Ascendant ruler of the event.

Uranus has managed to intruded into the fifth house, but again, evidence for his involvement is small. In the Rio de Janeiro foundation chart, Uranus is in aspect to the Moon, Mars, Venus and Saturn. If this were relevant, we should expect these aspects to be picked up here; but Mars fails to complete his square to Uranus, Venus is well separated from him, and Saturn is far from aspect. The separating conjunction of the Moon is hardly enough to implicate him. Poor, neglected Uranus.

The exact time of the power-cut is shown by its Ascending degree, closely conjunct Rio's fifth cusp (and thus the previous Full Moon, by antiscion).

So, following the same method as with the previous blackout, we were able to trace how it happened. We started by locating the sensitive points of Rio de Janeiro's foundation chart. We noticed the eclipse, which suggested that a power-cut was about to happen, then the syzygy, which narrowed the time to two weeks. The exact



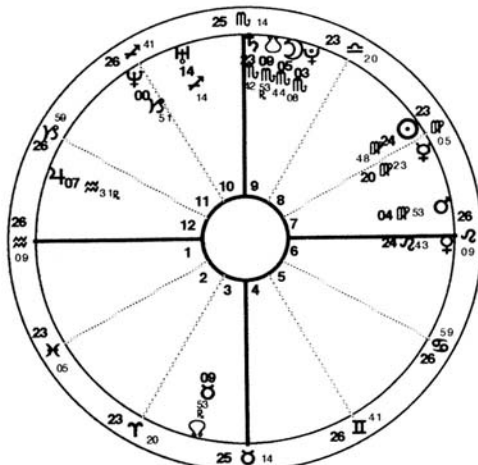
Our author overloads Brazil's power supply while attempting to revive the corpse of Astrology

day and approximate time were given by the Moon, by house and aspect. The exact timing could be seen by the Ascending degree. It is important to note that in this power-cut, with its limited area of effect of only one city, Saturn ruled the fifth. How different from the other, with expansive Jupiter ruling the fifth: that one cut out a third of Brazil's energy!

An Obscure Trick of Mercury

We had another big, national blackout on September 17th, 1985. As we have seen, the sensitive points in Brazil's chart are the two main axes; Mars, as the natural ruler of energy; the fifth as the house in question; and also Mercury, the fifth house ruler. The previous solar eclipse was on May 19th, 1985 falling at 28.50 Taurus, conjunct the IC and square the Ascendant. Again, we have a convincing pointer that there may be a power failure ahead.

Again, we have recourse to a syzygy to ascertain a more precise time. The previous New Moon was on September 14th, falling at 21.54 Virgo, conjunct Mercury on Brazil's national chart - just the indication that we would expect. The exact day and time is given by the Moon. The Moon on the day of the power failure was conjunct Brazil's Mars. In the chart for the event, the Moon separates from Mars. Mars is natural ruler of energy, so the Moon separating from Mars is leaving us without



Blackout #3
 Sept 17 1985 3.38 pm BZT
 Rio de Janeiro

energy. So the approximate hour was given by the Moon.

This power failure hit many Brazilian states and cities. The chart set for Rio de Janeiro, one of the major cities, shows the Ascendant and MC of the event exactly aligned with Brazil's. Most of the area affected by the blackout shared this Aquarius Ascendant and Gemini fifth cusp. As Mercury, one of our main indicators, is emphasised here again by the Gemini fifth cusp, its position in the event chart is worth noting: it is combust, hidden by the Sun, playing its obscure trick in the dark. We note also that this Sun/Mercury conjunction falls on

the same Sun/Mercury conjunction in the Brazil chart.

Aficionados of Uranus, who might expect a repetition of the close aspect between Mars and Uranus in the Brazil chart, will be disappointed, as the object of their affections decided not to show up. Mars is also in close sextile with Neptune in the Brazil chart. In this event (but not in the blackout of 1999), Neptune is in aspect with Mars and the Moon; but both aspects are separating by some considerable distance. It looks like the Moon and Mars have the good sense to run away from him. Would you trust Neptune?

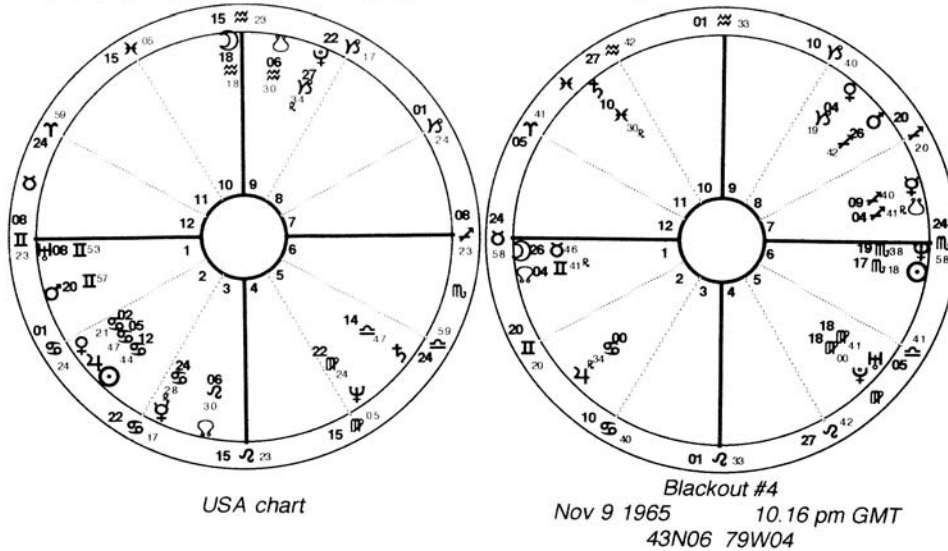
A Trans-saturnian Blackout?

There was a huge power failure in the USA in 1965, affecting the north-east of that country. We begin, as always, by finding the signifiers in the national chart. There are many US charts from which to choose; I have found the 8.53 Gemini chart to work well. Mars, the natural ruler of energy, is accidentally fortified in the first house. Saturn, in the fifth house of energy, is strong in the sign of his exaltation, which is an argument for a basically sound power system. The main suspect here is Mercury, ruler of the fifth house. It is peregrine, retrograde, under the sunbeams and cadent. Mercury is also conjunct the Ascendant by antiscion.

As before, we look for an eclipse to trigger the power cut. The previous solar eclipse - May 30th, 1965 - fell at 09.13 Gemini, conjunct the US Ascendant and so conjunct Mercury by antiscion: a blackout is ahead! For a more precise timing we need a lunation. The previous Full

Moon - November 8th, 1965 - was at 16.33 Taurus, square to the MC/IC axis and conjunct that same axis by antiscion. The day is given by the Moon position on the day of the event. The most significant of her aspects is the close separating sextile from the event Moon to the Mercury of the US chart. She also separates from the event Sun - ruler of the fifth house of the event chart - a repetition of what we have seen so often in these charts: the Moon separating from either the accidental or natural ruler of energy. The time of the event is given by the Moon's conjunction with the Ascendant.

Looking at the chart for the USA, we find Mercury conjunct Uranus by antiscion, sextile Neptune and in opposition to Pluto. We might expect a repetition of these contacts in the event chart. But once again the outer planets deceive us: they have only the most distant aspects to Mercury. They do aspect the Sun instead, making one conjunction and two sextiles, and both the Sun and Mercury rule the fifth house - but of different charts. So much for the trans-saturnians: either they contact the wrong planet, as in this example; or they make little contact with the relevant planets, as in the Brazilian blackout of 1985; or they do manage to aspect one of the signifiers, but this aspect fails to perfect, as in the black-outs of Brazil 1999 and Rio de Janeiro. In contrast, we have the reliability of the separating aspect from the Moon to one or more of our main signifiers, which was present in all four of our examples. Will the outer planets ever make it?



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A TIME FOR LOVE

Contrary to the howler in one modern astrology book, where electional astrology is said to be the art of predicting the results of general elections, it is in fact the art of choosing the optimum moment for starting whatever it is that we wish to do. This possibility immediately opens wide and glittering vistas where we achieve world domination, lottery successes, the girl of our dreams and ever even more, merely by pressing the appropriate button at the elected moment.

Not so, however; for much to our consternation we find that even a knowledge of elections cannot provide us what is not promised by our nativity. This is not an idea that is customarily well received: mentioning it in lectures can be guaranteed to evoke howls of protest from those who consider that a lottery victory or two and marriage to Leonardo di Caprio are part of their birth-right. Having donned sufficient protective clothing to ensure our safety, we can assure these disconsolate figures that this is not so.

If we were to explain that it was not possible to elect a time for them to win the Olympic 100 metres, because their bodies were not built to run exceptionally fast, we would find this statement accepted without argument. The love of illusion, however, fiercely resists acceptance of the fact that if the birth-chart - the life in which you dwell - does not indicate the sudden acquisition of great riches, you are not going to win the lottery, no matter how many tickets you buy or when you buy them. Nor is young Master de Caprio going to fall for you just because you accost him at a particular time.

Electional astrology is much like politics: it is 'the art of the possible'. We can elect a chart for what is not possible only when we can persuade the planets to move around the zodiac to suit our whim. For all the conventional phraseology of the electional art, with its talk of 'strengthening planets' or 'making them strong', these things are beyond our powers: all that we can do is watch the kaleidoscope as it turns and take our action at that moment when the pattern revealed best suits our purpose. And let us be thankful that this is so, for the clear lesson of horary practice is that we much the better off by being denied what we think we want.

So how is it done?

Electing a chart is, in principle, simplicity itself. All you need do is select the five or six planets that you want strong and then choose a



time when they are placed as you wish. Which is, of course, impossible.

The guiding principle of electional astrology - apart from the urgent warning that those of Virgoan nature should never under any circumstances attempt it, for their own mental safety - is that no election can be undertaken without the nativity. The idea that some moderns hold, that we can elect a chart to marry or a chart to start a business without any reference to the people involved is likely to do more harm than good. Imagine that we are asked to elect for starting a business. We put Saturn, the great

malefic, out of the way in the twelfth house, and pat ourselves on the back for doing a fine job. But if the native's tenth house is ruled by Saturn, we have just given his business the worst possible start.

From our study of the nativity, we will have identified the native's strong and weak points: the tools with which we can work, and the inbuilt dangers against which we must guard. In our elected chart, we will aim to choose a time when as many as possible of the following are strong: the lights (most important - this is our power-source, so without at least one of them reasonably strong it is as if the machine is not plugged in); the Lord of the natal Ascendant; the Lords of the relevant houses in the nativity (eg the tenth for a business; the seventh for a marriage); the natural rulers of the matter in hand (Mercury for our business; Venus for our wedding); the Lords of the relevant houses in the elected chart. We will also seek to weaken or strengthen as appropriate planets relating to the native's helpful or harmful characteristics. If there is another person involved, we will be careful about the planet ruling their house: a business partner, for example, we would want strong enough to help, but not strong enough to dominate. Then other houses to taste: in business, we need the eighth strong, to make sure that the 'other people' have some money to spend; in a marriage we will usually pay careful attention to the fifth house of children.

There will always be a limited portion of time from which we can choose our chart. There will be planets that we cannot possibly rescue from their weakness during this time; but this is merely a reflection of

the situation. We must never fall into the trap of thinking that the astrology is something outside the life. If we start our business during a recession, for example, there is not going to be a lot of money around; this will be reflected in the chart, and there is no magic that we can perform with our astrology to alter this fact.

Beginning the business of actually paring down the available time to find the moment we want is when the Virgos reach for the Valium. We must set about our time-limits with an axe, hacking off huge chunks without worrying that we might thus be missing the ideal time. If we begin by juggling details, we will quickly tie ourselves into knots.

There will almost always be one or more of the planets in which we are interested that is making a marked change of state during the time we are given: leaving or entering a sign where it is strong, turning retrograde, going combust, or some such. Pointers like these allow us to quickly cut down our timing to something manageable.

There is not usually much we can do to give the Sun essential dignity: not everyone wants to act only during the months of Aries and Leo. The Moon, however, is another matter: finding a time when she is as dignified as possible, with a reasonable amount of light and not doing anything unsavoury will usually bring our possible time down to a choice of just one or two days.

Choosing an appropriate Ascendant for the activity in question, and one which doesn't throw all the planets into difficult places (an Ascendant which puts everything below the earth, for instance, is not much use for anything other than becoming a recluse), will bring our time down to one or two hours. Then we have just to juggle things as best we can, strengthening accidentally what we cannot strengthen essentially (which is why a good proportion of elections on any subject are set for noon, when the Sun is accidentally strong), incorporating helpful fixed stars - a point commonly neglected today - and, as Ptolemy's *Centiloquium* advises us, using the malefics 'as physicians do poison', applying them judiciously to tweak weaknesses, much as we may put some chili into an overly bland sauce.

For what?

The ancients devote considerable attention to choosing the best time for a variety of actions which seem to us far too commonplace to merit such trouble. We are advised, for instance, that if we wish to take a bath we should wait until the Moon is in Libra or Pisces and applying to a sextile or trine aspect with Venus. This allows us a bath a couple of times a month, whether we need it or not. While we wonder at the consequent ponginess of our forebears, however, we might reflect that our current obsession with cleaning flesh is more a reflection of just

how far and how quickly we have fallen than of any refining of human scruples.

Putting on new clothes for the first time is a risky business: it is important to avoid doing this while the Moon is in Leo or Scorpio, else no good will come of it. Coley gives us a charming story of William Lilly, who "Saith, once casually, without inspection to the position of the Moon, he put on a new Suit, the Moon being in Leo, and ill dignified, and tore many holes in the Suit going a Nutting, within a fortnight after; nor did that Suit ever do him any service." If you can't put on new clothes with the Moon in Leo or Scorpio, however, you can amuse yourself by cutting your toe-nails: for this, you should ensure that the Moon is not in Gemini or Pisces.

Cutting your hair should be done at different moments depending on whether or not you wish it to grow back quickly. If you want it to stay short, the Moon is best placed in one of the barren signs: Leo, Gemini or Virgo. If, on the other hand, you want it to grow again quickly, you would put both the Ascendant at the time of the action and the Moon in one of the fertile signs: Cancer, Scorpio or Pisces. The Moon should also be increasing in light and, ideally, forming an easy aspect with the ruler of the natal Ascendant. Above all, make sure the Moon is not afflicted by Mars or Saturn: 'for they will cause much scurf and dandruff at the roots of the hair.'

If all these delicate considerations of timing make your life too stressful, you can relax over a quiet drink - though for this too you must exercise some caution. If you want to avoid quarrelling, you should make sure that the Ascendant when you start to drink is fortunate, as also the Moon, the Lord of the Ascendant, and the fifth house and its ruler. Above all, check that they are quite free of any contact with Mars and are harmoniously disposed with the rulers of the seventh and eleventh houses, or despite your best intentions drink may get the better of your temper.

But once we've had a drink, our fancy turns to thoughts of love. The traditional authorities give us full instructions for selecting the best moment for pleasure and delight. There is, however, one vital first step that they commonly omit: we do need to find a suitable victim - no amount of electional astrology is going to conjure a partner out of thin air. So, after electing the appropriate moment for donning our finery, we turn our steps towards the Astrological Disco. How do we know whom to choose? Our first task is to find someone good-looking enough to be worthy of our attention.

In traditional astrology, appearance is not judged from the Sun-sign (as we prefer our judgement to have some resemblance to reality).

A far more reliable indicator is the Ascendant, for the Ascendant shows the body in general and the face in particular. We look to the Rising Sign, its ruling planet, any planets that are in the Ascendant, and the Moon. The indications of the planets are qualified by the sign in which they fall, and both planets and Ascendant are affected by planets in close aspect to them. This gives us a selection of physical attributes, which, when blended together, will give an accurate description - even down to the location of bodily marks and scars.



*Perhaps not quite what
we are looking for*

The typical features the authorities point out for the various Rising-signs are as follows. It is important to remember that these are all qualified by the other considerations, and that the racial stereotype must be taken into account. That is, a 'dark complexion' on a Caucasian is going to be a lot lighter than a 'dark complexion' on an Asian. So, as we cast an amorous eye through the stroboscopic gloom of *Horoscopes-a-Go-Go* we can easily spot the main types:

Aries rising: not tall, but lean and muscular; long neck, dark face.

Taurus: short; strongly-built; a broad forehead is one of the most notable features; a big face, strong shoulders and 'a great mouth and thick lips'

Gemini: tall, straight body; dark complexion. Very straight hair is the most obvious give-away of a Gemini Ascendant. 'A good piercing hazel eye, and wanton,' which, for our present purposes of selecting a partner, sounds quite promising. But what Lilly means is that Gemini, true to its nature, is the one who's always looking over your shoulder to see if someone more attractive has just walked into the room.

Cancer: the obvious attribute for Cancer rising is that both sexes tend to be top-heavy. Short in stature; a round, pale face; lank brown hair.

Leo: A big head, prominent eyes (for the Sun rules the eyes); a box-like face, broad around the cheek-bones. Full, big body, tallish and strongly built. Lots of hair, typically - in a Caucasian - golden and curling.

Virgo: slim, not tall, well-built. Dark complexion with dark hair. Can be pretty, but not beautiful, according to Lilly. Again, for our present

purposes, this might well do.

Libra: all the ancient authorities were very keen on Librans: well-built, tallish, slimish, 'a round, lovely and beautiful face'. Yellow hair, smooth and long.

Scorpio: corpulent, strongly built, dark complexion, 'sad, dark hair', hairy body, squat, and 'well-trussed'.

Sagittarius: tall, long-faced, strong body and good-looking - in a dignified rather than sexy fashion. Perhaps the most likely to fit the common lonely-hearts ad requirement for 'solvency'.

Capricorn: not overly tall; long thin face with high forehead and black hair; narrow chest. If you find Max Wall irresistible, this is the one for you!

Aquarius: squat, thick body, long face. A typical combination of fair hair and high-coloured complexion makes Aquarius one of the easiest Rising-signs to identify.

Pisces: being 'short, ill-composed, not very decent', Pisces was the least popular of signs among the ancients. A large face, fleshy body and pale complexion.

We must also bear in mind the indications given by the planets, remembering, as before, that these are always qualified by the sign in which they fall and aspects in which they are involved:

Saturn: a lean and scraggy body; middle stature; downcast eyes; 'great ears, hanging lowering eye-brows... lumpish, unpleasant countenance... his knees and feet indecent'. Very hairy on the body; complexion 'as if he had the black or yellow jaundice'. Thick lips; bow-legged or knock-kneed; 'most part a stinking breath, seldom free from a cough... a foul, nasty, slovenly knave'. Saturn is unlikely to figure prominently in our list of possible playmates.

Jupiter: upright, straight and tall; lovely complexion; full face; high forehead; soft hair; much beard - the more so in men; 'his feet long, being the most indecent parts of his whole body'. Good teeth, but often something distinctive about the two front teeth. Inclining to fat, if Jupiter is in water signs. Lilly is kind to Jupiter; this may not be unconnected to his having Pisces rising.

Mars: mid-stature, strong body, big bones - the typical squaddie look. Red or sandy hair, often curling; sharp eyes. 'Given to mock, scorn, quarrell, game and wench;' if in Venus signs 'he wencheth', in Mercury signs he steals, in his own signs he quarrels. If we are seeking to be wenched with, then, this could be just the answer.

Sun: big and well-built - much as Leo. 'Not so beautiful as lovely.' Lots of hair, but soon growing bald; big beard. Bad teeth 'distort or obliquely

set' are a very typical indication of the Sun. 'Using outwardly a great decorum in his actions, but privately he is lascivious & inclinable to many vices' - which for our present purposes suggests he might fit the bill perfectly!

Venus: the loveliest of them all, of course. Not tall; well made; plenty of hair; dresses well; 'a rolling wandering eye... a steadfast eye, full of amorous enticements'. For sheer sexual attractiveness, the prime signifiers would be Venus in Mars signs or Mars in Venus signs.

Mercury: Mercury is the trickiest of the planets to judge, because more than any other it is affected by the planets with which it is in contact. In itself, it suggests a tall, slim figure; thin hair; little hair on the face; olive complexion; long arms, fingers & hands. Thin, long, sharp nose.

Moon: indications from the Moon are much the same as those of Cancer, especially a plump, round, white face.

So with the aid of astrology we have found someone who is pretty enough. They seem to be succumbing to our charms; but should we take things a step further? To decide this, we need to check their fifth house. Once you know the Ascendant, you can make a reasonable guess at what might be on their fifth cusp. If you know their chart, you can refine your judgement once you know exactly which sign rules the fifth, where its ruler is, and what sort of condition it is in. Obviously, being astrologers, we would never have got this far without going through the traditional courtship ritual: "Where's your Venus? Oh, that's exactly biquintile my Chiron!"

With *Aries* on the Ascendant, typically we will find Leo on the fifth cusp. This isn't the best lover you've ever had - it's the *only* lover you've ever had. Or the only one worthy of the name. And don't you dare say different!

Taurus rising would give Virgo on the fifth: it doesn't matter what you look like, as long as the sheets are clean.

Gemini gives Libra on the fifth. Libra gives the combination of Venus and Saturn: these are the ones with "The Joy of Sex" on one side of the bed and a stopwatch on the other.

Cancer rising would typically put Scorpio on the fifth cusp. Scary. Totally insatiable; as you would expect from Cancer rising - ever hungry.

Leo: Sagittarius on the fifth. You are just the latest person who has been allowed to worship at the shrine. It's all very nice; but with Sagittarius on the fifth, don't expect them to be there in the morning.

Virgo - well, why are they Virgos? Capricorn on the fifth cusp. "I'm not doing any of *that*!"

Libra: Aquarius on the fifth. Weird.

Scorpio rising would typically put Pisces on the fifth. If they can still stand up by the time they get to the bedroom, expect the earth not to move but to dissolve!

Sagittarius: Aries on the fifth. The original 'wam-bam thank you mam'. Another notch on the bedpost before he rides out of town.

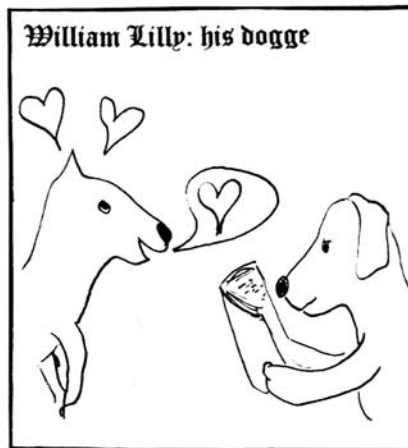
Capricorn: Taurus on the fifth. Lovely, no doubt; but he probably can't be bothered. This is the one who stops for a sandwich half-way through.

Aquarius gives Gemini on the fifth. "Bring a friend, why don't you?" If you can ever get them to stop talking.

Pisces: Well, with Cancer on the fifth, poor little Pisces just needs a bit of looking after. It happens to all men sometimes!

Electing the Moment:

Now, with all the examination papers in and our winning candidate chosen, comes the moment of truth for which we wish to elect the chart. As we have seen, the key point with all electoral astrology is that it must be done with reference to the nativity. Apart from all the general indications which apply to any election, we want the ruler of our natal fifth house - the house of pleasure - strong, and preferably in contact with the Lords of both our natal Ascendant (that is, us) and of our natal seventh (the other person). If conception is required, this should all be happening in fertile signs - Cancer, Scorpio or Pisces. If not, have these points in barren signs: Gemini, Leo or Virgo. Then strengthen the rulers of the natal first and seventh houses to taste, depending on how long you want the relationship to last.



Leave me alone! Venus won't be on the Midheaven for over an hour.

For 'the particular delight of the woman', we are advised to choose a time when the Moon is in Aries, Leo, Libra or Capricorn, in good aspect or reception with Mars or Venus. That is, the Moon by sign is picking up either the Sun (for masculine energy) or Saturn (hardness and duration) But although the Moon in the sign or exaltation of Saturn might be desirable, aspect with Saturn is definitely not: this gives 'tediousness, coldness and distaste'. The Moon applying by good aspect to the Sun, on the other hand, is excellent: this gives 'great delight to both parties'.

We are warned to ensure that the Moon is not in Pisces, 'for that oftentimes infirmities come thereby'. With Moon in Pisces, of course, his sojourn in the pub has taken far too long, with the usual consequences. But Moon in Gemini, Libra or Aquarius is much to be desired: 'these show delight and pleasure'. These are the 'humane' signs: so the whole affair will be civilised and decent.

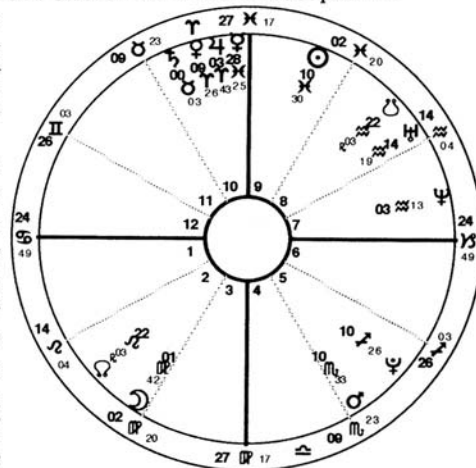
Ideally, we would choose a moment when Venus is in the Ascendant in Libra or Pisces; whatever else, we must avoid placing Saturn in the seventh, where it will cause 'discord between the two of you'. Finally, we are told, if the Moon aspects Jupiter the woman won't be interested; so the wise lover will check his ephemeris before splashing out on roses and champagne.

Tuition on electional astrology is available from The Astrologer's Apprentice - contact details on back cover.

ASTRONOMERS - THE TRUTH

While we are on the subject, we must mention an urgent query received from one of our readers, a certain Tash McLeod. "Why," she asked, "Do female astronomers wear too much make-up?" It is not ours to wonder why the toilette habits of our sistren with the telescopes are of such concern to her, nor to ask whether male astronomers wear more or less the right amount of make-up; ours but to judge the question as asked.

The trollops with whom we are concerned are shown by the ninth house, the house of even the modern pseudo-sciences and their practitioners, and as such are signified by Jupiter. Their motivation becomes immediately clear: Jupiter is in Aries, the exaltation of the Sun: they exalt men. As the Sun - the object of their attention - is itself in the ninth house, these men must be those in the place of astronomy. So



*Too Much Make-up?
March 1 1999 1.15 pm GMT
London*



*A female astronomer prepares
for a hard day at the office*

if we rule out the little green variety, the men they exalt must be their co-workers, or, as the Sun rules the sixth house from the ninth, the astronomers' slaves and servants, the rippling hunks who perform menial tasks around the observatory. This is a more likely (or even amour likely) possibility than that of their being hopelessly smitten with Patrick Moore.

With Venus, planet of feminine beauty, separating from Jupiter and Jupiter lumbering after it in hopeless pursuit, we see them fighting a losing battle to retain their looks - with Venus heading into the maw of Saturn, the years

are not being kind (how different from female *astrologers*, of course, where wisdom gilds the lilies dulled by time). Jupiter and Venus are both ruled by Mars, the planet which we typically find signifying sex in horary charts. Mars is powerfully placed in its own sign and lies, as we might expect, just inside the fifth house. The Sun (the slaves) is ruled by Jupiter: they are employed by the astronomers. It exalts Venus and is exactly trine Mars, its triplicity ruler. In the interests of decency, we must now draw a discreet veil over the goings-on this makes plain. No wonder they are too busy to learn any real science!

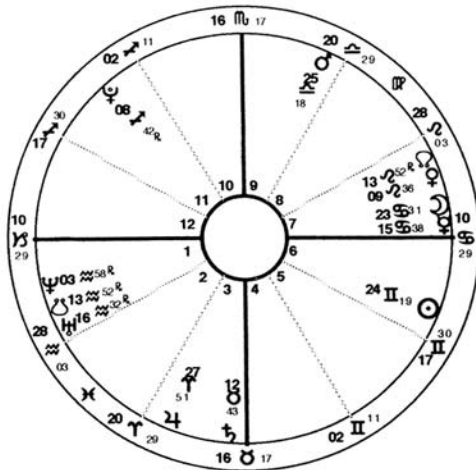
THE SHOPPING CHANNEL

A querent asked: I have the possibility of putting my business's product on the Shopping Channel on TV. Will this be successful? Can I trust Mr X, the agent who is introducing us, or is there a danger that I might be cut out of the deal?

Our querent is shown by the Lord of the Ascendant, Saturn, and the Moon. His business, the tenth house, is Mars. The agent must be seventh house: he is not a superior (tenth) and he is not a slave (sixth), so he must be someone on the same level: seventh. So he too is shown by the Moon, in which case, as ever, he has first claim to its services and its role as querent's co-significator becomes only minor.

With the Moon in its own sign, we can see that the agent is strong:

this is an encouraging start, as it suggests he might be able to achieve something. The Moon's receptions show us his priorities. He is ruled by the Moon, so his prime interest is in himself: fair enough. He exalts Jupiter, so is also much interested in that. What is Jupiter? It rules the eleventh house, which is (second from tenth) our querent's business's money. Again, this is what we would expect to find: he is an agent, not an angel. As exaltation ever shows an exaggerated estimate of things, we see that he over-values the money he is likely to make out of the business. But that is his problem, not ours.



Sell on TV?
 June 15 1999 10.21 pm BST
 London

As for his honesty: he is strong, which is always a good sign. There are no aspects or contacts that might suggest anything untoward. Both reception and his position in his own house support the common-sense assumption that he is concerned primarily with his own benefit, but there is no reason to suspect him of anything underhand.

Can he do the deal? Yes, he can. The Moon is separating from conjunction with Mercury, which is - whatever the moderns may think about it - natural ruler of television. Its next aspect is to Mars, signifier of our querent's business. The Moon translating light from the TV company to the business exactly reflects the situation: the agent is going to bring the two together. As Mercury is ruled by the Moon, the TV company will do what the agent wants.

So far, so good. The receptions, however, are worrying. Mars - the business - is in a bad way, being in the sign of its detriment. Both agent and TV company receive Mars in two different ways: into its triplicity and into its fall. The first of these is helpful, the second quite the reverse. This shows an ambivalence, as we have discussed elsewhere in this issue; but fall is stronger than triplicity, so the contact does more harm than good. As we look further, we can see why this is.

In any question about business or profit, we are much concerned with the ruler of the eighth house: 'the other people's money'. This is what we want. If the other people - the prospective customers - have no money, or their money is not coming to us, our business, no matter how rosy it might seem, will not succeed.

Here, the ruler of the eighth house is the Sun. Sun goes

immediately to trine Mars: the other people's money comes easily to the company. But while in principle this is just what we want, the chart shows clearly that this is not at all that for which we were hoping. The Sun has dignity only by face and is in a cadent house: being so weak, we can see that the money may come easily enough (trine), but that there will be precious little of it. Mars receives the Sun into its fall: as positive reception shows liking, so negative shows dislike: as exaltation shows exaggerated good, so fall - its opposite - shows exaggerated dislike. So the company is going to be most dissatisfied with the money. This reflects just what we were shown by the ambivalence of the receptions of Mars by the Moon and Mercury: while things seem to go well enough, the result is going to be unsatisfactory. This outcome is confirmed by Venus, the ruler of the fourth house (the end of the matter), applying immediately to oppose Fortuna (9 Aquarius 41). As Lilly tells us, "I have rarely seen any thing brought to perfection by this way of opposition, but the Querent had been better the thing had been undone."



We plugged our querent into the horary machine, so he could find an answer

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SOFTWARE REVIEW: JANUS

Every spring a troupe of wandering hucksters set up their stalls on the nearby heath and, if the weather is fine and work permits, the Master allows us a half-day's holiday to visit the fair. This year, indeed, he entrusted us with a couple of trines whose legs were no longer able to maintain aspects between the faster moving planets and asked us to obtain a decent price for them from one of the itinerant hawkers.

Silas, who has a way with words that is not always to his credit, took charge of the bargaining, coming away with a bright copper kettle in exchange. Privately, however, I suspect that the breadth of the smile on his face had less to do with the acquisition of a much-needed utensil for the workshop than with a length of blue riband that he had not quite managed to conceal in his breeches' pocket.

It was only when we were emerging from seeing the Bearded Lady of Armenia that we noticed Silas was no longer with us. He has ever an eye for a comely wench, so it was no surprise to see him a short time later, arm in arm with a dimple-cheeked maiden with a blue riband in her hair. Much to the discomfiture of some of the younger apprentices, who blushed red and developed an intense interest in the toes of their clogs, Silas brought her over to meet us, brimming with excitement as he did so. He introduced her as Anna Estaroth, serving-maid to a visiting laird. "Tell them what you've been telling me, Miss Anna," he urged.

Thus encouraged, she started forth on a tale of wonder that strained even young Hobbinol's powers of credulity, never previously troubled by any traveller's reminiscences or fireside story of ghosts and spectres. "There is a computer programme," she began, "Hight *Janus*, forged for a heathen king by Mark Griffin and Hamish Saunders at Astrology House in Auckland, New Zealand." Hobbinol's skin, usually much the same hue as the straw in which he sleeps, turned a startling shade of white at the mention of these devilish terms. Could Earth hold so dire and dark a place as 'New Zealand' - and what, then, had become of old Zealand and its unfortunate inhabitants?

Miss Estaroth continued: "It is easier to install and use than Matrix or Solar Fire. [By now poor Hobbinol was attempting to hide himself in the sack Silas had used for carrying the trines.] The current chart appears as soon as it is switched on, and on-line help is at hand throughout. Like most astrology software these days it covers everything you would expect to find. The writers have completed Robert Zoller's traditional course, so there is access to square charts, firdaria and the like.

"The horary section, accessed from the front page, permits easy turning of the chart. It states any considerations before judgment, dignities, antiscia, mutual receptions, aspects to fixed stars and Arabian Parts, planetary aspects - both separating and applying - hour rulers, and so forth. These are all printed with the chart for easy reference; most other software requires you to print separate pages to access this material or rummage about within the package. What it does not do is list the accidental dignities. The auto-clock is part of the horary page so that you can instantly draw up the chart while on the telephone. Best of all there is plenty of room to make chart notes. Many horary questions are too long to fit in the small space permitted in the name section in many software packages, so we are forced to create a short coded version, whereas with space for up to 800 characters these notes allow for the exact wording of the question, sub-queries embedded within it and even feedback on your judgements."

We looked at each other with expressions of ghaſt amazement. Could ſuch things be true? “Where can we ſee this creature?” we aſked her, when our powers of ſpeech had begun to return. She eaſed her hand free from Silas’ embrace and pointed acroſs the heath, paſt the Amazing Two-headed Fiſh, to where a tent of deep blue emblazoned with ſtars ſtood in a ſpace all to itſelf, guarded by a huge Nubian with a ſcimitar ſtuck in his ſilk belt. We hardly dared move, yet we knew we could not return to the yard having heard of ſuch a wonder and not looked for ourſelves. Each attempting to puſh the others before him, we made our timid way towards the booth.

Once inside, we found a magic mirror displaying flickering figures, ſimilar to that the Maſter ſtill poſſeſſes but has ſworn never to uſe again. Hobbinoſ being the ſmalleſt, we puſhed him to the front and ſat him down before the ſcreen. This *Januſ* did indeed have magical powers, for deſpite never having worked in Windows before, even Hobbinoſ could find hiſ way around without reſort to either advice or manual. The ephemeris ſtretched back to a time before even the Maſter was born, more than ſufficient for any feaſible enquiry. Being a young lad with the firſt twinges of cholera ſtarting to race in hiſ veins, Hobbinoſ began at once, of courſe, to investigate all the unſeemly acts of which the programme is capable, ſuch as caſting return charts for not only all the conventional planets but alſo a large ſelection of aſteroids. I waſ forced to give him a ſmart clip around the ear to inſtil ſome decorum and remind him that he waſ a representative of our workſhop. Fortunately, theſe perverſe proclivities are kept in areas of the programme which no right-minded user will ever wiſh to acceſs.

Our investigation proved thiſ ‘Januſ’ to poſſeſs every attribute of which Miſſ Eſtaroſ had ſpoken, and a great ſtore more beſides. But any of the top-rank programmes will contain vaſtly more than any user could poſſibly want, all available with acceptable accuracy. When everything doeſ everything, choice reſtſ largely on aetheticſ and eaſe of uſe: on theſe countſ, Januſ haſ no peer. If ever the workſhop decideſ to replace iſ current wood-burning computer with one of the newfangled ‘electric’ modelſ, Januſ would without doubt be our choice of programme. We note alſo that it iſ rather cheaper than either the market leaderſ or many other programmeſ that provide far leſſ.

We eventually managed to wreſtle young Hobbinoſ away from the keyboard and out of the tent. As we made our way home acroſs the now deſerted fairground, the Nubian bellowed after uſ: “Januſ can be purchased direct from <http://www.astrologyhouse.co.nz>. It coſtſ £140 and the ſystem requirementſ are PC 486 or higher, Windows 3.11 or higher, 11mb free hard diſk ſpace pluſ 8 mb RAM.” I believe theſe wordſ make ſenſe in hiſ own language.



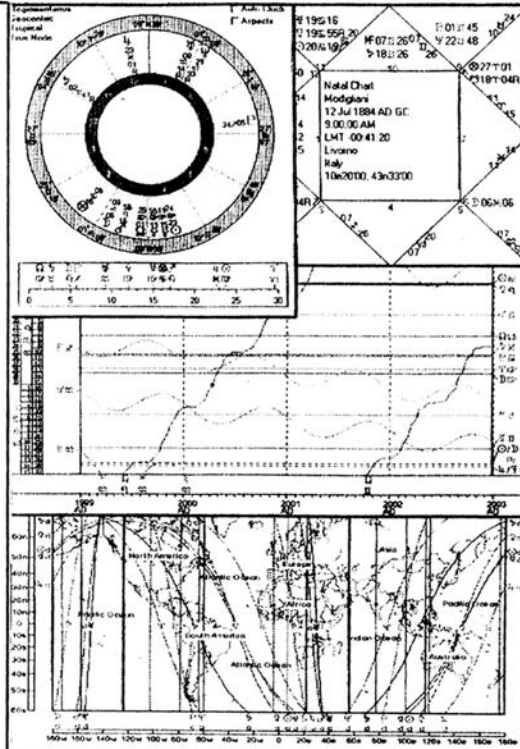
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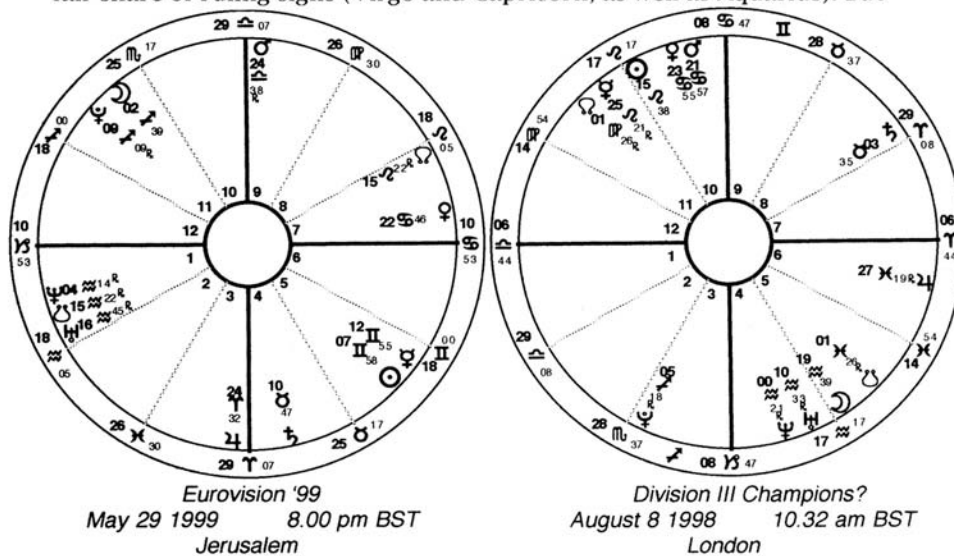
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THE SPORTING LIFE

Regular readers of this august journal will know that the Apprentice's claim to a place in the Astrological Hall of Fame rests on his elucidation of the technique for predicting the winner of the Eurovision Song Contest. For this alone, astrologers and students down all the generations will be in his debt.

This year's contest ran true to form. The chart is set for the time transmission began. Regard the planets as standing still, then move the MC forward until it forms a major aspect with one of the planets. The sign in which this planet falls will give the winning country; the planet itself shows the song.

In this year's chart, the MC applies first to Neptune in Aquarius. For Aquarius, Lilly gives us a selection of countries, including Tartary, Croatia, Muscovia, Media, Arabia and various bits of both Germany and Italy. Some of these have taste enough not to enter (as Israel is apparently part of Europe, we have no doubt the contest's geography is flexible enough to accommodate even Tartary, should it wish to have a go); Muscovia was not admitted after a particularly dismal showing last year, and the Italians are still sulking because we don't let them win. This leaves us with Croatia, who, presumably in an attempt to monopolise the Eurovision crown, have commandeered more than their fair share of ruling signs (Virgo and Capricorn, as well as Aquarius). But



any connection there might be between “Maria Magdalena”, the title of their song, and Neptune quite escaped us.

Iceland has a suspiciously Aquarian tinge to it, though we have no authority to support this; but its song too had no visible connection with Neptune. Lee Lehman’s useful “Book of Rulerships” came to the rescue once again by listing Dariot’s ascription of Sweden to Aquarius. The Swedish entry was “Take Me to Your Heaven”. It duly won.

A similar problem - that of picking the winner from a field of entries - was posed by this horary: *Who will win the Third Division Championship?* Here we had to select one team out of a possible twenty-four. There is a slight difference between the situation here and in Eurovision, in that a football championship is determined by objective achievement, while the winner of a song contest is decided - well, in the case of Eurovision by no discernible criteria of any kind.

It must be emphasised that this chart is for a horary: the techniques for judging horaries and those for picking winners from event charts must not be mixed.

This is a championship, and so a tenth house matter. In the chart for such a question it would be usual to find a planet applying to conjunct the MC: this would show the winner. Here, there is none. So we need a connection between the Lord of the MC - in this case the Moon - and one of the other planets. The Moon applies to oppose Mercury: Mercury will signify the winners. Mercury rules bees. The ‘Bees’ being the nickname of Brentford, one of the ten or so teams with a realistic chance of winning the title, we judged that Brentford would win (televised pre-season prediction).

Oppositions must be judged according to the question asked. In some contexts, an opposition will not be sufficient to give a positive answer; in others, it will give a positive answer, but with regret later, or with dissolution shortly afterwards (“Yes, you will marry him, but it won’t last.”). In other cases, most typically in “Will this



Scotland's entry failed to impress

house purchase go through?”, but also here, opposition shows achievement, but only after an extreme amount of difficulty - even more than would be shown by a square. Lilly tells us that it can show achievement after such an expenditure of effort that the result does not justify the exertion; this does depend on the context, however. Had the indicating aspect been a trine, the expectation would have been that Brentford would have dominated the league throughout, winning at a canter. With an opposition, they fell behind at several stages and confirmed victory only on the final day of the season.

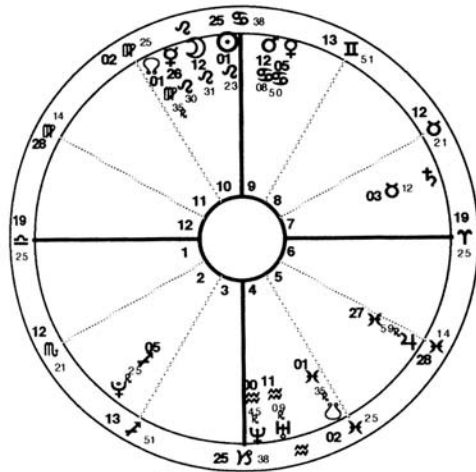
At the end of last season, Charlton Athletic clambered into the dizzy heights of the Premier League. As soon as she had recovered from her surprise, their fan asked whether they would stay up at the end of the season. Had we asked the question ourselves, with no especial sympathy for Charlton, we would have given them the seventh house of ‘any old person’. Here, however, they are given the first house, in the same way that their supporter would say “We are going to win on Saturday.”

Charlton, then, are signified by Venus, placed at 5 Cancer. The Part of Death (Asc+8th-Moon) falls at 19 Cancer. Venus is heading towards death: this does not bode well. But other planets get there first. Mars, at 12 Cancer, reaches the Part long before Venus. Being conjunct Venus, we can see that Mars must signify a team that is together with Charlton in some way, presumably - as they stand there hand in hand like a couple of nervous children on their first day at school - a team that has been promoted with them. Combining discretion with art, we took this to be Nottingham Forest. All teams battle on to the end of the season but, as their first arrival at Death indicates, it was apparent at an early stage that Forest would be relegated.

The next planet to aspect the fatal Part is Jupiter. This was a puzzle. Being Jupiter, it would seem to be a big-name club. With hindsight, we can see that the retrograde motion gives the clue: a big-name club going back to where it has recently been. Blackburn Rovers would fit the bill. They were relegated during the last week of the season.

Three teams go down. We have accounted for two of them. Unfortunately for our querent, no other planet makes contact with the Part of Death before Venus: the third must be Charlton. And so they were - the last of the three teams to be consigned to the pit, their fate determined only on the last day of the league programme.

We were all quietly labouring away in the workshop one morning - I was busy cleaning out a degree after it had been vacated by the



Charlton Stay Up?
 July 24 1998 12.43 pm BST
 London

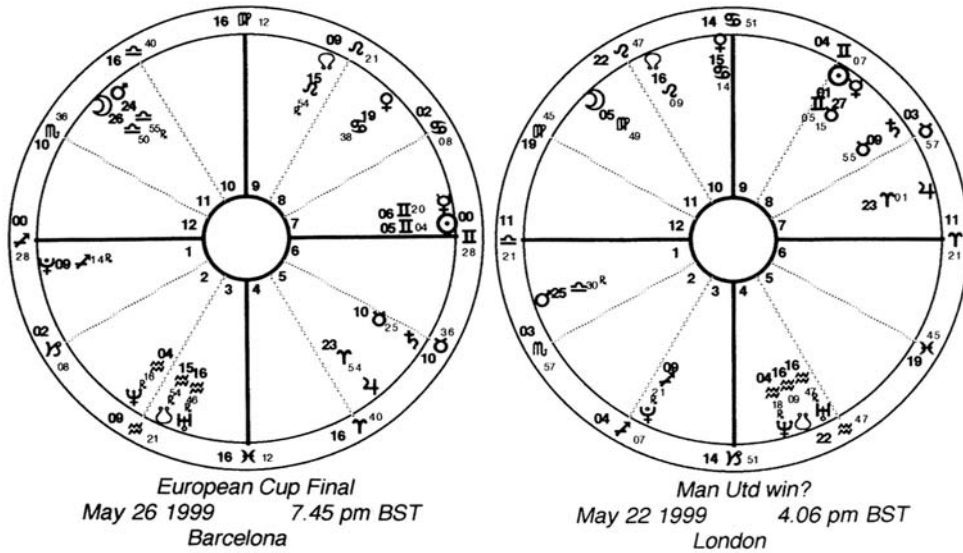
South Node, which is always a messy business - when a gorgeously-clad youth arrived at the gate. So rich was his finery and so short his attention-span that we knew him at once for an emissary from Television-land. "The European Cup Final takes place on May 26th," he explained over a restorative mug of ale. "Can you come to my kingdom to watch the game and tell us how it will end?"

The Master explained politely that he was far too busy to go himself, but would gladly send Simon, one of the journeymen. The emissary looked a little put out, but had no choice other than to accept.

So Simon prepared himself, and I was delegated to carry his tools.

We left the yard early the next morning, planning to reach the borders of Television-land before nightfall, which we would easily have done had Simon been more careful in his preparations. I had thought before we left that the seventh house he had selected had been used a little too often and was quite worn through; this proved to be the case, as after only a couple of miles I glanced backwards and saw the road behind us littered with degrees that had fallen from it and now lay glittering in the morning sunshine. It was, of course, me who was sent back to the yard, retrieving the lost degrees as I went, to get a seventh house that was fit for the task in hand. By the time I had done this and caught them up again, Simon and the emissary had eaten all the cheese we had brought for our journey, leaving me half-starving when we finally reached our destination late that night. Still, the palace of the king of that country is a splendid one, and I was well entertained in the servants' hall.

The next evening we were taken to what they call a "Sports Bar" to watch the game. I bolted the chart together and set the planets in their places so Simon could make his judgement. Manchester United were favourites for the match, so Simon gave them the first house (on occasions like this, pitting a British against a foreign team, the bookies' odds are unreliable, but United's path to the final had been sufficiently impressive to suggest that they did deserve favouritism); their opponents, Bayern Munich, would have the seventh. Simon laboured long over judgement, tugging at his ear and asking persistently if I was



sure that all the planets were in the correct places. The chart was not at all clear-cut. Jupiter (Man Utd) was conjunct Fortuna, which would have been a powerful positive testimony - but the aspect was separating. Mars, the dispositor of Fortuna, applied to Jupiter - but by opposition. The Moon too aspected Jupiter, but was separating. Mercury (Bayern) was doing nothing much of interest.

Although in sporting event charts, dignity is usually irrelevant, in the highest profile matches - such as this - it can be significant, especially if everything else is finely balanced. Mercury is strong in its own sign, but combust. This was enough for Simon to draw a cautious judgement. With Mercury strong, Bayern would dominate the game. There was enough happening in the chart to suggest some goals, but not many. It was so even that the result would be tight: only one goal between the teams. Combustion would finally destroy Bayern. As the combustion was in Mercury's own sign, it would be a self-inflicted defeat. So Manchester to win 2-1, clinching victory only late in the game.

Simon's prediction was sealed before the match kicked off. With only a few minutes left to play and United trailing 1-0, he was filmed assuring their tearful fans that there was plenty of time yet. The most remarkable finish to a match that most supporters can remember proved him right, as two injury-time goals gave the game to United, the Bayern players seemingly so traumatised by the first goal that they could offer no defence against the second. Once again, when put on the spot sound astrological techniques had proved their worth - though

with the chart so finely balanced and the test so public, it was abundantly clear how little Simon's success depended on his skills and how much on grace, without which nothing.

British readers of *The Astrologer's Apprentice* should be able to see this film of Simon in action on LWT around the New Year. A second prediction for this programme had concerned the Cup Final, again involving Manchester United. Simon had forecast a 2-0 victory from the match chart (May 22nd, 3pm BST, London). Again, however, the event chart was unusually muddy for a final. Just after half-time, with United leading 1-0, Simon asked a horary to check how things were going: *Will Manchester United win?*

As ever, horaries give the clearest, simplest and most reliable way of predicting the outcome of a contest. To our regret - and this is why Simon is still only a journeyman and not Master of his own yard - he still has some concern to get his predictions right. This unfortunate involvement of ego gave him sufficient interest in United winning the match for him to take them as first house and their opponents as seventh.

United, then, are signified by Venus; Newcastle by Mars. It would take a powerful testimony to overrule the immediately obvious indication of Venus' position just inside the MC. Confirming this initial indication, we find Venus far stronger than Mars: Venus has strong accidental dignity, while Mars is in detriment, retrograde and in United's own house. Worse still for Mars is the reception: the two planets apply by square and, while Venus rules Mars - a positive reception from Venus' point of view - she also receives Mars into fall, a negative reception from Mars' perspective. The horary confirmed Simon's forecast. Venus is so dominating that Newcastle will pose no threat: it was one of the most one-sided Cup Finals in memory. Venus does, however, also receive Mars into its triplicity (Mars ruler of all water signs), so there will not be the goal-rush that this dominance suggests. United won 2-0.

This chart highlights the matter of the treatment of mixed receptions (positive triplicity and negative fall). The key to their understanding is to remember that receptions differ in their quality as well as in their quantity. That is, reception by sign (for example) is not just stronger than reception by triplicity, but it is of a different nature. So the two apparently contradictory indicators show different things happening at the same time. An understanding of how the receptions differ by quality¹ will enable their different meanings to be teased out, while their respective strengths will enable us to decide which is the

¹: See *Apprentice* issue 9



William Lilly's hieroglyph predicting that Manchester United would win the 1999 European Cup 2-1, with an injury-time goal from a Norwegian (third from the right).

in Libra; the drugs (his twelfth house) were shown by Venus in Cancer, giving the same receptions as in the Cup Final horary above. Mars in Libra: the boy is ruled by the drugs. Venus receives Mars into his triplicity - he was quite happy in their house - but also into fall: he was being seriously harmed there. The chart exactly portrays the ambivalence of the situation. As always, everything we want to know is there, if only we know how to look.

more important.

Such an understanding is of great importance, as there is ambivalence in our attitudes to many things, and this will be reflected in the chart, whether the chart is a horary or a nativity.

A recent chart gave a simple example. The question was *Is my son's drug-taking doing him serious harm?* The boy's significator was Mars

Will the Witches be Set Free?

A student sent this chart. She explained that some years ago, a small boy was murdered. A mother and daughter were accused of killing him in a black-magic ritual. They confessed to the crime, and a body was presented that was apparently that of the boy. But when they were brought to trial, the doctor who had identified the body committed suicide and the accused denied everything, claiming that they had been tortured into making the confessions. They were finally set free through lack of evidence; by the end of the trial, the authorities were no longer even sure that the body belonged to the murder victim.

There were two questions: will they be set free and are they guilty? The women are shown by the twelfth house, as there is no dispute that they did actually perform magical rituals: the disputed

point is whether or not they killed the boy. Mercury rules the sign on the twelfth cusp, and so signifies them. It is in Aries, the sign ruled by Mars, Lord of the tenth house - the tenth being the judge. So the chart reflects the situation: they are in the power of the judge.

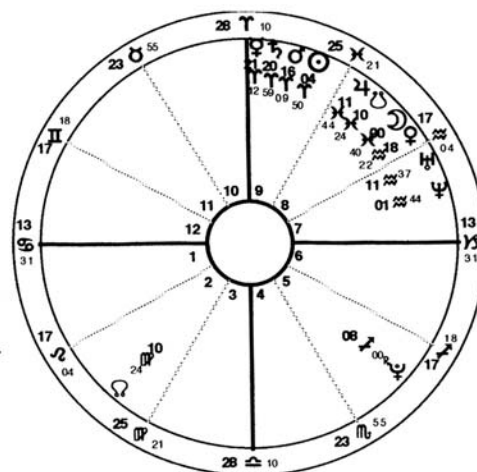
The boy must be shown by the witches' seventh house, for he is their open enemy - whether claimed as such or really so. He, then, is shown by Jupiter, ruler of the sixth house, the seventh house from the twelfth. Jupiter has just separated from conjunction with the malefic South Node, so something extremely unpleasant has happened to him.

To establish guilt, we must follow exactly the same method as any TV detective. It doesn't matter what dignity the suspect's significator might have, nor whether or not their position is about to get substantially worse or better: we are not asking whether they *feel* guilty, nor whether they will be convicted, but whether they actually committed the crime.

In horary, we are usually peering into the future, looking to see what is going to happen; so we are usually concerned only with applying aspects, aspects that have not yet happened, but soon will. Applying aspects show what is to come, separating aspects show what has already happened. To establish whether or not the accused are guilty of the crime, we would look for a separating aspect between their planet and the planet signifying the boy. This would show that they have come into contact in the past. The nature of the aspect will show how that contact took place. Just as with the TV cop - if we cannot prove contact between accused and body, we have no case.

The antiscion of Jupiter, the boy's significator, is at 18.16 Libra. Mercury - the witches - has just separated from opposition to this point. So we have clear evidence of contact between the accused and the victim. Opposition, in the traditional phrase, is an aspect 'of perfect hatred'. The chart shows quite clearly that they are guilty.

But will they get their just deserts? We must now look at the applying aspects, to see what will happen in the future. Mercury is just separating from Saturn, the great malefic. If that had been an applying



*Witches set free?
Data withheld.*

aspect, we would have judged with certainty that they would be convicted, as their planet bumps into something deeply unpleasant. But this unpleasantness, which must relate to the trial, is over, and Mercury is not applying to any other planet. Nothing else is going to happen.

Mercury is also moving further away from Mars, the judges, and Mars is now applying to this same opposition to the antiscion of Jupiter. In this instance, we are probably better to read opposition as 'coming together, with regret'. The judges and the boy are making contact, but nothing is going to come of it - the boy will be let down. Mercury, which has recently passed over both the malefics - the worrisome period of the trial - is now free to proceed on its way: the witches will be set free.

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NEPTUNIA REPLIES...

- a word from our sensitive seer

Dear Neptunia, Only you can help me! I am so desperate that I don't know where to turn. I have spent years studying William Lilly and immersing myself in the western tradition of astrology, but my boy-friend says that none of this is any good. If I want accurate judgements and especially if I want any knowledge of the spiritual, I must give it all up and use Indian methods. He is also insisting I change my name to Vindaloo and call him Prawn Byriani, in recognition of his heightened spiritual awareness. I am so confused: please help!
Yours in expectation, Tracey

Dear Tracey, You are far from being alone. Almost every day my mailbag brings me sorry tales like yours, as another poor girl's boy-friend is enchanted by the mysterious east. This trend seems particularly marked, as are most psychic peculiarities, in the colonies: only this morning I was browsing through one of their 'astrological' (I use the word loosely) journals, scratched with indigo on wind-dried buffalo-hide, and found almost every advertisement for tuition or practice was from people claiming to work within the Indian tradition. Many of these advertisers assure us they are beings of high spiritual status; most, though looking rather pale for citizens of the sub-continent, sport Sanskrit names the English equivalents of which have not been heard since Kneel-and-pray-for-God's-grace Johnson went to his grave in the Seventeenth Century.

Don't get me wrong, Tracey - like all of us here in the workshop, I have the highest regard for Vedic astrology. In the hands of a skilled practitioner, it is capable of great accuracy; it can also give insight into the spiritual dimensions of the life. But the reason behind the present vogue for its practice has nothing to do with either accuracy or spirituality, only with the time-honoured reluctance to devote sufficient effort to understanding western astrology and the consequent hope that someone else's might be easier. It is, of course, not.

To anyone practising the methods of modern astrology, Vedic techniques must indeed seem appealing - since even closing one's eyes and sticking a pin in a thesaurus can produce more accurate results than those 'astrological' methods common today. This does not prove their superiority over the traditional techniques employed in the West. Merely having all his technical terms in a foreign language does not make your boyfriend a better astrologer. As for his comprehension of the spiritual basis of Vedic astrology, I doubt if reading 'The Famous

Five Go to an Ashram' and changing his name are sufficient to imbue him with the mighty spiritual concepts of an alien culture. His belief that spiritual knowledge is found only in Asia is adequate proof of his inability to recognise it when he sees it.

This enthusiasm for fishing in someone else's pond when there are fish a-plenty in our own is seen also in those others who do claim to work within the western tradition, yet insist that truth can be found only within heresies. Somehow heresy is thought more 'mystical' than orthodoxy, an attitude that reveals a fundamental misunderstanding. These are the boys who are too timid to go riding with the motor-cycle gang, so live out their fantasies of rebellion intellectually, chasing the glamour of the wayward when the true is right in front of their noses. My suggestion would be that they buy the motor-bikes for which they long and get this desire for teenage kicks out of their system, so they can then get down to some straight thinking.

But let us get back to your boy-friend, Tracey. If you want a curry, do you go to your local MacDonald's, or to an Indian restaurant with an Indian cook? Take my advice - leave him to his MacKarma while you carry on with what you know best. *Your caring, Neptunia*

*
Sue Ward

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