

GEOCOSMIC JOURNAL

WINTER 2002

Geocosmic Journal

Winter 2002

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Letter from the Guest Editor

Dear Readers,

I am the eternal optimist. Given the events of September 11, 2001, I worked with six authors to write *Civilization Under Attack*—a book that focused on the events of September 11, 2001 and the potential outcomes in the areas of international politics, world economics, as well as the many ways astrology can analyze such an event. After a year as difficult as many of us can recall, I was ready for the world to focus on Peace. Now, I thought, would be a good time to consider the potential for greater peace throughout the world.

The authors who have joined in this issue of the *Geocosmic Journal* to discuss the possibilities for 2003 have taken very different approaches to the question of peace. As hopeful as we all are, we have not skirted the realities, as indicated in the charts for the coming year.

Norma Jean Ream, a Kepler college student and professional astrologer, considers the potential for peace by examining the U.S. chart, and its progressed Moon, solar arc directions and transits. She states her premise that if we want peace, each individual has to make it our stated purpose. She then delineates numerous indicators in the charts of the U.S. and Mr. Bush to support her belief that peace is possible, if we are clear about our desire to make it happen.

Not all indicators are so positive. David Crook has examined the ingress charts, as well as key birth charts for individuals, nations and events, and has a rather different forecast. These charts indicate the trouble spots around the planet, focusing on those areas where we can expect conflict.

Jhampa Shaneman, author of *Buddhist Astrology*, to be released by Llewellyn in January of 2003, has chosen the chart of His Holiness the Dalai Lama for his article. A man who has dedicated his life to peace throughout the world, and especially for his home, Tibet, the Dalai Lama has contributed his own voice to the many pleading for peace around the world. Shaneman includes the chart, with references to the transits for 2001, to show how one religious figure can have a tremendous impact on the world. He points to the Kalachakra initiation held in Austria in October 2002, and another planned for Toronto in 2003. This Wheel of Time tantric ritual brings the energy of the planets directly into the lives of all participants.

My own article on Mercury Retrograde uses the stationary positions of this planet as indicators of the major events for the U.S. and for President Bush during 2003. Stationary positions provide great times. When a planet appears not to move, it can be likened to the focus of a football quarterback,

feet solidly planted on the ground, aiming his pass at the moving target presented by the pass receiver. A quarterback on the run may be able to connect with the receiver, but the stationary quarterback has a much greater chance of success. Swift Mercury can take better aim with his communication when stationary, and those times during the year offer the opportunity to understand events more clearly as well.

Neither peace nor conflict is assured, as both are indicated in astrological analyses. We cannot assume that one or the other will dominate. If things go the direction they have in the past, war seems almost inevitable. If people around the world take a stand for peace, then our leaders will have a solid indicator of the direction we want their efforts to take.

Maria Kay Simms has provided us with a view of the New Year, starting with the Winter Solstice of 2002. She describes how the ancients waited for the Sun to return to the north, and how they welcomed its new light each year. She has also provided an outline of a ritual for us all to use in our own celebration of new light, and the potential for renewal of peace in the world. Finally, she has included a list of general rules for interpreting mundane charts.

Stephanie J. Clement
Guest Editor

Winter Solstice 2002

A Mundane and Spiritual Message for Peace

By Maria Kay Simms

As above, so below, As within, so without, as the Universe, so the Soul.—Hermes Trismegistus

My Journal issue is about mundane astrology with a focus on peace," says the guest editor. "Write about the spiritual significance of Winter Solstice." Background: Over the years, I have come to live the spiritual aspects of my astrology. I term it Neopagan Astrology. I don't consider it my religion, for religion implies structure from a central authority, and that doesn't fit. Certainly astrology is at the core of my spiritual path, and when I discovered Neopagan spirituality through Wicca, I found a basis for ritual appropriate to what astrology had come to mean for me.

What is astrology? My definition: Astrology is the study . . . no, more accurately, my developing awareness of the correspondence between cosmos and Earth, also known as geo. Geocosmic! The cosmos, "as above" in correspondence with geo, "so below." But that is not all: It is my growing awareness of my responsibility to live the continuation of the ancient philosophy of Hermes Trismegistus, "as within, so without, as the Universe, so the soul." I study that which is above for signs of my purpose in this life on Earth below, knowing that my choice of how to read and carry out those signs is largely my own and that it is my choice that matters most. The energy of my choice moves without, to everything in my sphere of influence, and my world (Universe) reflects it back to me. What I see, then, in the stars is in part colored by my own experience and growth, just

as much as by what others have taught me about what they see in those stars. If I feel fear within, do I project it onto the stars with fear of what will come? Or do I look for solutions, for alternate possibilities? I believe either is a potential of our astrological interpretation. Objectivity is always a challenge. I am a realist. Bad things happen. There's very little I can control other than my own choices, and that includes my response to "what happens," as well as to how I view what might be.

Winter Solstice 2002, Projected

In my imagination, as I sit here typing into my computer, I wake before dawn on December 21 . . .

As I open the door and lean out onto the cold, icy back deck on the east side of our house, shivering a little in my robe, I see the night is clear, a few stars still sparkling, even light still comes from the setting Moon, still almost full in the sky to the front of the house. "Oh, great!" I am thinking. "This year, maybe I'll be able to see it." I hurry to put on the coffee, pull on sweat suit and coat; then, taking my hot cup of coffee and a fire wand, go outdoors to the Circle to wait. My feet crunch on the snow as I walk to the center of my Circle and brush snow off the big flat stone there. I light the center torches and sit to look through the bare trees at the glow of light forming to the southeast. I have a small carved stone spiral there, created by my youngest daughter in a sculpture class. My thoughts go back to what a morning like this must have been like long ago. . .

Huddled together for warmth in the cold dark night, the

people gathered among their tall standing stones. Their leaders, who watched the sky constantly and knew of such things, had told them this was the exact morning, the turning of the wheel, the time of change when they could truly hope that the long fearful winter would turn again to spring. For many generations, they had come to wait among the stones for the sign. Their ancestors had placed the stones for that purpose; the old ones told of this in their stories around the winter fires.

A small child whispers to her mother, "Mama, I'm so cold. Why are we out here in the dark?" The mother wraps the child closer to her within her cloak and softly says, "Because soon our Great Mother gives birth to the Divine Child of new light. Look at the sky!" Looking upward, they see a soft glow of light that had begun beyond one tall stone and was now growing rapidly. A chant begins and builds in strength and volume as all join in, now energized as they wait in growing excitement, all eyes focused on the Midwinter stone... and then, the reward. The rising Sun's rays of bright light break across the top of the stone, so brightly blazing that, with quick looks, then gasps, the chant stops, and eyes are averted as the people bow in thanksgiving. The wheel has turned! The Sun is reborn! Days would now become gradually longer. Once again, all of Mother Earth's people felt assured that light and warmth would return. The people joyously return to their homes for their Yule celebrations planned for this day and throughout the week to come...

Back in my own Circle, December 2002, still waiting and watching as the glow builds through those trees, I am hoping for the best. Yule's new light has evaded me the past two years, the New England mornings thoroughly overcast, with no Sun visible until nearly midday, if then. This time, though, it is as I imagined it might be back in September. The Sun rises, a smidgeon to the right of where I thought (I think silently, left brain mentally adjusting the marker). But more immediately welling up from deep within my soul is a great joy, and I stand to stretch my arms high and wide to greet the Sun reborn!

After giving thanks to the life force of the Universe, whom I see as Mother Nature and most familiarly call Goddess, for all my many blessings in this new year born with the Sun, I walk to the edge of my Circle to move the spiral that smidgeon to the right. Returning to my house, I think over what things I must still do today in preparation for Yule celebrations tonight, when others will join me within these standing stones. We will lift off the center flat blue stone on which I've been sitting and build a fire within the stonewalled pit beneath, over which a cauldron of hot cider will bubble. This year, we've planned to celebrate with the very ritual I wrote about last September... Goddess, that must have been the earliest I've ever decided what to do for a particular Sabbat! Then we'll burn the tradi-

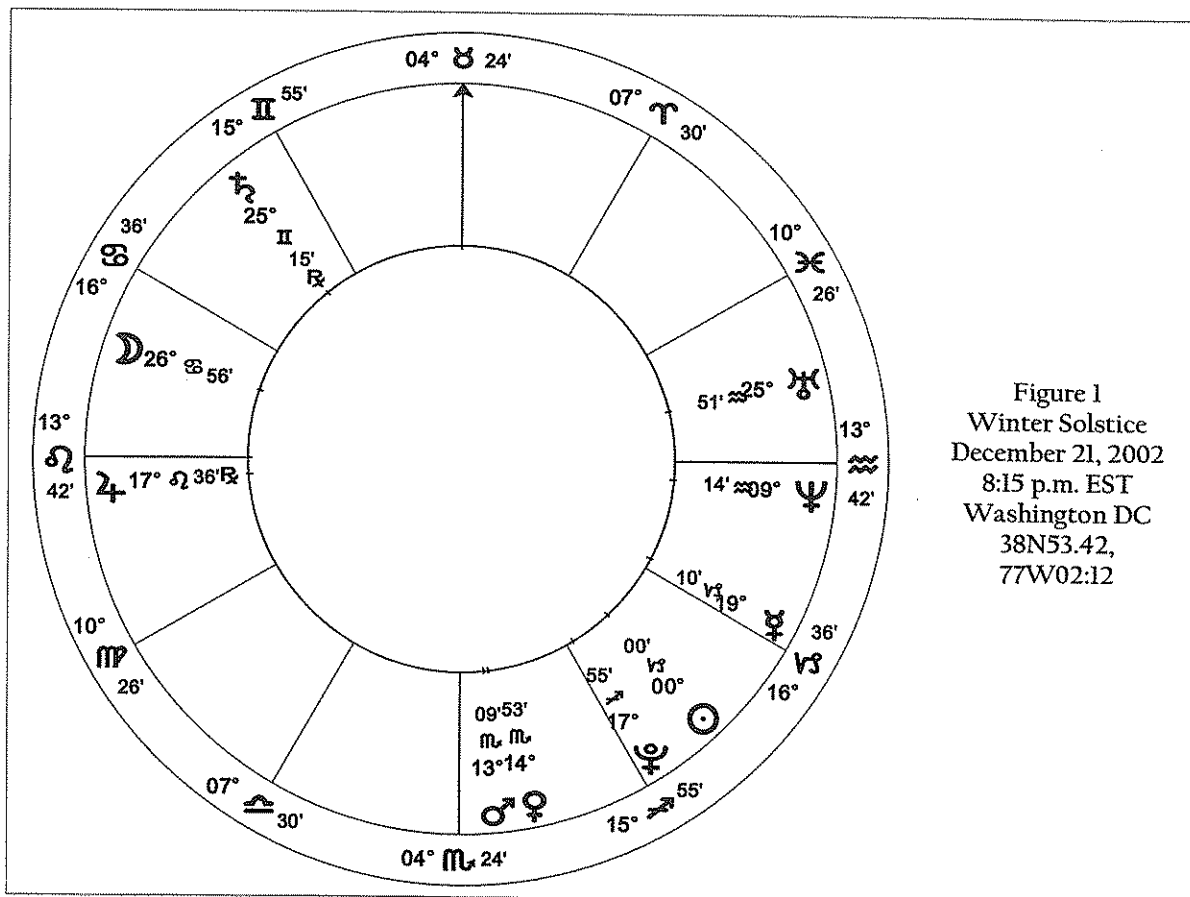
tional Yule log kindled with the piece we saved from last year's log...

The actual moment of Winter Solstice, also called Yule, is December 21, 2002, 8:15pm EST, the ingress of the Sun into 0 Capricorn. The Sun appears from Earth to pause for three of the longest nights of the year, at extreme southern declination, before beginning to slowly move eastward again, decreasing in declination as the days lengthen. By Spring Equinox, the Sun will rise beyond my tall East stone, the days and nights will be equal again, and the warming Earth will be responding with spring green and early flowers. Then, the Sun will rise each day slightly more northward, reaching for culmination in the longest days of Summer Solstice, then return eastward once again, an endlessly repeating cycle. I can follow this not only by watching from my Circle, but also from my bedroom on the east corner of the house, where a large *feng shui* crystal hangs inside the window. There's a row of little tack holes in the ceiling, where I periodically move the string from which the crystal hangs as the Sun changes, so that each reasonably clear morning I can expect to be greeted on awakening with a fairyland of rainbows sparkling all around me. It definitely helps an aging body feel like getting up in the morning!

The Left Brain Approach

Does the Winter Solstice chart show a hope of peace? Let's see. Figure 1 shows the conventional chart in Koch houses, with no extra bodies save the classical ten, my preferred way for a first look. Yes, my technical specialty is Uranian astrology, but I find that even I, after all my experience, can be led astray by looking at those TNP planets before I have considered what ought to be obvious in a basic system common to all astrologers. The important themes are almost always shown by the classic ten "planets," and if not, the theme probably isn't all that important. My chart is set for Washington, D.C., because what happens with this country this year is the most likely of larger outer influences to affect me, as well as all of us who live in this country. Because of the influence of the United States, this chart has significance to the rest of the world, too.

In a mundane chart, each planet and house has a special meaning I will use in describing my "take" on this chart. While I look at modern rulerships by the transpersonal planets, I am inclined to think through experience that the an-



cient rulers should be given preference, with the transpersonals considered as significant general themes, especially if angular or in strong aspect.

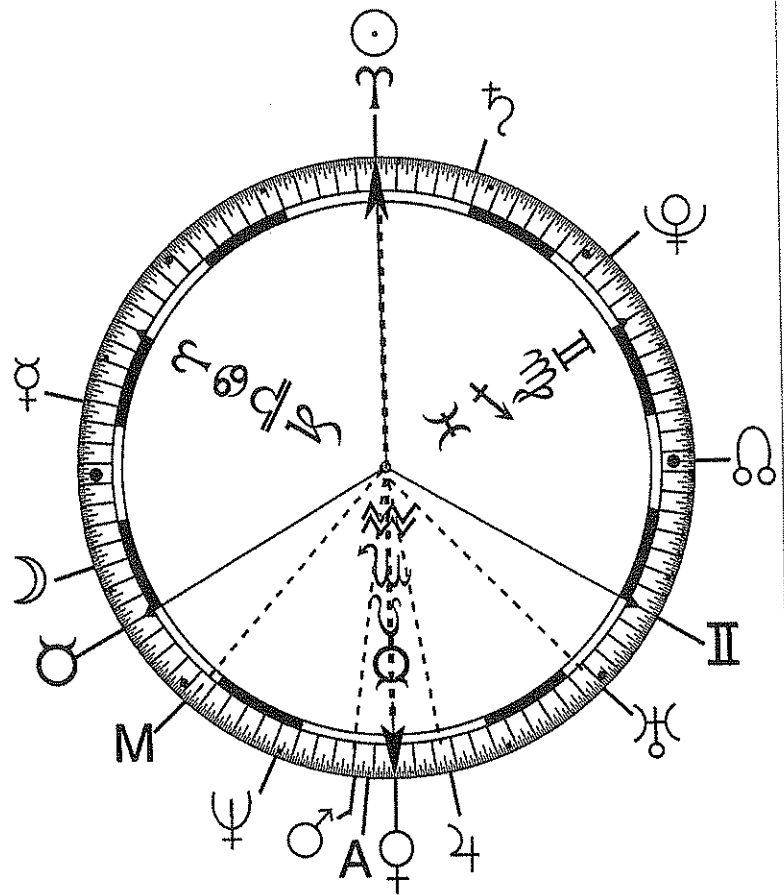
The Moon, representing the people, is void-of-course. We, the people, are also represented by the Sun, ruler of Ascendant. In any mundane chart, the Sun also rules the president and executive heads of government (along with the ruler of the tenth house). We are apprehensive about what to expect, but rather powerless other than to hope our president and leaders will choose wisely. We support their diplomatic efforts. Sun is in the fifth house of diplomats. Its ruler, Jupiter, is conjunct Ascendant square Mars (war) and Venus (peace), closely conjunct in the fourth house of the land and the interests of the people. These are, in turn, square the cusp of the seventh (foreign affairs) and Neptune (widespread unrest). Which will it be, war or peace? Venus and Mars also rule the parties in and out of power, and they are conjunct. Despite our wariness of political motives, it does seem as though the efforts of our government seem unified rather than excessively partisan. Saturn, ruler of house seven, is in eleven (goals, policies, allies, Congress) and opposes Sun. Saturn has separated from its long opposition to Pluto. Old structures

have been broken down. What new ones can be built to replace them? Saturn is retrograde. The jury is still out.

In Uranian astrology, the cardinal axis is the world axis, and Cancer is drawn at the top, with Capricorn at the bottom, for the very reason this article is being written: the Sun is reborn each year at 0 Capricorn, so that belongs at the bottom of the 360 degree wheel. Just as Sun vanishes in the night and rises during the day, it is least visible at the time of the longest night. Sun waxes to maximum light at 0 Cancer, Summer Solstice.

Figure 2 shows the Winter Solstice chart on the rotating 90° dial. The glyph for Aries marks the cardinal axis, but it represents all four of the cardinals, so Sun at 0 Capricorn is seen directly on "Aries" or the cardinal axis. The visual emphasis immediately centers on the planet of peace. This was also evident from the classic chart to those accustomed to Cosmobiology or Uranian, but might have been missed by those who are not. On the 90° dial, Venus comes into sharp focus, clearly visible on the central pointer axis. The orb of Venus semisquare Sun is only seven minutes of arc, to be exact. The 90° dial brings out the very important semisquare and sequiquadrate aspects often missed when look-

Figure 2
90° Dial Chart
of Capricorn Ingress for
Washington, D.C.
Dotted lines show
midpoints (equal arcs)
to the cardinal axis

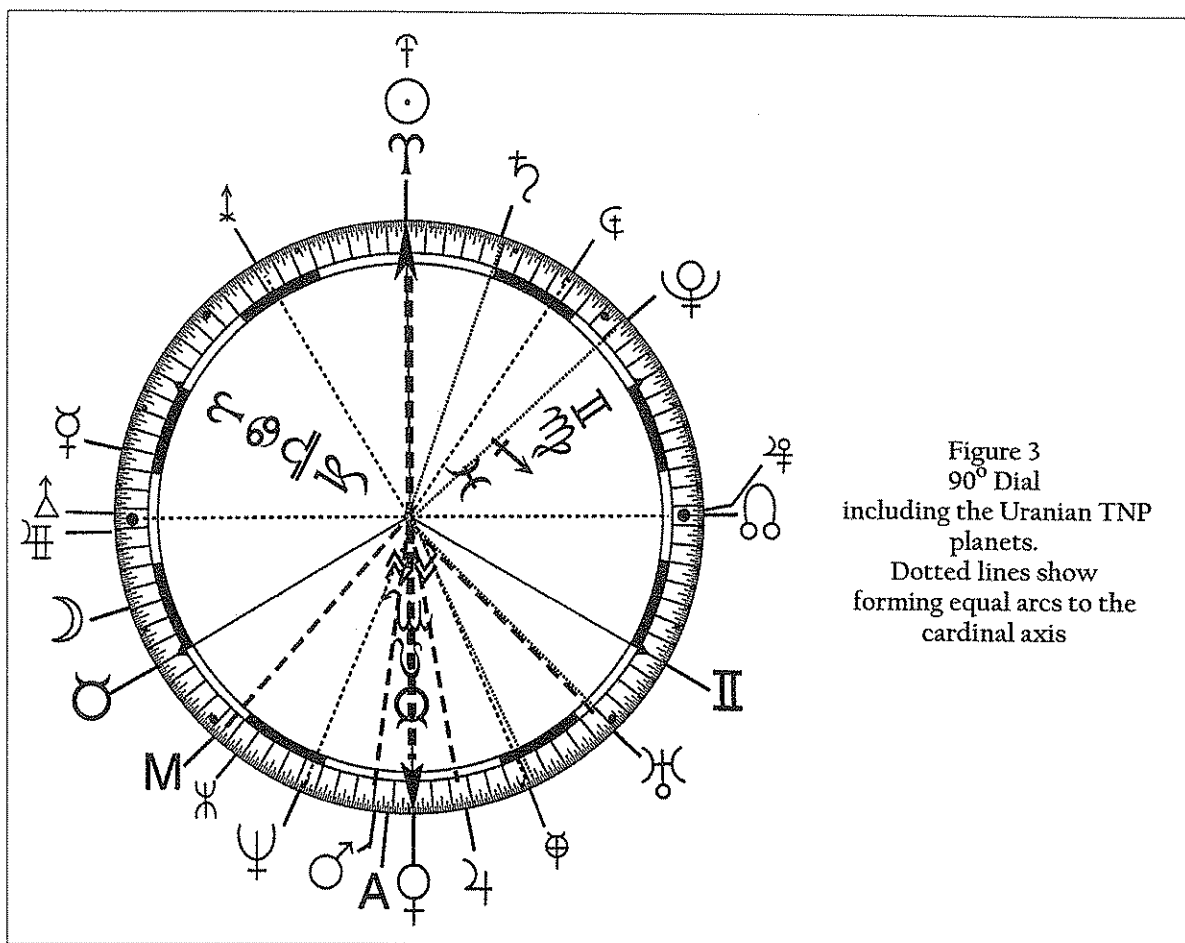


ing at conventional charts. Venus, visually revealed on the cardinal axis, is at 15 Scorpio, one of the four fifteen degree fixed sign positions occupying half-way points between the four cardinal ingresses. Eight-fold cycles are of great significance. Their basic symbolism was most clearly defined for astrologers by Dane Rudhyar in the *Lunation Cycle*. Not just a cycle of the Moon alone, eight has been seen as a cycle of birth-death-rebirth in many ancient cultures. Neopagans celebrate an eight-fold Wheel of the Year, a cycle of the changing seasons. In the lore of Wiccan Sabbats, the cross-quarters (Sun's ingress into the four fixed signs) are called the Greater Sabbats, and this is in keeping with Rudhyar's interpretation that these are the four points of greatest momentum and maximum release of power. Cosmobiologists consider the eight-fold "hard" aspect series: conjunction, semisquare (octile), square, sesquiquadrate (tri-octile) and opposition to be the active aspects. "Soft aspects," sextile and trine, are seldom given any consideration. Midpoints of any two factors in hard aspect to a factor on the pointer axis are important factors in interpretation.

Midpoints to an axis are easier to see with the 90° dial. Figure 2 shows three clear midpoint figures, factors forming equal arcs to the central axis by tight orbs of less than one degree: Mars/Jupiter, MC/Uranus and Asc/Jupiter. Remember, the Midheaven and Ascendant are personal points unique to a specific entity. They are the angles of the mundane chart set for Washington, D.C., and, as such, specifically refer to the U.S.

Mars/Jupiter-Venus-Sun pertains to the world in general. Mars/Jupiter, according to Ebertin,¹ is "successful creative activity, a fortunate decision." Among the suggested manifestations is "the settlement of conflicts." With Sun, a "sense of honor" is added, along with "marriage, birth." With Venus, "fortunate decisions in love and marriage." This is hopeful news for the potential of this chart to reflect a peace agreement!

MC/Uranus represents "the power of assertion" which can manifest in "fortunate changes" or "disadvantage through premature action." With Sun: "unrest . . . to get angry easily, lack of self-control." With Venus: to arouse desire in love . . . "promiscuity." That's an interesting one. Likely it could relate to the changing moods of



who's our ally and who isn't.

Asc/Jupiter, generally harmonious and agreeable, is with Venus desiring of the company of others. It is a "love-union," here suggestive of allies for the U.S.

All in all, this chart shows much promise for a peace agreement in 2003.

Figure 3 shows a diagram of the 90° dial chart that adds those midpoints on the cardinal axis that include the Transneptunian planets used in Uranian astrology. As usual, they show those mind-blowing little details that make you wonder if Witte² was incredibly psychic. They work brilliantly when one is looking for a known event, but are less reliable for forecasting. (In my opinion the same can be said for most any other system, as well.)

The transneptunians add the force of great power (Kronos) to the Sun/cardinal axis; a mighty world community added by Cupido/Apollon and Cupido/Vulcanus. There could be something to do with a deadly poison (Neptune/Admetos) connected with a change ordered by authorities (Kronos) that affects living conditions in general, and specifically for women

(Venus).³ Some "man" (or men?) is hated, hindered, compelled to be inactive, paralyzed (Hades/Zeus). Patience (Saturn/Admetos) is necessary, for the world is in a tight spot and must overcome it. With Venus, the obstacles can be surmounted, and with Kronos, result in the fall of a ruling personage. None of this sounds like anything we haven't already read in the newspapers as intents of our government, nor does it "weigh" heavily enough to offset the dramatic placement of Venus, planet of peace in the central position. It is realistic to hope that this chart will prove to reflect a time when a major peace agreement is forged, likely with the support of a firm United Nations resolution. It might be necessary to fight (Mars), or at least be firmly ready to fight, in order to restore the peace (Venus), but I see peace as the dominant theme of this chart.

For years, Gary Christen⁴ has done presentations based upon putting Sun degrees of attendees into the Winter Solstice 90° dial chart. I've found this technique to be interesting and worthwhile; I check my Sun degree that way every year. Let's try two: 13 Cancer works for President Bush and for the U.S. (July 4, 1776 chart). Sun=

Sun/Moon, Sun/Kronos, Moon/Kronos, Mercury/Zeus, Neptune/Pluto. Interpretations of the first three speak of relationship (allies) and authority. Mercury/Zeus is to command or threaten, and Neptune/Pluto is psychic sensitivity or seclivities, and changes recognized in the future. A speculative chart for Saddam Hussein on www.astrodatabank.com has Sun at 7 Taurus. That degree is on the axis of Hades with Saturn/Pluto, Mercury/Uranus, Cupido/Zeus and Moon/Jupiter. None of these is easy, with Hades at the center. He won't leave easily, and perhaps not without explosions, but the preponderance suggests he does not remain in power. In the Winter Solstice chart set for Baghdad, Mercury rules MC, and has no major aspects. In the 90° dial format, Mercury=Mars/Saturn.

The Right-Brain Approach

Ritual is a method of interpreting astrological themes experientially, according to one's personal preference for how they should manifest. There is a song that goes, "Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me . . ." This is a perfect example of the "as within, so without" so necessary to develop our spiritual purpose as it is "written in the stars." By this I do not mean passive "peace at any price." True peace does not lie down and let bullies walk over it. True peace recognizes that fear and over-compromise is submission and can never bring the serenity of living peacefully in freedom. So, for the sake of justice, freedom and peace for all who are willing to acknowledge and support the rights of others to also have those things, sometimes one must stand firm and fight—not to vanquish, but to restore equilibrium and an environment in which all may live in harmony.

Peace and serenity cannot thrive in an atmosphere of fear. When fear is projected onto the Universe, it tends to attract more of the same, and fear grows. When love is projected onto the Universe, it tends to attract more of the same, and love grows.

The subconscious self is sometimes called "the inner child." Instinctive and intuitive, it responds to sensual experience far more than logic. The conscious "adult" self might sometimes think of it as downright irrational, out-of-control. "I don't know what's the matter with me! I just can't stop worrying. I'm so upset, I can't get anything done." A tot can be like that. When it cries, adults stop and pay attention. The adult decides "I want to do

Viewing the 90° Dial

The 90° dial reduces the zodiac circle to 90°, showing all four cardinal signs superimposed in the first 30° sector, followed by all four fixed signs, then all four mutable signs. The result is a close-up view of a chart, enabling all hard aspects to be seen at a glance. Conjunctions, squares and oppositions show as conjunctions; semi-squares (octiles) and sequiquadrates (tri-octiles) are seen directly opposite. Midpoints to the pointer axis can be easily spotted due to their visual symmetry.

Look at the dial illustration of the Capricorn Ingress 2002. The pointer is on the Sun at 0 Capricorn. The cardinal axis on a 90° dial is traditionally marked as Aries, but it represents all four cardinals. Directly opposite the pointer is Venus. The classic chart (Figure 1) shows Venus to be a near exact semisquare to Sun. For the purpose of dial work, it is only necessary to see that Venus is "on" the Sun-cardinal axis. All midpoints to the cardinal axis used in the illustrations are very close orb, less than one degree. Note the symmetrical arcs shown by the dotted lines, e.g. the midpoint of Mars/Jupiter is = (on the axis of) Sun and Venus.

this." The inner child says "NO!" Who wins? Let's just say that a necessary aspect of your ability to make a choice and manifest that choice is understanding and harmonizing conscious (left brain) and subconscious (right brain) to the point that when you make up your mind, you really mean it! Beyond that, there is a third aspect of mind, the higher consciousness. This is the realm of ideals, where we can connect with universal consciousness, and we could say the mind of God/dess, aligning with our highest purpose.

In ritual, it is possible to align all three levels of consciousness to a common purpose. The left brain approach understands the theme on which ritual is based and "buys into" it by deciding to act in accordance with the theme. The right brain approach learns best by the senses and "buys in" intuitively by carrying out the action, enjoying the touch and sounds of tools, the smell of the incense, the tastes from chalice and plate, the feelings and emotions all of this inspires. The higher consciousness reaches out in spirit and connects with Spirit in a way that is powerful and profound. The magic of all this can become magick, when the focused mind projects its purpose onto

the Universe, setting energy in motion in alignment with purpose. Even one mind focused in this way, can manifest purpose in the physical world. Ask anyone who has practiced such magick. It works!

Imagine what could happen if countless minds were to focus on common purpose. You don't have to look very far into memory to know an example. Think of the aftermath of 9/11, when the idea swept across the country for everyone to put candles outdoors on the same night and in every neighborhood, block after block, town after town, state after state, the candles burned. Do you remember? I do. It was magnificent. People were caught up with the Spirit of it, just as flags sprouted everywhere. For a least a while, patriotic spirit swept a nation unified to common purpose.

I also remember that back in the 1970s, when the big worry expressed at astrological and "new age" events was that surely Pluto in Scorpio would be the greatly feared nuclear holocaust. For a time, that fear was so thoroughly projected and perpetuated by so many people (not all astrologers and "new agers," of course) with many diverse viewpoints from scientist to preachers of the "end times," that some built shelters and geodetic domes, storing supplies for the horrible events that would surely come. Then somewhere the idea of praying for peace emerged and spread. Even without the Internet, agreements were made far and wide to set aside special times to do that, everyone focusing on the same thoughts together. How effective was that widespread change of consciousness? All I know is that Pluto in Scorpio came and went and during that transit of more than a decade, there was no holocaust and, in fact, the greater emphasis was on disarmament and on reducing the amounts of weaponry held by the superpowers, as well as limiting the spread of nuclear technology to developing nations.

It would take a lot of prayer and powerful magick to keep and maintain a focus for peace on Earth, when we are such a diverse people with so many personal agendas. But if we don't try, we have nobody but ourselves to blame if we aren't able to live in peace. With this in mind, I propose that we not predict, but instead project with magickal intent that the chart of Winter Solstice 2002 mean that, during 2003, a highly significant peace resolution be agreed upon by our country and the United Nations that brings an end to the conflict and threat from terrorism, enabling all of

us to move forward in full recognition of the growing interdependency within our small planet requiring that we live in harmony with each other. On the surface, we may look differently, and think and behave with cultural differences, but at the core, do we not all want the same basic things: to feel secure and valued, to be free (with respect for the rights of others) to choose for ourselves, to love and be loved? To an alien, we'd be seen as the same species, our differences of no significance. It makes no sense at all, really, for us to be so intolerant of our differences that we cannot get along with each other. So, with that song in mind, let's prepare a ritual to set our intent firmly in all aspects of mind and soul, and send it into Spirit, to manifest according to our will.

The ritual design will work for one person alone or for a group working together. Whichever you choose to do, while you are doing it, visualize linking in Spirit with others who are working this ritual in other locations or times. When many minds focus on common purpose, the energy of that purpose increases toward manifestation.

I do not think it matters that the Moon is void. I believe—and have seen—that when ritual is done for attunement with Universe (God/dess) for a universal high purpose such as this, there is no astrological indicator that will detract from its success. In this ritual we are activating the Winter Solstice chart according to a positive interpretation for it. We, the people, do not choose to be powerless (void) to influence what will happen. We claim our power to be part of the process and the choice!

Realistically, some readers who may be interested in doing this ritual will not read the article until after Winter Solstice. Know this: the ritual can be very effectively done at other times, as well. The intent of activating the Winter Solstice chart for peace in 2003 is primary. There is never a bad time to work for such a cause. That said, astrological skill is meant to be used to choose times that best complement intent. In working the ritual, link in Spirit with those who have, or will work for peace elsewhere.

A Winter Solstice Ritual for Peace

Prepare a group of tea candles in luminaries. The small candles in little flat tins that are sold at low cost in bags at most discount stores are perfect, and they fit nicely into little Dixie cups sold

for use in home dispensers. If you are working alone, prepare twelve candles. For a larger group and space, do multiples of twelve, up to the full 360 degrees of the zodiac circle.

Make a Yule wreath of seasonal greenery large enough to step through. I have a large metal wreath form that my group helps me weave with pine, yew and holly each year. I hang it outdoors on the side of the house and take it down to use for Yule ritual. In past years, lacking the forest resources I have here in New Hampshire, I've covered an inexpensive hula hoop with artificial pine garland. Or you can buy big enough wreaths to serve the purpose. Most any large circle form will do.

Assemble candles, lighter, wreath and any other ritual tools you wish to use, outdoors or in, wherever space permits. Candle luminaries such as these burn for a long time, so be prepared. Outdoors, they are generally safe in all weather, except perhaps very dry. I've never yet had one burn the paper cup, even when it's windy. The metal tin corrals the candle wax until it is all burned away. It is best if you can let the candles burn until they are spent, but if nobody remains present to attend them, you should snuff them after your ritual is over, just to be safe. Indoors, the same: Never leave burning candles unattended, and if you are burning them until spent, a tablecloth or mat will help protect furniture from the heat of the metal tin. You may want to make up little cards with the words to the ritual verses and the song.

Group ritual benefits from including a beverage and plate of cookies or other treat to pass after the heart of the ritual, so that everyone may remain within spiritual space and ground the energy of the working by sharing thoughts and experiences of it with each other. It is best if this is done with one speaking in turn while others listen. Some pass around a "talking stick," the holder of which "has the floor."

It is well to begin the ritual with a meditation according to whatever spiritual tradition you prefer. This helps you, on all levels of consciousness, to make transition from everyday life into the realm of sacred Spirit. A group should do the meditation standing in a circle holding hands, perhaps with a group leader speaking a guided meditation or opening prayer. Follow this with whatever opening ceremony your tradition prefers. In Wicca, as well as some other Neopagan traditions, for example, we would call each of the four directions and the element (air, fire, water,

earth) associated with it.

Following is the heart (central working) of the ritual. The verses can be said by designated people or by everyone all together. The first two are invocations of Spirit in the personas of the dominant Sun-Venus in the Winter Solstice chart. We are charging them, as well as their energies within ourselves, with our intent.

*O Sun of bright new year I (we) call
Child of life and light
Shine peace throughout this land of ours
Bring wisdom with your might!*

*O Venus, come in love and peace
Star of dawn for all to see
Your light of Truth we (I) call within
Peace shall begin with me!*

As this next verse is said, step through the large Yule wreath, visualizing as the verse says:

*This night of new year's birthing
We (I) step through Yule wreath free
Cast off the old year, greet the new
With light of Peace, so shall it be!*

After passing through the Yule wreath, light the candle luminaries one at a time and place them in a circle. If you have the space, the circle can be built around you or around your entire group. (You see, now, why I suggested up to 360 candles. With a very big group, there could be even more!) As you place the candles, sing an appropriate song. I suggest the one that I mentioned earlier, which can be found in many songbooks, with a tune familiar to many. It was written by Sy Miller & Jill Jackson, ©1955 by Jan-Lee Music. I can legally quote a few words of it with credit, so I will. The first two lines below are as written by the authors; the last two lines are partially rewritten by me in order to make the words generic to all spiritual traditions:

*Let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with me
Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was
meant to be.
In Spirit together, we are one family
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.*

A second verse has words that fit all just as they were written.

After the circle of candlelight has been formed,
Solstice Continued on Page 76

General "Rules" for Interpreting Mundane Charts for Nations

Types of charts to study: (charts are normally set for the capitol of the nation)

Ingress Charts—the moment a planet enters a sign. Most popular: Sun ingress into cardinals

Eclipse Charts—solar or lunar, also charts of lunations

National Charts—if you can reliably determine when a nation began!

Charts of Leaders—President or equivalent. Again, uncertainty often exists in regard to birth time.

Charts of Events—Inaugurations, political announcements, declarations, signings, first shots in war, etc.

Planetary events—charts for great conjunctions or planetary stations

The Planets— the initiating factors. Look to their aspects for favorable or unfavorable action.

☉ **The President**—executive head of government

♌ **The People**—women, crowds, subjects of popular interest, water transport, condition of family, sustenance from land and crops

♊ **Communications**—schools, youth, educators, news media, treaties & documents, the intelligentsia, literary world, transportations & communication industries

♋ **Peace**—ambassadors of good will, alliances, preservers of peace, artists, musicians, theatres, festivals, births, children, courtship & marriage

♈ **War**—military leaders, persons liable to die, engineers, agitators, crimes of violence, contagious diseases, surgeons, applied energy, industry

♌ **Prosperity**—capitalists, religious leaders/religion, law/the judiciary, industrialists, philanthropists, honor of the nation

♋ **Limitation**—conservatism, conventions, law and order, law enforcement authorities, civil service employees, land owners, mine operators, the elderly, national calamities, scarcities

♁ **Sudden national moves**—strikes, riots, anarchy, explosions, inventions, electricity, progressiveness

♊ **Discontent**—widespread unrest, social movements, hospitals, welfare, prisons, spies, drugs, charities, socialistic political movements, navy

♋ **Upheaval**—potential for mass reorganization, organized crime, terrorists, atomic energy, mob psychology (whether mob be capitalists drunk with power or unemployed crazed by hunger)

In Uranian Astrology (from *Dial Detective*)

M	"I" (the nation) at this moment
A	The place, environment, or "they"
☉/♌	The day and the hour
☉ + ♌ = A	The day and the hour in this place
M/♌	"I" (the nation) in relation to the world
♌/☉	The body on earth (environment, health)
♌/A	The place in connection with the world
♌/♊	The general thinking, public issues

The Houses—the economic or political conditions of the people to be affected or activated

- 1 Reactions and conditions of the people, public consciousness
- 2 The nation's wealth, GNP, revenue from taxes, the earning & buying power of the people, exports, currency
- 3 Transit, traffic, domestic travel, postal system, telephone system, radio, TV, movies, newspapers & magazines, public opinion, rumors, mental attitude of masses, emigration, effects of storms, temperature changes & atmospheric conditions
- 4 Real estate values, mines, miners & their products, buildings, crops, agriculture, living conditions of the people, patriotism, natural forces (terrestrial rather than atmospheric), property damage from flood, earthquake, interests of the people as opposed to govt., the party out of power
- 5 Children, public schools, amusements, theatres, sports, public speculation and speculative investment, play, public happiness or sorrow, diplomats, senators, formal functions, ceremonies, creative and procreative activities of the country, the Senate
- 6 Public health, armed forces, civil service, police, labor class, workers in trades, food reserves

- 7 Public opinion & reaction to the state, war & foreign affairs, marriage & divorce rate
- 8 Death, income from exports, frozen assets (properties, stocks, bonds), the National Debt, interest rates, Social Security funds, medical discovery as it promotes longevity, the national treasurer, financial relations with other countries
- 9 Law, religion, higher educations, long distance transportation & communications, the educated classes, universities, scientific/philosophical societies, immigration, weather conditions along the coast, incoming storms, the Secretary of State
- 10 The President, the party in power, national prestige
- 11 Goals of the nation, policies, allies, Congress
- 12 Labor disturbances, epidemics, secret activities, spies, prisons, hospitals, charitable institutions, crime

Mercury Retrograde

By Stephanie J. Clement

Every few years, we have the pleasure of experiencing four Mercury retrograde periods in one year. In actuality, the rhythm of Mercury retrogrades is quite regular. There are a little more than three cycles per year, so occasionally one falls at the end of the year and one at the beginning.

The psychological experience of Mercury retrograde is so evident that many non-astrologers track these times to make sense of the “dips” in their social and career cycles. They know there are periods when no amount of pushing will move things forward and they want to be able to predict these times. Mercury retrograde periods often signal delays, redirection, and a general lack of forward movement. How many of you would actively choose to make large purchases or other big decisions at this time?

In terms of the international political situation, we are facing very difficult tests in the near future. War and threats of war are on our minds constantly and we, along with millions of non-astrologers, are looking for ways to improve our lives in the midst of the difficulty. For a change, let's look at what Mercury retrograde cycles can offer in the way of help.

For starters, I believe we feel the stations of Mercury well before they are exact. Research I did on twin births led me to believe that we should allow an orb of twenty minutes of arc, which amounts to about two or three days on either side of the station. When the stationary position is exactly conjunct or aspecting natal planets, people can often sense the shift of energy within hours, sometimes within minutes.

So just what is the effect of retrograde or sta-

tionary Mercury? When a planet is stationary, there is a sensation of compacting time. Compacting time has several significant characteristics:

1. Many events can happen during a relatively short period of time.

2. Other transits might occur during this time period, bringing a variety of influences to bear.

3. For individuals whose planets are being aspected by Mercury stationary, there is an experience of a lack of time to deal with events and circumstances that arise. Delays occur because of the numerous decisions that have to be made, or the actions that are required, based on the numerous events that occur.

4. Another problem is confusion. We lose track of what we need to do next. Or, perhaps the details of one problem slip over into another problem. The salt gets mixed into the pepper, so to speak, and we cannot separate it out.

These effects are felt by individuals whose planets are very closely aspected by Mercury stationary. There is another effect for people who have no planets in the stationary degree—the sense of expanding time. By “close” I mean within one degree of orb.

1. As with any other aspect, no contact means no action. Individuals with no contact to the stationary Mercury will feel there are gaps of time during which nothing happens.

2. The flip side is these people have plenty of time to observe others. You can learn a great deal by observing the actions of people who are in the frantic mode, represented by a close stationary Mercury contact. A good observer can learn what works and what doesn't and store that informa-

tion for later.

Readers might recall that President Bush made a sales pitch for attacking Iraq during the week of September 9, 2002 and addressed the United Nations on September 12. These moves occurred as Mercury was slowing to make a retrograde station on September 14 at 7:39 p.m. GMT. Mercury was within twenty-two minutes of arc of the station at the time of the United Nations speech. That retrograde station at 13 Libra sextiled the U.S. Ascendant, squared the U.S. Sun and formed a conjunction to the U.S. Saturn. It squared Mr. Bush's Sun. Given these close contacts, the exploration of future Mercury stations seem like rich territory for exploration of unfolding events in international politics.

Mercury Stationary Politics for 2003

In analyzing the Mercury stations that will occur in 2003, I have examined the charts of the U.S. and of George W. Bush. For each retrograde and direct station, I will list the contacts and consider what might happen at that time. I am using the U.S. chart for 5:10 p.m., LMT, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The date for George W. Bush is July 6, 1945, New Haven, Connecticut, 7:26 a.m. EWT.

January 2, 2003

	<i>Mercury, 28 Capricorn 28, Stationary Rx</i>
U.S. Chart	Conjunct natal Pluto
	Semisquare natal Ascendant
Bush Chart	None

Can it be that self-esteem is the key issue for the United States? Why do we as a nation need to demonstrate that we have more power than anyone else? It seems painfully obvious that our weapons are bigger and better than anyone's, and that we have so many more of them.

Or is it that those people in powerful roles in our government are more concerned about money? The second house in the U.S. chart rules the economy, the treasury, circulation of currency and the control of banks and banking. The U.S. has long prided itself on its relatively stable dollar. And in the twenty-first century, the world economy is very important to Americans. We import everything from artichokes to zippers, and we as a people are very used to paying low prices for imported goods. The oil-rich Middle East is the source of energy we depend on for our existence, or at least our current way of life.

The first Mercury station of the year suggests that we will begin 2003 with plenty of communication about our image in the world and about

the state of our economy. But the question in my mind is this: Is coercing other nations, or even waging war with them, the only way we can exert our influence in the world? And if not the only way, is it the best way? No information coming from any branch of the U.S. government has convinced me that "might makes right" in the Middle East or elsewhere.

The problem with words is that they are only words. They make some noise, but they don't change anything. Action is required to make changes. War is hardly a new form of action. We need something a bit different. We need words that persuade without the threat of war behind them. I suggest that words with food and medical supplies behind them would be a good start. We would improve our image faster by helping than by destroying. We would also be building a strong economic base in other countries—countries that would then be able to purchase our goods and services. This would build our economy and also our individual and our national self-esteem. Then our marketing giants could truthfully say that we are helping the world, instead of using our strength to destroy it a little bit at a time.

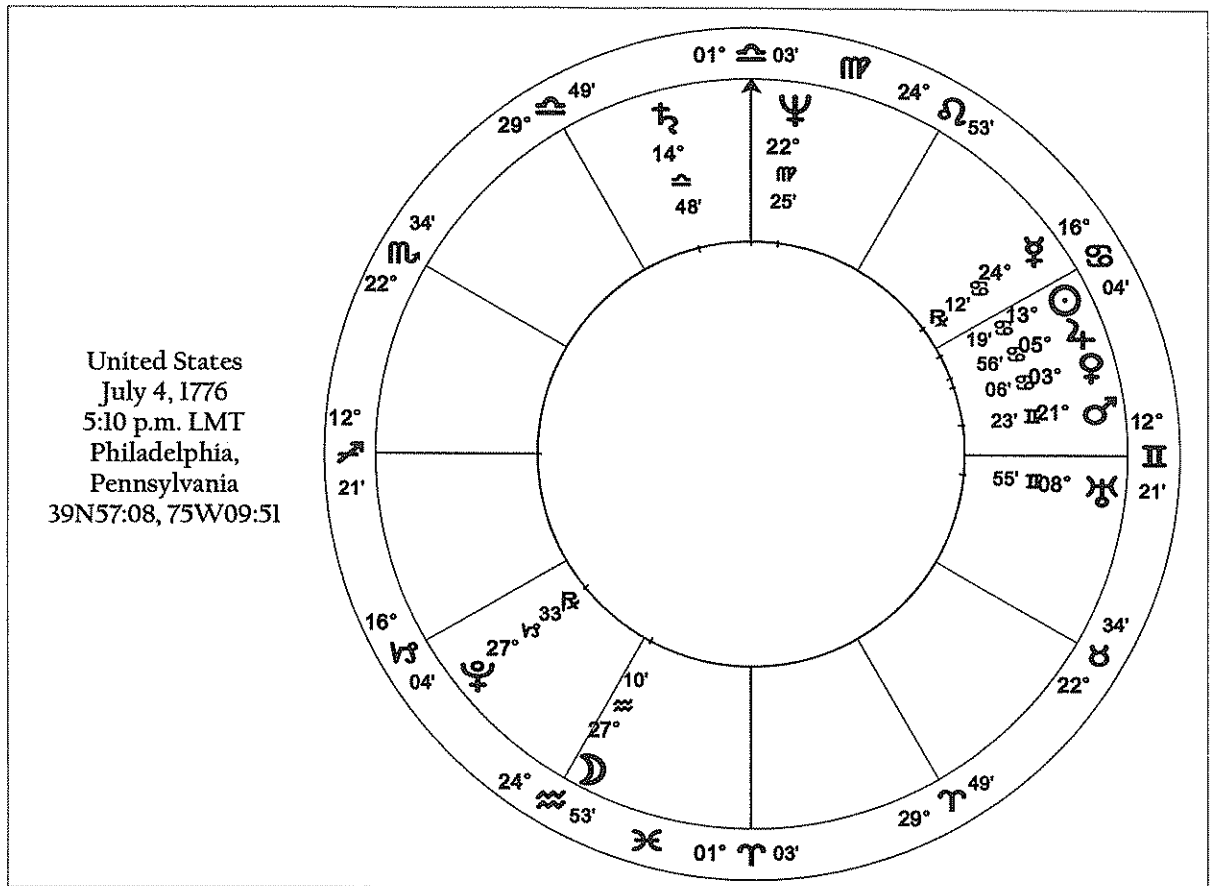
January 23, 2003

	<i>Mercury, 12 Capricorn 18, Stationary Direct</i>
U.S. Chart	Semisextile natal Ascendant
	Semisquare natal Moon
Bush Chart	Opposition natal Sun (1°29' orb)

This station is also in Capricorn in the second house of the U.S. chart. The issue of self-esteem continues to dominate U.S. foreign policy. Whatever we hear on the news is seen as a direct assault on our economic, banking and other policies. The semisquare to the U.S. Moon suggests that internal tensions are very high at this time.

At the time of this writing, the Internet is hopping with news articles and editorials concerning war in Iraq. This war plan is controversial with a significant number of Americans. By January 23, 2003, the federal government will be reviewing its options.

In the meantime, Mr. Bush will be facing a Mercury station opposing his natal Sun. I feel he will be feeling the pressure of opposition to his policies. Even as late as September 2002, he acted as though the opinion of the people did not matter. He and Tony Blair stood firm and nearly alone among world leaders. Attempts to convince the United Nations did not meet with immediate success, but he did not face forceful opposition.



April 26, 2003

Mercury, 20 Taurus 33, Stationary Rx

U.S. Chart Semisextile natal Mars
Semisquare natal Jupiter

Bush Chart Square Venus
Semisextile natal North Node
Semisextile natal Uranus
Sesquiquadrate natal Neptune

The Mercury retrograde period in April and May is exceptionally long. This effect is the result of the orbits of Mercury and the Earth and their relative positions. This retrograde period will feel more intense, as well as lasting longer.

The U.S. chart shows two so-called minor aspects. For the nation this signals a continued period of emphasis on foreign policy, but also the need for attention to those opposing the policy. Mercury aspecting Mars will focus the press on controversial issues of militarism. Mercury aspecting Jupiter will focus controversy in the direction of the economy and higher prices. With Mars and Jupiter in the seventh house, the foreign connection is strongly involved here as well.

*Mr. Bush's chart is highlighted by stationary Mercury square Venus, semisextile the North Node, semisextile Uranus, and sesquiquadrate Neptune. While the nation is focused on foreign

affairs, Mr. Bush could be very concerned about what is going on closer to home. The media and transportation issues might loom large for him. His imagination could have led him to believe everything was going well, but April and May might bring him around to a more sober way of thinking. He will, no doubt, be reviewing his public relations strategy to try to find ways to become more popular.

It's just possible that surprising news will break. Well, maybe not a total surprise, but fresh news. Something unexpected is likely to catch Mr. Bush in public with his tie crooked.

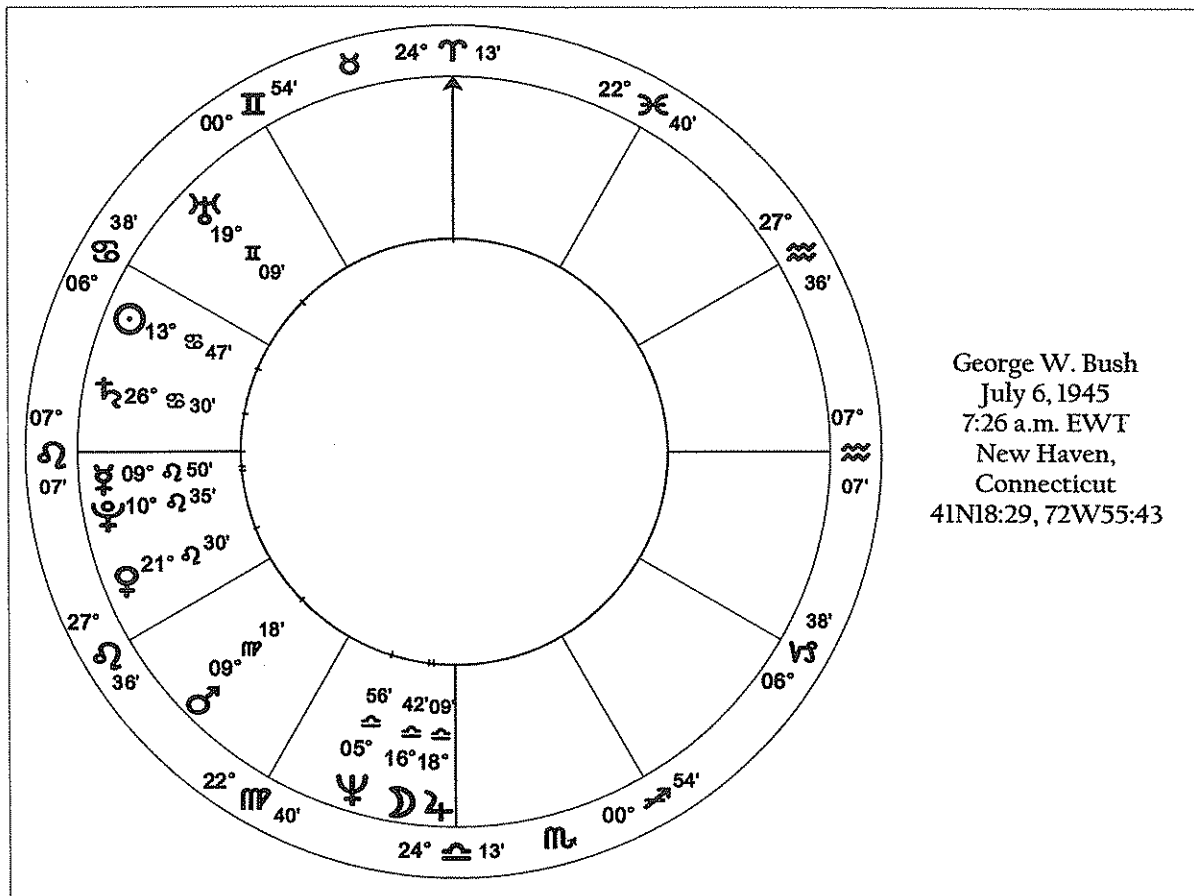
May 20, 2003

Mercury, 11 Taurus 07, Stationary Direct

U.S. Chart Quincunx natal Ascendant
(1°14' orb)

Bush Chart Square natal Pluto

When Mercury goes direct on May 20, it forms a quincunx to the U.S. Ascendant and a square to Mr. Bush's natal Pluto. While Mercury does not quite get back to the point of the square, it is clear Mr. Bush will feel a challenge to his personal power. An adjustment in the U.S. position could inject creative possibilities into a situation that has been nearly as tense as we can tolerate. It is possible the market will show signs of strength at



this time, with investors more optimistic. Mr. Bush, on the other hand, is going to have to watch his words carefully. This might be a good time to hire a new speech writer—someone more in touch with the pulse of the American people.

It's also a time to avoid leaning too hard on his international partners, given Neptune stationary at 13 Aquarius, forming a quincunx to his birth Sun. Oil will be a central issue at this time, and Mr. Bush should be prepared to adjust his words, if not his attitude, on this and other crucial issues.

August 28, 2002

Mercury 26 Virgo 19, Stationary Rx

U.S. Chart Trine natal Pluto (1°15' orb)
 Quincunx natal Moon
 Sextile natal Part of Fortune
 (Misfortune?)

Bush Chart Sextile natal Saturn
 Semisquare Pluto

The August 28 station brings yet another round of very close aspects to both charts. I can't recall when I have seen a chart that was affected by every Mercury station during a year. Mr. Bush escaped the first station, unless you allow a two-degree orb, in which case Mercury opposed his Saturn. Now Mercury sextiles his Saturn and

makes the semisquare to Pluto.

No one said being president is easy. Mr. Bush is now discovering that even the most ordinary opportunities are perilous. We might hear more about his personal finances, for example. His personal stress level is high, and he will want very much to take action. This is probably not the ideal time for overt action, although he might obtain positive results from private negotiations. This will happen only if he focuses on a conservative policy.

Here is my chance to say what the term "conservative" means to me. I do not mean right-wing Republicans, nor the Christian Right. The dictionary definition includes the following:

1. A political party that espouses the principles of tradition, social stability and established institutions, and favoring gradual change over sudden upheaval;

2. Disposed to maintaining existing views;

3. A cautious or discreet person.

I always hope that the U.S. Supreme Court, for example, is conservative because that means it upholds the values written into the Constitution of the United States. For example, all people in the United States, citizens or not, have pretty

much the same Constitutionally granted rights.

Mr. Bush is challenged to resolve difficulties in the U.S. and around the world, while also upholding individual rights. How best to do this? By taking the most basic needs and security issues and striving to provide for all people on that level. Yes, the economics of oil are a powerful national motivator. However, the moral demands of women and children—okay, and men—might override these considerations. Mr. Bush must find a way to resolve conflicts such as the one in Iraq by:

1. Managing whatever real threat Mr. Hussein or other individuals pose.

2. Feeding, clothing, and offering medical care for the people of Iraq, who have been severely deprived of these basic “rights.”

3. Creating the momentum for worthwhile change in the region.

He should find a way to do all this in a conservative manner. War does not fit the definition of conservative. It uses up economic and material resources and the lives of combatants and it fails to consider the long-term effects of any war activities. Conservation implies preservation and protection of the people, the environment and the infrastructure of the region.

Can Mr. Bush and the U.S. government manage the crises that arise and, at the same time, preserve the moral and spiritual well-being of individuals? I would hope that they try very hard to do so. Mr. Bush will have the opportunity to exert some force in a creative direction, but only if he can let go of the war issue long enough to get his hands on other substantive possibilities.

September 20, 2003

<i>Mercury, 12 Virgo 12, Stationary Direct</i>	
U.S. Chart	Square natal Ascendant
	Sextile natal Sun (1°7' orb)
	Sesquiquadrate natal Pluto
	Semisquare natal Part of Fortune
Bush Chart	Semisquare natal Saturn
	Sextile Sun
	Semisextile Pluto (1°37' orb)

The U.S. Ascendant is hit with a square from stationary Mercury in September. The Ascendant in the chart of a nation represents the people and their disposition. It also represents the majority party. If this square were an election year, the party in power would be in deep trouble. The mood of the people could change dramatically, based on news from either the public sector or from other countries. But, 2003 is not an election year, and the “in” politicians will believe they can weather the storm. After all, the political memory

of the American people has been notoriously short in the past.

The Mercury sextile to the Sun, although just over one degree in orb, promises some good opportunities to deal with taxes and possibly the Social Security fund. There will be progress in medicine, with new discoveries that make us more optimistic about the future.

The sesquiquadrate to Pluto and the semisquare to the Part of Fortune (which, in the eighth house can be viewed as the Part of Misfortune) suggest a great deal of agitation where money is concerned. The stock market will show some instability, even in the face of greater optimism. If events have gone well in the Middle East, the price of oil will be lower, and this would be cause for optimism. If not, the people will push for changes, and that could mean more pressure on OPEC nations.

Mr. Bush shares the Mercury sextile to the Sun, so he too will have an opportunity to change his public image. He will have discovered just how difficult it is to remain popular when advocating peremptory strikes against other nations and failing to adequately inform the people about the reasons or about the tactics he intends to employ. His behind-the-scenes efforts could bear more fruit at this time, but that is unlikely to bolster confidence in him. He might have to give up the idea of being popular and simply do his job.

There could be a turnover among the President's cabinet and advisors. Whether their efforts have achieved the intended goals or not, his advisors will be held responsible for any failures. Mr. Bush will consolidate his position by getting rid of the symbols of his failure. However, it will be too late because the people will already understand what has happened, and know whom to blame.

Following this station, about a week later, Mars will be stationary direct at 0 Pisces. This is close to an exact sesquiquadrate to Saturn in the U.S. chart and to the Moon in the President's chart. This could be a very emotional time for Mr. Bush. Not one to function well when he is emotionally aroused, he will do well to keep a tight rein on his ad lib commentary. He is likely to become irritated, even agitated, if he is pushed.

December 17, 2003

<i>Mercury, 12 Capricorn 24 Stationary Rx</i>	
U.S. Chart	Semisextile natal Ascendant
	Opposition natal Sun
	Semisquare natal Moon
Bush Chart	Opposition natal Sun (1°13')

Mercury Continued on Page 75

Peace Must Be the Purpose of the People

By Norma Jean Ream

The hope of peace is challenged by threat of war as President Bush proposes an attack on Iraq and Saddam Hussein. The sad and shocking events of 9/11 stimulated an aggressive response from President Bush, who seemed to take it personally. Coincidentally, he has the same degree natal Sun as the country, a situation that calls for him to be a true representative leader of the American people. The people, especially New Yorkers, were brought together in unusual ways, and many were changed in their world views and intentions. This historical occurrence is a transforming process for the United States and its people.

Life in America is charged with dramatic themes of change that correspond with some dynamic astrological combinations working between the U.S. chart, important solar arcs and potent transits. When we blend this with the chart of President George W. Bush, the message that comes through is, *if the American people want peace, they must make it their purpose!*

There is debate among astrologers over the "real" U.S. chart. Yet, the transits of September 11, 2001 potentially activated the popularly used Sibley chart. The events of 9/11 also propelled President Bush to the center of the world stage. His role must also be reviewed in the context of looking for the possibility of peace for the U.S.

In the history of the United States, this is the first time ever that the solar arc Sun has come to

conjoin the country's natal Moon. This is like a New Moon, a fresh start for America. Symbolically, this blends presidential leadership with the collective American people. The powerful transits are the triggers for the potentials available in the political climate that will bring the solar arc development to life.

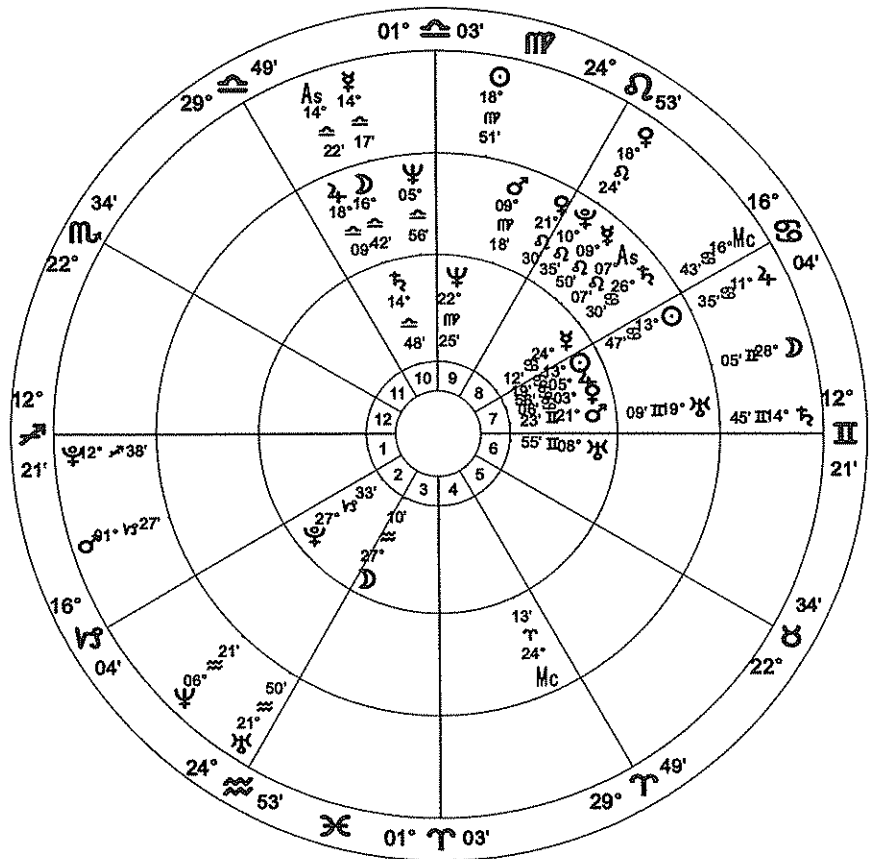
Transiting Uranus, the awakener, is currently in the process of three conjunctions to the U.S. Moon and solar arc Sun. This double influence to the Moon heightens the potential for grassroots movements and popular culture to perpetuate the necessary changes. It brings an opportunity for the American people to put their true ideals into action through collective consciousness. If the American people want peace, it will become reality when it becomes a part of popular culture.

Transiting Pluto has initiated a process that will continue to birth a transformed America in the arena of world powers. There is great tension building as Pluto's forward motion proceeds toward the opposition to the U.S. Mars. The potential to view this symbolism as the drama of big and little guns is strong. How this power gets used is really up to the will of the American people.

U.S. Chart and the American People

To illustrate this point, notice the importance of the Moon in the U.S. natal chart. The Moon represents the collective of the populace. The

Inner Wheel:
 United States
 July 4, 1776, 5:10 p.m.
 LMT, Philadelphia,
 Pennsylvania
 39N57:08, 75W09:51
 Middle Wheel:
 George W. Bush
 July 6, 1946, 7:26 a.m.
 EDT, New Haven,
 Connecticut
 41N18:29, 72W55:43
 Outer Wheel:
 September 11, 2001, 8:46
 a.m. EDT, Manhattan,
 New York,
 40N46, 73W59



Aquarian ideals of equality, brotherhood/sisterhood and freedom establish the most idealized theme of the U.S. Constitution. This document proclaims a government "of the people, by the people, for the people." The foundation of the country incorporates the primary values of the Moon in Aquarius. The third house placement emphasizes connectivity, communication and locally shared ideas. This brings in the varieties of media available to the people to share information. Freedoms of speech and travel are especially important. American culture is on television, radio, Internet, all the interactive stimulations that impress how life gets played out everyday.

In the U.S. natal chart, the Moon is the dispositor of four planets in Cancer: Venus, Jupiter, Sun and Mercury. The Part of Fortune is also here. Jupiter rules the Sagittarius Ascendant and Venus rules the Midheaven. Venus is conjunct Jupiter in Cancer in the seventh house. This blends the planet governing the nation's outer presentation with the planet governing the nation's reputation and standing in the eyes of the world. The blending offers an adventurous presentment of openhearted good will and a cooperative attitude in international affairs. The most obvious theme

of the U.S. chart is the focus on securing family values, protecting resources and tending the common bond of sharing with allies. The American people want the world to be a good, safe and prosperous place to live.

The ideal in the U.S. system of choosing leadership is electing leaders by popular majority, thus producing leaders who ideally represent the "will of the people." For this system to work, it takes the aware participation of the people. In recent generations, there has been a great decline of voter participation. People have become disillusioned and apathetic about the reality of the system. The last election was filled with confusion that made the flaws of the system more obvious. This is an interesting side note at this time when the progressed Sun is coming to the natal Moon.

The Sun in a national chart represents the country's leader: president, king or dictator. The sign of the Sun describes the leader's qualities and strengths. The Sun's house position highlights the arena of expression and purpose. The ruler of the Sun's sign provides the strength for the Sun to do its job. The Cancer Sun is inclusive and protective through the rulership of the Moon. The American people essentially support

the president doing what they want him to do. In theory, the government is the people. This idea is important to remember during the time of these progressions and transits. America's power and destiny is in the consciousness of the people. Certainly history has shown that the American people rally together in time of need and that the president is and has been steward to meeting the needs of the country.

America, Relationships, and Security

When we begin to think about what constitutes peace, or peaceful relations, whether between individuals or nations, we look to Venus as the harmonizing planet that brings unity and cooperation, and Jupiter as risk taker and peace-maker. We must also take into account the aspect relationship between the rulers of the first and seventh houses. They tell the story of how the country builds relationships. The planets habiting the seventh house offer information about the attention given to international affairs.

The rulers of the first and seventh houses are Jupiter and Mercury. They sit almost equal distance on either side of the Sun. Their midpoint is 15 Cancer 04, fewer than two degrees past the Sun. It is through the Sun, the president, that international relationships are developed and sustained.

The Sun disposed by the Moon illustrates the president's responsibility to the will of the people. The Moon is disposed by Saturn (the traditional ruler of Aquarius) and denotes the people electing congressional representation to make the people's will manifest. Saturn is exalted in Libra, disposed by Venus. The values that become important in Congress, and ultimately as laws, are derived from Venus. The Moon disposes Venus. This triangular ring of dispositorships circulates the energy that determines the development of this nation. It clearly represents the system of checks and balances in U.S. government, as well as the orientation of the American people to have an extremely important role in government: to establish what government does and how it is done.

The strength of any planet to do its job is shown in its essential dignity. In the U.S. chart, Jupiter is dignified through exaltation. As the ruling planet of the Ascendant, its position in the seventh house of general others, partners and open enemies shows that American relationships in the world reflect a general approach of wanting to create harmonious and mutually beneficial

partnerships that serve to expand the interest of America. However, we must remember the sign of Cancer is very defensive and protective. So, while there is a generosity and inclusive nature, the Moon in Aquarius underlining Jupiter's qualities can quickly show detachment and fierce guarding. Jupiter's conjunction to Venus denotes the American tendency to establish a standard of values, while expanding that creates a common familiarity. The American lifestyle is copied worldwide. From missionaries to manufacturers, we have always spread our ideals. America sets popular trends. Why not peace?

The U.S. seventh house is ruled by Mercury in the eighth in Cancer and conjunct the Part of Fortune. Mercury is retrograde, denoting that agreements can change, be taken back, reversed and delayed. The eighth house is a place of shared resources acquired through cooperation and sharing, or benefiting from others. It is also considered a house of taxes, loss and death. Mercury has no essential dignity, so it operates by unconventional approaches. This gives flexible negotiating abilities. There is also the tendency to manipulate others or to be manipulated in order to maintain power and control. What is said and how it's said has an underlying orientation to promote commerce and trade. Propaganda is an important tool of social control.

Venus, planet of resources and values, has essential dignity by being in its own triplicity and face. Dignity by triplicity implies a certain element of luck by being in the right place at the right time. In this case, it suggests the gift of having the right connections that make it appear that U.S. friends and allies (Venus rules the eleventh) happen to show up when needed. The dignity of face is weak, but imparts enough worry over circumstances that there is an alert to the situation. It's like knowing who your friends are and keeping the relationships mutually beneficial. The government makes it a point to make visiting dignitaries feel like family, or at least part of the clan.

Saturn is the most highly dignified planet in the U.S. chart. In its natural place, the tenth house, its angularity makes it especially important in government matters. Saturn is a diurnal planet and supports the Sun. It has a positive influence in the high place of this diurnal chart. It is in its own triplicity, giving Saturn (symbolically representing Congress) the power to know everything that is going on and the ability to take action when necessary. Operating from its sign

of exaltation and natural house rulership, Saturn governs the business of the country with an overview to the many factors that make America a major power nation. Saturn rules the second house of resources and third house of communications. From this vantage point, the adventurous, expansive, orientation to spread the American dream to the world becomes simultaneously a spiritual mission, an economic enterprise, a practical friendship and an intellectual exchange. This massive relationship with the world must be organized into a diplomatic machine. Security comes through managing the ever growing and expanding resources and keeping information flowing through the system.

The Sun applies to a square to Saturn. This illustrates the challenge that often comes up between Congress and the president. Saturn in Libra is very diplomatic and cautious in making commitments. Congress tends to be very aware of protocol in international affairs. Saturn represents a body of people who collectively can be more detached and logical. Saturn has a broad field of operation and has a responsibility to support the Sun. The presidency is held by one man who operates from a personality and often brings personal feeling into the diplomatic process personifying the Sun.

Pluto in the second house, in Capricorn, is disposed by Saturn. Pluto is the first planet approaching the Ascendant and shows power and influence from resources as a theme for how the nation goes forward in the world. Pluto represents a government of the rich run by corporate money. Its retrograde position can symbolize that many processes relating to resources can go on unseen. It also illustrates how some people can go from very meager resources to incredible wealth.

Modern astrology gives Pluto rulership over Scorpio, the sign of the U.S. twelfth house. Traditional astrology assigns Mars to Scorpio. Capricorn is Mars's sign of exaltation. Both ways link U.S. financial power to secret operations behind the scenes and out of sight of the people, behind the closed doors of government councils, both domestic and international. With Mars in the seventh, the U.S. also has a military force to protect domestic investments in foreign lands.

Pluto's opposition to Mercury, the ruler of the seventh, is a pointed reminder that politics and business, money and power, all go hand-in-hand. There is a strong orientation to make money and resources grow through relations with other na-

tions and their resources, giving a sense of security to the Cancerian foundation of the U.S. chart.

International power struggles are often sourced to U.S. financial holdings, especially since the 1930s and the discovery of Pluto. The death-rebirth of the stock market in 1929 occurred when transiting Pluto stationed retrograde within one degree of the Sun/Mercury midpoint in the eighth house of the U.S. chart. Although it had not yet been discovered and symbolically brought to consciousness, Pluto's influence on the American people and their money transformed the way international and domestic business is done. Corporations learned to protect assets and their owners. Big business developed power in politics.

The Impact of September 11

The events of September 11, 2001 illustrate the dramatic impact of the transiting Saturn-Pluto opposition, the most powerful collective planetary influence of current time. This is the full Moon phase of the cyclic relationship of these powerful planets. Their current cycle began with their conjunction at 27 Libra 35 that occurred on November 8, 1982. This conjunction stimulated the portion of the U.S. chart that represents the country's position in world matters and gains that come through allies and friendly nations. This powerful cycle also energized the Mercury/Pluto midpoint in the fifth house of investments.

In the early 1980s, during the Reagan administration, there were some dramatic moments in history that focused on U.S. support of allies in defense of resources. The Iran-Contra Affair gave solid footing for the current Middle East issues affecting the U.S. at this cycle point. It is important to include this fact in assessing the experience of the Saturn opposition to Pluto and its current relationship to President Bush's war on terrorism.

The timing of transiting Pluto over the Ascendant of the popularly used Sibley U.S. chart was too stunning to ignore. Pluto crossing the USA Ascendant brings a transforming force awakening the American people to a new level of relating and the impact of U.S. business in the world. It symbolizes a powerful shift in the collective awareness of how the American government proceeds in relationships. Americans will have to eventually tell themselves the whole truth about the way they participate as part of the world

community. The September 11, 2001 event forced an expression out to the world. The tendency with Plutonian actions, however, is to overdo and to plunder, and control. The strike against America garnered an explosive retaliating response directed at Afghanistan, assigned as the country harboring the suggested perpetrators, the Taliban and its leader, Osama Bin Ladin. Bush's war on terrorism is now spreading to incorporate Iraq, with or without evidence.

The first attack moment on September 11 had two obvious features highlighting U.S. chart connections. The first is Libra rising with Mercury at the Ascendant in the same degree as the U.S. Saturn. Second, the Midheaven is three degrees from the U.S. Sun, and one degree from the Mercury/Jupiter midpoint (first and seventh house rulers.) The Moon at 28 Gemini sits on the U.S. midpoint of Jupiter and Mars. Jupiter rules the U.S. Ascendant and Mars rules the fourth house. Americans were shocked and emotionally upset to experience this attack on domestic soil. Saturn was conjunct the Mars/Uranus midpoint of the U.S. chart, calling up military action in response. America has been initiated to the possibility of war on domestic soil.

Transiting Saturn's passage into the U.S. seventh house at this time initiated an endeavor to test and restructure relations with other nations, to set new boundaries and form new agreements. Shortly after the 9/11 event, leaders from all of the major nations sent their support and condolences for losses that were felt and shared throughout the world. Some international relationships have solidified because the upheaval so strongly impacted the global community. The attack of 9/11 was a terrible shock to a nation of people who feel they are the "good guys." Saturn in the seventh can offer a reality check on how others view the U.S. and its integrity.

Will retaliation swell to a major world affair?

Americans should be alert. Transiting Saturn will station retrograde at the very last of Gemini, repeating contacts to the Jupiter/Mars midpoint. The rulers of the first and fourth houses are planets that can express successful creative action. They represent the way the people wish to interact with other nations. Saturn, as a representative of Congress, has the power to exhibit caution and purpose. The will of the people, expressed clearly to Congress, could put a hold on aggressive action from the President.

Saturn will not ingress into Cancer until June 2003. Will Saturn in the U.S. seventh house be

diplomatic or defensive? The people have an opportunity to impress the decision-makers while Saturn repeatedly trines the U.S. Moon and Uranus slowly takes its final steps through Aquarius, moving past the conjunction.

Transiting Pluto will station retrograde just short of opposing the U.S. Mars in March 2003. This happens within days of Uranus' first ingress into Pisces. Pluto will activate the transit to U.S. Mars with exact contacts in February, May and November 2004. Mars is ruler of the fourth house. Home territory could be in unprecedented danger.

The United States, more than any other country, reveres personal independence and freedom. Yet, as a Cancer country, it needs and respects the unity of community. It is through working together as a family that the U.S. has progressed through some great hardships. It is a lesson that must be remembered in the current process. Every individual is important to the quality of the whole group, the whole country. This is a message that President Bush should be aware of if he is to succeed in his role as leader.

George W. Bush

It is important to bring in the links between the charts of President George W. Bush and the country he represents. President Bush's chart ties in to the U.S. chart in ways that few presidents have. It is very unusual to have the Suns conjunct between a country and its leader. Symbolically, this might seem like an ideal situation. That it happens as the progressed Sun conjuncts the natal Moon is a strong statement of importance to the destiny of America's future.

Bush's natal Sun, Saturn, Moon and Ascendant link strongly with the U.S. chart. His Sun is in the same degree of Cancer. His Saturn is the degree of the U.S. Part of Fortune, and his Ascendant is conjunct the U.S. North Node. His Chiron, Moon and Jupiter conjunct the U.S. Saturn. Through these contacts the man personifies the job of the country's leader. The responsibilities are taken on with emotional conviction. The sense of personal power is supported through the people's responses, and a sense of destiny is intertwined between the country and the man as leader. President Bush took the events of September 11, 2001 very personally. In one way, it manifested his desire to be a world military leader. In another way, it gives power to an ego straining for recognition from behind his father's shadow.

Bush's Saturn is conjunct the U.S. Part of Fortune. He becomes the task master governing/protecting/building the wealth and welfare of the country. It is important to note that his Saturn is unaspected in his natal twelfth house. Saturn has strength in this chart and rules the sixth and seventh houses. His relationships are hard to track since his Saturn has no aspects. Much can go on in his life that is not out in the open but behind the scenes and somewhat unlimited.

Overlaid with the U.S. chart, the U.S. Saturn conjuncts Bush's Chiron, Moon and Jupiter, illustrating his feelings of being the hero in this current living mythology. The Moon disposes his Sun and Saturn. This further connects the President's personal experience with the responsibility to protect and guide the country. The highlight of his warrior/hero dynamics is Mars ruling his Midheaven from Virgo in the second house. Mars in Virgo is oriented to the strategies of combat and war. Mars was prominent in the Inauguration chart, initiating his presidency. Mars was strong in the chart of Bush's Call to Military Alert.

Transiting Jupiter crossed Bush's Ascendant in mid-August, and will be making the conjunction to his natal Mercury-Pluto conjunction. Personally, he is ready to expand, take risks and assert his status in the world, broadening his horizons. Transiting Neptune will be in a partile opposition to Jupiter in his seventh. He could be confused about who the enemy really is. Neptune and Pluto both have links with oil and covert activities. President Bush may have a personal agenda for promoting a war with Iraq. The people should evaluate if it serves the country and the world. As the current representative of the U.S., his response to transits and progressions are two-fold, first as an individual and, second, as a personification of the country's leader. Perhaps this has never been truer for any president than it is now with the solar arc Sun on the U.S. natal Moon.

U.S. Progressions and Transits

U.S. progressions and transits empower the American people.

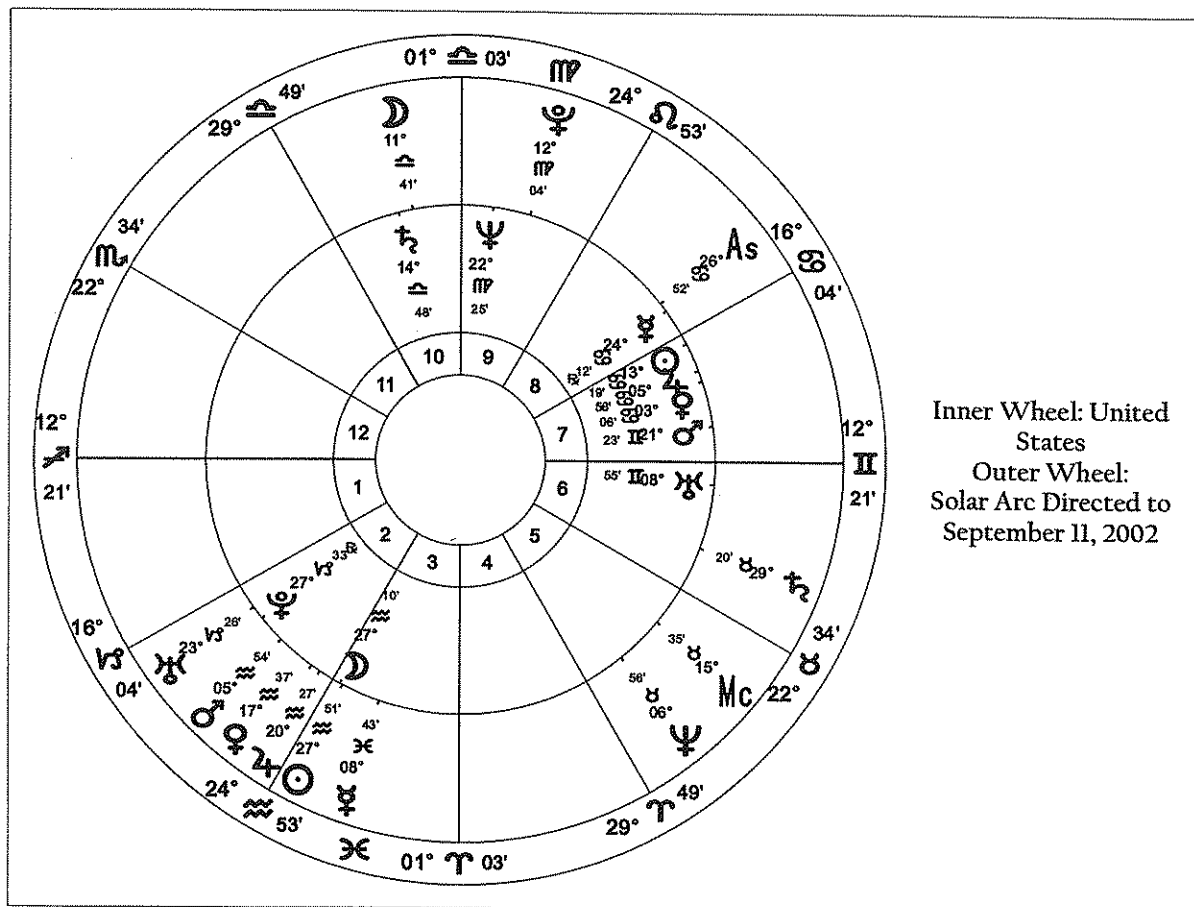
The U.S. solar arc Sun crossed the U.S. natal Moon on January 8, 2002. The power of American leadership *should* express the power of the people. Another slant is that the American people have manifested the leadership that most reflects them. This potent solar arc contact is further en-

ergized by the transit of Uranus to the Moon's degree, active from late March into early April and July into August of 2002, and concluding mid-January 2003. Transiting Uranus, the awakener, should stimulate an awareness of a need for *authenticity* in current leadership that is truly for the good of the people. Uranus brings a level of energy and chemistry that stirs up civil and cultural change that is usually progressive and humanitarian.

The last transit of Uranus over the U.S. Moon in 1919 corresponded with the end of World War I. The peace process relied heavily on U.S. presidential leadership. Other transits active at the time were Saturn opposition U.S. Moon, transiting Pluto conjunct U.S. Venus and Jupiter, and transiting North Node conjunct U.S. Ascendant. Family, community and a worldwide desire for democracy pulled the allied nations to a point of peace that ultimately created the United Nations. On the domestic scene, a new civil rights movement promoted emancipation of voting rights for women and minorities. Women's roles and popular culture changed radically, as seen in the hemlines rising from the ankle to the knee. Freedom of movement appeared in many ways.

Uranus is associated with the urge for freedom, civil rights and equality, and also with inventions and the transcendence of old systems and structures. As it touches off the developmental influence of the solar arc Sun shining through the U.S. Moon, we might expect a new level of domestic demonstrations of "power to the people." The Cancerian foundation that is always searching for familiarity gets a good dose of learning to recognize diversity and uniqueness among the family members through this progressed influence. Uranus brings out the lesson of living fully the ideals that we Americans built up as our national pride: "liberty, equality, and brotherhood." Ultimately, there is a unifying lesson here.

The solar arc Ascendant conjuncts U.S. Part of Fortune at 26 Cancer in the eighth house. (President Bush's Saturn is 26 Cancer.) The Part of Fortune relates to the Moon and has to do with the body and one's trappings of life that support one's ability to be happy and successful, one's wealth. Interpreting this for the country, representing a mass of people, illustrates the cooperative pooling of resources that gives us a certain sense of financial security. The Moon's ruler tells us about the condition of the people. Wealth and welfare support the national sense of taking care of everyone like family. There could be concern



over the security of national economics and shared resources. Our concern should be to not let President Bush draw down the collective security through an extremely expensive war.

The Ascendant is a point that also relates to the condition of the body. As the solar arc Ascendant conjuncts with the natal Part of Fortune in Cancer in the eighth house, the American people have had to deal with the fear of death and with the loss of resources. The massive loss of life a year ago were mourned as a family. The experiences that was triggered were personal and physical. Americans are aware of our collective vulnerability, physically and financially.

Solar Arc Saturn Changing Signs

Solar arc Saturn changing signs initiates a change of Congressional focus.

Solar arc Saturn takes thirty years to progress through a sign. Transiting Saturn takes nearly thirty years to travel the zodiac. In the life of a nation, these two cycles can give interesting information. Solar arc Saturn is currently at 29 Taurus. It will progress into Gemini on May 11, 2003. Identifying Saturn in the U.S. chart as the Con-

gress, we can expect a change of focus to shift from financial building and security to Gemini issues, like connectivity, communication, education and travel. Air signs bring ideas and action.

Two transiting Saturn cycles ago was the bombing of Pearl Harbor, an event that was used a lot in comparison with the 9/11 attack. At the time of Pearl Harbor, transiting Saturn was coming into a conjunction with transiting Uranus and both squared the U.S. Moon from late Taurus, the U.S. sixth house. A new level of military action came out of this time. The square to the Moon pulled the American people to action in response to this energy. The advancement of war through technology literally boomed.

Transiting Saturn will enter Cancer in June 2003 and quickly conjunct U.S. Venus, Jupiter and Sun by October 2003. We can only project our hopes that Congress will serve the will of the people in establishing peaceful diplomatic relationships with all of brothers and sisters of the world. Saturn's power to bring commitment to mutually beneficial relationships is already strong in the U.S. chart themes. Let the people decide what to manifest.

Peace Continued on Page 76

World Watch 2003: A Mundane Perspective

By David Crook

Editor's Note: In this rich mundane astrology article, David Crook examines dozens of charts. We have included only a few for reference and have provided data for the interested reader to erect other appropriate charts. He has incorporated the following into his review of 2003:

- Ingresses into cardinal signs
- Eclipses and lunations
- Transits
- Birth charts of individuals
- Charts for nations
- Charts for events
- Astro*Carto*Graphy maps

Making sense of all the variables will take some time and effort. One could either attempt to be completely chronological—zip all over the planet, explore the charts of each nation and individual thoroughly or take each of the three kinds of 2003 charts and discuss the relevant aspects that are formed to other charts. I have chosen the latter.

The article first outlines some of the main transit charts of interest for 2003 and the contacts between these charts and various nations and individuals. The second section discusses the birth and inauguration charts of George W. Bush and Saddam Hussein, as well as other charts relevant to world events.

As you study the details, you will find there are several central points:

1. The U.S. Pluto and Hussein's Pluto were both hit by the 1982 Saturn-Pluto conjunction, and the 1997 Jupiter-Neptune conjunction. I think these are the two key syn-

odic cycles for mundane affairs at this time. The oppositions of Saturn-Pluto and Jupiter-Neptune now mirror world tensions coming to a head.

2. I think the U.S. will invade Iraq because the relevant astrology reflects a confluence of factors to support it. Judging by the ingresses and lunations, this effort will likely be underway by the spring of 2003, and heat up during the summer. (G.W. Bush's Local Space map shows Mars near the zenith in Baghdad, and this Mars receives intense activation during 2003 and 2004.)

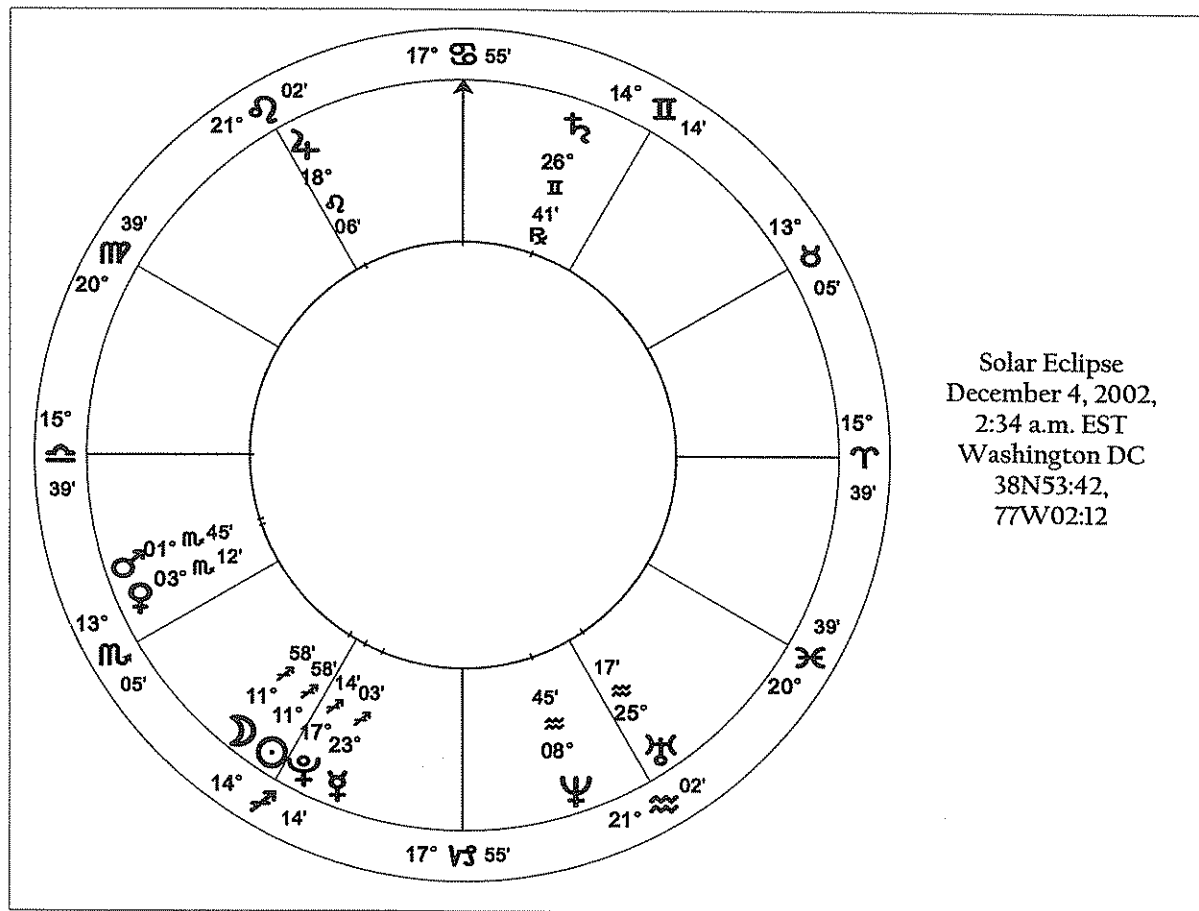
3. The horoscope for Saudi Arabia is very stressed through 2003. The tensions within this nation are mainly a result of the conflict between the Wahhabi (Muslim extremists) and the royal family. Almost all the 9/11 hijackers were Saudis. (G. W. Bush's Pluto Midheaven line runs right through Mecca and Medina.)

4. Afghanistan continues to be a hotspot, based on the prominence of the 1982 Saturn-Pluto conjunction here and current angularities of Saturn and Pluto in Kabul. (G. W. Bush's Mars Midheaven line crosses near Kandahar and Kabul.)

5. Judging by the ingress and lunation charts themselves and their relation to the national charts for China and Taiwan, it looks as though the ongoing tensions here could escalate in 2003.

6. The chart for the Philippines is set for a date only two days before that for G. W. Bush, which links these entities in time and through transits. The Abu Sayyaf rebels there have ties with Al Qaeda.

7. Indonesia is a hotspot that has yet to show itself. The large Muslim population, as well as numerous crossings of



planetary lines in key Astro*Carto*Graphy maps leads to this conclusion. I think we will hear more about the threat of terrorism coming from this region as time goes on.

8. Although mentioned only briefly, Israel, India and Pakistan continue to be prime hotspots. Nepal is very unstable now as well. All the tension in the Middle East and the Indian subcontinent really spirals from the Arab/Israeli conflict. The U.S. has established close ties with Israel to maintain a presence in the region. Israel will be hit first by the backlash when the U.S. invades Iraq.

December 4, 2002 Total Solar Eclipse

The December 4 total solar eclipse is at 12 Sagittarius conjunct Pluto, which is conjunct the Midheaven in Kabul, and Pluto rises in Kabul at the Capricorn ingress of 2002. Saturn anti-culminates in Kabul, opposite Pluto at the Midheaven in the Aries ingress chart of 2003. It appears from these potent angularities that Afghanistan will continue to be a focal point for upheaval of all sorts and center stage for the collectively transformative dance of Saturn-Pluto energies. The seeding of this restructuring process occurred at the synod (conjunction) of 1982, with

its prominence at Kabul and Kandahar. President Hamid Karzai's natal Jupiter resonates with the degree of this Saturn-Pluto, which also hit the U.S. Pluto and Saddam Hussein's Jupiter-Pluto opposition. Now the implied threat of loss and violent struggles are coming to fruition in world affairs, with the U.S. and Hussein dramatically featured.

This total solar eclipse hits the U.S. Ascendant, the U.S. Gemini rising Descendant, the G. W. Bush inaugural Pluto, U.S. Uranus and Secretary Rumsfeld's natal Mars. The annular solar eclipse of May 31 activates these same points six months later. Thus, whatever July 1776 chart we use, these eclipses trigger natal Uranus, thereby highlighting Uranian issues of freedom, rebellion and upsets of the status quo.

The possible infringement on our civil rights and the rights of suspected terrorists by Attorney General Ashcroft and others might be further illuminated by these eclipses. The increasingly unilateral approach to the world by President Bush reflects a sort of Uranian extremism that echoes Bush's own Uranus-Node conjunction. (Both this eclipse and the one on May 2003 activate Mark Lerner's "nuclear axis"—around 7-11

Gemini/Sagittarius.¹ And the lunar eclipse of May 2003 opposes the atomic bomb test Mars (conjunct Algol). So these eclipses might portend some kind of nuclear-related events in 2003.

The eclipse Sun-Moon anti-culminates in Las Vegas and rises in Paris. Uranus conjuncts the Midheaven at Tokyo and Saturn culminates at the eclipse of May 31, 2003. Uranus rose in Tokyo at the 2002 Cancer ingress and rises here again at the 2002 Capricorn ingress. Uranus culminates in Tokyo at the 2003 Aries ingress, while Mars and Uranus conjunct the Midheaven of the 2003 Cancer ingress. Given these powerful factors in unison, there are major reforms and developments, which appear to have a Uranian quality, shaping up for Japan.

The path of the Moon's umbral shadow begins in the South Atlantic, crosses southern Africa and the Indian Ocean and ends at sunset in southern Australia. A partial eclipse will be seen within the much broader path of the Moon's penumbral shadow, which includes most of Africa, western Australia and Antarctica.²

May 16, 2003 Total Lunar Eclipse

This total lunar eclipse at 25 Scorpio falls in the Bush inaugural seventh house opposition Saturn. The eclipse opposes Israel's national Sun, Ariel Sharon's Moon and the natal Mars of President Musharraf. Eclipse Uranus conjuncts the Midheaven in Baghdad and culminates in Riyadh. (The eclipse falls in Saudia Arabia's natal tenth house, with Pluto exactly conjunct natal Uranus.) This eclipse is conjunct New York City's natal Chiron in the second house, and could mark an important turning point for economic self-confidence there. Neptune is now stationary.

The eclipse Sun and Moon set at Vancouver, and Uranus culminates at Riyadh. Chiron rises at Washington D.C. and culminates in London. Saturn rises at Tehran as Pluto sets nearby, and Mars culminates in Istanbul.

China, Taiwan, and the Philippines

At Taipei, the May 16 eclipse Sun-Moon axis aligns with the local meridian and activates Taiwan's natal Nodes in the financial houses. This eclipse hits China's natal Midheaven while the Sun-Moon of the May 31 solar eclipse culminates at Beijing, and opposes China's natal Chiron in the tenth house. The November 9 lunar eclipse—SU-MO=AS/MC at Taipei—hits Tai-

wan's natal Moon and Vertex in the eighth house. This eclipse aspects China's natal Venus, Mars and Pluto. Hence, these eclipses appear to be sharply focused in this part of the world.

May 31, 2003 Annular Eclipse

The May 2003 annular eclipse at 9 Gemini 19 is conjunct the royal star Aldebaran, the Bull's South Eye, and opposes Antares, the Scorpion's Heart. Diana K. Rosenberg says for Aldebaran: "Major historical events, natural disasters, terrific energies released torrential rains, floods, sea battles, armadas, shipwrecks, riots, destruction, atomic events, air contamination." And for Antares she says: "Human rights issues, war, nuclear events, fires, assassinations, shipwreck, fog, smog."³ Eclipse SU-MO = PL/NO direct reflects the profound potential of this eclipse for the collective environment. Its relatively long duration confirms its importance as a major astrological event.

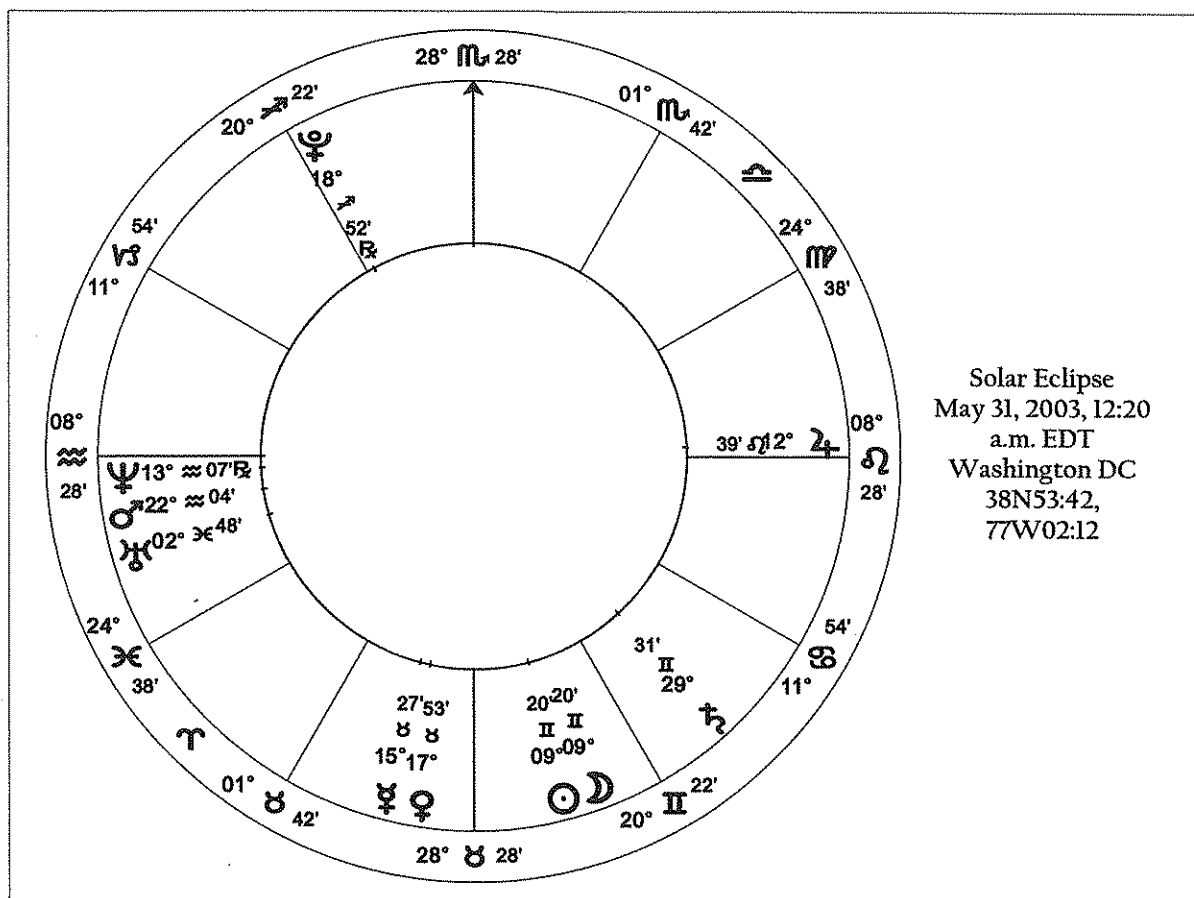
At Washington D.C., this eclipse lands in the fourth house, with Mars square the Midheaven, and Algol's ecliptic degree at the IC. SA=AS/MC suggests loss or difficulties here. The eclipse is exactly square President Bush's natal Mars and conjunct both the Boyd Jupiter in the ninth and Secretary Rumsfeld's Mars. The eclipse SU-MO culminates in Beijing, Saturn is at the Midheaven in Tokyo and rising in Tel Aviv, Mars sets with the North Node in paran (simultaneously on the angle) at Jakarta, Jupiter rises as Neptune sets in Kathmandu and the Sun-Moon sets in Vancouver at eclipse.

This eclipse could be triggered by the Mars station retrograde (at 10 Pisces) of July 29, 2003, which coincides with the New Moon at 6 Leo. Stationing Mars will oppose Mr. Bush's natal Mars and conjunct Iraq's Uranus in the seventh house.

"Partial phases of the eclipse are visible from much of Europe (except Spain and Portugal) and the Middle East, where the event occurs at sunrise, as well as from central and northern Asia (excluding most of China, South East Asia and Japan). In the Western Hemisphere, the partial eclipse is visible from northern Canada and Alaska during the afternoon of May 30."⁴

November 9, 2003 Total Lunar Eclipse

This eclipse at 16 Taurus 15 is sharply focused in Washington DC, where we find SU-MO=



ASC/MC. The eclipse hits the Bush inaugural Ascendant at 15 Taurus, the inaugural Mars at 16 Scorpio and the inaugural Mercury at 17 Aquarius. Hussein's Inaugural Chiron-Uranus opposition also is triggered by this lunation. Uranus is stationary at this time.

From a global perspective, Saturn rises at New York City and Rio de Janeiro, Mars is at the Midheaven in Atlanta and Cincinnati, Pluto sets in Santiago, Argentina, the Sun rises as the Moon sets in Bombay and New Delhi, Neptune hits the Nadir in Kandahar, Mars sets in Madrid and Chiron sets in Tokyo, Japan.

November 23, 2003 Total Solar Eclipse

This eclipse occurs at 1 Sagittarius, with a mutable T-Square between Mars (apex), Pluto and Jupiter. In Washington D.C., the eclipse Ascendant picks up this T-Square, completing a grand cross.

Eclipse Saturn hits the IC in Sacramento, California, Uranus culminates in New York City and anti-culminates in Saigon and Jakarta, Pluto sets in Portland, Maine, the SU-MO is at the IC in Berlin and Prague and sets in Singapore and Kan-

sas City, Mars sets in Istanbul and Khartoum and Uranus sets in Paris and London.

A partial eclipse is visible in New Zealand, most of Australia and southern Argentina and Chile.

2002 Capricorn Ingress

Saturn in Gemini is trine Uranus in Aquarius from September 2002 until July 2003. The relationship between tradition and innovation now tends toward a creative balance, paving the way for social progress and cooperation. New and revolutionary ideas can take shape more easily during this period.

Jupiter is conjunct the Ascendant in D.C., but actually rises in New York City. At New York City, we find AS-JU-UR/NE, which suggests a hopeful outlook and a rejuvenated spirit. Jupiter in Leo is trine Pluto in Sagittarius from October 2002 until July 2003. The Jupiter-Pluto combination is a positive sign for prospective growth and represents the consolidation and expression of power in all its many forms. Those already in positions of power will likely remain so.

Mars and Venus lie at the apex of a T-Square

with Jupiter and Neptune. MA=JU/NE represents either forceful actions motivated by some form of idealism, or unrealized plans that lack practical implementation. This Mars-Venus conjunction is square the ingress Ascendant and opposes the Bush inaugural Ascendant. The give-and-take with friends and foes tends to passionate extremes this winter. (Ingress Mars and Venus are at the Ascendant in Tel Aviv and conjunct Israel's natal South Node.)

Challenges for world leaders in general are symbolized here by the opposition of the Sun in the fifth with Saturn in the eleventh house.

Ingress Neptune trine the North Node speaks more of peaceful interactions, based on an emotional or instinctive affinity. The realization of this promise has been elusive of late as the more insidious expressions of Neptune have colored recent history through its associations with oil, obfuscation and deception. But this fact does not deny the essential urge to merge, serve others or find true peace that Neptune represents from an evolutionary perspective. And as this planet crosses over its own helio North Node beginning in March 2003 (through 2004), the Neptunian vibration will resonate in all its glory, both for better and worse.

2003 Aries Ingress.

The dynamic T-Square between Uranus and the Nodal axis activates the financial houses of this ingress at Washington D.C. UR=Nodes=MO/SA suggests "the impulsive release of inner tensions," as a result of collective hardships and disharmony. This Uranus culminates in Tokyo, Japan. The ingress Nodes align with the local meridian at Riyadh and Baghdad. Ingress Neptune culminates in Manila and rises *in mundo* at Baghdad, with MA=AS/MC direct at Riyadh. (The horoscope for the nation of Saudia Arabia shows an extraordinary level of tension throughout 2003.) The ingress Pluto is conjunct the Midheaven in Kabul, with Saturn at the IC *in mundo*. In Washington, these planets highlight the third-ninth house axis and issues related to the airlines, telecommunications industry and foreign affairs. The ingress Sun and Mercury rising in New Delhi links the formative ideas of spring with India, and Prime Minister Vajpayee, or other important leaders, could take an active role in events during this period. (The Republic of India chart has Progressed SU=MA/SA exact in February 2003, which signifies increased tension

for the nation and its rulers.) The ingress Scorpio Moon at the apex of a T-Square with Jupiter and Neptune has an excessive quality about it. In Washington this Moon rules the Midheaven from the first house and suggests the needs of the public might actually take precedence over the President's agenda.

At the 2003 Libra ingress, we find the Saturn opposite Chiron near the Midheaven-IC axis in Beijing, Taipei and Manila. This opposition also triggers Taiwan's natal Neptune in the first house and China's Mercury in the eighth. So the "crisis of control and authority" issues symbolized by Saturn-Chiron may take shape at these places. Ingress UR=AS/MC at Beijing, and MA=UR=AS/MC in Taipei, and Manila. These contacts suggest sudden upsets and potentially volatile events for China, Taiwan and the Philippines.

The Astrology of the Gulf War

The August 1990 ingress of expansive Jupiter into the bold, courageous and arrogant sign of Leo appears to have been an important astrological factor leading up to the Gulf War now and might play a significant role as Jupiter entered Leo again on August 1, 2002.

The August 2002 Jupiter ingress at D.C., has the fixed T-Square between Sun, Mars, Moon and Neptune linked with the local angles. From the U.S. perspective, the Jupiterian drive for expansion will express itself in an active and willful manner. In Iraq, this same drive is linked with Pluto-Node—an image of collective upheaval.

2003 Libra Ingress

At Washington, D.C. the ingress Sun is conjunct the Ascendant, but actually rises at New York City. This SU = SA/PL = NE/NO could indicate struggle and the general threat of loss for world leaders. The T-Square between Saturn, Chiron and Venus might signify financial stress in New York, possibly related to foreign affairs. Ingress Venus is conjunct Vindemiatrix—the Star of Widowhood. D.K. Rosenberg says for this star: "issues of rights, laws, religious freedom. Fires, storms, air and space events, air crashes and ship disasters, persecutions, exterminations, air contamination, public health issues."

The ingress Moon at 25 Leo is square its own Nodes and opposite both Mars and Uranus. This

configuration indicates either volatile public opinion or actual disruptive circumstances that affect the masses.

Transits

Technically, the last exact opposition of Saturn and Pluto occurred May 25, 2002. But these planets remain in orb through the first half of 2003 and will continue to inform and shape the mundane matrix, out of which other measurements emerge.

The opposition of Jupiter in Leo to Neptune in Aquarius is one of the crucial aspects of these times. Jupiter and Neptune oppose one another from September 2002 until June 2003. This twelve-year synodic cycle of Jupiter-Neptune began with the conjunction of January 9, 1997 at 27 Capricorn, which hit the U.S. Pluto and Saddam Hussein's Jupiter-Pluto opposition. These formative conjunctions seeded the global events that are now coming to a head at the oppositional phase. And the key players in the unfolding world drama are the entities directly linked with these dominant geocosmic cycles. Issues of power, upheaval, idealism and big oil all come together. The exact Mars opposition Saturn of January 9, 1997 was conjunct the U.S. Midheaven-IC axis. It also aligned with the local meridian in New Delhi and squared the India Republic Uranus. Pluto set near Baghdad and Riyadh and also joined with this Jupiter-Neptune in two different ways at Iraq.

"This cycle (Jupiter-Neptune) has a strongly idealistic, humanitarian and ideological quality about it. It seems to be related to the unfoldment of idealistic belief systems and, as such, its hard-angle aspects can often relate to sectarian quarrels, political differences and 'religious wars.'⁵

With Jupiter and Neptune in the oppositional phase, we could see the objectification of a great dream. The most idealistic of aspirations actually come to fruition. However, the polarization of the affluent elite (Jupiter in Leo) with the grand vision of equality for all (Neptune in Aquarius) is also greater at this time. The association of Jupiter-Neptune with big oil is clearly relevant in the context of current and prospective events in the Middle East. "Economically this combination can produce periods of boom and optimism, but also 'pie in the sky' plans and rampant inflation, if not well earthed."⁶ The brilliant astrologer Andre Barbault has pointed out the importance of this

cycle (Jupiter-Neptune) for the nation of France, and both oppositions of 2003 will activate the financial houses of the Fifth Republic chart.

The first two Jupiter-Neptune oppositions hit President Bush's Mercury-Pluto conjunction. As of September 2002, he was trying to persuade the United Nations that Hussein must be dealt with now and convince Congress to give him sweeping powers for war if United Nations inspections break down again. Mr. Bush is riding high under the influence of Jupiter, but his rhetoric and perceptions are still colored by transiting Neptune until December 2003.

At the February 2003 opposition of Jupiter-Neptune, we find a Sun-Uranus conjunction at the Midheaven in Baghdad and Riyadh, which at these locations links the image of Uranian rebellion with the dream quality of the moment. Iran is also responding in its own way to the influential Jupiter-Neptune cycle.

At the minute Mars makes its station July 29, 2003 at 3:38 a.m. EDT, it culminates in Washington, D.C.

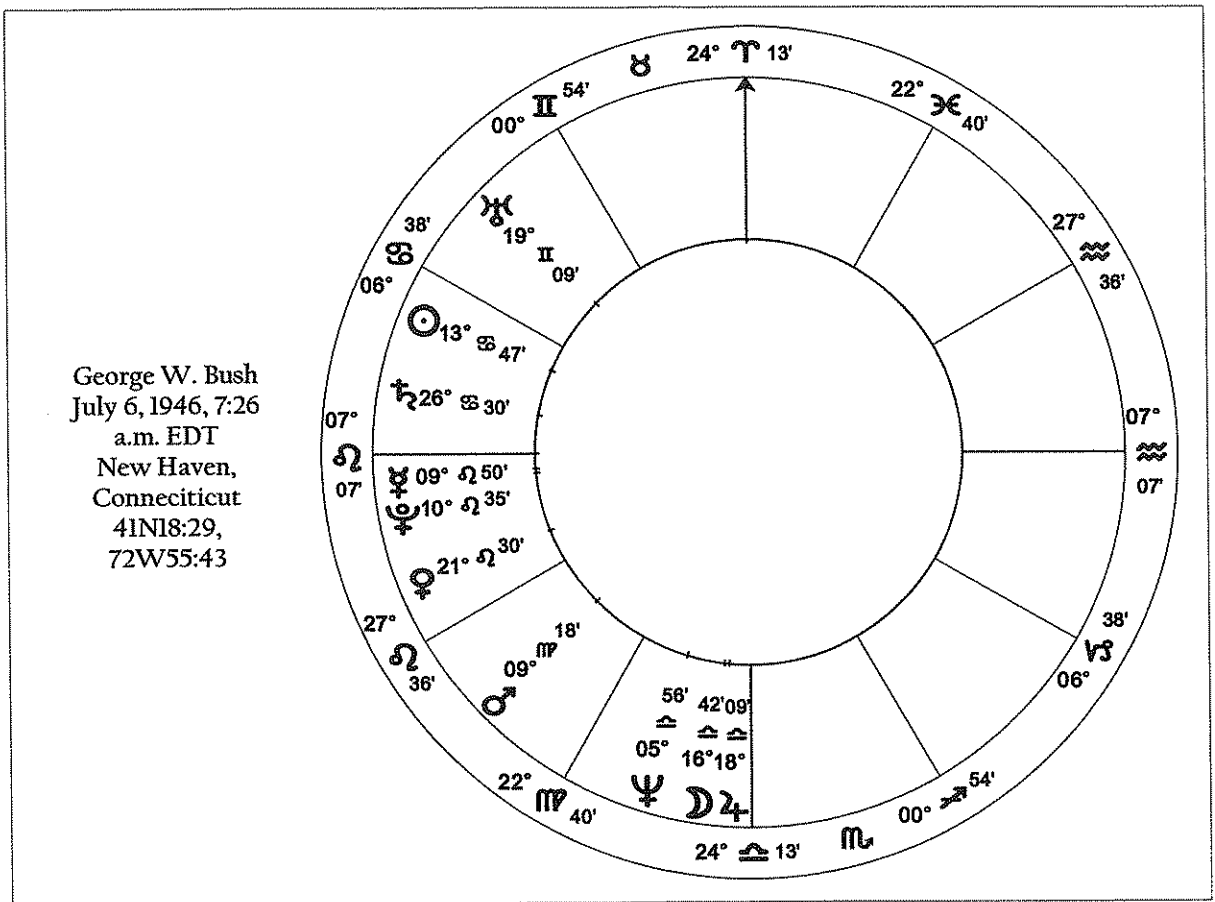
At the Mars station-direct at 0 Pisces on September 27, 2003, Mars is closely conjunct transiting Uranus and sesquiquare Venus at the U.S. Saturn.

The repeated prominence of Mars in Washington, D.C. suggests the U.S. government will be active, and forceful in asserting its will during this period, while contacts to President Bush's chart and that of Iraq identify the entities most likely involved.

Individuals, Nations, Previous Events

Transiting Chiron opposes and challenges the U.S. Sun from late February until December 2003. Saturn stations October 25, 2003 in opposition to transiting Chiron. Neptune culminates exactly over Washington, D.C. at the time of this Saturn station. Political affairs could change directions at this time, but with a conspicuous lack of clarity.

At George W. Bush's birth time, Pluto rose in New Haven, Connecticut and culminated over Mecca and Medina. As president, Bush seems to be constellating a collective impulse for omnipotence, symbolized by Pluto in Leo. This extreme drive for power will tend to draw him into life and death struggles in the Middle East and conflicts in Afghanistan, where Mars culminated at his birth. (Also note that his Inaugural Chiron IC line runs through Kabul, which is relevant to



events of 9/11, and beyond.) His progressed Mars line on an Astro*Carto*Graphy map is now just west of Baghdad.

Transiting Neptune opposes his natal Pluto through 2003. This can diffuse or undermine his drive for powerful influence and adds a deceptive element to the expression of this impulse. And transiting Pluto is opposite his natal Uranus from late January 2003 until the end of the year, while his Progressed Midheaven conjuncts natal Uranus exact in October 2003. Noel Tyl says for Pluto-Uranus: "Tremendous intensification of ego-awareness; attainment of great goals through great effort; upsets and tension en route." And for MC-Uranus: "Brings the power of selfhood forward; assertion is recognized; strong developmental tensions for job and social position."

Solar arc Mars forms a sesquiquadrate to natal Uranus in October 2003, adding to Mr. Bush's personal volatility and his desire to do things his own way. In January 2004, his progressed Sun is exactly conjunct natal Mars, which suggests vigorous or aggressive self-assertion.

The chart for the Philippines is set only two days before that of George W. Bush. Both these

horoscopes will experience many transits concurrently. The U.S. has a vested interest in ridding the Philippines of the Abu Sayeef extremists who have ties to Al Qaeda.

George W. Bush Inaugural Chart

Transiting Pluto squares the Inaugural Venus (Ascendant ruler) from December 2002 until November 2003. But perhaps more importantly, transiting Pluto conjuncts the inaugural Moon throughout the year, suggesting upheaval and possible sadness as a result of extreme events that are deeply transformative (inaugural MO-SA/NO=PL/CH direct).

The 2002 solar return for the Inaugural chart has Neptune setting in Washington, D.C., Uranus at the IC in Baghdad and Saturn setting in Kabul. Neptune rises at Baghdad in the Inaugural return of 2003, with Algol's ecliptic degree at the IC. So, the repeated angularities in these returns pinpoint both Iraq and Afghanistan as places where the formative ideas and energies will sharply manifest. (In Mr. Bush's local space map, the Mars zenith line runs right through Baghdad!)

Saddam Hussein and Iraq

Of the three valid horoscopes for Iraq, I've chosen to work primarily with the older chart of Aug. 23, 1921. Saddam Hussein has solar arc Mars square natal Sun exact in April 2003. Solar arc Pluto opposition natal Saturn exact in October 2003. And solar arc Saturn opposition Mars exact in January 2004. These last two arcs clearly suggest trying circumstances and the threat of loss to Hussein.

The national chart for Iraq has transiting Uranus opposition natal Sun and Mercury throughout 2003. As Uranus hits these planets, it will also trigger natal PL/NO at 29 Leo and natal MO/PL at 29 Taurus. Transiting Neptune opposes Iraq's natal Mars from March 2003 until December 2004 and natal Neptune from March 2004 until late 2005. The chart for Iraq has Mars conjunct Neptune in the twelfth house, with Mars at the helio Node of Neptune. So, oil, deception and aggression inevitably go hand-in-hand. Hussein dramatically personifies both the Neptune in Leo myth and Iraq's natal Sun conjunct Regulus in his role as "supreme monarch" as he actively develops chemical weapons behind the scenes.

The 2002 solar return for Iraq has Chiron conjunct the Midheaven in Baghdad, with Mars and Uranus in paran at Washington, D.C. While the precessed return for Baghdad has the Sun anti-culminating, with the opposition of Mars and Uranus conjunct the meridian. Such Mars-Uranus contacts often are volatile and disruptive.

The 2003 solar return for Iraq features a wide T-Square that links with the angles at Washington, D.C., as does the Neptune quincunx Saturn. This return features late degrees of the fixed signs, significantly triggering the Iraq chart. We see numerous indications of conflict and probable war-like conditions.

U.S. Revolutionary War (Boyd Chart)

The Declaration of War chart, also known as the Boyd chart, is set for the vote of the Second Continental Congress to declare a state of war with England. Astrologer Claude Weiss has noted the synastry between the Boyd chart and that of George W. Bush. This horoscope seems to resonate with the military activities of the U.S., as it did recently at the October 2001 bombing of Afghanistan. On October 7, 2001, the transiting Nodes=MA/PL=Boyd MA/SA=UR/PL. Transiting

SU-JU=Boyd SA/PL. At the minute of this attack, Neptune was culminating in Baghdad, and NODES=MA/PL=ASC/MC here, linking this initial strike against terrorism with Iraq.

Relocated to Baghdad, the Boyd UR=AS/MC direct. The Uranian drive for freedom, autonomy and rebellion was focused at this time and placed way back in 1775! This Uranus at 5 Gemini, is conjunct Iraq's natal Midheaven, exactly square Iraq's Ascendant at 5 Virgo and opposition Hussein's Mars near 4 Sagittarius. The Sun is setting near Baghdad in the Astro*Carto*Graphy map for the Boy chart. Leadership and authority issues tend to manifest here in relations. Others might be seen as controlling and powerful. (The lunar eclipse of May 26, 2002 fell at 5 Sagittarius.) Hussein's SA=MA/PL=Boyd MA/SA=UR/PL reflects a highly charged and explosive synastry.

The Boyd solar return chart for 2002 has a fixed T-Square between Venus, Uranus and the Moon (conjunct Algol) at apex. This Moon is setting in Baghdad and SU-VX=AS/MC here. The precessed return has Venus opposite Uranus at the meridian in Washington, D.C. The return Mars conjunct Jupiter (military expansion) falls at the IC in Kabul. The solar return Chiron is conjunct the Midheaven in Baghdad, with Mercury at the IC.

The Boyd solar return for 2003 has MC=JU/SA=MA/PL=UR/PL direct at Washington, D.C. Uranus and Mars square the Midheaven in Baghdad, with the Nodes on the meridian. Neptune sets east of Kabul, and the Pluto IC line runs through Beijing. (Uranus and Mars set in Indonesia, another hotbed of Islamic extremists and a potential threat to U.S. interests.)

Solar arc Uranus squares the Boyd Moon in February 2003. This arc suggests the strain of emotional tensions that come with the prospect of war-like conditions. Solar arc Jupiter hits the Boyd Pluto in April 2003, signifying both military expansion and plutocracy.

Chart Data

Saddam Hussein, April 28, 1937, Tikrit, Iraq, time unavailable

Hamid Karzai, December 24, 1957, Kandahar, Afghanistan, time unavailable

Musharraf, August 11, 1943, Delhi, India, time unavailable

Ariel Sharon, February 27, 1928, Kafir Malal, Palestine, 7:36 a.m.

World Continued on Page 74

World Peace

The Dalai Lama's Thoughts

By Jhampa Shaneman

The world becomes a smaller community during a crisis. Normal differences are set aside, and world leaders talk with earnest concern about the issue. We are familiar with President George Bush's response to the horrible 9/11 attack. The age of North America's innocence and virginity is over.

His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama (HH) responded to this crisis as did many other world leaders. HH's response included prayer for the people hurt and a direct communication to President George Bush. The letter's opening comments clearly demonstrate HH's feelings:

Your Excellency,

I am deeply shocked by the terrorist attacks that took place involving four apparently hijacked aircrafts and the immense devastation these caused. It is a terrible tragedy that so many innocent lives have been lost, and it seems unbelievable that anyone would choose to target the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington D.C. We are deeply saddened. On behalf of the Tibetan people, I would like to convey our deepest condolence and solidarity with the American people during this painful time. Our prayers go out to the many who have lost their lives, those who have been injured and the many more who have been traumatized by this senseless act of violence. I am attending a special prayer for the United States and it's people at our main temple today.

HH continues by expressing confidence that the American people have the necessary skills and courage to meet and overcome the crisis:

I am confident that the United States as a great and powerful nation will be able to overcome this present tragedy. The American people have shown their resilience, courage and determination when faced with such a difficult and sad situation.

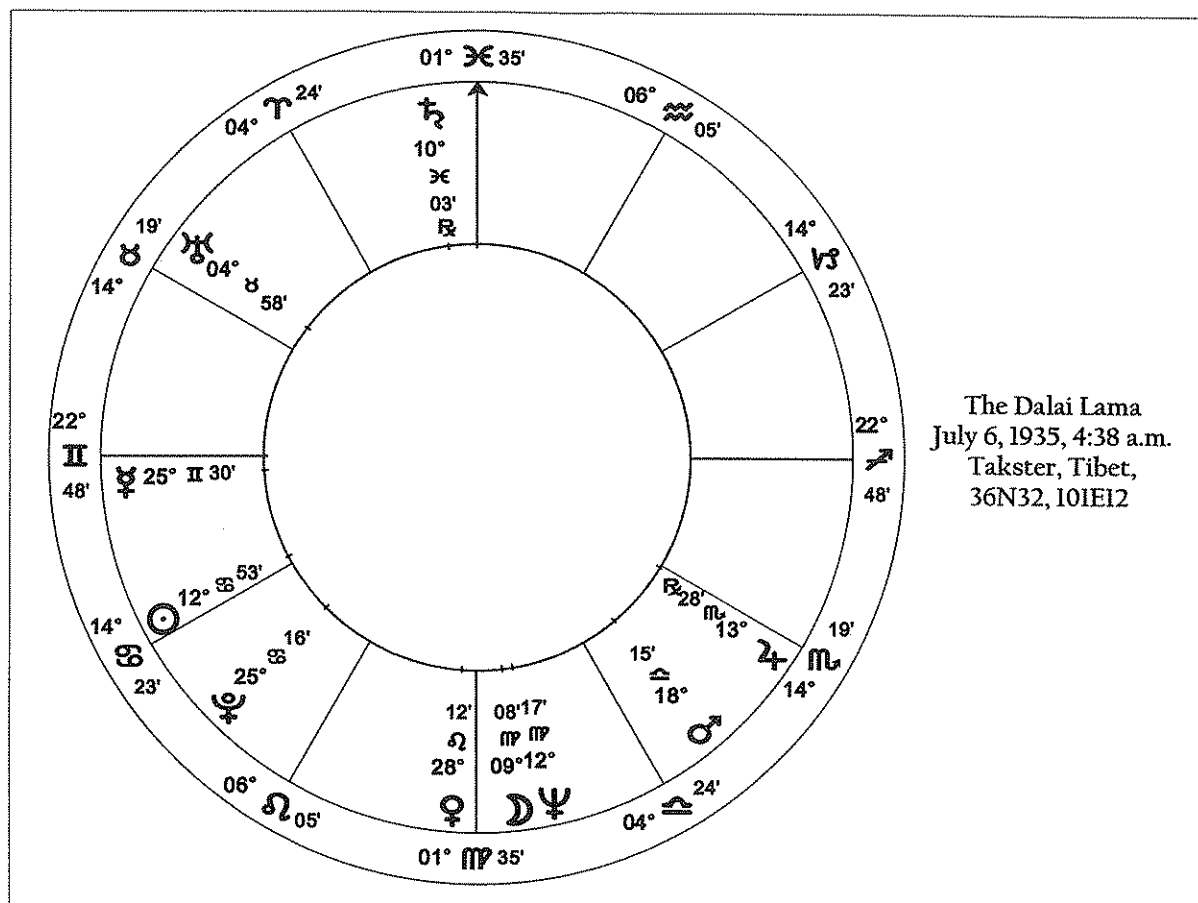
HH concludes this letter of compassion with thoughts of how President Bush might respond to this violence:

It may seem presumptuous on my part, but I personally believe we need to think seriously whether a violent action is the right thing to do and in the greater interest of the nation and people in the long run. I believe violence will only increase the cycle of violence. But how do we deal with hatred and anger, which are often the root causes of such senseless violence? This is a very difficult question, especially when it concerns a nation, and we have certain fixed conceptions of how to deal with such attacks. I am sure that you will make the right decision.

With my prayers and good wishes,

The Dalai Lama
September 12, 2001
Dharamsala, India

HH is quite bold in suggesting President Bush look at alternatives to this violence. HH refers to "fixed conceptions" that might incline the United States to seek a violent solution to this attack. We all know the immediate outcome of the destruction of 9/11—the invasion of Afghanistan. HH points out violence might not be the best long-term solution to the crisis. This is an ongoing



ing theme for HH; it is the source of his winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989.

His Holiness's Natal Chart

HH's natal data is July 6, 1935, 4:38 a.m., Takster, Tibet. I have chosen China time, -8:00 for the placement of the Ascendant.

We first cover some background on HH's chart. The 4:38 a.m. birth places his Sun in the first house. He is inclined to deal in a direct and forthright manner. People who have an audience with HH find him very engaging. He has Jupiter, Saturn, the Moon and Neptune all harmoniously aspected, integrating an energetic, confident, compassionately sensitive nature in his presentation. There is one square to his Sun, with Mars. If HH were not to be mindful, the Mars square could cause rash activity. Considering his lifestyle as a Buddhist monk, rash activity would tend to find little expression in daily action. HH has Mercury in the first house, which could enhance his ability to be articulate, inquisitive and chatty. He has definitely demonstrated this in his interviews with people such as Larry King. Uranus sits comfortably in the eleventh house, adding a spark of individuality to his social

presentation. This seems appropriate for a person considered to be a manifestation of a Buddha. HH is not a common social individual, but rather a unique person amongst the masses.

Let us review HH's letter to President Bush. Many of the natal planetary aspects find expression in that letter. HH's overwhelming compassion helps him identify with the pain of innocent people killed and hurt in New York and Washington, D.C. This can be seen in the Moon-Neptune conjunction. HH is pragmatic, though, and immediately offered a large amount of money to relief efforts. This is the tenth house Saturn opposition to the Moon and Neptune. Where his chart starts to show its particular qualities is in the final paragraph of the letter. HH is humble, so he starts this section by identifying that his next thoughts might not be expected nor appreciated. He proceeds, nevertheless, to state his vision of the situation. He voices sentiments that might not conform to the general masses. People often retaliate to violence. HH advocates thoughtfulness before retaliation. I think HH is well aware that very powerful countries don't often feel the need to be thoughtful. They have a vast amount of power and military might, so why worry about

the outcome of a quick and powerful response? In this case, I believe HH has a greater vision inspiring his thoughts.

HH clarifies his statement by asking, "How do we deal with hatred and anger, which are often the root causes of such senseless violence?" He mentions the cycle of violence and retaliation. He indirectly identifies that only patience and wisdom dissolve the heat and pain of hate and anger. HH's experience is not limited in these matters. Many Tibetans and their supporters originally thought all Chinese were bad people. They had invaded Tibet and destroyed a spiritual culture and society. Thousands of monasteries were leveled. Monks and nuns were tortured and then thrown from their monastic seclusion back into society. The Red Guard used little intelligence in the destruction it wrought across the country and environment of Tibet. Even HH's people were tortured. But he still advocated peaceful solutions to this national violence. What became apparent as time passed was the realization that suffering was to be found in most of the Chinese population. Most Chinese suffered as much as the Tibetans during those years. This revelation came, in part, because Tibetans were unable to wage war on China. The real situation became evident: It was the communist government that caused the problems, not the Chinese people. Many Tibetans now realize they have a friend in the Chinese people and do not have to hate all China.

HH's thoughts are the product of his education as a Buddhist monk, but also are enhanced by his grand trine with Saturn, Jupiter and the Sun. HH is very present to the situation; his Sun's placement is in the first house. He has a positive and flexible attitude about all situations—the Jupiter influence. Jupiter falls in HH's fifth house, enhancing creative adaptability. Jupiter's effect is greatly enhanced when mixed with the altruistic attitude of Mahayana Buddhism. Any Bodhisattva with the ideal of benefitting all sentient beings would love a fifth house Jupiter. It would translate into expansive, creative adaptability. This is wonderfully tempered by the final planet of the grand trine, Saturn. Saturn's effect is to be practical. Saturn falls in the tenth house, giving HH a realistic sense of direction, even if he wishes to help all the universe. I almost think HH's natal chart was made to order for him.

Place these three planets in a grand trine, and one sees the integration of HH's basic sense of being and personality, complimented with joy and

stability. I am sure the Mars square and Uranus in the eleventh house helped him write the final paragraph of his letter. Mars gave him the energy to be bold and direct. Uranus helped him be a single voice of wisdom amongst the masses of people who might call for violent retaliation. HH's overall effect on the world chessboard could be insignificant on the decisions of President Bush, but they reflect a thoughtfulness that dominates HH's personal actions.

Saturn and Pluto Transits

HH was moving through a mixed bag of transits during 2001. Jupiter was enhancing external enthusiasm, with a transit through HH's first house. Jupiter ran conjunct HH's ascendant, natal Mercury and Sun on June 11-23 and September 23, respectively. Jupiter's energy would tend to make HH busy and external. This enthusiasm was complicated, however, with Pluto square HH's natal Moon and Saturn square his natal Saturn. These squares happened in the first two weeks of July. HH might have felt deeply emotional with compassion with the Pluto aspect and yet thoughtful and reflective with the Saturn influence.

I think Saturn takes on an interesting effect when an individual is meditative, as is true of Buddhists. HH epitomizes the Buddhist ideal of thoughtful responses, and Saturn would find fertile ground in HH's daily attitude and meditations. Saturn likes to be hesitant, thoughtful and prudent. Even with a square transit, Saturn can be wonderfully reflective, especially for an older individual. The reason I see Saturn being so useful in meditative lifestyles is the activation of wisdom. Wisdom comes with age. The more one consciously experiences events, the more natural wisdom grows. Many things are learned when one's eyes are wide open. This becomes a source of wisdom. Wisdom becomes manifest as time passes. It is like an excellent wine; it needs time. Elders in all traditional societies are valued individuals. The wisdom of experience also grows with Saturn transits. The Saturn return at age twenty-nine and the square of Saturn to natal Saturn at age forty-four are often times of reflection and growth. A Buddhist works to make each moment meaningful. Conscious awareness and mindfulness are the tools that help wisdom grow.

HH's life has many experiences to draw upon, plus the fact he strives to be mindful and compassionate at all times. His tenth house Saturn is a

powerful planet, calling him to a wise lifestyle. It also represents his Gurus, who mentored his spiritual growth when he was a youth. HH was definitely contemplative as September approached.

Spiritual Inspiration

September for HH shifted astrologically to a strong spiritual inspiration. Jupiter continued to enhance his self-confidence and concern, with trine transits to natal Saturn and Jupiter. The spiritual life of HH had Jupiter sextile transits to the natal Moon and Neptune. The world impact of all those deaths on 9/11 affected anyone who heard the news. HH had enhanced emotional and spiritual sensitivity in the ten days following the initial shock. Although death is a tragedy, those who died on that day had a phenomenal amount of prayers and blessings directed toward them. HH was a strong part of that kindhearted feeling.

October and November included the start of the war in Afghanistan. HH also entered a different cycle of transits. Pluto finished a square to the natal Moon in October. That released some of the emotional weight of HH's compassion. November was again emotionally reflective, as Saturn retrograded square to HH's natal Moon. His compassion is deeply reflective. December included the retrograding transits of Jupiter to HH's natal Saturn, Neptune, Moon and Jupiter. On an external level, HH had been very busy during these months. Air travel was complicated, the world was in stress and HH was within several hundred miles of both Pakistan and Afghanistan. The suffering and fear were immediately evident to him.

The retrograding transit of Saturn square natal Saturn happened on December 21, 2001. HH had been busy externally and carrying a huge emotional burden with the Pluto and Saturn squares. He was on pilgrimage in central India as 2002 began. HH was scheduled to bestow the Kalachakra Initiation in the first week of January. He managed to give a few days of discourse and then he suddenly and unexpectedly collapsed. He was immediately flown to a special hospital in Bombay. The teachings were cancelled. Released from the hospital, HH returned to Dharmasala in northern India and entered a three-month retreat, suf-

fering from exhaustion.

Consider the mix of activity with the Jupiter transits to HH's first house Sun and Mercury and the emotional depth HH must have felt with the Pluto and Saturn squares to his Moon. HH has, on one side, the desire to help and, on the other, feels the pain of the world. As a world leader, he feels he is part of the global community. This is true of him more than we might believe. HH represents the Tibetan people and their cause, but he is also concerned with the world situation. There is pain throughout the world when war is waged. People die in the violence, and the world sits in fear the war could escalate. HH was carrying a large emotional burden with the Tibetan cause, so when added strife on a world level arose, he felt it deeply too. All this finally exhausted him.

HH is now well and traveling again. He was in Austria in October 2002, bestowing the Kalachakra Initiation. This is the Wheel of Time Tantra and is one of the sources of Tibetan astrology. The Tantra deals with the movement of the planets, constellations and world events. This Tantra is important for Buddhists as it relates to future world peace. There is a golden age of 500 years that will commence within the next few centuries, and those who receive this initiation now will play a special role when this golden cycle starts. The Kalachakra System says the twenty-fifth king of Shambhala will come to this world and overthrow a repressive empire. Once the destructive empire is gone, this king will give instruction in the Kalachakra Tantra. Individuals in this lifetime who receive this initiation and are virtuous can receive a good rebirth and special spiritual insights when this golden age commences. HH gives this initiation repeatedly to ensure many people have this blessing in their stream of consciousness. HH will give the Kalachakra initiation in Toronto, Canada in 2003.

The world has changed significantly since 9/11. The world stage now has new and unexpected players upon it. The actions of all these players are determined, in part, by the actions of world leaders. Let us hope that people such as HH can play a significant role to ensure a peaceful and happy outcome to the scenes yet to unfold.

Redefining Astrology as a Whole System

The Problem of the Planets

By Roxana Muise

Astrology is an ancient system of study. All study systems have certain factors in common. These include:

- A definition of purpose
- A foundational set of constituent components
- A recognizable structure to which its components adhere
- Rules of procedure through which the components operate

Astrology's structure and set of constituents are well known:

- Document measurements of planetary motion and other celestial bodies and points through time and space (cycles, patterns, itinerary)
- Identify measurements of dimensions of the celestial sphere (longitude, latitude, declination)
- Make calculations of the above for static positions (horoscopy)
- Generate rules and techniques for different procedures
- Divide and define the celestial sphere (zodiacs, constellations)
- Establish symbolic descriptions for all components (celestial bodies, signs, houses, aspects)

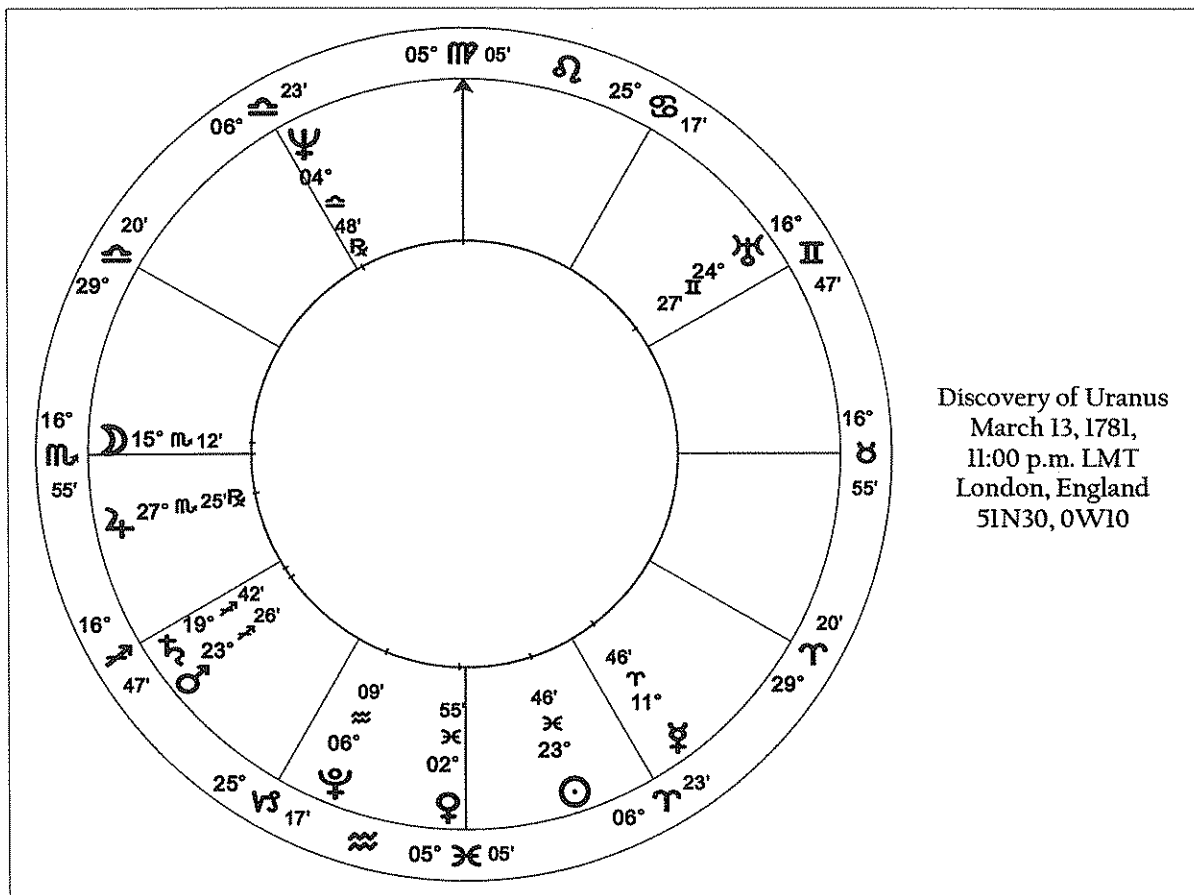
The first four constituents deal with linear left-brain processes. The last two deal primarily with non-linear right brain processes. The main thesis of this essay concerns the continued ambiguity in the symbolic characterization of celestial bodies, the primary components of the astrological system.

Ambiguity: The Meanings of the Planets

Ambiguity (noun), L. ambiguous (adj), from *ambigere*—to wander, *ambi*—about, around. Having two or more possible meanings; being of uncertain signification; susceptible of different interpretations; uncertain or vague.¹

When new paradigms are being formed, the meanings fashioned by cutting-edge philosophers and scientists in all fields will be tested and might be judged ephemeral. Some people will immediately embrace meanings they resonate with, not caring that they may merely be steps in a larger process. Others will continue to test these meanings within the process. To do this, one needs to use tools of the systematic process. One such tool is symmetry.

Symmetry means well balanced, harmonious, well proportioned, integrated into a whole. Balance and proportion are essential components of all disciplines, from art to mathematics. Symme-



try is one of the major principles evidenced in astrology. We find it in many areas, including the degrees of the zodiac; the calculation of midpoints, the sequence of aspects; the division of the zodiac into qualities and elements, and even in the division of temporal calculations from the point of a natal horoscope.

In the sequence of aspects, we see symmetry evidenced in the differentiation between dexter and sinister, and approaching and separating orbs. In the calculation of midpoints, there is a bilateral symmetrical balance between left and right. This is also evident in the symmetry of the hemispheres of the horoscope, where the east denotes initiative, and the west, response—the upper hemisphere broadly symbolizes focusing on interaction with outer activities, and the lower, focusing one's thoughts and feelings on inner pursuits.

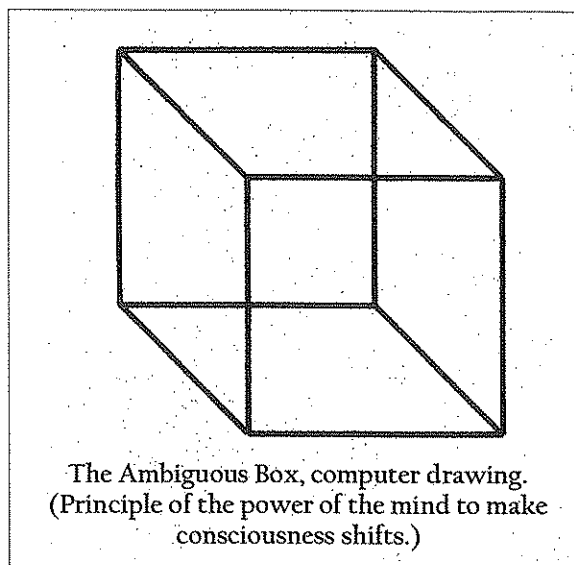
Movement through the signs of the zodiac displays a sequence of plus and minus polarity. Polarity is a subset of symmetry. The terms plus and minus are often interchangeable with positive and negative, which misleadingly elicits judgments of good and bad, throwing us half-heartedly into the historic doctrine of astro-

logical malefics and benefics. These judgments are valid for horary and electional astrology, based on an ancient system in which the planets describe conditions, but do not evaluate which job belongs to their placement, interaction with the whole, and relevance to the purpose of the chart (the question or proposed event).

Astrological descriptions of the ancient original planets included only one polarity. Positive and benefic: Moon, Venus, Jupiter; and negative and malefic: Sun, Mars, Saturn. Individual interpretations of the planets reflected the symbolism of mythological gods and goddesses for which they were named. Mysterious Mercury was considered neutral, which seemed appropriate for the trickster, who could be either a valuable ally or a wicked enemy.

Western astrology, before the discovery of Uranus, reflected this neat schematic developed in ancient times, where the two lights ruled the day and night, identifying with a positive and a negative sign, and the other five planets were embodied by the divinely appointed gods and functioned within the horoscope, each through two signs in a positive and negative expression.

Neutral Mercury (Hermes, Thoth) in ancient



mythology was often pictured with two faces, which, in early astrology, was interpreted as neutral, the idea of "neither" overruling that of "both." Actually, early mythological Mercury was hailed as a messenger who traveled between worlds, much the same image as an alchemist, spiritual guide or interpreter. This concept is akin in modern psychology to the psychologist as a facilitator and remediator between the ego and the psyche. But, mythological Mercury was most definitely a male, as his ancient erotic, sexually explicit images illustrated.

When the outer planets, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto were brought into view and into consciousness, they were relegated to collective or cultural matters and not easily defined as clear, personal images—they did not fit the symmetrical model. However, the model was not consciously revised within comprehensive system parameters. Since the addition of these three extra-Saturnian planets, early principles of categorization broke down in the modern description of the planets, and ambiguity tarnished the process.

Evolution of Astrology as a System

Preliterate societies worshiped their deities through archetypal images primarily recognized and processed by the mental functions of the brain's right hemisphere. Holistic, iconic, feminine processes prevailed. Astrology reflected the mythology of the heavens with lunar and Venus cycles echoing women's reproductive cycles. The religion of the goddess and all her life aspects governed humanity.

With the advent of literacy, left hemispheric mental activity gained in prominence with linear,

rational masculine processes. Saturnian cycles became the conventional yardstick of society. And by the time of the Christian era, masculine gods enjoyed world dominance.

The nineteenth century marked the beginning of an "iconic revolution," with the invention of photography and the eventual discovery of electromagnetism, which brought a wide proliferation of electronic images. We now see the keynote return of the veneration of the goddess and a more balanced expression of science, which creates a potential equilibrium between right and left hemispheres of the brain.² Many of today's top scientists are also engaged in consciousness studies.

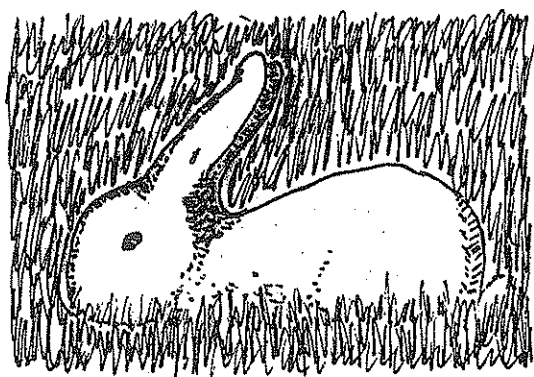
Western astrology had endured through a functional balance of left-brained observations and calculations of a view of the heavens through correspondence, with right-brained archetypal symbols, and experiential interaction with mythological images and stories. As civilization evolved, the logical linear development of science eroded astrology's feasibility, despite the efforts of giants such as Kepler, who successfully married linear calculations and mystical images.

The neat, tidy, balanced system of Ptolemaic astrology was shattered with the advent of the March 13, 1781 discovery of Uranus. The entire system was disrupted. Chaos entered the science/art of astrology. But, seemingly oblivious to modern methods of systematic analysis of its structure and defining sources of meaning through imagery, modern astrologers have not yet fully developed its essential wholeness.

At the 1964 celebration in Pisa of Galileo's 400th birthday, renowned physicist Richard Feynman conjectured about what Galileo Galilei's remarks might have been upon his first telescopic observation of Jupiter: "I noticed that Jupiter was a ball with moons and not a god in the sky. Tell me, what happened to the astrologers?"

Ancient planets were described as gods and goddesses who governed and guided humankind as a whole from the heavens. Modern astrology functions in a personal way, through individualized horoscopes. But those planets are seldom defined as a group, except to say that they are symbols denoting parts of the ego or psyche of an individual, or as contributors to the overall quality of a moment in time. Gone is the implied meaning of planetary wholeness.

South African Jan Christiaan Smuts coined the word "holism" in his book, *Holism and Evolution* (1926), saying that it is "the motive force behind



Duck/rabbit Ambiguity, hand drawing from 1900 psychologist Joseph Jastrow. Principles in the power of consciousness.

Evolution," and that "the whole is more than the sum of its parts" (synergy).

There are many methods at our disposal to approach a holistic organizational model of astrology that satisfies both the right and left-brain processes.

Aristotle said, "A whole is that which has a beginning, a middle, and an end," referring to left-brain, linear processes. But, he also said, "Thought is impossible without an image," clearly a reference to right-brain iconic processes.

Now we have General Semantics (GS), the intellectual tool developed by Alfred Korzybski³ in the first half of the twentieth century. It is a more holistic system than Aristotle's epistemology and logic, which in turn sought to supplant Ptolemy's divination and mythology. GS is a system that deals with a methodology that defines different levels of abstraction. It is a multi-dimensional system of orientation, a non-Aristotelian, non-linear way of organizational thinking that can facilitate twenty-first century problem-solving. This system enables distinctions between "what is going on," and the perception of that situation or concept as observed by others on different levels of perception (sub-systems). This is akin to biologist Ludwig von Bertalanffy's General Systems Theory, another method of organizing whole systems and subsystems. Both are applicable to astrology and its fractal, dimensional images.

Hemispheric Balance of the Planets

Studies about the functional difference between brain hemispheres and consciousness emerged in the early 1970s. Scholars such as Rob-



- Ambiguous Drawing, Sara Nader (girl's face/saxophone player). *Mind Sights*, Roger N. Shepard, W.H. Freeman and Co., NY1990, page 76. Principles in the power of consciousness.)

ert Ornstein (*The Psychology of Consciousness*), J. Bogen (*Split Brain and Human Duality*), D. Galin (*Two Modes of Consciousness and the Two Halves of the Brain*) began comparing and publishing their research. Later Marilyn Ferguson (*The Aquarian Conspiracy*) greatly contributed to the public dissemination of these explorations with her publication, *Brain-Mind Bulletin*.

The presence of conscious awareness in the human organism necessitates a balancing of functions of the two hemispheres of the brain. Contributing to wholeness and integration between the two hemispheres is the corpus callosum, the complex bundle of nerves that connect them. The evolution of the human brain has shown a gradual thickening of the corpus callosum, which could imply the growth of a stronger connection between the two hemispheres.

Roger Shepard, psychologist of perception and cognition and artist of visual tricks of perception, states: Symbols and archetypes "reflect(s) the internalization of certain pervasive properties of the world in which we have evolved."⁴ They reflect the current paradigms and are inextricably connected to our survival mechanisms. They are the products of our focus

of consciousness. As that focus shifts and evolves, we are forced to reformulate our paradigms. Exercising your abilities to shift your consciousness focus within ambiguous visual images helps you to prepare for other shifts in consciousness.

Thomas Kuhn, in *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, tells us that paradigms are ideas or perspectives. New paradigms are usually the results of intuitive leaps that displace old world models, only when the new ideas gain consensus as the champions of the old paradigms die off.

As John Dewey said, "Old ideas give way slowly; for they are more than abstract logical forms and categories. They are habits, predispositions, deeply ingrained attitudes of aversion and preference."

M.C. Escher drew art that was full of ambiguity and deeply reflective of the cultural disorientation that accompanied the paradigm shift towards hemispheric reintegration. His paintings also reflected the internal struggle between polarities such as dark and light, good and evil, and male and female. Gender is a functional subset of symmetry. Both men and women have left and right brain hemispheres. So, identifying a planet with a mythological character of one gender does not preclude him or her from operating through both hemispheric expressions.

Paradigm shifts are often painful as we begin to resolve the new point of focus with what we think we know. Many times, in order to retreat from stress, we are drawn to items in our environments that support spatial hemispheric balance and are traditionally comforting, such as: purely geometrical and symmetrical static designs, as found in clothing, home decor, and classic architecture; audible random dynamic resonances, such as rain and flowing water; visual, fractal images of invariant scale, such as clouds, mountains, trees, coastlines; objects of rotational symmetries, such as fruits, bowls, sports balls; regular

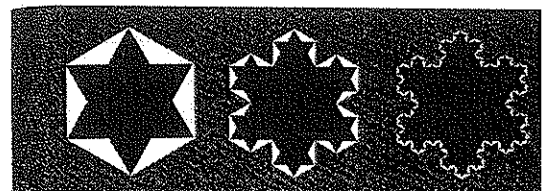
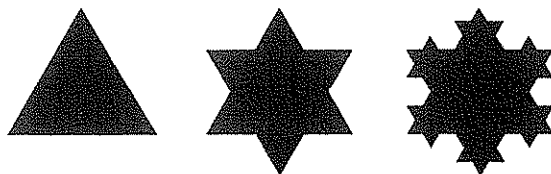
repeating symmetrical patterns, such as kaleidoscopic images (as in screen-savers); or magnetic fields (as in the patterns of iron filings on a white paper).

Migraines, a stress reaction to frustration, sometimes take the form of visual Greek key designs, or shimmering blots in one's vision. Many inventors and discoverers have been assisted in their breakthroughs by mental/visual images: Friedrich Kekule's discovery of the benzene molecule, took the form of a hexagonal structure, a snake swallowing its own tail. James Clerk Maxwell, author of the laws of electromagnetism, "saw" a pattern of counter-rotating balls and cylinders representing magnetic fields. Sir John Herschel, British astronomer, chemist, co-inventor of photography and only son of William Herschel, discoverer of Uranus, experienced regular images of "perfect symmetry and geometrical regularity" in "close patterns" and "filigree work."

The point of this hypothesis is that there seems to be no system of guidelines for organizing the interpretation of the planets. If we make use of defining tools, such as those used in other sciences, we already have a head start. We can already see that hemispheric symmetry might be a useful place to begin. Each planet is a whole physical body, which has a documented physical polarity.

How to Define Planets?

Although modern astrologers use the ancient right-brain symbolism associated with the myths of the planets' namesakes, the more recently discovered physical characteristics of the planets are not always in agreement with the myths. For example, ambiguity flows rampant through the story of Uranus' discovery. Sighted by an amateur astronomer, it was the first planet



Progression of the Koch Snowflake by Helge von Koch and Ernest Cesaro, *The Fractal Geometry of Nature*, Benoit B. Mandelbrot, W.H. Freeman and Co., San Francisco, 1983, page 42, 43.
(Principles in astrological harmonics.)

Hemispheric Keywords

Perception correlates opposites to complementaries.

Left	Right
Western Civilization	Eastern Civilization
Logic	Rhythm
Reason	Creativity
Language	Music
Verbal Skills	Pattern Recognition
Reading	Conceptualizing
Serial Processing	Parallel Processing
Analysis	Synthesis
Right Side of Body	Left Side of Body
Male	Female
Conscious	Unconscious
Yang	Yin
Active	Passive
Progress	Regress
Direct	Retrograde
Lucidity	Obscurity
The King	The Queen

to be found within recorded history.

Uranus's physical characteristics label him as the rebel of the solar system, rotating on his side, with rings perpendicular to his orbital plane. His mythos denotes a primeval deity, who, because he was the first generation of gods, set his own parameters, was jealous of his power and had, during his reign, protected the status quo. He set his example of the archetypal father that would last through his grandson, Jupiter's rule. Uranus, being topsy-turvy in its physical form was projecting his mythic archetype from the perspective of his progeny, leading astrological definitions through a process of ambiguity.

The ideas being developed during the era of the discovery of Uranus involved revolution, both in America and in France. The British Empire, seeing itself as a proud parent, was dismayed to see its children rebuking its paternalistic advantages. There was a ground swell of underdog insurgents who had identified the tyranny of status quo hereditary rulers and were acting upon their romantic and idealistic hopes of freedom.

Even the naming of the planet went through a hemispheric balancing process, although those who were a party to its naming were not consciously concerned with meaning, beginning with the hierarchical concept of naming it for the ruler of the country from which it was discovered, King George III. France disagreed, calling it Herschel's Planet, deviating from the practice of

naming planets for members of the Greco-Roman pantheon. Tradition won out when linear-thinking, logic-oriented J.E. Bode (author of *Bode's Law*) not unexpectedly suggested the sequential name of Jupiter's (Zeus's) grandfather and Saturn's (Cronus's) father. Moreover, Uranus's position at discovery was in the balancing sign of tropical Libra. There can be no doubt that Uranus ushered in the era of confusion and ambiguity. And looking back in time, it is evident that a revised paradigm was being called for in the classification system of astrology.

The following are the principles to use in developing planetary metaphors:

- Mythological archetypes
- Physical/astronomic planetary characteristics
- Cultural imperatives of the paradigms of the current era (this includes the Uranian, Neptunian and Plutonian eras)

The first and third require primarily right-hemispheric processes, and the second is clearly a function of left-hemispheric processes.

A Case for Hemispheric Balance

Throughout my life before my Saturn return in the 1960s, I functioned as a right-brain dominant individual, loving such things as music, dance and the arts. I regarded grade school as an irritation, was a rotten student (arithmetic-challenged) and was unable to remember a string of sequential data unless they fit a whole model or were a somatic sequence (dance steps). After difficulty learning to read, I immersed myself in fantasy, identifying with mythological characters and sci-fi heroines.

In the late 1960s, I joined my mother's astrology classes, enamored with the archetypal images of the planets and, after several years, found that I needed to actively develop my left hemisphere. At the time, this was not a conscious decision, of course, but the consequence of frustration.

I was taught that astrology was a tool for the search for wholeness. From that very beginning, I felt confused. I was shown a zodiac that was symmetrical, a horoscope with balanced symmetry, and then I was told that some planets were positive and masculine, and others negative and feminine. One who was neutral and androgynous.

Well, there were double standards everywhere else in life, so even though I chafed against that teaching, greater minds than mine didn't seem upset by it. I figured that I just needed to

study more, and the whole thing would one day become clear to me.

Time passed, and Neptune's confusion became Mars irritation (mine are natively squared). Was there no bottom line? No *sine qua non*? No essential binding force that held the astrological fabric together? Whenever I questioned the unbalanced planetary status, it was as if I were tossing a ciner of doubt into the eye of presumed clarity, though I doubt that my perspective was unique.

And so, my 1964-65 Saturn return marked the beginning of my drive to develop my left-brain functions. I studied mathematic theory, systems, psychology, history and philosophy through my Uranus opposition and Saturn opposition. In 1981, I graduated from college with a bachelor of science degree. My search continued for a system that would fit astrology. By my second Saturn return in 1994 and my third-quarter Uranus square in 1996-97 (both triples), I realized that astrology is its own holistic matrix system, although it needs refining, defining and balancing. Some of the systems listed in this article are valid as subsystems of the astrological matrix and can help astrologers develop and perfect the matrix.

Hemispheric Specializations and Mental Perception

Left relates to the past, comparing experiences; categorizing; takes snapshots; analyses processes linearly: the "mind" brain.

Right responds to the unknown; watches movies; develops shifting images in a mandala; sees spatial relationships, shapes and colors; finishes a partial figure into a whole (diagnostics); the "heart" brain

Ask a dozen astrologers the meaning of Saturn, and you will receive as many different definitions. They run from the last planet that can be seen with the naked eye (left-brain, linear, physical description) to a metaphor for skin and bones, stress, restriction and the nature of time (right-brain, holistic, conceptual).

The two cognitive styles are essential for assessing the value and validation of a system: 1) The left-brained: abstract, objective, linear, logical and temporal; and 2) The right-brained: subjective, intuitive, metaphorical and timeless.

1. "Any system worth its salt has a basic unarguable structure that reflects and adjusts to current paradigms."

2. "I am attracted to a system that can give me personal insights that I can't find anywhere else."

Systems That Embrace Wholeness

A system is a group of interacting, interrelated or interdependent elements that form a complex whole, an organized set of interrelated ideas or principles.

The following holistic classification systems use conceptual terminology and dimensional images as an integral part of their systems, and are thus applicable to astrology. With these holistic classification systems, we have the knowledge with which to reassess theories of astrological systems in terms of wholeness and balance.

General Systems Theory—Ludwig von Bertalanffy, biologist. Invented a methodology that is valid for all sciences. He stressed "the importance of the symbolic worlds of culture which we ourselves have created during (our) evolution" (the interactive subsystems of astrology: planets, signs, houses, aspects, cycles).

Chaos Theory—Edward Lorenz, meteorologist. Devised the study of nonlinear systems and sensitive dependence on initial conditions (temporal/spatial planetary movement applied to a natal horoscope).

General Semantics—Alfred Korzybski, semantist. Devised a non-Aristotelian system of semantic classifications at multiple orders of abstraction (defining components of a horoscope with different perspectives and applications).

Whole Brain Model—Karl H. Pribram, Nobel Laureate, scientist and brain researcher. Researched the left and right functions of the brain, developed the holographic model (symmetrical models of planetary functions).

Fractal Geometry—Benoit B. Mandelbrot, mathematician. Defined the study of self-similar figures of telescoping and microscoping scale having non-integer dimensions (harmonics, derivative charts, progressions).

Taxonomy of the Structured Whole—Therese Hance Braithwaite, mathematician. Devised and developed "a complex of dynamics through which the complementary aspects of wholeness are both differentiated the one from the other; and integrated, the one with the other into the Whole"³ (analyzing astrology as a whole).

Astrology as a Whole System

Most critics of astrology reject astrology as a system, primarily because of its failure to correlate with their system classification schemes. As-

Redefining Continued on Page 77

Passions Hidden Beyond the Veil

Honoring the work of Thomas Ridgeway Gould Born November 6, 1818, Boston
Massachusetts; died November 26, 1881, Florence, Italy

By Paula R. Gassmann

"Art is not simply works of art; it is the spirit that knows beauty, that has music in its soul, and the colors of sunsets in its handkerchief, that can dance on a flaming world, and make the world dance, too."—W.E.B. Dubois

Visual art is physical and tangible. Some of our most vivid sensations are received through the eye. What we see has the power to make us feel, and when emotion is aroused, we are moved to action. With art, one's consciousness undergoes a sudden expansion with which one is able to grasp more completely the truths about existence. Light and shadow, color and form appeal to the eye, and through the eye, might reach the soul. The artist presents something attractive, but also captures an underlying essence and communicates it. There are universal principles, philosophical significances and subtle shades of meaning that get transmitted in this communication. In viewing art, our usual limitations are cast aside, and our unconscious minds enter into rapport with the idea embodied by the artist.

Each work of art we see conjures up questions. Larger than life statues, busts, portraits each have a story. Particularly if it is public art, one wonders who was the person now cast in stone or bronze? Why was he or she honored? What invisible factors put a particular piece of art before us? What

was the impetus that captured a particular essence and froze it in time? And what was the experience like for the artist? Was he or she paid well? What was the motivation? There is in each piece, some history, some intrigue.

These kinds of questions led me to investigate the life of American sculptor Thomas Ridgeway Gould (1818-1881). His "Cleopatra" in the Marble Hall entrance of Boston's Museum of Fine Arts sparkles and often moves me to tears.

Who was Gould? Why did he create this statue in 1873? What depth of feeling within him was calling for transformation? There lies Cleopatra . . . her face and body hold the look of passion just recently consummated. In a seeming state of ecstasy, she is actually in her moment of death.

Cleopatra was the Egyptian Queen from 51 to 49 B.C. and from 48 to 30 B.C. She was noted for her beauty and charisma. Octavian defeated the forces led by Cleopatra and Marc Antony at Actium in 31. The story goes that she took her own life rather than allow Egypt to succumb to the rule of the Romans.

Octavian, also known as Augustus, lived from

63 B.C. to 14 A.D. He was the first emperor of Rome (27 B.C.-14 A.D.) and the grandnephew of Julius Caesar. The story goes that he defeated Marc Antony and Cleopatra in 31 and subsequently gained control over the empire. In 29, he was named emperor and in 27 was given the honorary title Augustus.

What did Gould have in his soul that so sought expression through his (very white and American-looking) Cleopatra?

Historical Context

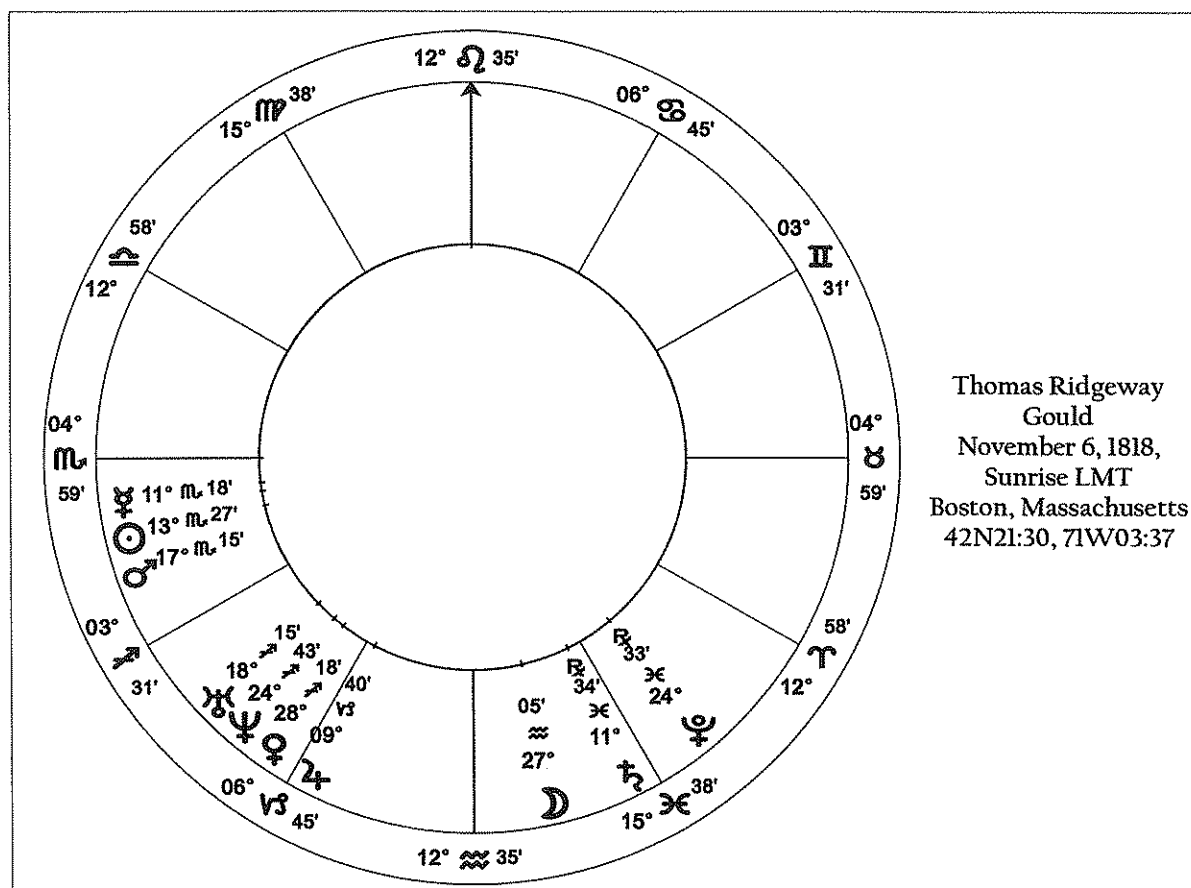
It's important to look at the state of sculpture more than 100 years ago. While classical art of Greece and Italy is ancient, sculpture in America, like the United States itself, is relatively young. The first American sculptress, Patience Lovell Wright (New Jersey), worked in wax around the time of Independence (1776). In 1785, the State of Virginia commissioned French sculptor Houdon to erect a statue of George Washington. Other early sculptors in America were Giuseppe Cerrachi, born in 1791 in Italy; William Rush (1756-1852) from Philadelphia; Hezekiah Augle, born in 1791 in Connecticut, and John Frazee, born in 1790.

Later figures in American sculpture included Erastus Palmer, Thomas Ball, William Wetmore Story, Ralph Rogers, William H. Rinehard and John Rogers. Lesser known sculptors from this time included Dr. William Rimmer, born in Liverpool in 1816 and better known for his attention to the detail of anatomy, the understanding of which was necessary for form and proportion in art; Thomas Ridgeway Gould (born in Boston in 1818); Richard Saltonstall Greenough (born in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts in 1819), and his younger brother, Horatio (the first American to deliberately choose sculpture as a profession and to go abroad for serious study, born in 1805); Edwin E. Brackett (born in Maine in 1819); Edward Sheffield Bartholomew (born in Colchester, Connecticut in 1822); Benjamin "Paul" Akers and John Jackson Adams, (born in Maine in 1825); Leonard Volk (born in 1828); Harriet Hosmer (born in 1830 in Watertown, Massachusetts); Martin Milmore (1844-1883) apprentice to Thomas Ball; his brother Joseph Milmore (1841-1886), a talented stonecutter, and Daniel Chester French, famous for the Lincoln Memorial, who was born sometime later, in 1850, and died in 1931. Beyond the scope of this paper are details of the work of each of these artists.

Another important historical consideration was the intrigue with which people at the time were viewing anything Egyptian. For example, Dutch merchant Jacob Van Lennep of Smyrna and consul general of the Netherlands sent a mummy to Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) on May 4, 1823. As a fundraising measure, this mummy became a traveling exhibit to other American cities. At the end of its tour, the mummy returned to MGH and resided there until 1879, when it was deposited in the Art Museum of Boston (MFA) for safekeeping. It was eventually returned to MGH and is called the Ether Dome Mummy. Through Hieroglyphic interpretation the name of the person mummified was determined: Paddy Hershef. (Details on this mummy were published in the *Boston Journal of Philosophy and the Arts*, vol. 1, 1823, pp.1-33.)

On the surface, one could leave the viewing of Gould's Cleopatra, simply having enjoyed her beauty. But the pathos of the Cleopatra suggests that there is tremendously more waiting to be revealed. The emotions aroused while looking at Cleopatra suggest a certain entrainment to Gould, a connection to his energy and spirit that call for further exploration. Gould is not well-known, even in his native Boston. I have spent some time getting to know him. I have read the intimate details of his life as recorded in his journals and have visited his former home at 80 Pinckney Street on Boston's Beacon Hill. I visited his family grave at Forest Hills Cemetery. I read about the art scene in Boston at the time and about the politics behind the Civil War. While much of what I concluded is my interpretation of factual events, I think there are some fascinating links. Are they conclusive? Not at all, but they lend yet another dimension to the subtleties behind art and beauty in our world.

What questions and answers lie beneath the surface of what we can see and touch? A life lived long ago, recorded scantily through oral or visual means, necessitates that we must listen for sounds, look for the clues, piece things together to create a story that might explain why. There are hints in the literature that suggest that while sculpture began as a diversion, appealing to Gould's poetic nature, he turned his artistic interests into a livelihood after the Civil War (1861-1865). What happened to Gould, and how did the War between the States lead to a new profession, in fact driving him to move in 1868 with his family from Boston to Florence, Italy?



In compiling a list of Gould's work, I was struck by the breadth of this subject matter. There are works of Shakespearean figures, mythical figures and royalty such as Cleopatra and King Kamehameha I. Because of his theatrical interests, he had a connection to the Booth family. I wondered if the friendship in any way affected his decisions as an artist, given the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln on April 14, 1865 by someone he knew. This detail became my thesis, in a sense. I believe the passion expressed in Cleopatra harkens back to the passion he carried about the assassination.

The most telling intimacy of his life is found in his three volume journals, kept from the bequest of Everett Jansen Wendell in 1918 at the Houghton Library at Harvard University. Volume 1 begins in March 1850 and moves through September 1854 (Gould age 32 to 36). Volume 2 begins in September 1862 and moves through September 1865 (Gould age 44-47). There is no Volume 3 to be found at the Houghton Library. Volume 4 covers November 1866-1868 (years leading up to his departure to Italy).

In reading these volumes, I saw him as a soulful, practical person, an artist with a strong interest in theater and in the depth of expression. He

was an observer of the politics of the time, nationally, locally and in the art world. He expressed his observations with deep sensitivity. He expressed intense desires. Much of his forcefulness was somewhat hidden from view, but revealed was an emotional nature with powerful feelings and sense of purpose. Imaginative and determined, he seemed to have great deal of personal magnetism. He was unrelenting, sometimes controlling, but always passionate and appealing to the loftier realms.

It is not entirely clear what his family situation was. His birth certificate indicates he was born November 6, 1818, a white male, born to John Ridgeway Gould and Ann. His death certificate, from Florence, says he died November 27, 1881. It lists his parents as John Gould and Anna Ridgeway, and his wife as Rebecca Spregell. The cemetery records in Boston say he died "at age 63, 0 months and 20 days" (which would have been November 26, not November 27) and that he was buried at Forest Hills on February 11, 1882. The cemetery plot contains a number of people:

- His brother Samuel, born November 14, 1822 and died at age 59, May 11, 1881.
- Samuel's wife, Louise Matilda Gould, born

September 12, 1828 and died July 29, 1969 at age 41.

- Samuel (Jr.), son of Louise and Samuel, born March 16, 1865 and died at age 28 on March 8, 1893.
- His mother, Ann, born February 18, 1792 at Tusket, Nova Scotia, and died May 3, 1886 in Boston, at age 94.
- His son, Marshall, born in February 1856 and died a month or so before he turned 51 in 1907. He was buried January 9, 1907.
- His wife, Rebecca, born January 29, 1836 and died May 23 or 24, 1916. She was buried May 26, 1916, the last of the family to be included in the plot.

A few other people were interred on September 22, 1969, the year Louise died and the plot was purchased by Samuel. These include Agnes and Walter, who possibly were cousins or friends, and two women, who might have been sisters of Louise, and someone named John Meer. The details are sketchy. Missing, of course, are John Gould, Thomas' father, who died when Thomas was a young boy, and Alfred Gould, Thomas' second son. The plot is also noted as the site of another of his sculptures, "Ascending Spirit."

As a young man, Thomas Ridgeway Gould worked successfully as a representative for his brother John's profitable dry-goods firm, which operated out of New Orleans. When time permitted, and for relaxation, he engaged in drawing and modeling as a hobby, and for a while in the early 1850s, worked alongside William Wetmore Story in the studio of Boston painter Seth Cheney, his friend from youth, who died in the fall of 1856.

Gould married Rebecca Spregell from Philadelphia in the spring of 1854, just before his thirty-sixth birthday. Becky was only eighteen. He writes that she was, above all, the queen of Egypt in her beauty. They had two children: Marshall (Shandy), born in February 1856, and Alfred (Alf), born in July 1859. They lived at 80 Pinckney Street; rented 54 Chestnut Street for a year in 1864, before anticipating a leave for Europe in October, 1865. (The trip was postponed, however, because of a cholera epidemic in Europe.) Later, they lived at 15 McLean Street, which he rented before going to Europe.

In 1858, when he was forty, Gould developed more in the area of sculpting. The Civil War began in 1861. As it turned out, the war somehow proved ruinous for Gould from a business point of view, but he had some measure of practicality and

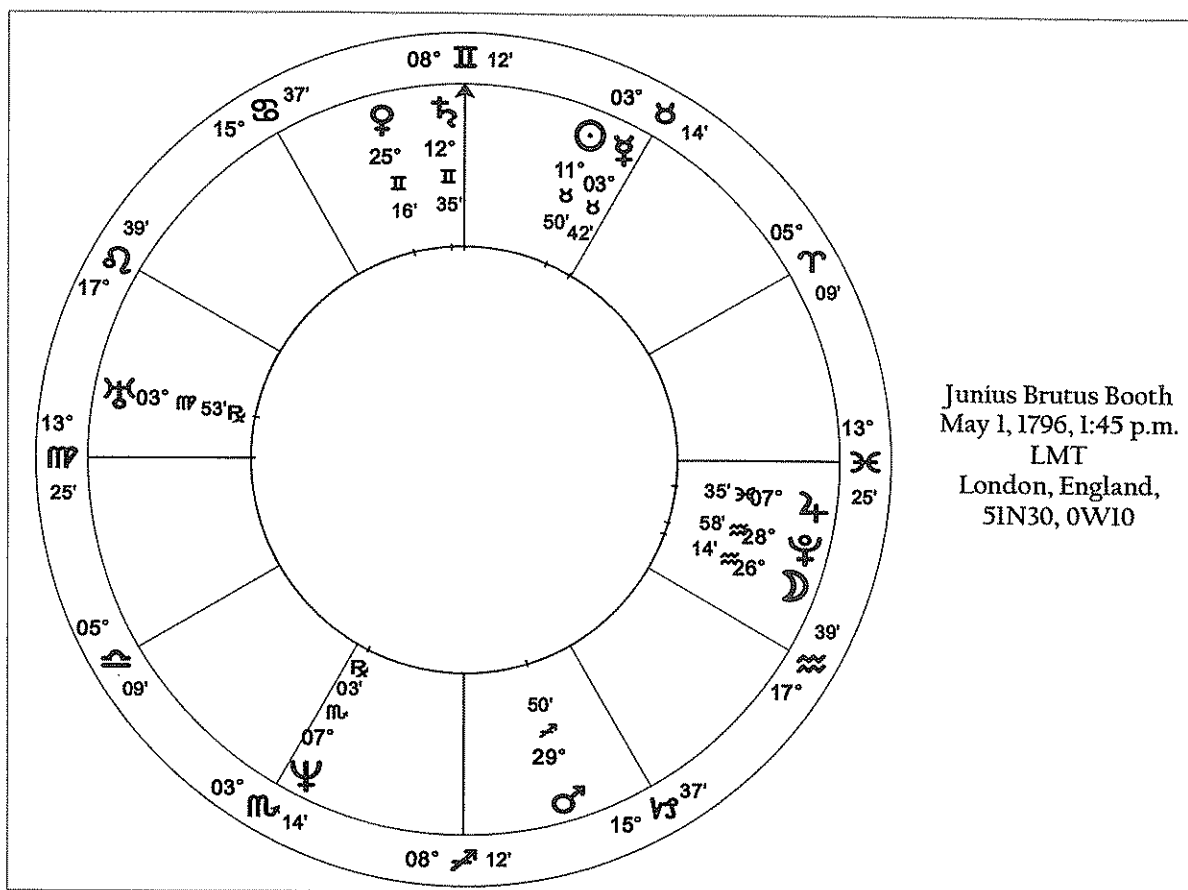
enough connections to turn to modeling portraits for a living. In 1862, he had business investments in Boston and mentions his brother Sam's New Manufacturer's Insurance office on State Street. He held shares and had investments in Boston. He looked for fortune, as his was faltering, and had oil on his Pennsylvania property. But his financial situation depended on his brother's affairs. He pointed out in January 1863 that the Emancipation Proclamation might have swept away at once the responsibility of all his brother's debtors. He goes on to say he received a sample of cotton, the first grown in South Carolina by free labor. The dry goods of cotton and cloth were tied up to the slave market in the south; despite his financial connections, he was a supporter of freedom for all.

While developing sculpting skills and recognizing the business was failing, he used Willie Fumess's studio in the Studio Building, with Martin Milmore helping him out at Thomas Ball's studio. He rented a cold little room on Tremont overlooking the river. On January 6, 1867, he gave up business and took on sculpting as a profession and means of livelihood. He rented a studio room at the Studio Building on Tremont Street in 1867.

In addition to being a sculptor, Gould, like many artistic types, crossed over into literature and mythology for images and ideas. Gould was particularly fond of Shakespeare.

According to Ednah Dow Cheney, the wife of Gould's friend, Seth, Gould had a remarkable ability to imitate celebrated actors, especially Booth, and he filled one with horror as he recited tragic pieces. Also in 1868, Gould published *The Tragedian*, a book on Junius Brutus Booth's life and career. He did so as a means of income, but also as a tribute to one whose talent he so admired.

The War ended in 1865, but it ended with the horrendous calamity—the assassination of President Lincoln on April 14, 1865. There is a saying that one is judged by the company he keeps. After the assassination, there was the bum's rush on things associated with the theater and with anything or anyone associated with the Booths. Many people were arrested. Yet it speaks to how art, theater and literature blend and become a subtle voice for the politics of the day. What sacred geometry lies among Gould, Junius Booth, his sons Edwin and John Wilkes, and even Abraham Lincoln? And how does this relate to Gould's Cleopatra? Let's look at the charts.



Thomas Ridgeway Gould

Thomas Ridgeway Gould's chart is a sunrise chart, sourced from cemetery records. No time is recorded for his birth (November 6, 1818, Boston, Massachusetts). Gould's energy is fairly concentrated. Sun in Scorpio, along with Mercury and Mars trine Saturn, Chiron and Pluto in Pisces. Moon, depending on the time of birth, would be between 23 Aquarius and 7 Pisces. Uranus, Neptune and Venus in Sagittarius trine the North Node, and Jupiter is in Capricorn sextile to Saturn. Nice chart for a sculptor!

Junius Brutus Booth was born May 1, 1796 at 1:45 p.m. (Lois Rodden B rating, from biography) in London, one of three children of a London silversmith. He was, ironically, named for Junius Brutus, an ancestor of Caesar's assassin. He abandoned a wife and son in Brussels, sailing to Norfolk, Virginia from Madeira on a ship named The Two Brothers with Mary Ann Holmes, a flower seller. They had ten children; four died. Of the six remaining, there was Junius Brutus, Jr. (born in the 1820s); a second son, Edwin Thomas; a daughter, Rosalie; a daughter, Asia; a third son, John Wilkes Booth; and a fourth son, Joseph. Junius Brutus Booth was a wild drinker and was consid-

ered mad. But he was considered one of the finest actors of the day. Gould's book on him is subtitled: "The Histrionic Genius of Junius Brutus Booth."

Astrological highlights in relation to Gould include:

- Mercury and Sun in Taurus, exactly opposition Gould's Mercury (Gould writing)
 - Moon, 26 Aquarius, conjunct Pluto at 28 Aquarius, suggesting a Moon position for Gould
 - Venus, 25 Gemini, opposition Mars, 29 Sagittarius, connecting to Gould's Neptune-Venus
 - Jupiter, 7 Pisces, near Gould's Saturn and opposition Uranus at 3 Virgo square Gould's Pisces planets
 - Saturn, 12 Gemini, opposition Gould's Uranus
 - Neptune, 7 Scorpio, near Gould's Mercury
 - Ascendant, 13 Virgo, square Gould's Saturn
- Booth's oldest son, Junius, became a stage manager, married a prostitute and ventured off to California during the Gold Rush of 1849.

The second son, Edwin Booth, was born November 13, 1833 at 7:00 p.m. in Bel Air, Maryland.

(This data is a Lois Rodden C rating, as the original source is not known.) In his book *American Gothic*, Gene Smith writes that Edwin was born on a night of a meteor shower, was gifted to see ghosts and, further, was born under a lucky star. Venus opposition Jupiter square Neptune doesn't seem too lucky—a double-edged sort of luck, perhaps in relation to his father.

Of significance to Gould is the following:

- His Mars is exactly conjunct Gould's Mars at 17 Scorpio
- Born a week later than Gould, his Sun is also in Scorpio, but at a later degree
- His Moon at 21 Sagittarius is conjunct Gould's Uranus
- His Uranus is 18 Aquarius, possibly near Gould's Moon
- His 29 Gemini Ascendant is opposition Gould's Venus
- His Nodes are related to Gould's Jupiter.

He started his career as a caretaker of his father, who's drunken nature needed oversight. At age sixteen, young Edwin himself took to the stage, playing for the first time at the Boston Museum in September 1849. Gould, older by fifteen years, undoubtedly was struck in his observations, particularly for comparison sake.

At some point, Junius, Jr. convinced Edwin and their father to join him in San Francisco. In July 1852 the elder Junius didn't want to act anymore. He urged his son to work on his own. Junius was tired and he wanted to go home from San Francisco to Baltimore. He took a steamer from New Orleans to Cincinnati and, along the way, got a fever and drank from Mississippi River water. He never recovered.

Edwin was nineteen. He was very distressed that he had left his father alone to die and soon became a wild drinker himself. He settled in San Francisco and, when things slumped there, he went to Australia, played in Hawaii, Samoa, Tahiti, making the acquaintance of King Kamehameha IV, who wanted to see Edwin play Richard III because he had seen his father play it some time before. (Herein lies the link to Gould's becoming the sculptor for the King Kamehameha statue in Honolulu.)

Edwin returned to Boston in 1856 and married Mary Devlin in July 1860. They lived in Dorchester, Massachusetts and had one daughter, Edwina (eventually Mrs. Grossman, who had at least one son). Mary died of pneumonia in February 1863 and is buried at Mt. Auburn Cemetery

in Cambridge. Edwin was in a drunken stupor at the time and did not come to Mary's bedside before she died. Edwin was devastated, and he halted his drinking.

Edwin was most well known for his stand of 100 nights playing Hamlet in Boston. Statues were erected for him as Hamlet in late 1864/early 1865. He wore a miniature of his father on a chain and called the Ghost of Hamlet "father" with inescapable pathos. In his time of financial stress, Gould turned to him for patronage, suggesting he purchase the piece related to his father that Gould worked on.

Edwin had a stroke in New York on April 19, 1893 and died a few months later on June 7, 1893 at 1:00 a.m. while a lightning storm raged. The service for Edward was held June 9 in New York in a church at 29th near 5th Avenue. After the service, Edwin's body was put on a train to Boston for burial at Mt. Auburn Cemetery, next to his wife Mary (Molly) Devlin Boom. Several hundred people were present.

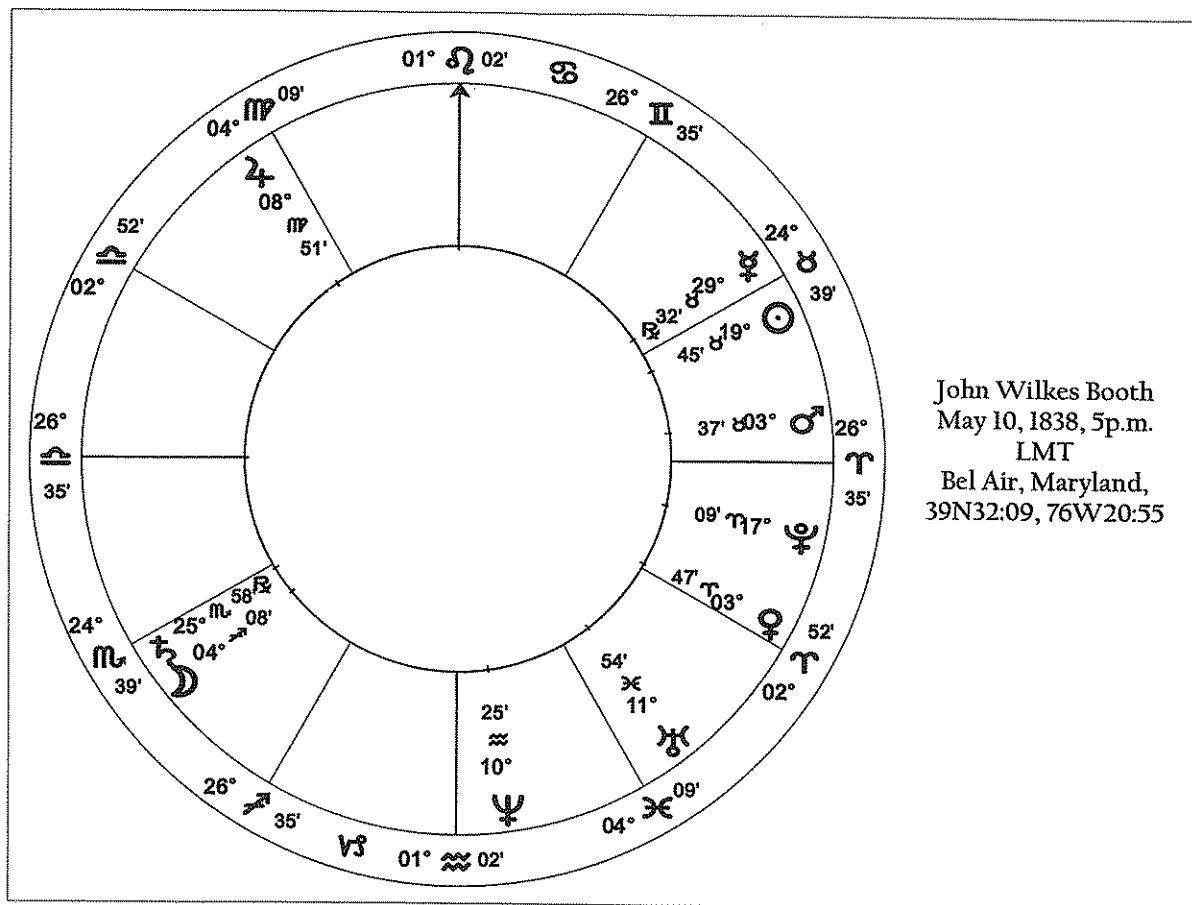
(An interesting and eerie aside, according to legend, as recorded in Gene Smith's book: After the assassination of Lincoln, the Ford's Theater building was transformed into the War Department's Records and Pensions Division. Simultaneous to Edwin's funeral, the building caved in! It was repaired, and seventy years later, was reconstructed to again look like Ford's Theater, complete with a museum.)

John Wilkes Booth, the third son of Junius Brutus Boom was born May 10, 1838, at 5:00 p.m. in Bel Air, Maryland (Lois Rodden DD rating; time is not backed up), and born, supposedly, under a very bad star (Saturn-Mercury opposition, perhaps, or maybe the Jupiter-Uranus opposition).

Of significance to Gould:

- His Taurus Sun opposed Gould's Mars
- His Uranus was conjunct Gould's Saturn

To read the story of this Booth, you wonder where he went wrong. Junius, his father, was out and about and died when John Wilkes was fifteen. Despite this, John Wilkes seemed a most affable and dashing young man, full of charm and talent and connection: Libra rising, Taurus Sun, Sagittarius Moon. He too was a prominent actor and seemed to be doing well. He owned real estate on Commonwealth Avenue in Boston and hobnobbed with prominent individuals. He was quietly engaged to Lucy Hale, the daughter of Senator Hale, the minister of Spain under Lin-



coln. John Wilkes Booth escorted Lucy to Lincoln's inaugural ball in Washington on March 4, 1865, a month before the assassination.

But some claim he had the same hereditary madness as his father Junius. It's there in the chart: Jupiter opposition Uranus, just like his father, in similar degrees and opposite signs, Neptune in the fourth house. And he held an intense rebellious streak, viewing Lincoln as an odious tyrant oppressing a Southern state.

Through Edwin, Gould knew John Wilkes. He writes about him and his acting. John Wilkes came to Boston to see about his real estate deals. There were opportunities to socialize, and Gould writes of these. Of particular interest is the seance events they attended together in 1863. This was the year that Edwin's wife Mary died and the year that Edwin, so devastated by his absence due to drunken stupor, made a come-around. Gould writes of discussion he had with Edwin about spiritual experiences, projects and surmises.

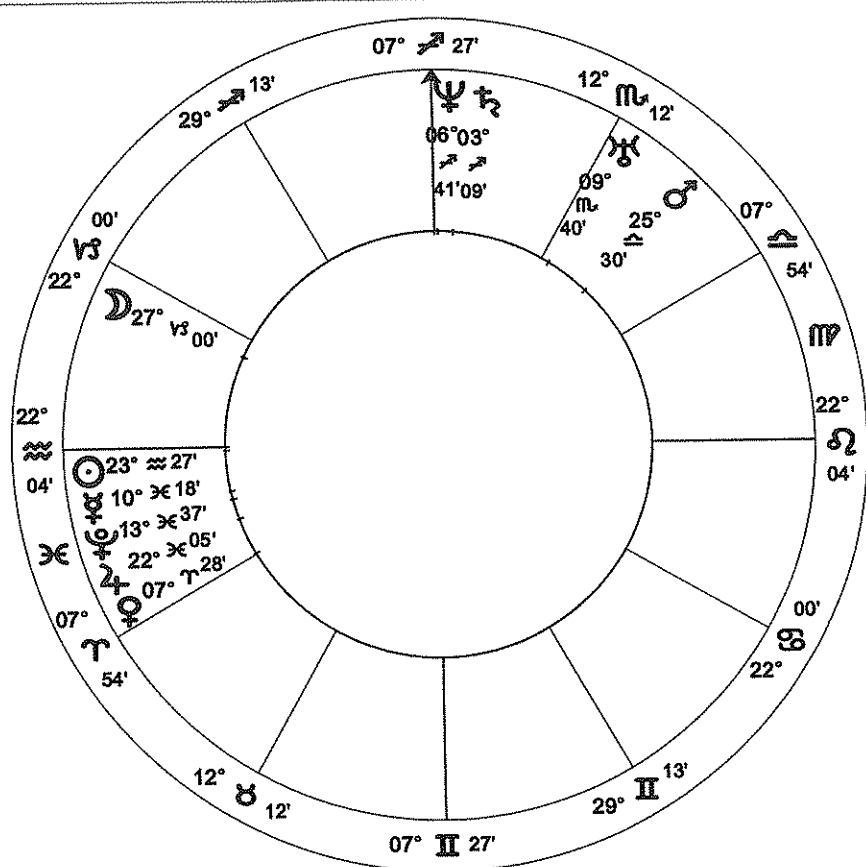
Spiritualism is a philosophy and method of communicating with the dead. Spiritualists use seances and mediums to gain revelation. Often, even today, people who have lost a loved one, who have unfinished business with them, seek the

counsel of mediums to make a connection, to get closure, to put things to rest for good. Many prominent spiritualists are buried at Forest Hills, the same cemetery where Gould is buried. It was a movement in Boston at the time.

Of mediumship, Gould writes that he had "tested this strange and inexplicable claim of the return of the traveler from the undiscovered country" and was half convinced. Torry, Cheney, J.W. Booth "communicated through a medium, a man of trivial and sensual aspect and superficial mind. Yet the reports were characteristic and moved me. I could discover no trick. If the medium is clairvoyant, sees into my mind, then to see what I am not continuously conscious of is itself a wide-eyed wonder. I found the subject on further experiment not fertilizing, the inquisition bootless, and it lies suspended in my mind, adding a vague something to the mystery of our being and reaching forward but finding no certain foothold on the afterlife." (p. 76. 1863 Volume)

Even in 1863, there were questions about the legitimacy of this method of connection to the spirit world. One problem with spiritualism is that sometimes people who are open, with no

Abraham Lincoln
February 12, 1809,
6:54 a.m. LMT
Hodgenville, Kentucky
37N34:26, 85W44:24



boundaries, can be infiltrated by hovering entities who may have negative intent. While Edwin Booth might have been trying to connect with his beloved deceased wife, Mary, and Gould might have been curious and trying to connect to his dead father, or maybe his beloved friend, Seth Cheney, who knew about John Wilkes; maybe his father, or maybe that fourth house Neptune left him with no boundaries, susceptible to hovering forces, opening him up to the madness soon to follow.

The chart of Abraham Lincoln (Lois Rodden B rating, from biography) shows he was born February 12, 1809 at 6:54 a.m. in Hodgenville, Kentucky.

- 22 Aquarius rising, Sun at 23 Aquarius square to J.W. Booth's Saturn
- Mercury, Pluto Jupiter in Pisces conjunct Gould's Saturn, Chiron, and Pluto
- Venus in Aries conjunct J.W. Booth's Venus
- Moon, 26 Capricorn
- Eighth house Mars conjunct J.W. Booth's Ascendant
- Uranus and North Node opposition J.W. Booth's Mars
- Saturn and Neptune conjunct J.W. Booth's

Moon

I find it fascinating that Lincoln had been a lover of theater (Aquarius-Leo Ascendant-Descendant polarity) and had premonitions of his own death in dreams (heavy first house Pisces, with Neptune as the most elevated planet).

After Lincoln's assassination, the entire theatrical community and acting profession were under attack. The most important facts are that Junius, the father, had been dead since 1852. Junius, Jr. was in Cincinnati the night of the assassination, but was arrested and imprisoned nonetheless. Edwin had been appearing in Boston the night of the assassination on April 14, 1865. Many associates were arrested. According to some writers, the shock for those who knew the man who shot Lincoln was beyond description. There were rumors that Edwin Booth had killed Lincoln (even though he was in Boston and New York), and he was subpoenaed. He was put under house arrest and urged to leave New York and the country. While the press sympathized with him, they felt he'd never be able to go before the public bearing his name again. Nothing but love poured out for him from his friends, which saved him from madness. He expressed that he

was "oppressed by a private woe not to be expressed in words. On behalf of the Booth family, he sent off a paid notice to the newspapers, expressing sympathy to fellow citizens and "abhorrence and detestation for the most foul and atrocious of crimes." Some of his sculptor friends did not leave him alone at such a trying time.

The themes and flow of history are intriguing. Junius Brutus Booth was named after an ancestor of the assassin of Julius Caesar. When John Wilkes ran off the stage after shooting Lincoln, he cried: "Freedom!" and "*Sic semper tyrannis*." ("This always to tyrants," which was the motto of the state of Virginia. This is also what Brutus said when he struck down Caesar, but Shakespeare did not use it in *Hamlet*.)

Edwin had just finished playing Hamlet for 100 nights. The April *Harper's*, on the stands at the time, wrote: "The tragedy of Hamlet is not only the vital curiosity about existence, the mastering love of life which almost subdues his soul with fear and doubt, and keeps it tense with eager questioning; but it is the conviction of a mind morbid with this continual strain that it is a most sacred duty to end another life, to plunge a guilty soul into the abyss."

And John Wilkes Booth believed he was doing his duty, dying for his country and what he believed in. After the conspiracy/assassination, after the broken leg, after the ten-day hideout, John Wilkes Booth was run out of a burning barn, shot in the neck (eighth house Mercury opposition Saturn), was immediately paralyzed and died very shortly thereafter. His last words were: "Tell mother, tell mother. I died for my country. I did what I thought was best." And gasping, looking at his hands, he uttered the words "useless, useless." Perhaps this was his mother's philosophy in raising the fatherless boy from age fifteen: Do what you think is best. Useless hands—how very much a Mercury-Saturn opposition concern!

After being beheaded during the autopsy (Algol 25 Taurus, very close to eighth cusp) and after three vertebrae were removed, Booth was buried in a gun case in the floor of the Old Penitentiary later that month (April 1865). In October 1867, he was moved to the bottom of a warehouse on the eastern side of the Washington Arsenal Grounds, along with the other four conspirators who were tried and hanged. All the bodies were eventually turned over to the families in February 1869. Booth's body was identified by the family on February 17, 1869, and he was buried in the family plot at Greenmount, in Baltimore, Maryland

(where Junius Sr., Mrs. Booth, Rosalie, Asia and Joe were eventually buried). The funeral director asked Edwin if he wanted to mark the unmarked grave. Edwin's reply was: "Leave that as it is."

Booth Family and Gould's Cleopatra

The story of the Booth family tragedy and the connection to Gould's Cleopatra and her expression of pathos, as if just touched by Marc Antony, is conjured up again. Gould, with his friendship with the father and the son Edwin, his deep appreciation for the depths of Shakespeare, with his own "remarkable ability to imitate celebrated actors, especially Booth," probably knew that on November 18, 1864, the three Booth brothers appeared together in a production of *Julius Caesar*. It was a benefit, the proceeds of which would go to an erection of a statue of Shakespeare in New York's Central Park (sculptor unknown). The elder Booth was now dead; Junius Jr., not usually an actor, played Cassius; Edwin played Brutus, and John Wilkes played Marc Antony. Both Edwin and Asia described John Wilkes as appearing "so perfectly handsome."

Perhaps this moment, this event, was in Gould's mind as he worked to process the genius of the Booth actors, which flipped into a personal and national devastation just a few short months later. Perhaps he saw the blend between death and passion and captured the look of consummated passion on his Cleopatra, as if she had just been touched by a dashing and thrilling, "so perfectly handsome" Marc Antony.

There's beauty and power in Gould's Cleopatra, unspoken passion, specific intention, mixed with sex as a moment of ecstasy, of madness, of death. The consummation by passionate touch, by selection of death by poisonous snake, becomes a metaphor for Booth's intentional ending of Lincoln's life and, by design, his own. On stage and in his glory, shining the spotlight on his family's deepest dysfunctions, John Wilkes Booth's own undoing was inherited family madness. It was dormant and, perhaps, only woke up during a seance of 1863.

In Cleopatra, Gould captures the essence of release from unspeakable torment. That Gould could transcend the torment of his own horror at the assassination—an insult to his own sense of justice and righteousness—and the torment of his friend Edwin define his mastery as an artist. Business transactions or words, perhaps, could

Passions Continued on Page 77

Usama bin Ladin

By John Willner, CA, NCGR

Since 9/11, many astrologers have speculated about a horoscope for Usama bin Ladin, the chief suspect. Addressing this chart without a birth time could be a problem, but methods are available that can be used successfully by any competent astrologer. The objective of this article is to show how it can be done.

Producing an accurate horoscope without an available birth time and *proving* it is correct can be expedited by following strict procedures and using available data and computer software oriented toward maximum accuracy. These techniques have been applied to numerous other subjects with outstanding success.

Bin Ladin is an elusive character, disappearing when people try to find him and constantly on the move. Reporters can't even agree on the spelling of his name. It has been printed as Osama, Usama, Usamah—Bin, bin and Ben—Laden and Ladin. The U.S. State Department used the spelling given in the title of this article.

To proceed with this investigation, bin Ladin's birth date must be established. One can make progress without a reported birth time, although the date and place of birth must be known. In any such undertaking, the higher the accuracy of data, the better the chance of achieving a correct horoscope. Moreover, the chances are greatly improved if all calculations are carried out to a higher level of accuracy than is normally practiced. The main reason for these guidelines is to obtain progressed aspects that match actual dates of events. One must ascertain birth times accurate to a fraction of a second to achieve this objective. Latitude and longitude of birth must also be accurate to the nearest second of arc.

Checking Internet sources, no fewer than five dates have been quoted for the birth of Usama bin Ladin, and a majority agrees he was born in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The one date repeated most often is July 30, 1957. Numerous tests carried out during this investigation indicate that date is correct, although a small residue of doubt remains. Hence, the results must be labeled speculative. Yet readers can judge for themselves how credible my results are by the bigger truths a horoscope always reveals, and this one reveals a lot.

Information that warrants the highest accuracy is the latitude and longitude where the mother gave birth. These inputs had to be compromised. The best source available was *The New York Times Atlas of the World*. The use of the scaled printed map and a calculator yielded a latitude of 24N39:12 and a longitude of 44E43:30. It would have been better to identify the precise spot in the city of Riyadh where birth took place, had such information been available. An exact location might have changed some of the seconds in latitude or longitude, and that could, in turn, have affected the calculated time of birth. However, the likely timing deviations from this cause should be comparatively small. Yet, another small increment of uncertainty is imposed.

Certain standardized steps are followed to home in on an exact horoscope.

Step 1—Rising Sign

Step 1, mainly because it is so visible and comparatively easy to check, is determination of the rising sign. The sign on the Ascendant must

match the physical appearance and mental characteristics of the individual, irrespective of race, skin color or nationality. These relationships are just as valid today as they were hundreds of years ago. Experienced astrologers will recognize instantly that Usama bin Ladin has Virgo rising. He is tall, thin and has triangular features. The following passage from *The Rising Sign Problem*¹ should provide the necessary background and rationale for this statement:

“Physical Characteristics. Virgo on the Ascendant features a triangular head. Almost anyone who studied geometry knows that a triangle has three sides and it does not look like a four-sided rectangle. Thus, the Virgo head is wedge shaped, having a top, a left slanting side and a right slanting side. The intersection of the two sides forms a point. Virgo chins may not necessarily be as sharp as a point, but they are narrow and sometimes appear to be chopped off as though scissors had cut them off. The mouth is usually small to average in width, and the lips are likely to be thin rather than full. Another feature is the nose. It is usually straight, or very slightly arched, and down pointing. The bridge is usually thin. Exceptions do exist, but not often. The stature is typically medium to tall, although once again weight is often added with age.

“The body in youth is normally wiry. Almost every Virgo rising individual is conscious of health and germs. Time is set aside for exercises, sports or other activities to keep their bodies in good shape. The Virgo rising body displays an attitude of preciseness, of knowing many facts and of a desire to be faultless. Yet they can be witty in their own fun-seeking way of twisting facts for this purpose.

“The sign before Virgo is Leo. The sign after Virgo is Libra. Leo has a rectangular head, and Libra has an ovate one. The possibility of making a mistake among this trio should be remote. The Virgo triangle is distinctly different.

“Mental Characteristics. The sign Virgo on the Ascendant is symbolized by the image of a Virgin holding a stalk of wheat (stylized modern versions do not always show the wheat). The intention of the symbol makers was to convey the idea of youth, in this case female, who examines every aspect of life in detail, always wanting to be right. The wheat symbolizes nourishment, and the Virgo person is forever conscious of what constitutes good nourishment. Sometimes ideas are approached with equal weight in the material world, where they are really unequal, as

is often the case with academics. Correctness to a Virgo person applies to everything, regardless of other priorities. Being pure and faultless is a goal. Having good health and being germ-free is another. Cleanliness is an important virtue. Some Virgos have a fear of germs and they will take precautionary measures to avoid contacts that might cause them to spread. But to go further, Virgo is a mutable earth sign. Thus Virgo favors practicality and productivity. They easily go along with the rest of the crowd. They often do the hard, detailed work for less than average credit. The secretary-treasurer of an organization is a typical position. They usually are good students; good with numbers, and their minds are reservoirs of facts. A Virgo rising boy who likes sports will know the batting averages of ball players or other statistics. A Virgo rising girl who likes clothes will be good at needlework, if she makes them, or will show extraordinary discrimination and good taste in the choice of dresses, if she is in a position to buy them. They are rarely showy or ostentatious. The single word that best describes their behavior is probably discrimination. When highly developed they have marvelous powers of subjecting every thought to the crucible of their own criticism, separating the wheat from the chafe. The best practical choices are then made.

“An undeveloped or negative Virgo rising person can be critical of everyone and every thing. The nose-prying maiden aunt, or elderly unmarried French concierge, comes to mind. These are the spinsters who continually talk about other people's business, but may have led disastrous lives themselves. Every procedure must be done their way. They invariably see flaws. Their opinions of others are frequently disdainful. Worst of all, for such opinionated individuals, is to receive criticisms about themselves. Because of this concern for always making the right choice, many of them wind up unmarried.

“The advanced or positive Virgo rising person is reserved, fastidious, knowledgeable, capable and funny or comic. They usually keep their distance and are not imposing toward others. They are often well read and do not suffer many illusions. Learning, maintaining a sound body, making the best judgments and a stream of good accomplishments characterize their lives. Performing any task requiring attention to detail is well within their grasp. It is not likely that they would spare themselves when helping out. Either private or public resources are handled simply

and frugally. Most of the time their expenditures are wise. If a choice of marriage partner is ultimately made, Virgo will work hard at making the marriage a success and will normally be very good with the children. Elaborate rituals, however, are usually regarded as a waste of time. To do good things and be faithful to ideals is important. To examine every proposition in the light of its real value is even more important. Madison Avenue and tinsel do not necessarily represent good values, and not even in their food do they ordinarily like a profusion of condiments."

The underlying Sun sign has a significant influence, blending in with the rising sign and causing modifications to the basic tendencies. Also, any planet conjunct or parallel the Ascendant will have a specialized influence. On July 30 of any year, the Sun is in Leo. This causes Usama bin Ladin to be more of a leader than a follower. It causes him to assume central roles, rather than subordinate roles. With Virgo rising he is not simply the collector of facts, but a proactive user and dispenser of facts. His beliefs are not to be opposed because he is certain that he knows best. The people around him are not equals, but subjects who will do his bidding. They will carry out his meticulous plans.

Ascertaining the rising sign confines a proper birth time to roughly a two-hour range because twelve signs divide into twenty-four hours two times. The tilt of Earth's axis, the latitude of birth and season of the year will cause variations. However, this broad first step at timing starts the procedure, and it is remarkable how many changes in viewpoint result from its proper application.

Step 2—Planets in Houses

Step 2 is a review of planets in houses to ascertain whether they belong. This step is not mainstream. However, it has been very effective in establishing agreement between the horoscope and the person involved. Judgments are generally applied after a tentative horoscope has been calculated. Planets near cusp boundaries deserve special attention because they provide either/or options. The planet and its influences can only be associated with one house and not the adjoining one. Given two clear-cut choices, the correct placement should be obvious. If a shift is required, this means the tentative birth time must be changed (usually earlier) for the planet to show up in the correct house. When making such

a change, all other planets must shift house positions accordingly, and they must maintain their correct house placements as well. Some might feel awkward tampering with a birth time like this, but remember that for this subject we started with none. Also, Step 2 fits into the larger plan of realizing total functionality.

The studied characteristics of planets apply. For example, Saturn causes fear, caution, delay or restriction in relation to the house meaning. Jupiter causes expansion, for better or for worse. Uranus verges toward surprise and the technical, modern, electrical or magnetic. Neptune generally permits illusions to occur. Such illusions can add drama or sophistication, but may include deceit and fraud. Otherwise, the nature of the house is embellished in some unique way. Pluto generally conveys power and efficiency. Sun confers energy and creativity. Moon is fast moving and often indicates changes throughout life. Moon also relates to popularity and memories. Mercury is associated with motion, communications and animated activity. Venus confers an artistic or social bent. Mars generally causes sports or military tendencies and susceptibility to accidents. These connotations have been given in only a few words, but there is general agreement about what they mean.

Another factor frequently overlooked is the association of a planet with the life's work. Michelle Gauquelin, for example, showed that Mars was prominent in the horoscopes of professional athletes. His results were skewed by the fact that unverified horoscopes were used, but the main point was made to those with understanding. Mars also applies to military officers. The question naturally arises that if Mars can so definitely attract certain professions, then would not other planets do the same?

We need to look at the prominence of any planet. A planet is prominent when in a cardinal house or when parallel or conjunct the major angles. Prominence can also increase when it is conjunct or parallel the lights. Cases often arise where the planet occupies a cadent house, but the declination is parallel a major angle. These cases of prominence might be missed if the declinations are not critically examined. Should this line of reasoning hold, then it would be perfectly natural to find Neptune prominent in the horoscopes of movie actors and actresses; Jupiter prominent in the horoscopes of entrepreneurs; Uranus prominent in the horoscopes of engineers, electricians and astrologers; Mercury

uration contributes to running and being expelled. Mercury and Venus are in a cadent house, but they are conjunct his Ascendant. Being near this major Ascendant cusp, one can ask whether these two planets belong in the twelfth house or the first house. If in the latter, artistic qualities would be much more likely to show. Where they are in the twelfth house contributes to actions against humanity. Venus so near his Ascendant probably causes his lips to be slightly fuller than for the average Virgo rising person and adds a certain Venusian quality, or sociability, within his Islamic sphere of influence.

Then, bin Ladin's second-house Neptune in Libra could indicate making money through deceptive means and the use of money for fraudulent or deceptive purposes. Since Neptune is contraparallel his Ascendant (parallel his Descendant), prominence is significantly increased. Use of his money to cement relationships becomes much more likely. His money is reported to have flowed into al Qaeda, the terrorist base.

Uranus is another planet near a cusp. In this situation, one might ask whether Uranus belongs in the eleventh house or the twelfth. If in the eleventh, modern technology would be an integral part of his plans, bolstered by the dominating influence of Leo. If in the twelfth, he would personally apply modern technology in his projects. It is well known that members of al Qaeda, who do his dirty work, make use of modern technology.

Since Uranus sits on one side of the twelfth house cusp, Venus sits on the same side of the first house cusp and Saturn sits on the other side of the fourth house cusp, timing of this horoscope had to be sufficiently precise for placements of these three planets within degrees of their respective cusps. Without going into the mathematics, horoscope timing has now been defined to within several minutes of the one that is correct.

Step 3—Progressions

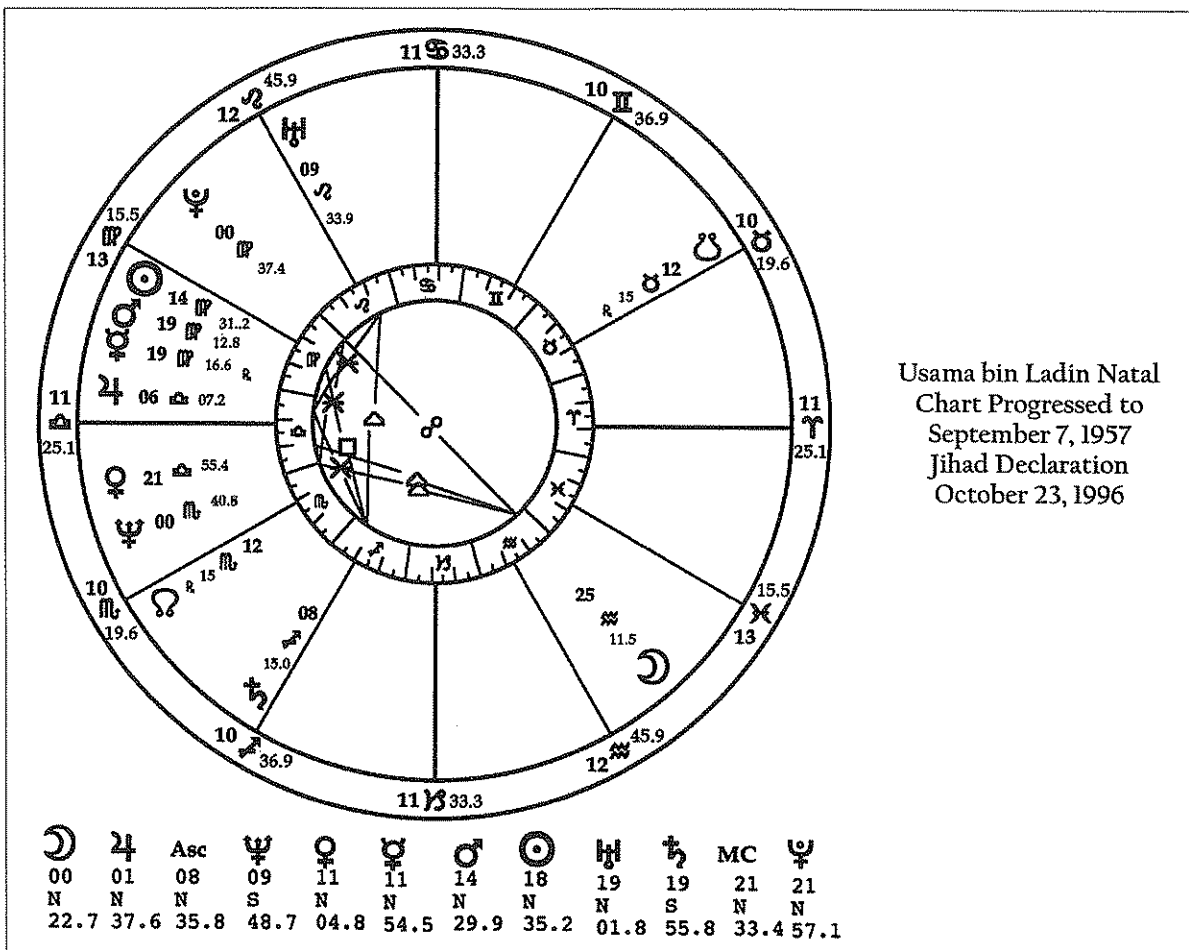
Step 3 is to run progressions for important events and check that appropriate progressed aspects fall within maximum orbs of four minutes. Testing progressed aspects against event dates is the most important test of all. When progressed aspects consistently match event dates within orbs of less than four minutes (a subjective value), the horoscope can be judged verified. To perform this test with skill, we must have several major events in Usama bin Ladin's life. Those are not necessarily easy to come by because his participa-

tion is supposed to be indirect in so many cases. However, for purposes of this study a short list of dated events is given below:

- February 23, 1993—World Trade Center in New York was hit by a car bomb.
- October 3-4, 1993—Explosion in Mogadishu, Somalia killed eighteen American servicemen.
- November 13, 1995—Bomb exploded outside Riyadh, killing two Indians and nineteen Americans.
- August 23, 1996—Usama bin Ladin declared a Jihad (holy war).
- February 23, 1998—Usama bin Ladin declared a second fatwa against the U.S.
- February 26, 1998—*TIME* magazine interviewed Usama bin Ladin.
- August 7, 1998—U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, were bombed.
- August 20, 1998—United States bombed Al-Shifa pharmaceutical (chemical weapons) factory and destroyed a terrorist camp in Khost, Afghanistan.
- October 12, 2000—A small boat exploded next to the USS Cole in Aden, Yemen; seventeen servicemen were killed.
- September 11, 2001—Four passenger aircraft were hijacked and flown into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Evidence indicates that passengers in the fourth aircraft fought back, and the mission was probably aborted by crashing into Pennsylvania farmland.

Within this group one event stands out as having been perpetrated by Usama bin Ladin—his declaration of a Jihad. Running progressions for that day, based upon the horoscope in Figure 1, the results are as shown in Figure 2. Progressed Mars was conjunct his natal Moon within 00°00:1', progressed Mercury was conjunct his natal Moon within 00°03:7' and progressed Mars and Mercury were conjunct each other within 00°03:8'. Moreover, progressed Pluto was sextile progressed Neptune within 00°02:6'. Since the Moon is co-ruler of his eleventh house of plans, and Mars is in his twelfth house of destruction, the first aspect is highly appropriate. Add Mercury and we have a worldwide declaration; in the background, Neptune contributes funding to the explosive power of Pluto.

One set of progressions does not verify a horoscope, although one set can provide strong func-



tional indications. Additional progressions that match events in a like manner contribute to the verification process. Furthermore, once a group of progressions and events center upon a specific birth time, the way this one does, that horoscope can be pinned down to an hour, minute, second and fraction of a second. A horoscope so verified will continue to correlate events with progressed aspects far into the future. To be relatively certain the horoscope is correct, no less than three dated events are considered to be the minimum required for testing. Furthermore, it is most desirable to involve either a natal or progressed major angle because the overall accuracy of the horoscope will be bolstered. Major angles move more swiftly than other elements in a horoscope and their progressions within the tight boundaries allocated provide added assurance.

Usama bin Ladin announced a second fatwa on February 23, 1998. This is another good event to test because it was personal. Examining the progressed aspects for that date, we find that progressed Mars was conjunct his Moon within 00°00:1'. Progressed Mercury was also conjunct Moon within 00°03:7'. This meant that pro-

gressed Mars and progressed Mercury were conjunct each other within 00°03:8', providing a significant amount of reinforcement. Also, progressed Neptune was sextile progressed Pluto within 00°02:6'. All of the earmarks were present.

Next, let us look at his progressions for September 11, 2001. Progressed Sun was conjunct his Moon within 00°03:1', progressed Neptune remained in a sextile aspect with progressed Pluto within 00°02:5', and progressed Venus was contraparallel Jupiter within 00°3:3'. For a person who had issued a Jihad but was not present on the scene, these are fairly potent aspects. The explosive nature of a contraparallel Jupiter, ruling the house of his enemies, is most appropriate.

Better information might refine these aspects. However, already there is sufficient evidence to believe the horoscope of Figure 1 is reasonably correct. It is filled with information that can be used by knowledgeable astrologers.

Endnote

1. John Willner. The Rising Sign Problem. AFA, Tempe, Arizona, 1991

Technique Question and Answer

By Terry Lamb, M.A., CA NCGR

Q Can you tell me what to do with the Part of Fortune? I see it in a lot of charts, but I don't see it used much. What is it and what is it for?

A The Part of Fortune is a remnant of a whole system of astrology that comes from the Hellenistic Greek tradition. Paulus Alexandrinus (fourth century C.E.) was one of the primary proponents of this system, specifically his *Introductory Matters*, as was Vettius Valens (second century C.E.) in his *Anthology*. Later, astrologers of the Arabic tradition picked up the gauntlet and elaborated the parts into a flourishing system of interpretation in their own right. Abu Ma'shar, in *The Ab-breviation of the Introduction to Astrology*, listed more than fifty parts, and one contemporary complained that they "proliferated daily!"

The term "part" comes from the Latin *pars, partis* "piece, portion, allotment," which loses some of the original meaning of the Greek *kleros* "lot" in our modern usage of the word. The lots (parts) were originally meant to carry a sense of fate—our allotment in life. They were all used according to the same technique and provided a rich interpretation of the chart, regardless of which lots you were using.

Traditionally, the lots are calculated differently depending on whether you were born during the day (with a diurnal chart) or by night (with a nocturnal chart). If you look in the texts or find a list of the traditional lots, there will be a dif-

ferent formula for day and night. However, no matter what your time of birth, the lots are based on the juxtaposition of two planets with the Ascendant. If you are familiar with the *axis of symmetry* of cosmobiology or the Uranian School, you will find that the lots use the Ascendant-Descendant line as an axis of symmetry. So, the formulae for the Lot of Fortune are different for day and for night:

Day $\otimes = \text{Asc} + \text{D} - \odot$

Night $\otimes = \text{Asc} + \odot - \text{D}$

There is a simple way to find the lots in your chart (besides using a computer). To do this, start with the planet at the end of the formula, then trace the arc to the next planet backward in the formula, going forward through the zodiac (counterclockwise). After you have the number of degrees between these two planets, start at the Ascendant and count that number forward (counterclockwise) through the zodiac. There you will find your Lot of Fortune.

Meaning of Lot of Fortune

In Classical times, the Lot of Fortune was paired with the Lot of Spirit. Fortuna, as it was also called, was considered to signify our experiences in everyday life. It was considered to indicate "matters concerning the body and handicrafts," which can be interpreted as health and job. This has to do with what we may find ourselves doing if we do not listen

to the deeper calling within ourselves. The Lot of Spirit, or Spiritus, in contrast, was associated with matters concerning our calling and how we fulfill our life purpose. So, the Lot of Spirit might be more about what we strive for and *want* to do as opposed to what we *fall* back on and *have* to do if we can't reach our highest goals.

With the Lot of Fortune, there is also a sense of our material surroundings, and this can be construed as wealth. Valens called it "a bestower of belongings and goods," but this was dependent on what planets aspected it.

Medieval astrologers used Fortuna as a component in their system for defining the psyches of individuals through the natal chart. Here, the Lot of Fortune was used to interpret the form our physical body and expression of life force took.

To get the full, most exciting picture of what the lots mean, they must be used in their full context. This involves using the lot as a *horoskopos*, or starting point for a derived house system. The sign of this "virtual ascendant" would be the "first place (house) of Fortuna."¹ After imagining that the sign of the Lot of Fortune is your first house, imagine that each sign after it is the second house, and so forth, with all the meanings you normally associate with them.

Now, look at how the planets aspect the lot. Trines, sextiles and conjunctions from the benefics (planets, which when expressed through human na-

ture, are on average easy to use well), Jupiter and Venus are very fortunate. The condition of each of the planets that aspect the lot is also significant. For example, Jupiter exalted in Cancer conjunct the lot is much better than Jupiter in detriment in Virgo conjunct the lot (although there is still some natural good to come of any harmonious Jupiter aspect). Similarly, the aspects of Saturn and Mars, the malefics (planets, which when expressed through human nature, are not on average used well), would have to be noted as well, with squares and oppositions creating potential difficulty.

Ancient astrologers often wrote of results in stark, non-negotiable terms, but, even then, they were speaking of the average person who was unaware and did nothing to change his or her consciousness. So, harmonious Jupiter and Venus aspects to your Lot of Fortune today would mean you would have to work little to create a plentiful material life. If you are not so blessed, then you will have to work harder for it. You can interpret your aspects to the Lot of Fortune just as you would to any planet: use the houses they are in and consider the nature of the signs involved. Jupiter in the fourth place from your Lot of Fortune might suggest that what your family considers valuable might not be important to you (especially if it makes a close square), but your family will provide plenty of it.

Saturn trining your lot from the ninth place might suggest that you will benefit from the hard work and effort needed to acquire a higher education—and, perhaps, it won't come easily (because it is Saturn).

You can compare the aspects made to your Fortuna to those made to your Spiritus, and I recommend they be used together. If your Lot of Spirit has fantastic aspects, you could find it relatively easy to fulfill your deepest sense of calling and purpose. If not, you will just have to work harder to get there.

As with all parts of your chart, the obstacles and issues we see through the Lots of Fortune and Spirit are meant to be overcome. In fact, they are *your* issues and yours alone, so you are *meant* to overcome them and uniquely equipped to do so.

Endnote

1. The Lot of Fortune helped define the formal (at the level of form as opposed to matter in the Platonic model) component of the vegetative (representing the life energy found in plants) and sensitive (sensing or animal) souls, part of Montulmo's model for describing the quality of the soul (our modern psyche), as described in Aristotle's *De Anima*.

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The Three Foremost Houses of Health

By Jeffrey Traister, PMAFA, C.A. NCGR

The first, sixth and eighth houses form a yod and provide a more powerful insight to the native's overall health than the sixth house alone. This is because these houses represent life and vitality, wellness and sickness, and healing and death, respectively, the main components involved in the spectrum of health. The Ascendant is the apex and a vital point in the chart for assessing the native's potential for optimum wellbeing.

Ironically, health is often an improperly implied and ambiguous term used in astrology and medicine. With proper and unambiguous definition of a few terms in medicine, astrologers can gain a better understanding of which houses to assign rulership over specific circumstances. The definition of "health" according to *Dorland's Medical Dictionary* is *a state of optimal physical, mental and social wellbeing, and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity*. Yet, the common use of the term "health" differs from its definition and more often infers a measurement of the native's condition with wellness or disease. *Dorland's Medical Dictionary* defines the following for life, vitality, health, holistic health, sickness, disease, healing and death. Surprisingly, this dictionary does not have a definition for wellness, a term defined by Arizona State University below:

Life: the aggregate of vital phenomena; a certain peculiar stimulated condition of organized matter that obscure principle whereby organized beings are peculiarly endowed with certain powers and functions not associated with inorganic matter.

Vitality: the life principle; the condition of being alive.

Health: a state of optimal physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity.

Holistic Health: a system of preventive medicine that takes into account the whole individual, his own responsibility for his well-being and the total influences—social, psychological, environmental—that affect health, including nutrition, exercise and mental relaxation.

Sickness: any condition or episode marked by pronounced deviation from the normal healthy state; illness.

Disease: any deviation from or interruption of the normal structure of function of any part, organ, or system, or combination thereof, of the body that is manifested by a characteristic set of symptoms and signs and whose etiology, pathology and prognosis may be known or unknown.

Heal: to restore wounded parts or to make healthy; to become well.

Death: cessation of life; permanent cessation of all bodily

functions.

Medicine: any drug or remedy; the art and science of the diagnosis and treatment of disease and the maintenance of health.

***Wellness:** an active, lifelong process of becoming aware of choices and making decisions toward a more balanced and fulfilling life. Wellness involves choices about our lives and our priorities that determine our lifestyles.

Health is defined as a state of optimum wellbeing. Yet in practice, health is a dynamic spectrum of conditions that fluctuates throughout life. Life and death are at the two ends of the spectrum. Wellness and sickness are the degrees on the spectrum to which quality of health is measured. Wellness is the degree of health toward the optimum relationship of our wellbeing, our bodies, emotions, thoughts and spirit, and our relationships with others and society. Sickness, on the other hand, is the degree of health we encounter through disease and suffering in adjusting to rebalance our health. In essence, wellness and sickness are two sides of the same face.

Life and vitality, wellness and sickness and healing and death are represented by the first, sixth and eighth houses, respectively. The first house, and in particular the Ascendant, rules the overall vitality of the native. The natal Ascendant

is determined at the time a newborn takes its first breath, the moment it has begun its life as an independent being. A strong Ascendant and first house will make a person strong in his or her disposition toward life. The Sun, the planet of vitality, is strongest when on or near the Ascendant, particularly when in the first house. The first house rules the physical appearance, the first signs physicians observe when assessing their patient's health. Potential strengths and weaknesses in health, including physical, emotional and mental, are detected in the natal chart by aspects from planets in the first house or its ruler with planets in or rulers of the sixth and eighth houses. An affliction of planets in the natal first house or its ruler can indicate potential health problems affecting the vitality throughout their life, especially during times when aspects occur from progressed or transiting planets. Vitality can be enhanced or diminished during times when the progressed first house planets and ruler aspect natal, progressed or transiting planets.

Astrologers have traditionally classified the sixth house as the house of health, perhaps because this house is about daily habits and lifestyle, the key attributes to wellness and sickness. Medical research has indicated that nine of the top ten leading causes of death are associated with lifestyle, the daily habits in one's life. These lifestyle habits include diet, exercise, mental relaxation, sleep, smoking, alcohol and substance abuse. When one is well and not sick, however, he or she still might not have a strong vitality.

Dane Rudyar, in his book *The*

Astrological Houses, elaborates that the sixth house is about personal readjustment, crises and change of condition. Illness often causes a reexamination of lifestyle, attitude and perception, and it creates changes accordingly. The sixth house emphasizes how a person suffers during illness. Since the sixth house is naturally ruled by Mercury, there is a mental element involved, a communication with one's inner self, even if the illness is primarily physical. Moreover, the sixth house rules the unconscious, the source of one's habits and behavior. To grow spiritually, the individual must become more self-conscious, including overcoming unconscious desires and behaviors that affect health, as well as the crises that occur.

The eighth house rules the healing process, which can either be the ability to overcome sickness and regain wellness or succumb to sickness and die. Through the healing process, a person undergoes a rebirth of a bodily part, function or system. Surgery, an eighth house issue, is one of three traditional methods of treating disease; the other two are diet and drugs. Pluto, the natural ruler of the eighth house, rules metabolism and helps restore equilibrium. Natal, progressed and transiting planets and signs in and ruling the eighth house affect the way in which one heals and the potential outcome of the healing process.

The eighth house is the house of death and rebirth. Death is defined as a cessation of bodily functions. The cause and occurrence of death are a mystery. Rebirth is a metaphysical term pointing to the continual thread of life of the soul.

It is the physical body which dies, but the soul lives on.

The first house forms inconjunct, or quincunx, aspects with the sixth and eighth houses. The quincunx is most noted as an aspect involving adjustment and is often related with health issues. The first house of life and vitality is not compatible with the sixth and eighth houses of wellness and sickness and healing and death, respectively. People can alter their health by changing their lifestyle, a sixth house issue, to overcome sickness in order to gain vitality. As stated earlier, this requires readjustment—hence the quincunx aspect with the first house. In more serious cases, one must heal and transform the health condition to overcome death and regain vitality.

The sixth and eighth houses are compatible, forming a sextile, an aspect of growth. Healing leads to wellness, and disease leads to death. A change in lifestyle could include diet, exercise, or even the way one approaches thinking, all sixth house issues. These changes affect how one is able to heal or transform his or her state of health, an eighth house phenomenon, from sickness to wellness. People who overcome devastating disease, such as cancer, often report an extraordinary battle, an eighth house issue, involving not just their physical body, but their emotional and mental bodies as well. Those who come close to death often come back to live with a renewed spirit and attitude that greatly motivates them to change their lifestyle.

The specific types of diseases or medical conditions are determined by the natal and pro-

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Book Reviews

By Susan Hopper

The American Ephemeris for the 21st Century, 2000-2050 at Midnight (Expanded Second Edition)
Compiled and programmed by Neil F. Michelson, revisions by Rique Pottenger. ACS Publications, 5521 Ruffin Road, San Diego, CA 92123-1314, 1997. Hardback. \$29.95 US

If you are anything like me, you have stuffed in a desk drawer a much abused ephemeris that you consult at least several times a day. The coffee and strawberry jam stains could be a testament to the special relationship you have with your trusty guide, but they don't add to your professionalism when explaining transits to clients and friends. The *Expanded Second Edition* is a beautiful updated reference in hardback, and a perfect addition to your library.

What makes this 21st century ephemeris different from the other editions? For starters, the calculations have been updated for greater precision and accuracy with new data from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. So don't be surprised if you notice slight differences when comparing it to older editions. Additionally, retrogrades are easier to track because they have been screened a more definite gray, which is an improvement over the less clearly marked revised second edition. This edition also includes 2000, which was left out of the revised second edition. Although the century didn't officially begin until January 1, 2001, the inclusion of the year 2000 was a feature many requested. In fact,

the publisher welcomes consumer suggestions, so don't hesitate to call the number listed in the book.

Although computer software has all but eliminated the need for chart calculation by hand, there is something comforting about being able to pull your ephemeris off the shelf and take a peek at what's going on out there. Oh sure, you can pull up a computer-generated set of transits, but it just isn't the same. The expanded second edition has a solid look and feel, which is perfect for those days when you want to pour over the movement of the heavens the old fashioned way. Overall, this ephemeris is a great addition to your library.

Foreseeing the Future: Evangeline Adams and Astrology in America by Karen Christino. One Reed Publications, P.O. Box 561, Amhearst, MA 01004-0561. 2002. Paper. 217 pp. \$14.95 US

Karen Christino, author of *Star Success* and *American Astrology's* popular "Choose Your Career" column, offers a fascinating look into the life and times of Evangeline Adams. Christino's meticulous research and thoughtful analysis gives the reader much to ponder when considering the enigma who was America's First Lady of Astrology. This well-written account is a great book selection if you have some spare time and would like to gain a better understanding of the history of metaphysical studies in

nineteenth and twentieth century America. Through her passion for the subject, Christino puts a human face on the formidable Evangeline and makes the reader hungry to learn more about this woman who was so far ahead of her time. After reading *Foreseeing the Future*, I am more than intrigued!

By bringing the facts to life, Christino paints a picture of a vulnerable yet extraordinary woman. Born February 8, 1868 into a life of relative privilege, Evangeline nevertheless suffered the loss of her father and a life changing illness before she was eighteen. Reared in Andover, Massachusetts and brought up with Congregationalist Christian ideals, young Evangeline loved animals and was imbued with both a sense of independence and desire for justice. Strongly influenced by early feminist writer Elizabeth Stewart Philips, who also just happened to be her Sunday school teacher, Evangeline was open-minded and tolerant early on. While attempting to live a conventional life in Boston as a young woman, she was introduced to astrology by Dr. J. Heber Smith, a respected educator and physician. By the time of her first Saturn return, Evangeline was on her own, free to practice astrology and make her way in life. Back then, much as it is now, astrology was something people were both fascinated by yet often loathe to admit an interest in. Evangeline was unrepentant and, no matter how you view her contributions to the study

of astrology, was instrumental in bringing it into the American consciousness.

Christino explains that Evangeline learned early on to "avoid willfully opposing wise counsel or larger forces," which was at the core of her beliefs in life. As a student of the Vedanta philosophy taught by Hindu monk Swami Vivekenanda, Evangeline combined the Vedanta emphasis on spiritual self-reliance and strength with her own developing philosophy of intelligent nonresistance. Like many of us, she believed that we are by birth dealt a certain hand of potentials and limitations and that "Man should not strive too hard to be the master." Yet at the same time, she felt that one must strive to reach one's highest potential. Her view was that it is better to understand what we have to work with and make choices within that framework if we wish to be as successful as possible in life.

And successful she was. Her efforts helped legalize the practice of astrology in New York State and left an enduring impression on the consciousness of her country. In the words of her husband, "With typical courage and determination, she accepted the 'martyr's crown of thorns,' endured privation and humiliation, yes, even ostracism, in order to pursue what she believed to be the cause of humanity—through the science of the start, the ancient and honorable science of astrology." She did, indeed.

Learn about what made her so special in *Foreseeing The Future: Evangeline Adams and the History of Astrology in America* if you would like a better understanding of astrology in the world today. For those who would like

to find out more about Miss Adams, Christino describes Adams' autobiography, *The Bowl of Heaven*, as "a delight" and recommends it as additional reading.

Soul Purpose Astrology: How To Read Your Birth Chart For Growth and Transformation, Second Edition, by Margaret Koolman. Llewellyn Publications, P.O. Box 64383, St. Paul, MN 55164-0383, 2002. Paper. 200pp. \$14.95 US, \$23.95 CAN

Spiritual astrology has been a popular subject during the past few years and, consequently, there has been no lack of titles to choose from. Unfortunately, this can be a difficult subject to write about because it involves philosophical concepts that are ultimately very personal. Either you feel a connection with the author's ideas or you don't . . . there is rarely any middle ground.

Margaret Koolman's *Soul Purpose Astrology* might be one book on the subject you would like to give a try, because it has a friendly tone and provides a gestalt approach to finding your spiritual path in life. Koolman, who has studied astrology since 1975, created this book from her teaching notes at the request of her students. Useful primarily to beginners and intermediate level students, this book could also be of interest to professional astrologers who would like to take a more holistic approach when working with clients.

Newcomers to astrology will enjoy the story-telling approach that Koolman employs to explain the earthly manifestation of the zodiac. By creating dynamic mental images and allowing for a sense of order and

progression, she encourages the reader to visualize astrology as a living force that is part of us and moves through us. The focus is on understanding that each of us is a part of a whole and, at the same time, uniquely individual. This great paradox is a concept that is at the heart of many of the world's religions and is a good place to begin when considering your soul purpose. Koolman's Eastern influences are blended well with Western traditions, encouraging the reader to be open to new ideas as he or she progresses.

As one would expect, the signs, planets and aspects are all discussed in detail with brief interpretations given for good measure. The Nodes of the Moon are given a good bit of attention and rightly so. This reviewer hopes that Margaret Koolman will write more about the often ignored Nodes in the future. There is a bit of a cookbook formula to her approach, but it is entirely appropriate for what *Soul Purpose Astrology* sets out to accomplish: to help the beginner understand the basic concepts of astrology and to apply them in an approach to spirituality. Koolman is successful at this because she explains her philosophic approach in an open, relaxed way.

Never taking an authoritarian tone, she allows the reader to absorb her ideas gently. You might not agree with her, but you won't find yourself feeling put off by her methods. Seasoned astrologers might appreciate this book because Koolman's ability to present material in a confident, yet non-threatening manner is a valuable technique to master. Teaching is a complex skill in

itself, and explaining what astrology is and how it works can be quite a challenge. Koolman gives easy-to-follow lessons that allow you to see the microcosm within the macrocosm in a charming yet logical way.

If you are an astrologer who would like to teach, this is a good place to start to learn. Likewise, if you are new to the business of speaking the language of the stars, you might want to study this book for good measure. It has the potential to help you create a more balanced and harmonious outlook by understanding the stars in *your* life.

Astrology of Intimacy, Sexuality, and Relationship: Insights to Wholeness by Noel Tyl. Llewellyn Publications P.O. Box 64383, St. Paul, MN 55164-0383, 2002. Paper. 203 pp. \$17.95 US/\$27.50 CDN

Noel Tyl's *Astrology of Intimacy, Sexuality, and Relationship: Insights To Wholeness* is a must read for those considering entering the field of astrological counseling. One of the foremost astrologers of our time, Tyl has created an excellent learning tool for intermediate to advanced astrologers.

A graduate of Harvard University in social relations (psychology, sociology and anthropology), he brings more than thirty years of experience to the table. By defining intimacy as a need that is unique to each individual that can be better understood through astrological analysis, this guide was designed to help the student understand the dynamics involved in interpersonal relationships.

You will need to be fairly proficient in the language of the

stars to keep up with Tyl's instruction. Instead of taking a cookbook approach, Tyl uses twenty nine case studies as educational examples. If you have been practicing your techniques, you should soon find yourself following along with interest. He simply and sensibly points out planetary configurations and placements to look for when counseling those who present with emotional pain and relationship failures. I found myself frequently looking at my own database of natal charts to see if I had missed anything.

Tyl helps the reader develop a compassionate and sensitive strategy for helping clients who suffer from fear of commitment, sexual dysfunction and other relationship-oriented difficulties. When the client can come to terms with the whole of his life experience and be at peace with the past, he or she can then move forward into healthier relationships. As Tyl states so eloquently, "I can only be intimate with someone when I can be myself without fear."

Making his masterful style of chart interpretation seem easy, Tyl presents his methods with great sensitivity. It is clear that he cares for and respects the clients he has worked with because he gives the reader a chance to benefit from shared experiences. Based on sound psychological and astrological principles, his techniques focus on first understanding the early environment and needs of the individual. Once the individual knows the strengths and vulnerabilities of self, he or she can enjoy healthier relationships. By highlighting key points in bold print, Tyl drives home the most important themes in interpersonal relationships. I'm

tempted to compile a list of his insights and tape them to my bathroom mirror and refrigerator door so I won't forget these simple but vital truths during the course of each busy day. Even if you are not interested in relationship counseling, you will find this book helpful in improving your own relationships by first understanding your own relationship needs.

Tyl manages to create what almost seems like a personal encounter between you as the student and him as the instructor. While explaining his counseling techniques, he also practices them as he expresses his ideas to the reader. It is clear that he knows himself well, and can draw upon this self knowledge to nurture a relationship with the reader. Although the book is brief, coming in at just over 200 pages, it contains a wealth of information that the student astrologer needs to master before moving on to counseling clients. Reading this book feels like taking an exclusive course from the author. It is well worth the reasonable \$17.95 US price tag.

Astrological Crosses in Relationships: Understanding Cardinal, Fixed, and Mutable Energies by Pauline Edward. Llewellyn Publications P.O. Box 64383, St. Paul, MN 55164-0383, 2002. Paper. 195 pp. \$14.95 US/\$23.95 CDN

Canadian astrologer Pauline Edward offers an in-depth look at the nature of astrological crosses and how they affect our relationships in this interesting, well-organized offering. Intended for both astrologer and non-astrologer alike, this book focuses on the three astrologi-

cal crosses, also known as quadruplicities or modes. Inspired by a lecture given by astrologer Marc Beriault, Edward spent many years researching her subject. It's clear that she has thought a lot about what makes each mode unique. You might find yourself inspired by this well-written book that brings to light a facet of astrology that is often ignored. Over all, this is an excellent book to add to your library because it covers the subject in more detail and with more insight than in any other book I have found.

After first explaining what the crosses consist of and giving the reader examples of famous people who have been strongly influenced by either the cardinal, fixed or mutable cross, Edward outlines the characteristics of each cross in detail. I especially like the positive emphasis she brings to this work. So often older texts refer to the cardinal signs as power hungry, the fixed signs as stubborn, and the mutable signs as weak. It's refreshing to read about their unique qualities in a more broad and balanced light.

Although we often don't consider those born under the cardinal signs of Capricorn, Libra, Cancer and Aries as dreamers, Edward explains that it is precisely their ability to dream that makes them great leaders and achievers. She calls this cross "the cross of hopefulness, of aspiring toward an ideal, of enriching the present with a dream for the future, and of hoping that this dream can one day be made real." Similarly, those influenced by the fixed signs might be relieved to hear themselves as described as the cross of beauty and desire, rather than the less flattering

description of stubborn or steady. Here, mutable signs are noted for their subtle strength rather than simply seen as manipulative, weak, or inconsistent.

Once the quadruplicities have been described at length, Edward moves to help the reader put this new knowledge to good use. She begins by demonstrating how the different modes express themselves and respond to others in everyday life. I had to laugh out loud when she described a cardinal friend who insisted that the author consult a doctor (an authority) rather than trust her own perceptions (a fixed mode trait). She then was faced with a mutable friend who wanted to play doctor by bringing over all types of remedies to experiment with, even though she knew all that was needed was a sound sleep. I chuckle at this because my strongly cardinal husband would respond in exactly the same way as her cardinal friend, much to my mutable, let-me-be-your-doctor chagrin.

There are many examples that you'll enjoy comparing to your own experiences as you read along, so give yourself plenty of time to spend with this book.

Edward gives advice on how to balance an overabundance or lack of one of the crosses, and shares tips on how people of different modes can work to get along. She makes it very easy to understand the basic differences and how to accommodate for them without being untrue to self, something I found especially useful as a mutable sign who often simply tries to please others. I think that counseling astrologers will appreciate her techniques and strategies for improving relationships be-

tween the types because it is simple, straightforward and easy to apply.

It's like a part of the puzzle that was there all the time but we didn't see. *Astrological Crosses in Relationships* really helps to put in all into perspective. This book was a pleasure to review and I'd like to see a sequel in the future.

Astrology for Beginners: An Easy Guide To Understanding and Interpreting Your Chart by William W. Hewitt. Llewellyn Publications, P.O. Box 64383, St. Paul, MN 55164-0383, 2002. Paper. 285 pp. \$12.95 US/\$20.50 CDN

William W. Hewitt's *Astrology for Beginners* is exactly what the subtitle says it is—"An Easy Guide to Understanding and Interpreting Your Chart." Originally published in 1991, I missed this little gem of a book the first time around. It never caught my eye at the time, probably due to the fact that I was neither a beginning student of astrology nor a professional astrologer looking for a text to instruct from. However, it has been my good fortune to come across the second edition, which is now high on my list of books to recommend for beginning astrologers.

The late William W. Hewitt, who also wrote *Hypnosis for Beginners* and *Psychic Development for Beginners*, knew just how to get his reader's interest. By giving them just enough information to digest and not choke on, Hewitt stimulates an interest in the basics of astrology without intimidating the neophyte. So often books on astrology can be overwhelming to the beginner, but this one gives just the right amount of information in just the right sequence. After

introducing the basics concerning signs, planets and houses, Hewitt gives instructions on how to erect a chart quickly using a computer program, by "eyeballing" or estimating, and how to do it the old fashioned mathematical way. The pros and cons of each method are discussed, allowing the student to decide which method is best for him/herself. While nowadays it is convenient for most people just to enter birth information into a computer program for the most accurate results, it is good for new astrologers to have an idea of what it used to be like for old timers.

Descriptions of the various planetary placements and aspects are brief and to the point; this is not meant to be a reference book as much as it is an introduction. Still, this book offers a very good start for those who want to learn to speak the language of the stars. In fact, I plan to use this book to teach my own children the art and science of astrology if they express interest. Thank you, Mr. Hewitt, for leaving such a simple and effective learning tool for future astrologers!

Born March 3, 1968 at 7:30 p.m. In Tampa, Florida, Susan Hopper became interested in

astrology while still in grade school. Driven by her fascination with the human mind and interpersonal relationships, she earned her B.A. in psychology with a minor in sociology from the University of South Florida. As a freelance writer and homemaker, Susan contributes regularly to "Astrology on the Web," an Australian website. Her interests include off-road cycling, gourmet cooking, wildlife rehabilitation, gardening and creative writing. Always interested in discussing the language of the stars, she can be reached at shopper2@tampabay.rr.com and (813) 994-9407.

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gressed planets, signs and houses and the transiting planets and signs. Astrologers, nonetheless, should initially look at the first, sixth and eighth houses to gain insight into the bigger picture and, in particular, the person's overall health disposition. Then they should focus on a more detailed analysis involving specific and relevant planets, signs and houses to accurately assess health and disease vulnerabilities.

In summary, the sixth house should be looked upon as the house of holistic health whereby social, psychological and environmental influences interact with choice of lifestyle and daily habits involving diet and nutrition, exercise and mental relaxation, all of which ultimately affect one's disposition toward wellness or sickness. If an individual suffers sickness, the eighth house will

indicate the capacity to heal. Yet it is the first house and particularly the Ascendant that is the focal point in the natal and progressed charts that best assesses the potential vitality of the native.

*Defined by Arizona State University www.asu.edu/vpsa/wellness/definition.html

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Mondale's Bid for the U.S. Senate

By Stephanie J. Clement

In the midst of a U.S. Senate campaign that promised to change the way politics is pursued for the next two years, the death of Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota in a plane crash was devastating news to the Democratic party. Wellstone was involved in one of the tightest races for the Senate, where one seat could have shifted political control to the Democratic Party.

Imagine you are former Vice President Walter Mondale. You are sitting at home (or at your office) Friday, October 25, 2002, when you get the news about Senator Paul Wellstone. For a lifelong party trooper, this has to be terrible news. You inhale sharply, and then immediately swing into action. What kind of action? Let's examine the chart to see what we can deduce.

We know from past experience that Mondale is not the most dynamic, charismatic politician to grace U.S. politics. In fact, he is quite the opposite. Mondale is, however, a beacon of steadfast principles. Checking Dane Rudhyar's *An Astrological Mandala*¹, we find this image and keynote for 7 Pisces, the degree of Mondale's Ascendant:

"Illumined by a shaft of light, a large cross lies on rocks surrounded by sea mist.

"The spiritual blessing which strengthens individuals who, happen what may, stand uncompromisingly for their own truth."²

This is Mr. Mondale. It's not so much that he is predict-

able—he is dependable. You can count on him to think through an issue before he makes up his mind. Then, he sticks to his guns. And, like Jimmy Carter, the President he served as Vice President, we can trust him not to push any little red buttons in anger or haste. He encourages confidence, at least for me.

What goes along with that Pisces Ascendant? Mondale has the Sun and Mercury in Capricorn, so he is an ambitious individual. The Sun is opposite Pluto in Cancer in the fifth house. He is aware that his power lies in finding creative solutions and not in flexing military muscle. He is probably all too aware that the U.S. has the military might to obliterate the planet and he wants to find other ways to deal with international crises.

Mondale has the Midheaven, Mars, Saturn and Venus all in Sagittarius. In my book, *Power of the Midheaven*², I say the following about Sagittarius:

"The intuitive side of their nature lends itself to seeing how things will develop in the future."

"Sagittarius leads into the heart of the winter season. There is no room for wastefulness in this bleak time of the year. Sagittarians are capable of conserving . . . this ability reflects the wisdom of Jupiter."

"Sagittarius at the Midheaven includes strong positions about religion and spiritual matters."

"Sagittarians enjoy the ad-

venture."

"Sagittarius determines what needs to be done and then does it, or finds someone to do it."

With the Midheaven in the second decanate of Sagittarius, Mondale expressed the clear energy of Sagittarius. He has probably experienced profound loneliness in his life, and out of this he has developed compassion for his family, friends and constituents. Minnesota residents have said that Mondale lights up when he sees what he needs to do for other people, or as a politician.

2002 Curve in the Road

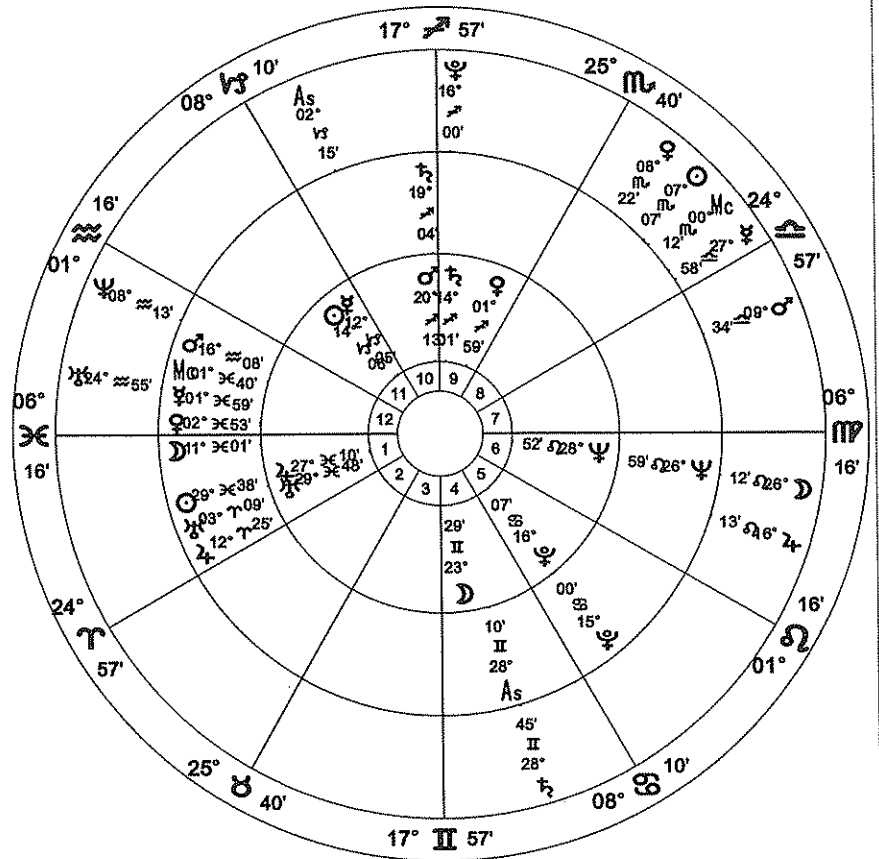
While I could say a great deal more about Mondale's birth chart, the point of this article is the change in direction he faced when Senator Wellstone's death left a vacancy in the Senate and the November 5 Minnesota ballot in need of a name. Just what does the chart of a draft candidate for the U.S. Senate look like?

I calculated solar arc directions, progressions and transits for October 28, 2002, the day before the decision of the Minnesota Democratic Party organization to name Mondale as Wellstone's replacement was announced. Mondale's chart is filled with aspects, applying (a) and separating (s), within one degree of orb, and a few interesting ones just over one degree.

Solar arc directions:

- Sun to natal Uranus, 10'

Walter Mondale
 Inner Wheel:
 Natal Chart
 Middle Wheel:
 Progressed Chart
 Outer Wheel:
 Transits



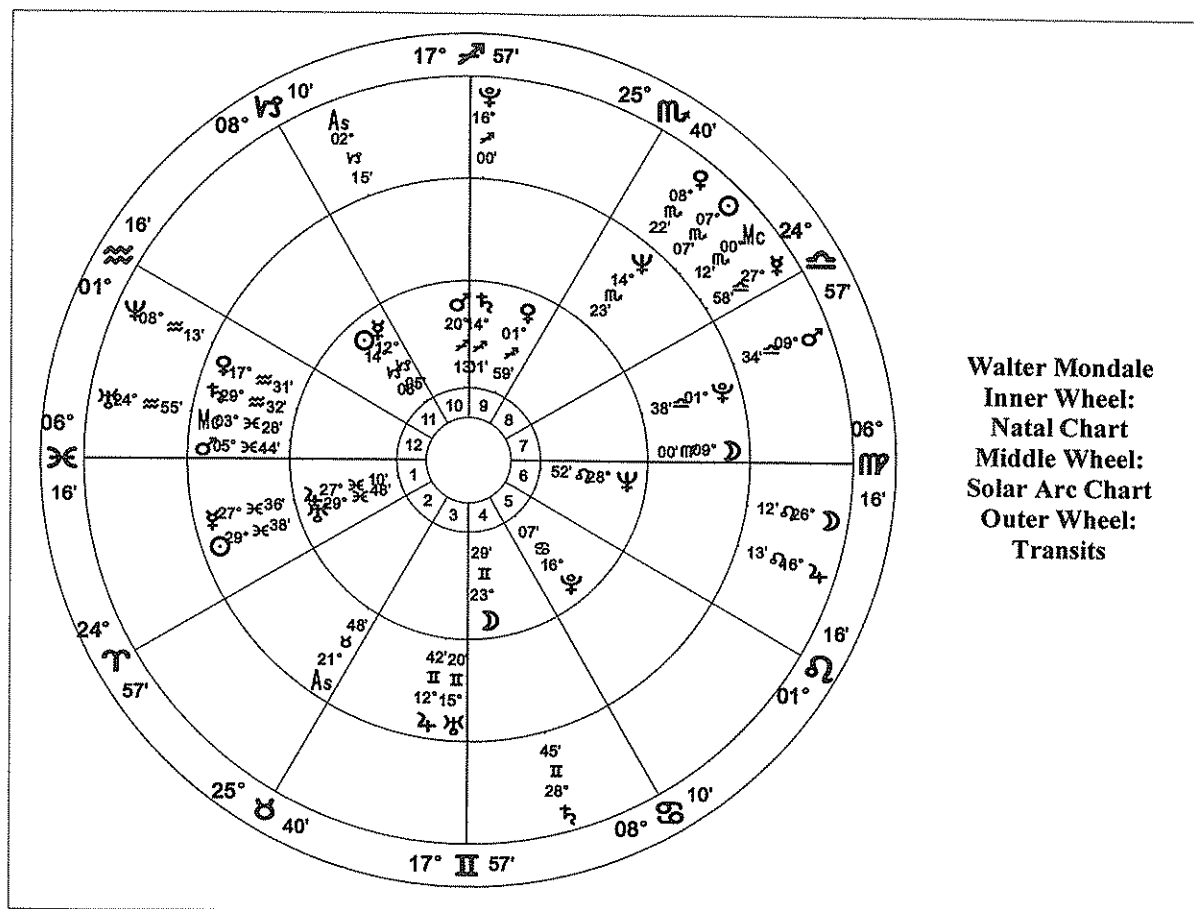
- orb (a)
- Mercury to natal Jupiter, 21' orb (s)
- Mercury to natal Neptune 1° 15' (a)
- Venus to trine North Node 7' (s)
- Mars to conjunct Ascendant 31' (a)
- Jupiter to quincunx Mercury 37' (s)
- Saturn to semisextile Uranus 15' (a)
- Uranus to semisextile Pluto 47' (a)
- Neptune to semisextile Saturn 23' (s)
- Neptune to sextile Sun 18' (s)
- Pluto to sextile Venus 20' (a)
- North Node to square Venus 57' (s)
- Secondary progressions:
- Moon to sextile Mercury

- 57' (a)
- Mercury to square Venus (exact)
- Mercury to sesquiquadrate Pluto 53' (s)
- Mars to trine North Node 15' (a)
- Mars to quincunx Pluto 2' (s)
- Saturn to conjunct Mars 1° 4' (a)
- Midheaven to semisextile Uranus 1° 19' (a)
- Midheaven to oppose Neptune 23' (a)
- Transits:
- Pluto to quincunx Pluto (a)
- Neptune to sesquiquadrate Moon (a)
- Uranus retrograding to trine Moon 1° 28' (a)
- Saturn to sextile Neptune 3' (a)
- Saturn to square Uranus

- 59' (a)
 - Jupiter to semisextile Pluto 7' (a)
- Twenty-six aspects, nearly all within one degree orb! What a list! In addition, Mondale's solar arc Ascendant has just moved into the third house. With this many considerations, I have grouped the bulk of the aspects into lists around three natal chart factors:

Sun Opposition Pluto

The Sun and Pluto are heavily emphasized at this time. Ebertin³ has this to say about Sun/Pluto: "The striving for power, the craving for rulership, the power of attainment." In addition, he lists these probable manifestations: "Sudden advancement in life, the ability to establish and consolidate one's own position as a leader,



the realization of new ideas.” (p. 86) Noel Tyl⁴ puts it this way: “Illumination of power needs, the need to control; new perspectives confirmed in life. Powerful force creates major change in the life; identity change; sudden prominence, exhibitionism.” (p. 385)

We can see that the natal promise for Mondale is powerful. He has the potential to gain a position of rulership (Vice President of the United States). Presumably he has power needs, like the rest of us, and we know he has channeled them effectively in his political life. Now we have an example of a time when “powerful force creates major change.” The death of Senator Wellstone set Mondale on a very different course. “Sudden prominence” is an understatement of the shift that occurred for Mr. Mondale

in the preceding few days and weeks.

How do these changes manifest? The charts indicate a variety of ways:

- Sun to Uranus—It was sudden and totally unexpected.
- Uranus to Pluto—It was a growth opportunity, but not without pain (Wellstone’s death).
- Neptune to Sun—It was a combination of great imagination, sadness and chaotic conditions.
- Pluto to Venus—It called for a strong response from Mondale and his wife.
- Mercury to Pluto—There is a lot to talk about and the potential for public recognition.
- Mars to Pluto—The decision to run demands extraordinary effort over a

very short period of time. There is also a surge of confidence; he is up to the challenge.

- Pluto to Pluto—There is a reinforcement of the natal Sun/Pluto and Mercury/Pluto aspects, giving a jump start to action.
- Jupiter to Pluto—There is a desire to attain this position of power. Ebertin mentions leading an uprising and taking over a campaign this late in the game probably feels a lot like that. I like what Noel Tyl says about Jupiter and Pluto: “The individual has the optimism needed to undertake the venture, and he can see the larger picture.”

So we see that Mondale was born with the potential to greatness and that he is a creative thinker in the bargain. In

late October, a moment arrived when he could choose to run or not. He knew the political advantages to be gained. He would have retained his seniority in the Senate because he previously held the office. This means that, at a critical period in U.S. history, Mondale, if elected, could have chosen his position as chair of influential committees in the Senate and possibly have helped shape U.S. politics for the next six years.

Going back to what Rudhyar had to say about 7 Pisces, I am re-assured about Mondale's character. He has shown himself capable of holding powerful positions in the past, without becoming power-hungry. He has the intellectual ability to think through the difficult variables facing the U.S. and to make his own decisions, instead of rubber-stamping decisions made by others.

Neptune and Ascendant

So what about that Pisces Ascendant and Neptune, its ruler? If you use wide enough orbs, Neptune opposes the Ascendant in the birth chart. I don't use that wide an orb. Neptune is in its detriment by house. Depending which modern astrologer you choose, Neptune is either exalted or in its fall in Leo. Its closest major aspect is the square from Venus. In fact, Venus/Neptune is the closest square in the birth chart, indicating the primary driving force for Mondale. Now for the relevant aspects:

- Mercury Neptune
- Jupiter Mercury
- Neptune Saturn (solar arc) and Saturn to Neptune (transit)

- Ascendant changing house
- Mercury to Venus
- Midheaven to Neptune
- Neptune to Moon

The thing I have learned about Neptune, after watching it for many years, is that this planet promises much but delivers little. We are often deluded by powerful transits that bring very little in the way of actual results. Hence the sixth house Neptune, in late degrees, might not deliver.

Mercury and/or Jupiter

I chose this grouping because solar arc Mercury has just formed a conjunction with Jupiter (within four months), and Jupiter has quincunxed Mercury within six months. While Mercury and Jupiter do not aspect each other in the natal chart, they both aspect Neptune, ruler of the Pisces Ascendant. The complementary solar arc aspects focus on them strongly as well. Mercury and Jupiter together indicate sound intellect and also common sense.

- Progressed Moon sextile to Mercury suggests that Mondale has been active over the recent months, pondering issues, with a good grasp of the significant factors. The lunar aspect, along with progressed Mercury squaring Venus, indicates his association with one or more women. These relationships have been beneficial in shaping his thoughts. He might have been working on writing projects during this time.
- Solar arc Jupiter quincunx Mercury—Adjustments in daily routine are indicated.
- Solar arc Mercury con-

junct Jupiter—The end of something deeply personal and the beginning of something new.

- Secondary progressed Mercury to square Venus—Behind-the-scenes activity challenges Mr. Mondale to take action.
- Secondary progressed Mercury to sesquiquadrate Pluto—Unseen forces create agitation.
- Transiting Jupiter is semisextile Pluto on the above-mentioned date. There is a potential for growth in creative power indicated by this aspect, and it links this group of aspects into the Sun opposite Pluto group discussed above. Thus, the expansive intellectual activity indicated by Mercury and Jupiter is tied directly into awareness of creative potential and power.

Letter of Acceptance

By the time Mondale sent a letter to the Democratic Party saying he would accept the nomination, Jupiter had moved into a remarkable configuration: it was within approaching a sextile to the North Node (1°11' orb) and was approaching a trine to the Midheaven from the sixth house. Jupiter continued to approach the Midheaven trine until election day, when it was within forty-four minutes of the exact aspect!

If we just look at Mr. Mondale's chart and fail to consider the circumstances he found himself in, we might be very certain that he would win the election. In fact, if he had been the candidate all along, he might have won. He would have been able to mount a positive campaign—perhaps the

only positive campaign in this election year!

However, with Senator Wellstone's death, two remarkable problems existed. First, all the ballots in Minnesota had Wellstone's name on them. This required that the ballots be reprinted, and the format was not what Minnesota voters were used to in some cases. Second, tens of thousands of absentee ballots had been cast. With only five or six days before the election, it was not possible for many absentee voters to obtain new ballots and recast their votes. The result was that all of Wellstone's absentee votes were discarded, while the Republican candidate had the benefit of his. Third, Mr. Mondale only had a few days to make his presence known—not enough time to prepare television ads, raise money, travel the state, etc.

Summary

This election has been a lesson in politics for us all. We have seen the chaos caused by the death of a candidate so near election day and we have also seen Mr. Mondale rise to the occasion for the Democratic Party and for Senator Wellstone's surviving family. With Jupiter applying to a trine to the Midheaven on election day, Mr. Mondale could feel fortunate to have been able to participate in the last-minute campaign, and he might also feel he has benefitted from the publicity.

As astrologers, we can learn from this unusual election. The main thing to remember is this: The best chart in the world

cannot overcome desperate circumstances. Some things need time to develop, and jumping in at the last moment might not work out the way we expect. Thus, as counselors, we have to consider the client's circumstances and read the chart according to those indications, as well as the individual astrological indicators.

Chart Data

Walter Mondale, January 5, 1928, 10:30a.m. CST, Ceylon, MN 94W38, 43N32.

Midheaven 17 Sagittarius 57.

Solar arc directed to October 25, 2002 secondary progressed to October 25, 2002, day of Senator Wellstone's death.

Transits to October 30, 2002, 11:30 a.m., Minneapolis, MN, day of acceptance of nomination.

Endnotes

1. Rudhyar, Dane. *An Astrological Mandala*. New York, Random House, 1973.

2. Clement, Stephanie. *Power of the Midheaven*. St. Paul, MN, Llewellyn, 2001.

3. Ebertin, Reinhold. *Combination of Stellar Influences*, Aalen, Ebertin Verlag, 1972.

4. Tyl, Noel, *Solar Arcs*. St. Paul, MN, Llewellyn, 2001.

Stephanie Jean Clement, Ph.D., PMAFA is the author of several books, including *Power of the Midheaven*, *Charting Your Spiritual Path with Astrology and Meditation for Beginners*. She is Llewellyn's acquisitions editor for astrology, and sits on the board of AFA.

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Pallas-Ceres Redux

In my letter commenting on Pessin's article (NCGR Journal, Winter 2000-2001), I attempted to show that charts of the brain-injured have Pallas aspects (natal and transit), as well as aspects with Mercury, Moon and the other traditional significators of the brain. However, because life does not exist in a vacuum, any of these charts will also show activity between many other planets as well, especially the disrupter Uranus, the challenger Saturn or the surgery-rulers Pluto and Mars. What appears to have arisen here is yet another challenge for astrologers to examine their ideas, explanations and assumptions about what constitutes "significance."

In astrology, as in science and "real" life, it is not easy to isolate the determining factors of a situation. Most astrological factors in a birth chart are interconnected. It would be an odd chart indeed that did not show many planets making aspects to something, and the inclusion of asteroids only increases that possibility. In other words, nearly every chart will show some kind of aspect to Mercury or Ceres or Pallas—or whatever. I suspect the reason that charts for people with brain injuries may show natal aspects and transits of Ceres is because Ceres rules situations involving nursing, caretaking and the impact on the family/parents/children of the injured. However, Ceres may not necessarily be the main determining factor which is directly related to the brain event.

Because there is a high probability of finding at least one as-

pect between any planets of choice, we must do more than identify patterns of planetary relationship. We must have (or propose) a viable explanation for why a particular planetary combination is associated with a specific condition or event. In this regard, the support Pessin gave for her argument that Ceres rules the brain was both limited and faulty. Her evidence consisted of four birth charts, and she based her idea on two premises—one mistaken etymological connection and a single, loosely (non-literally) translated Greek word. In contrast, the traditional rulerships of the brain (Sun, Moon, Mercury, Aries) offer more substantial support. It is widely accepted that the Sun rules consciousness, while the Moon rules that which is soft and contained (the brain has the consistency of Jello and is housed within the skull). Mercury is obviously mental, Aries is the head, and both involve speed (the 100 billion neurons which form neural circuits in the brain transmit messages at speeds of 1/10,000th of a second). With Pallas, we have (at least theoretically) a more substantial explanation than Ceres because there is a 2,500-year-old mythological tradition of Pallas being associated with the head.

In order to examine this problem, I decided to perform a systematic study of the charts of people who have suffered from a brain aneurysm. Here is my reasoning: A brain aneurysm occurs when a blood artery is expanded beyond its capacity to contain fluid and then it bursts, releasing blood

into the brain. Astrologically, the symbolism should involve a combination of Mars (which rules blood) and Mercury (which rules arteries or paths of flow; each cubic millimeter of the human brain contains about two miles of neural wiring). Since there is bursting beyond boundaries, we might expect to find aspects between Mars (bursting) and either Saturn (boundaries) or Neptune (beyond boundaries). Loss of consciousness or depletion of mental capability are common symptoms of brain aneurysm, so there might be aspects between Neptune and Sun/Mercury. If Pallas is involved, it might be as a subcategory of Mercury. (I share the view of many astrologers that the asteroids represent subcategories of the broader themes ruled by the major planets.)

One of the interesting facts about brain aneurysm that might be of interest to astrologers is that, according to medical research, many people who experience brain aneurysms were actually born with a tendency to have them. There is an essential weakness already present in the lining of their arteries, so that one day, there is just too much pressure and an artery bursts unexpectedly. This is why it occurs so suddenly among otherwise apparently healthy, young people. Astrologically, this suggests a hidden weakness, perhaps symbolized by natal aspects between Neptune and Sun or Mercury.

For my study, I gathered twenty charts from recent obituaries of people who died from brain aneurysm. With the ex-

ception of one "famous" person, they were all just regular folks. Their ages at death ranged from 23 to 79, although most were in their early forties to early fifties. As I did not have access to exact birth times, I decided not to consider the Moon. I had the birth date and the date of death, but not the onset of the aneurysm for every chart, so I looked only for natal aspects between the planets mentioned above as possible significators (Sun, Mercury, Mars, Saturn, Neptune, Pallas), using very tight orbs for minor aspects and wider orbs for the major aspects. The information included in the box on this page is a summary of significant factors among the 20 charts.

Of a total of 20 charts and the possibility of eight planetary combinations listed above, all 20 charts (100%) had at least three of these combinations. Seventeen charts (85%) had at least four of the combinations, twelve (60%) had at least five of these combinations, four (20%) showed at least six of these combinations, and one chart showed seven of the combinations. These are fairly significant results, and we might conclude that having several of these planetary combinations in a birth chart could form an astrological signature of brain aneurysm.

Incidentally, these same eight planetary combinations

were also present in the charts studied by Pessin. In her posed question chart, both Pallas and Mercury were square Mars, and Saturn at zero Aries was sesquiquadrate Mars. Among the four birth charts she presented, the natal chart of Jim Lewis showed Sun square Mars, and his progressed Mars was sesquiquadrate natal Pallas. The natal chart for Steve shows a Sun-Neptune square and a Mars-Saturn sesquiquadrate, and the chart for his operation showed transiting Neptune sesquiquadrate natal Mercury, and transiting Mars square natal Pallas. In Cindy's natal chart, Pallas in Aries was quincunx Neptune, and Mercury was square Mars. Her solar return showed Pallas conjunct Mercury and square to a Mars-Saturn opposition. Lorraine's natal chart showed Pallas opposed Mercury, and Mars square Neptune. In her aneurysm chart, transiting Pallas and Neptune were conjunct, and both were aspecting her natal Mars and Sun. Her progressed chart showed Mars semisquare natal Sun and also aspecting both natal Mars and natal Neptune. Her progressed Neptune was semi-sextile natal Mercury. Her progressed Mercury was square natal Mercury, and progressed Pallas quincunx natal Mars.

Three of the twenty charts in

my study showed Pallas in Aries, and two had Mars in Aries. There were, of course, many other aspects "going on" in these charts, but as I said, you can find aspects to almost anything, once you look. What must be demonstrated is whether the planetary combinations listed above appear consistently in charts of other aneurysm sufferers and also whether they are more predominant than other planetary combinations. In the ideal study, we would also need a control sample of people who never had (and never will have) an aneurysm or other brain injury. How one could develop such a control sample is an interesting question, since there may be people who die of something else before a potentially weak artery bursts. At any rate, for this study, I also looked at the 20 charts for planetary combinations involving Ceres, and compared them with combinations involving Pallas. I looked for any of the following in combination with either Ceres or Pallas and the Sun and eight major planets: the conjunction, semisextile, semisquare, sextile, square, trine, sesquiquadrate, quincunx and opposition. Here are my results:

In the 20 charts, there were a total of 58 aspects with Ceres; average 2.9 aspects per chart. The most prevalent Ceres com-

<i>Planetary combination</i>	<i>Number of charts with this combination</i>	<i>Most common aspect (number of charts)</i>
Mercury-Neptune	15 (75%)	conjunction (4)
Mars-Saturn	15	square (5)
Mercury-Mars	13	square (4)
Sun-Neptune	12	sesquiquadrate (3)
Pallas-Neptune	12	conjunction (4)
Pallas-Mars	10 (50%)	square (3)
Sun-Mars	9	square (4)
Mars-Neptune	9	square (4)

binations were with Mars (9 charts had a Ceres-Mars aspect), Neptune (9) and Pluto (9). Other Ceres-planet combinations were found in a range from 3 to 7 charts per planet.

Among the same 20 charts, there were a total of 85 aspects with Pallas; average 4.25 aspects per chart. The most prevalent combinations with Pallas were Pallas-Neptune (12 charts), Pallas-Venus (12), Pallas-Jupiter (11) and Pallas-Mars (10). Other Pallas-planet combinations ranged from 8 to 10 charts per planet.

In other words, in the sample used in this study, Pallas was found to be in aspect more often to more planets than Ceres.

Considering the total results of this study, it seems reason-

able to conclude that, in birth charts for people with brain aneurysm, Ceres appears to be a less prominent factor than either Pallas or the traditional planetary rulers of the brain.

Some astrologers might argue that there is more to "significance" or "prominence" in a chart than the number of aspects that a planet makes. Be that as it may, counting aspects to produce statistics is one of the few ways we can come up with empirical evidence. While 20 charts is a small sample (though no smaller than those used in many published scientific tests), I offer this elementary study as a possible beginning for further research on this issue.

Valerie Vaughan

World Continued from Page 31

Donald Rumsfeld, July 9, 1932, Chicago, Illinois, 5:40 p.m.

U.S Revolutionary War, July 6, 1775, 11:00 a.m., LMT, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Hussein Inauguration, July 16, 1979, Baghdad, Iraq, time unavailable

China, October 1, 1949, 3:15 p.m., Beijing, China.

Taiwan/Nationalist China, December 25, 1947, 12:00 a.m., Taipei, Taiwan.

Iran, February 1, 1979, 9:00 a.m., Tehran, Iran.

Philippines, July 4, 1946, 9:26 a.m., Manila, Philippines.

Endnotes

1. Lerner, Mark, "Pluto Triggers the Nuclear Axis: Part I." First published in *Welcome to Planet Earth* in 1993, from <http://www.men.org/greatbear/nuke.html>

2. Espenak, Fred. "Eclipses During 2002." <http://sunearth.nasa.gov/eclipse/OH/OH2002.html>

3. Rosenberg, Diana K. *Workbook of Fixed Stars and Constellations*. 100 La Salle Street #6a, New York, NY 10027

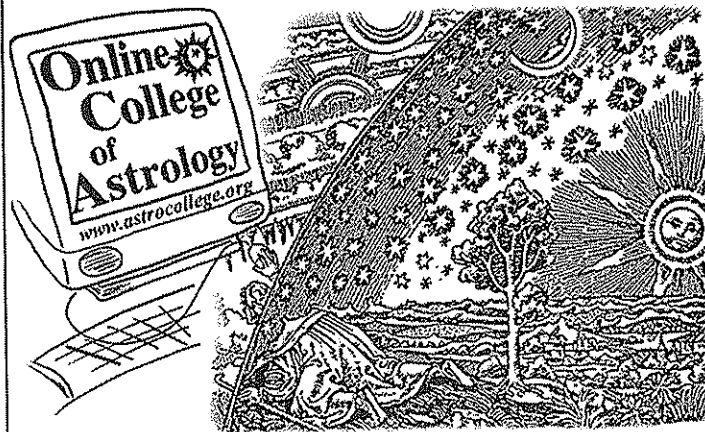
4. Espenak, Fred. "Eclipses During 2003." <http://sunearth.nasa.gov/eclipse/OH/OH2002.html>

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6. Ibid.

7. Tl, Noel. *Solar Arcs*. St. Paul: Llewellyn, 2001, pp. 441 and 444.

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Mercury Continued from Page 16

In mid-December, Mercury will form a semisextile to the United States Ascendant, reminding us of the September 20 square. Mercury also will oppose the Sun and square the Moon, focusing on the Bush Administration—the people in power, the home, family and, especially, women. President Bush and his advisors will be forced to turn their attention to domestic matters at this time.

The September 20 square promises change—at least some shake-up in leadership. The mood of the nation in December depends on the success of any political moves in September. For example, if oil prices are even slightly down, then optimism will be higher, and people will therefore be willing to spend more during the holidays.

My natural tendency is to look at any aspect and try to find the most optimistic interpretation possible. My personal belief is that war is not the best solution to international conflict. At the international level, just like at the individual level, I believe that intelligent discussion and compassionate action are better. I find no justification for many of the acts that our political leaders advocate. But then I also believe that in a world where there is huge wealth concentrated in the hands of a few people, there is enough to have life without hunger for all the people on the planet.

In looking at the Mercury stations for 2003, it is apparent that optimism is not the keynote for the year. Anyone with planets close to eleven and twelve degrees in the birth chart will feel the strong effects of Mercury stations in 2003.

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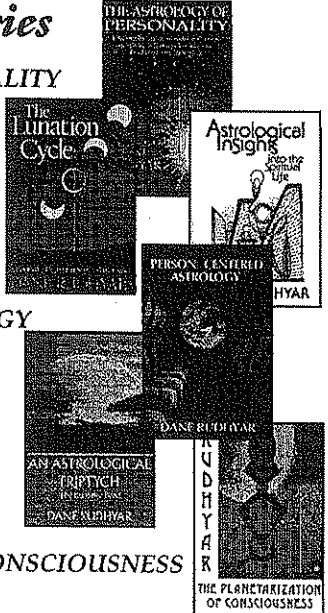
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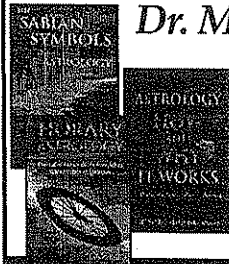
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The above examples from the charts of the United States and President Bush show how difficult a year can be when station after station aspects the planets and angles in your chart.

Many astrologers have investigated the chart of the United States in profound depth, and there is a wealth of information out there on the subject. This article isolates one factor for closer examination. The stations do not exist independent of the rest of the charts and must be considered within the overall configura-

tion of transits. Still, this look at Mercury's stationary positions shows how a year in the life of an individual or a nation can be forecast using the transit of the "messenger of the gods." What do the gods really have in store for us for 2003?

Only time will tell. However, they have arranged this extra little bit of Mercury retrograde in 2003 to remind us that events move forward, and then we get the opportunity to review our place in the Universe once more.

Solstice Continued from Page 10

offer thanks to Spirit for this night as you visualize the light you have formed spreading in all directions across the Earth. If you are with a group, share food and beverage together by wishing each other blessings of "never hunger" and "never thirst." If you are alone, you can still enjoy this blessing, offering it to yourself and to the world. Include other traditions, if you wish. My Circle will be burning that Yule Log, sharing experiences with each other, and at closing, we'll return the last bit of liquid and the last piece of food back to Mother Earth, with our thanks. Holding hands one last time, resolve to carry the feelings of peace created in your Circle as you go back to your daily world, remembering to act on those feelings in all that you do and in interaction with all whom you meet.

Believe that on this Winter Solstice you have been—and will continue to be—a significant force for peace on Earth!

Endnotes

1. Reinhold Ebertin. *The Combination of Stellar Influences*.

Ebertin-Verlag 1940, English translation published by AFA, Tempe AZ, www.astrologers.com.

2. Alfred Witte, founder of the Hamburg School, more popularly known as Uranian astrology. The system, developed circa World War I, is the precursor of the greatly simplified Cosmobiology system developed circa World War II. Witte invented the 90° dial, and plotted ephemerides for the first four of the eight transneptunians, after long observation that energy seemed to emit from certain points where no known planet orbited. A protégée, Sieggryn, later added ephemerides for the second group of four.

3. These interpretations are from Witte's book, *Rules for Planetary Pictures*, the Uranian guide comparable to *Combination of Stellar Influences*. "Rules" is published in English translation by Penelope Publications, 937 Crestview Circle, Weston, Florida 33327, www.uranianastrologer.com.

4. Well-known Uranian astrologer and teacher, president of Astrolabe, elected member NCGR Board.

* * *

Maria Kay Simms, CA NCGR, PMAFA, currently serves as Chair of NCGR. In the midst of a successful art career, Maria began studying astrology in 1973. By the late 1970s, astrology had become her primary career. Her book *Dial Detective* is considered a classic for learning the 90° dial. Other books include *Your Magical Child*, *Future Signs* and *The Witch's Cricle*. Her most recent book, *A Time for Magick*, on quick electional timing and ritual to focus intent, includes new research on the value of planetary hours. As priestess and credentialed minister, Maria has led many large group rituals, both Wiccan and for those of varied spiritual paths. Formerly president of Astro Communications Services of San Diego, Maria now resides in seacoast New Hampshire, where she continues to write, and has recently resumed her art. Her monthly column on lunar phases and other work can be seen on www.starcraftsob.com. Contact her at mariasimms@attbi.com

Peace Continued from Page 23

Just as Uranus is associated with surprises, it is also an energy that makes us alert and aware. The winter of 2002 highlights the potential for a major change of attitude and focus, perhaps from enlightening information. The American people could suddenly come to a new awareness about their collective power.

When it becomes the focus

of individuals to be peaceful and support a peaceful economy, and to meditate for peace collectively, then the government that represents the people will create the design for peace. Pluto can birth the individual's ability to influence the choices government makes. Uranus can stimulate a collective awareness that brings change at the grassroots level, where govern-

ment leaders really come from. The solar arc movements represent the slow developmental process of the people as government. The transits increase the pulse of tension that brings action. The United States could become a world leader of peace among nations, just as it did in 1919. If the people want peace, they can create it. The time for new vision is now.

Redefining Continued from Page 42

trologers justify rejections by offering little to answer their challenges. Specialists from other sciences who see value in astrology define it by their own criteria. Astrologers find such definitions misleading, inaccurate or incomplete, but do not seriously reply, perhaps because there is no accepted system to use in comparison.

Additionally, astrologers display a lack of agreement on astrology's definition of purpose, which presents to others a vague idea of the nature of the system, further alienating any possible widespread acceptance. The failure of astrologers to provide rules of procedure for the definitions of their system components, such as the planets, confuses not only the opponents of astrology, but astrologers as well. So, astrologers answer the rejection of

astrology with vague apologetic statements such as: "The nature of astrology (and astrologers) is to remain a renegade science," or "I use astrology because it works, even though I can't prove to you why or how."

If we really want astrology accepted by other sciences, why not investigate how the system of astrology correlates with other systems by which sciences are validated? Astrology is such a multi-dimensional, comprehensive system that it could encompass several classification systems, and this investigation will certainly take a large measure of time. This article simply suggests a place to begin.

In defining the planets, we are really defining subsets of ourselves.⁶ In the end, we will have to do the work, for our critics will not do it for us.

Endnotes

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2. Leonard Shloain. *The Alphabet Versus The Goddess: The Conflict Between Word and Image*. Viking-The Penguin Group, New York, 1998.

3. Alfred Korzybski. *Science and Sanity*. The International Non-Aristotelian Library Publishing Co., Lakeville, Connecticut, 1973.

4. Roger N. Shepard. *Mindsights*. W.H. Freeman & Co., New York, 1990, p. 203.

5. Therese Hance Braithwaite. *Functionally Oriented Instruction*. Unicorn Press, Los Angeles, 1976.

6. M.C. Escher. *Drawing Hands*. 1948 lithograph, drawn when Uranus was in Gemini.

Passions Continued from Page 51

never say what he needed to say. He mastered marble, made it sparkle and become transcendent by addressing active intent. He acquired his mastery in a way true to his deepest nature: through the processing of intense emotion. Thus, behind the veil of invisibility, behind the stage curtain, the marble speaks for itself.

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