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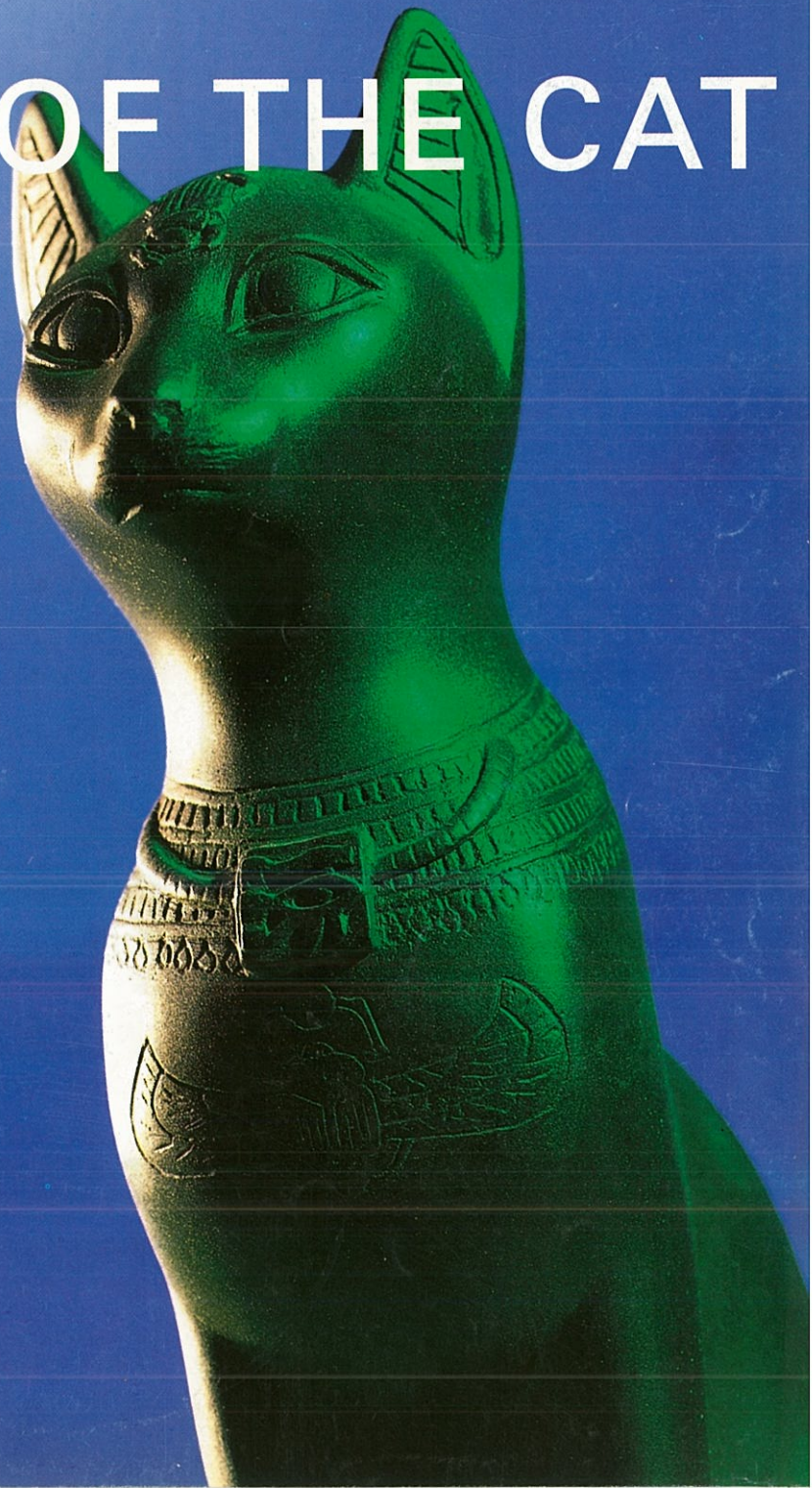
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CONTENTS

APRIL 1997 VOLUME 63 NUMBER 4

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7 Cult of the Cat by Lynne North

The cat is probably the most independent and self-empowering creature on Earth. Certainly its qualities have led it to be venerated since ancient times.

12 Face the Future by David Stockdale

Chinese physiognomy suggests that facial moles and blemishes can foretell the future of the bearer.

13 News & Views

20 April Sun Day Symbols by Joan Revill

Another helping in our occasional series which looks at the symbolism attributed to each day, month by month.

24 What's in Mind by Anthony North

Could it be that what we take for paranormal happenings are really explainable by what goes on amid the complexities of our brains.

28 Hare and Hounds by Marion Pearce

Strange as it may seem, the hare, and its association with the goddess Oestre from which the Christian Spring festival takes its name, is the origin of the Easter Bunny!

27 The Tarot by John Christopher Travers

This month we look at the Six of Swords — a card which, within its immediately obvious message of sadness, loss and possible bereavement, contains hope for the future.

April Astrology Section

The country's month ahead i, Forecasts for the month: Aries and Taurus ii; Gemini and Cancer iii; Leo and Virgo iv; Libra and Scorpio v; Sagittarius and Capricorn vi; Aquarius and Pisces vii; Gardening by Lunar Lore, The Planets This Month, An Introduction to the Aspectarian, vii; Aspectarian ix; The Monarchy: Past, Present and Future by Alexander Markin, x; Retrograde Mercury in the Birth Chart by Joy Hicklin-Bailey, xiii; This month's sign of the zodiac by Mercedes DuQuesne xiv; Birthday Forecast xvi.

Regular Features

Graphology 10, Palmistry 18, Reader Services 32, Occult Question Time 52, Dream Meanings 63, Readers' Letters/Personal Classifieds 70, Book Reviews 71, Subscription Offer 75.

55 Life is but a Dream by David Amerland

Scientists tell us that we have been dreaming for the last 135 million years. But what's it all about is still, apparently, a mystery, though there is now a way to gain answers from one's nocturnal flights of the mind.

58 Love at First Bite by Matt Tyler

Current evidence suggests that, behind the mixture of history and legend, there may have been more than a grain of truth in stories of vampires if not for quite the same reason as is commonly supposed.

60 Over and Under by Russell Warren

All sorts of theories have been put forward to explain UFOs. Could it possibly be that they actually come from the lost continent of Atlantis?

65 In Search of Camelot by Paul Harris

Nobody can be absolutely sure that Camelot actually existed, let alone just where it was located. But there are many theories.

68 Latent Talents by Joanne Lord

We tend to think of paranormal powers as being restricted to a few privileged people. But perhaps we are all similarly gifted if we did but know it.

Front Cover

In ancient Egypt the cat was revered in the form of the goddess Bast and severe penalties were in force for anyone who harmed one of her children.

See page 7.

Cover photography by Tony Petch.
Statue of Bast kindly loaned by
Moonstone of Croydon.

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WINNING WITH WITCHCRAFT

Although my book is called "Winning With Witchcraft" it is *not a book for witches*. Fully fledged witches will not find anything really new in its pages and indeed they may disapprove of many of the things written in it. They will not like the fact that I have removed the "mystery" of witchcraft, dispensing with all the complicated paraphernalia usually associated with the Craft, in order to demonstrate to the ordinary person that to practise it is really very simple indeed. My book is definitely only for the everyday lay woman or man; the person who is fascinated by witchcraft and its possibilities, but is either too busy or apprehensive to actually get involved in it.

HOW TO WIN IN LIFE

I do not in my book bog the reader down with the *theory or history* of witchcraft. That can be found in other books. No, my work is an "action" book, one of practice rather than speculation. In it I show you how to *win in life with witchcraft*. There are two sides, or dimensions, to witchcraft: the religious, spiritual dimension, and the dynamic "active" dimension, i.e. that of deliberately manipulating events and circumstances for one's ends. My book is about this second, exciting dimension. But before I continue let me tell you something about myself. My name is Jean Williams, and for the last twenty years I have been actively practising witchcraft in the pursuit of securing personal objectives. I am a perfectly ordinary woman, not possessing special psychic powers of any kind. Neither am I particularly bright or good looking.

I mention these points because I want to show you that the wonderful, fast acting powers of witchcraft can be at *anyone's* command, regardless of ability, *once the secret of witchcraft is understood*. I have never belonged to a coven or occult group of any kind. *There is nothing special that you have "to be", or no one special you have to know, in order for you to begin working wonders with witchcraft from the very moment you know what to do.*

AMAZING RESULTS

Immediately you have finished reading my book you can begin casting magic witchcraft spells to obtain your desire. And you don't have to worry about trying to obtain difficult to get herbs or special equipment; almost all of the rituals I give involve very little or no paraphernalia, and what things you may have to get can be purchased easily and inexpensively. For twenty years I have been "winning the game of life" through witchcraft. With my book you can start doing the very same the minute you have read it.

With simple witchcraft spells and rituals I show how you can make any person desire you *immediately* . . . compel a reluctant lover to marry you . . . stop the romantic interest of someone you would rather be without. With witchcraft you can forget about being a *loser* in love, in money, or anything else.

By using witchcraft I show how you can actually *take control* of the "forces of chance" and make *everything you touch seemingly turn to gold*. You will be able to play a bingo game, place a bet, enter any contest, and *know* that you will win.

You can have any man or woman you want, or any luxury you choose. With witchcraft these things *become automatic* when you use the appropriate spells or rituals to obtain them. I can say all this with absolute confidence for this has been my experience from practising witchcraft. I have benefited handsomely and I seek only the pleasure of sharing my knowledge with you. Witchcraft, I believe, should not be the jealously guarded secret of a selfish few, but should be made available to all who seek a better and more fulfilling life.

WHAT WITCHCRAFT CAN BRING YOU

In my book you read about:

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- An ultra-simple ritual for keeping your partner true
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- A simple step you can take for stopping any witch from invisibly spying on you!
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- How to use The Witchcraft Circle to break disease and ill health and regain perfect well being.

THE SECRET SCIENCE OF NATURE

It is unfortunate that many people associate witchcraft with devil-worship. Most witches don't even *believe* in the Devil! I certainly don't. Witchcraft is not Black Magic. But, fortunately, witchcraft can be used to *protect oneself from Black Magic*. My book shows how you can quickly and easily *break any evil curse*, and shows also how you can *forever make yourself safe from harm and evil of every kind*.

Some people also harbour the idea that witchcraft is just "superstitious nonsense"; in fact quite the opposite is true. Witchcraft is the *secret science of nature*. It could not possibly work if it was merely based on old wives' tales. Nor is witchcraft just "positive thinking". I know lots of people who use positive thinking and yet they are losers in life. Witchcraft is more dynamic. With witchcraft you don't, and *cannot*, fail; *you only succeed and win*.

THE ULTIMATE WITCHCRAFT RITUAL

The very end of my book I have saved for what I consider to be the *ultimate* ritual, at least in material terms; a ritual that *unleashes a tremendous torrent of opportunity, riches and good fortune*. I consider this ritual to be little short of sensational, but I will be frank with you. I have only ever used it once. It worked so well that I just couldn't handle all the good things that came from it. I am not one of those people who can handle immediate, or even gradual, wealth. But if you are one of those people who believe they can then you should try this ritual. It could change your life!

I do not claim my book to be the best or finest written on the subject. But I do claim it to be the most *practical*. If you are one of those people who has always wanted to try their hand at witchcraft, but were too busy or apprehensive to do so then my book is for you. It is written for you, and I promise you that what you pay for it will be the best spent money of your life. Witchcraft works. Those who practise it know. They are life's winners.

It is suggested that the cat first walked into man's life a good 5,000 years ago. A late-comer, nevertheless, to domesticity in comparison to other domesticated animals, has the cat ever fully become tamed? Our feline friends, no matter how loving they may be, still manage to maintain their regal independence. Maybe this has something to do with their deified past.

As ancient man learned to grow crops and cereals, and had the sense to store them from season to season to help him through the bad times, the local cat walked casually but irrevocably into man's life as the all-important mouser. This worked well for both parties because the stores were protected and the cat well fed.

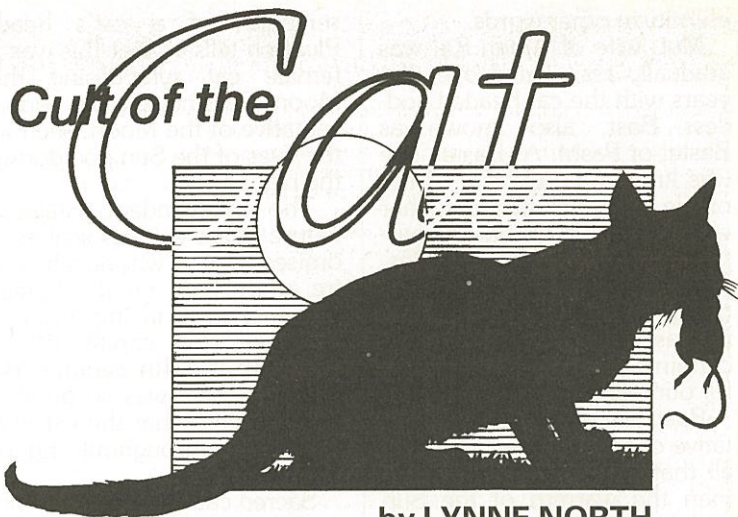
Of the Middle Eastern countries where cereal growing was first established, the cat cannot be said to have gained more importance anywhere than in ancient Egypt where the initial signs of the cat's domestication began to be seen. The value of the cat did not stop at being a mouser, however.

To early man, though some gods were given human attributes, many were seen as animalistic. Since the gods were envisioned as at least part creature, the animals they resembled were in turn regarded as representative of the deities and therefore endowed with powers of their own.

Respect

Ancient man bore a healthy respect born of fear for these creatures, which in turn led to a form of veneration for the animal itself. Of the large number of animals who were worshipped as gods by the ancient Egyptians none gained more importance than the cat. Different creatures may have been worshipped in varying localities but the cat was venerated all over Egypt.

The cat has seen many sides of fortune during its long association with man, both good



by LYNNE NORTH

The strange but lasting relationship between mankind and feline goes way back into our chequered history.

and bad, but most cats believed to have a connection to mystery and magic are said to be direct descendants of *Felis Lybica*, the sacred cat of the Egyptians.

The honour achieved by the cat in Egypt is quite astonishing, with several of the most important deities being visualised as cat-shaped or at least cat-headed. The most important of these, Ra, the Sun god and King of the Gods, was depicted as a cat a good 3,000 years ago.

This, however, was only the male cat's role in ancient Egypt. His female counterpart first represented the three-fold Mother Goddess (Mother, Lover and Destroyer) Mut, who later became Bast.

The *Book of the Dead*, ritually buried with the deceased to help guide them into the next world where they would live in much the same way as in the mortal realm, recounts the myth of the 'Great Cat Ra.'

A papyrus preserved in the British Museum has been dated to around 1580 BC, but the actual book is said to be from 5650 BC. The preserved copy

shows a large cat holding a python's head with its left forepaw and a knife in the right with which it is cutting into the snake that symbolises Apep: Ra's arch enemy.

Ra, representative of all that is good, is said to have won his victory over Apep and the forces of evil at Heliopolis where Ra was worshipped in the form of a cat. Royal tombs at Thebes also bore references to the Great Cat Ra.

Eclipse

To the Egyptians, an eclipse of the Sun was a re-enactment of the great struggle between Ra (light) and Apep (dark). Hopefully anticipating the return of the Sun which would symbolise Ra's victory, they watched the eclipse while shaking their sistra (musical instruments) to frighten the python away.

As with many opposites, one was seen as unable to survive without the other. Like two sides of the same coin, the Egyptians saw both the curled up cat and the coiled snake as representations of the circle with no beginning and no end:

eternity in other words.

Mut, wife of Amen Ra, was gradually assimilated over the years with the cat-headed goddess Bast, also known as Bastet or Pasht. As Bastet, she was known as mistress of the oracle and cats sacred to her were used for divinatory purposes in some of her temples. However, the true oracular cat of Egypt was a lion. From her role as Pasht, we have almost certainly derived our pet name for our feline friends, puss.

Bast, like Mut, was representative of fertility, maternity and all that is feminine. She gave man the warmth of the Sun and the great gift of happiness. Yet she also had a sinister side represented by a dark derivation of Mut, Sekhmet the goddess of death, war and sickness. Sekhmet was usually depicted as lion-headed but sometimes had the head of a cat.

Bast began to be worshipped as a local deity but rose in power until her cult was popular throughout Egypt and beyond. Shishak I played no little part in this rise. Once Prince of Bubastis, the centre of Bast worship, Shishak became Pharaoh in the 22nd dynasty and thus Bast's worship spread far and wide.

Indeed, by the time Greek travellers began to spend time in Egypt it had become one of the most important cults there. Amazingly, Bast's popularity spread so widely that the cult still had followers in 392 AD when paganism was suppressed in Rome.

To the Egyptians, Bast represented all that was attractive about animal passion. She had disturbing, slanting eyes and all the elegance and abandon of a cat. It is claimed that Egyptian women longed to possess her feline beauty and fascination.

Bast loved music and to dance and was often depicted holding a sistrum; a musical instrument symbolising fruitfulness. More often than not, her sistrum was topped by a repre-

sentation of a cat's head. Plutarch tells us that this was a female cat symbolising the Moon. Bast herself was representative of the Moon, seen as the eyes of the Sun god during the night hours.

The independent, stalking nature of the cat was well epitomised by Bast whose cult centre at Bubastis on the Lower Nile increased in importance, becoming the capital of all Egypt by the 4th century. By this time Bast was so great a national deity that the cat was venerated throughout Egypt and beyond.

Sacred cats were kept at this centre and were tended day and night by priests in Bast's sanctuary. The predictions made by the priests based on the merest stretch, purr or whisker twitch of these cats were in great demand.

Masks

At sacred ceremonies, the priests wore cat masks to represent the great goddess. The greatest of these festivals — a lavish event, full of fun, noise, wine and a huge procession — was attended by people from all over the country.

The second goddess linked with the Sun god Ra is Sekhmet, sometimes known as Mau or Mew. However, despite being the Fire and Lion goddess, she was sometimes depicted with the head of a cat rather than being lion-headed and was also associated with the Moon: the planet said in early astrology to have ruler-ship over cats and women.

Not surprisingly, given the religious importance of the Egyptian cat culture, a series of taboos and beliefs arose concerning their worship and protection. Household cats, or pets as we would now call them, were treated with almost the same reverence as the sacred cats of Bast. In fact, the Egyptians' treatment of cats led to the first domesticated felines, a practice that later spread into Europe and even-

tually to the rest of the world.

In case of fire in the home, the cat had to be rescued before any person or possession. When a family cat died a natural death, the members of the household shaved off their eyebrows as a sign of mourning and lamented loudly for hours. Complex funeral rites were later performed and the animal buried in a sacred necropolis.

Esteem

Indeed, the cat was held in such high esteem that anyone who killed one was sentenced to death. Anyone finding a dead cat in the street would run wildly proclaiming his/her innocence lest he be lynched before a trial could take place.

This was the unfortunate fate of a Roman soldier who accidentally killed a cat while in Egypt. It is said that this incident helped to begin the war between Egypt and Rome that only ended with the deaths of Anthony and Cleopatra after the Battle of Actium.

The Egyptians' determination to protect the cat was partly responsible for them losing the war with Persia. During the campaign that culminated in the crowning of Camyses of Persia in 529 BC, the Egyptians were besieged by Persian troops at Pelusium.

They were faring well until the Persian general ordered his men to round up as many cats as they could find. At the next attack, the Persians drove a mob of terrified cats before them and each soldier carried one. Rather than risk injury to one of their sacred animals, the Egyptians surrendered.

At Egyptian funerals it was customary to place a small ivory wand depicting a cat in the coffin. This was to guard the soul on its journey between this world and the next.

Archaeological digs have also unearthed many rings and amulets bearing cat emblems, as well as cat and kitten figurines of crystal, stone, marble, pottery and porcelain.

Whether these were merely decorative or regarded as good luck symbols can only be a matter of conjecture.

When cats died, the procedures carried out were almost as complex as those for important people. The cat was carefully mummified with eyes closed and its whiskers smoothed back on its face. It was then wound in tight wrappings, sometimes criss-crossed in two colours.

Other details vary from region to region but included sewing on fake ears to make the cat look alert or sewing on linen eyes and nostrils. The cat was then embalmed and, if the owner could afford it, was placed in a cat-shaped casket with eyes of black obsidian or crystal, or in a glass, wood or bronze sarcophagus.

Necropolis

Where possible, the remains were then taken or sent to be piously buried at Bubastis where many cat statues were set up, donated and consecrated by wealthy Egyptians. When the necropolis behind the Temple of Bubastis was excavated in the 19th century it revealed approximately 300,000 embalmed and mummified cats.

A similar find was a cemetery of over 50,000 mummified cats accidentally discovered by a farmer at Tel Beni-Hassan. Even a few mummified mice were found, obviously intended as food for the cats in their next life.

Because of the vast numbers, many of the bodies were sold for fertiliser. However, fortunately for Egyptologists, others found their way to museums where they could provide us with much information about the ancient Egyptians and their reverence for cats.

Many drawings, figurines and paintings from the period have come to light over the years to reaffirm the importance of the cat in ancient Egyptian culture. Papyrus

drawings from approximately 1100 BC show cats performing human tasks such as defending a fort from marauding mice using bows and arrows. More realistically, cats feature in domestic and banquet scenes painted on the walls of Egyptian tombs.

One dating back to around 2600 BC shows a cat wearing a collar, suggesting that even then cats, though maybe wild, were beginning their domestication. According to some paintings, cats were also trained to retrieve game as hunting dogs do today.

As society developed and old ideas and customs began to fade into the mists of time, so religious beliefs were changed or overtaken. Ra became Osiris, to whom the souls of the dead were taken. He was no longer represented by a cat although, strangely enough, it was still strongly believed that cats served as the soul's guide to the next life.

Bast evolved into Isis, Osiris' wife, and though she was now worshipped in human form she was still depicted holding a sistrum topped by a cat's head. A reverence so all-pervading

could not be eliminated altogether merely by the passage of time.

Some claim that the Abyssinian cat that reached our shores from Ethiopia in the 1860s is a direct descendant of the sacred cat of ancient Egypt. Whether this is fact or not, there is certainly a strong resemblance between this breed and cats depicted in paintings and sculptures of so many centuries ago.

The cat has certainly come a long way since it first walked unexpectedly and unbidden into the granaries of ancient man. Apart from its abilities as a hunter, it has been both feared and respected for an amazing range of powers and sacred attributes.

The cat now is simply a much loved member of the family, we no longer worship it. Or do we? Look at its stance, its stare and its ability to wrap us mere mortals around its sacred paw. Cats are no longer revered, so it is said, but does the cat know that!



GRAPHOLOGY

by PETER MARSHALL

WARNING WORDS

Handwriting can be very useful as a signal for possible troubles regarding health and personal psychology.

When we write, the speed and pressure displays how we are feeling, our inner disposition and the manner in which we think. All the movements of the pen create a unique diagram of temperament and character.

The three examples shown here exhibit the psychological structure of the writers concerned. The first leans to the right at an angle of 45° which is a sign of extravert tendencies. Although the actual width of the letter-forms is very compressed and squeezed, the inclination towards the outside environment is still influential.

This narrowness of all the

letters implies restraint, self-control and discipline. Therefore we know the outside world attracts but caution and control prevent too much involvement. The height of the middle zone is tall at 6mm so we know that self-esteem and ego functioning is not under-active.

Upper and lower extensions are broadly well-defined and this registers a thinking process directed to the spheres of intellect and instinctual matters. These strokes hardly have any or, at times, thin loops, alluding to a certain degree of independence. The lower extensions point to a realistic and practical appreciation of instinctual urges and material-

ism: both with that facet of independence.

The tall upward movements verify interest in self-development, reasoning and subjects of an aspirational nature. This writer thinks in the world of spirit and abstract but keeps both feet firmly on the ground of earthly actuality.

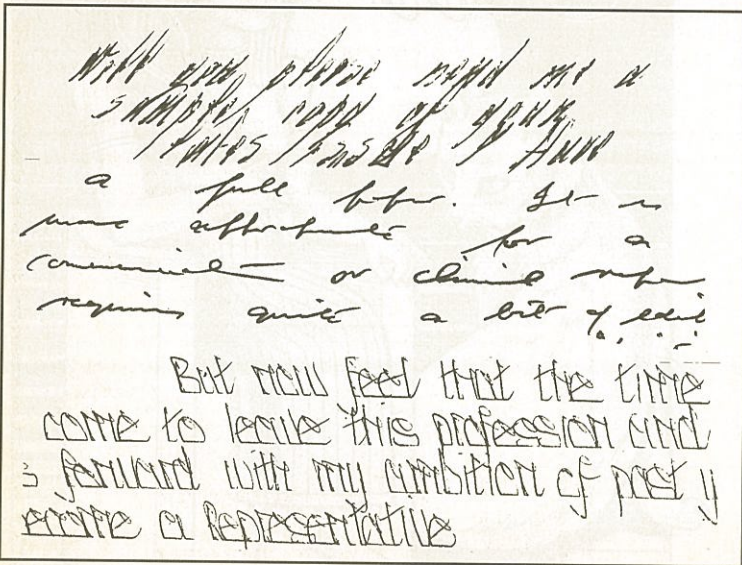
The owner of the second sample thinks in a speedy manner and has no time for unnecessary or fussy preliminaries. The forms of connection are thready. These writers like to know what is going on around them and are clever enough to manipulate situations to keep themselves away from becoming involved in other people's happenings.

They have the gift of taking the first opportunity for self-gain and advancement. Their minds are usually open but unpredictable.

This second writer possesses an instinctively sharp and spontaneous perception. On the negative side there is an avoidance of taking firm and definite stands.

The quick grasp of essentials and a smart accommodation to the viewpoints of others in their daily dealings enables thread writers to move with comparative ease within the community. Adaptability is a trait here which can be used to the writer's own advantage in numerous circumstances. Threadlike writing appears smooth and the owners are often the same.

Another negative implication is elusiveness. Consequently we are dealing with a pliable and elastic type of mental make-up. But one must not see only the negative traits as



(continued on page 52)

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FACE THE FUTURE

Chinese physiognomists, who study such matters, claim that it can and have built a whole science around it.

A mole, or naevus to use the correct medical term, is a harmless, pigmented, often hairy spot on the surface of the skin which appears at birth or in later in life and which can also disappear spontaneously. Chinese physiognomists claim that the position of such moles is designed by nature to reflect certain permanent or changing aspects of a person's character, personality and future.

A mole appearing on the forehead, for instance, is often said to indicate someone who will be unlikely to get on very well with people. But if the mole should later shrink or disappear, it means that the person has now changed and will live in greater harmony with everyone.

This is very comparable to the beliefs of palmists regarding lines appearing, changing and disappearing on the palms of the hands. In both cases a person's character, personality and future are not, as it were, fixed but can be changed through free will.

Is there any truth to these beliefs? I personally believe there is. But to help you to decide for yourself, I have constructed a special chart and table for you to refer to in order to test the method's accuracy - or otherwise.

Simply locate the position of any facial mole you may have on the chart, note the number nearest to it, then discover its traditional, basic meaning in the table.

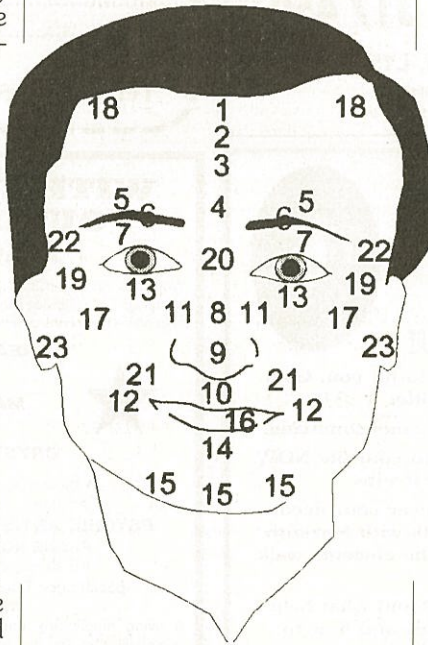
As for myself, I have a mole at the number 21 position on the chart and this signifies leg

Can a simple facial mole reveal your personality and future?

by
DAVID STOCKDALE

problems and a risk of drowning. This is very interesting because I was knocked down by a car recently and now have a bent and painful leg to cope with for the rest of my life.

So, as that part proved accurate, I am now wondering if I am going to drown. You see, I live in the LAKE District!



Mole positions

- 1, 2, 3 You are unlikely to get on well with those in authority or with older people.
- 4 You have intelligence but may not always use it. You could be difficult to live with.
- 5 You have talents but may waste them. Your parents could be partly to blame.
- 6 You are talented, creative

and could become successful and lucky money-wise.

7 You could be argumentative with your family and suffer from a lack of money.

8 You could experience financial problems. Your love life could become troubled.

9 You may suddenly have to face a major dilemma in your life or sexual problems.

10 You will have few or no male children and few sons-in-law.

11 You could suffer from ill-health if you do not take more care of yourself.

12 You may be overly fond of food and drink and this could bring misfortune.

13 You may experience disharmony within your family. Children could cause worry.

14 You should take care what you eat, otherwise you could become unwell.

15 Your standard of living may fluctuate and you may move house often.

16 You could be over-indulgent regarding food, drink and sex and suffer as a result.

17 You should take special care that you do not lose your good name.

18 You should take care when travelling abroad, otherwise difficulties could arise.

19 You could get a reputation for being flighty if you are not careful.

20 You may allow certain temptations to land you in trouble. Look after your health.

21 You may experience leg problems. Exercise caution where there is a risk of drowning.

22 You should take care whenever travelling, otherwise problems could occur.

23 You are an intelligent, knowledgeable, noble person. (Must be why you read PREDICTION!)

NEWS & VIEWS

April election

A reader and predictive astrologer, Henry Jackson of Eastbourne, has informed us that the Conservatives will lose the General Election which will take place on April 10th 1997. However, Labour will not have an overall majority and will join hands with another party, most likely the Liberal Democrats, to form a coalition government but Mr Jackson suggests that Paddy Ashdown should not make any agreements or deals with Tony Blair as yet.

Of course, by the time you read this at least part of Mr Jackson's prediction may have proved accurate — or otherwise. But, just for the record, he phoned in the above predictions on January 30th this year.

Keeping fit

Flint House, Lewes, Sussex, is running 10 weekly classes in Yoga (Tuesdays or Thursdays) and/or Tai Chi (Wednesday evenings) starting in April. These are tailored to different levels of ability and costs vary accordingly but fall within the £30-£40 range. For programme details ☎ 01273 473388.

New ventures

A specialist New Age shop opened in Harrow town centre (opp St George's Centre) last year. Called Bell Book & Candle, it stocks a wide range of products including crystals, jewellery, books, tapes, candles, Tarots, etc. Opening hours are 10-6pm, Monday to Saturday, and the shop is situated at 15 Springfield Road, Harrow (☎ 0181 861 1145), so go along and see for yourself.

The British Association for Vedic Astrology (BAVA) is a non-profit making organisation

which aims to promote knowledge of this ancient form of Indian astrology. For those interested in data, the official foundation took place at Romsey, Hampshire, at 22.12 hours on December 16th 1996.

If you would like discover more about BAVA, contact Komilla Sutton or Andrew Foss at 2 Tee Court, Romsey, Hants SO51 8GY or call ☎ 01794 524178. Starting April, BAVA will hold regular open meetings at the Urania Trust (396 Caledonian Road, London 1N 1DN) the second Sunday of every month at 1pm (cost £3/£4 non-members).

A Tarot and spiritual healing centre has been established in Saxmundham, Suffolk, offering consultations, courses, evening events and Summer workshops. For more information on the centre and its activities contact Jan on ☎ 01728 454 345 or Angelique ☎ 01728 602 731 or write to 60 Fairfield Road, Saxmundham, IP17 1BB.

Conferences

The SSPP Conference (Society for the Study of Physiological Patterns) takes place, as usual, at Old Jordans, Beaconsfield, May 16th-18th. The varied and lively programme covers a wide range of topics including astrology, palmistry, Chinese divination, graphology, numerology etc and for the first time, of course, the Mary Anderson Memorial lecture by Marjorie Orr.

Other speakers include John Beck, Christopher Jones, Johan Hjelmborg and others; plus complete audience participation in the opening evening's co-relation exercise — always great fun — and a chance to purchase specialist products

and books or have a personal reading. Drop-in charges start at £16/£18 non-members for the Friday evening or £36/£39 per day up to £125/£138 fully residential. Ever popular, places are limited and booking closes April 14th, so be quick. For details/booking contact The Conference Secretary SSPP, Mrs Lindel Graham, 57 Huntingfield Road, Roehampton, London SW15 5EA (☎ 0181-876 7544 7.30pm-9.30pm only).

The Art of the Consultation, on June 7th, is organised by the Association of Professional Astrologers (APA), though non-members are welcome.

Speakers will discuss topics pertaining to the working life of a professional astrologer. The venue is a beautiful country house just 10 minutes from Birmingham NEC railway station. For further details contact Maureen Ravenhall, Secretary APA, 80 High Street, Wargrave, Berks RG10 8GE.

Return fire

If you had wondered what had happened to *Beltane Fire*, it's back in publication after an absence of several years. With articles about or by Kevin Carlyon and his new High Priestess Sandie Jeffery, this quarterly costs £1.25 per issue from 12 Helena Court, Pevensey Road, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex TN38 0LY (☎ 01424 437969).

Tarot evenings

The Professional Tarot Society runs regular lectures, talks and discussions covering different aspects of the Tarot on the first Friday of each month at the Theosophical Society headquarters, 50 Gloucester Place,

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NEWS & VIEWS

London W1, 6.30pm to 9pm. Admission is £3.50.

On the agenda for April's meeting (4th) are *The Origins of the Tarot* with Gareth Medway and *The Moon as Arcanum* with Sue Jolly; there is a Beltane celebration scheduled for May 2nd. For details of forthcoming events, courses and/or the PTS call ☎ 0171-792 0681.

Networking

Broom Cupboard is the apt title of a multi-media quarterly newsletter which provides a forum for authors, poets, musicians, publishers, editors, etc in the esoteric market. Launched last Autumn, there are now two issues available and the third will be published at the Spring Equinox.

Lively and interesting, a real pot-pourri of news, views, reviews, hints and useful information, *Broom Cupboard* welcomes contributions, so why not send an SSAE to the editor at BCM-Writer, 27 Old Gloucester Street, London WC1N 3XX for a sample copy (£1.50) or further details.

On course

The Arthur Findlay College, which is situated in the impressive but restful setting of Stansted Hall, Essex, is a major centre of learning for those interested in Spiritualism and related subjects. Available now is their *1997 Programme*, detailing long and short-stay courses on a wide range of subjects including mediumship, hypnosis, aromatherapy, astrology, spiritual healing, etc plus special events such as family weekends and retreats.

For a copy, simply send a PO/cheque for £1 to The

Arthur Findlay College, Stansted Hall, Stansted, Essex CM24 8UD or call ☎ 01279 813636/FAX 01279 816025 for further details.

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), often referred to simply as the Hare Krishna movement, has also just published its prospectus offering a wide choice of regular evening lectures, one-day events, weekend workshops, residential courses, open days and retreats.

All take place at Bhaktivedanta Manor, set in rural Hertfordshire but with easy access by road and rail. For full programme or more information contact Sita Rama Das, Bhaktivedanta Manor, Lechmore Heath, Nr Watford, Herts WD2 8EP (☎ 01923 857244/FAX 01923 856269).

The Pearl Healing Centre offers on-going courses in colour, crystal and sound healing. The introductory courses (which are NVQ orientated) can be followed by advanced training leading to the award of a diploma. The courses are, therefore, structured for all levels of competence.

To find out more, contact Rose and Derek Palmer, The Pearl Healing Centre, 37 Carew Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 7RE (☎ 0181-689 1771).

And, for readers wanting 'something in the North West,' the James Associates offer non-residential courses in colour therapy as well as esoteric workshops in Kirkham, Lancs. The former comprises a series of six Foundation Course weekends and successful candidates can then take the Advanced Course at the Hygeia College in Gloucestershire. The latter con-

sists of Sunday sessions on various aspects of colour healing.

For full details contact Jean and Tony Greenslade, 4 Sunningdale Close, Kirkham, Preston, Lancs PR4 2TA (☎ 01772 671128).

Pagan paths

Pagan Paths Pathworkings, a series of guided meditations written and narrated by Kate West, is just one of the products available from Pagan Media who offer a range of vocal and music tapes/CDs on pagan themes. Also, just published, is a book on the rebirth of the Craft, *Born in Albion*, by David Williams and Kate West (£11.95).

For more details of what is available, write to Pagan Media Ltd, Ceridwyn House, Percival Lane, Runcorn WA7 4UX or call ☎ 01928 580916/FAX 01928 770910.

Coming of age

It's amazing to think that the *Mind, Body, Spirit Festival* is celebrating its 21st year in 1997. It offers the usual comprehensive selection of stalls stocking a wide variety of products, healing, full workshop and lecture programme, free performances and demonstrations.

The Festival opens on Spring Bank Holiday weekend, May 24th and runs until June 1st at The Royal Horticultural Halls, London SW1, 10-7pm daily except May 27th-30th when opening hours are 11-6pm. Weekend admittance at the door is £8/£5 concessions and accompanied children under 15 free; midweek days all half-price and there are discounts for advance bookings. For a full programme and advance booking form call Freephone 0800 626676.

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The Master Grimoire of Magickal Rites and Ceremonies will probably be the most controversial document we have ever offered to the public. Not least because it contains some of the **most powerful magickal formulae of all time**. But haven't other books made similar claims? you may ask. True, but they were ordinary books. This is a grimoire, in fact a "MASTER GRIMOIRE". And there is a big difference between an ordinary "book" and a "grimoire". A grimoire, simply defined, is a "working manual of the practice of The Secret Arts". It is **not** an ordinary self-help or "positive thinking" book. It is an **exceedingly precious magickal document**, and magickally so important that we have confidentially sealed every copy of this Master Grimoire with a strict notice expressly forbidding anyone to open it other than the person who has ordered it.

One or two "modern grimoires" have appeared in recent years with magickal formulae of worthwhile use. These grimoires were on open sale in many shops. They were very good and news reached us about how they had helped many people. But "The Master Grimoire of Magickal Rites & Ceremonies" is not for sale in bookshops and **never will be**. And unlike other modern grimoires it is a **precisely serious document** for the aspiring magician who **SEEKS GENUINE INSTANT CHANGES IN HIS CIRCUMSTANCES**. But this is not to say that one must already be a practising magician in order to perform the rites and ceremonies given in this grimoire. It is inconsequential whether you are already a practitioner of the magickal arts or not. All that matters is your **sincerity**. But sincerity in **what? Sincerity to seek whatever you desire in life...power...money...a better life...prestige...spiritual advancement**.

The Master Grimoire is above all else a **practical document**. It presents the world of **ceremonial magick** in a practical manner. It is a thoroughly unique document in that it is **THE ONLY WORK EVER TO REVEAL THE SECRETS OF THE OLD, BANNED GRIMOIRES**, and present them in a **TOTALLY WORKABLE AND PRACTICAL MANNER FOR THE MODERN PRACTITIONER**. That is another reason why this work will attract controversy. Many magicians, of the selfish variety, will detest the fact that the age old secrets of powerful grimoires are being revealed in this document. So called "occultists" will declare that such knowledge should not be made known so easily. These people have their **own selfish reasons**, for being jealous of the precious knowledge now revealed to the layman in this work. This Master Grimoire is a defiance of such controversy and small-mindedness! Such esoteric knowledge, its author believes, **can be of stupendous benefit for so many and should not remain the special property of a very tiny, greedy minority**.

This Master Grimoire is a work consisting primarily of EGYPTIAN AND CABALLISTIC MAGICK; the **two most potent systems of magick in existence**. Much has been written about these systems, but little has **ever been given away** as to how they could or can be used for the attainment of practical objectives. Hypocritical modern occultists say that it is "wrong to use these powers for the pursuit of money, power, etc." whilst conveniently ignoring the fact that **THE ANCIENT MAGICIANS USED SUCH POWERS FOR THESE VERY PURPOSES!**

Belong and hypocrisy is kept out of this Master Grimoire. It is a **practical, modern grimoire** for the man and woman of today. In fact we think you will find it to be the **most revealing magickal document that you will have ever read**. Whilst giving the TRUE SECRETS OF CHANGING SITUATIONS THROUGH CEREMONIAL MAGICK it also explains the "why" and "how" of magickal operation. It demolishes the traditional myths surrounding "white" and "black" magick; and reveals so much concerning the philosophical aspects of magickal practice that may even cause some "old hands" at magick to re-examine their beliefs and attitudes! The philosophical aspects of The Master Grimoire are related only to the **practical applications of the magickal rites and ceremonies that it contains**. This is not a scholarly work. It is utterly down to earth and practical. And it contains the **most powerful magickal formulae ever revealed** (much of it, incidentally, being very simple to perform: not involving hours of preparing strange herbs, etc., as found in many occult books). It is not a question of whether these rites and ceremonies "will work or not", but whether **one actually wants what one desires in the first place**. The author cautions the reader on this point. Do not use an Egyptian rite for prosperity unless you **really want prosperity**; do not use a caballistic ceremony to gain the love of another unless you **really want that love**. This may seem unnecessary and even silly advice, but one is dealing with **POTENT MAGICKAL FORCES**, never revealed in full to the layman before, **THAT ARE AS AUTOMATIC AS DAY FOLLOWS NIGHT IN THE EFFECTS THAT THEY CREATE**. You may read this grimoire for magickal inspiration and knowledge, but do not apply its contents unless you are **absolutely sure and sincere that you want the things that you seek**. The author of The Master Grimoire is **Nathan Elkana**, a multi-millionaire with worldwide business interests. Of course this is not his real name; a true ceremonial magician will never reveal his true identity as secrecy in all matters magickal is always essential. He has studied and practised ceremonial magick for over 20 years. Before he began practising magick he was totally broke and without a friend in the world. That his fortunes should change so radically following his initiation into ceremonial magick can certainly be no coincidence. "To practice Egyptian and Caballistic Magick is to practice the art of becoming rich and powerful. Only a fool or a saint, once possessing such powerful magickal formulae, would turn his back on the fabulous dividends to be obtained from practising such magick". With the full confidence of a Master Adept he reveals the awesome secrets of Egyptian and Caballistic Magick in a direct, "prove it for yourself" manner. "It is not necessary for me to spend chapter upon chapter trying to convince the reader of the powers of ceremonial magick. One week of practising the Secret Arts will convince one a thousandfold of the powerful efficacy of these formulae". Nathan Elkana's work is carefully documented with many true stories of how people in apparently hopeless and desperate situations transformed their plight through the invincible powers of ceremonial magick. But the case histories of this grimoire are small compared to the wealth of vitally important instruction and information given.

A brief description of the contents is as follows:

- In nine days flat a desperate unemployed man receives £2,800 "out of the blue", a tax rebate, and a lucrative job offer, after performing the Money Magick Rite.
- In one month a man lands a £5,000 lottery win and gets a job promotion worth £1,600.
- A young waitress, not particularly bright or attractive, tries Caballistic Magick in an ambitious bid for wealth. Two years later she has become a millionaire, owns several restaurants, and marries a rich banker.
- A special money rite for "immediate day-to-day" situations. Extremely simple it is for those desirous of meeting short-term financial obligations.
- Unveiled: Caballistic Secrets of Moses and Solomon.
- The truth about **astral travelling**. Many authors complicate this subject, others over-simplify it: the result is that few ever achieve it. The Master Grimoire explains **exactly how it is achieved**, and reveals the **secret magickal rite** for attaining a successful astral projection within one week of beginning the instructions.
- Astral travelling is **absolutely safe**, even fun. **Practical** uses are illustrated by true stories such as the one of how a woman satisfied her suspicions about her husband's nocturnal activities during his business trips abroad.
- A woman, disillusioned with the non-result of spells to get her lover back, turns to the powerful forces of a Caballistic Rite. Within days he is back. This particular rite should only be used when all else has failed. It is particularly powerful and fast-working.
- A young ambitious man feels "blocked" from getting ahead by those above him. The Caballistic Power and Domination Rite changes the situation overnight.
- Tired of her husband's bullying a woman finds a highly effective magickal formula for dealing with him.
- Beauty, intelligence, money are no match for winning the opposite sex compared to the awesome powers of Caballistic Magick! Highly potent formulae are shown for getting any beautiful women or handsome man.
- An ancient Egyptian rite, 3000 years old, miraculously saves a businessman from bankruptcy!
- A young man, always taken for granted by people, tries magick and almost overnight finds himself the centre of admiration and respect! Even his marriage was saved as his wife began to see him in a new light.
- The **Enemy-Defeating Rite**: for taking care of those who unfairly oppose you.
- A middle-aged widow, in financial difficulty, unexpectedly gets and weds a wealthy bachelor.
- **To Compel a Stranger to Introduce Himself/Herself** Caballistic ceremony: it builds an **irresistibly magnetic-compelling effect** on the person you wish to influence. Perhaps not "ethical", but if you really want someone this will work for you.
- **Make Someone Contact You Rite**: can be used for all sorts of situations, including re-awakening the interest and passions of an old flame!
- The "**Bombshell**" **Venus Love Ceremony**: it enabled one girl to get her boyfriend back from a rival, and persuaded him to marry her immediately! Another woman used it on her always "too busy" husband and found him turn into a hot latin lover!
- A woman, plain and unattractive, found her true Soul Mate and became the envy of her more attractive sisters.
- A middle-aged man, distraught at his wife walking out on him, turns to ceremonial magick. Within a week she is at the door.
- **The magick power of talismanic seals**. Plenty of books abound on this subject, most of them full of theory and speculation. In The Master Grimoire you get the know-how of "Caballistic magick forces" and you are shown how to **instantly use talismans** to change your luck and fortune. Avoiding the complications of most books. The Master Grimoire shows how to **immediately "charge" magick talismans to help you study better, pass exams, possess lustful effect on the opposite sex, gain frequent wins at bingo and other games of chance, attract good luck in all undertakings, gain physical protection wherever you go**, and much more. The Master Grimoire is priceless for just this one chapter alone!
- **How to use magickal ritual to heal yourself and others**. Demonstrates the powerful healing methods of ceremonial magick. A woman who had suffered for years without relief from a painful stomach ulcer suddenly finds pains greatly reduced after trying magick. A month later her doctor pronounced her completely healed. Even more amazing stories of miraculous healings of "hopeless" cases are related!
- **A fabulous ancient beauty rite**: a woman in her mid 30's uses it and finds facial lines receding. Four years later they still haven't reappeared! An unattractive man uses it and suddenly finds himself the centre of female attention.
- The **sensational Ancient Youth Ceremony**: partially revealed in other grimoires, but here it is in its **complete form** for the first time! This is a centuries old jealously guarded magickal secret, and like the other rites and ceremonies is **very easy to perform!** Case histories include an elderly man who gains incredible virility; a woman loses weight and feels 25 years younger - even attracting the attention of younger men; a middle-aged divorcee finds herself transformed, facial lines receded, hair texture stronger; but firmer, and as an exciting "bonus" acquires an adoring young lover!
- **Evil-crushing magickal ceremonies that reverse psychic attack**, and create total invisible protection for yourself, for loved ones, and property!
- **Master Grimoire techniques that triple the power, speed, and effect of all your magickal workings**.

The Master Grimoire of Magickal Rites & Ceremonies is a 240-page book made of the finest materials for the use of a lifetime. So precious and sought after are its contents that we believe future generations would be ready to pay thousands! For as long as it remains in print by Finbar the price remains **£19.95** post paid. Overseas send £24.95 for air mail. Send to: **Finbar International (P), Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QQ**. Delivery within ten days; if in hurry write "PRIORITY" on face of envelope and add 50p. Callers call collect at 113 Dover Rd, Folkestone (Mon.-Fri. 8.30-5.30).

NEWS & VIEWS

Diary Dates

March 29th-31st. Festival of Holistic Living at Battersea Grand Hall, Town Hall Road, Battersea, London SW11. 10am-6pm; £4.90/£3.90. For details contact Brainwave at 126 Links Road, Tooting, London, SW17 9ER or phone ☎ 0181-677 8000.

March 30th-April 5th. Awareness & Spiritual Balance with Chris Bachelor and Duncan Bicket at Tre-Ysgawen Hall, Capel Coch, Llangefni, Anglesey, N. Wales, LL77 7UR. Fully residential (single supplement £40). For programme/bookings call ☎ 01248 750750.

April 4th. Return to the Garden of Eden with Anne Passhier for BAPS West Wickham Branch at 52 Bolderwood Way, West Wickham, Kent. 7.45-10.30pm; £2/£3 non-members (proof required). Details call Alice Evans on ☎ 0181-653 7993.

4th. Yi Ching — The Oracle of Loose Change with Adam Fronteras for BAPS Southwest Branch at The Grange, Clyst Heath, Woodwater Lane, Exeter, Devon. Starts 7.30pm; £3/£2 non-members. Call Sue Lilly ☎ 01392 832005 for details.

5th-6th. Natural Healing Exhibition for the Mind, Body & Soul at the Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre, Beetons Way, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. 10am-6pm daily; £3. Details call ☎ 01206 795866.

6th-12th. The Harvest of the Spirit with Trevor Riches at Tre-Ysgawen Hall, Anglesey (see March 30th). Fully residential £320. Bookings/details call ☎ 01248 750750.

8th. Fixed Stars with Ron Gwyn for the Bromley Astrological Association. Small Hall, Bromley Central Library, High St, Bromley. 7.30-10pm; £1/£3 non-members. Enquiries to Dione Smith ☎ 0181-464 2097.

11th. Egyptology with Malcolm Stewart for BAPS South Norwood Branch at 43 Wharmcliffe Gardens, South Norwood, London, SE25. 7.45-10.30pm; £2 members/£3 non-members (proof required). Details ☎ 0181-689 3949.

11th-13th. Mystics and Scientists 20th Anniversary Conference. Guest speakers include David Lorimer, Rupert Sheldrake, Warren Kenton and others at King Alfred's College, Winchester,

Hants. Residential/non-residential rates from £133. Bookings/programme details call ☎ 01333 340490.

11th-13th. The Marriage of Sun and Moon with Jay Ramsey and Carole Bruce at Flint House, 41 High St, Lewes, E. Sussex. Friday 7.30-9.30pm; Saturday/Sunday 10am-5.30pm; £75. For more details call ☎ 01273 473388.

13th-19th. Trance. Mediumistic/spiritual development course with Muriel Tennant, Eileen Mitchamson and Glyn Edwards at Tre-Ysgawen Hall, Anglesey (see March 30th). Fully residential £320. Details/bookings call ☎ 01248 750750.

18th. Second Aid. Dealing with inner and outer change with Rose-Marie Amoroso for BAPS Woodside Green Branch at 132 Woodside Green, South Norwood, London, SE25. 7.45-10.30pm; £2/£3 non-members (proof required). Details ☎ 0181 653 7993.

19th-20th. UFO '97. A weekend of interplanetary awareness including close encounters, abductions, sightings, crop circles and much more at Hourne Farm, Steel Cross, Crowborough, East Sussex. 10am-9pm Saturday/10am-6pm Sunday. £60 residential/£20 daily/concessions available. Details ☎ 01474 823967.

19th-20th. Rock 'N' Gem Show at Kempton Park Racecourse. Exhibitions, demonstrations, talks; parking and refreshments available. 10am-5pm; £2/£1.50 OAPs/£1 children 8-16. Details ☎ 01628 21697.

19th-20th. Natural Healing Exhibition for the Mind, Body & Soul at the Moat Park Leisure Centre, Maidstone, Kent. 10-6pm daily. £3. Details ☎ 01206 795866.

19th-20th. The International Cross Colour Healing Weekend Workshop at Silver Wings Healing & Enlightenment Centre, The Vines, Robbs Lane, Outwell, Wisbech, Cambs PE14 8PN. Details call June on ☎ 01945 773806 (early booking recommended).

20th One-Day Holistic/Spiritual Seminar with Paul Crowther, Don Galloway and others for the Lynwood Fellowship at Golf Hotel, Woodhall Spa, Nr Horncastle, Lincs. 10-5pm; £25 inc light lunch/refreshments. Bookings/details contact Mrs R. Pearson, 36 Lady Francis Drive,

Market Rasen, Lincoln, Lincs LN8 3JJ or call ☎ 01673 842256.

20th. Intuitive Tarot with Celia Crawford at Flint House, 41 High St, Lewes, E. Sussex, BN7 2LU. 10.30-4.30pm; £25. Details ☎ 01273 473388.

20th. Relaxation. Meditation and gentle exercise to relieve stress led by Tony Greenslade at the Victoria Sports and Leisure Club Function Room, Promenade, Southport, Merseyside. 10.30-4.30pm. Details ☎ 01772 671128.

20th-26th. The Song Within with Mike Rowlands, Brenda Lawrence and John Lawrence at Tre-Ysgawen Hall, Anglesey (see March 30th). Fully residential £320. Bookings/details ☎ 01248 750750.

20th-27th. Spiritualist Friendship Week at The Riviera Chalet Hotel, Weymouth, Dorset. Guest speakers/lecturers, demonstrations, live evening entertainment; fully residential £188. Details from Betty Sadler on ☎ 01684 562162.

April 25th-27th. The 21st Annual Irish Astrological Association Conference at Bellinter House, Bellinter, Naven, Co Meath, Ireland (Dublin 30 miles). Fully residential/daily rates start £120/£50; early booking recommended. Details IAA, 193 Lower Rathmines Rd, Dublin 6, Ireland (☎ 00353-1 2989755/FAX 00353-45 871677/ email larc@iol.ie

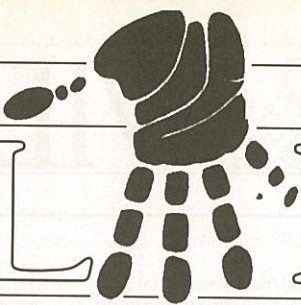
25th. An Evening of Mediumship with Simon James at Totton Spiritualist Church, 8 Rumbridge Street, Totton, Nr Southampton. 7.30-9.00pm; £5. To book call ☎ 01703 511011.

26th. Presentation & Demonstration of Spiritual Healing with Ray and Joan Branch at Totton Spiritualist Church (address above). 7.30-9.00pm; £5 (limited spaces). Bookings ☎ 01703 511011.

26th-27th. Crystal Healing Workshop with John and Ann Cooper at The Frontia, Complementary Health Care Centre, 4 Path Road, Worcester. £30 (£15 per day). Details phone Fiona or Rita on ☎ 0181686 0558.

27th. A New Perspective with Kirlian Photography with Nigel and Susan Garion-Hutchings at Flint House, Lewes 10-4.30pm; £30. (see 11th-13th/20th or call ☎ 01273 473388).

PALMISTRY



by PETER WEST

New Discoveries

I always feel a little guilty with this kind of title. Plenty of 'new ideas' are not so much that as rediscovered thoughts from long, long ago.

In the 1960s there was a plethora of alleged new thinking on the skin patterns. Many palmists jumped on this bandwagon without as much as a basic check to see if writer A or author B had, indeed, found something worth writing about: something properly tested and proven beyond any reasonable doubt.

Research on any subject takes a long time to produce results that can be used properly and safely. Here is an example of what I mean.

Some 30-odd years or so ago it had been noticed that some people, when at a bus/coach station, on a station platform or an airport lounge and who obviously had not met for a fairly long time, greeted friends, lovers or relatives in one of two ways.

The first type, despite the obvious emotional overtones of a reunion, seemed unable to let themselves go and greet loved ones with hugs and kisses and tears. They held back. They seemed unable or unwilling to exhibit private emotion in a public place. For most an awkward handshake sufficed.

The second type were the complete opposite. They let out whoops of joy, jumped up and down, hugged, cried and kissed each other with much abandon. There was no hold-

ing back, they were spontaneous and obviously uncaring of others witnessing all this private emotion made in a public place. They would then go off together, all talking and crying at once - happy and with no reserve at all.

The first group did not all have square or rectangular hands, the hallmark of emotional reserve. Nor did the second group all have round or conic hands, a sure sign of emotional spontaneity. So began a lengthy period of study.

Many prints were amassed that were eventually sorted into several groups until, at long last, there were only two. With the help of many willing research teams what began as a study finally ended in reasonably clear-cut conclusions. Eventually, the main contributory factor in the hand for this particular phenomenon seemed to have been isolated.

Look at the first two illustrations and you will see two different types of skin pattern immediately above the end of the heart line on the mount of Mercury (Figs 1 and 2). Where there is a definite arch in the pattern at this point the personality has great difficulty in expressing emotion physically in public and may even be slightly inhibited in private.

There seems to be difficulty

in trusting others, perhaps because of a fear of betrayal or ridicule, even in gentle bantering. It is rare to see these people link arms or even hold hands with a partner while out in public. In some cases it would have to be very special for them to do so.

Should the skin pattern simply sweep smoothly over the palm to the edge of the hand there are few, if any, inhibitions when it comes to exhibiting the subject's real feelings in public or in private. These particular features in the skin pattern when found on a firm, square hand seem to exert a quite different effect than if found on a soft, conic one.

The square hand suggests the subject may be slightly emotionally reserved anyway. The soft conic hand indicates an emotionally open type. These two new suggestions in regard to the skin pattern will, therefore, enhance (or inhibit) the subject's emotional expression accordingly.

When researching new ideas, the golden rule of palmistry must be observed: no single feature, however strong it may appear, should ever be taken in isolation. How, then, can palmists justify such a new idea based on a single feature?

When a palmist assesses a hand he or she has to interpret many single individual features in the hand and collate them. This is the real art of synthesis. Each detail, mark and shape is noted, weighted and converted into a coherent report, verbal or otherwise, and the findings conveyed to the subject.

Once this is done, any or all of the individual component points are then open for dis-

cussion. So, when a new idea is put forward, much effort and energy will be put into recognising not only where the new feature is found but also what it means on a particular type of hand as well.

Please keep all this carefully in mind as we turn to yet another rather new idea involving skin pattern interpretation, this time on the thumbs and index fingers.

The thumbs

A particularly cold, aggressive nature together with an apparent lack of feeling may be indicated by a number of factors. A short and straight heart line lying high on the top of the palm, few lines, top-heavy thumbs or a Simian line (the head and heart lines combined) crossing over the palm, to

name but a few.

It is suggested that when the skin pattern has 'head to head' loops around the base of the thumb above or below the Family Ring it may accentuate a cold aggressive nature emphasised by a lack of feeling (Fig 3). Either of these two markings supported by a heavy longitudinal line, or lines, from the top or middle phalange of the thumb to the Family Ring enhances the interpretation. If the line crosses the ring the nature will be very cold indeed (Fig 4).

The index finger

Horizontal ridges on the middle and lower phalanges in the skin pattern are not often seen on either of the first fingers; if anything, any ridging or lines here are usually longitudi-

nal and suggest a mental rather than a physical tiredness usually caused by burning the candle at both ends (Fig 4). It is now thought that horizontal ridging here can also refer to a lack of feeling.

When found on the left-hand first finger only there may be a slight streak of cruelty in the make-up. Certainly, if the lower phalange is slightly over developed the nature will be more selfish than average. All manner of self interests will come first with such subjects and this would be emphasised if found on both index fingers.

Readers are invited to experiment with these new suggestions. If you find you can confirm the ideas and would care to write in with examples, I shall be pleased to hear from you.

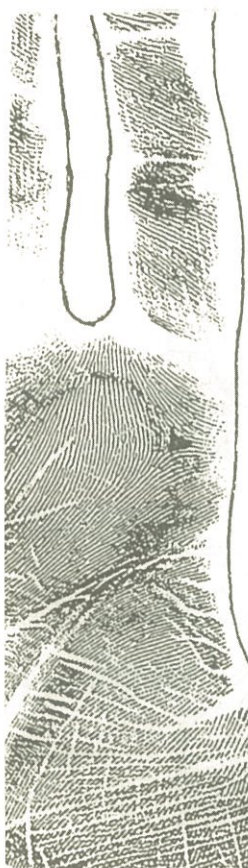


Figure 1

Figure 4

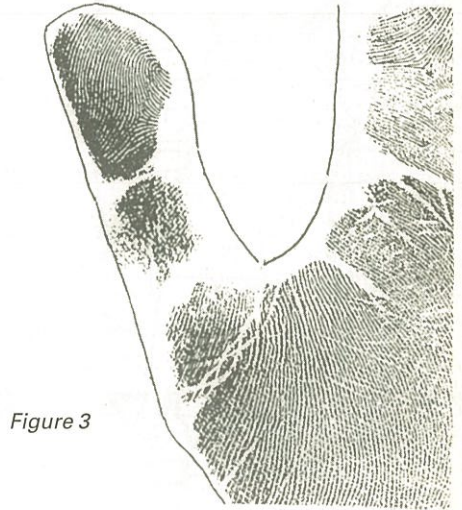


Figure 3

Figure 2



April SUN DAY SYMBOLS



This is the seventh in our birthday symbolism series and it must be time to waive the tedious explanations. It's only necessary to know that, for reasons beyond astrologers' control, the reading for the day before or after your April birthday may be more appropriate to you. Convert your birthday to GMT if born abroad as this may make a day's difference to begin with anyway.

1st (and latecomers from 31st March) *A fairground distorting mirror which magnifies the viewer into frightening proportions.*

Certainly not April Fools! A birthday for the iron-willed, the dominating, autocratic, even brutal. A dark skein runs through the destiny, perhaps 'brought over.' They have huge appetites for life and throw themselves into whatever they undertake. Energetic, ambitious workers. The creative are good at caricature and satire. Often child prodigies who are pushed by their parents or they are obliged to take on responsibility when very young. The most successful are accused of getting too big for their boots. Men are unlucky with women.

2nd *A sunbaked Moroccan street, steps lead down to dark basements.*

Their positive love of life has a reverse side — a morbid fear of the dark, disease and death (or a horrified fascination with them). Their lives are crowded and adventurous. They prefer travel to domesticity, laugh a lot, are sexually attractive and have many friends, yet they can offend nearly anyone with occasional unexpected pugnacity. Distinctive voices. The stage, music, art, politics are possible avenues to success. Girls are particularly strong, forthright characters.

3rd *Schoolchildren descend on old-fashioned tuck shop.*

The young person's birthday. Early promise but many

distractions hinder progress. They enjoy parties with lots of loud percussion music, laced with quantities of junk food, drink and the wrong people. Sporty. Tireless. For those prepared to stick at it the industrial world is a good training ground. They are show-offs wanting always to be at the centre of attention whether it's favourable or not. Greedy for everything.

4th *A Salvation Army lass remonstrates with a gang of skinheads trying to overturn a fancy foreign car; a stray dog forages for scraps in a nearby dustbin.*

Men are macho, aggressively working class. Girls are exceptionally tough or have to shoulder their menfolks' burdens. The really unlucky are victims of violence or become involved in hazardous situations for which they may be partly to blame. They can be outrageous but often champion the dispossessed, outcast and humble. Relationships are stormy. Often an unlikely religious connection but it must be admitted that most of them worship their cars above all else.

5th *12 lords a-leaping, 11 ladies dancing, 10 pipers piping, 9 drummers drumming.*

Good sense of rhythm and movement. The gifted are musicians and dancers. Others just like to be on the move, especially in fast cars. Flyaway, racing types. Often precocious themselves they retain sympathy for the younger generation who take them as role models. Girls are pleasing; men can be vehement, passionate and anarchic; but they are brave and brush off hostility.

6th *An express train roars into a tunnel — but doesn't come out!*

Difficult characters in early years. Noisy, rebellious, rough — it doesn't do to cross them. They play according to their own rules. Music and age may soothe their savage breasts.

They enjoy baffling others with their mood changes, secretiveness and their occasional brilliant ideas. Never underestimate them. Distinctive voices, usually raw and cutting. They like travelling by train, sensing the early romance and excitement of the railway. Perhaps they were there. There's a lot of unexpectedness about them. Devotees of *X-Files*-like entertainment.

7th *Young people crowd into a coffee shop.*

Bright as buttons. They love arguments and no-holds-barred discussions on politics and current events. They can be very wounding to the sensitive. As they mature they calm down and become almost disappointingly staid but they have their memories!

8th *An exploding shell. They get into fights and collect bloody noses.*

Often in the wrong but their courage and energy have to be applauded. Some are parties to epic legal battles. They stand out in any crowd. Spunky, dynamic, effervescent humour. They never seem to sleep. Sexually intense. There are times when there is something chilling about them.

9th *An ancient book with heavy clasps; only the bravest or most foolhardy would dare open it.*

Something happens to Natives when young which is traumatic. May relate to previous incarnation, distinct memories of which remain. They are unusual or unbiddable with a secretive side which leads them to join occult societies or obscure religions. Most are happy in museums, libraries and poking around secondhand bookstalls. Medical or military connections. The single ones keep cats.

10th *A man shouting at a mob.*

A hard birthday. Life is a struggle run on rigid lines. Natives have to confront the sav-

age and primitive which, in fact, may turn out to be a strand in their own natures needing to be dealt with. They are plain speaking, devoid of conceit and pomposity, vigorous and masculine, tending to the Left. Even the apparently charming girls are steel underneath. They attack and are attacked and know periods of black depression. Practical visionaries.

11th *Priest-scientist holds up a crystal to the light; it flashes with brilliant colours.*

Strange people. Karma seems the answer to much of their lives. Interested in medical matters, especially the study of the mind. They themselves are highly-strung and withdraw into their own worlds if things don't go as they wish. They also have bouts of Arien temper. Their advanced ideas cause hostility but they fight back furiously. Some write prolifically. Divorce is often on the cards and children cause complications. If in power they are terribly bossy!

12th *A child smashing his toys.*

Some shockers born today! They have a propensity to fall foul of the law or the government or public opinion. They get peoples' backs up. Their beliefs and politics are hard to take. At worst they are exiled or imprisoned but usually they are just thrown out by the family and looked at askance by the neighbours. They are interested in legal matters, war games and computers. They do well in the entertainment world and in sport. Some meet tragedy head on.

13th *Richly decorated but frightening carnival mask.*

Pioneers, inventors. On any matter they can transfer easily from one side to the other and be equally outspoken on either. Explosive tempers. Frank, forthright, ruthless. Not always liked — which isn't surprising! Women stand no non-

sense from anyone. This birthday is attended by a great deal of noise: firecrackers, drums, explosions. They love music and play and sing. Loudly. They also have an excellent chance of becoming wealthy.

14th *People walking in a pretty garden look up at the sky where a bank of green clouds lies low in the West.*

An oasis in the Arien desert storms. Those born today are nice, calm and popular, family orientated. They always do the right thing and act honourably and loyally. They are, however, prone to depression and worry — usually about others — which causes emotional problems. They are good teachers, particularly of science. New technology fascinates.

15th *A circus roundabout going at speed to loud music, the proprietor stands in the centre.*

A masculine birthday. Male relation(s) exert a marked influence. Natives are rough, self-assured with commanding personalities. They smash through obstacles and live hectic lives at breakneck speeds. They sometimes crash. Multi-talented. Politics attract. Musical families. Good with their hands, especially in arts and crafts. Considered eccentric in some of the things they do or say.

16th *Two clowns attack each other with sticks of candy floss as the crowd roars; Death in the front row applauds wildly.*

Comedy is their trump card, ranging from simple good humour and practical jokes to the grim sardonic stuff underlaid by tragedy. Combative, eloquent, literate, with firm views on everything. They never do anything by halves. Adventurous, powerful, energetic. Entertaining raconteurs and lecturers. Loudly musical. Religious backgrounds.

17th *A dramatic scene in grand opera; the headsman*

waiting at the block, the principals singing a last passionate aria; a hooded chorus, a castle backdrop...

A dark Martian side. Uncomfortable folk. Noisy, naughty children, dangerous companions, deadly enemies. Early poverty in this life or the last leads to a determination not to let it happen again. They can work hard but are not above grabbing what they want. They get themselves into weird situations of black comedy. Scandal trails them. Self-absorbed. Broken relationships. Facial/head scar. Men work with metal or machinery and are aggressive and brave. Females are even more positive than the males.

18th *A tennis court, opponents playing a furious game.*

Chiefly memorable for being 'agin' things — astrology, capital punishment, war, Europe, religion or something. They are bubbling extroverts, sportsmen and women, brilliant arguers, hot tempered, always busy. They develop early and have a soft spot and helping hand for youngsters. They seem to marry people who are completely different in age, class or temperament.

19th *A white lily and a blood red rose.*

A religious birthday although the religious rites of some would be abhorrent to others. Perhaps because Aries has a last kick today there seems to be a lot of blood about. Good at sport which may account for some of it — the blood that is. Not really the marrying/family sort although there is a lot of sentimentality. Very patriotic. Near enough to Taurus to become rich.

20th *A prize-winning shire horse bedecked with rosettes, ribbons and brasses, the pride of the County Show, parades around the Grand Ring, to the sound of a military band.*

Country folk at heart. They

Prediction

enjoy gardening, cooking their own home-grown vegetables and concocting herbal remedies, yet they play instruments, love to dance and have a yen for the theatre, ceremonial, rich colours, fabrics and jewels. Conservationists, monarchists. Father/grandfather exert great influence. Strong family feelings which extend to the country of birth or adoption.

21st *A stage so brightly lit and crowded that it's impossible to see exactly what is going on. At the back of the hall sits a lonely, shadowy figure.*

They are hero worshippers following the current sporting or pop idol, 'soap' characters or some past historical figure. They fantasise that they live in more romantic or daring times. This day-dreaming is usually harmless but in some cases can take over the life. They may seem ordinary on the surface but they seethe with hope and ambition underneath. There is much Venusian charm once you get to know them.

22nd *A well worn path through gentle countryside, birds singing in the over-arching trees.*

Not perhaps exciting but staunch, loyal and true friends. They are not geared to foreign places or frenzies and should stay quietly at home tending their cabbages and freesias. Sustaining religious faith. Music is, at the very least, an enormous and abiding pleasure. So is art but their talents in that sphere can be expressed in building up a beautiful home and environment. Should be comfortably placed. A farming past.

23rd *An orchid wrapped in a banknote.*

Music of all sorts from rap to gloomy German chamber. They play, sing and compose. Otherwise it's painting or the creation of beauty in the environment. They love gardens and trees. Although so gifted in the arts, in other departments of life they can be quite dull.

They understand young people who, in turn, are attracted to them. They are able to make money as this is a fortunate degree — unless they really miff it.

24th *Woman sitting under apple tree full of blossom.*

A sunshine birthday for the gentle, decent and tolerant. They are solid, placid and nice with olde-worlde values. They belong to happy, helpful families. Their lines fall in pleasant places. Money shouldn't be a problem for long. Conservationists. The girls are lovely and the boys appreciate them. Patriotic. Love of history. Artistic or musical talent without the temperament.

25th *A Persian carpet starts to lift off the floor causing a child sitting on it playing with bricks to scream with delight.*

A magical birthday. Unexpectedly nice things happen. Whatever they engage in soon has a light dusting of glamour over it. An eye for beauty of all kinds. They are actors, painters, poets and yet, underneath, they are immensely practical. Well-starred financially. Cheerful and friendly. Quietly helpful. Family life is important but tends to be complicated.

26th *Birds of Paradise among China roses.*

Happy entities, finding enjoyment in painting, music, cooking, sex, dress, history — anything and everything. In a previous life they lacked for nothing but now money presents problems. They lose it or give it away, they are extravagant and over-generous. The girls are much loved, some turn to the stage or modelling. Often connections with those higher up the social scale as they are so charming, good natured and soothing. They know how to please.

27th *In a green field of herbs and flowers an Elizabethan archer practises*

watched by admiring ladies.

They need affection and recognition. Denied it they become morose and frustrated. Given it they are sweetness itself. They aim to get above the common herd, physically as well as mentally, and are fliers, skiers, climbers. Good linguists, articulate. Vegetarians and health food experts. And they are first in the field in times of danger.

28th *Giant standing before massive archway.*

Powerful people are born now. They run companies, councils and counties. And the family of course. They are laws unto themselves. Charismatic. Strong feelings. They oscillate between love and hate. Close relationships are, not surprisingly, on a knife edge. In their darkest hours they have nightmares of poverty, loss of status or memories of past terrors.

29th *A boat drifts through misty meadows; the couple aboard have opened a well stocked picnic hamper and are listening to an old wind-up gramophone.*

A relatively easy voyage through life. In first-class cabins. They love being on or in the water. Natives are comfortably placed, good looking, popular and given to nostalgia. They put on weight — well, they are good cooks and have an almost professional interest in food and wine. Music is an abiding passion.

30th *Gold and silver heaped up on a plain kitchen table.*

Under the surface glitter they are cautious, prudent, pessimistic — even hard. They are lucky with money, or maybe they make their own luck. Certainly materialistic. Farming life holds attraction but this is yet another very musical birthday. They too become portly citizens. Some May Day babies fit in here while some of today's batch come under May 1st. Watch this space!

On October 21st 1966 a slag heap slithered down a hill and buried a school at Aberfan, Wales, killing over a hundred children. This most tragic disaster was preceded by some 60 authenticated premonitions, many of which came from the children themselves.

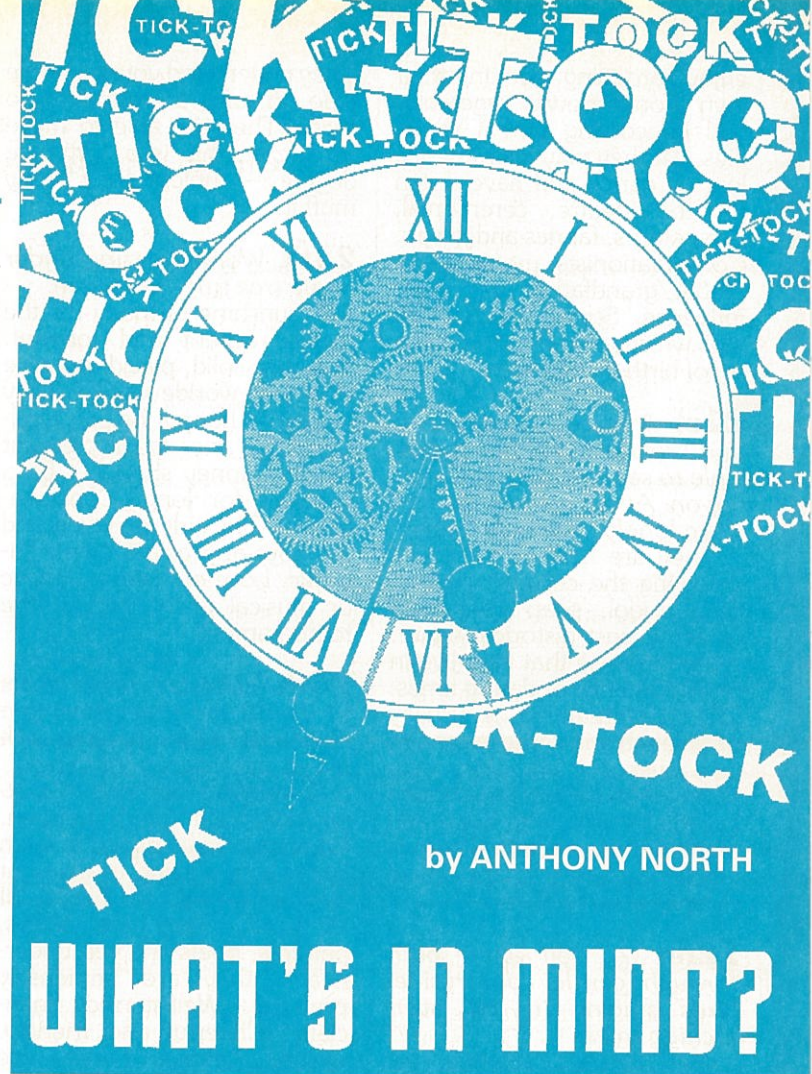
For instance, one girl had said that she had dreamt of 'something black' falling on the school, another that the school had been replaced by 'a big black hole.' Yet science ridicules research into such paranormal events which it dismisses as the work of cranks, cheats and tricksters.

It is easy to look to obvious stage trickery and dismiss the subject but when considering ordinary people who find themselves in extraordinary situations this is an entirely different matter. Paranormal events do occur so, if science wishes to retain its respect and integrity, it has a duty to take the subject seriously.

So what could have caused the premonitions at Aberfan? Science maintains that we cannot know an exact future because it has not yet happened and, given the present state of our knowledge, this is a reasonable stance to take.

However, this does not mean that premonitions should be dismissed out of hand. We know that the unconscious mind inputs far more information from the world at large than we perceive consciously. The conscious mind indulges in a selection process, bringing to our attention only those outside stimuli which are considered relevant.

For instance, if one walks into a quiet room where there is a ticking clock, at first one will register the noise but after a while will cease to do so. How-



by ANTHONY NORTH

WHAT'S IN MIND?

ever, should the clock stop, one will consciously note the event: this lack of noise is deemed relevant.

The mind works in this way because if we consciously perceived absolutely everything there was we would be bombarded by so much information that concentration would become an impossibility. This selective process of the mind could be relevant to the disaster at Aberfan.

Ask yourself a simple question: could a slag heap have fallen onto a school without prior movement? Or is it more likely that stresses and strains had been building up during the days preceding the disaster; perhaps there had even been some small

falls of coal dust.

If we accept this probability, then it is logical to assume that such movements were noted subliminally by the unconscious minds of those close by. Then, during the dream state, unconscious images based on the logical outcome of this movement could surface symbolically into the dreaming mind, offering a premonition of disaster.

Rational analysis

Similar rational analysis can be applied to many other paranormal events which are inexplicable only because science has chosen to ignore them. Consider, for instance, the much ridiculed alien abduction situation.

Is there a simple scientific explanation for paranormal phenomena?

A typical scenario would involve a lone woman driving at night. She would see a bright light in the sky and the next thing she would register would be the confusion of finding herself many miles away from the last place she remembered being and discovering that a period of time for which she could not account had elapsed.

That night she could have the first of many strange dreams. Thinking she is going mad, she eventually decides to consult a therapist, is hypnotised and recounts a story of being taken from her car into a space ship. Here she is laid on an examination table and medically examined.

During the examination her body is abused by invasive techniques and equipment. The aliens carrying out this examination are frightening and most likely accord with the popular image of imps, fairy folk or gargoyles.

Can such an experience be explained rationally? Discounting the possibility of an actual abduction by ET, my own explanation is much more mundane. The first hint came after having my photograph taken.

I noticed that the flash going off had left me with a vivid retinal image. Deciding to experiment with such images, I placed myself in a dark room and had someone take another photo of me. By concentrating hard, the image appeared colourful and could even seem solid but, because of natural retinal movement, I could not hold this image in one place, instead, it darted about the place in classic UFO fashion.

With practice, I learnt to control the image, making it appear close up or far away and could even get it to apparently fly through the window. Although ET did not stick his

head out and wave to me, it became obvious that this retinal image could lie at the heart of some alleged UFO encounters.

Let's go back to the example of the lady in the car. She'd been driving at night for a long period. Tired, she begins to daydream, as we all do in such situations. A car coming from the opposite direction passes and its headlights dazzle her. The retinal image manifests but, in her semi-fantasy state, she interprets it as a UFO.

So what happens next, could a fantasy event ensue? One point of interest concerning accounts of alien abduction is that when stripped of their science-fiction symbolism such events have much in common with past myths about the incubus and succubus phenomenon. Both involve impish beings, invasive abuse of the body and the prevailing cultural mythology of otherworldly entities.

One problem with the suggested scenario is that with the mind actively involved in such a fantasy, it is more likely that the alleged abductee would crash her car. But even this is not the case.

After all, who has not had the experience of reading a book when their concentration wanders away from the words to some other thought. What happens in such a situation, of course, if that we continue to read the words while our fantasising minds are otherwise occupied.

It is, therefore, feasible to enact a fantasy while continuing to drive mechanically. Indeed, such a scenario adds further credence to the fantasy explanation by accounting for how the abductee finds him/herself many miles from where he expected after an inexplicable time lapse.

Scientific models

Science even offers a mind model to explain this duality of mind: the split-brain concept. It is argued that the brain has a dual function, the left cerebral hemisphere being responsible for logical functioning and the right for the emotional and artistic.

However, science's refusal to consider research into the paranormal precludes logical explanation for such phenomena. Yet, considering that science is presently attempting to grasp understanding of human consciousness, it appears total folly to ignore such magnificent mind abilities as those associated with the paranormal.

Indeed, my research of the subject suggests that only two new scientific models are required to offer a general theory of paranormal activity: what I term the 'memory shop' and an evolved consciousness scenario to understand the altered state through which paranormal events tend to occur. And the greatest shame is that science already has speculative models in other areas to explain the first of these concepts.

At the subatomic level reality is very different to the reality of the world we perceive. Quantum theory paints a picture of an information universe where space is annihilated and consciousness is a vital element of the plot.

The particle exists in a state of probability until consciousness observes a specific outcome. The particle itself is not a hard concept but an ethereal construction which, according to some theorists, is an expression of the total information within the universe. Space bends upon itself to such an extent that the total information of the universe is available to the particle; the part is very

much an expression of the whole.

If this concept is applied to the paranormal, it could be argued that any part of reality, such as an individual person, can have access to the whole of reality, at least at an information level. Hence, the information available in supposed clairvoyance or telepathy becomes a logical function of the mechanics of the universe.

The great stumbling block to this view is that quantum effects cannot infiltrate from the subatomic world to the reality we perceive. Yet recent understanding of the inner structure of a cell challenges this view.

A cell has been observed to contain a specific inner structure or cytoskeleton. Composed of tubulin, theoretically the cell is made up of a number of micro-tubules which can act in a similar way to computer on/off switches, thus processing information in their own right.

Intriguingly, micro-tubules are so small that some theorists feel they could amplify quantum effects. If this as yet heretical view is ever confirmed, then a mechanistic model would exist to allow quantum effects to invade biological matter and thus infiltrate the world we perceive.

Of course, the fact that we do not seem to perceive such effects in everyday life seems to invalidate the above. Except for the fact that the altered state of consciousness (ASC) changes the way we normally view the world. Indeed, most paranormal phenomena seem to occur when experiencing an ASC, whether in the dream state, hypnotic or self-induced trance.

Evolutionary

To explain such a mind state, I have devised a theory of an evolved mind which can explain many anomalies of humanity and consciousness.

It seems logical to argue that

mankind differs from other Earthly life forms because we have broken out of the instinctual drives that govern other species. This was done by devising technology, initially achieved by fashioning bones, stones and branches into tools or weapons. In so doing, information was produced outside instinctual drives for the first time on this planet.

In order to cope with this new form of information mankind had to learn to concentrate. However, in order to achieve this, a repository for the information not required for the task in hand is needed. In other words, man required a conscious mind to cope with the practical information within the world and an unconscious mind to store the information not needed for practical function.

In this mind model, I would argue that mankind alone has a conscious and unconscious mind, our instinctual and paranormal abilities being buried deep within the unconscious. Also, the more information we produce through technology, the greater the separation of our conscious and unconscious minds.

However, this process would also work in reverse. So, when outside information is reduced, such as during sleep, hypnosis or trance, this reduction would allow the conscious and unconscious to move closer together and merge, releasing instinctual and paranormal abilities into the conscious mind.

Such a mind model would explain many anomalies. For instance, it decimates the argument that if we were generally telepathic we would not have devised speech. In this model, as technological information increased, any telepathic abilities would have deserted the conscious mind, requiring us to devise a new mode of communication.

Consider, too, the effects of this mind model on early his-

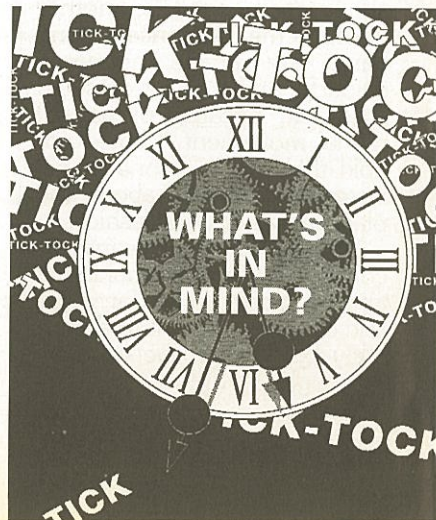
toric man whose conscious and unconscious would have been more generally merged than is the case today. One thing we know of such a merger is that it allows pictorial representations of unconscious thoughts, experienced as dreams or hallucinations.

Thus early man would 'see' his dead loved ones and leaders on a regular basis. Indeed, perhaps such a theory could account for how deities and beliefs in life after death gained such a hold upon the human psyche.

Of course, both my memory shop and evolved mind theories are speculative. They are devised not so much as exact representations but as models for debate. However, they are logical extensions of already established scientific concepts.

But perhaps their most important function is to show that, no matter how speculative, reasoned theories of the paranormal CAN be put forward. Until recently the only ideas offered for such events were essentially supernatural in content, suggesting a world of spirits and otherworldly influences: notions arising from a world without science.

Yet it appears that science is still afraid of such concepts. So, until such times as science is able to combat its prejudice and superstition, a complete understanding of mankind and the universe he inhabits will not be forthcoming.



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by Stephen Pile, The Sunday Times, page-a14, 14th August 1988.

Assassination of Mr Rajiv Gandhi is forecast by Dr A Mukherjee.

by Tony Leliew, The Edgware Times, page-12, 15th September 1988.

Prediction of outright 1992 General Election victory for the Conservative party and John Major. Resignation and defeat of Neil Kinnock and the Labour party.

BBC-Radio interview, 9th January 1992; SKY TV news interview, 16th March 1992.

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The Hendon Times, page 17, 2nd January 1992; Third Eye, February 1992.

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by Merle Adam, Times Group Newspapers, page-6, 8th December 1988.

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The Moon goddess, the Teutonic named Oestra who was also known as Eostre to the Anglo-Saxons, was the deity from whom the Christian festival of Easter gets its name. A fertility goddess, representing new life in the Spring, she was often depicted with or as a hare.

The hare gave birth to what has become known as the Easter Egg, representative of new life and creation, later symbolising Christ rising from the dead at his Resurrection. Thus the theme of new life was retained, although now in a more Christian context, and the hare metamorphosed into the Easter Bunny.

The festival of the Moon goddess Eostre took place at the Spring Equinox, around March 21st, one of only two days in the year when day and night are of equal length; the other being the Autumn Equinox, around September 21st. When the old pagan celebrations were later Christianised, this Spring holiday became Easter named after the earlier deity.

The hare was a very important animal to the Queen of the Iceni, the great queen and priestess Boudicca, or Boadicea as she is sometimes known. In fact the hare was depicted on her banners as a sacred symbol.

She used it for divination and before setting out on any raid would release a hare into the wild. An account of this practice is to be found in W. C. Hazlitt's work, *Dictionary of Faiths and Folklore*, first published in 1905.

'A remarkable way of divining related of Bonduca or Boadicea Queen of the Iceni - when she had harangued her

soldiers to spirit them up against the Romans, she opened her bosom and let go a hare, which she had there concealed, that the augurs might thence proceed to divine. The frightened animal made such turning and windings in her course, as according to the then rules of judging, prognosticated happy success. The joy-

suggesting these creatures were sacrificed in them as part of a religious ritual.

Another interesting find was at Winterbourne Kingston in Dorset where the artefacts included brooches, coins, bones, a Purbeck marble vase and a bronze hare. All this was discovered down a 85ft shaft, quite a deep ritual pit.

Of especial interest were eight burnt tiles found nearby. At the centre of these was a knife and a conical sarcen, so this was obviously a place where sacrifices took place. As the pit contained a bronze hare, it is likely that a sacrificial ceremony took place or perhaps an offering to a hare deity.

Hares of course have always been associated with hunting and hunters; certainly, many ancient Celtic hunting gods were depicted with hares in their hands. These creatures feature prominently in Celtic mythology, too, often transforming into people.

One such example is in the tale, *How the Leg of Cian son of Maelmuaidh son Bran was Healed*. This tells the story of how, when a greyhound was sent to chase a hare, the hare turned into a beautiful woman who led the greyhound's owner to a sidh, or mound, where she slept with him.

The hare was, with the cat, considered the familiar of witches in Scotland who were thought able to change into either a hare or a cat at whim. Echoing this sacred creature's former importance in the ancient Celtic faith, hares and cats alike were called *malkin* or *mawkin* in the archaic Scottish tongue.

All of which seems a long way from the Easter Bunny!

Hare & Hounds



by MARION PEARCE

The Easter Bunny is but a pale reminder of an earlier pagan festival involving the hare and the Moon goddess.

ful multitude made loud huzzas, Boadicea seized the opportunity, approved their ardour, led them straight to victory.'

Boudicca would also sacrifice a hare in a grove sacred to her personal deity, Andraste, a British war goddess. Andraste was always invoked at a time of crisis and, if a victory was secured, would be rewarded with a great display of feasting and religious ritual.

There is much evidence to show that the hare featured prominently in early religious rites. A hare made of bronze was found at the Thristleton Dyer shrine and hare bones appear in ritual pits at Ewell, Surrey. At Ipswich two such pits contained pieces of hare fur,



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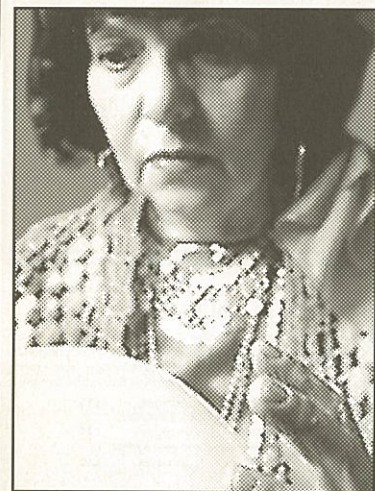
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SIX OF SWORDS

The immediate impression given by the Six of Swords is one of sadness and bereavement.

The shrouded figure with a child being ferried across a stretch of water has experienced great sorrow and deprivation. The upright swords appear to cage this figure, giving both a sense of imprisonment but also protection. What awaits across the water is not known but it could be exile or some kind of retreat. It is certainly a location isolated from past events and places.

Because of the removal from once familiar situations and places, there will be time to reflect and re-evaluate. It is clear in many respects that there will have to be a new start at the very least, although it is also important not to overlook the boatman who is ferrying the figure. He, too, plays a protective role and may be influential in providing help and shelter for the future.

Always a difficult card, the Six of Swords is not necessarily a bad card of the Tarot. In fact, there are many indications that it portends a turning point in one's life, offering a totally different future, it is true, but one which can offer hope and eventual success.

Perhaps one clue is that whatever is due to happen in the future may not be for the adults illustrated but for the youthful figure who may well be the one whose destiny is more important. Actions are being taken on behalf of someone else. The long-term

changes take on a special significance because of this.

As the journey is across water, this element has its importance. Emotions are involved but so is spiritual regeneration.

This card does indicate actual travel across water in some form so foreign travel may play a role here. Whether or not it is a permanent journey or a holiday trip need not matter too much. It is the overall reason for the need to travel that must be kept in mind.

So much is being left behind, once the journey has begun. It

really is the chance to make a new start, albeit under completely changed circumstances.

Again, this is not the main factor, although it is best to respond to change, rather than to try and recreate what is now in the past. A cutting of ties and a removal of previously insurmountable obstacles do actually allow progress to be made, new horizons to be undertaken seriously.

No need to feel too much apprehension, although a sense of loss and sadness does prevail. It is the future that is all-important, the persons involved only according to the circumstances, all that truly matters here is that there is a future, however bleak and uncertain it may appear to be initially.

There is one point worth recalling. No Tarot card is the sum of its illustration. So many variants occur in the many Tarot packs, as far as design is concerned, that it would be unprofessional for anyone to base an interpretation of the card upon any one illustration alone.

It is the Swords that matter most. Boats, water, figures or whatever are all subservient to the six swords. An illustration obviously helps and enhances, in the end it is important to look at the inner meaning of what a sword means, both to the early creators of the Tarot and in any



modern explanation.

A sword has always been a weapon, sometimes of defence, usually of destruction, by its very nature. To be without a sword used to be considered as an unimaginable event to those entitled to carry one.

Without it, a person was defenceless. To have a sword taken away was a sign of humiliation and defeat. To be at the mercy of someone else's sword usually meant death. Surrounded by swords, one would be a prisoner.

But swords were also a symbol of honour and position. All of these symbols have their place in Tarot lore as far as the suit of Swords is concerned.

It is the number of swords and the meaning of the card, of course, that projects the all-important influence in any spread. It need not be a mo-

ment of gloom when a Sword card is laid but there is always a need for special attention — also to heed the inevitable warning.

Anything or anyone connected with the numeral six will understand the subtleties of personality and events. The need for appreciation, point of principle, home, harmony with others, creative talents and the like, all come to the surface.

The Six of Swords is no different: it brings to a head all kinds of issues that need to be resolved. Other cards in a Tarot spread will spell out what these are but the Swords Six will ensure that a seal is put on any directions that have been put off or delayed.

It instigates events that one may not wish to choose, ensuring that a new direction will be

necessary, however much anguish may be caused.

That travel is involved, or at the very least a change of residence, will always be inevitable. It is the new surroundings or location, especially if in another country (crossing water to get there), that will trigger off the new possibilities or a different kind of future.

Destiny plays its part but so does balance. Everything will return to its natural level once the drama and shock have passed.

Usually the struggles of the past are left behind too, so the upheaval and emotional sadness that the Swords Six will bring will be little more than a catharsis. A necessity that, once experienced, will lead to a greater contentment than one ever could have imagined before the transition.

reader services

Anyone who is at all uncertain about the procedure for ensuring clear hand-prints for palmistry readings can obtain an instruction leaflet by sending an sae to the address below.

A large sae (A4/10x8in) is required for all services. Overseas readers should send an International Reply Coupon. Please make cheques or postal orders payable to PREDICTION and send to:

Reader Services, c/o PREDICTION, Link House, Dingwall Avenue,, Croydon, Surrey CR9 2TA, England.

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Send an account, not exceeding 200 words, to Dream Meanings, c/o PREDICTION. Enclose a stamped, addressed envelope and a cheque/PO for £3.

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Give name, address and date of birth. Enclose a large stamped addressed envelope and a cheque/PO for £3 (for six months' biograms) or £5 (for 12 months' biograms).

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Give name and date of birth of both parties. Enclose a large, stamped, addressed envelope and a cheque/PO for £1.

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Send your birth details (birth time, place and date), SAE and a cheque/postal order for £3 to PREDICTION and we will supply a natal chart showing the planetary positions at the time of birth using the Equal House system (aspects not included).

Readers who do not know their time of birth can have a

Noon chart erected. Please use the 24-hour clock system when stating time of birth in order to avoid confusion.

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Send about 50 words written on unruled paper (not photocopies) to Graphology Reports, c/o PREDICTION, and state your sex and age group. Please include signature. Enclose a large stamped, addressed envelope and cheque/PO for £4.

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Send your name, address and date of birth to PREDICTION. Also state the name by which you are most commonly known. Example: (Mrs) Patricia J Smith (Pat Smith). Enclose a cheque/PO for £1 and an sae.

PALMISTRY

Send a clear hand-print (each hand and same size if photocopied) and please indicate sex, age group and if left- or right-handed. Enclose a large stamped, addressed envelope and a cheque/PO for £4 to PREDICTION.

GEMINI

MAY 21 TO JUNE 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

April is a month for reflection and meditation rather than action.

You may be having second thoughts on certain matters, realising that perhaps something is not as important as you imagined. This is not to imply that everything is moving into a negative phase or that you are going to be riddled with doubts and uncertainties. However, it would be unwise to be over hasty.

The first half of the month is ex-

cellent for gathering information, seeking advice and sorting out any misunderstandings that have been pushed into the background. If you do have any grievances to air, now is the time to come clean.

Those involved in deeper studies will make good progress in the first half of the month. Your concentration will then be at maximum strength and you'll have little to distract you from the main task. It will be a different picture in the latter half of April when your priorities may have to take second place. In the meantime, consolidate what you learn and don't be afraid to pick other people's brains.

The New Moon on the 7th indicates a need for a more practical attitude. It does seem that you are moving in the right direction but perhaps you should ask yourself whether certain ideals or ideas have not been a bit misplaced or overrated. It will pay you to listen to what friends have to say, even if this does appear rather critical.

In affairs of a more intimate nature, there is much to suggest that the first half of the month will be more than usually eventful for ro-

manically inclined Geminians, particularly those of more mature years. What up to now has been just a friendship may blossom into something much closer.

For younger folk the trend is equally eventful but an emotional difficulty may be heading your way. In the long run this won't be such a bad thing, though painful at the time. It will have a maturing effect and ensure that the same mistake is not made again.

There are two dates, the 9th and 20th, when Mercury, your ruler, sits uneasily with Uranus. A letter or message may require a swift response, particularly if this has to do with a legal or official matter. Don't be too surprised, either, if you hear a something of a revelation through the grapevine.

Matters closer to home will continue to engage much of your energy but expect delay in any major improvement work. Be patient for after the 27th Mars begins to shed a very progressive light on all matters relating to property.

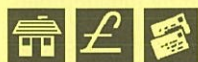
Finally, an unexpected journey or visit is forecast at the very end of the month.

CANCER

JUNE 21 TO JULY 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

You may sometimes feel that achievements have not been worth the effort.

The demands of everyday life are likely to be quite heavy and will prevent you from giving of your best in areas most important to you. The best way to tackle this trend is to be quite ruthless about priorities. Don't be afraid to say a firm no to those who seem intent upon imposing on you.

As Venus is riding high in your Solar chart in the first half of the

month you can expect most things to run smoothly, especially in career or creative endeavour. The New Moon on the 7th does much to emphasise these matters. What takes place around this date will help you to consolidate your aims and achievements.

You'll probably find that your attitude to career or other important life-aims takes on a note of added seriousness. Your determination to succeed or upgrade your status will be enhanced and anxieties about added responsibilities will fade into the background.

Financial affairs continue on an expansive theme throughout the month with the main focus on longer term and joint resources. Fund-raising ventures will bring success, especially in the first half of the month when you can count on support and co-operation.

The most propitious dates for financial, business and career interests are the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 11th, 29th and 30th. But watch your step on the 16th and 24th. Avoid risks and hasty commitments.

With such a powerful and favourable accent on practical af-

fairs, there is an increased danger of personal and emotional matters becoming too lop-sided and your being accused of neglect. The trend is not entirely unfavourable to married life and close relationships but, if inner tensions do develop, you'll probably be to blame.

Lavish more attention on your nearest and dearest during April. Try to aim for balance, rather than letting yourself get totally caught up in outside aims and interests. If a relationship has been going through an awkward phase, wait until the latter half of the month to address problems. A helpful transit of Venus will then help you.

Late month favours single Cancerians seeking a likely partner. Increased social life should bring fresh scope for making contact with the right person. Expect highly flattering developments towards the very end of the month!

Patience might wear thin regarding travel. Avoid journeys when adverse trends prevail on the 5th, 19th and 26th. People are likely to call inconveniently, making you irritable. It does seem that you'll need patience during these weeks.

LEO

JULY 21 TO AUGUST 21



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

New friends gravitating into your orbit is uppermost for Leos throughout April.

New links will be forged that are destined to change you — either in the way you think, in what you value or in the pattern of your life-style. As Jupiter is implicated in this, everything seems to point to the fortunate influence of others.

If you are spiritually inclined, it could be that you'll meet a guru figure or someone who guides you onto the right path.

Significant developments are forecast early in April as your ruling orb, the Sun, forms helpful aspects with Venus and Jupiter. Long-range journeys and communications will take centre stage and may be bound up with expansive new developments. The underlying theme here is of broadening your horizons. There is definitely an element of luck involved in travel at this time.

At a more mundane level, these favourable trends help you to deal efficiently with any legal conundrums and official red tape. However, don't be over hasty around the 7th when there is greater need for care and attention to details.

From a purely financial angle you will find that it's an uphill struggle at times. You may be forced to alter your business or commercial strategy. If you work in a fairly competitive sphere, it will become apparent that maybe you are not making best use of your skills and resources. The more willing you are to change tactics and try out new methods, the more successful you'll be.

Having said this, it would be un-

wise to be pushed into drastic measures if you feel that something does need to change. Wait until Mars turns forward at the end of April when the situation will become much clearer.

Health comes into focus around the 19th when Neptune is at odds with your ruler. There may not be anything physically wrong but it is quite likely that others will sap your energy and make you feel weary. The more solitude, rest and relaxation on this date, the better.

The Lunation on the 22nd sheds light on matters closer to home. The emotional climate may be rather sensitive so tread tactfully where feelings are involved.

The Venus-Uranus aspect on the 23rd gives a hint of sudden emotional outbursts involving either your partner or a youngster. Such storms are unlikely to persist, however, and you'll easily restore harmony and understanding provided you curb your tendency to impose rules.

The final days of April have a decidedly optimistic flavour, particularly in finances. It looks as if a persistent obstacle will finally be put behind you.

VIRGO

AUGUST 22 TO SEPTEMBER 22



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Mars retrograde in your sign until late April indicates putting out a lot of energy.

The result could be rather disappointing but this is more likely to happen if you allow other people to rope you into their projects by appealing to your sense of duty. It would be better to stick doggedly to your interests in these weeks.

As Mars is the planet of strife, you'll most likely be irritated by the antics of others. Tread tactfully when Mars is adversely aspected

on the 5th, 19th and 26th. Also, avoid doing anything in too much of a hurry as you will be more accident prone than usual.

Health matters also come into focus in April. Generally the prospects are good but with Mars in your sign there will be a tendency to go to extremes. Conscientious person that you are in matters of diet, there is a danger of going too far. Don't be taken in by latest food fads and universal panaceas. A down-to-earth approach to these matters is essential.

In the first half of April it would be a good idea to keep your arrangements fairly flexible as there is an element of the unexpected linked with travel. The 8th and 9th are the likeliest dates and will probably take you out of your usual routines. Alternatively someone will suddenly want to pay you a flying visit at very short notice.

Your ruling planet, Mercury, goes through two distinct phases in April. Until the 15th this planet throws a stimulating light on mental activities, educational pursuits and any interest that engages your mind beyond the ordinary.

Whether your efforts are geared towards practical skills or a more spiritual quest, you'll make good progress, helped by meeting people on your own wavelength.

This positive Mercury factor also ensures speed and efficiency in dealing with legal and official matters. If you wish to seek specialist advice, go for the first rather than the second half of the month. After the 15th Mercury moves retrograde which could mean a waiting game or having to cover the same ground again later.

Business-related travel may suffer disruption in the latter half of April, especially around the 20th and 23rd. However, if you are embarking on a pleasure trip or short break, the prospect is bright. There are also signs of romance linked with a journey later in the month.

Financially, it's a case of not counting your chickens before they're hatched. An old problem may rear its head around the 7th or 21st. If this concerns joint finances, don't hesitate to seek expert advice. Be prepared to exercise patience in dealing with important money matters throughout April.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 TO OCTOBER 22



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Breaks in continuity during April will be through no fault of your own.

You'll just want to be left alone to get on with life but, in the latter half of April, you'll need to be prepared for problems. Even if this means that a task has to be left aside for a while, it would be better to go with the trend. Your tolerance threshold may be stretched but try to adapt to other people's demands.

It is certainly not a bad month all round for the simple reason that

Jupiter continues to throw a fortunate light on your life. You can afford to be more adventurous, unconventional or experimental, especially in finance, employment or creativity. Indeed, by adopting a slightly off-centre approach you'll generate luck.

Don't be afraid to strike out if the opportunity arises or if you feel strongly motivated to do something different. The time is ripe for change for it is one of those lucky phases when initiative will bring into play a kind of providence.

Close relationships will figure prominently during April. For many Librans who have been in a steady relationship for quite some time, there are indications that a crossroads is now being reached. You may have to face the fact that feelings have changed and that the spark needs recharging.

This doesn't necessarily mean that you have to end an existing relationship but perhaps you should question what you want and what you are actually getting out of the current situation. If you have been feeling restless or resentful, maybe this is your cue to act.

It's not an easy time for married Librans. Saturn in your House of Partners is now testing the strength of existing relationships. If you can come through this test, you can expect that things will go from strength to strength. If not, something fairly drastic may need to be done sooner or later.

The New Moon on the 7th signals a need to confront emotional issues that you have preferred to keep in the background — perhaps for several years. However, as Venus is casting a helpful light on these matters, it shouldn't be too hard to sort out any difficulties.

New romantic possibilities are in your favour, especially early in the month. Events may seem insignificant but the Fates are pulling strongly behind the scenes.

Financially, make your best efforts in the first half of the month. After the 15th there's a question mark over a shared financial interest. A legal procedure may be unavoidable but this will be better than trying to take short-cuts.

Finally, unexpected developments late month are bound to have pleasant effects on social life.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 TO NOVEMBER 22



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Early in April there are elements of deception lurking in the background.

Rumours you hear may need to be taken with a pinch of salt and it would be best to double-check sources of information rather than trusting what others say.

On a more positive note, the first ten days of the month put favourable emphasis on practical concerns. Employment matters are very much to the fore and those seeking work will feel that

luck is on their side. The 3rd, 4th and 5th are eminently favourable for employment, bringing fresh opportunity and opening new doors. The trends are decidedly expansive so don't underestimate your capabilities if you are aiming to find yourself a niche more in line with your aims and interests.

There is much to suggest that your income will receive a boost in the weeks ahead which could of course link with a new job. If you earn your living in a relatively independent fashion or from home, you may have to work longer hours but you'll be feeling very pleased about developments.

The New Moon on the 7th again throws the main accent on occupational interests. A decision that you may have been putting off will come to the fore soon after this date. If you are a fairly free agent, don't hesitate to go for something new if the opportunity arises. However, if you are settled and consider security a priority, better to stick to your guns — at least until you see your way ahead more clearly.

With Mercury retrograde in the latter half of April, it would be in

your best interests to deal with important communications in the first two weeks. People whom you contact will be reliable and respond positively. This is the best part of the month for discussions, negotiations, interviews or meetings.

The situation is not totally hopeless later in the month but you may have to make allowances for others' unreliability and absent-mindedness. Advice and information may be misleading, especially around the 20th or 23rd.

Domestic affairs are unlikely to cause any major headaches during April. All matters relating to property, buying, selling, leasing or renting will benefit greatly as Jupiter continues to transit the lower sector of your Solar chart.

If there is anything negative about this planet, it could be that you'll feel restless or dissatisfied more easily. However, the motivation to act positively is on the increase if you're considering a change of residence.

Later on it looks as if close relationships and romantic affairs are due to undergo pleasant developments.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 23 TO DECEMBER 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Your ruler Jupiter is strongly activated early in April.

Experience will show you that certain people really do have your interests at heart. There's a friendly aura around you, ensuring easy co-operation with others and plenty of scope to make a creative impression on the world around you.

Jupiter and Uranus in your 3rd Solar House at present give more than just a hint that your day-to-day life is undergoing or about to undergo a fairly radical shift. This

may generate a feeling of instability but you will thrive on this and welcome change. Events may manoeuvre you into a possible change of employment. But, whatever happens, a change in routine will definitely enrich your life.

It's going to be a month of significant developments in creative activity and spare-time interests. Much indicates a move away from what you have been doing over the previous few months and greater motivation to put things on a more expansive and professional basis.

Even without trying, you'll somehow be drawn into a wider circle where you can express your abilities more freely. People you contact during April are likely to play a vital part in enabling you to develop creatively. It's an excellent month for those seeking greater recognition in areas such as the arts and entertainment.

It's a promising month, too, for romantically inclined Sagittarians. Although there is potential for crisis around the New Moon on the 7th, any effort to sort out emotional problems will probably meet with success. Even if things fall

apart soon after this date, on deeper reflection you'll soon come to realise that this was for the best.

As Saturn is in this picture, it seems that the forces of destiny are operating very powerfully. This might mean that new love affairs are slow to develop. But, once established they will stand the test of time, especially if significant meetings take place in the first half of April, notably the 11th or 12th.

The first half of the month favours those seeking a new job or a boost in income. You'll experience minimal hassle in communications and be in good form if you have to attend interviews. From the 15th, be prepared for a few disappointments but don't let this deflect you from your main aims.

If in doubt about the direction of your career, don't make any hasty decisions during April. There is a danger that you'll accept an offer that's fine in theory but different in practice. Wait until late month before taking important initiatives.

On the whole, it's a month when seemingly insignificant events could make a tremendous difference to your future.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 21 TO JANUARY 19



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Financial and domestic affairs are favourably linked in the early part of April.

A long-standing problem relating to a property matter will be brought to a successful conclusion and at last you'll feel free to reorganise things. This is an excellent time to push ahead with a change of residence if this is what you have in mind. The trend is decidedly expansive and points towards a phase of increasing contentment in family and home life.

Many Capricorns have been experiencing major changes over the past year. The indications are that a chapter has closed and something new has opened up. If this is so, you can expect April to mark the end of what may have been a rather difficult transition.

The New Moon on the 7th will bring this matter into focus. From now onwards you'll begin to feel that your life takes on a deeper sense of purpose and you'll become more secure within yourself.

Major worries over money are unlikely during April but don't take undue risks when adverse trends are in force on the 9th, 20th and 23rd. Put a business deal on hold if you have doubts. Heed this and you can expect most things to come up to expectations, not only in business but also if you are making an important purchase.

The most propitious and lucky dates for finance are the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 11th and 30th. If you fancy a flutter, go for early April. This is also the best time for dealing with legal and official matters.

A brighter prospect beckons to those who have not had an easy

time lately in affairs of the heart. An emotionally stressful phase draws to a close, helped by events in the latter half of the month.

A favourable transit of Venus enhances the possibility of new romantic encounters, especially around the 17th, 22nd, 28th and 29th. There will be an element of surprise in this situation, perhaps because you discover that a secret passion is reciprocated.

Venus also shows that you will be in greater demand socially and have time for leisure. After what may have been a phase of all work and very little play, life takes on an easier pace and allows you more time to relax and enjoy yourself.

One area in which you may experience problems in the month ahead is travel. Mars is retrograde until the 27th, indicating disruption and delay. Make sure the car is in order. Neglect is likely to be regretted. Take special care when Mars is also in adverse aspect on the 5th, 19th and 26th. If possible, arrange important journeys for later in the month.

Generally speaking, you have a highly constructive month ahead.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 TO FEBRUARY 18



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

With Jupiter in your sign in April you can't go far wrong.

It's a time of expansion and enrichment for Aquarians when luck and opportunity are more likely to come your way and past efforts are rewarded. However, this is not a cue for complacency for there are a few potentially negative features in the pattern over the coming weeks.

The month begins very optimistically but, around the New Moon on the 7th, there is a need for extra care and caution in workaday

tasks. There'll be a temptation to evade responsibility or try to get away with half-measures. But be warned, your reputation will be damaged if you go about things in a slipshod manner.

The best policy is to focus very firmly on the main tasks and make sure you carry things through. Other people will be relying on you very heavily around this time so it's essential to get it right.

Two other tricky dates are the 9th and especially the 20th. Mercury and Uranus are then at odds with each other and the main focus is on domestic affairs. Youngsters' behaviour may give cause for concern and you'll only make them more rebellious by trying to impose discipline. If you're a parent whose kids are going through an awkward phase, the best approach is clear reasoning.

Finally, both personal and joint financial interests may need to be reassessed, fairly urgently, during the coming weeks. Problems may come to your notice when Mars is in adverse aspect around the 5th or 19th. However, it would be better to wait until very late in the month

to make new investments.

Apart from this, your prosperity should be on the upgrade but it would be wise to focus on consolidating current assets. Keep in mind how you might affect others' interests for much depends on give and take. Exercise patience to finalise a property transaction and be very thorough. Delays in this area should end late month.

The 11th and 12th are exceptionally favourable. There is a strong element of luck operating in your affairs. Indeed, these are the best dates in the month for gambling and games of chance.

Travel and social life are linked with luck for it is likely that someone you chance to meet will be destined to play a fortunate part in your life in the coming months. As Venus is involved here, this could mean a lovers' meeting. Whatever happens, there is bound to be something that pleases you.

Generally speaking, the pattern of events in April will do much to generate increased optimism within you and an atmosphere of good will in your immediate environment.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 TO MARCH 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Appearances may prove deceptive in financial matters as April arrives.

If you suspect that someone is not being straightforward, don't be afraid to say so and be very wary if buying second-hand goods.

Provided you keep your wits about you problems can be avoided. Financial matters are much to the fore in the first half of April but generally the trend is favourable. Matters that have to do with stability and longer term security can be

dealt with successfully. There is a need to take a more serious attitude towards money and material well-being so make this a time for consolidation rather than profits.

A favourable transit of Venus in the first half of the month ensures smooth cashflow and probably more for luxury items and leisure. This planet will also help in fundraising schemes or developing a profitable side-line.

In more serious business, you may need a cautious approach during the second week. However, it does look as if a fairly long-standing problem will at last be put behind you, giving greater freedom for fresh possibilities. Remember, though, that Saturn is a dominant force in financial matters at present so don't kid yourself that you can make a quick buck. Enduring success will come via the slow rather than the fast lane.

Events on the 11th and 12th will put a pleasant focus on domestic and family affairs. It's likely to be something unexpected that puts you in a cheerful frame of mind, such as a welcome visitor or a family reunion. Don't be surprised ei-

ther, if there's good news concerning a member of your household or sudden fortunate developments with a change of residence. Whatever happens, you should have something to feel happy about!

The only potential bugbear during April is Mars retrograde in your opposite sign. This could quite literally indicate opposition. Steer away from matters that could easily become a source of disagreement. Dates on which to tread very tactfully are the 5th, 19th and 26th. You are sure to come off worst in any kind of competitive activity.

Married Pisceans (especially the ladies) are likely to experience partnership problems on these dates but maybe this is because you have not been entirely open about your feelings. You are a master of evasion tactics but this often leaves others feeling that they don't know where they stand. A confrontation now may defuse underlying tensions.

Apart from these hazards you can look forward to a month of steady progress and a feeling that important matters are being resolved favourably.

Lunar Lore Gardening

APRIL

1 April will start quite cold with isolated severe frosts. Becoming slightly warmer but very changeable.

2,3

4 After 05.43 hours plant out onion sets.

5 Continue all day.

6 After 06.20 hours mow lawns but let clippings lie.

7 Continue all day.

8 After 07.21 hours sow lettuce and early cabbage.

9 Sow broccoli and savoy cabbage.

10 After 10.29 hours cut back dead foliage, clear rubbish.

11 Clean drains, edge paths, clear weeds.

12 After 17.04 hours plant asparagus crowns.

13 Prick out brussels sprouts about 6in/15cm apart.

14 Sow parsley, melon and cucumber seeds.

15 Continue until 03.23 hours.

16, 17, 18, 19

20 After 04.37 hours sow carrots, peas and radishes.

21 Continue all day.

22 After 15.20 hours pot camellias and chrysanthemums.

23 Plant biennials like foxglove, sweet william and clematis.

24 After 23.33 hours plant out a few cloves of garlic.

25 Sow onion seeds.

26 Continue all day.

27 Continue until 05.33 hours.

28, 29, 30

VICTORIA MATTHEWS

Greenwich Mean Time has been used throughout

The Planets This Month

☉ **The Sun** begins April in 11° 18' Aries and enters Taurus on the 20th at 01.04 hours. It ends the month at 9° 41' of the Bull.

☾ **The Moon** is New on the 7th at 11.03 hours with the First Quarter on the 14th at 17.01 hours. The Full Moon is on the 22nd at 20.35 hours and Last Quarter is on the 30th at 02.38 hours.

As the month opens the Moon is in 13° 38' Capricorn and enters Aquarius on the 2nd at 04.00 hours. It then enters Pisces on the 4th at 05.43 hours; Aries on the 6th at 06.20 hours; Taurus on the 8th at 07.21 hours; Gemini on the 10th at 10.29 hours; Cancer on the 12th at 17.04 hours; Leo on the 15th at 03.23 hours; Virgo on the 17th at 16.01 hours; Libra on the 20th at 04.37 hours; Scorpio on the 22nd at 15.20 hours; Sagittarius on the 24th at 23.33 hours; Capricorn on the 27th at 05.33 hours; Aquarius on the 29th at 09.51 hours where it ends the month.

☿ **Mercury** begins April in 29° 11' Aries and enters Taurus later the same day at 13.46 hours. On the 15th it reaches 9° 36' when it turns retrograde at 00.02 hours. By the month end it has retreated to 2° 17' of the Bull.

♀ **Venus** begins the month in 10° 54' Aries and enters Taurus on the 16th at 09.44 hours. It ends the month at 16° 47' of the Bull.

♂ **Mars** is retrograde in 21° 19' Virgo on the 1st and retreats to 16° 44' on the 27th when it turns direct at 19.10 hours. It ends the month at 16° 47' of the Maiden.

♃ **Jupiter** is in Aquarius all month and advances from 15° 1' on the first day to 19° 23' of the Water Carrier on the last day.

♄ **Saturn** spends the month in Aries and advances from 10° 23' on the 1st to 13° 56' on the 30th.

♅ **Uranus** is in 7° 57' Aquarius as the month opens and advances to 8° 36' by the month end.

♆ **Neptune** is in 29° 42' Capricorn on the 1st and by the month end has advanced to only 29° 57' of the Goat.

♇ **Pluto** spends the month retrograde in Sagittarius and retreats from 5° 27' on the 1st to only 4° 54' of the Archer by the 30th.

All positions are for 00.00 hours GMT.

Reading the Aspectarian

In the aspectarian we list the principal Lunar and mutual aspects for each day of the month. A Lunar aspect is a specific distance, measured in degrees, between the Moon and a planet; a mutual aspect is between one planet and another, excluding the Moon but including the Sun.

First of all memorise what the symbols stand for:

♈ Aries, ♉ Taurus, ♊ Gemini, ♋ Cancer, ♌ Leo, ♍ Virgo, ♎ Libra, ♏ Scorpio, ♐ Sagittarius, ♑ Capricorn, ♒ Aquarius, ♓ Pisces.

☉ Sun, ☾ Moon, ☿ Mercury, ♀ Venus, ♂ Mars, ♃ Jupiter, ♄ Saturn, ♅ Uranus, ♆ Neptune, ♇ Pluto.

The major aspects:

♁ (0°) conjunction: good or bad according to planets involved

* (60°) sextile: generally helpful.

◻ (90°) square: mostly challenging.

△ (120°) trine: strongly helpful.

♁ (180°) opposition: conflict and tension.

The minor aspects:

⊥ (30°) semi-sextile: slightly favourable.

⊏ (45°) semi-square: somewhat stressful.

♁ (72°) quintile: creativeness.

♁ (135°) sesqui-square: usually unfavourable.

⊘ (150°) inconjunct or quincunx; stressful.

Each month the Moon travels right round the zodiac making every aspect to every planet at least once. When there are several aspects in one day we group them after one Moon symbol thus:

☾△♁*♃⊥♁♀

This means Moon trine Sun, Moon sextile Jupiter, Moon square Venus.

ASPECTARIAN

APRIL

- 1 T.** ♃ in ♎. ♃♂♂. ♃□♀.
Breakfast time disruptions in the home and when travelling. Post may bring news of important changes.
- 2 W.** ♃ in ♎ & ♎. ♃□♀♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂. ♃♂♀.
Pm hours best for social gatherings for business or pleasure.
- 3 Th.** ♃ in ♎. ♃♂♂♀♂♀.
Beware those who bear 'gifts,' especially at work.
- 4 F.** ♃ in ♎ & ♎. ♃♂♀♂♂. ♂♂♀.
Midday period brings a tendency to overdo things whether eating out or shopping.
- 5 S.** ♃ in ♎. ♃♂♂♂. ♃♂♀.
Wow! Love is in the air. Enjoy!!
- 6 Su.** ♃ in ♎ & ♎. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂.
Spend time with your favourite person. For some, the week ends on an unusual note.
- 7 M.** ♃ in ♎. ♃♂♂♂♀♂♀♂♂.
Surprise additional responsibilities at work but you can cope.
- 8 T.** ♃ in ♎ & ♎. ♃♂♀♂♂♂♂♂♂.
Keep your head, some folk liable to throw wobbles for the slightest excuse.
- 9 W.** ♃ in ♎. ♃♂♂♂♂♂. ♃♂♂♂.
Rumour could bring news you may not like. Check the facts before you do anything.
- 10 Th.** ♃ in ♎ & ♎. ♃♂♂♂♂♂.
Job problems conflict with personal life. Think things through before making decisions.
- 11 F.** ♃ in ♎. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂.
This Friday may prove the adage that you can't please all the people all the time.
- 12 S.** ♃ in ♎ & ♎. ♃♂♂♂♀.
Wedding bells perhaps or celebrating with someone else?
- 13 Su.** ♃ in ♎. ♃♂♀♂♂♂.
Outstanding tasks build up so don't let things drag on.
- 14 M.** ♃ in ♎. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂.
Isn't it funny how Mondays can bring us down to earth so quickly?
- 15 T.** ♃ in ♎ & ♎. ♃♂♀♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂.
Difficulty in communications and travel of all kinds.
- 16 W.** ♃ in ♎. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂. ♂♂♂♂.
Stand your ground, be a little more forceful, let others know you mean business.
- 17 Th.** ♃ in ♎ & ♎. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂.
Good news financially. Not exactly a windfall but...
- 18 F.** ♃ in ♎. ♃♂♀♂♂♂.
Other folk have problems making it clear what they want from you.
- 19 S.** ♃ in ♎. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂. ♂♂♂♂.
Domestic and family issues need to be resolved. A minor emergency perhaps.
- 20 Su.** ♃ in ♎ & ♎. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂. ♂♂♂♂.
Make, or accept that changes must come about. Keep calm and be reasonable.
- 21 M.** ♃ in ♎. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂.
Best to keep as near routine as possible today.
- 22 T.** ♃ in ♎ & ♎. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂. ♂♂♂♂.
Guns/weaponry/violence, the military or similar may be in the news.
- 23 W.** ♃ in ♎. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂. ♂♂♂♂.
Neighbours or local community affairs will be prominent.
- 24 Th.** ♃ in ♎ & ♎. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂.
A high-minded or moral tone won't help if people give you grief. Direct action favoured.
- 25 F.** ♃ in ♎. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂. ♂♂♂♂.
Call a spade a spade, good diplomacy won't help resolve today's troubles.
- 26 S.** ♃ in ♎. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂. ♂♂♂♂.
Agreements and documents may be finalised and signed.
- 27 Su.** ♃ in ♎ & ♎. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂.
Midday travel problems, perhaps, otherwise a relatively quiet Sunday.
- 28 M.** ♃ in ♎. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂. ♂♂♂♂.
Don't let your heart rule your head or mistakes will cost you dearly.
- 29 T.** ♃ in ♎ & ♎. ♃♂♀♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂. ♂♂♂♂.
Favours insurance/assurance, money saving schemes that affect your future.
- 30 W.** ♃ in ♎. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂. ♂♂♂♂.
Busy, with changes of pace and mood. Take things as they come.



THE MONARCHY

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

by
ALEXANDER MARKIN

Ex-King Farouk of Egypt famously remarked that by the turn of the century there would be only five kings left in the world: the King of England and the kings of Spades, Hearts, Diamonds and Clubs.

At the time of writing his prediction seems unduly pessimistic with several other reigning monarchs and even speculation on the possibility of a restoration of the monarchy in Russia — of all places! Yet despite some republican sentiment the monarchy seems to be more securely established in this country than in any other part of the world.

It is surely worth looking at the astrological reasons for this durability and our starting-point must be the chart for the coronation of William the Conqueror on Christmas Day (old style) 1066. This chart, given in the late Charles Carter's excellent book *An Introduction to Political Astrology* (to which the reader is referred and from which several other charts

used here are taken), is one of three charts cited by the author as having a political significance for Great Britain.

The monarchy as such is not mentioned in connection with this chart but it stands to reason that the chart must be especially important in that particular context. That it remains valid up to the present day despite constitutional changes can be seen from the examples below.

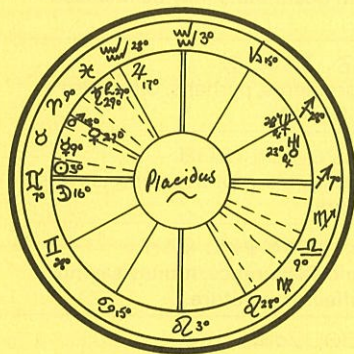
Notable features

Several notable features of the 1066 chart deserve to be mentioned. First and foremost the Sun culminating in Capricorn in trine to Jupiter. This is a powerful indicator of the basic stability of the monarchy. Jupiter is not too well placed in Virgo but its influence is still a helpful one. Its position by sign and house shows that support can be expected from the working population.

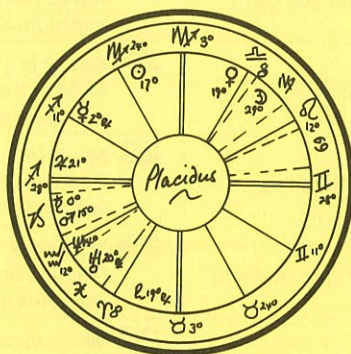
Jupiter rules the 9th House (religion) and this brings us to

the second important feature of the chart. For here we find Uranus in square to the Moon which symbolises the tensions caused by the Reformation. Sun trine Jupiter implies the identification of the monarch with religion in a way not necessarily present in other countries and we know that in this country the reigning monarch is also the titular head of the established Church. It should be added, however, that this Uranus-Moon square is mitigated by the sextile from Venus in the 11th House to the Moon, denoting the continuing popularity of the monarchy among the people as a whole — notwithstanding any difficulties that might arise.

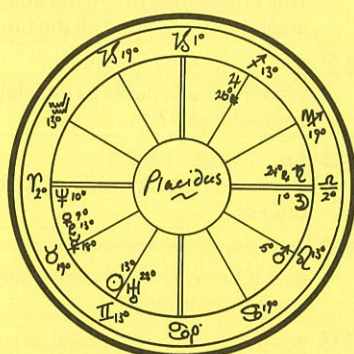
Thirdly Saturn as Sun ruler and dispositor of Mars (the Ascendant ruler) and also as Mid-heaven ruler exercises a stronger influence than one might think from its position in the chart. It has a close trine to Mercury (Virgo to Capricorn) suggesting a pragmatic out-



Queen Victoria
4.15am, May 25th 1819
London



Edward VII
10.48am, November 9th 1841
London



George V
1.18am, June 3rd 1865
London

look. It could be argued that one of the strengths of the monarchy has been its readiness to make necessary adjustments while at the same time maintaining its authority.

Fourthly the semisextile from a rising Neptune to the Ascendant is more significant than one might have expected from a minor aspect. Neptune in Taurus has a special importance in economic affairs and these have been very much to the fore in recent years.

Finally an overall comment. Nearly all the planets are in negative signs, the only exceptions being Mars and Uranus — to which may be added the Ascendant. The general impression is of a willingness to listen, yet a willingness also to take initiatives on occasions.

National

As stated above, this chart can be used as a national chart — as indeed it has been by Carter and others including the present writer. Yet in view of the specific connection with the monarchy it would seem to indicate the influence, albeit indirect, of a given monarch on the life of the nation as a whole. This will be illustrated in the following examples.

We begin with Queen Victoria. There are two principal contacts with the 1066 chart. First Mercury in 9° Taurus completes a Grand Trine with 1066 Sun and Jupiter. The contact gains in significance from the fact that Mercury is both Ascendant ruler and Sun ruler. It is generally accepted that the Victorian era was one of prosperity.

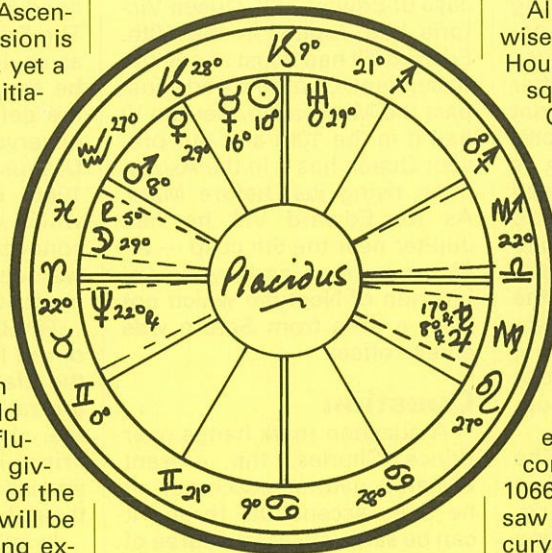
Secondly, her Neptune falls on 1066 Uranus while at the same time Saturn is on the 1066 Moon. However, the square is mitigated by a trine of Venus to Neptune. The 9th House rules overseas trade and the reign of Queen Victoria saw the establishment of a large

colonial empire with possessions in many distant places. Thus the period is very well described by these contacts. There was also a certain amount of tension and unrest, shown by Neptune square Saturn falling on 1066 Uranus square Moon.

Queen Victoria was succeeded by her son King Edward VII. Here we again find the 1066 Uranus square Moon being triggered — by the Moon in 29° Virgo and the Ascendant in 28° Sagittarius. Also the Sun in 17° Scorpio was at the midpoint of 1066 Mercury trine Saturn. The main features of the Edwardian

period were faced with a serious constitutional crisis over the powers of the House of Lords. We are reminded here that the 9th House also governs legal matters and it comes as no surprise to find that George V's Uranus is closely opposed to 1066 Uranus, setting off the square to the Moon. Four years later the country was plunged into World War I from which it emerged victorious but greatly weakened. Ironically, the Empire became even larger at this time through the acquisition of former Ottoman and German colonies under mandates of the League of Nations.

All these development likewise come under the 9th House. We also find Neptune squaring the 1066 Sun and George V's reign was certainly a troubled one — with the 1926 General Strike and the Government crises of 1923 when the result of the General Election was inconclusive and 1931, when the then Labour Government resigned after failing to agree on measures to deal with the economic crisis. Yet Venus completes a Grand Trine with 1066 Sun and Jupiter as we saw with Queen Victoria's Mercury. George V acquired a reputation as a wise elder statesman and a model constitutional monarch at such times.



Coronation of William the Conqueror
Noon, December 25th, 1066
Westminster Abbey

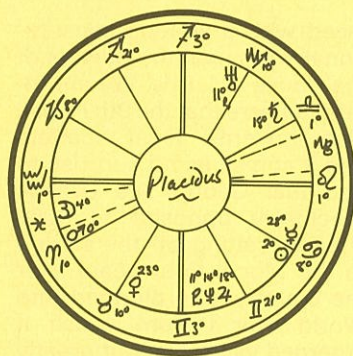
era were the *Entente Cordiale* with France which Edward VII himself did much to promote and the first steps towards social legislation. 1066 Mercury rules the 3rd House, governing neighbouring countries, as well as the 6th which represents the working population. Edward VII was generally well liked as can be seen from the trine from his Moon to 1066 Venus — which, as noted, mitigates the effect of the otherwise potentially explosive Uranus square Moon.

No sooner had King George V come to the throne than he was

Contacts lacking

The reign of King Edward VIII, later Duke of Windsor, may be dealt with very briefly. To this writer it is highly significant that there are no important contacts with the 1066 chart. (There is another point, also, which will be discussed later.) It is scarcely necessary to add that Edward VIII reigned for less than a year.

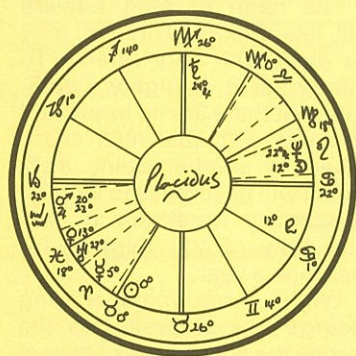
Within three years of King George VI's accession to the throne the country was again at war. His Jupiter opposes 1066 Mars and his Uranus opposes 1066 Neptune. George VI won



Edward VII
9.55pm GMT, June 23rd 1894
Richmond

respect and affection as a result of his willingness to share in the nation's hardships during World War II (Jupiter in Leo opposite 1066 Mars in Aquarius). He lived for only six years after the war but that was sufficient to usher in a period of economic difficulties which are with us to this day, being symbolised by the opposition of Uranus to Neptune in Taurus. The Empire had begun to break up with the independence of India and the process was to gather momentum during the present Queen's reign. Here too we can trace the effect of Uranus opposing 1066 Neptune.

And so to the present. The trend just noted is echoed in the Queen's chart where a rising Jupiter-Mars conjunction opposite Neptune picks up 1066 Neptune. It is not necessary to elaborate on the economic problems that have faced successive governments



Elizabeth II
1.40am GMT, April 21st 1926
London

partly as a result of decolonisation and the loss of overseas markets. But it may be pointed out that this configuration also aspects the 1066 Ascendant by trine and sextile so it can be said that the Queen is personally popular and has a breadth of vision that the country badly needs. She has had a generally stabilising influence (Sun in Taurus) at a time of bewilderingly rapid change.

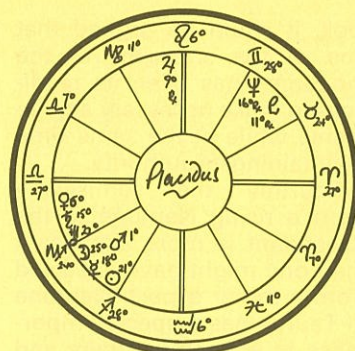
At this point attention must be drawn to a recurring feature in the charts of reigning monarchs. In all the charts considered to date Jupiter has been very prominent — except in the case of Edward VIII. Queen Victoria had Jupiter in the 10th. Edward VII had it just above the Ascendant. George V had it just past the Midheaven. George VI had it in the 10th and our present Queen has it in the Ascendant, rising just before Mars. As for Edward VIII he had Jupiter near the 5th cusp — afflicted by sign and by a conjunction of Neptune which not even a trine from Saturn was able to offset.

Question

A question mark hangs over Prince Charles, the present Queen's natural successor. If he does ascend the throne it can be said with a fair degree of certainty that the country will continue to have economic problems for his Sun is opposed to 1066 Neptune.

Of course that would not make him personally responsible for these any more than his predecessor. Great Britain has been a constitutional monarchy for over 300 years and while the monarch of the day reigns, he/she does not rule. But the country's fortunes are reflected in the chart of the reigning monarch willy-nilly.

It has been suggested that, following the Prince's divorce, his sister, Princess Anne, might assume the role of Queen Consort. If so, the trend mentioned will again be highlighted; her Sun squares 1066 Neptune!

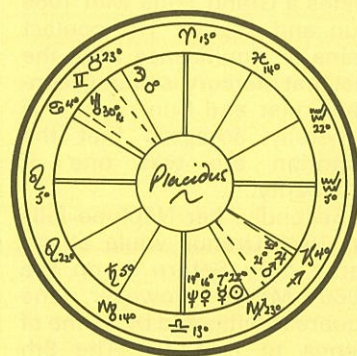


George VI
3.05am GMT, December 14th 1895
Sandringham

More problematical still would be his position as titular head of the Church of England. The Prince has gone on record as saying that he would rather be the defender of faith than the defender of The Faith. We observe that his Jupiter-Uranus opposition picks up 1066 Uranus square Moon which we already know to be connected with religion. Can we see here the disestablishment of the Church of England?

Finally we should take note of the fact that the majority of the planets (including Jupiter) are rather obscurely placed in the chart. As we know the Prince is a very private person and is unlikely to relish being in the public eye.

In all probability, therefore, the monarchy would assume a lower profile if he were on the throne — which he would probably accept only out of a sense of duty.



Prince Charles
9.14pm GMT, November 14th 1948
London

ASTROLOGY TODAY

Traditionally, those born with Mercury retrograde have been considered to have a weak or lazy intellect. In actual fact, what is indicated is a strong tendency towards introversion. The individual will be more interested in his or her own mind and consciousness than in people and events in the outside world.

In mental development it will be very important, far more so than outer success. All retrograde planets are concerned with unfinished business in some respect and with Mercury there is a very strong awareness of the need to resolve the consequences of error.

The individual will strongly resist any impulse to talk, write or sign contracts speedily. These people will seem to be slow and deliberate in their thinking and cautious in their manner of communicating. They make decisions only after long deliberation and will very often reconsider decisions they have already made.

People with Mercury retrograde are concerned about clearing up misunderstandings and will need to re-evaluate things that they cannot immediately understand. They will not immediately trust what they are told by others.

These people are very aware of the need to live with the consequences of their decisions and agreements. They are also likely to feel very misunderstood. This is not surprising as they are quite often dismissed as 'slow learners.' This is because they are constantly going over past experiences and ideas but this is how

they gain their very deep insights.

People with Mercury retrograde quite often find that during their lives they need to review and change their work conditions and possibly their health regimes. Of course aspects to the natal Mercury and the house position and sign position of natal Mercury will all be crucial in the overall analysis.

When Mercury changes direction by progression in the natal horoscope, it is likely to be an extremely important period of life.

RETROGRADE MERCURY IN THE BIRTH CHART

by
**JOY
HICKLIN-BAILEY**

Mercury can be moving direct for part of the life and then form a station for several years and begin to move retrograde — or the reverse is possible.

The individual may be born with a retrograde Mercury and this will eventually station for several years and begin to move direct. There will be very important changes in self-expression and the conscious mental attitude the individual holds.

The house in which Mercury is posited and the

house which it rules in the natal chart are likely to be the areas of life which are most effected. If the progressed Mercury is moving retrograde, the individual will find that the affairs ruled by that planet in general (communication and so on) and the affairs ruled by the house Mercury rules in the chart will be slowed. The individual will become more introspective regarding these matters and there may be some frustration in terms of material success concerning them.

However, the individual will be able to profit from all the fine details he or she would otherwise have missed in these areas. Other people may not be aware of the massive mental change which is going on.

From a karmic point of view, one can assume that the individual is concerned with resolving unfinished business from previous lives as described by the house and sign of Mercury and the house which it rules and any aspects made to it. There will be a hidden quality to these affairs until Mercury resumes its forward motion by progression.

For those individuals who are born with retrograde Mercury which then moves direct by progression, those affairs which remained in a hidden or latent state will begin to progress once Mercury begins to move forward by progression. Abilities will suddenly come to light that have not been apparent before. The individual is possibly able now to access and express openly the learnings that have occurred in previous lives.

ARIES



by
**MERCEDES
DuQUESNE**

The cycle of the zodiac starts at the Spring Equinox, the moment when the Sun moves into Aries, first sign and harbinger of all new growth and life. This new, fresh start is aptly illustrated by those born under Aries. Who's the first in the street with the latest innovation — and wastes no time in telling you? The chances are that he or she is an Aries subject and that's where your average Arien wants to be — out in front.

Not only that but the Arien character has boundless enthusiasm for the latest idea, gadget, job or project, at least until the next one comes along. That's part of the Aries downside, you see; a lack of staying power. The Arien character is such that without an awful lot of motivation, the initial impetus soon wears off. The same

can happen if things don't go quickly enough, as Aries is very much a now person and our subject is likely to get a touch tetchy if thwarted or slowed down for any reason.

It's all to do with Mars, the ruler of this sign who, to his Greek (who called him Ares) and Roman worshippers, was the god of war and, as such, had a tendency to charge off and carry the fight to the enemy, whoever he was. The modern, evolved Mars is seen mainly as the professional man-at-arms who is concerned more with keeping the peace than promoting strife but is quite prepared to fight the good fight if needed.

The Aries subject leans more to the earlier style, however, hence the impetuous, enthusiastic embrace of all things new, especially if there is some sort

of rapid — or better still, instant — gratification. It has to be said that Aries was behind the door when patience, tact and forethought were handed out. However, drive, ambition and a big, warm, generous heart saw Aries right out in front and these are the qualities which tend to be overlooked by many in their own haste to classify the first sign.

Aries' year ahead

As your New Year starts your ruler, Mars, is moving retrograde in Virgo and is making an opposition from the 2nd House to a conjunction of the Sun, just entering Aries and Venus in Pisces, both in the 8th House. Such a set-up could indicate a temporary glitch in your financial dealings — perhaps a setback with a mortgage company — but don't be disheartened if all is apparently not going to plan — you have the rest of the Solar system on your side.

Venus applies in conjunction to the Sun which will smooth over any pernicky detail problems from Mars in Virgo. Neptune gets in on the act from Capricorn in the 6th, perhaps suggesting ways around problems but equally capable of fogging issues. Think finances through carefully!

Pluto is in trine to the Sun from Sagittarius in the 4th and, through another trine, also brings the conjunction of Saturn and Mercury (both in Aries and 9th House) into play. Not an occasion for horror; this powerful combination of Saturn and Pluto, both in Fire signs, will bring pretty awesome forces to bear if you let them, Pluto supplying the foundations of any necessary changes while Saturn brings form to the forces.

The Mercury-Saturn alliance will confer the ability to learn quickly, think on your feet and

bring others round to your point of view. Saturn in Aries can be a touch dogmatic, though, so beware of laying down the law too energetically.

It has already been said that all this financial finagling could be down to a house purchase — transforming Pluto in expansive Sagittarius in the 4th House of hearth and home — but the reason for this lies elsewhere. Jupiter's placement in the 7th House within half a degree of the Descendant and in opposition to a waxing Moon in Leo, signifies an expansion of emotional partnership matters. Single Ariens could well be on their way to setting up house with a loved one, while those already settled may be on their way to greater things in their partnerships.

A minor aspect from Mars to the Midheaven in Aries points up the possibilities of minor bobbles on the career front, as does the positioning, close to the Descendant, of Uranus in Aquarius in the 6th House. Uranus is handily placed on the midpoint of the Saturn-Pluto trine, ready to provide a nudge if either gets too set in its way, while the two heavyweights are quite capable of squashing any Uranian excesses.

During the course of the next 12 months Mars manages to cover a little over half of the zodiac, reaching his kingdom in early March 1998. On

All these things go with the Fire element, of which Aries is the first and the Cardinal quality is largely responsible for his ability to come up with an idea and put it in motion in the blink of an eye. The problem is that, while a great self-starter without a lot of stoking either from within or others around, the Arien fires of enthusiasm tend to burn low very quickly and the project fizzles out. As an ideas person Aries is tops; putting those ideas into practice and seeing them through is better left to the more practical signs.

Many sportsmen and women have planets occupying Aries or Mars prominent in their charts and this points up the Arien need for challenge and competition. The ambition noted earlier is not so much getting to the top — usually Leo is there as figurehead while Capricorn pulls the strings — but out in front. Don't look for Aries as the president or managing director; he is more

POSITION IN THE ZODIAC	FIRST SIGN
CORRESPONDING TO	MARCH 21 TO APRIL 20
PRINCIPLE	DIRECT ACTION
ELEMENT	FIRE
QUALITY	CARDINAL
PLANETARY RULER	MARS
SYMBOL	THE RAM

likely to be the top field salesman in the company. It appeals to his desire to be out in front coupled to the need for personal freedom, because being tied down means stultifying boredom.

Mars also rules cutting instruments — knives, swords and scalpels for instance — so as well as making for surgeons and soldiers, both very Arien occupations, the top carpenter or butcher in any community could also have a birthday in late March or early April.

Do not look for the hearts and flowers approach to romance from either sex. That jump in with both feet approach is nev-

er more evident than when Aries falls for someone, usually like a ton of bricks down a well. Anyone who takes on Aries as a mate, be warned — dramatic, exciting, life in the fast lane is what you get. Quiet it is not. Be prepared for the odd tantrum and a whole lot of fun.

The key to a lasting relationship is to hold the Arien interest. Nobody is perfect, as Aries will be the first to admit. Take note of the downside but promote and enjoy the upside of the Arien temperament; enthusiasm, energy, generosity, honesty and an engaging innocence that comes from being the baby of the zodiac.

the way there are two sextile aspects, trines and conjunctions both to Saturn and Pluto, perhaps indicating further ramifications or unfinished items in the abovementioned financial dealings.

These are more likely to be to your advantage than anything else but square aspects by Mars to Saturn in late November and to Pluto in early February 1998 could indicate matters for deeper concern; the Mars-Saturn square in particular could make for heavy weather, especially where health is concerned, given that each is in the other's rulership.

The Mars-Pluto square shows tension between the 4th and 7th Houses with undertones of an irresistible force meeting an immovable object. With Uranus kicking around on the midpoint of this aspect look for a display of fireworks when the tension is released, followed possibly by revelations on both sides as you and your partner re-evaluate yourselves and each other and go on to better things.

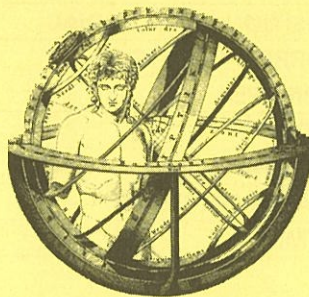
While all this is going on, Mars also makes acquaintance at various times with three other heavyweights, to wit Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune. The first occasion is when Mars makes squares to all three in quick succession while transiting the 3rd House in early August. Mars square Neptune could see you going round in

indecisive circles, while the square to Uranus immediately after the entry of Mars into Scorpio a few days later might come out as a prolonged sulk following some disruption to a business trip or some technological malfunction.

If Arians must take independent, unilateral action to sort it all out on the culminating Mars square Jupiter aspect they should be careful that things don't run away with them. The same combinations come up as sextiles in early October so expect some deep thought followed by rapid action on the home front with the same sort of pattern again in the workplace either side of Christmas with conjunct aspects.

By early March, Neptune has made a vague sort of entrance into Aquarius (he wanders back into Capricorn in August) so there could be a lot of hot air around when Mars makes an 8th House sextile from Aries in early March. Keep your hand on your wallet, 'cos get-rich-quick Uranus comes next...

Taken all round there is enough going on to keep even the most hyperactive Arien busy for the next 12 months. How it all turns out depends entirely on the individual but by keeping one's eyes and mind open and one's brain in gear there is no reason why some striking advances cannot be made.



APRIL BIRTHDAY FORECAST

★ INDICATES AN EXCEPTIONALLY LUCKY 12 MONTHS AHEAD

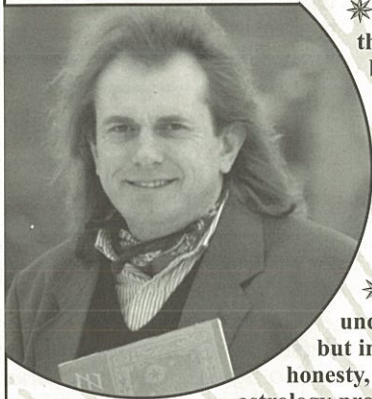
-
- 1** Postpone long-term agreements, or other documentation that binds you, until after October '97.
-
- 2** Business/career matters quiet, social and romantic life a little more optimistic.
-
- 3** Favours the men. Romance, even marriage perhaps for some in this forward-looking period.
-
- 4** Watch budgets, purses and wallets. They are not bottomless pits.
-
- 5** For those who have their own businesses, opportunities for expanding interest00s arise.
-
- 6** Problems seem to be resolved in most areas. Career and romance may be linked?
-
- 7** Let others lead. Wiser not to rush in to anything because it looks good.
-
- 8** Partnership matters adverse until after Sep/Oct'97 when things pick up again.
-
- 9** Not very promising. Money tight. Just let things happen as they will.
-
- 10** Temptation to go-it-alone, even to make quite radical changes all round.
-
- 11** Highly productive and profitable.
★ Any opposition to plans purely nominal and easily overcome.
-
- 12** New romantic interest on the horizon or present relationship strengthens.
-
- 13** Check and double-check agreements and documentation. Go forward one step at a time.
-
- 14** A natural rebellious streak gets quite animated. People look at you in a better light.
-
- 15** Be warned. People promise much but do very little and are liable to let you down.
-
- 16** Partners difficult, deceptive or unrealistic, even quite hurtful in some cases.
-
- 17** New faces, new places. The adventurous should enjoy the challenges.
-
- 18** After June life becomes a little easier but be ready for awkward folk Sep/Oct period.
-
- 19** Could become rather intense and try to force issues if things don't turn out quite as you expect.
-
- 20** Unexpected events around May create many changes.
-
- 21** Judgment and good timing needed to improve areas where you feel you will benefit most.
-
- 22** A costly 12 months, not just financially but socially and possibly romantically as well.
-
- 23** An eternal triangle situation could occur.
-
- 24** Ease up pursuing career matters if neglecting other areas of your life.
-
- 25** A new relationship connected with work may come about.
-
- 26** May become ruthless to get a step up the career ladder.
-
- 27** Eventful. Plenty will be going on to interest and keep you occupied.
-
- 28** Don't let others walk over you. Be more assertive, take a positive stand.
-
- 29** Little or no negative vibes. Good
★ year all round.
-
- 30** You will lose in the long run if you bend or break the rules to get your own way.
-

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OCCULT QUESTION TIME

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ENCHANTED SWANS

I believe there is an Irish legend about some children being turned into swans and an accepted rule that these creatures should not be harmed or killed because they might be humans under a spell. Is this so? — M.J., Cardiff.

In ancient Irish folklore there is the legend of Lir whose four children were transformed into swans by their wicked step-mother. It was 900 years before this spell was broken when a princess of Southern Ireland married a king of the North. This, according to the terms of the spell, allowed the children to resume their human form.

However, by that time they were so old in mortal terms that they were baptised by a hermit and swiftly died. During the 900 year period and ever

since the harming or killing of swans has been prohibited. This ban is strictly enforced just in case they are really human beings under enchantment.

MAGIC MUSHROOMS

Do magic mushrooms actually exist or are they just a cover up for other hallucinogenic drugs? — P.W.C., Northumberland.

They certainly do exist and have been used for their magical properties for thousands of years. One of the oldest and most famous is Fly Agaric (a poisonous toadstool) which can be found all over the world. This is used for inducing dreams, visions and in religious rituals, especially in Mediterranean and Asian countries but also across the Atlantic.

The so-called magic mushroom is actually the fungus

Psilocybe which grows in profusion in Britain. Its special effect is to induce a feeling of being outside space and time.

Although some fungi are used for healing purposes, when they are at their most therapeutic. Extreme care must be taken, though, as an overdose of some species can be fatal.

LINES OF THE HAND

Palmists claim that lines of the hand show incidents and trends in a person's life but I have been told that orthodox religion condemns palmistry. — M.T.P., Colchester.

It is sometimes difficult to understand why various religions are so against palmistry when, as has been pointed out many times in print, the Old Testament, at least, acknowledges this ancient occult art.

'God sealeth up the hand of every man' is one quotation. Another is, 'I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands.' The latter suggests God's approval, if not that of certain religions.

PLANETS & STORMS

Is there a link between the influence of planets and electrical storms? I believe it has been proved that such a link exists, am I right? — P.J.K., Oxford.

graphology

(continued from page 10)

there is a lively spirit, often with a number of softer qualities such as kindness and understanding.

Spacing between lines suggests an acceptable aptitude for organising. Word-spacing is a little wide and alludes to the distance placed between the writer and those with whom contact occurs. The t-bar in this and the rest of the writing

is placed forward from the stem. This is one of the characteristics of speed and impulsive bursts at times.

Much of this example is pulled out to the right: the evidence of extravert qualities. But one must have caution here as speed has to be considered as well.

Nevertheless the script shows inclinations to the right-hand side of the page which are symbolic of the outside world and the future. The left side of the page is symbolic of the past and self: introversion.

One cannot be but interested in the third specimen with

all its owner's desire to impress with something different. The base-line is so straight that it could not be made without a rule or paper guide.

There is a slight leftward leaning slant which suggests an introvert but, from the height of the middle zone, one who has a strong desire to be noticed and given some attention. In truth this script has really been drawn rather than written.

The t-bars are pointed upwards giving an inkling of optimism. Any stroke pointing upward reaches out to the sphere of hopes, aspirations, intellec-

The answer is yes and no. Certainly a meteorologist in the USA researched the effects of planets on electrical storms in the ionosphere. He discovered that the mathematical data was almost identical to astrological calculations as applied to the influence of planets on human beings and their individual personalities.

As yet, however, this similarity has not been investigated scientifically. Some scientists, though, have declared an open mind on the subject rather than dismiss it out of hand.

STAR OF BETHLEHEM

Recently I have read several theories concerning the Star of Bethlehem and what it might have been in reality. Can you cut through the confusion of so many contradictory ideas and tell me what it really was? — J.T.M., Dover.

Most astronomers favour the theory of a comet appearing in the sky over Judea and Mesopotamia at the time Christ was born. This at least accounts for there being a moving celestial object that could be followed by the three magi.

A newspaper report mentioned a Chinese astronomical record of such a comet appear-

ing in March, 5BC, which could be seen for a period of just over two months. A more recent theory highlights an event in 2BC when the paths of Jupiter and Venus appeared to join, as seen from the Earth. This, in effect, created a brilliant 'new' star, which may well have been the ancient Star of Bethlehem, visible for the whole of June 2BC.

All this conflicting data inevitably raises questions about the month and year of Christ's birth. However, we already know that December 25th was chosen to celebrate it when earlier religious Winter festivals were incorporated into the 'new' religion of Christianity.

DRAC

While on holiday in France I heard of an entity called Drac and tried to find out if this was related to Dracula. Do you know anything about this, please? — M.B., Stafford.

Drac is certainly no relation of the Transylvanian vampire, Count Dracula, but a somewhat malicious French sprite. This creature is said to transform itself into golden treasure and lay in wait in rivers or fairly shallow waters in order to entice the greedy and unwary into

the water where they are pulled under to their doom.

HANGED MAN

I notice that in some Tarot packs the figure of The Hanged Man is suspended by his left leg and in others by the right. Is this unusual? — P.H., Perth.

The *Gringonneur*, *IJJ Swiss*, *Rider-Waite* and *BO-TA* packs have The Hanged Man suspended by his right leg. This has been interpreted as symbolic of the path of sacrifice that is intentional and for the benefit of humankind; a God-like assumption of sacrifice, in fact.

In most other packs the suspended man hangs by his left leg. This is certainly not indicative of evil or any unpleasant influence but does suggest less esoteric reasons for the sacrifice or even ritualistic rather than personal involvement.

There is no conflict in either depiction because such details in the illustration are usually determined by artistic licence rather than tradition. However, Tarot experts I have asked about this point do tend to favour the right leg suspension as having greater relevance for current modern interpretations of the card.

tual reasoning, spirit and imagination.

Line-spacing is dangerously narrow which could imply a rather muddled thinking process. In this case, however, the writer just manages to 'get away with it.' Word spaces are broadly even, with one or two variations, and reveal a regular attitude in approaching others.

Again it is difficult to receive any idea other than that this example has actually been designed and not freely written in an open and spontaneous manner. It has been done for making a good impression but, to the analyst, it is a fine exam-

ple of a really negative effort. That middle zone height of 7mm represents one with quite an active ego and self-esteem. Self-importance is very near the top of this writer's trait-list!

All three specimens have both assets and drawbacks and, of course, warnings. The compression and angular strokes are a sign of tension in the first example.

The writer of the second may at times be over-impulsive which may lead to rashness. The owner of the third sample may cause trouble with an over-active self-esteem and expressing that ego inflation.

If one looks deeply enough, most handwritings have hidden degrees of warning. The state of health gives rise to a lot of them which may be observed by an experienced graphologist. Much research in this context was done upon cancer some years ago by a famous neurologist — sadly now deceased.

Handwriting reflects so much more about a person's character and state of health than the layperson can imagine at first. It is truly a personality diagram when a psychological diagnosis of the individual is required.

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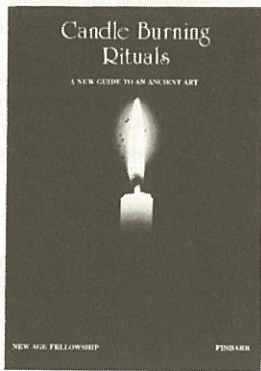
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would bring him no good. So I performed the ritual called 'To Break Up Another's Love Affair' and I was overjoyed when it worked!" (K.B., Manchester)

"It looked as if my son was gonna get sent down for 5 years. The evidence was stacked against him, and it seemed a foregone conclusion the jury would find him guilty. But I knew deep in my heart he was not guilty. It was then God led me to your book. I performed the ritual 'To Get A Legal Decision In Your Favour'. I couldn't believe it – the jury returned a 'not guilty' verdict!" (B.D., Boston)

"My life was a mess. I had got into a business partnership which turned into a nightmare. My so-called 'partner' was no better than a crook. He had lied to me about what was really going on. We owed people money all over the place. So I tried the ritual 'To Extricate Yourself From a Matter You Regret Having Become Involved In'. It was the answer to my prayers. Immediately my partner's attitude changed, and he even offered to buy out my share. I sold out and even made money on the deal. I can't thank you enough – that ritual saved me!" J.B. (Birmingham)

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Life is but a Dream

About 90 minutes after your head hits the pillow, your brain will awaken with a start and you will find yourself transported into a world that defies reality — dreaming.

The earliest form of dream analysis was found in an Egyptian papyrus dating to 2000 BC. Egyptians regarded dreams as prophetic messages from the gods, a tradition upheld and continued by the Babylonians and Greeks until the 2nd century AD.

At that time, Artemidorus Daldianus, a Greek soothsayer, broke with tradition and applied logic to dream-forms to come up with the first down to Earth analysis. 'Dreams,' he wrote, 'are not messages from the gods but mere extensions of activities in which mortals engage daily.'

Daldianus' teachings that dreams were products of the mind rather than a subconscious link to the divine sowed enough seed to tarnish the golden image of a direct line to the gods. In the process, he split believers into two camps.

Some, like Aristotle, believed that dreams were the result of supernatural influence and should thus be regarded with care. Others believed that dreams had little or nothing to contribute to our understanding of anything. The latter group was to later find strong voice in St Thomas Aquinas who preached that dreams should be ignored.

The royal road

The debate, unresolved and smouldering still, was fanned into a new blaze in 1900 when Sigmund Freud published his controversial work, *The Interpretation of Dreams*. Perversely perhaps, Freud's work provided ammunition for both camps.

Yes, Freud said, dreams are important, a true 'royal road' to the unconscious self. But to

Freud that unconscious self was a clinical thing, bereft of beauty. So, in the same breath he explained that 'When the work of interpretation has been completed, we perceive that a dream is the fulfilment of a wish.' Nothing more.

So, according to Freud, dreams were indeed debased, mere cries from the inner child petulantly yelling 'I wish.' But although this was a setback for those who believed that dreams were somehow more than inner-baby cries, the attention they so publicly received ensured that they would not be perceived as such for long.

Freud's brightest pupil, Carl Gustav Jung, was the first of the new breed of 'mind doctors' to restore the mystical aura of dreams by perceiving them to be information carriers regarding the self. Dreams thus became 'valuable guides' essential for the process of individuation that leads the self to heal the rifts within its psyche and thus become whole.

Man had now become a wounded god of sorts, torn from himself and the wholeness of his nature and it was within the process of self-healing that dreaming took place. Jung was a mystic as well as a psychologist and his description of the dream process opened up new vistas for those who believed that dreams held more than just expressions of 'suppressed sexual drives' and 'frustrated ids.'

Indeed dreams, Jung argued, arose from the activity of the brain. But within that brain was a mind. And the mind — as far as he was concerned — was unfettered and metaphysical, extending beyond matter, space and time to encompass

the entire universe.

Dreams had once again become golden messages from beyond. Only this time they did not come from the gods but, rather more tellingly, were deemed to originate from 'elsewhere' and their divination had meaning that was vital to the here and now.

The divine messenger

The instances in which dreams have been precognitive, warning of an assassination or a disaster, or have contained information that could not have been derived using normal channels or else offered guidance to a particular problem have been chronicled in literature time and again. However, a few quick examples prove the case.

Robert Louis Stevenson got his idea of *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* in a dream; Elias Howe, when trying to invent a machine that sewed, dreamed he was captured by savages carrying spears with holes in their tips. Upon waking, he realised that he should put the hole at the end of the needle not the middle.

Friederich Kekulé dreamt the solution to the molecular structure of the Benzene atom while dozing in a traffic jam of the time (he had a buggy driver). Even the arch-master of materialism and the man chiefly responsible for shaping the way the West has dissociated mind and body for the last 300 years, Rene Descartes, was not proof to their potency.

His *Discourse on Method*, a work that was to set the standards scientific enquiry was to take for hundreds of years, was the direct result of a three-part dream he had on November 10th, 1619.

Descartes himself was understandably reticent to discuss the subject and only fragments of his dream are known today mainly thanks to Baillet, his biographer, who pieced it together. In the dream, apparently, Descartes saw himself visited by the Spirit of Truth

who instructed him on the path his life's work was to take when he came upon the dilemma of which to pursue: a study of the forbidden arts, in which he had delved, or a development of science.

Doorways to other worlds

With such anecdotal evidence to hand and with scientific knowledge concerning the workings of the brain on the increase, the question plaguing modern science today is what exactly are dreams?

Less than ten years ago this question would have raised the hackles of any self-respecting scientist. Dreams were seen as ephemeral, hardly the sort of thing on which to build scientific enquiries. Yet today there are sleep laboratories all over the planet where dream-states are analysed and the dreams themselves recorded in an effort to understand their meaning.

Such is testimony to the fact that dream science has finally come of age. In the modern world-view of complex systems and chaotic dynamics, consciousness and the mind are seen as extensions of a quantum universe.

In this context dreams are as real as you believe them to be—literally. The very fact that you are conscious of a dream gives that dream a valid reality, much as your consciousness, right at this minute, makes this page tangible and real.

The best current explanation of dreams is that they are 'unfiltered sojourns' of the mind into the universe at large. As such, they may well indeed provide us with answers concerning the nature of the universe which we are not equipped to deal with in our 'everyday life' mode.

Of course, it could be argued that if that is the case and dreams are a result of consciousness, then they should prove easy enough to manipulate, to help us get any answer we wish. Funnily enough, this is exactly what can and often does happen.

Blueprint for dreaming

San Francisco psychologist Gayle Delaney has developed a technique called 'incubation' which helps direct the subject of dreams.

Choose a problem or question in your life, Delaney says, and write down a few sentences about it. Then, just before going to bed, compose a one-line question that sums up what you want to know, such as 'Why do I have problems in my work?' Lay the paper beside you, repeating the question over and over to yourself as you slowly drift to sleep.

When you wake up, write down everything you remember about any of your dreams. Don't reject anything as irrelevant. 'Dreams,' Delaney explains, 'predate speech. They speak to us in symbols.' So even a far-fetched image may, after some wide-awake thought, help reveal the solution to the incubated problem.

If this technique doesn't work the first night, keep trying. Remember that 'incubation' is, in effect, a retraining of consciousness and, as such, will come harder to some people than it does to others. Delaney's results with her own subjects, however, testify to its high success rate.

The hardest part is remembering. Dreams vanish within 15 minutes of waking, so the only way to capture one is to write it down immediately. If you don't remember a dream, write down whatever is on your mind as such thoughts often are residuals of the night's dreams and may be the first clue to retrieving the dreams you've had.

The last word

Whatever their content and meanings, nowadays dreams are recognised as reflectors of inner processes.

Cambridge biologist Rupert Sheldrake, who even in these enlightened times has managed to draw the wrath of the scientific establishment upon himself through his theory of morphic resonance, claims that, 'Dreams are visions given to us by the World Soul. It is Nature's way of communing with us. Evidence that the planetary consciousness is trying to tell us something.'

Adelaide professor of natural philosophy, Paul Davies, disagrees. 'Dreams are a thoroughly convincing activity of the brain,' he says. 'The mental states they produce may well be responsible for everything, from alien abductions to religious experiences.'

Whatever the truth, dreams are still little understood and it'll be a long, long time before the last word is said of them. Science has currently invested megabucks to find out what they mean and countless researchers are losing sleep over it!

by DAVID AMERLAND



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LOVE BITES

No monster terrifies more than one in human form and none arouses such passion as the vampire.
by MATT TYLER

Traditionally believed to be a disturbed soul unable to rest, the vampire must sustain itself with life-giving blood. Shunning the daylight hours, it rests in its coffin until night when it rises to seek out its craving, sucking blood from its victim through a bite on the neck.

Associated with the vampire bat, it can take this creature's form to travel. Once the lair of the vampire is identified, this otherworldly creature is usually ruddy of complexion and remarkably fit looking. However, it can be identified by its long fingernails and protruding eye-teeth, required to accomplish its feeding.

If freshly fed, blood will be smeared about the vampire's mouth. To dispose of the creature, a stake must be thrust through its heart, eliciting a terrifying scream, then it must be burnt to a cinder without delay.

But if this creature is encountered while awake, one's only protection is garlic or a crucifix. If unprotected and fed upon by the vampire, then death will be disturbed; the victim, in turn, becoming a vampire.

Literary tradition

The mythology of the vampire has been kept alive by a healthy literary tradition. Goethe, Tolstoy, Lord Byron and Dumas all wrote about the vampire. Then, in 1847 an otherwise unremarkable writer, Thomas Prest, wrote the best-selling novel, *Varney the Vampire; or, The Feast of Blood*. Even in modern times the genre is kept alive by the likes of Stephen King, with his novel *Salem's Lot*.

However, never was the genre so celebrated than the 1897 publication of *Dracula* by Irish writer Bram Stoker. Eventually fuelling a string of vampire movies, the image has become stereotyped as a well-dressed supernatural aristocrat, immortalised by Christopher Lee.

Stoker's *Dracula* has, in fact,

an historic foundation. Set in Transylvania, now part of Romania, the title character was based on the 15th century prince of Walachia, Vlad Dracul, better known as Vlad the Impaler.

Revelling in his conquests of Southern Romania, this historical figure's greatest pleasure was to hold a banquet in a forest glade surrounded by his captured enemies. Such enemies were impaled on stakes by the thousand; Vlad celebrated victory by watching their horrific death.

Although not a supernatural personage, Dracul can, however, be interpreted as meaning 'Devil.' Hence a supernatural emphasis can be attached to obvious human sadism. Indeed, it is widely thought that vampire mythology is based more on human cruelty than existent supernatural phenomena.

This idea is heightened by the case of the 17th century noblewoman, Countess Elisabeth Bathory. Born in 1566 into one of the wealthiest and most powerful families in the Balkans, Elisabeth married at 15 but her husband's untimely death led to a number of perversions.

Becoming convinced that she could only remain young by bathing in the blood of virgins, she and her servants were said to be responsible for the murder of some 600 local girls. She continued her depravities for ten years but became careless, not bothering to bury the girls' remains.

Instead, they were left on open ground to be eaten by

wolves. Elisabeth was eventually walled-up alive in 1611, since when her ghost has often been heard screaming through the night.

Even in the 20th century human depravity continues to fuel the vampire mythology. In 1924 Fritz Haarmann, known as the Vampire of Hanover, was tried for the murder of 24 boys, killed by a vicious bite to the throat.

In 1949 John George Haigh, the Acid Bath Murderer, was hanged for the murder of nine people. He disposed of the bodies of his victims in barrels of sulphuric acid after, he claimed, drinking their blood.

Origins

Such depravity can be seen as vital in understanding how vampire mythology arose. All too often we ascribe to supernatural causes those elements of humanity we abhor. We feel that human beings cannot be responsible for such things, preferring to invoke the supernatural influences of the Devil.

Alternatively, some occultists, such as Dion Fortune, ascribed attacks by vampires to animated thought-forms created by magical adepts. As to the strength of the belief in vampires, 18th century philosopher and instigator of the French Revolution, Jean Jaques Rousseau, wrote the following.

'If ever there was in the world a warranted and proven history, it is that of vampires. Nothing is lacking; official reports, testimonials of persons of standing, of surgeons, of

clergymen, of judges; the judicial evidence is all-embracing.'

The supernatural idea of the vampire was heightened also by inexplicable occurrences such as befell Meduegya, a town in Serbia in 1732. Following a spate of deaths there, rumours circulated that a vampire was stalking the town.

The ensuing panic convinced the government to send in soldiers to restore order. Three army surgeons accompanied the troops and one of their first actions was to dig up the graves of the recently dead.

Of the 13 graves dug up, the corpses were decomposing as expected in three but the other ten showed no signs of decomposition at all, still containing fresh blood. These were promptly decapitated and burnt.

Today a more rational explanation would be offered for this incident. Rather than being stalked by a vampire, it is more likely that Meduegya had experienced some form of coma-inducing plague that left sufferers pale and possibly cataleptic.

Vampire mythology coupled with the unfortunate victims showing signs of death and lack of blood could easily cause the townspeople to bury sufferers alive. Such premature burial was common in the days of insufficient medical knowledge.

For instance, in the early 1980s an 18th century Parisian graveyard was dug up to make way for a new car park. A third of its graves were occupied by corpses showing signs of attempting to break out of their coffins.

Rampant

Vampire mythology became most rampant in the Balkans where the above incident originated. Also, of course, the region provided the setting for *Dracula* and happened to be the homeland of Vlad Dracul and Countess Elisabeth Bathory.

Populated throughout most of history by Slavs, a most insular people whose idiosyncratic

culture could also be seen as significant in fuelling vampire mythology. Interbreeding used to be the norm, particularly among nobles, a practice now known to sometimes lead to genetic disorders in offspring.

One particular genetic deformity that struck Slavic nobles was the rare disease known as erythropoietic protoporphyria. This is a pigment disorder in which the body produces excess protoporphyrin, causing anomalous red blood cells.

The disease leads to itching and oedema and if the sufferer is exposed to sunlight the skin can crack and pour blood. Sufferers were grotesque to look at and, understandingly, shunned daylight, preferring to emerge only at night. It is therefore easy to see how, to a superstitious society, such sufferers would be seen as vampires and feared accordingly.

Sexuality

A further element of vampire mythology concerns its sexuality. The stereotypical vampire is male, its victim female. So the mythology has a strong sense of sexual domination by the male although this has more to do with filmmakers' whims than cultural history.

However, sex and the supernatural have long been linked with myths concerning the succubus and incubus; spirits that prey on the sleeping and have sex with them. So prevalent was this belief that in the 15th century Pope Innocent VIII issued the following declaration.

'It has actually come to our knowledge and we are deeply grieved to hear that many persons of both sexes, completely forgetful of the salvation of their souls and straying far from the Catholic Faith, have (had intercourse) with evil spirits, both incubi and succubi.'

It is attractive to think that such deep mythology could be vital in understanding the vampire. Such demons pre-date the classical vampire and as

mythologies grow they also metamorphose into mythologies of a greater intensity.

However, our growing understanding of sleep can go a long way towards an understanding of such vampiric evil spirits. When in the dreaming state known as sleep paralysis, our skeletal muscles can become paralysed, rendering us unable to move.

In this state we can partially awaken, while the mind remains in its fantasy-prone, dream-like state. The experience can be terrifying and is said to resemble the feeling of a weight or body being placed on top of us, so that if a sexual element has existed in the previous dream, a rape fantasy can easily follow.

Such sleep paralysis combined with genetic deformity, catalepsy-inducing disease and all too human depravity go a long way to banishing the vampire from its supernatural origins. Rather than being the living dead, vampires can be seen as very real human anomalies.

But such knowledge comes too late for one Polish immigrant to the UK, Demetrious Myicura, who was found dead in 1973, his room covered in ceremoniously placed garlic. Said to have been terrified of a vampire attack, he choked to death on a clove of garlic he had placed in his mouth to protect him while he slept!



There are many theories about the origin of UFOs. Some say that they are intergalactic spacecraft, others that they are advanced aircraft of purely terrestrial origin being developed in sinister secrecy.

Freud's rebellious disciple Jung saw them as projections of the mind. Also, there are those obstinate sceptics who insist that all UFOs are simply aerial phenomena for which a natural explanation exists but has not yet been found.

The evidence for the existence of UFOs seems so comprehensive that it is difficult to see them, in Jungian terms, as archetypal symbols: the space-age equivalent of fairies and dragons. This being acknowledged, they must come from somewhere and where that somewhere is must be the considered nub of the debate.

There are various possibilities, the most popular being that their point of origin is some other world either within or beyond our own galaxy. There is no problem with the hypothesis that life exists elsewhere in our universe.

In fact it is not so much an hypothesis as a mathematical certainty that, on some other planet, perhaps orbiting a Class G star like our Sun, intelligent life-forms will have evolved. Indeed there is every cause to believe that such life-forms are common since the building-blocks of life and the conditions under which biogenesis can occur are frequently to be found in our universe.

Developed

Such life-forms may also have reached a highly developed stage of evolution and technological advancement, enabling them to master the apparently insurmountable obstacles to intergalactic travel. That, at least, is one possibility.

But it is also quite possible that the source of UFOs lies far closer to home. During the Cold War it became fashionable to believe that UFOs

might be the product of one or more of the world's major powers, the logical outcome of new and radical directions in aeronautical research originally pioneered by Nazi Germany.

McCarthyite paranoia and the general climate of suspicion helped to foster this belief. It was perhaps a symptom of the neurotic fears which poisoned world politics during those years.

There is, however, another theory about the terrestrial origin of UFOs which is less often heard but which may have more to commend it than is first thought. This theory suggests that UFOs may be Atlantean aircraft emerging from subterranean bases situated deep in the Earth's interior.

Whether Atlantis existed or not is an issue which has never been fully resolved. Our main source for information about

to Atlantis and it is very probable that a great deal of valuable information about Atlantean civilisation disappeared with the destruction of the famous library of Alexandria.

Some modern authorities have argued that Plato's Atlantis is a hyperbolized representation of some known civilisation such as the ancient Minoan culture of Crete. They suggest that the tale of its violent demise recalls the massive eruption of Santorini in the Aegean Sea during the 15th century BC which probably signalled the end of the Minoan dynasty.

Whatever the truth, we know that myth is often an expression of folk memory and can therefore be substantially rooted in fact. There is nothing inherently improbable in the notion that lying beneath the Atlantic is a sunken continent

OVER & UNDER

this supposed lost continent, said by some to have occupied the greater part of the Atlantic, is the Greek philosopher Plato.

According to Plato, Atlantis was destroyed in a single day and night by earthquake and flood as a punishment for the gross immorality which became endemic during its last days. His account of the Atlanteans claims that, 'in the course of time the vicissitudes of human affairs corrupted little by little their divine institutions, and they began to comport themselves like the rest of the children of men. They listened to the promptings of ambition and sought to rule by violence.'

Other classical authors refer

whose topmost summits remain visible in the shape of the Azores.

This view was put forward with great force by the flamboyant publicist and American Congressman Ignatius Donnelly who, in 1882, published his book, *Atlantis: the Antediluvian World*. Donnelly argued the case for Atlantis so impressively that he even persuaded the British Prime Minister Gladstone to seek Treasury finance for a British expedition to find the lost continent. Unfortunately, however, the tremendous depths in the mid-Atlantic have always made exploration difficult.

The concept of Atlantis has



by
**RUSSELL
WARREN**

Among all the possible explanations for UFOs is one for which, though seemingly implausible at first, there is considerable circumstantial evidence.

always attracted those of an occult and mystical persuasion, among them the founder of Theosophy, Madame Blavatsky, and Rudolf Steiner. But one of the best-known psychics to express such an interest was the American Edgar Cayce.

Cayce, the so-called 'sleeping prophet,' was an unusual man by any standards. Born on a Kentucky farm, he claimed to be able to talk to dead relatives even in early childhood.

His parents dismissed these claims as being the product of a morbid and overactive imagination. However, his psychic powers surfaced dramatically when, later, in his early 20s, he

found that he possessed a unique gift for healing.

Local doctors from neighbouring Hopkinsville found that Cayce needed only the name and address of a patient to make an accurate diagnosis and recommend suitable treatment. By 1910 he was a national celebrity, sought after by invalids and incurables throughout America.

Later, Cayce began to give 'life-readings' in many of which he described his patients' past lives in Atlantis. In his trance state he also made many prophecies including the striking claim that Atlantis would start to rise again in 1968 or 1969 near Bimini.

This prophecy was, in one sense, fulfilled for it was in 1969 that the Miami palaeontologist Manson J. Valentine and his colleague, oceanographer Dimitri Rebikoff, discovered long regular walls fashioned from huge stone blocks in shallow water off Bimini. There can be little doubt that they were man-made and may well be of Atlantean origin. Valentine certainly seems to have thought so.

Brad Steiger, author of *Atlantis Rising*, quotes a teletype sent to him by a Canadian broadcaster at the time of these discoveries. In this it is stated that Valentine hoped that the remains might be, 'part of Atlantis, the ancient lost continent which, legend has it, vanished beneath the sea after a mighty cataclysm centuries ago.' This would dovetail neatly with statements made by Cayce as early as 1926 that the islands of Bimini represented 'the highest portion left above the waves of a once great continent.'

There is, it should be added, a more disturbing dimension to Cayce's prophecies. For the rising of Atlantis is also held to signal major upheaval and catastrophe, including the submergence of New York and Japan, massive earthquakes and volcanic activity, culminating in

1998 in a violent polar shift.

Hopefully Cayce's taste for gloomy premonitions will not be justified by events. His prophecies could be uncannily accurate, however, as in the case of his prediction of the Wall Street Crash in April 1929 — six months before the event.

But, given that Cayce showed ability as a prophet, how accurate is the picture he paints of the ancient Atlanteans? In his readings Cayce spoke of air travel, radar and a source of power called the 'firestone' which is highly suggestive of atomic energy.

This firestone he also referred to as a 'terrible mighty crystal' which brought destruction. He also made references to the Atlanteans' unwise tampering with, 'those forces as pertain to the night side of life.'

This view of Atlantis as a technologically proficient civilisation is one which has exercised wide appeal. This is particularly so in the light of modern claims that primitive man may not have been as 'primitive' and unsophisticated as has always been supposed.

According to Cayce's version of events, it was misuse of the 'terrible crystal' which triggered the final catastrophe. Many have argued that this can mean only one thing: that Atlantis was destroyed as the result of a prehistoric nuclear war.

Refuge

But whether the disaster which overwhelmed Atlantis was natural, man-made or a combination of both, the thesis remains the same — that a number of Atlanteans found refuge in the Earth's (hollow?) interior or in deep subterranean passages.

The belief that the Earth is hollow is not as abstruse as it may seem. Men of intellectual distinction, including Halley, Euhler and Sir John Leslie, have advanced this idea. Indeed, even in the present cen-

tury some maverick scientists have found it attractive.

In the early years of the last century the American eccentric J.C. Symmes argued that this inner world could be reached via holes at the Earth's poles and led a national crusade to persuade Congress to finance a naval expedition to test his theory. The idea, also prominent in Amerindian mythology, has a very impressive pedigree and continued to attract supporters after Symmes' death.

Tunnels

But whether or not we accept the theory of a hollow Earth in its unorthodox entirety matters little. It is impossible to deny that, in many parts of the world, such as South America, a complex tunnel system exists and must presumably have been built for some purpose.

Tradition has it that this network of tunnels in South America was built by a race which long preceded the Incas, though the Incas made use of them to escape their Spanish conquerors and the barbarities of the Inquisition. Most famous of these tunnels is the 'roadway of the Incas.'

The main shaft of this network supposedly stretches for some 1300 miles from Cuzco, Peru, via Lima, as far as the desolate salt desert of Atacama in modern-day Chile. Tales of conquistadors and of mysterious tunnels leading to underground cities of barbaric splendour have attracted, over the years, both avaricious treasure-hunters and mystical dreamers.

But why were these tunnels built? Surely not solely as escape-routes for the Incas or as hiding-places for their stores of gold and other treasures? There is strong evidence for believing that Hy-Brazil was an Atlantean colony. If so, could it be that these tunnels were built by Atlanteans to escape the devastation and radioactive fall-out from a prehistoric nuclear war?

Among those who thought that this was the most likely explanation for the existence of the tunnels was yet another eccentric American, Raymond Bernard. So convinced was he by this theory that Bernard spent many years searching South America for entrances to lost underground civilisations.

Then, in 1965, he abruptly disappeared. Letters addressed to Bernard at Joinville, Santa Catarina, were returned marked 'deceased.' Curiously, however, investigators could trace no records confirming his death.

Shortly before his disappearance, Bernard claimed to have found a number of these tunnel entrances. His unexplained disappearance also parallels that of the celebrated explorer Colonel Fawcett who, in 1926, vanished into the wilds of the Mato Grosso while searching for evidence of fabled Atlantean cities.

Bernard, along with many other mystics and students of the occult, was not content with common-or-garden explanations for Fawcett's disappearance. The Mato Grosso had always been a 'white man's grave,' mostly dense jungle and uncharted savannah crawling with cannibalistic natives and rife with disease. It was, therefore, nothing new for those foolhardy enough to explore the interior to fail to return.

Nevertheless the belief grew that Fawcett had stumbled upon one of the Atlanteans' subterranean cities and had taken up residence there. When Bernard himself later vanished without trace, there were those willing to believe that he had chosen a similar course.

Sightings

One of the things which Bernard — and others — regarded as being most significant was the timing of the post-war wave of UFO sightings. We all know that it was during the latter part of the 1940s that 'flying saucers' — as an inspired journalist dubbed them

in the wake of the Kenneth Arnold sightings — hit the world's headlines.

This rash of UFO reports therefore occurred in the years immediately following the atomic blasts at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Bernard insisted that this was not purely coincidental.

Prevention

'Other planets could not possibly be so much interested in us as to send space ships here,' he wrote, 'while those who live inside the Earth and receive air from the outside are very interested to prevent contamination of the air they breathe by radioactivity.'

'It is interesting to note that flying saucers started coming in quantity after 1945 when the first atomic bomb exploded in Hiroshima. They came as an act of self-defence to prevent radioactive contamination of the atmosphere.'

Bernard believed that these same 'saucers' had once flown freely in our outer atmosphere before the great war and flood which destroyed Atlantis. Now the Atlanteans, having had their own bitter experiences of the misuse of atomic energy, were apprehensive that those who lived on the surface were about to repeat their disastrous mistakes.

The theory that Atlantis still exists as an 'inner Earth' civilisation is not as preposterous as some might think. We know so little for certain about the world beneath our feet that orthodox geophysics is, for the most part, unsubstantiated guesswork.

Maybe UFOs really are Atlantean aircraft. Perhaps much of the talk about alien visitors from worlds somewhere in deep space is disinformation being deliberately spread by those in the highest echelons of government.

The aim? To conceal the real — and more alarming — truth that the 'aliens' are already with us, cohabiting and sharing with us our planet Earth.

DREAM MEANINGS



ON DANGEROUS GROUND

THE DREAM

I WAS WALKING in a desert environment talking to a tall, blond man when there was an almighty explosion with eruptions everywhere. My friend jumped down into a large hole, shouting, 'They're blasting for oil.'

He only intended to look in the hole but slipped and disappeared. Several times he reappeared, trying to claw his way out, but the sand was too soft. So I jumped in, too, to help him although I realised this was terribly dangerous.

THE MEANING

It appears that you are venturing into areas which don't concern you and the result could be unpleasant. Your dream companion is that inquisitive part of you taking the initiative.

Drilling for oil is about trying to get under the surface of things, digging deeply. Here it would seem that this digging is into someone else's affairs.

As a result, you fall in and nearly don't survive because you are standing on shifting sands. In other words, you do not have a sound foundation for any further research.

CREATIVE IDEA

THE DREAM

IN ORDER TO pay outstanding debts, I am told to chew some pink gum. I do so and produce an embryo of a child from my mouth.

THE MEANING

OBVIOUSLY, in order to pay your debts you have to create something, as symbolised by the child which represents ideas, creations or talents. Since it comes out of your mouth, this probably relates to

by SOPHIA DANIEL

Reading the meaning of dreams is probably as old as the human race. Certainly there are records from as early as biblical times.

words. Thus you have an embryo of an idea which now needs developing.

IN THE FIRING LINE

THE DREAM

I AM STANDING alone in the middle of an airfield because the drone of a plane has sent everyone else running for cover. The plane fires bullets onto the tarmac and when the pilot sees me he flies down lower.

I try to run to the bunker with the others but cannot get there in time. The other people stand there, watching me.

THE MEANING

THIS dream shows that you have put yourself in the firing line. However, you have refused to take others' advice and they will therefore be unable to help you when the final attack comes. Best advice is to look at your present situation and do something to remedy it quickly.

HEALTH RISK

THE DREAM

I OWN A horse but keep forgetting to feed it. I have trouble travelling to the stable and am afraid of finding it neglected or dead as well as being scared of what others might think of my bad management.

However, when I arrive at the stables the horse is OK as someone else has watered and fed it. Still, I am worried that

the farmer will give me a huge bill that I am unable to pay.

THE MEANING

HORSES in dreams often refer to our personal energy and drive. You seem, therefore, to be neglecting yourself at some level, perhaps your health.

When you find the horse has been cared for, this indicates that you are depending on someone else to be responsible for you and your health rather than taking the initiative yourself. Worrying about the huge bill fits in here, too, because if you fail to take on responsibility for yourself then you may end up sick.

ANIMAL INSTINCTS

THE DREAM

I WAS IN a meadow and next to me was a large rabbit that was under attack from a cat; there was blood everywhere. I moved to a new angle and the rabbit changed into a lion and the cat into a cougar, both still fighting. Suddenly the lion hit the cougar with its paw and killed it.

THE MEANING

CATS are about intuition, rabbits signify fear and blood represents one's life force or psychic energy. Thus your intuition is attacking that part of your nature that is fearful; your fear allows this to happen and lets your energies escape.

The cougar is still representative of a cat but on a larger, more determined scale. The lion, however, is about strength and pride, indicating that you can be a lion if you so desire rather than a rabbit. Once you realise this, instead of allowing yourself to be attacked and losing more blood, you can turn and win.

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In Search of Camelot

According to legend King Arthur held court in a number of locations as he moved around his kingdom but mainly at Caerleon on the river Usk in Wales, Carlisle in Cumbria, Nantes in Brittany, France, and of course the mysterious Camelot.

One of the earliest chronicles of Arthur's exploits, Geoffrey of Monmouth, writing in 1135, names the king's principal court as 'The City of Legions,' now known as Caerleon. This had been an important Roman military base until 280 AD when the legions based there were moved to Richborough in Kent, where they were to remain for 150 years.

The amphitheatre remained despite the dismantling of many other buildings, and it has been claimed this was the original of the 'Round Table,' a circular meeting place for the petty kings under Arthur. Certainly the historian Nennius writing around 830 AD in *Historia Brittonum* says that Arthur fought his ninth major battle here in the 480s.

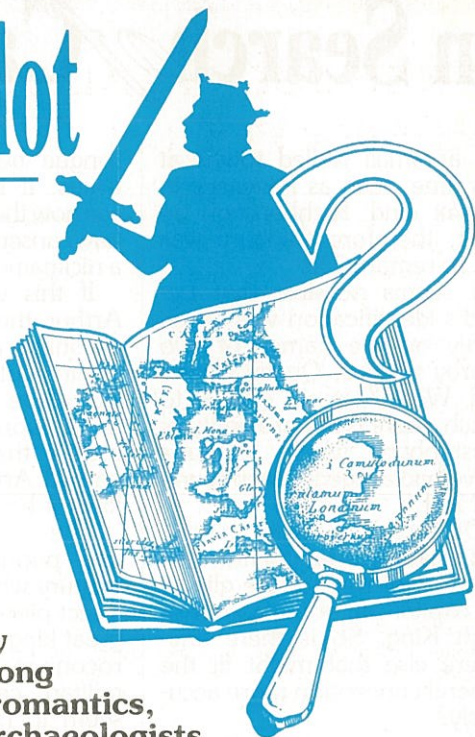
Perhaps this was against internal enemies resulting in the capture and re-occupation of this one-time Roman military base. Maybe this, then, is a good contender for Camelot.

That other great raconteur of the Arthurian saga, Thomas Malory, thought Camelot was not at Caerleon but Winchester. However, Malory seems to have been influenced by the supposed existence of Arthurian relics at various sites around the country.

For instance, in the Norman castle at Winchester hangs an 18ft-diameter table resembling a huge dartboard and called the Round Table which many in

by
**PAUL
HARRIS**

The mythical city of Camelot has long been sought by romantics, historians and archaeologists. But is there any evidence that it really existed and, if so, where was it located?



Malory's time (the 15th century) believed to be the real thing. We now know, however, as a result of radiocarbon dating that the table dates back to the time of Edward 1st.

At that time festivities of feasting, jousting and suchlike were modelled on the legends of Arthur and called 'Round Tables.' Actual round tables were made for the purpose and the one at Winchester is doubtless a surviving example.

Malory elsewhere changes a location to fit in with the whereabouts of Arthurian relics. Near the end of his life Arthur is said to have been involved in a campaign in Gaul when Modred seized the crown of Britain.

Crisis

Arthur returned to deal with this crisis and, according to Geoffrey of Monmouth, fights his way ashore at Richborough (the main Channel port at the

time). In the ensuing fray Sir Gawain is killed. By Malory's time bones and a skull, claimed to be those of Gawain, were being exhibited at Dover Castle, so Malory changes Arthur's landing site to Dover.

A stronger candidate for Camelot is the Iron Age hill fort known as Cadbury Castle in Somerset. The 16th century antiquarian Leland identified this as 'Camalatte' which was, 'much resorted to by Arthur.' Excavations carried out there in 1966 showed that the fort had been re-occupied around 470 AD and that a substantial settlement with large assembly hall and Christian church had existed within its confines.

Many other hill forts were re-occupied at the same time but none was redeveloped to this degree, so optimists among the archaeologists thought that Camelot had at last been found. However many of the old Roman forts were also ac-

In Search of Camelot

ing as small walled towns at this time, such as Pevensey in Sussex and Richborough in Kent, therefore Cadbury was not so remarkable.

It seems possible that Le-land's identification was based partly on the names of two nearby villages, Queen Camel and West Camel. Added to which, there is the proximity of Glastonbury where Arthur's grave had allegedly been found in 1191.

Of course, a mere re-fortified hill fort is a far cry from the Camelot of legend, the glittering capital city of the country's High King. So is there anywhere else that might fit the general conception more accurately?

Contender

One leading contender is the Roman city of Viroconium, recently excavated near the village of Wroxeter. Here, a sophisticated civilian centre seems to have undergone extensive renovation after the departure of the Romans. Around 420 AD, there was new road construction, new civic buildings were erected, including a major palace for an important person, and new drainage pipes were laid.

By 450 AD Viroconium was one of the country's principal cities and the capital of the emerging Kingdom of Powys. So was there any link with Arthur to suggest this as Camelot? Authors Graham Keatman and Martin Phillips think so.

In their book, *King Arthur - The True Story*, they trace the genealogies of Powys kings back to Owain Ddantgwyn who was known according to the 6th century historian Gildas as 'the bear' and was the predecessor of the local King Cuneglasus who is recorded in history. In the old British

tongue 'bear' is *arth*, in Latin *ursus*. It is therefore easy to see how the name 'Arthur' could have arisen from 'Arthursus' as a nickname or battle name.

If this was the 'real' King Arthur, then Owain's city of Viroconium could have been the original of the real Camelot. But there are objections, the 'bear' appellation may mean merely that Owain was nicknamed Arthur after an earlier king or hero.

The name Arthur became very popular early in the 6th century which is one of the indirect pieces of evidence of the great king's existence. Also Viroconium was never a major military centre and does not seem to have had any name like Camelot attached to it. But there is somewhere that did.

The name Camelot probably means something like 'fort or city of Camulos,' the Celtic war god. There is a city in Britain which was once the country's main military headquarters and showpiece Roman city. What's more, its old British and subsequent Roman name actually meant 'fort of Camulos.' That city was Camulodunum, known today as Colchester.

First suggested by J. Morris in his *The Age of Arthur*, Colchester is not usually considered a likely candidate for Camelot due to its location in Eastern England, an area assumed to have been occupied by the Anglo-Saxons at the time usually ascribed to Arthur. However, recent thinking on the nature of the English advent as being more a process of gradual and largely peaceful settlement rather than aggressive invasion puts a different light on this possibility.

Camulodunum was no doubt a thriving city and important centre while the Romano-Britons still held it. Although recorded information is sparse,

we do know that London was still recognisably Roman as late as the 480s and traded with Roman Gaul until 486 AD at least.

Also, many of Arthur's battles against the Angles, thought to have taken place around 488/490 AD, would have him operating in the Eastern counties around then. The Anglo-Saxon takeover of the area in which Colchester exists, now Essex, seems not to have taken place until 527 AD according to the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*.

The likely time of Arthur spans the period 465-520 AD, according to most historians. This would correspond nicely with the time in which Camulodunum could have been the military headquarters for Arthur's force, especially during his Eastern and Gallic campaigns. Furthermore, the similarity of the name seems too close for mere coincidence.

Perhaps, then, the Arthur of history was not some dark age chieftain skulking in a remote West Country hill fort but a true king whose splendid capital served as a centre of civilisation for generations of Romano-Britons. A city not lost or hidden but continuously occupied to the present day and beneath whose busy streets may lie the secrets of the fabled Camelot.



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READINGS



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We all have strange powers, it would seem. However, realising them is not so simple.

Doubtless, few of us would deny the idea that the universe is a stranger place than can be accounted for by the usually accepted natural laws. Most of the time we just choose to ignore this fact so that when we discover that some people possess strange powers, powers which seem to defy the conventional physical laws that restrain the rest of us, we prefer not to think about it.

After all, such thoughts make life more complex, leaving many of us exposed to our own sanity and sense of safety in a known world. All because there is no easy explanation for the phenomenon.

If we do eventually think about such matters, we search for hidden trick wires and trap doors and the clever deception behind the scenes. We demand proof that everything is as it should be so that we can return to normality and safety.

Yet somehow these fantastic skills still tug at our heart-strings and murmur in our ears. Throughout all recorded history people have been both mesmerised and frightened by such unexplained abilities. Christ was crucified for his mysterious talents; Rasputin was deemed a madman; numerous women were labelled as witches and burned at the stake simply because they had astonishing powers which they could not explain.

But how can we explain the powers of these spoon-bending, clock-stopping, fortune-telling, object-moving, all-knowing, all-seeing individuals? Now we find ourselves doing exactly what we dared not, we have begun to think about these strange and fascinating individuals who possess strange, extraordinary powers.

So let us examine the fact that some people have the abil-

ity to bend spoons, snap keys and alter the hands on clocks and watches. These feats are well within the realms of a conjuror's trick. But how can anyone fake knowing the next card to be turned over in a pack of 52 or what people have drawn in secret on pieces of paper?

If we are to accept that the latter are genuine accounts of phenomenal powers, then the other feats mentioned could also be genuine. Could they not?

Assuming that there are certain people who do possess extraordinary powers, where do these come from? Surely the answer must lie in the subconscious mind.

Subconscious

Many psychologists have come to the conclusion that poltergeists originate in the subconscious minds of troubled teenagers, seriously troubled by adolescence. However, some supernatural investigators believe that poltergeists have an unrelated existence; that they are in fact real ghosts but steal teenagers' energy in order to become active.

Whatever the explanation, it seems likely that the subconscious mind provides the energy to move objects, much in the same way as was portrayed in the film *Carrie*. If this is so, then it is also logical to believe that our minds can cause an individual to walk on hot coals, bend spoons and snap keys.

If these strange powers lurk hidden in our minds, what are they doing there? Are they common to us all and, if so, how do we maximise our personal powers?

It is a true belief that everyone possesses a hidden other side — a sixth sense, a mind's eye, an ability to do wonders. However, many of us are blind to our own strengths. This is

not, though, as strange as it may sound.

For instance, how many of us at one time or another have been so exhausted that we have felt unable to carry on, then suddenly gained what we call our 'second wind.' And in some rare cases perhaps a third wind, too.

We are all aware of days where we feel more energetic than others. Equally, there are days when we feel as if a cloud is weighing down upon our shoulders, keeping us below our highest slot of discernment, clarity, sure reasoning and firm decision-making. Compared to how we usually feel, we are only half-awake. Or perhaps it should be half-asleep?

Half-awake

In any event, we are using only part of our mental capability. Most people live their lives half-awake; they have powers of varying kinds but sadly fail to use them. So, often, we act below our maximum and behave below our optimum.

In basic terms this means that most individuals have certain predetermined limits. This is much the same as setting a thermostat on a central heating system; when the temperature rises above a certain point it cuts out. Similarly, when our energies reach a certain limit we also switch off, allowing our bodies and minds to settle into a peaceful state.

But if some kind of crisis arises, our minds refuse to stay down, suddenly it is as if the thermostat had reset itself. We gain an inner strength to continue, a second wind.

If only we could learn to enhance this wasted energy, the world would be a more creative place, one where the people like Beethoven, Leonardo de

by JOANNE LORD

Vinci and Einstein were commonplace. Yet there is nothing magical, mystical or occult about this concept.

Inside each of us is a computer, affiliated to an auto-pilot, the chief purpose of which is to make life easier. It may be hard to program initially but, once the art has been mastered, the computer takes over without our knowledge and does the task far more quickly and efficiently than our consciousness could do.

The only potential pitfall arises if we allow our computer to take over our whole life and begin to act like robots. Then it takes a crisis to wake us up, pull us back to our senses.

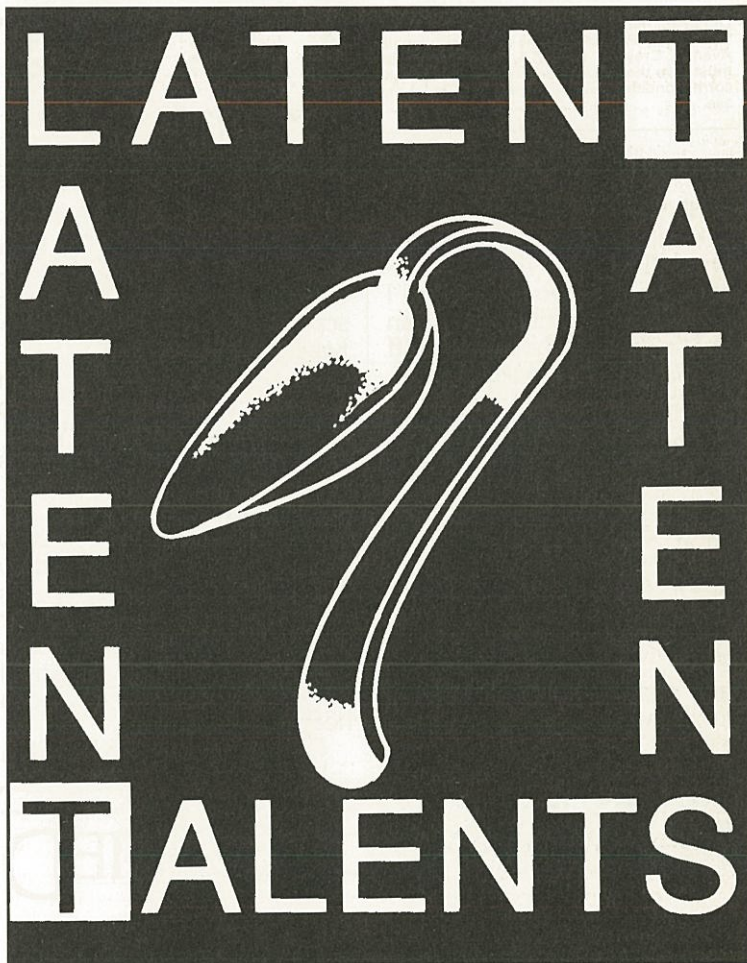
Once we realise that the world is not as dull and boring as it may seem, we have taken the first step towards remedying the situation. The worst thing about habit is that it makes us lazy and uninteresting. However, once you realise that your inner computer is disabling many rich and rewarding qualities which you alone possess, you can organise the will to resist the temptation called habit.

So far we have explored the subconscious mind's powers. Most investigators agree that these special powers rely on psi waves (psi is a parapsychological term for psychic phenomena).

Waves

At present we have little idea of the exact nature of psi but the consensus seems to be that it acts rather like radio waves. However, radio waves are used only to communicate, whereas psi power seem capable of much more.

Sadly, science has yet to reach a plausible conclusion on the idea of psi. Nevertheless, evidence has continued to surface until the present point



where the only way to reject psi is to ignore the facts or simply refuse to examine them.

The only reasonable way to explain much of this evidence is to presume that thought, like light, has its own way of communicating. It has, shall we say, many forms in which it materialises.

So, if humans are the highest form of living animal, why is it that dogs, cats and other animals seem to possess a higher degree of telepathic powers than we do? The answer may lie in the fact that we have permitted the power to fall into disuse, just as the appendix is now no longer a necessary part of human anatomy.

In our most primitive stages of evolution our sixth senses were more adaptable, more developed than those of most

animals. If this were not so, surely we would not have survived against our most dangerous predators.

Sadly, though, as mankind developed — discovering fire, the wheel and learning to make tools — we had less and less use for our more instinctive powers. The time had come for us to use reason and conscious awareness, rather than instinct and subconscious awareness.

Mankind seems to have been more concerned with power than with inner awareness. A passion for power is the liquid that now runs through most people's veins.

But ask yourself what is running through the veins of men of strange powers. Perhaps it is a hunger for instinct and a yearning for special knowledge.

Letters for publication are welcomed. Address: The Editor, Prediction, Link House, Dingwall Avenue, Croydon CR9 2TA. Correspondents must give their names and full addresses. All correspondence must be accompanied by an sae.

LETTERS

ABRASIVE

READING THE ARTICLE *Skulls of Doom* (February issue) reminded me that a few years ago I heard of a South American bird that made a hole in the cliff face in which to build its nest. Apparently it plucked leaves from a certain tree and rubbed these against the rock time and time again until the juices in the leaves seemed to dissolve the surface. It is said that when the conquistadors walked through these leaves beneath the trees, their silver spurs were eroded.

As the ancients gained much of their knowledge from observing nature, could it be that South American peoples such as the Incas used the leaves and

their juices to dress and prepare the stone slabs for their buildings and temples? Archaeologists claim that one can scarcely get a knife-blade between the stone joints.

If so, surely it is possible that the same method was used to fashion the rock crystal skulls.

E.J. Lord

Hants

BANSHEE

I READ IN PREDICTION recently that the banshee is heard only for the death of a woman. This is not the case, however, as it does not differentiate between the sexes although it is claimed that only certain people can hear it.

For instance, when I lived in

Connamera a local boyfriend came to my cottage in a great state, clearly very upset. His father, apparently, had heard the cry of the banshee that evening and the local doctor, who lived opposite, had a friend 'come up from Dublin to stay with him.' The following morning it was general knowledge in the village that the doctor's visitor had died of a heart attack the previous evening — the very day the banshee was heard.

Banshee is of course an Irish word and translates as wife (baan) and fairy people (shee) — a fairy wife — much as an English countrywoman was known as a goodwife.

M. Duguid

Dyfed

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CONTACTS

LIBRAN female, 36, Bucks area, interested in astrology, past-lives, dreams and spiritual growth, seeks communication with sincere like-minded individuals. Box E730.

AQUARIAN female, 28, seeks individuals/group/magical partner to start group in West Sussex area. Interested in healing, magic, divination, astrology and dreams. Genuine only need apply. Write to Box E731.

VIRGO male, 27, would like to contact individuals interested in astrology, Tarot, religion, occult, psychic abilities, New Age ideas, healing and divination. Box E732.

AQUARIAN female, 26, would love to contact spiritual shamans, lovers of trees, animals, sunsets, rain-mountains and all nature. I would like to form a group/correspondence club. West Country area. Box E733.

GEMINI female, 31.5.63. Interested in Tarot, astrology, reincarnation, spiritual development and karma, seeks like-minded people to share the journey and pool knowledge via letters, discussions and meetings. Birmingham/anywhere. Box E735.

AQUARIAN female, 29, wishes to correspond/meet like-minded people. Are you into the environment, vegetarianism, herbalism etc and crave an alternative lifestyle. If so please write to me at Box E740.

FEMALE, Leo, into Tarot but wishing to learn more about magic, Spiritualism, witchcraft and perhaps form a group for psychic development in the Kent area. Is there anybody out there? Box E741.

DREAMY Cancerian male, 21, seeks friends anywhere. Interests include music, Spiritualism, fortune-telling, personal development, animals, countryside and being happy. Box E742.

I KEEP getting drawn towards the Cabbala. If this happens to you, perhaps, we could correspond, understand and reach a little further along the path. Box E743.

SAGITTARIAN, male, Leo Asc, into Spiritualism, Tarot, white magic, psychometry, healing, astrology and other paranormal subjects wishes to correspond/meet/contact like-minded people in N. East/anywhere. Box E745.

PENRIENDS

SHAMAN/healer, female, seeks like minds of either gender both here and overseas as penfriends. Warwickshire area. ALA. Box E734.

SCORPIO male, interested in ancient sites, ley lines, Moon magic, herbcraft, paranormal and music (Goth/Trance/Techno) seeks penfriends for views on any of the above. Box E736.

SCORPIO male, 26, archaeology student and crop-circle enthusiast, planning permanent retreat into Disc World via Middle Earth and Nar-

This page is intended primarily for individuals wishing to locate or dispose of occult items and those seeking astrological twins; it is NOT A DATING SERVICE. However, those wishing to contact other like-minded groups/individuals for correspondence or debate on subjects covered by this magazine may take advantage of this free service if limitations of space permit. Entries should not exceed 50 words (Contacts, 30), the age limit is 18, no repeats are accepted, box numbers, compulsory for Contacts/Pen-friends, cost £2, postal order/cheque only, DO NOT SEND CASH, and the Editor has the right to reject any that she finds unsuitable and is not obliged to give a reason for so doing. Address your advertisement to the Editorial Offices, PREDICTION, Link House, Dingwall Avenue, Croydon CR9 2TA.

nia, seeks enlightened navigators who can read the stars. Please write to Box E737.

CAPRICORN male, 31, interested in most PREDICTION subjects especially Tarot, seeks correspondence with similar people to exchange views, widen contacts and develop genuine friendships. Box E738.

EAST Anglian male, 28, Aries, novice witch interested in but not highly knowledgeable about Paganism/Celtic tradition, Celtic myths/legends, UFOs, most paranormal subjects, *Sandman* comics and *X-Files*, seeks penpals in the East Anglian area/anywhere. Box E739.

ARIES male, 23, seeks correspondence with anyone interested in ritual magic, astral projection, psychic development and meditation. Write to Box E747.

FEMALE, Leo, 51, astrologer interested in all other occult subjects seeks penpals. Box E748.

AMERICAN (living in US) female, 32, single and loves the stars, water, rain and fire. I believe in 'God' but not religion. Looking for some good penfriends. Write Box E749.

THE SUPERNATURAL A-Z

by James Randi
(Headline, £6.99)

THIS GUIDEBOOK, SUBTITLED 'The Truth and the Lies,' is aimed at all those who have serious doubts about psychics, UFOs, ESP, faith healing and much more besides.

Randi, conjurer and investigator extraordinary, reveals the fakes, the frauds and the charlatans; apparently this covers just about everybody except himself. This reviewer wrote to the author many years ago over a difference of opinion and, in his reply, Randi stated that I categorically did not exist — thus it is difficult for me to pass comment on his book!

However, it ought to be said that anyone who describes Tarot cards as 'a set of cards decorated with fantastic and mystical diagrams' obviously hasn't done any homework and therefore should refrain from comment himself. — J.T.M.

RUNIC ASTROLOGY

by Nigel Pennick
(Capall Bann, £10.95)

THIS AUTHOR IS justly respected for his many previous works on runes, mazes and magic in the Northern tradition. This latest title is a very comprehensive effort at explaining the concept of runic time-cycles in both an astrological and astronomical framework and, as such, is not for the casual reader.

Pennick writes authoritatively from experience and a deep understanding and knowledge of his subject. Thus he doesn't attempt to persuade us of a received truth but merely adds facts to observations (eg, he describes some work with scientists) to enlarge our understanding of the relevance of natural runic lore and time-cycles to our modern technologically-ruled lives.

Chapter headings include The Eightfold Way; The Runes, Planets and Cycles; and The Runes in the Circling Heavens. This is a pioneering work that would repay reading more than once, so would be one to keep on the reference shelf. — J.T.M.

BASIC MAGIC: A Practical Guide by Phillip Cooper (Weiser/Airlift, \$12.95/£10.99)

THIS IS PROBABLY one of the best, most sensible introductions to practical magic I have read for a decade. Divided into two main sections, there is absolutely everything you need to know to practise effective magic within these 200-plus information-packed pages.

Refreshingly, the author does not try to impose his personal beliefs on the reader but simply gets on with the task of explaining the principles, tools and procedures for making magic work on an everyday level no matter what particular path you choose to follow. I really like his no-nonsense approach to a

subject that has suffered greatly from an unnecessary abundance of theatricality couched in arcane language.

The whole point of practising magic is to utilise natural forces in order to obtain concrete results and the data in this book will enable even the novice to do exactly that. Part one covers the basic principles of how and why magic works through to how to construct sigils and summon elemental spirits to aid your work. Part two concentrates on the planetary energies and how to channel these for specific tasks.

Throughout, there are suggestions for rituals, techniques and, most importantly, sensible explanations about how magic works and how each individual must take responsibility for his/her own destiny. As the author says, the whole point of ritual work is to re-educate your mind so that you can create around you all that you wish. Sound advice, indeed, so buy this book and get started right away. — M.E.

THE PLEIADEAN WORKBOOK by Amora Quan Yin (Bear & Co/Airlift, \$16.00/£12.99)

THIS BOOK IS described as 'a direct transmission from the Pleiadian Emisaries of Light — light beings from the Pleiades — who say it's time now for spiritual growth, ascension and healing.'

Then follow 14 chapters on how we can open our 'Ka' channels and 'pull energy from our multidimensional holographic selves into our physical bodies.' So, if you fancy a touch of Dolphin Brain Re-patterning or a Quantum Transfiguration, perhaps a spot of Subpersonality Harmonisation, then this is the book for you.

The author is obviously a truly remarkable person for she has been a natural healer and psychic 'since birth' and also had a childhood gift of clairvoyance, clairsentience and clairaudience. However, all this was lost at the age of 16.

A spiritual reawakening years later led her to take up a holistic lifestyle as a teacher, seer and healer in California where she keenly awaits the Second Coming of Christ from Sirius. — J.T.M.

THE ATLAS OF SACRED PLACES: Meeting Points of Heaven and Earth by James Harpur (Cassell, £14.99)

THIS LARGE-FORMAT, beautifully produced and printed book is superbly illustrated, mostly in full-colour, with photographs, maps and diagrams. It is one of the most comprehensive guides to sacred places I have seen for some time.

The term sacred place in this context

is broad, encompassing buildings from temples and shrines to cathedrals and mosques as well as natural sites such as caves and rock formations to ancient burial mounds, pyramids and the like. Thirty-three are covered in wonderful details, worldwide, from the ancient burial sites of America to the great rock formations of the Olgas, Australia.

After an essential introduction, the work is divided into five sections: In the Footsteps of Holy Men; In Honour of the Dead; Eternal Shrines; to the Glory of God; at Journey's End. Each sacred site is placed in historical, religious and cultural context, enlivened by stunning illustrations, useful maps and compulsive text that makes one eager to discover more.

This is simply a superb book, full of fascinating detail about mankind's search for the Divine and those places he has discovered or created in celebration while on his spiritual quest; truly, meeting points of Heaven and Earth. Recommended. — M.E.

DEVELOP YOUR PSYCHIC ABILITIES by Litany Burns (Bantam, £4.99)

THIS PUBLISHER PRODUCES quite a lot of introductory material on the occult and New Age practices and this title follows the usual trend. It will, therefore, offer little to those already conversant with the basic definitions of psychometry, auras, psychic healing and suchlike.

One welcome innovation to the familiar format are the 'question and answer' sessions which enliven the work. Although not perhaps of much use to the more experienced, this book should prove helpful to novices attempting to work their weary way through all the occult terms and conditions. — M.R.

THE CULT OF THE BLACK VIRGIN

by Ean Begg
(Penguin/Arkana,
£9.99/\$12.95)

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1985, this revised and expanded edition is a fascinating study of the images of the so-called Black Madonna. At least 500 of these enigmatic figures can be found in Catholic churches worldwide but Begg suggests controversially that they may have very little to do with orthodox Christianity.

Instead, he believes that they represent the pre-Christian goddesses of sexuality, the Underworld and the Earth. Begg's research into the Gnostics, Knights Templar, Cathars and the other usual suspects apparently supports this conclusion.

He believes that, among some heretical sects, the pagan symbolism of

(continued overleaf)

BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

the Black Virgin became associated with Mary Magdalene: the mysterious 'thirteenth disciple' who Jesus 'loved above all the others.' In fact, unorthodox belief asserts that she was the wife of Jesus and mother of his children.

In addition to a lengthy essay on the esoteric meaning of the Black Madonna, Begg provides a comprehensive gazetteer that helps would-be pilgrims to locate prominent sites where her image can be found. If you have an open-minded attitude to the real nature of Christianity and its pagan origins, this book will expand it even more.

Highly recommended. — M.H.

COMMUNICATING THE HOROSCOPE

edited by Noel Tyl
(Llewellyn/Airlift, \$12.00/£9.99)

SADLY, FAR FROM my favourite in the superb ongoing astrology series from this publisher, yet this tome will be helpful to some. It is aimed at the wannabe consultant and features nine professionals trying to convey their

communicative techniques.

However, I wonder if it is possible to do this from a distance and instinctively feel that experience is the best teacher. I did, though, enjoy the first two chapters, by Noel Tyl and Christian Borup, as they write on charts made for the time of the consultation, an interesting and rewarding technique that others may not realise is valid.

Karen M. Hamaker-Zondag was quite reasonable on 'Clients that avoid the issue' as was Susie Cox who insists that it is right and proper to teach a client basic astrology and thus help him/her learn to study his own chart. Actually, I regarded this chapter as the best in an otherwise disappointing book. — B.L.

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IN THE EDITORIAL offices we receive dozens of calls each week from readers trying to track down out-of-print titles or secondhand copies of old favourites. A copy of *Skoob's Directory* is an invaluable reference for such occasions. Obviously, there is no distinction made between those shops that stock occult/New Age titles and those of a more general nature. However, each entry not only gives details of location,

opening hours and owner/manager but also highlights specialist subjects stocked, so it is easy to pinpoint which are most likely to carry the titles sought.

Introductory chapters are crammed with useful information such as auction/catalogue terminology, common abbreviations, Roman numerals, printing/binding terms, etc; there is even a London Underground map. At the back of the book are three helpful indexes: an alphabetical list of bookshops by name; a subject matter index; and, finally, towns where such shops are located.

The middle section of the Directory is arranged geographically, detailing all the secondhand bookshops in the county or specific area, such as North, West and Central London for instance. At the start of each county section is a simple map showing the location of those towns where the listed shops are situated: very helpful for those browsing in unfamiliar territory.

Although updated at intervals (approx yearly), it is probably wise to telephone a bookseller prior to travelling long distances on spec; however, this is possible when using this invaluable work. Hopefully, all occult/New Age shops will invest in a copy, too, so that they can point potential customers in the right direction for that elusive specialist title! — J.L.

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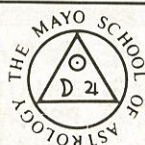
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ADVERTISEMENT INDEX

ADC34	Love Tarot67
A.E. Smith30	Magic Space81
AML4, 74	Mandrake Press
Advance Craft67	Ltd14
Agnes Freeman57	Marc Whiteowl11
Amorc Services Ltd11	Mazkuth11
Angelica Gold34	Mr Ahmadu29
Aqua81	Mysteries Ltd67
Broomstick Coven34	New Age
DAM Ltd11	Electronics34
Dr A Mukherjee27	New Guardian
Destiny'sIFC	Light76
Dial-a-Medium27	Occulus76
Doris14	Oephebia29
Eloise Kirlan67	Osiris29
EquinoxOBC	Pagen MediaIFC, 27
Ferda LtdIBC	Pentagram76
Finbarr Ltd6, 16, 54	PSP5
Friends Tarot Line30	Psychic Medium57
Futhark76	R.I.M. Ltd64
Ganoa	Raphael33, 64
House4, 29, 81	Shyam14
Gift Tarot81	Sue Ann76
Gypsy Witch Magic14	T.D.S. Michaela30
J. M. Gandhi29	Tanith Products57
Jedco4	The Gilt Edged Goblin
Katie Leigh57	Company81
Kumar74	United Spiritual
London Psychic	StudiesIFC
Forum29	Universal Gateways30
Louise Michelle34	Zodiac and Zen51

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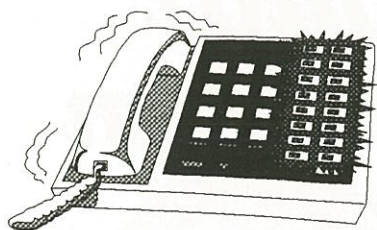
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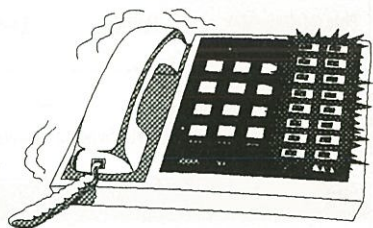
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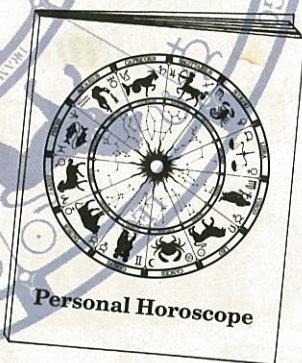
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