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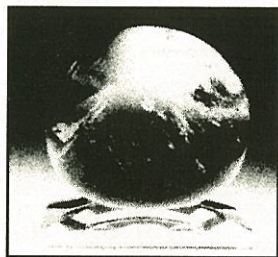
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The legend of the supernatural Black Dog — regardless of its actual colour — can be found all over these islands but nowhere so commonly as in East Anglia.

Front Cover

Recent investigations and experiments under the name of the Dragon Project have shown that ancient stones and circles do give off an energy distinct from that of their immediate surroundings, thus offering a possible proof of the existence of Earth energies. See page 8.

Cover photography by Tony Petch.

Subscription: Gt. Britain £23.40 for 12 months; £27.10 Overseas (surface mail) £35.60 (Airmail). Overseas readers will receive the International Edition containing next month's astrology section and forecasts. Overseas readers may pay by International Money Order or by Bankers Draft on London. Subscription Enquiries 01454 620070/FAX 01454 620080.

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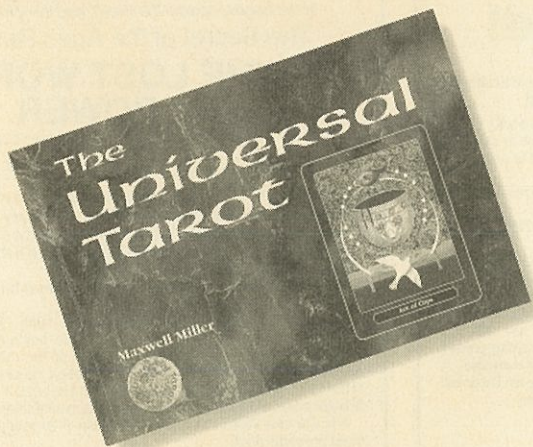
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the Universal Tarot

Rity the earnest aspirant who sets out today to buy a decent deck of Tarot Cards, for the range and variety on offer are more bewildering than beguiling. Each year new interpretations of this arcane sets of symbols appear on the market, and to often what was once dubbed 'the Devil's Picture Book' has been reduced in power, content and meaning to a junior demon's sloppy copy book, posturing behind pretty pictures and trite, self-important or significant titles. Perhaps I'm a purist, after 24 years of studying and working with tarot, and in my opinion most of the new decks to appear in that time are at best plagiarisms of earlier works, and at worst con-me-quickly attempts to capitalise on the current pre-millennial vogue for all things occult without a tinker's cuss given to truth or tradition.

Therefore it was with extreme scepticism and an inner groan that I initially met the news that Findhorn Press intended publishing something bold enough to call itself *The Universal Tarot*. Yet Maxwell Miller's has not only surprised me, it has delighted me. Its boldness is almost breathtaking. Not only has Max opened up the traditional

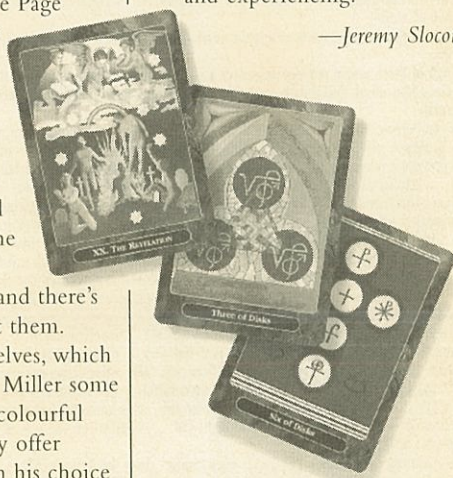
Western symbolism of the cards, to incorporate images from all of the world's great religious and mystical systems, while honouring (and obviously understanding) its Western roots; he has also had the audacity to remove four cards from our 'traditional' tarot, the Page cards in each suit of the minor arcana. He has renamed some of the major arcana (for example, 'Justice' is renamed 'Karma'). He argues his reasons for all these changes well, in the excellent book that accompanies the cards, and there's not space here to repeat them.

The pictures themselves, which I believe took Maxwell Miller some four years to paint, are colourful and full of interest. They offer much to meditate on, in his choice

of symbolism. One gets the feeling that Max has not only thoroughly researched earlier versions of each card, and divined the purport of their designers, but that he has also taken and explored the meaning of each one in his own life. Findhorn Press has given us a handsome package of these new cards and book together.

I consider *The Universal Tarot* to be the most exciting and innovative interpretation of this ancient system since A. E. Waite commissioned artist Pamela Coleman Smith to produce his now-classic 'Rider/Waite Tarot' in the early decades of the century. Any tradition that does not adapt itself to the temper of its times, merely turns to bone. Maxwell Miller has put new flesh on to the skeleton, and breathed his own life into it, so that his tarot is fresh and in accordance with the global spirituality which ever more people are discovering, exploring and experiencing.

—Jeremy Slocombe



The Universal Tarot (Maxwell Miller, Findhorn Press, ISBN 1 899171 80 0, £19.95) is available from most good shops. Set includes 144-page fully illustrated book & deck of 74 full-colour tarot cards, plus nine cards with the abbreviated meaning of each card.

Alternatively you can order it directly from Findhorn Press, The Park, Findhorn IV36 0TZ. (Tel. 01309 690582, Fax. 01309 690036, e-mail thierry@findhorn.org) at the special Christmas '96 price of £16 - post-free in the UK (£2 postage in Europe).

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The word geomancy, or the ability to sense Earth energies, is said to have been coined by Pliny the Elder in 68 AD when he met a group of Persian Magi who tossed stones on the ground and then divined according to their configurations.

Pliny the Elder, of course, was obsessed with scientific research and his observations (which were to cost him his life when Mt Vesuvius erupted while he was studying it) were rigorous enough for his *Natural History* to be regarded as a scientific source book right up to the Middle Ages.

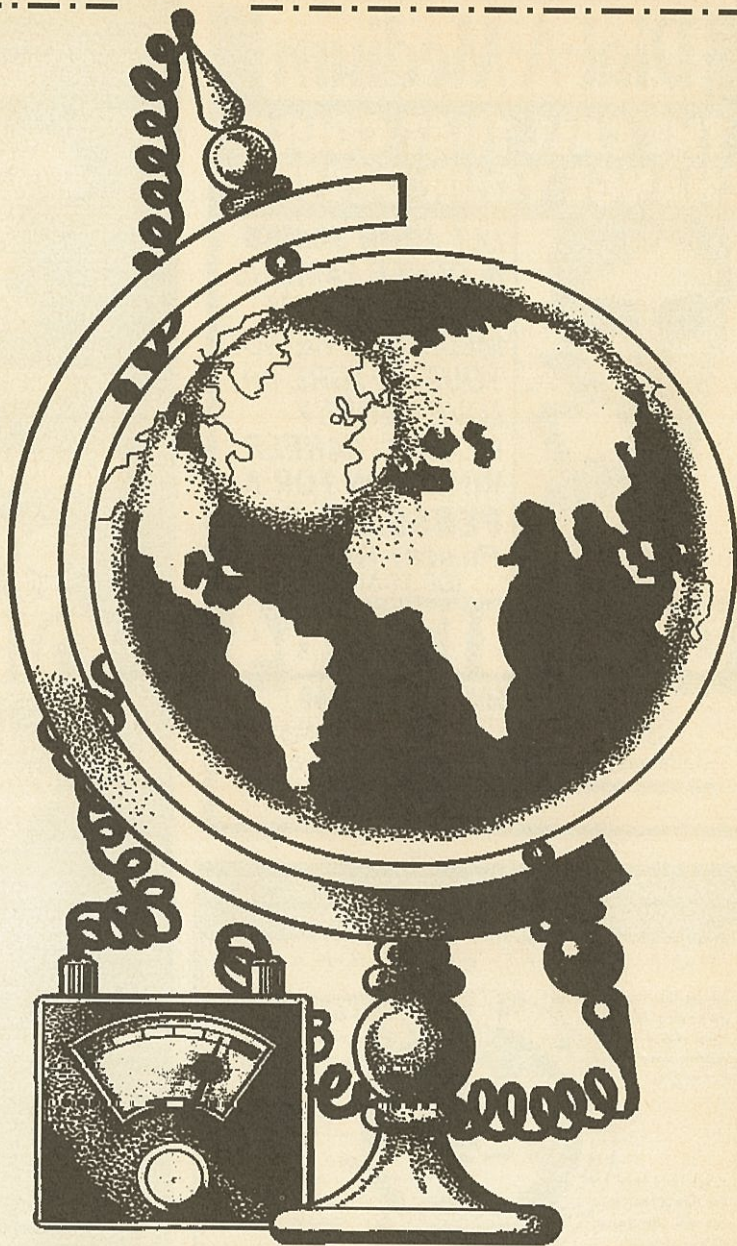
What he did not know was that it would take almost 2,000 years before his first observations on geomancy would at last be backed up by solid scientific research.

Web of energy

On the face of it the founding tenet of geomancy is simple enough: Earth is a kind of battery absorbing, storing and emanating subtle energies all the time. There are some people who are sensitive to these energies and, by attuning themselves to them, can sense the fluctuations well enough to find water, predict the location of minerals, pronounce a certain place as being 'good' or 'bad,' divine changes in the weather, predict earthquakes and foretell when something catastrophic is about to happen.

It is perhaps because its brief is so wide-ranging that geomancy has not been taken more seriously by scientists until comparatively recently. Some of its more obvious benefits, like dowsing for example, have until now been tolerated but never studied seriously. And, as far as its more rarefied claims are concerned, these stood nowhere.

What has changed of course is not so much the mind-set of scientists as the working paradigm which they have of the



world. Until recently, the world-view held and propagated by scientists was one of discreet energy packages that manifested themselves in different forms.

Thus lakes, streams, rocks, the ground, metals, the Sun, the stars and all the galaxies were different manifestations of energy states. They did not interact with each other until they were mixed, pounded, melted,

forced together or collided.

However, logic dictates that the exchange of information between two systems requires at least some rudimentary interaction between them. It was anathema, therefore, for any scientist to admit that geomancers could somehow jump this hurdle and gain information from systems without any physical interaction being involved.

No more! Today we live in the world of chaos physics and complex systems. We know now that gravity is only an illusion, that empty space has substance as well as form, that global weather may well be affected by the gentle beating of a butterfly's wings, that uttered incantations may be as potent in causing or averting disaster in the macroscopic world as the tiniest variation in a phantom electron's vibrational field is in the microscopic and that anything we're ready to believe in acquires an automatic validity which then becomes very hard to refute.

Today's world, in other words, is seen as a constant web of interactions between a myriad subtle energies and man, with his ability for self-analysis, stands firmly in the centre of this new universe. And all this, of course, gives geomancers a fresh lease of life in scientific circles.

near ore deposits and static electricity during thunderstorms and dry weather are but a few examples.

It would be only logical, therefore, to surmise that there must be a part of us that is, subconsciously at least, attuned to these energies to a degree that can detect and be affected by minute variations in them. Sure enough, a recent study conducted by the Exotic Energies Bureau of Stanford University in California found a marked correlation between American Indian burial sites, Australian Aboriginal sacred places and natural deposits of uranium.

Yet the depths at which uranium-ore is found are such that the above ground radiation level is only measurable by the most sensitive of instruments. One could surmise, therefore, that the medicine men and shamans who chose those sites in the first place were attracted

more, ant-hills and certain other insects seem to proliferate at such sites.

The seismologists' studies indicated that the tectonic pressure beneath the Earth's crust generates tremendous amounts of piezo-electricity. This, in turn, generates electric currents and electromagnetic fields which must make themselves felt at a certain gestalt level of awareness by individuals.

However, the Earth need not be under tectonic pressure in order to produce energy fields. In Britain, where there are no earthquakes, there are numerous sites located along ley-lines where sensitives have reported feeling an increased build-up of energy.

This isn't as preposterous as it may sound. After all, the Earth itself is little more than an electric generator. Its rotation creates electric currents within the molten core at its centre, which in turn generate

Earth Energies

by DAVID AMERLAND

We're surrounded by a constant flux of energy which the ancients knew all about and which science is only now beginning to discover.

Tracking Earth's energies

Within this new brief of science it has become easy enough to re-evaluate geomancy. In the process a few startling truths have emerged.

We now know, for example, that all of us are constantly awash in Earth energies. Background gamma radiation, electrical currents along river banks, electromagnetic fields

to them by the subtle energy increase they could sense emanating from them.

Even more recently, studies by Los Angeles and San Francisco seismologists based at UCLA have found that along sites in the Earth, where natural faults occur and there is tectonic pressure build-up, people tend to feel 'uncomfortable,' report disorientation, sudden thirst and headaches. Further-

the Earth's magnetic field.

Moreover, the density and composition of the Earth's crust varies from one region to the next. It would be safe to assume, therefore, that the distribution and concentration of these electric currents on its surface also fluctuate.

The Dragon Project

Taking this exact tack, British physicist Paul Devereux

Earth Energies

began an on-going research project into what he called Earth energies, that focused mainly on ancient British burial sites, places of worship and megalithic structures. Drawing the name from an ancient Chinese symbol for terrestrial currents, Devereux named this investigation the Dragon Project.

Using both sensitive instruments and psychics in a two-pronged attack, he has amassed a wealth of experimental data that validates the assumption that man is sensitive to the Earth's energy fluctuations. More specifically, Devereux and his researchers obtained strange readings at megalithic sites.

These were in the form of ultrasound (a tone beyond the normal range of human hearing) recorded by their instruments as emanating at about eight to 20 minutes before Sunrise and then vanishing completely one to two hours later. Background radiation was also found to be slightly higher than that measured by Geiger-counters at non-megalithic sites.

Perhaps the most significant findings of the Dragon Project

team have to do with geomagnetism. Using a magnetometer, a device that measures the Earth's magnetic field, Devereux reported that at the Rollright Stones one particular megalith showed a high magnetic field and rapid fluctuations of magnetic energy.

This discovery suggested to Devereux and colleagues that at least one folk belief associated with megaliths — that they have healing powers — may have its foundation in fact. It is known, for example, that throughout the centuries locals have come to the stones in the hope of mending broken bones. Interestingly, modern hospitals today commonly use electro-magnetism to speed up the healing process of bone fractures!

Man and energy

What all this does, of course, is validate the theory that man and his environment are interconnected through a complex web of interacting energies. The environment affects man through its emanations and man shapes and alters the environment to his maximum advantage.

This of course is not new. In China as far back as 5,000 years ago sensitive geomancers existed who were involved in the design of towns, castles and imperial buildings. These geomancers were known as Feng Shui (Wind — Water) practitioners and understood that a designer is marked as much by an inner development that renders him sensitive to the energies flowing around him as by the need to perfect his skills for manipulating the exterior world.

The modern interpretation of Feng Shui is that we come into contact with a host of subtle Earth energies in everyday life which can affect us adversely or otherwise and which

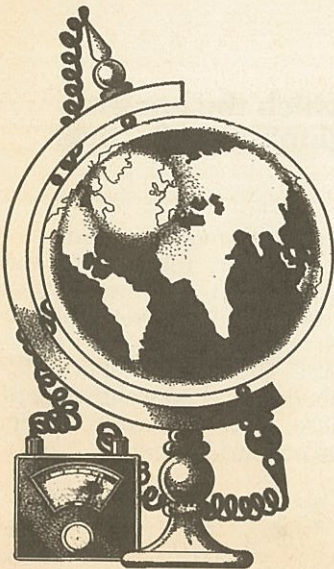
we can shape, enhance or negate by altering our immediate environment. Even Western architecture, which traditionally looks at a building as being distinct from its human occupants, is gradually coming to accept this philosophy.

Terence Lee, a Professor of Psychology at the University of Surrey, has studied the effect of buildings on humans. In his book, *Psychology and the Environment*, he writes, 'Experiencing the environment through sensation and perception leaves a residue of knowledge or of "cognitions" in the central nervous system.'

We are, it seems, as inextricably linked to our environment and the energies that emanate from it and flow around it as our environment is from us. We are all now familiar with tales of Sick Building Syndrome, an apparent manifestation of Western architecture's crassest approach wedded to a reluctance to acknowledge the body's intuitive response to a negative charge of Earth energies.

In her book on the subject, Sarah Rossbach notes how Feng Shui is in a sense a return to basics where everything is seen as being comprised of Yin and Yang, negative and positive, and the aim is to achieve a correct balance between the two. Incidentally, on the subject of computers she writes, 'According to modern Feng Shui experts, computers affect ch'i. Computers can be good, enlivening and stimulating to the office. They can raise wisdom and knowledge. The computer worker, however, should face the door otherwise he will suffer from stress and neurosis after a while.'

My computer faces the door, I suffer from no ill effects of stress or neurosis. As for wisdom and knowledge, well now, I'll keep you posted.



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GRAPHOLOGY

by PETER MARSHALL

LEFT WRITE

A marked left slant in handwriting immediately draws one's attention.

There is a definite departure from the angle taught at school so one immediately notices the difference from the average script. In point of fact these writers certainly are somewhat different from the everyday and normal individual as the three samples of left slanted writing here will show.

The first example is quite conspicuous and is so unusual as to demand consideration. Observing the writer's personality and character in the light of this will show that not only is the script distinct and different as opposed to the general standard but the writer can be classed as being the same.

At one time it was thought that an angle like this was produced by one who was unfeeling, cold and unresponsive. This is not always so, as below the surface there could be warmth, understanding and affection. The reason behind the misunderstanding is that these writers possess a nature that dislikes to display their true reactions and feeling-responses outwardly. There may be a pose of aloofness on the outside but under this is the expediency of self-defense, especially if they are sensitive and easily hurt.

Judging from the rather inflated loops in Figure 1, imagination plays an influential role

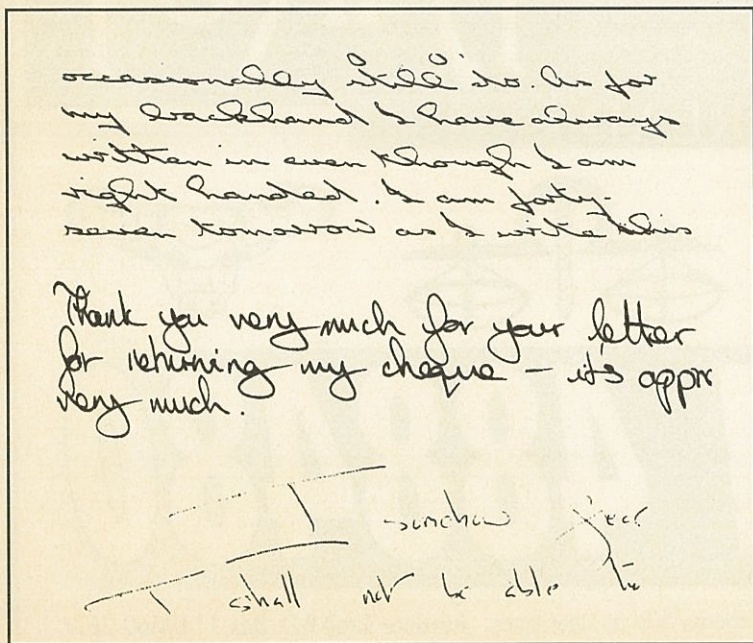
at the psychological level. The base-lines are acceptably straight, establishing a steady approach to life's goals and aims. This also points to a general composure and no giving in to moods. Word spacing can be called passably even signifying an effective control over the owner's introvert traits.

Left slanting writing has definite implications of introversion and the lower extensions in this case point to some discontent in connection with the writer's love life.

Our second specimen, with its large lower extensions, conveys an active and lively imagination which is mostly directed to the instinctual, material and sexual sphere. The base-lines can be broadly qualified as even, although there are slight deviations. Therefore this writer possesses a plausible willpower when it comes to serious situations.

There are enlargements in the upper extensions too which illustrate that imagination is used in the intellectual and intangible areas. The pressure on downstrokes implies a firm demonstration of opinions when in discussion or argument.

T-bars, here and elsewhere, are low so ambition is not greatly marked in this situation. The left slant is not so marked as in the first example but, nevertheless, that reluctance to exhibit true inner reactions and feelings is also present. Again it will not be easy for others to penetrate and understand this writer fully. The subject may apparently display unresponsiveness and aloofness sometimes but really it is a case of in-



(continued on page 52)

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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 Leliev, 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.

Widely forecast as early as January 1992 that Bush would lose Presidential Election.

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

"I was impressed with the personal reading. For I gave no facts. Dr A Mukherjee treats the readings like a science ... highly accurate."

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

"Clients tend to return to Dr Mukherjee at intervals to check their direction ... bit like a family GP except speciality is fate rather than medicine."

by Frances Caldwell, The Hendon Times, page-24, 28th December 1989.



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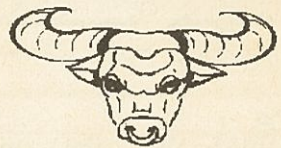
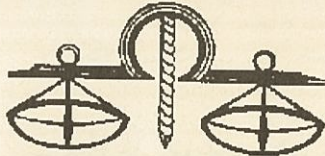
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NEWS & VIEWS

Contact lost

Attendees of this year's UFOs, Crop Circle Formations & Government Conspiracies conference in Dorchester, Dorset, in April, who registered their names and addresses for next year's event are asked to call ☎ 01305 266832. Due to a computer failure, the organisers have lost these details and are concerned to re-establish contact with interested parties; the same applies to those who wanted to order the edited highlights video of the event or asked to be sent details of the low-cost lectures and workshops run by David and Virginia.

Apologies from the organisers (who tell us lots of PREDICTION readers attended the conference) for having to put the onus on you to get in touch again but they have no other way to make contact. The problem, incidentally, was due to an exceptional electrical power surge and not interference from a visiting UFO.

The Theosophical Society of Australia's 1997 Convention takes place January 11th-18th in Perth, Western Australia. Anyone wishing to know more should write to The TSA at 4th Floor, 484 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

Next stop Europa

No, this is not the newest name for the European Union but of Jupiter's Moon where, according to latest scientific reports, there is some evidence to suggest the presence of 'warm ice' or even liquid water. And the significance of this, of course, is that Europa may possess an environment where primitive life-forms could exist.

Such a possibility is not confined to Sci-fi but one considered seriously by some scientists — long before the recent identification of micro-organisms in a meteorite from Mars caused great excitement. Tantalising images from the Galileo probe are the source of this latest excited speculation; we'll keep you informed of any further developments.

Make a note

Closer to home, BAPS (British Astrological & Psychic Society) has a new address for correspondence: Robert Denholm House, Bletchingly Road, Nutfield, Surrey RH1 4HW and, for the impatient, email BAPS@tpplc.com will also connect you.

Starry eyed Brighton College of Technology's Saturday programme includes *Written in the Stars*, a series of one-day astrology workshops with Paul Wade. Although part of a course, each stands alone and can be attended separately at a cost of £13.

The next two workshops in the series are *Chiron, The Wounded Healer* (December 7th) and *Birthchart interpretation in Action: Practical Analyses* (January 18th); both take place at BCT, Connaught Centre, Hove, 10am-4pm. For more details/bookings call ☎ 01273 736491.

Spiritual healing

Stockwell Spiritualist Church is now offering healing in its Sanctuary at St Michael's Road, Stockwell, London SW9. Available Mondays 3.30-8pm, Wednesdays 5-7pm and Fridays 5.30-7pm. For more details call ☎ 0171-733 7761.

The London Spiritual

Mission holds three healing sessions on Mondays at 11-1pm, 2-3pm and 6-7.30pm plus Thursday evenings 5-7.30pm. The address is 13 Pembroke Place, London W2 4XB (☎ 0171-229 2024).

Feeling charitable?

We have received a heartfelt plea from a reader on behalf of SPANA, a British charity committed to protecting animals abroad from ignorance, neglect and suffering. Founded in 1923, SPANA has a network of refuges and mobile clinics in North Africa and the Middle East where working animals such as donkeys, mules and horses in particular are often in need of first-aid as well as rest and long-term care.

Like all charities, SPANA needs donations, large or small, but also welcomes used postage stamps (any foreign also British commemorative). Simply cut from the envelopes, taking care not to damage perforations, and send to SPANA, 15 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LB or call ☎ 0171-828 0997 to find out more about the charity's aims.

December Diary Dates

Nov 30th-Dec 1st. Energetic Herbalism for Practitioners. Two-day workshop with Patricia Howell & Colleen Rosado at the Isle of Avalon Foundation, Georges Room, 2-4 High Street, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9DU. 10am-5pm; cost £70. For details call ☎ 01458 833933.

1st. The Sacred Fire. A lecture with Colin Price at The Theosophical Society, 50 Gloucester Place, London, W1. At 6pm; admission £4/£3 cons.

1st. Inkubus Sikkubus Pagan-Gothic rock band in concert at Duchess of York Theatre, Vicar Lane, Leeds. For tickets and info call Pagan Fire Muzick on ☎ 01242 695411.

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H.M.: "I was absolutely determined that my husband's shoulder would be rapidly healed – already it seems almost back to normal! Isn't that joyous news? I am 'absolutely determined' about many, many things these days, and wonders happen frequently."

J. & P.M.: "So much good has happened! A very unhappy situation with neighbours has been resolved. Quite unexpectedly, a friend gave us a large sum of money and this was just the beginning, money has been coming in from unexpected sources."

C.E.G.: "Thank you for Lesson Four, Part One. Some wonderful things are happening to me! With the Tree Chart I have been able to help my friend."

N.T.D.: "On reading the second lesson I stopped a bad habit immediately. I am astonished."

J.B.: "Please note my new address – it is because of thought building that I have this house!"

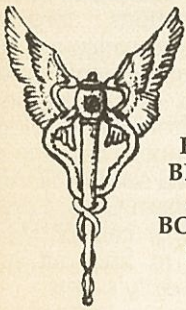
D.E.: "The teachings are a wonderfully absorbing treasure. I am feeling elated in anticipation of a wonderful change coming into my life."

C.A.P.: "Thank you for Thought Bricks Lesson One. I feel free – as though I have been released!"

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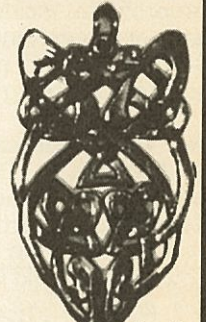
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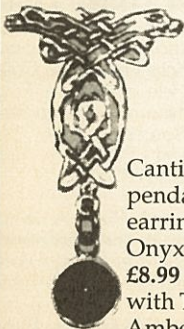
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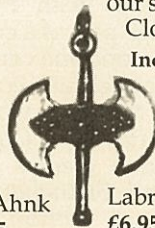
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NEWS & VIEWS

1st. Mysterious Wimbledon Walk. An afternoon conducted tour of Wimbledon's hauntings, unsolved mysteries, etc starts 2pm outside Kings College School, opposite the Crooked Billet, Wimbledon Common, London, SW19. Adults £4, children/OAPs £2. Details call David Harrison on ☎ 0181-946 3219.

2nd. Ancient Stones of Dorset — Seeking out the Landscape. A talk with Peter Knight at Pelhams Community Centre, Kinson, Bournemouth, Dorset. Starts 7.45pm; £1.50. For more info call ☎ 01202 519388.

3rd. Benjamin Creme Lecture at Friends House, 177 Euston Road, London NW1. Starts 7pm (doors open 6.30) admission free. Details contact Share International on ☎ 0171-482 1113.

4th. Chakra Sounds. An evening meditation using vocal sounds and music to harmonise the chakras at Osho International, 24 St James's Street, St James's, London, SW1A 1HA. 6.55-8pm; £3.00. For more info ☎ 0171-925 1900.

4th. Taoism: The Path to Longevity. Lecture with Stanley Hewitt at the Foundation for Theosophical Studies, 50 Gloucester Place, London, W1 4EA. 6.30pm; £4. Details call ☎ 0171-935 9261.

5th. Going For Gold. Electional astrology seminar with Maggie Hyde for the Company of Astrologers at ULU, Malet Street, London, WC1 (near British Museum). 7.15-9.15pm; £4. For more details ☎ 01227 362427.

6th. Body Language. A talk with Nina Ashby for BAPS South Norwood group at 132 Woodside Green, South Norwood, London SE25. Starts 7.45pm; costs £2/£3 non-members. Details call Nina on ☎ 0181-689 3949.

6th. Crystal Consultations with Berenice Watt for BAPS North Wealden group. Starts 8pm; costs £2/£3 non-members. For venue/details call Sue Spackman on ☎ 01737 360539.

6th. Sacred Circle of Life with Roland Pargeter at the Isle of Avalon Foundation, Georges Room, 2-4 High Street, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9DU. 7.30-9.30pm; £5/£3.50 concessions. Details: ☎ 01458 833933.

7th. Golden Apple Awards. A reading of the short-listed competition entries (see N&V August) and final awards at the Isle of Avalon Foundation, 2-4 High Street, Glastonbury. Starts 7.30pm. For details call ☎ 01458 833933.

7th. Let's Talk Tarot. One-day workshop with Katanya at 33 Kestral Close, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 5WD (☎ 01403 256024). 10.30am-5pm; £65 (please bring packed lunch, notepad and pack of cards).

7th. Philosophical Foundations of Astrology with Ruth Clydesdale for the Faculty of Astrological Studies at the ASC, 396 Caledonian Road, London N1. 10.30-5.30pm; £30/£35 non-members. For details call ☎ 07000 790143.

7th. The Mars Enigma. Exclusive world debate following revelations from outer space with guest speakers Dr Mark Carlotto, Richard Hoagland and Ananda Siresena at the Manchester Conference Centre. Tickets £19.95 (including buffet lunch, programme and discount on session videos) from SETI, PO Box 1008, Chester CH3 1GF.

8th. The Psychic Connection with Katanya in Horsham (see 7th for venue or ☎ 01403 256024). One-day workshop 10.30am-5pm; £35 (please bring a notebook and packed lunch).

8th. Casting The Horoscope. Foundation workshop on calculating the Ascendant and Houses of a horoscope with the Company of Astrologers at 369 Caledonian Road, London, N1. 1.15-5.45pm; £20 (1 week in advance). To book phone with Visa on ☎ 01227 362427 or send cheque to PO Box 3001, London, N1 1LY.

10th. Open Forum. A Theosophical world view on the meaning of and right approach to life with Lillian Storey at the Theosophical Society, 50 Gloucester Place, London, W1. 3pm; admission free.

11th-14th. And They Call Her Name Wisdom. A play exploring the nature of alchemical transformation. Starts 7.30 nightly at the Assembly Rooms, Glastonbury High St, Glastonbury. Tickets available from The Isle of Avalon Foundation at £5 (Wed pre-view £3); ☎ 01458 833933.

13th. BAPS Christmas Party. No fee, just bring a bottle and some food to share round and join in the fun. Starts 7.45 at 43 Wharnecliffe Gardens, South Norwood, London SE25.

13th. Questioning Qabalah with Helena for BAPS in the North Wealden area. Starts 8pm; £2/£3 non-members. For venue/details call Sue Spackman on ☎ 01737 360539.

13th. Elves of Avalon. An evening discussion and workshop with Hugh Myne in Glastonbury (see 30th-1st for venue or call ☎ 01458 833933). Starts 7.30pm; £5/£3.50 cons.

14th. Chart Studies. Seminar with Kim Farley for the Faculty of Astrological Studies at ASC (see 7th for details or ☎ 07000 790143). 10.30-5.30pm; £30/£35 non-members.

14th. The Way of Divine Love. Seminar with Alan Perry at the Foundation of Theosophical Studies, 50 Gloucester Place, London W1 (☎ 0171-935 9261). 7-10pm; £4.

15th. Mysterious Wimbledon Walk. See the 1st for details.

18th. Dancing Buddhas. Evening group meditation with Anam for Osho International (see 4th for venue or call ☎ 0171-925 1900). 6.55-8pm; £3.

21st. Sacred Sites of Avalon with Rob Deavall, talk/slide show at the Georges Room, Glastonbury (see 30th-1st for details), followed by a guided walk using ritual, meditation and visualisation. £15/£10 cons (excluding lunch at the White Spring Cafe).

23rd. Inkubus Sukkubus live in concert at Rock City, Talbot Street, Nottingham (main stage) at a Gothic all-day event, *Saturnalia*. Details/tickets call Jason on ☎ 0115 9603785.

27th-Jan 3rd. Summer School with The Theosophical Fellowship in Australia. For further details write to 114 Central Springs Road, Daylesford, Victoria 3460, Australia.

29th-Jan 3rd. New Year Workshop with Eagle's Wing at Grimstone Manor, Devon, on the edge of Dartmoor. Fully residential programme of contemporary shamanism. Cost £330/deposit £90 (payable to Eagle's Wing); details/booking call Andrew Dawson ☎ 01822 615261.

by PETER WEST

PALMISTRY



PRESENT TIME

This is the time of year to take a good look at your friends' hands for a clue as to the most suitable gift.

Everyone loves to get presents and probably almost as many enjoy giving them but there is always the eternal question. Just what do you give to a friend or that very special person in your life? One of those sticky questions — never easy, even for the closest of family, friends or lovers.

You can meet the problem halfway for some folk. A book, a tape or CD, or an in-store token go a long way but this way doesn't quite convey that personal touch. It can also be misconstrued by thinking there has been little thought behind the gift. Handkerchiefs, socks, underwear or even 'smellies' are all very well but, somehow, it just isn't quite right. It doesn't always reflect the donor in the light he or she would like.

At this special time of the year when many people exchange gifts, not just for Christmas but also for more personal reasons as well, here is a chance to gain a little basic knowledge of palmistry to help you decide on what to give.

Take a good look at the hands of those near and dear to you. You will quickly realise that square-handed folk (Fig 1) have a vastly different outlook on life than, say, a conic shaped hand type. When it comes to giving or receiving presents the same thinking will help you choose a more apt gift.

Conic, or round hands (Fig 2), belong to people who are at

their best in company for they quickly catch the mood of the moment. There is a ready wit and they are inclined to be the life and soul of any party. They enjoy social life and are often the first on their feet to dance when things are quiet, especially during that first awkward half hour or so.

These folk provide ideas for children's parties, they are the type who gets you all to decorate the office for Christmas or who start collections for departing colleagues. Fun-lovers like this enjoy unwrapping a gift almost as much as the gift itself so make sure it is well wrapped and well presented. All those clever little bows and ribbons mean so much here.

For the ladies, exotic nail lacquer, jewellery-boxes, flowerpot stands and frivolous knickknacks go down well. Almost anything miniature or unusual is well received. For men, wine, cigars for smokers, anything that smacks of luxury like a hip flask (preferably loaded) or neat little gadgets like a map measurer for his pride and joy — his car — are fine!

The more square or rectangular the hand shape the more practical and self-reliant the nature. Should the hand also be firm to the touch and the head line short and fairly straight then practical gifts will be well received. The men will appreciate almost any kind of tool or implement. A new spade or

fork for garden work, a set of screwdrivers, a new calculator or, if you are in an expansive mood, a hand-held or lap-top computer. If he or she has a hobby like fishing get someone to sound him out first as this can be a complicated area.

For the ladies almost anything that helps them save time will be appreciated. A writing case complete with pen, a large desk diary or a useful ornament like a flower vase (few people seem to buy these as a gift for someone else). And what about theatre or concert ticket vouchers so they may decide for themselves which play or show to see?

Check to see if her fingers are long, thin and expressive for, if they are, she will certainly welcome a new handbag with many, many pockets and flaps so that she can delight in organising it. Those ladies with thicker and shorter fingers prefer to dip into their bags, feel around and come up with exactly whatever it was they were searching for without any (apparent) effort.

If the hand shape inclines to the philosophic type, knots at the second or base joints of the fingers, rather thin and bony to the touch then we know this person needs to keep the mind active and well stimulated with our gift. A manual or guide book for the men, for carpentry or travel, or a DIY photography outfit. The latest computer program or add-on for his computer. The ladies will be delighted with antique silverware, photograph frames, kitchen tools and gadgets. A subscription to a favourite magazine always goes down well.

Maybe you have a friend

who is a health and fitness freak. This can easily be confirmed by a test for firmness in the centre of the palm. Also a check on the firmness of the 'mouse' mount when you ask him to make a fist.

This mount is found at the back of the hand between the thumb and side of the hand. If this is quite firm to the touch it suggests a healthy libido as well. Such folk appreciate membership of the local gym and fitness club and a gift for either sex would be a pair of stout walking boots for country walks, a walking stick or even a good weatherproof overcape would go down well.

At the other extreme, there is the couch potato whose hands are soft to the touch with large but softish mounts of the Moon and Venus. These people will delight in membership of the local Video club, stock for the drinks cupboard and perhaps more glasses. They would love a new pair of comfortable indoor slippers or a new multi-action remote control for the video/audio equipment.

Then there is the workaholic business type. These folk have

a straight, long little finger, perhaps the same length or slightly longer than the thumb. It helps if the Mercury finger also has a knot at the second joint together with a square tip for this accentuates his or her business acumen. Such folk do not usually take chances, they are very shrewd and able to translate theory into practice very well. There may also be a slight curve toward the third finger which shows an ability to listen and feel their way through problems.

The ideal gift here is anything that will help them lighten the the load a little. The small micro-cassette note-taker, a good briefcase, reliable fountain-pen or ball-point. A small ruler with a built-in calculator is very useful. For the men a matching tie and handkerchief set or a 'power' aftershave lotion. The ladies would appreciate 'power' style jewellery or a well known instantly recognisable perfume.

If your friend has long and straight first fingers with thumbs to match then don't buy frivolous presents. These folk have a sense of humour but prefer to present a more

solemn face. They are leaders who lead by example.

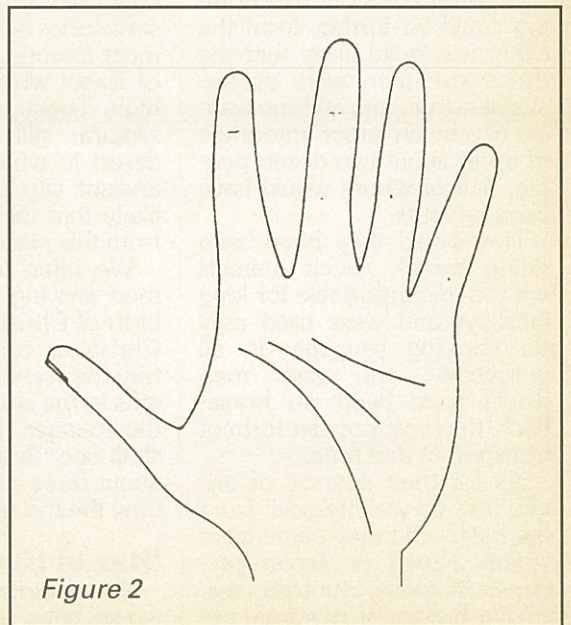
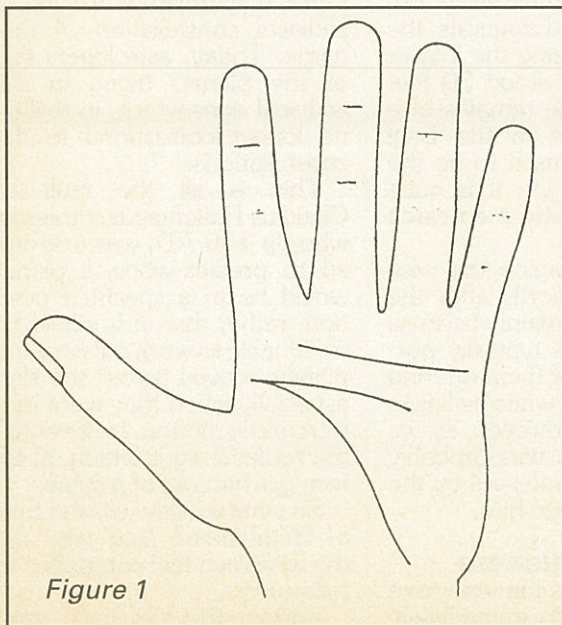
A Tom and Jerry hot-water bottle is not exactly their scene. A decent bottle of port, wine glasses or dinner service (if they are very special friends) would be a most acceptable gift.

If they have large, broad hands there is usually a great deal of commonsense, a good social life and an innate sympathy with the less fortunate of this world. Something practical in keeping with such talent would be preferred. A mobile phone or a pager, for example, as they are always on the move.

The small hand belongs to those who look at the whole without a thought for the detail that may be involved. They tend to strip an idea to its basic roots as they see it. They seem unable to cope with shade and light, the nuances of a problem. They would probably delight in a small spell-checker or translator type of calculator.

So, there you are, a few ideas for those who might not have been able to fit a present to a friend.

Have a nice time!



THREE WISE

The Old Testament tells us that, two thousand years ago, Three Wise Men from the East travelled to Bethlehem to pay homage to the newly born King of the Jews. But who exactly were these pilgrims? And where did they come from?

More importantly, what compelled them to chase a star all the way to what is now Jordan? There is some evidence that this famous trio may have been Babylonian astrologers and, in this article, we look at the shreds of evidence that can lead us to a better understanding of the wise men, the Star of Bethlehem and the birth of Christ.

Myths and reality

The popular image of the three wise men is of Kings of the Orient riding camels, as in the well-known carol. But how accurate is this picture? Is it historically correct or just a figment of someone's imagination?

In fact it turns out that nothing could be further from the truth. It is quite likely that the three wise men were professional astrologers and the leaders of a much larger entourage of up to about two dozen people, half of whom would have been servants.

Nor would they have been riding camels. Such animals are too uncomfortable for long journeys and were used only for carrying baggage. In all probability, the wise men would have been on horseback, the most popular form of transport at that time.

As for their country of origin, how do we interpret 'from the East?' Did they come from China, Korea or Japan perhaps? All these countries have a long history of heavenly ob-

servations — the ancient Chinese kingdom was known as the Celestial Empire — so it seems probable that the wise men came from this region. Or did they?

Two thousand years ago the world was a much smaller place and for most Europeans stretched only as far as the limits of the Roman Empire — up to the Persian Gulf. So reference in the Scriptures to the East probably meant Arabia. And that, in effect, means Babylonia.

Although not exactly kings, the wise men would certainly have been highly placed in Babylonian society. Students of ancient civilisations will already know that it was the Babylonians who invented astrology and the zodiac. What is not always appreciated, however, is the Babylonians' dependence on astrology.

Their whole society revolved around messages from the heavens. So much so that they built massive, multi-story observatories called ziggurats, the most famous being the Tower of Babel which stood 30 feet high. Today, the remains of a zikkurat still lie in the Iraqi desert in what used to be the ancient city of Ur; it is quite likely that the wise men came from this place.

We often imagine the wise men arriving shortly after the birth of Christ, mainly because Christmas cards typically portray the scene of them offering gifts to the child while he lies in the manger. However, as we shall see, Jesus was probably about three months old by the time the trio found him.

Star of Bethlehem

As astrologers the wise men would have been immediately

aware of any changes in the heavens. The astrology they used bears little resemblance to the popular Sun sign astrology practised today. Babylonian astrology was largely an observation-based science concerned with the fate of nations rather than the triviality of an individual's life.

Put simply, the Babylonians knew that if a certain arrangement of planets occurred in a certain zodiacal constellation then a certain event would take place. This form of prediction was based on experience. When such arrangements had occurred in the past it perhaps meant nations rising or falling, kings dying or being born, so it seemed reasonable to assume that if those arrangements recurred then so would the subsequent events.

Compared to modern practice, Babylonian astrology had one other important difference. When the Babylonians said that a planet was in, say, Libra, they meant it was in the zodiacal constellation of that name. Today, astrologers talk of the planets being in the zodiacal signs which, in reality, no longer correspond to the constellations.

This is all the fault of Claudius Ptolemaeus (Ptolemy) who, in 130 AD, was instructed to predict when a planet would be in a specified position, rather than if it would be so. Unable to work out how the planets moved across the sky, especially when they went into retrograde motion, he invented the zodiacal signs which, in effect, got him out of trouble.

So what exactly was the Star of Bethlehem? And why did the wise men feel compelled to follow it?

Various theories have been

MEN

by PHIL MORGAN

put forward, many of which are flawed. These have included comets, meteorites and fireballs, exploding stars (known as supernovae), the Northern Lights or aurorae, Venus and even UFOs.

But none of these suggestions would have impressed the Babylonian astrologers. For all these phenomena, with the exception of UFOs, were well-known to the Babylonians and carried no astrological message.

We must, therefore, ask what Babylonian astrology was all about. And the answer is simple: the movement of the planets through the zodiacal constellations. So what we need to look for is an unusual arrangement of the planets, something that would spur the Babylonians into sending out their ambassadors.

Timetable

Theologians disagree on many things in the Bible but are unanimous on one point: that Jesus was not born 1,996 years ago on December 25th. The December date was chosen several centuries ago to placate the Druids.

They worshipped their gods at the Winter Equinox on De-

ember 21st. To win them over to Christianity the early Church had to make its religion more attractive to the Druids and this was accomplished partly by moving Christ's birth to a date closer to this important festival.

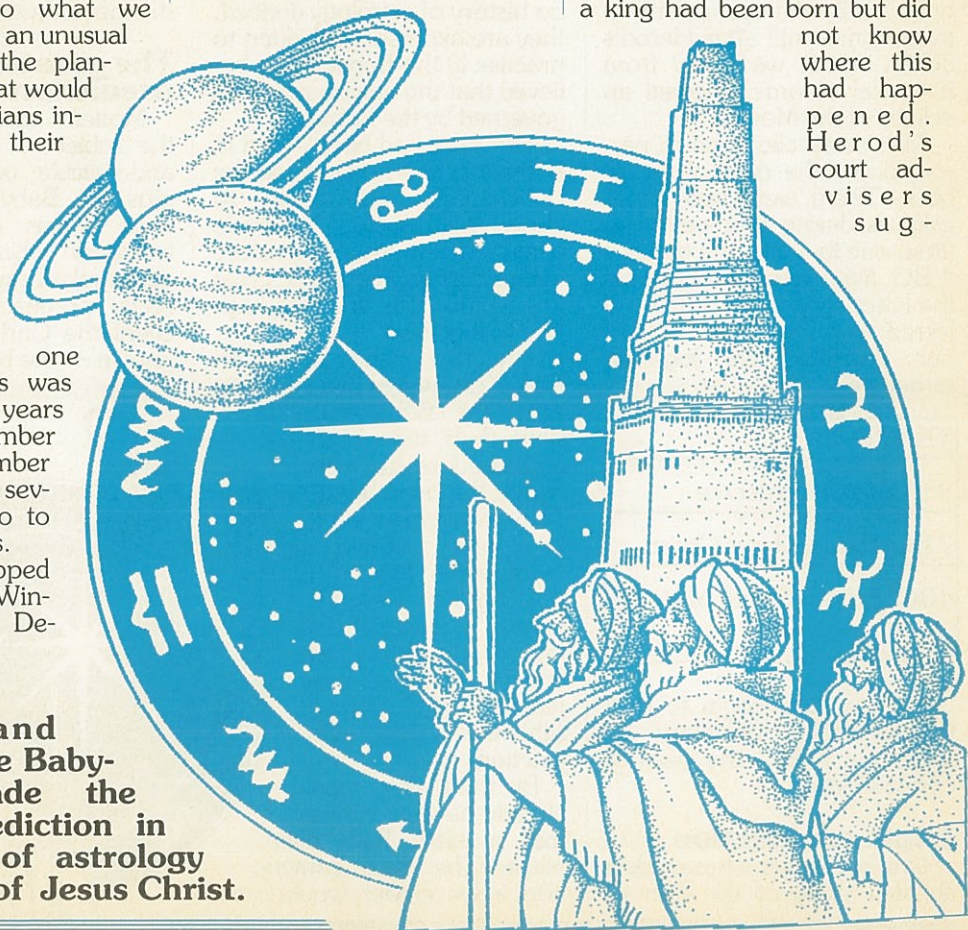
As for the year, time-keeping was not as detailed two thousand years ago as it is today. However, most experts agree that Jesus was born somewhere between 1 and 10 BC. So can we narrow this down and, in so doing, can we find a planetary configuration that would account for the Star of Bethlehem? Fortunately, we can.

The Bible states that Mary and Joseph had to travel to their family home in Bethlehem in order to pay their taxes. Under Roman Law, taxation decrees were issued every 14 years or so and an inscription discovered recently in Ankara indicates that Augustus Caesar issued one such around 8 BC.

By the time news of this decree reached the Holy Family and they, in turn, reached Bethlehem, it was probably 7 BC. This year is actually confirmed by the arrival of the wise men and the death of Herod.

The wise men called on Herod at Damascus, en route to Bethlehem. They knew that a king had been born but did

not know where this had happened. Herod's court advisers sug-



Two thousand years ago the Babylonians made the greatest prediction in the history of astrology — the birth of Jesus Christ.

gested Bethlehem and Herod asked the wise men to return to him with details of the new king so that he, too, could pay homage.

In fact Herod had other plans. Having murdered his own brother in order to secure the throne, he certainly was not going to let the King of the Jews live and threaten his own authority, so was determined to kill the new-born child.

The Bible tells us that the wise men and the holy family were warned of Herod's intentions. The former therefore returned to Ur without calling on Herod, while Mary, Joseph and Jesus fled to Egypt where they remained for at least two years.

When the wise men failed to return, Herod ordered that all children under the age of two should be slaughtered. By this time, however, Jesus was already safely in Egypt and the holy family did not return to their home until after Herod's death, which we know from historical records followed an eclipse of the Moon.

This detail allows us to narrow down the date of Jesus' birth. There were two Lunar eclipses during that period in time, one in 1 BC, the other in 4 BC. If we assume that it was the latter eclipse which was referred to in the records then our timetable fits together rather well.

YEAR EVENT	
8 BC	Taxation decree
7 BC	Birth of Jesus Christ
4BC	Eclipse/Death of Herod

We can now begin to look for favourable planetary aspects for 7 BC, the year of Christ's birth.

Triple conjunction

One person who has made a detailed study of the Star of

Bethlehem is Dr David Hughes, an astronomer at the University of Sheffield. He has discovered that in 7 BC there was a triple conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn — exactly the sort of arrangement that would have impressed Babylonian astrologers.

Between May and December 7 BC, Jupiter and Saturn lined up on three occasions: May 27th, October 6th and December 1st. They were so close together in the night sky that they appeared to merge, blending their light into a brilliant 'New Star.' Such events are rare, occurring only once in every 800 years, so were obviously of interest to the Babylonians, especially as they occurred in the constellation of Pisces which, as we shall see, is of great significance.

In Babylonian astrology Pisces was the sign of the Jews. Although the Jews have no history of astrology (indeed, they are expressly forbidden to practise it) the Babylonians believed that the Jewish race was governed by the Fishes.

The Jews had been exiled in Babylonia at one stage and the Babylonians had come to know them well. The triple conjunction in Pisces therefore meant that something of great importance was going to happen to the Jews.

The first conjunction, on May 27th, would have encouraged the Babylonians to send their wise men as ambassadors to welcome the new king. They would have left Ur and skirted Northwards around the Syrian Desert before heading South into Damascus which they would have reached by October 6th, the second conjunction.

By then, they would already have been aware that a birth had taken place. The third conjunction, in December, would have

coincided with their visit to Jesus. So when did the birth actually occur?

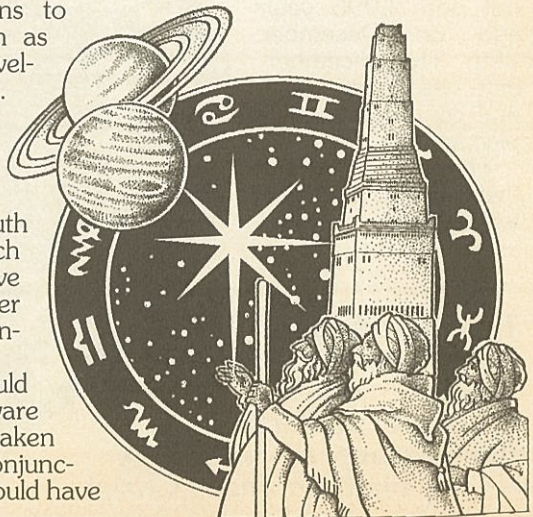
David Hughes believes it may have been on September 15th. On that day there was a rare achronical rising: at the precise moment the Sun was setting in the West, Jupiter and Saturn — the Star of Bethlehem — were rising in the East. This rare event would signal a great birth.

The wise men, however, were still a long way from Bethlehem on that date, not yet having reached Damascus. But on their entry to the city, and their audience with Herod, they must have felt an overwhelming joy at the arrival of a new king.

They had witnessed the first of three conjunctions and the achronical rising. For them, all the pieces were beginning to fit together. Something that was confirmed when they found the infant Jesus in Bethlehem.

The greatest prediction

Modern astrology is often the subject of much criticism and ridicule, yet it has its origins in Babylonian society. And it was Babylonian astrologers who, 2000 years ago, looked skywards and correctly predicted the greatest event the Christian world has known — the birth of Jesus.



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Current biofeedback research into the efficacy of creative imagery has proven without doubt that simply imagining yourself in a warm, nurturing situation has the same effect as actually being there. For some this place might be a Sun-drenched beach, for others a beautiful garden. Wherever the place may be, the focus is on making the image as real as possible.

The benefits

The benefits of imagery work can be far-reaching; by enabling us to communicate with the deep psyche, it reduces stress levels, strengthens our immune defences, hastens recovery from illness and promotes personal happiness.

The most remarkable work carried out in this field was initiated by Doctors Carl and Stephanie Simonton, at the Cancer Counselling and Research Center, Fort Worth, Texas. Cancer patients were taught how to achieve a state of deep physical relaxation followed by a series of mental pictures of the cancer cells in their bodies being destroyed.

Often, the results were quite remarkable. In one particular case, a 61-year-old man who had been advised to practise an imaging exercise several times a day not only overcame his cancer but also rid himself of arthritis and impotence which had plagued him for more than 20 years!

Creative imagery is also increasingly being employed for improving health and a sense of well-being in those who show no obvious signs of illness. Then there are those who use the technique to enable them to achieve a desired goal or actively pursued change. This may be anything from giving up smoking, increasing athletic performance through to inner changes in psychological response or emotional patterns.

It should be pointed out,

however, that without the guidance of an experienced practitioner in the field of imagery work (a hypnotherapist or psychotherapist, for example) it can be all too easy to programme in the wrong thing.

Therefore, the exercises suggested in this article are not aimed at changing anything in particular. Rather, they are about taking time out from the pressures of everyday life and tapping into your own inner source of peace, healing and wisdom.

An important point must be made here about the term 'visualisation' which is often regarded as synonymous with 'imagery.' Visualisation is an important, but specific aspect of imagery.

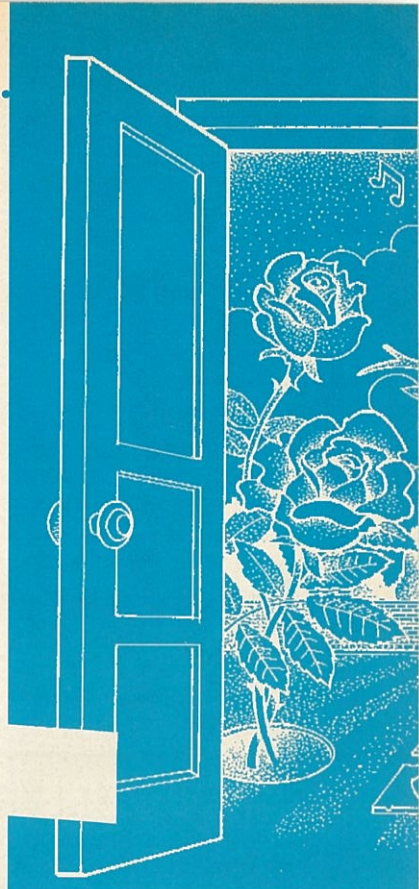
Studies have shown that the form of imagery which connects most powerfully with the deeper levels of the psyche involves all the senses. In addi-

tion to visualising or 'seeing' a beautiful garden, for instance, the aim should be to feel it, smell, hear it, even taste it.

You might, for instance, touch the bark of a tree, perceive the scent of roses, the song of a bird and the taste of a Sun-warmed strawberry. Kinesthetic evocation is important too — the sense through which you are aware of your own body and its movements.

Sensory evocation

When beginning imagery work, it is a good idea to start with something simple to flex your imagination. Sit comfortably in a quiet room, either cross-legged on the floor with your back supported against a wall or in an upright chair that supports your back.



CREATIVE

by **CHRISSE**

**Imagine being able
paradisaical place when
Imagine it now —**

Close your eyes, breathe deeply with a sigh, allowing all the cares of the day to melt away. Then, when you are ready, try to visualise the following.

*A pen slowly writing your name on paper.

*Various colour shapes: a red triangle, a yellow circle, a blue square, a green five-pointed star, and so on.

Now focus on the sense of touch.



Then try to conjure up the following aromas.

- * Your favourite perfume.
- * Wood smoke.
- * Coffee.

In your mind's ear, listen to the following sounds.

- * Waves breaking on the seashore.
- * Children's voices in a school playground.
- * The sound of a gong striking and gradually fading into silence.

And finally, the kinaesthetic sense. Imagine that you are doing the following.

- * Swimming; experience the sensation of weightlessness as your body glides through the water.
- * Moving to and fro on a garden swing.
- * Dancing; feel the rhythm of the dance throughout your body.

Creating an inner sanctuary

Your own idea of a nurturing place may be quite different from the secret garden sequence given below. It could be the seashore, a green valley, a pine forest, the desert, a secret place in the mountains or even a fantasy setting in some other world. It may possibly be a beautiful place you have actually visited.

By all means work with the secret garden narrative if it feels right for you. Alternatively, allow a special place of your own choosing to form in your mind's eye. Find an idyllic place in nature where you can relax and enjoy yourself, knowing that there will not be anyone else there unless by your invitation.

When creating your own guided imagery sequence, don't forget to bring all your senses into play — sight, touch, smell, taste, hearing and the sensation of your body and its movements. Always begin and end your journey in exactly the same place as this imparts a sense of completeness.

You may wish to record your guided imagery sequence onto tape, with appropriate pauses and soft voice. Or you may choose to work with a sympathetic friend or partner, someone with whom you can exchange the roles of narrator and explorer.

Of course, guided imagery tapes on the 'inner sanctuary' theme are available commercially but it can be difficult to find a recording that captures your own personal idea of an uplifting place. So, should you choose to work with the following sequence, do feel free to alter it here and there to suit your individual sense of harmony.

Prelude

Ensure that you will not be disturbed for at least half an hour. If you are unable to record the narrative (or unable to find someone else to guide

IMAGERY

WILDWOOD

**o take off for some
ver the fancy takes you.
nd you are there!**

* Stroke a cat or a dog; feel the texture of the animal's coat and its warm body.

* Pick up a pine cone and feel its rough multi-layered form.

* Put your hand under a running tap and experience the sensation of cool water on your skin.

Next, imagine the flavour, temperature and texture of:

- * Vanilla ice cream.
- * A piece of dark chocolate.
- * Crunchy lettuce.

No doubt you will discover that one or two of your senses are more highly developed than the others. For most people, visual imagery is the easiest to evoke whereas odours usually prove to be the most difficult.

Once you have perfected the sensory evocation exercises, or at least have become fairly adept, you will be ready to explore the art of guided imagery. Incidentally, mastery of the exercises can take anything from one or two practice sessions through to many sessions over a period of weeks depending on the flexibility of your imagination. Indeed, the imagination, just like muscles, becomes much more powerful and limber through frequent use.

CREATIVE IMAGERY

you through the sequence), read it through a number of times until you can summon the various stages to mind without having actually to read the text.

Lie down on the floor or on a firm bed and have pillows for support if desired — one under your head and another under your knees will support your back.

Close your eyes, take a few deep breaths, then have a really good stretch from fingertips to toes. Repeat this sequence several times until you begin to feel heavy and relaxed.

The secret garden

Imagine you are walking along a path through a wide green swathe. It is a warm, sunny afternoon and there is a gentle breeze carrying the scent of new-mown hay. The path leads to a weathered oak door, partially obscured by overhanging ivy.

You move aside the swinging curtain of green and push back the door which opens slowly. You catch your breath in sheer wonder and delight for you are standing in a walled garden of immense size and beauty.

Before you is an abundance of rambling roses clambering over a wooden pergola. The dark red, velvety blooms emanate an exquisite perfume. You breathe a little deeper in order to enjoy their fragrance.

A soft wind scatters the rose petals about your feet, imparting a sense of abandoned rapture. In a curved flower-bed nearby are tall blooms of a sapphire hue, rising above floral clouds of pink, purple and white.

Aromatic herbs fill the gaps between stepping-stones and ferns push through cracks in

the grey stone wall. Everywhere you look flowers, shrubs and foliage plants grow in luxuriant profusion.

You follow some stepping-stones which lead through the pergola walkway and meander down to a wildwood area of the garden. On entering the copse, you pause for a moment to run your fingers over an aged bronze sculpture of a seated girl, finding it cool and dimpled to the touch.

You breathe more deeply in order to enjoy the sensation of damp woodland air and earthy scents. The tall, bright tender grass is jewelled with wild flowers: some flushed pink, others tinged purple and some like brilliant white stars. Looking up, you see wild clematis and honeysuckle creeping from tree to tree, hanging from branches and forming light, swaying curtains.

Moving through a leafy arcade, you hear the fluttering of wings. A song thrush perches high in a tree, his jubilant song echoing through the greenwood. A fluty call that seems impossibly loud for so small an instrument.

Continuing on for a short while, you reach the edge of the copse. Growing on a bank in dappled Sunlight are clusters of wild strawberries, looking delicately vivacious with their trefoil leaves and clear white blossoms.

You are tempted to pluck a fragrant Sun-warmed berry. Popping the fruit in your mouth, you savour its sweetness.

On emerging from the green shades, you feel the warm Sunshine on your face and bare arms. An emerald carpet of soft grass is laid out before you, inviting your feet to move freely over it. And, indeed, the

springy turf imparts a sense of freedom to your step.

After walking a short distance, you come to an evergreen hedge with an archway fashioned through it. Looking through the arch, you see a perfectly straight path, bordered on either side by brightly painted flowers.

This leads to a cascading fountain where you sit on the curved stone edge of the pool. A fine misty spray refreshes your face. You dip your hand into the sparkling pool, gliding it to and fro, enjoying the tingly sensation of energised water moving through your fingers.

A darting dragonfly suddenly lands by the fountain's brink, capturing your attention with its iridescent beauty. Fiery with purposeful energy it takes off again, flashing electric blue as it disappears over the hedge.

You sit a while longer, gazing up at the Summer sky, watching fluffy white clouds drifting by and listening to the song of tumbling water. But now the time has come to say farewell to your secret garden, at least for the time being, though you know you will return soon.

Gradually, you rise and make your way back through the gardens and the wildwood, out through the oak door, which you remember to close behind you, along the path through the green swathe and back to everyday reality. You feel wonderfully alive and joyful, ready to take on the world!

Now take a couple of deep, slow breaths, then raise your arms overhead and have a good stretch from fingertips to toes. When you feel ready, roll over to one side before getting up slowly; you can always visit your secret garden another day.

TAROT



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Odds Against

by SIMON WEBB

Do recent case-studies indicate a proof of reincarnation?

Most people have heard of so-called hypnotic regression in which the subjects apparently recall details of previous lives. For many, the elaborate accounts produced by this method provide convincing evidence for the existence of reincarnation. However, there are a number of difficulties with accepting the data which emerges from hypnotic regression sessions at face value.

One of the most noticeable features of reported reincarnation involving adults is that their past lives are almost never trivial or banal. Without exception, it seems, they have been Roman soldiers, Egyptian princesses, mediaeval knights and so on. One seldom hears of anybody claiming to have been an unemployed docker in 19th century Grimsby!

This is odd because the overwhelming majority of past lives must have been utterly mundane and wholly lacking in excitement and adventure. It seems that these ordinary individuals are just not reincarnated as frequently as the tiny proportion who have led dramatic and historically noteworthy existences.

Another and perhaps more profound difficulty is that practically all the work in this field has been with adults from Western Europe and North America. Now any literate American or English person, the bulk of the subjects in fact, will have spent literally thousands of hours watching television and films, reading newspapers, magazines and novels, generally absorbing information in fact.

They will also have learned about various historical periods at school, the Romans and Greeks, Vikings and Egyptians to mention but a few. A consequence of this must be that most adults in this country could, if asked, give a pretty accurate description of life in ancient Rome, right down to the soldiers' uniforms, personal names, architecture and political system.

The current controversy over 'recovered memory syndrome' shows how easy it is for honest and well meaning people to devise vivid, but quite false memories in response to leading questions from a therapist. In short, those claiming to be the reincarnation of a Roman centurion may be correct in their assertion yet it is equally possible that the prompting of a hypnotist has simply encouraged their subconscious minds to construct a fantasy based upon some old, half forgotten episodes of *I Claudius*.

Evidence

This is not to say that reincarnation does not occur; far from it. But if we are going to seek evidence for the phenomenon then we would probably do best to look beyond the sophisticated, inventive and historically aware minds of Western adults.

The ideal person to investigate would come from a society where television and cinema are uncommon and education a rarity. The younger the subject, the better the chance of a mind uncluttered with knowledge of earlier eras. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, the previous life should

be both detailed and recent, enabling research to be conducted and checks made upon the subject's claims.

For the last 40 years or so an eminent American psychiatrist has been investigating incidents throughout the world which fulfil all the above criteria. The results are little short of astounding.

In 1977 the prestigious and ultra-conservative American academic magazine *Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases* published a paper by Dr Ian Stevenson, Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Virginia. It is some indication of the esteem in which Dr Stevenson was held in the medical world that the journal would even consider including such a paper within its pages for its title was 'Certain Cases Suggestive of Reincarnation.'

Dr Stevenson detailed some two dozen instances which he had investigated personally. All concerned very young children, half of whom were aged only two or three. Geographically they came mostly from isolated, and by Western standards backward parts of the world: Eskimos from Alaska, tribesmen from the Brazilian rain forest, Pakistani peasants.

Even more significant is the fact that in every case it was the child himself who had spontaneously claimed to be the reincarnation of some recently deceased individual.

Stevenson has subsequently written dozens of articles and several books on the topic of reincarnation. His motive could hardly be anything other than a search for truth because the resultant publicity has caused considerable harm to his professional reputation.

The 1500 examples which he has examined personally over the years differ in two dramatic ways from those which typically occur as a result of hypnotic regression. Firstly, hypnotism usually leads to the revelation of past lives dating back at least two or three cen-

turies and sometimes as much as four or five thousand years. This makes it very hard to authenticate the accounts given.

In contrast, all the children interviewed by Dr Stevenson claimed to be people who had only died within the last five years. This leads naturally to the second distinction between the two kinds of supposed reincarnation. Investigating an individual who lived 1,000 years ago is a vastly more complicated undertaking than looking into the life of a man who has been dead only two years.

Children

The narratives of the young children are invariably intricate and detailed, with a wealth of names, places and events, all of which can be verified or disproved. Hypnotic reincarnations on the other hand tend to deal in vague generalities; many tales of famous battles and great kings but little personal information which would enable the character to be identified precisely.

Typical of the cases described by Stevenson is that of Imad Elawar, a boy born in Lebanon in 1958. The first word ever spoken by this child was Jamileh, a Druse woman's name. As soon as he was able to talk Imad would tell anyone who would listen of his life in the village of Khriby, some 20 miles away.

He described his house there, his work, his family and lifestyle. He named his broth-

ers, sisters and other family members. When he was two he accosted a stranger outside his parents' house and told him that he was the shoemaker in Khriby. The astonished man admitted that this was true.

Ian Stevenson heard about Imad from a taxi-driver in Beirut where he was staying on other business. Intrigued, he travelled to the boy's home in the mountains of ante-Lebanon and, with the aid of interpreters, made a careful record of all that the boy said.

He then arranged to go with Imad and his family to visit Khriby. Out of 57 individual statements made by the four-year-old child regarding his past life, no fewer than 51 were confirmed by witnesses who alleged that the boy even moved and talked like Ibrahim Bouhamzy, an inhabitant of the village who had died a few weeks before Imad's birth in 1958. They also explained reluctantly the significance of the first word that Imad ever spoke; Ibrahim Bouhamzy had had a mistress called Jamileh.

It was the continual authentication of such claims that convinced Ian Stevenson that only reincarnation could provide a satisfactory explanation. Time after time he found that statements made by a two-year-old would be verified later by people who had never met the child in their lives.

Interestingly, such incidents nearly all seem to be confined to areas where belief in reincarnation is strong. India of course

has such a tradition and it is by no means uncommon for a child in that country to assert that he has lived before.

Such a claim is usually treated in a quite matter of fact way. The present Dalai Lama was of course chosen in precisely this fashion.

Some researchers have recently suggested that the hypothesis of reincarnation could be invoked to explain a number of puzzling features of early childhood development. For example, the irrational fears that some extremely young children have of dogs, say, or cars or water.

Dr Stevenson agrees, citing the case of a child who had a terrible phobia in respect of that most innocuous of foods — curds. It transpired that this particular child, living in an Indian village, believed himself to be the reincarnation of an old man who had died in a neighbouring town. Research revealed that the dead man's death certificate gave as cause of death, 'Infectious enteritis after eating contaminated curds.'

The possibility has also been mooted that some particular talents in early childhood, such as an aptitude for mechanical tasks or the ability to play a musical instrument, could have roots in a previous life. Even such baffling syndromes as transsexualism could, according to some, be best accounted for by imagining that the spirit of a woman has found the body of a male. Curiously enough, transsexuals are often accorded a good deal of sympathy and understanding in countries where reincarnation is accepted as a fact.

Nobody can say for sure whether reincarnation exists or not. However, if it really does exist, the evidence will almost certainly be found in the work being done with the very young, rather than with adults. So, at the very least, we can say that evidence exists and that the jury is still out.



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THE TAROT

by JOHN CHRISTOPHER TRAVERS

TWO OF SWORDS

The Two of Swords is said to be one of the most notoriously difficult cards of the Tarot. Conflicting forces are very much emphasised here, as are several contradictions.

To say that the Two of Swords is a difficult card does not always mean it is a bad card. It is complicated by its own duality, showing two sides of the situation, balancing them rather than resolving them. That this immediately allows contradictions only complicates issues which should be straightforward. And yet, the Tarot is not in any way allowing itself to be judgmental and is, in fact, trying to make one see both sides of the question.

Nothing is more annoying than to have only one side of a question or problem. To see both sides is essential if the difficulty is to be resolved. What the Two of Swords tries to do is to conciliate without providing the precise solution or overall answer. However, to make the point clear, it does patently show up obvious flaws and finer issues without trying to take either side.

There are warnings here too. It is true that conciliation is in the air, perhaps definite advances from an opponent to make peace. But what if there are deceptions (and there are, make no mistake about that) which have to be recognised and dealt with? Any overtures are not likely to be taken too seriously where there are existing doubts.

The Two of Swords warns that there are pitfalls and that

nothing should be taken for granted.

This is all very well in many ways but it is still only one side of the influence. The Swords Two tries to see the other side too, remember, with a need to remove all kinds of suspicion if there is no need for it to be considered seriously. This is particularly true if the original question asked of the Tarot has anything to do with close family relationships.

Partnerships come under this aspect, too, with any alliance that needs close scrutiny



being in the spotlight. It may be that associations need to be re-considered or rearranged. It could be that relationships have to be patched up against one's inner feelings. What the Two of Swords then indicates is the need to look beneath the surface and explore the possibilities of reconciliation.

Nothing is barred, all the angles need to be looked at, everything must be revealed as it really is, rather than acting upon supposition or illusion. Not easy to define and not easy to realise. But such matters need to be handled with a thoroughness that must never be half-hearted.

The Two of Swords tends to emphasise personality differences, especially outright clashes of opinion. But, interestingly, this leads to a greater understanding of the basic problems. Once the surface anger has evaporated, the essentials can be explored and some new alliances forged.

This is indeed the true purpose of the card or, at least, some of the principle influences that it actually has. Nothing is impossible where this card is concerned, always providing that both sides of the matter are carefully considered.

The blindfold figure is justice, of course. That is usually accepted and understood. But her isolation on the seashore

gives her a bleakness that suggests independence and balance combined. The sea, or any stretch of water, indicates the psychic senses being put to use. The fact that she is seated in judgment means she is no threat.

This Sword card is striving to make possible an overall equilibrium, rather than coming down on one side or the other. Strife, dissent, conflict, duplicity and enmity are all there. But so are the forces of friendship, conciliation, peace, harmony and passive success. These have all been well documented over the many decades of Tarot writings and should by now be reasonably familiar.

Possibly the best aspect of all is that good can come out of evil. The Two of Swords is so carefully balanced that even

this becomes possible. It is true that if the surrounding cards of the Tarot spread are unfavourable, to the querent or to the question being answered, there is yet another meaning.

But even then there is usually a positive reason for it. The badly aspected influences reveal indecision and a kind of inability to change events. If this is shown, there is nothing one can do except go along with the trends until changes can be implemented.

It is as if the Swords Two is pushing one into a tide of events that cannot be altered for the time being but trying to avoid them altogether would also be quite the wrong thing to do. Later, the influences would undoubtedly be better, the time would be right, with all kinds of improvements then

being possible.

In the main, though, the Two of Swords tries its very best to consider the dual problems of for and against with a necessary look at the good and bad on both sides. Then the influence inclines towards making the best of even a bad job. Hopefully, the card seems to be saying, there will be enough compromise on both sides to patch up differences and move on without rancour.

The Two of Swords never ever promises perfection or complete solutions to any problem. But it does offer choices and ways through the tangle. A little bit of give and take works wonders, the card suggests, so why not give it a try? Usually this turns out to be valuable and helpful advice and is well worth taking.

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Our talismans are not mass produced, each and every one is crafted from the purest sterling silver and empowered by our own powerful and dedicated mystic, in full accordance with their original ancient formula as laid down by Hebrew mystics over 3,000 years ago. It is precisely because of our dedication and adherence to their original ancient formula that has astounded and thrilled our worldwide clientele, so much so that each year we receive thousands of unsolicited testimonials.

On receipt of your order expect to experience positive and beneficial influences in all areas of your life. You were never meant to struggle through life alone, the blessings of peace, happiness and security are your birthright and these talismans are the cosmic keys that will unlock for you the doors of opportunity and good fortune.

These three talismans complement each other and all may be worn or carried at the same time. Each talisman is crafted in solid sterling silver and is approx one inch in size.

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WE GUARANTEE THAT YOU WILL BE ABSOLUTELY THRILLED WITH YOUR TALISMAN AND ITS ASSOCIATED BLESSINGS AND BENEFITS OR WE WILL REFUND YOUR MONEY.

If for any reason you are not absolutely thrilled with the wonderful difference that talismanic magic makes to your life or even if you feel that the benefits and blessings you have received are not enough, simply return your complete order (undamaged) and we will send you a full refund. No questions asked.

All our prices include postage and packing so there is no extra to pay. (Overseas orders welcome, add £3 to cover the cost of Air Mail).

Please make cheques and postal orders payable to: C.O. RAPHAEL, and send your order to P.O. BOX 30, ST AUSTELL, CORNWALL PL25 4UZ.

"I Was Always Poor – But Now People Envy Me. I Still Can't Get Over It"

My name is Nancy Kline. Perhaps the only thing that marks me off from millions of other American women is that *whatever I touch seemingly turns to gold.*

I cannot believe this myself but friends have started calling me 'The woman with the Midas touch'. It seems as if *whatever I happen to want I just happen to get.*

I do not have any 'connections' with rich people – in fact all my family and friends have always been what some would call 'poor'. I am a divorcee with two grown sons; and trying to make ends meet was never easy for me.

Until now. Or perhaps more accurately until earlier this year.

People are wondering why everything has changed in my life – so fast and so dramatically.

I am now about to be remarried to a man nearly 15 years my junior; previously I could not get any man of any age to look at me, let alone want to marry me. And people say I suddenly look younger.

Not only do I look and feel younger, but I have also lost 14 pounds in weight – entirely without dieting or exercise.

MONEY FROM EVERYWHERE

Until just recently I never had money to spare – now I have *much more cash than I need coming in every day.*

I will tell you how all this has happened in just a moment.

My son has just bought me a \$10,000 automobile and \$1000 spending money in cash for my birthday – until a few months ago he was almost flat broke.

My younger boy who had always been a poor student has suddenly started doing well at school – much to everyone's relief.

And a short time before writing this I received another \$1000 in a royalty check from a publisher. I had always wanted to be a published writer – and now this dream has also come true.

HOW DID ALL THIS HAPPEN

It all started after I read the extraordinary story of a man whose head was lacerated by a helicopter tail rotor. He was immediately able to consciously lower his blood pressure to 130 – the doctor was astonished, for a man in his state should have had a blood pressure reading of 200 with shock setting in. The injured man needed 24 stitches; but amazingly required no medication except novocaine. *This man was back at work the next day as if nothing had ever happened.*

How was this man able to take control of his blood pressure and avoid shock in a terrifying incident that would have totally incapacitated any other mortal?

Frankly I would have simply found it impossible to believe but for the fact that since reading of this case I have personally had access to this man's written testimony to his employer concerning the incident, which was corroborated by an independent witness. The fact is – as I was soon to discover – *this man possessed a secret concerning the way the mind functions.*

It was this 'secret' which gave him complete control over a life-and-death incident.

According to this man one can take control of the way the body works AT WILL and within seconds.

I was intrigued to say the least. But his claims went far beyond the mind's power to control the

body. He claimed that *within a certain phase of consciousness* all of the good and beautiful things in life could be literally MAGNETIZED by the mind.

Now although I was fascinated I was also a little skeptical. These claims sounded a bit like those made for books which promise untold riches and good fortune by following their instructions. I was always a 'sucker' for such claims, and many times I had mailed my money off to an advertiser feeling guilty that I had wasted my hard-earned money in this way. When I received the books and applied the instructions nothing happened – and I was always just as poor and as unhappy as before.

But a part of me always wanted to 'believe'; secretly I had always hoped that one day I would find something that *did work* – something that really could change my life for the better. In fact it was this secret belief which kept me going because I was often very miserable and lonely.

MY LIFE CHANGES

I was eager to put this man's ideas to the test. His instructions took just ten minutes to carry out. *Immediately I felt better in mind and body.* Afterwards I suddenly felt somehow in 'control' of things. I performed the instructions every day, and after seven days I found that *nothing at all could upset me.*

My nerves seemed suddenly calmer. Little things that one time would make me fly into a rage no longer had any effect on me at all. The feeling was strange – and exhilarating. I couldn't understand it – for the first time in my life I felt in control of everything; and it didn't seem to require any special effort to be so! Already people were noticing the change in me – and were wondering what had 'happened'.

Deep down I knew that now – at last – my life could be about to change.

A YOUNG MAN DESIRED ME

I'm sorry to say it, but I'm not one of those 'ageless' women: my lined face and graying hair cruelly remind me of that.

My morale hadn't been high – but after a week of trying this new 'secret' I felt sufficiently confident to try the next stage of the instructions. I wanted to feel young and desirable.

Three days later my son introduced me to an older friend of his; and I felt an instant 'chemistry' with him. But I had absolutely no idea then that after only 11 weeks he would ask me to marry him.

I don't know what has happened – but my face seems less wrinkled, and my hair seems darker. I do know; however, that it has a lot to do with the new 'secret' I am using.

THIS 'NEW' SECRET

But why were these things happening – why should my luck change so quickly like this? After all I had always failed before. So what was going on? These changes seemed to be happening because I had learnt how to attune myself to a level of consciousness unknown to most people. The man whose incredible story had got me started with all this said that 'total success and happiness' was only possible through tuning into that phase of consciousness where contact with the Universal Mind could be made.

Please let me hasten to add that this is *not* hypnosis. In fact there is *absolutely nothing in it that would contravene anyone's religious or moral beliefs.* It certainly is not witchcraft. And there are no rituals. No tape recorders. No chanting. Everything takes place within your own mind – and with *perfect ease.*

It is so simple that a child can do it. My little 7-year old nephew was terrified of going to the dentist. I tried an experiment with him – it took less than ten minutes. He went to the dentist cheerfully and willingly!

This wasn't auto-suggestion. He performed

the instructions himself – he didn't need to say a word.

\$100 EVERY DAY

I asked Universal Mind to help Rick, my eldest boy. In less than a month he got himself a job with a \$28,000 salary, against all odds!

I was also shown by Universal Mind how I could make \$100 a day – *without leaving home!* I now need my father to come in and help – and I pay him \$75 a week for just a few hours' work!

My confidence now fuelled by these successes, I decided to try and interest a publisher with this secret. He balked at the idea: 'How is this so different to what's already been written in similar books?'

'I've tried other books and they didn't work', I said. 'Maybe this isn't "new" to you, but it is to me – and it worked whilst the others didn't'.

'I'm sorry, but I need more convincing than that', he replied.

'I want you to do something which will give you all the proof you need. Read the instructions carefully, follow them to the letter – and see if it can help you get an idea worth, say, \$5000'.

He did what I suggested, and two days later he was beaming from ear to ear. 'You've got yourself a deal. I did what you said, and the very next morning I thought of something that could make me not just \$5000, but \$10,000!'

RECEIVE WHAT YOU WANT

Once you are attuned to the right phase of consciousness you can ask the Universal Mind to *command whatever you want in life to happen.* This goes for anything, from *commanding \$5000 to enter your life to finding your true soul-mate,* and it happens with *perfect ease* – you are guided automatically and quickly by a higher source to the attainment of your goal. It is not witchcraft, and it is not hypnotism. All that occurs is that your consciousness vibrates at a different frequency; a frequency which is more relaxed and yet more alert, and brings with it the wonderful conviction that everything you desire in life will now be yours.

If all this sounds like a fairy tale to you I sympathize with what you think. Only a short few months ago I would have felt the very same. But I urge you to give it a try. Give yourself another chance. It could mean the beginning of a new and very exciting life for you.

SHY CINDY GETS HER MAN

My best friend Cindy is just 24-years old. She is so shy of men that even after the three years I've known her she still blushes when my sons are about. For some time she had been burning herself up over this guy she knew – but he was hardly aware of her existence; and she was too painfully shy to do anything about it. I share all my secrets with Cindy so she knew all about why my life had changed so much recently. She wondered if 'my' secret could solve her problem. 'You have nothing to lose by trying', I said, and showed her what to do.

A week later Cindy was dating her man!

She was over the moon at how it happened. He suddenly became interested in her – all without her trying to attract his attention!

Now Cindy is working on this secret to overcome her shyness – and she already feels much bolder!

With this secret I have made myself feel younger; I have lost weight without dieting or exercising; and I have found the guy of my dreams. And on top of that all my financial worries are well and truly in the past. I think you should at least give yourself the chance of seeing what it can do for you.

To receive your copy of Nancy's publication simply quote "I Was Always Poor – But Now People Envy Me" with payment of £5.

Please send cheque or postal order (payable to 'Finbarr') for only £5 to: Finbarr International (P), Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QQ. Delivery usually within ten days; if in a hurry add 50p and write 'PRIORITY' on face of envelope. Callers at 113 Dover Rd, Folkestone. We have advertised in Prediction since 1972.

ASTROLOGY SECTION



DECEMBER

A NOTE OF OPTIMISM

With Saturn beginning to move direct from early December, the uncertain and somewhat static phase in political and economic affairs is likely to give way to something more positive. At best we will see a shift away from unrealistic promises towards a more down-to-earth approach.

Saturn is definitely not friendly to those who make high-sounding promises or wish for instant miracles. This planet demands more caution and a commitment to longer term goals. It also suggests that the general public will not be so easily led by the nose by political clap-trap and the usual rhetorical games.

We also have Jupiter, Neptune and Mercury in Capricorn throughout the month so, here again, there is a marked emphasis on realism and the need to discriminate between what is viable and what is just wishful thinking.

The month is very much weighted on the side of practical affairs. Mars continues to beat a path through Virgo to form a favourable aspect with Jupiter on the 8th. Employment should show improvement reflecting

a progressive trend in business and industry.

The New Moon on the 10th falls in rather stressful angle to Mars, indicating increased concern over tensions that may be building up in the Middle East. Between then and the 15th it is likely that a potentially explosive situation will hang in the balance with diplomatic efforts reaching fever pitch. Religious differences lurk at the centre of this situation. However, as Venus comes strongly into the picture during the third week there is a good chance that peace initiatives will prove successful.

More mundanely, this Mars factor could coincide with heated controversies in international sport.

As the Sun is in powerful angle to Saturn at the Winter Solstice, we can expect severe wintry conditions in the weeks (or months) following. Mercury turning retrograde on the 23rd indicates disruptions to travel and transport so it is unlikely that the Christmas tourist trade will be doing anything spectacular this year.

This year ends and the new one arrives on a note of optimism and a feeling that long-awaited changes are about to take shape.

Remus

HOW TO READ THE SYMBOLS

At the side of each monthly forecast in the following pages are different symbols, representing the various matters that may affect you.

Here is the key: *Heart*: love affairs. *£ sign*: money and material matters. *Sword*: quarrels and disputes. *Sun's face*: health. *Letters*: correspondence and documents. *Linked*

rings: partnerships. *House*: domestic matters. *Suitcase*: travel. *Black cat*: general good luck.

These symbols indicate the highlights of the four phases of the month as interpreted by the above key. For example a sword and a heart together stand for disputes about love. The sword by itself would mean disputes in general. Letters on the same line as the Sun would refer to a document concerning health matters. The symbols are, therefore, an additional guide to the trends prevailing in your affairs.

ARIES

MARCH 21 TO APRIL 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Festivities will probably be farthest from your mind during most of December.

The accent is firmly on practical interests and tasks from several months back. Saturn takes a more positive turn in your sign from early month which should signal the end of a rather slow-moving phase.

The pattern now appears increasingly constructive but, to get the best out of this, you'll need to adopt longer term strategies rather than aiming for instant results.

Early in December don't take anything too much for granted as others may be rather muddle-headed and slow to respond. Your ability to take the lead will stand you in good stead. However, be prepared to shoulder added responsibilities in occupational and career interests

The demands of work and life generally will be heavy for most of the month so make up your mind early on exactly what you want to achieve and what your priorities are. Avoid unnecessary distractions at all costs for much will depend on how focused you can be.

Financially there should be little concern but, here too, you need to be well organised and clear in your mind about what you wish to do with your money. Everything seems to come back to Saturn in your sign, indicating a need for more care and caution. Patience is not your best strength but this is precisely what you may have to cultivate over the coming year.

A New Moon on the 10th throws a rather stressful angle to your ruler, Mars, warning you to take extra care of your health. Work

pressures may be heavy but this doesn't mean that you have to play the hero and attempt to do other people's jobs for them.

If you have planned to travel in the third week this is probably wise. Whether for business or pleasure, it will give you a much needed breathing space.

There is an element of the unexpected on the 19th and 20th. You may bump into an old friend and decide to alter arrangements completely for the festive week. Whatever happens, you're likely to be on the move later in the month.

These dates also signal intriguing developments in amorous affairs. Here, too, a journey may provide the key. If you are seeking new romance, any opportunities to change your plans or surroundings may have pleasing results.

Powerful Lunar trends throw domestic affairs into sharp focus on the 24th and 25th. Celebrations are likely to be rather hectic but you can expect to be surrounded by a very friendly atmosphere.

Not the easiest of months but one which offers you ample scope for constructive effort.

TAURUS

APRIL 21 TO MAY 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Mars continues to boost your creative energies throughout December.

Events will enhance your confidence and self-expression. Changes you wish to make, at home or at work, are more likely to meet with success through your determination and the helpful influence of others. Indeed, relationships on all levels are likely to run smoothly.

The prospect looks good for health but take extra care when adverse trends come into force early

month and again around Christmas. Even if your health remains robust there is a chance that someone close will succumb to seasonal ailments so be prepared for added responsibilities. The good news is that any long-term health worries will fade into the background now.

On a different note, be prepared to take immediate action if any legal or official problems crop up during the first week. Don't kid yourself that these things can wait until the New Year. Procrastination will only lead to greater complications and expense later on.

In affairs of the heart, the prospect appears decidedly rosy with Venus in your opposite sign until the 17th. Together with other favourable trends, the harmonising influence of this planet ensures that close ties of love and affection are strengthened.

Any emotional tensions will give way to a more peaceful atmosphere but you can help the process greatly by being absolutely open and honest about your feelings. Venus gives you an opportunity to reach a deeper understanding with your nearest and dearest and all

significant others now.

The most favourable dates for new romantic encounters are the 3rd, 8th, 9th and 14th. Travel and social life also figure prominently here so perhaps a change of scenery will be the essential ingredient in any new developments.

The combination of Venus, Uranus and Pluto on the 19th and 20th is likely to have a significant impact on your love life. However, you could get out of your depth emotionally. Sudden, very intense infatuations are likely to arise — very exciting but only for a short while!

Personal and joint financial interests are brought into sharper focus during the latter half of December. You are unlikely to experience major problems but are advised against anything risky where investments are concerned. Advice may be a bit suspect so take your time and get a second opinion if making any changes in your current financial situation.

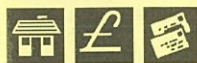
Over the festive week you may find that certain people are hard to contact or pin down. The more flexible you can be at this time, the better.

GEMINI

MAY 21 TO JUNE 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

You probably suspect that life has been throwing obstacles in your path.

Aims and objectives may have progressed at a snail's pace since mid year forcing you to abandon certain interests and change direction. However, from early December this trend begins to diminish. You won't necessarily take a sudden leap forward but at least you will begin to get a clearer picture.

Financially, you may not be entirely in the clear with problems

likely to loom large during the first week. Best advice here is to avoid risks and give your full attention to what is most urgent. There will be a temptation to fritter away funds. The message is clear — take money seriously now and keep everything well organised.

Provided you heed this, you can expect a more encouraging momentum in financial and business affairs from the second week onwards. If a certain business or joint financial venture is rather precarious and beginning to lose money, you'd be ill advised to carry on.

This is a month for sorting such matters and extra care and attention will pull you through any difficulties. The more practical and realistic you can be, the better.

As Saturn now takes a more positive direction you are likely to find that events demand a narrower but more intense focusing of energies on your main aims and expectations. After several years of experimentation and changing course in midstream, you will at last have reached a more secure footing and have a better idea of what you want in the future.

There is a kind of hidden hand operating in your destiny for the next few months. You'll develop a firmer sense of purpose and meet people who will be in a position to aid your efforts.

Another effect of Saturn is to restrict your circle of friends but those you do keep will be truly loyal, long-term companions. You may actually become more choosy about the company you keep, losing patience with time-wasters.

Throughout December domestic affairs will demand a large expenditure of energy. This may be due to preparations for the forthcoming festivities. However with Mars forming a splendid angle to Jupiter during the second week this is also an excellent time for major changes in the home area.

Those hoping to find a more desirable residence are likely to get the right opportunities now. Property interests of all kind are under a progressive trend so initiatives on your part will get excellent results.

With Venus moving into your opposite sign late month you can expect a pleasant and friendly end to the year.

CANCER

JUNE 21 TO JULY 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Saturn's more positive turn in early December bodes well for important aims and ambitions.

Over the past six months or so you may have had an uphill struggle with little to show for your efforts. Saturn can be a hard task-master but, if you have been working hard, you will find that the rewards will be great and enduring.

Whenever Saturn is dominant in your Solar chart you'll find that life demands a greater focusing of energies and a need to sort out the

essential from the non-essential. This may work out quite literally as an urge to get rid of accumulated clutter.

Cancerians tend to hold on to things and end up making a prison of possessions — most of which you no longer need. However, from December onwards you will be more inclined to take positive action to give yourself more space.

The most constructive feature of the astrological pattern is that experience gained in the past will stand you in good stead. One way or another, this is going to have favourable repercussions for your social status, sense of purpose and the degree of your wisdom.

The pace of life gathers momentum from early month. Work and social life combine in a lively way during the third week but relatives and domestic matters could tax your energies at times. Plans may go awry so the best policy, especially around the 3rd, 5th, 10th, 14th and over the festive week, is one of flexibility and perhaps a resolve to stay calm!

This isn't to imply that by the end of the month you'll be a nervous

wreck for it does seem that your energy level is unusually high at present and that you actually welcome a more lively pace in your day-to-day life. Provided you don't take on too much on the above dates then you should find the month decidedly stimulating.

This more buoyant trend is bound to have pleasing effects in terms of social life for there is a friendly aura surrounding you in the weeks ahead. You'll be meeting up with new people, one of whom could become a valued friend.

Venus is moving through a decidedly romantic area of your Solar chart until the 17th so, if you are hoping to meet the right partner, the prospects are looking good. Events taking shape on the 3rd, 8th, 9th and 14th could turn out to be highly significant as far as your love life is concerned.

The Full Moon in your sign on the 24th falls in angle to Saturn which could mean minor frustrations. If you have children, be prepared to cope with sudden ailments. Take care also of your own health at this time.

LEO

JULY 21 TO AUGUST 21



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Accept that you can't please everybody all of the time and December should present no great problems.

There are some potential flash-points over the weeks ahead, most notably when adverse trends are in force on the 10th, 13th, 14th and 27th. If your ego is getting out of hand, others will let you know!

The influence of Saturn begins to gain strength from early month, inclining you towards a more serious attitude. This doesn't mean

that your sunny, sociable nature is about to disappear under a tide of gloom but perhaps you'll become increasingly reflective and philosophical over the next year or so.

Saturn will certainly be a great help in academic work or serious study. You'll have more patience in these matters and your powers of reason and concentration will be greatly intensified. This planet does not look kindly on any desire for quick results but a longer term strategy will reap lasting benefits.

Symbolically, Saturn is the teacher of wisdom, accentuating the need to delve into the deeper meaning of life, to find more enduring spiritual values. Those committed to a spiritual quest will no doubt develop a much more serious attitude from now on.

On a more mundane level, the fiery planet Mars continues to highlight financial matters throughout December. Although you'll need to keep a fairly tight rein on spending, you can expect to gain better control over finances — unlike previous weeks when cash outflow became quite alarming.

Mars and Venus form a favour-

able angle with Jupiter during the second week when you can expect finances and business to be more sustaining. Jupiter is the planet of opportunity so it will be in your interests to keep your ear to the ground if aiming to launch a new project or expand an existing one.

Whatever your situation, it is a more propitious time to explore ways and means of making better use of your assets. Provided you can restrain impulses towards extravagance, there is every indication of a substantial boost now.

In affairs of the heart, there is no reason for despondency even if things appear rather bleak early in the month. The transit of Venus through your 5th Solar House from the 17th should work wonders for your love life, increase popularity and enlarge your circle of friends.

Of course, the festive season will bring such opportunity but you can expect something extra. If single, the chances of meeting your affinity are greatly increased.

Towards the end of December the cosmic pattern shapes up to promise a fortunate and happy start to the New Year.

VIRGO

AUGUST 22 TO SEPTEMBER 22



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Mars continues to activate your sign, promising a fast-moving, progressive month.

Demands on your time and energy will be rather heavy at times but you should have everything under control and be calling all the shots.

The Mars factor helps in moving straight ahead, taking fresh initiatives and perhaps shaking yourself free from encumbrances. Don't be afraid to adopt a more forceful approach, especially if an opportunity arises to advance your current

aims. A very fortunate combination of Mars, Jupiter and Venus on the 8th and 9th could signal a lucky break but you'll need to act quickly.

Matters closer to home receive a favourable emphasis most of the month. A property matter that has dragged on for several months could finally be brought to a successful conclusion during the first two weeks. Those who have recently moved house will begin to feel more settled and any anxieties relating to family affairs will fade into the background.

With Venus aiding domestic matters later in the month, you can expect the atmosphere to be harmonious and congenial over the festive season. If there have been upsets within the family circle, efforts towards reconciliation are almost certain to meet with success.

No month is going to be absolutely perfect but knowing where the pitfalls may lie can help. Dates to watch are the 6th when there's danger of deception in financial affairs, the 10th when you should avoid being pushed into hasty decisions and the 18th or 19th when you are advised against

getting involved in risky business deals. Finally, your health may need care towards the month end.

Apart from these minor negative factors, the underlying pattern is decidedly constructive with Mars in your sign and Saturn moving direct from early month onwards. Events early in December are likely to mark an important turning point in financial, property and career interests. You should now reap the rewards of past effort.

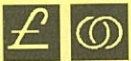
To get the best out of Saturn over the next few months, concentrate wholly on what you wish to achieve in the future rather than concerning yourself overmuch with the past. If you wish to carve out a new niche for yourself, now is the time to put plans into action.

In romance there is more than just a hint of pleasing messages during the first half of the month. New romantic attachments are likely to arise with astounding rapidity and a journey or social invite may provide the key.

With the Moon well placed in your sign on the 30th and 31st, there is definitely a feel-good factor to end the year.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 TO OCTOBER 22



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Until the 17th your ruler, Venus, helps with any financial and business problems.

If cash flow has been erratic recently, this trend should give way to something less fraught. Favourable aspects involving Venus on the 8th and 9th suggest that events in the background will ultimately benefit you in terms of finance, business or property interests.

A friendly message at the beginning of December will put you in an optimistic mood. This may just be

a social invitation from an unexpected quarter but equally a friend may be offering very useful advice.

Of great significance to Librans is the motion of Saturn from the 3rd onwards. This planet is in an area of your Solar chart that puts a very powerful accent on close relationships. If you have experienced difficulties in an established partnership over the past six months or so, the situation should now be resolved one way or another.

Saturn often indicates having to face up to certain realities. For instance, if a long-standing relationship is held together only by habit, Saturn will manoeuvre events to bring you face to face with this — which could mean having to work through a dilemma. At best, Saturn is the great teacher and, even if there are difficulties, relationships form an area of your life in which you now can learn a lot about yourself and others.

Single Librans hoping to meet the right partner are likely to become much more choosy under this Saturn trend. In December the best time for new amorous encounters is the third week when a

journey or letter may be significant.

Romantic affairs take time and nothing can be rushed while Saturn is dominant. In many ways, what happens is in the lap of the gods. Fate is more likely to take a hand but you need to be patient, especially where marriage is concerned.

On the home front you can expect a lively atmosphere, especially around the 12th and 21st. Visitors may arrive without warning so you'll need to keep arrangements flexible. However, as Jupiter is a key feature here, it looks as if company at home will have a cheering effect on your spirits.

Mercury turns retrograde on the 23rd but continues to highlight the domestic scene so there may be minor delays or disappointments over plans for the festive week. People, bad weather or ill health could disrupt your arrangements. If, however, you have planned to keep things in a fairly low key, then such hassles will be avoided.

The year ends on a positive note as the cosmic pattern begins to point towards increased contentment in domestic affairs.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 TO NOVEMBER 22



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Career-minded Scorpions can expect developments early in December.

There is a promise of extra cash and a boost in your status. Saturn moves in a more positive direction, bringing increased stability and a clearer sense of purpose.

This is not to imply that the workload will be easy during the month ahead. However, you'll have good scope to test your abilities and show the world how committed you can be.

Although you might have to contend with irritating disruptions in routines on the 5th and 6th, the underlying trend ensures that most things will come up to expectation now. Indeed, certain aims and objectives may at last be realised or at least be pushed further towards fulfilment. The main accent is on practical affairs and much will depend upon your resolve in working towards your chosen goals.

One thing is for sure, friends and anyone who plays a co-operative part in your life will prove to be genuine assets, especially in the first half of the month. You'll achieve a great deal more by working closely with others than by attempting to go it alone. The prevailing pattern is supportive and you can expect a lot of encouragement from other people.

All activities that call for teamwork receive a beneficial uplift now so don't be afraid to push things forward if you are planning a campaign or to promote something. If you need to advertise for like-minded support or wish to get a message across, you may actually be surprised by the response.

Financially, there should be no major quirks but tread carefully around the New Moon on the 10th when social life may be rather costly. The most favourable dates for financial and business interests are the 1st, 3rd, 8th, 9th, 12th, 17th and 19th. Later in the month you will be pleasantly surprised at how generous certain people can be.

Venus in your sign until the 17th augurs well for romantic affairs and all close ties of affection. After what may have been a rather tumultuous phase in your love life, you will at last feel that the gods are taking a more kindly view.

Events between early and mid December will help to heal old emotional wounds and restore faith in yourself. Also, a friend may be having a better time in heart interests which should come as a relief as he/she may have caused you anxiety over the past few months.

As for the festivities later in the month, these will be more successful the closer you stay to home. Be prepared for frustrations if travelling between the 22nd and 31st. Apart from this you can expect a sociable end to the year.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 23 TO DECEMBER 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Arrangements early in December could be altered by a message from afar.

A journey might be entailed but equally an old friend or relative could wish to visit you. Other dates during the month that are significant for travel or visits are the 13th, 19th and 28th, all of which have an element of the unexpected.

The powerful link between Mars and Jupiter on the 8th augurs well for all financial and business interests. If you are ambitious and ea-

ger to push ahead with your career, opportunities will present themselves. You will be able to help things along splendidly by being bold and single-minded.

However, it would be unwise to try to bluff your way through situations. Although you can do this very well, you could easily bite off more than you can chew and end up making a fool of yourself.

Jupiter, your ruler, is in a sector of your Solar chart that can help greatly in enriching the material side of life. It also signifies increased luck in money matters. Dates when you are likely to notice this helpful trend are the 3rd, 8th, 9th, 12th, 21st and 31st. These are excellent days for business deals, fund-raising schemes or getting a good price for something.

Although this is perhaps not the most appropriate month for launching anything new, it would certainly not be amiss to explore possibilities. Apparently remote events may prove significant. Something around mid month may make you realise that you are not making the most of your expertise.

A significant feature of Decem-

ber's pattern is Saturn becoming more active in the area of your sense of identity. Over the coming year you will take more seriously the need to develop deeper creative energies and establish an independent niche for yourself. Sagittarians are not usually renowned for their sense of discipline and staying power but this Saturn factor will do much to correct the balance and incline you to be more focused.

This planet also emphasises your attitude to amorous experience. Here, too, you will find yourself becoming more serious and less inclined always to be seeking the ideal romance with the wrong type of person.

Now there is a better chance of gravitating towards a more meaningful and lasting relationship. Although Saturn does indicate a rather slow development in love affairs, nevertheless you are much more likely to meet someone with whom you have a deep affinity.

With Venus in your sign over the festive week, you'll be much in demand socially as the year draws to a close.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 21 TO JANUARY 19



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Your ruler, Saturn, becomes increasingly active from early December onwards.

You can expect greater stability in domestic life. This steadier trend is in marked contrast to the past six years or so when you probably never felt completely settled. This rather erratic pattern is making a fairly swift change, giving you better scope for putting down deeper roots and feeling more at home in the world.

Property interests have perhaps

been frustrating in recent months but here, too, the situation is about to change. It may not be the ideal time of year for a change of residence but it would certainly do no harm to put out a few feelers if this is what is in the back of your mind.

The position of Saturn in your Solar chart suggests a summing-up process in your life or a major new departure based on past experience. Over the next few months you will find that what you have gained or learned over the past seven years will act as a solid foundation for major decisions.

It is quite likely that you will be faced with such a decision before very long — something that marks an entirely new beginning. There is no need to be alarmed at this possibility for the whole pattern of the zodiac indicates that at last you are being guided in the right direction.

A splendid aspect between Mars and Jupiter in the second week almost guarantees a phase of great progress and increased incentive. Friends and colleagues are likely to be helpful and supportive producing a forward-looking trend which inclines you to think more opti-

mistically about the future. Long-range plans and projects will move ahead well now and you won't need to over-stretch yourself.

This progressive trend also links with travel and long-distance communications. So, if you are travelling on business or in connection with something you are working towards, success is assured. Also, any matters of a legal and official nature that dogged your heels in recent months will finally be put behind you by the month end.

Love, friendship and social life are highlighted by Venus in favourable aspect around the 8th, 9th and 14th. You may realise that those who sing your praises loudest are not necessarily your real allies. But this will help you to see who are true kindred spirits.

In romantic affairs, there may be emotional adjustments to make, especially if your relationship is fairly new. However, the end result will be favourable as any minor discrepancies are sorted out.

Later in the month a pleasant atmosphere prevails on the domestic front but you may need to take care healthwise around the 22nd.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 TO FEBRUARY 18



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Recently things may not have been as clear-cut as you would wish them to be.

However, as the year comes to a close many facets of your personal life will begin to fall into clearer perspective. With Saturn beginning to shift forward from early month you'll feel that you are gaining greater control over your destiny and able to reshape your life on a much firmer foundation.

This is not to imply that all Aquarians are about to undergo a

dramatic crisis or complete change of direction but this would be an appropriate time to take seriously the potential for change.

You now have your ruler, Uranus, in your sign. This might incline you to feel restless and even rebellious but it also gives you a kind of magical ability to bring about desirable change, to be yourself rather than trying to live up to other people's expectations.

The dynamic planet Mars is very much in evidence during the first ten days of December, putting a powerful spotlight on personal and joint financial interests. Even though outgoings are likely to be heavy, there will be scope for boosting your earnings and upgrading longer term investments.

The more conscientious and methodical you can be in handling financial and business affairs now, the greater will be your reward. Avoid extravagance and impulse, though. The temptation will be greatest when Mars is in adverse aspect on the 10th and 14th.

The pattern points to a phase of smooth progress in all to do with career and other special objec-

tives. The New Moon on the 10th is encouraging for activities involving group action and co-operation. However, there may be a clash of personalities and a need to compromise. If your work has to do with organising and co-ordinating people and resources, be prepared to meet new challenges then.

Once Venus changes signs on the 17th any tensions are likely to fade into the background. A more leisurely pace will prevail and you'll have more space and time to find congenial company.

Venus is also the planet of love and signals a more hopeful phase for new romance. As this planet joins forces with both Uranus and Pluto in the third week, events are likely to be quite dramatic. Uranus indicates the unexpected and a sudden magnetic attraction, while Pluto suggests a link with the past.

There is bound to be something unusual. It could be an unexpected meeting with an old flame and taking up the thread where you left off.

Over the festive week be selective about company otherwise you'll end up feeling exhausted.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 TO MARCH 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

There's a powerful accent on your hopes and wishes throughout December.

What's more, the planets involved indicate an unusually fortunate trend in your affairs. Certain influences that entered your life earlier in the year will finally begin to make a significant impact on your scheme of things.

This is good news, because over the past few months everything has seemed to be hanging in the balance and perhaps you have

been unable to come to a firm decision. If you wish to make a major change, now is the time to act.

Both Jupiter and Neptune signify a kind of divine providence operating in the background, helping to point you in the right direction and endowing you with a better sense of purpose. Efforts towards expansion will meet with satisfying results — perhaps not right away but certainly over the next year.

For career-minded Pisceans, a message in the early days of the month will give you much encouragement, especially if you are in the process of applying for a job or upgrading your status. Saturn now turns in a more positive direction, indicating improvement in financial affairs and greater determination on your part to establish a more secure foundation in this area.

Best dates for dealing with financial, business or property matters are the 3rd, 12th, 17th and 21st. But be prepared to meet with resistance around the 5th if you are negotiating a deal or wish to put a message across.

Although the overall trend is in your favour, there is an underlying

threat of antagonism from the continuing presence of Mars in your opposite sign. Watch your step when this fiery planet is in adverse angle on the 10th, 14th and 16th. Married Pisceans are quite likely to get at loggerheads with their partners so tread tactfully.

However, Mars here can also help to establish powerful alliances. The splendid aspect between Mars and Jupiter on the 8th suggests tremendous progress from joining forces.

During the month ahead new contacts will help you greatly to further a cherished objective or spare-time interest. Other people will be highly supportive and new friendships could be extremely fortunate for you in the coming year.

If money has been a major obstacle recently, chances are this situation will turn for the better, particularly for married Pisceans and those working in partnership. New romantic or business partnerships established in December are almost certain to bring favourable changes. The festive season certainly has an optimistic feeling for you as the year comes to a close.

Lunar Lore Gardening

DECEMBER

- 1** Extremes of temperature, second week changeable, possible heavy weather towards month end.
- 2, 3**
- 4** After 18.24 hours earth-up Spring cabbage.
- 5** Turn over soil, prepare beds for new sowings.
- 6** Continue all day.
- 7** After 03.40 hours prune roses right back.
- 8** Prune outdoor vines, remove thin or useless wood.
- 9** After 08.59 hours continue pruning where needed.
- 10** Continue all day.
- 11** After 11.15 hours burn all tree and vine prunings.
- 12** Continue all day.
- 13** Continue until 12.15 hours.
- 14, 15, 16, 17, 18**
- 19** After 22.11 hours cut twigs for Christmas decorations.
- 20** Plant out late Winter shrubs and ornamental trees, if the weather permits.
- 21** Continue all day.
- 22** After 05.18 hours clear away debris, tidy generally.
- 23** Keep drains and pathways clear.
- 24** After 14.15 hours bring rhubarb into greenhouses for forcing.
- 25** Enjoy the day indoors in the warm.
- 26** Prune back vines and peaches under glass
- 27** After 01.10 hours check for frost damage, take preventive action early.
- 28** Prepare new onion beds, dig in manure, top with plenty of bonfire ash.
- 29** Continue until 13.46 hours.
- 30, 31**

VICTORIA MATTHEWS

Greenwich Mean Time has been used throughout

The Planets This Month

- ☉ **The Sun** begins December in 9° 4' Sagittarius and enters Capricorn on the 21st at 14.07 hours. It ends the month at 9° 35' of the Goat.
- ☾ **The Moon** is waning to the Last Quarter on the 3rd at 05.07 hours with the New Moon on the 10th at 16.57 hours. The First Quarter is on the 17th at 09.32 hours and the Full Moon is on the 24th at 20.42 hours.
As the month opens the Moon is in 15° 7' Leo and enters Virgo on the 2nd at 06.12 hours; Libra on the 4th at 18.24 hours; Scorpio on the 7th at 03.40 hours; Sagittarius on the 9th at 08.59 hours; Capricorn on the 11th at 11.15 hours; Aquarius on the 13th at 12.15 hours; Pisces on the 15th at 13.45 hours; Aries on the 17th at 16.56 hours; Taurus on the 19th at 22.11 hours; Gemini on the 22nd at 05.18 hours; Cancer on the 24th at 14.15 hours; Leo on the 27th at 01.10 hours; Virgo on the 29th at 13.46 hours where it ends the month.
- ☿ **Mercury** is in 24° 47' Sagittarius on the 1st and enters Capricorn on the 4th at 13.49 hours. It advances to 19° 13' on the 23rd when it turns retrograde; by the month end it has retreated to 14° 24' of the Archer.
- ♀ **Venus** begins the month in 9° 49' Scorpio and enters Sagittarius on the 17th at 05.35 hours. By the 31st it has reached 17° 12' of the Archer.
- ♂ **Mars** spends the month in Virgo and advances from 16° 28' on the first day to 28° 54' on the last day.
- ♃ **Jupiter** spends the month in Capricorn and advances from 18° 20' on the 1st to 24° 56' on the 31st.
- ♄ **Saturn** begins the month retrograde in 0° 37' Aries and turns direct in the same degree and minute on the 3rd at 12.40 hours. By the month end it has reached 1° 17' of the Ram.
- ♅ **Uranus** is in 1° 45' of Aquarius as the month opens and advances to 3° 13' by the 31st.
- ♆ **Neptune** is in 25° 48' Capricorn on the first day and by the end of the month has reached 26° 48' of the Goat.
- ♇ **Pluto** is in Sagittarius all month and advances from 3° 14' on the 1st to 4° 21' on the 31st.

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

DECEMBER

- 1 S.** ♃ in ♏. ♃Δ♃.
Keep your ear to the ground, act on hunches and make the most of the moment.
- 2 M.** ♃ in ♏ & ♀. ♃□E.
Expensive repair bills may come in. Strong differences of opinion in close relationships.
- 3 T.** ♃ in ♀. ♃□⊗♀♁♁♁.
Don't gamble or force issues.
- 4 W.** ♃ in ♀ & ♄. ♃□♀♁♁♁♁♁.
Postpone house-hunting. Buying or selling unfavourable.
- 5 Th.** ♃ in ♄. ♃*⊗*E. ♃□♀.
People unco-operative, awkward or just plain stubborn.
- 6 F.** ♃ in ♄. ♃□♀♁♁.
Unusual day, expect the unexpected. Strange events could occur.
- 7 S.** ♃ in ♄ & ♃. ♃*♀♁♁.
So easy to get sidetracked, concentration will be an art form.
- 8 Su.** ♃ in ♃. ♃♁♀*♁*♁. ♂♁♁.
Today is the day to buy or sell cars, computers, TVs, radios, videos, etc.
- 9 M.** ♃ in ♃ & ♁. ♃Δ♀*♁*♁♁♁. ♁*♁*♁.
Join a club or group; accept all invitations. Personal popularity high.
- 10 T.** ♃ in ♁. ♃♁♁♁♁.
Strong romantic overtones, many existing relationships strengthen or a new one start.
- 11 W.** ♃ in ♁ & ♁. ♃□♀.
Money matters matter!
- 12 Th.** ♃ in ♁. ♃♁♀♁♁♁♁.
Diet, hygiene, family and joint mutual interests are important today.
- 13 F.** ♃ in ♁ & ♃. ♃♁♀*♁♁♁♁♁.
Pressures at work ease and the weekend looks promising socially.
- 14 S.** ♃ in ♃. ♃□♁. ♂♁♁. ♁*♁.
Entertainment accentuated, dine out, go to the theatre.
- 15 Su.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃. ♃*⊗♁♀♁.
Lazy day, Don't listen to rumours from any source.
- 16 M.** ♃ in ♃. ♃*♀.
Mail-order and tele-sales businesses do well.
- 17 T.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃. ♃□⊗♀♁♁♁♁♁. ♁Δ♀.
Busy but make sure you find time for old friends or that very special person.
- 18 W.** ♃ in ♃. ♃□♀.
Interfamily disputes, probably over nothing but then kith and kin can be like that!
- 19 Th.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃. ♃Δ⊗♁♁♁♁. ♁*♁.
A social outing could lead to romantic possibilities.
- 20 F.** ♃ in ♃. ♃□♁. ♁♁E.
Close relationships intensify; jealousy for some, passion for others.
- 21 S.** ♃ in ♃. ♃Δ♀♁♁♁♁♁.
Christmas spirit in the air. Plan a visit; elderly folk would love to see you.
- 22 Su.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃. ♃♁♀*♁♁♁♁♁. ♂♁♀.
Ambitious/ruthless types could have the rug pulled from under them.
- 23 M.** ♃ in ♃. ♃□♁♁♁.
Communications adversely aspected everywhere.
- 24 T.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃. ♃♁♁♁♁♁♁. ♂♁♁.
Good for those who work behind the scenes. Tax rebates likely.
- 25 W.** ♃ in ♃. ♃-. ♃□♀.
No Lunar aspects. Enjoy the day and let things happen as they will.
- 26 Th.** ♃ in ♃. ♃♁♀*♁♁♁♁♁.
People tend to promise much more than they can deliver.
- 27 F.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃. ♃Δ♀♁♁♁.
Postpone any joint or partnership activities to avoid friction.
- 28 S.** ♃ in ♃. ♃Δ♀.
Favours the ladies — and particularly if the sales have started.
- 29 S.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃. ♃□E.
Some steal the limelight while others pretend not to be interested.
- 30 M.** ♃ in ♃. ♃Δ⊗♀.
People seem unable to make decisions, it is all hedge or fudge.
- 31 T.** ♃ in ♃. ♃□♀♁♁♀♁.
1996 ends on a sentimental note. Financial extravagance unhelpful.

COMPOSITE CHARTS

by JOY HICKLIN-BAILEY

The composite chart is one of the most exciting developments of 20th century astrology. The theory is simple. A relationship does not depend simply upon the interaction between two people. A relationship is also an independent thing. There are two people and there is their relationship. People may be as different as chalk and cheese but their relationship may be an excellent one. It is as if being with a particular person can bring out aspects of an individual.

In a sense, the composite chart is a midpoint chart. By a simple mathematical calculation we can find the midpoint of the two Suns. This becomes the composite Sun. For example, Jane has her Sun at 1° 19' Taurus. Peter has his Sun at 3° 23' Cancer. The midpoint of the two positions is 2° 21' Gemini and this is the placement of their composite Sun.

All the planets can be treated in this way in order to find the composite Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. We can also find the midpoint of each individual's Midheaven and Ascendant — these then become the composite chart's Midheaven and Ascendant and the house cusps can be determined by using Equal Houses — 30° each from the Ascendant onwards.

However, the best method of calculating the angles and cusps of the chart is as follows. Take the composite MC by calculating the midpoint of both individuals' Midheavens. Find the house cusps for that MC in a table of houses using the latitude of the place where the two

people live or where the relationship is taking place.

Composite charts can also be established for more than two people. This is an incredibly useful and, indeed, amazing technique. It will be helpful, of course, to have a computer program to work these out for you.

You can treat the composite chart in exactly the same way as a natal birth chart for the purposes of transits and progressions. The transiting planets affect the houses and the planets of the composite chart by aspect in exactly the same way. Likewise, progressions will also work with a composite chart. Progressed positions are found by taking the progressed chart of each individual involved and then making a composite chart of these.

Interpretation

The theoretical basis of composite charts is simple but, of course, interpretation is much more of an art. However, if you are proficient in interpreting natal charts you will not find it difficult. Robert Hand's book, *Planets in composite — Analysing Human Relationships*, is a good guide. However, the following should enable you to make a good start on your study of these very useful charts.

Composite charts will tell you exactly the strengths and weaknesses in particular areas of life of any relationship you care to look at. It is most important that you are familiar with the potential of the individuals' birth charts before undertaking this analysis, however. What is each individual potential in

terms of relationship? What issues are involved with relationships for each? What kind of person is he/she likely to be attracted to?

Planets and angles

Always look for an obvious house emphasis in the composite. You may find that one house has several planets in it, or perhaps one house has both the Sun and Moon there. The house positions of the composite Sun and Moon are crucial and will be very important in the way in which the relationship unfolds.

Aspects to the composite Sun and Moon are also very important in determining how easily these energies flow. Any planet near one of the angles — Ascendant, Descendant, Midheaven or IC — will be very strongly felt by the individuals. Aspects to those planets which are close to the angles will also be very important.

Robert Hand considers that the 1st, 5th, 7th and 11th Houses are particularly important. Friendships are described by planets and planets that rule the 11th House. Business relationships will be described by planets in and ruling the 7th (partnership), 2nd (finance), 6th (administration) and 10th (career) Houses. These are the most important houses in terms of relationships, love and friendship. As always, the house position and aspects and, in my opinion, the sign of Saturn are also crucial.

In terms of male/female relationships, Venus and Mars are always important so pay particular attention to the aspects between these, aspects from oth-

er planets and their house positions in the composite. Obviously the sexual energies of the relationship will be described by the interaction of these two planets.

These are the really important things, after which consider the chart in the same way as you would any other. That is, look at the chart ruler, the Mid-heaven ruler, their signs, houses and aspects. Then look at all the aspects between planets and house positions of each planet.

Example

I have taken the example composite chart from my files with the permission of the people concerned. Hopefully, an analysis of this will aid you in beginning your own investigations. It very effectively describes the shared energy of these two individuals and the essence of their relationship to each other.

This chart was set up for a client who requested advice about the demanding relationship in which she found herself. Her natal chart had a very pronounced emphasis on the 7th House of relationships and with the Node here one knew that relating would be the most important area of learning in her life. Interestingly, her partner's Saturn fell exactly on this Node, suggesting that he had many lessons to teach her which would not always be easy. And these positions were in the sign of Libra!

Looking at the composite, once again I noticed a very strong emphasis on the 7th House. This is always a very important house in a composite chart. The Sun here is an excellent position for any kind of relationship. The emphasis is on sharing and equality. Actually, it is probably the best position for the Sun in the chart. The only thing I needed to warn her about with this placement was that when things were proving difficult between them, it was possible for them to de-

scend into antagonism and competitiveness quite easily.

The relationship began as transiting Pluto conjuncted the chart's Sun. What is very obvious is that Saturn is with the Sun. So, despite the strength of the Sun here, there were bound to be problems. Composite Saturn in 7th suggests certain responsibilities together but it is nevertheless very good cement for a relationship.

Saturn in this chart forms a lovely sextile with Jupiter. This also suggested that the Saturn energies were working well in the relationship. The two could find an excellent balance between practical and idealistic concerns. Both individuals could indeed fulfil their goals if they could manage to avoid judging each other. Both were prepared to work slowly and patiently towards carefully planned long-term goals. It was possible for them to discuss coolly and calmly instead of making hasty decisions in the heat of a row.

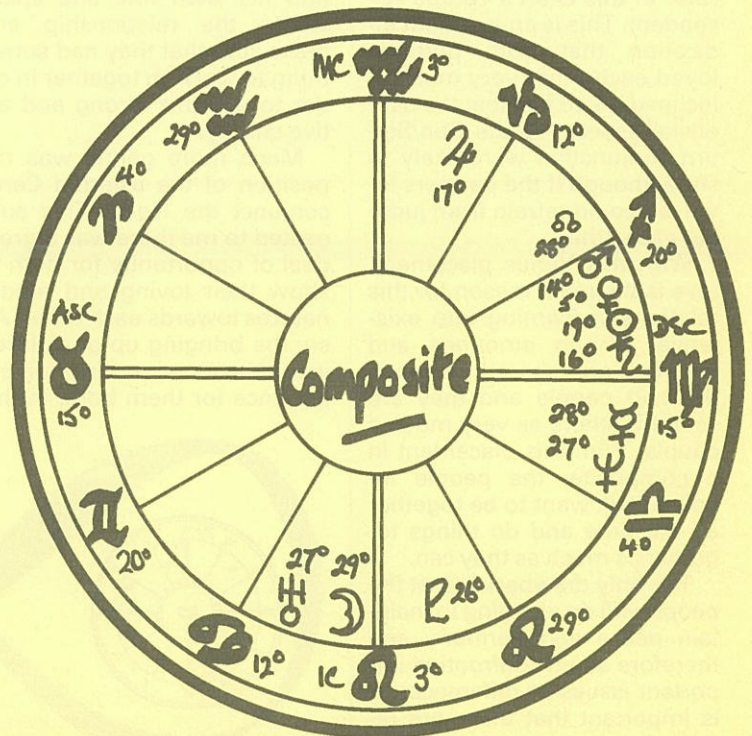
Basically, both individuals provide an excellent balance

for each other and, within the relationship, they could find an excellent balance between responsibility and freedom. The two people needed to take great care that their duties and responsibilities did not undermine any affection they felt for each other.

This is a tremendously powerful aspect and, again, suggests that this client had come together with her partner in order to have a very crucial experience in which she would learn a great deal. It was not surprising that she felt discouraged at times because the relationship was actually forcing her to confront certain things about herself that it would be easier not to have faced. However, that was exactly what she needed!

With this aspect in a composite chart, the people involved need to avoid criticising each other and must try to adapt to each others' needs. This very aspect suggests that the relationship may make certain values which each individual holds dear impossible to fulfil.

I talked for a long time with



COMPOSITE CHARTS

my client about whether the relationship was actually cutting her off from fulfilling fundamental needs or enabling her to understand the needs of another human being fully for perhaps the first time.

Either can happen with a Sun/Saturn conjunction in the composite. For this reason, the realistic and responsible nature of Saturn can enable the relationship to last for the lifetimes of the people involved or the frustrating and denying aspects of Saturn can mean that it neither ever really begins or does not last very long because it is too difficult to manage.

Double emphasis

This chart also has Venus and Mars in the 7th House. The excellent house position of Venus is doubly emphasised by the fact that Venus is the ruler of this chart's Taurus Ascendant. This is an excellent indication that both partners loved each other very much. It inclined me to feel that the beneficial aspects of the Sun/Saturn conjunction were likely to show though if the partners involved could refrain from judging each other.

With this Venus placement, love is the main reason for this relationship coming into existence. Strong emotions and feelings are shared between the two people and they are seen by others as very much a couple. With this placement in a composite, the people involved will want to be together all the time and do things together as much as they can.

The only drawback is that the people will do anything to maintain peace and harmony and therefore avoid confronting important issues or differences. It is important that these are resolved, however, as otherwise

resentments can bubble underneath the surface and burst out in an uncontrollable way.

With Venus conjunct Mars a great deal of intense sexual passion is suggested. As my client explained, this intensity made it quite difficult for her to see things clearly. Love was much more intense because of this aspect but so was the anger.

With Mars in the 7th House too, it was obvious that those people shared a real sense of common purpose. It is as if the energies of the two are far better expressed when they are together rather than apart. It is very important for this couple to do things actively together.

Equality is an essential issue with this placement. Certainly, neither would allow the other to dominate. I advised my client that she would need to find her own role and space within the relationship and make sure that they had something to work on together in order to use this strong and active energy.

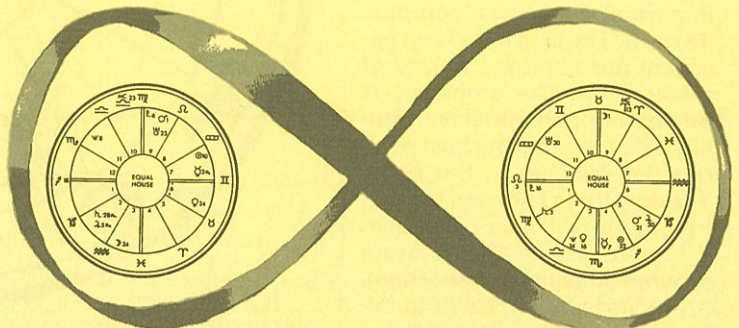
Much more gentle was the position of the asteroid Ceres conjunct the Node. This suggested to me there was a great deal of opportunity for both to show their loving and tender natures towards each other. Also, the bringing up of children would be a major nurturing experience for them both. In this

relationship, both partners can be more caring and creative than they can be individually.

The position of the composite Moon is almost as important as that of the Sun. The Moon in the 3rd House was very appropriate for this pair. The 3rd House is concerned with communications of all kinds and, indeed, both individuals were writers and, appropriate for the Moon, based at home. A strong seam of shared opinions and points of view runs through this relationship. Also, the two communicate much more through their feelings than through intellect.

With the Moon conjunct Uranus, great emotional excitement is created by the two being in each other's company. The relationship will never cease to be stimulating and will always challenge each of them to grow. Both partners demand a great deal of freedom and the relationship itself was quite unusual. The fact that these people did a great deal of travelling and research together meant that theirs did not conform to the 'pipe and slippers' image of a marriage.

A consultation about a composite chart would cover many more issues than there is space for here. Nevertheless, this perhaps gives you a flavour of the way in which composite charts can be used.



ASTROLOGY TODAY

The first planet clockwise ahead of the Sun — the last one to rise before the Sun — indicates the issues that demand attention before the potential of the Sun sign can be realised.

With the *MOON* as scout planet, actions arise from instinct, habit and a sense of loyalty to one's roots. Being seen to uphold traditional values is important and popular approval is sought for any decision; failure to take the opinions of others into account can lead to disastrous choices. Dealing with scout planet issues develops skills which can be used professionally. Successful scout Moon subjects become well known public figures, civil servants, social workers or nurses.

Never more than 28° from the Sun, *MERCURY* is the most common scout planet. Action is based on information and consultations with experts. Plans are laid ahead of time; short journeys are frequently taken. Diet and regular checkups are important for maintaining nervous energy — a scout Mercury sometimes indicates a weak nervous system. Those who become proficient at handling Mercurial data often become actors, writers, politicians, adventurers or inventors.

VENUS is the next most common scout planet with a maximum distance from the Sun of 48°. Venus shows that material resources are taken into account before any decision is made. Physical comfort and security need to be considered; a dirty, inharmonious environment and coarse, discourteous people cannot be tolerated. Professional and personal relationships, along with the possibility of enmity, are important. Scout Venus people become artists or musicians, sportspeople, dancers, counsellors, therapists or ambassadors.

SCOUT PLANETS by LYNNE STEELE-SMITH

MARS indicates that freedom and self-expression must be respected. Suppression of these leads to anger and frustration, resulting in accidents and injury. In some circumstances a Mars scout indicates a physical condition such as haemophilia or epilepsy. Those who deal successfully with Mars issues become mathematicians, engineers, boxers, metal sculptors, designers and needleworkers.

With *JUPITER*, philosophical and moral values are paramount and there is a need to justify actions in terms of personal beliefs. Those with Jupiter as scout must have respect and will try any means to get it — wealth, knowledge or spiritual power. Those who successfully deal with Jupiter scout issues enter many professions but can be particularly successful in politics, law or higher level teaching, often attaining a position of authority in middle age.

SATURN shows a respect for learning and knowledge. Plans are carefully considered and realistic — as far as possible all outcomes are taken into account. An older person, or someone in authority, may be consulted first. Disappointment, poverty, physical handicap, even imprisonment, may have to be overcome. People who express scout Saturn positively are often celibate and some become priests, monks or nuns; others take up demanding professions which involve hard work and personal sacrifice. Several rock musicians have Saturn as scout, too.

CHIRON as scout planet shows that physical and mental health needs to be taken into account before action is taken;

sick friends or relatives may have to be cared for. Learning comes through experience rather than theory. Those with Chiron as scout seek to be a guide and inspiration to others and can be counsellors, therapists, teachers and explorers.

URANUS indicates a tendency towards sudden, radical changes and arbitrary dumping of projects. There is often a need to get attention by unconventional or shocking behaviour, gathering either great admiration or censure. Those with Uranus as scout often work or live alone and are quite happy about it. Some overcome handicaps which impair communication with others, such as profound deafness or autism. Those who deal successfully with Uranus issues become physicists, astronomers, computer programmers or charismatic leaders or performers.

With *NEPTUNE* as scout planet dreams, fantasies, visions and the desire to manifest them are very strong. A broad vision of how things should be is often seen while small details are neglected. Writers who incorporate fantasy or vision are among those who successfully deal with Neptune scout issues, as well as inspired artists, designers, missionaries, astrologers and film producers.

PLUTO indicates that privacy and secrecy are of great importance, and these must be respected at all costs. Failure to do so can be disastrous. Repressed memories may need to be recognised and faced. Pluto loves to explore the unknown, intellectually, spiritually or physically. Financiers, spies, military officers, criminals and detectives, sci-fi and occult writers, archaeologists, antique dealers and Shakespearean actors number among those who have successfully used a scout Pluto.

SAGITTARIUS



Our redoubtable Archer has the unfortunate reputation of never opening his/her mouth except to put his foot in it! Worse still, he is said to be fond of preaching about anything and everything to everybody, greatly increasing the opportunities for making a fool of himself. Or as one unkind soul put it, 'give him an all-purpose portable pulpit and leave him to it.'

Of course, like the downside of all the signs, while there may be some truth in such humorous slanders, there's far more to it than that — and it's much more positive, to boot.

We're working our way through the signs, and particularly the houses they rule, as a sort of potted history of the development of a human being. Sagittarius follows on from the

very personal discoveries of the first half of the chart, learning to relate to the 'other' in the 7th and becoming more deeply committed in the 8th. The next logical stage is to extend the field even further.

Saggy's very own 9th House is where the individual finally gets to grips with the whole big wide world. And how many of us can really say that we have no qualms about that?

The Sagittarian spirit doesn't, for starters. There's so much fascinating stuff out there that he wants to get really involved. The trouble is, of course, that with so much he's spoilt for choice and each new thing that ventures over the horizon is more interesting than the last. He's barely loosed off a figurative arrow at the first



by **JOHN YATES**

before he's seen the second and is already reloading his bow for that too.

But our friend here is not just an Archer. He's a very special one. Half man and half horse, this is the Centaur, the only mythical creature in the whole zodiac — and therein lies the

Sagittarius' year ahead

By and large, there are two basic types of people, those to whom life happens and those who go out and happen to life. Sagittarians are famous for belonging, in the main, to the latter category — and for having the luck to pull it off. The coming year should prove no exception as the majority of the planets, eight out of ten, fall in the Eastern half of the chart for the coming 12 months.

For a start, the Sun is conjunct Pluto which confers upon you the power to achieve just about anything your heart desires. However, power requires responsibility and, to achieve this from your usual happy-go-lucky standpoint, may lead to some unforeseen changes.

This is not bad. Pluto is renowned for bringing major transformations and, even if the process may not always be comfortable, he never junks anything which is still of use. The results, therefore, are practically certain to be for the better in the long run. Thus the coming year could well be a major turning point for you.

What is most likely is that you will find your habitual, unconscious reactions to situations will no longer get you where you want to be. But good aspects to Saturn suggest that life will take on a somewhat more serious cast and that, much to your surprise, you'll find that this is even more rewarding than just kicking over the

traces at the first sign of restriction.

Saturn usually demands at least a modicum of hard work but, in this instance, you have the chance to be creative about it. Play your cards right and you could 'build' a new you which will prove far more satisfying than the old in the years to come.

Mercury in the 1st House and in aspect to Mars in the 10th suggests that you will be moving about a lot in the coming months, particularly in connection with whatever way you earn your daily crust. The same positions also suggest that you will be full of ideas and keen to put them out into the world for the recognition they could bring. No doubt you will profit from this.

Financially it looks as though it could be a very good year ahead as Jupiter resides in the 2nd House of possessions and, being in Capricorn, indicates that materially you should be on a roll. There could be complications in that Neptune is there also and might possibly lead you astray with projects which are not entirely realistic and that end up costing more money than they make for you.

Nonetheless, Neptune is conjunct Uranus and the conjunction straddles your 3rd House cusp of thinking, siblings and local travel. This is the area where these influences are most likely to be felt and the net result could be anything from lucky

clue to understanding him.

Myths are about teaching meaning and one can't help but look for the meaning of life, the universe and everything especially if one has the all pervading intuition and curiosity of Mutable Fire. It has to be there somewhere, Sagittarius figures, and he'll gallop all around that big wide world, drawing a bow at a venture until he hits it. When he does, he'll gladly share it with all of us — hence the pulpit!

If, at times, he's just a bit too much to take with his endless questing, opining, philosophising and unshakeable certainty that he's right, we must look to his ruler, Jupiter, for the explanation. This guy was, after all, the king of the gods, the big cheese and lord of all he surveyed — minor deities included, let alone mere humans.

In astrology, Jupiter rules expansion of all kinds including going right over the top and

POSITION IN THE ZODIAC

NINTH SIGN

CORRESPONDING TO

NOVEMBER 23 TO DECEMBER 20

PRINCIPLE

FAITH

ELEMENT

FIRE

QUALITY

MUTABLE

PLANETARY RULER

JUPITER

SYMBOL

THE ARCHER

chucking thunderbolts around in a somewhat cavalier fashion. When you're that grand you don't care because the world's your oyster, not to mention heaven as well!

It's therefore easy to see from where Sagittarius gets his unquenchable thirst for experience, knowledge, truth — you name it. Being Jupiter's child also explains why he appears to know no boundaries in his search or to his potential sphere of influence. Nothing less than the big time will do.

Yet it's not for glory or prestige that he pushes himself ever

onward. The idea that it's better to travel hopefully than to arrive probably sums it up best. There's always something more just around the next bend.

Sagittarius is concerned with long distances, foreign parts, the whys and the wherefores and, above all, the truth — even if it hurts. Anything, in fact, which will live life to the full and broaden our horizons to the fullest extent.

We need that, if we're to grow. Besides which, the world would be a very boring place if someone didn't go exploring and then bring it all on home!

breaks and downright inspiration as to the best way to handle your affairs, through family members needing help with the doldrums; to you getting lost in some kind of fantasy world!

The first is the most probable, particularly in view of the type of changes which you will be inclined to make within your lifestyle over the months to come. What you should beware of, if it manifests in its more negative form, is the possible result of the aspects between the conjunction and an opposition between the Moon and Venus, also touching Jupiter.

Over-sentimentality or becoming committed to a course of action for emotional reasons way beyond the dictates of realism will only land you in a greater muddle. It won't do much for your bank account, either. Fortunately, Saturn's influence, mentioned previously, should enable you to be sufficiently hard-nosed when necessary.

The main focus of activity shows as being in all matters concerned with your career or whatever endeavours contribute to your status. Mars is sitting in this area, high in the chart, suggesting that your energy level will be high enough to cope with a schedule which even you might find pretty hectic at times.

You can expect that your efforts will bring many things to fruition, particularly if these have involved you in a fair measure of detailed work in the past. If you are involved in some kind of re-

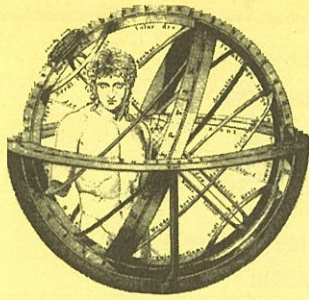
search or any project which has necessitated considerable mental work and planning, this year could be the one when the big breakthrough occurs.

You will be eager for progress, even more so than usual and, if what you're aiming for demands burning the midnight oil, you won't shirk it. The results will make it all worthwhile and give you the feeling that, at last, you have the degree of control over your life which you have hoped for for some time.

Romantically, too, this should be an interesting year at the very least. You will impress others with your generosity and good humour and, since this is likely to be in public, you could well find that the love stakes are very suddenly raised sky-high by a new admirer.

There is a chance that such liaisons could be brief encounters of the sudden passion kind but, equally, other factors suggest that ultimately you will build something solid and enduring. Again, provided that you don't start wallowing in fantasy, all should be well.

Those with established love partnerships can expect a period of expansion and growth. This, no doubt, will come in part from the universe's uncanny ability to make our environment mirror our inner selves. Yes, there will be beneficial and probably far-reaching changes all around you because of those you'll be making within.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAY FORECAST

★ INDICATES AN EXCEPTIONALLY LUCKY 12 MONTHS AHEAD

1 Ideal for those who want to start work at or from home.

★ May/July period adverse for large joint expenditure.

3 Wedding bells are in the air.
★ Business and social life favourably linked.

4 Temptation to get out of what you think is a rut but it is the temptation you should avoid.

5 Don't change your job. Red tape around Christmas period a problem.

6 Losses likely. Just keep away from those you know you cannot trust.

7 Work prospects improve. Monitor diet and health matters.

8 Overseas contacts, sport or outdoor activities connected with business indicated.

9 Most favourable period, especially for the ladies.
★

10 February/March is best for any long-term purchases.

11 Limiting 12 months. Not exactly bleak but nothing exciting either.

12 Pleasure with responsibility. Taking a back seat would be unwise.

13 Competitive and upbeat. Some long-held beliefs challenged or changed.

14 Develop your artistic nature. Take up a hobby or interest in this area.

15 Emotionally, an unsettled period. Careerwise, promising.

16 An imaginative year with the feet a little off the ground at times.

17 Relationships stabilise otherwise little seems to go to plan. Some fun at times, though.

18 Inner restlessness, strong desire for change, possibly at almost any cost.

19 Get things done 'by the book.' Allow nothing to drag on.

20 Fewer problems than you first envisage especially where old enmities are concerned.

21 Make or break time. Important interviews must be prepared properly.

22 March/April keep plans and secrets to yourself. Some folk simply cannot be trusted.

23 Tendency to avoid commitment whether it be to ideas, people or things.

24 Subtle changes will take place in your perception of life and the world in general.

25 Will hit the reform trail and make many changes in the home and domestic life as a whole.

26 Stick with established routines. Avoid anything remotely 'dodgy' like the plague.

27 Make every effort count. Patience and efficiency work wonders this year.

28 Effective and productive 12 months.
★ Several romances could start and finish.

29 Exploit your organising gifts and take the opportunity to change your job when it arises.

30 Whatever you decide to take up now, you should shine and show a profit.
★

31 Old relationships fizzle out. A little too idealistic, keep feet on the ground.

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and
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- Win or win back the person of your dreams.
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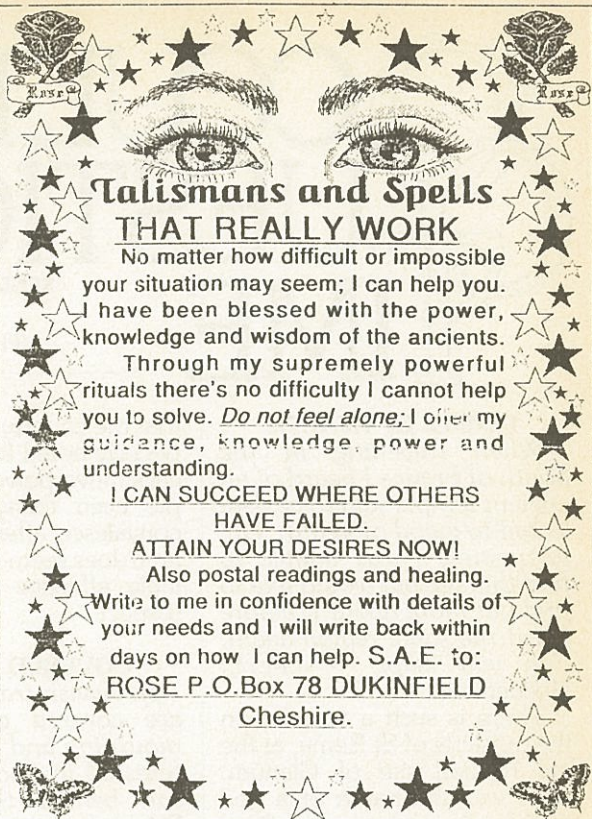
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TEMPLE OF HEALTH

When travelling in the South of France I heard of an ancient temple said to be dedicated to a god of health. Unfortunately I was unable to find this site but would like to find out more about it before I visit the same region again. Can you help? — J.M.H., Huddersfield.

There is such a temple, on the outskirts of St Remy, at the old Roman site of Glanum. Glan was the name of a god with healing powers who lived in a nearby cave and whose shrine dates back to the 5th century BC. It was also here that a temple to Valetudo, God of Health, was built so there is a double link to deities concerned with health and healing at this spot.

Interestingly, there is still a local legend around St Remy

that the countryside there is especially noted for its strong recuperative powers. Many people even today go there to convalesce after illness as the area does seem to have surprisingly effective results in this respect.

COVERED MIRRORS

In Jewish tradition mirrors are covered at a time of mourning and I would be interested in knowing the reason behind this. — D.R., Brighton.

Mirrors are so covered to ensure that the pain on the faces of the mourners cannot be reflected. This very ancient tradition is thought to have started when it was believed that the dead soul would catch a glimpse of itself in the mirror and realise that it was causing the mourners lengthy grief by

not departing the scene.

There was also a rule that mourners must put personal vanity aside and let their own faces run with tears, however unflattering. Covering the mirrors during the mourning period would, therefore, prevent the living from indulging in self-admiration or trying to remove traces of grief until a suitable period of time had passed.

WITCH BOOK

Some 40 years ago I remember reading a book on witchcraft and ritual sacrifice of kings. I cannot now trace this book and wondered if you had any information about it. — C.M., Shoreham.

The book you are seeking is likely to be *The God of the Witches* by Margaret Murray which was first published in 1933 but reached almost cult status after its reprint in 1952. Margaret Murray specialised in Egyptology and witchcraft, firmly believing the theory that pagan practices flourished for many centuries under the cover of Christianity.

She thought that several prominent personalities, including some kings, were killed ritually in the role of the Dying God. At times surrogates were

graphology

(continued from page 13)

ner self-defence which is always governing the actions.

The middle zone height of letters, which is a full 35 mm to say the least, is an indication of the owner's self-value and ego function. Consequently, self-esteem can be well demonstrated, when required, in spite of that reluctance to show any reactions. Although the left

slant writer is predisposed to avoid involvement and is an introvert by nature, the angularity that shows occasionally relates to energy potential and contradictory tendencies. The spaces between the lines are nicely made but the periodic extension lengths indicate a certain muddle-headedness at times.

Looking at the third sample, there is hardly any doubt that its owner possesses a healthy self-esteem. From the leftward inclination we know of a reluctance to display any reaction freely but, when the situation requires it, the ego is able to

put on an effective show. The size of the capital *I* is a good confirmation of this. Its shape and form is characteristic of someone with a constructive and creative ability if cultivated.

The top and bottom strokes are made definitely so enthusiasm and well formed ideas are present. The t-bar is not quite in tune with them as it is short and, like some of the other strokes, is given more pressure at the end than at the start. This conveys a slight tendency to domineer or at least to show determination.

Word spacing is wide, intimating a danger of setting one-

chosen instead of the kings themselves although it is possible that King Edmund and William II (Rufus) were victims of ritual sacrifice. According to Murray, among the surrogates were Edmund Ironsides, Thomas-a-Becket, Joan of Arc and Gilles de Rais.

I CHING

Is the I Ching a recent Chinese system of divination or has it been in existence for any particular length of time? — G.K.L., Bromwich.

The Book of Changes, which is what I Ching means, has been in use in China for over 5,000 years, though tradition suggests that it has been known of for far longer than that. The casting of yarrow stalks or coins forms the lines of a hexagram which is then interpreted according to which of 64 possible configurations is made.

The I Ching is often used to provide answers to special problems but understanding is needed in order to interpret the hexagram correctly. Fortunately though, there are several books available with excellent translations of the original Chinese texts so it is now easier for Westerners to use this tradi-

tional form of divination and prediction successfully.

YELLOW v WHITE

Why is the colour yellow associated with cowardice? One would have thought white a better choice. — M.U., Brighouse.

White denotes purity, trust and innocence yet, oddly, during the first World War and earlier conflicts a white feather was often used as a symbol of cowardice. Anyone objecting to fighting in the war was offered a white feather, usually by irate women who considered such reluctance 'unmanly.'

However, yellow is the colour most commonly associated with cowardice. In France, doors of traitors were once daubed yellow and medieval paintings of Judas Iscariot showed him arrayed in yellow garments.

While for far too many years, in Europe Jewish people were forced to wear yellow patches, especially during World War II. In Spain victims of the Inquisition wore yellow robes, denoting heresy and treason, as they walked in procession to the stake to be ritually burned.

EGG LORE

I am trying to trace the origin of being given an egg at birth. My mother collected mine and kept it wrapped in cottonwool in a box. As I was born in Jersey where there are many Norman/French customs, I wonder if there is a French connection here. — E.F.D., Ledbury.

The gift of an egg to mark a child's birth is a very old tradition going back many generations in many countries, but especially in Europe. An egg symbolises new life and there are many tales of brides breaking an egg in order to ensure fertility or people using eggs for healing purposes to renew the tissues.

So to collect and present an egg to be kept as a souvenir of a child's birth is a symbol of the new life given by a mother to her new baby as well as symbolising a long life ahead. This practice still persists in France, Germany and Slavic countries.

The North American Indians have similar traditions, especially that of using eggs for medicinal purposes. Eggs were also buried with dead relatives in France in the hope that a child would be born later to continue the family's bloodline.

self apart from others in the community. The lack of connective forms divulges some degree of intuition and a certain detachment in the thinking process. Most of the ovals, here and in the main body of the script, are open to the right which is a feature of an acceptance of many kinds of influence from the outside world.

It will not be difficult to see that in a broad sense this female writer is able to give a good account of herself. She knows her own value and can well defend her concepts. That large lower extension in the f is indicative of an imagination di-

rected towards instinctual, material and sexual demands.

All the writers here have that tendency of holding back their feelings. Any open display is not encouraged. Each one is fundamentally an introvert and relies upon experiences from the past. As can be observed, there are individual ranges of ego activity. The first script's capital I is a little compressed attesting to some secret insecurity but the third writer is far from being unsuccessful in the company of others.

It is interesting to note how different is the personality make-up of each writer, al-

though all three of them have a left slanting script in common. However, that common trait merely indicates a dislike of demonstrating their true and exact responses freely.

Every one of us has a unique and individual way of writing. Many scripts appear alike but, if given proper and correct observation, it will be seen that no two are exactly identical. Likewise no two personality structures are ever absolutely the same.

To study the human character is intriguing indeed and handwriting is a good tool for doing so.

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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.**

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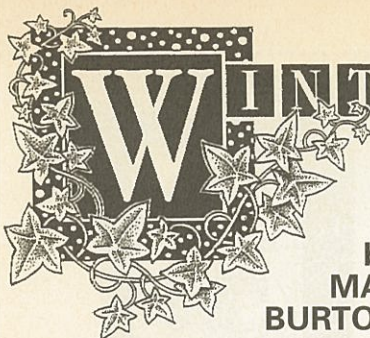
This Master Grimoire is a work consisting primarily of EGYPTIAN AND CABALLISTIC MAGICK; the **two most potent systems of magick in existence**. Much has been written about these systems, but little has **ever been given away** as to how they could or can be used for the attainment of practical objectives. 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!**

Belony 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 cabalistic 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 Cabalistic 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 Cabalistic 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 Cabalistic 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: Cabalistic 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 Cabalistic 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 "bored" from getting ahead by those above him. The Cabalistic 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 Cabalistic 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** Cabalistic 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, bust 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 Finbarr the price remains **£19.95** post paid. Overseas send £24.95 for air mail. Send to: **Finbarr 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).



by
MAY
BURTON

The ivy is a very common evergreen which often entwines itself around other plants and trees. Because its leaves are continually green the plant is considered to be a symbol of everlasting life. However, due to its habit of climbing up buildings and trees, it is also thought of as an emblem of feebleness, needing to cling to something else for strength.

The building on which the ivy grows is considered to be protected from evil although, should the plant suddenly wither or fall away from its support, some misfortune is to be expected. In Wales, such a happening was thought to predict a change of ownership for the home, either through failing to produce heirs or due to financial difficulties.

At one time taverns or vintners' shops were often marked by an ivy plant or garland as a sign that wine could be bought there for it is associated with Bacchus, Roman god of wine. However, despite this association, the ivy had a reputation for preventing drunkenness.

Indeed, it was once the fashion to take a drink of vinegar in which ivy berries had been steeped prior to a drinking bout. Another preparation, this time made from ivy leaves, was taken after the event in order to prevent a hangover.

The wood of ivy was considered special, too. It was believed to have the unique power of actually being able to separate water from wine if these were mixed together in a bowl made from ivy wood. In the 17th century, wine left standing in a container made

from ivy wood was thought to prevent infection.

Ivy was universally considered to be a powerful, magical plant and Bacchus was very often depicted as wearing a wreath made from its leaves. In Roman times his worshippers sometimes chewed ivy to put themselves into a frenzy. While if a priest of Jupiter just touched an ivy plant, this was thought sufficient to put him into a prophetic frame of mind.

Like many other plants that were considered magical, the ivy could be used for all kinds of divination. On New Year's Eve it was quite common for a person to put a healthy ivy leaf into a basin of water and leave it for a few days.

On Twelfth Night he or she would examine the leaf carefully and, if still fresh and green, the year ahead would be fortunate. On the other hand, black spots on the leaf usually predicted illness; those in the middle of the leaf indicated head or neck problems whereas spots at the pointed end of the leaf signalled some kind of malady of the feet or legs.

In Oxfordshire, many years ago, any young girl who was anxious to know about her future husband would pluck a healthy ivy leaf and put it in her pocket or handbag. Then, taking a walk, she would take note of the first man she met for it was generally believed that he would eventually marry her, even if he already had a wife at the time of this initial meeting.

A similar custom was known in Southern Scotland where the young girl would place an ivy leaf against her heart and recite the following rhyme.

*Ivy, ivy, I love you;
In my bosom I put you;
The first young man
who speaks to me
My future husband he
shall be.*

Ivy had strong love associations in Staffordshire and War-

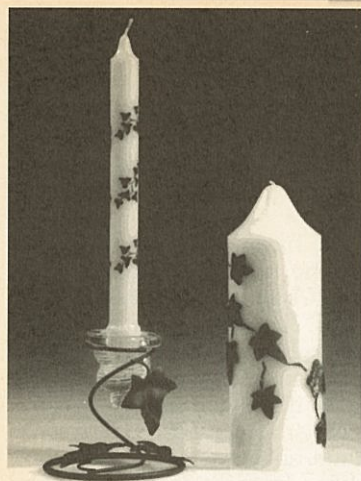
wickshire, too. Here, on St Thomas' Day (December 21st) lonely spinsters liked to sleep with a sprig of ivy under the pillow or sometimes under the bed, having previously prayed to the saint to, 'Stand by the bed/And say the day I shall be wed.' To then dream of ivy was thought very lucky as this predicted a lifetime of happiness.

In the past, various medical preparations were made from different parts of the ivy plant. Juice from its leaves could be used to cure colds if 'sniffed up the nostrils.' Other folk remedies recommended ivy leaf preparations as eye lotions, as a cure for skin rashes and even to treat corns. Food or drink served from a bowl made of ivy wood was given to children with whooping cough and an ivy wreath worn on the head was supposed to prevent hair loss after illness.

Although ivy was once frowned upon in church decorations, it was not usually omitted from Christmas greenery in the home because, although holly was considered lucky for men, ivy was thought to bring good fortune to the women-folk. Perhaps this was the idea behind a rather amusing custom which used to be practised in Oxfordshire at one time.

The man of the house was expected to provide sufficient ivy at Christmas time to decorate all the rooms. If he failed to do so, a maidservant would purloin a pair of his breeches and nail them to the outside gatepost for all to see. It must have caused him acute embarrassment when he discovered the loss of such a necessary article of clothing!

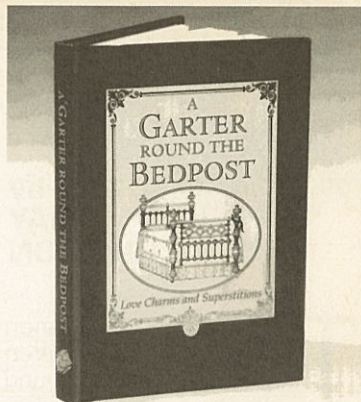




CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

These ivy decorated candles and ivy candle-holder have a real Yuletide flavour and are part of Colony's huge range of candles and associated products. The 10in/255mm white candles have a green ivy motif and retail at £1.69 each; the very chunky 9in/230mm pillar candle is really special — the realistic dark green ivy leaves are applied onto the candle which retails at £9.99.

Finally there is the very attractive candle-holder, with heavy glass conch-shell design bowl and dark green, ivy leaf motif metal stand. One of a selection, this one is approx 4in/100mm high and costs a remarkably low £8.99. Widely available, for your nearest Colony stockist ☎ 01229 461111.

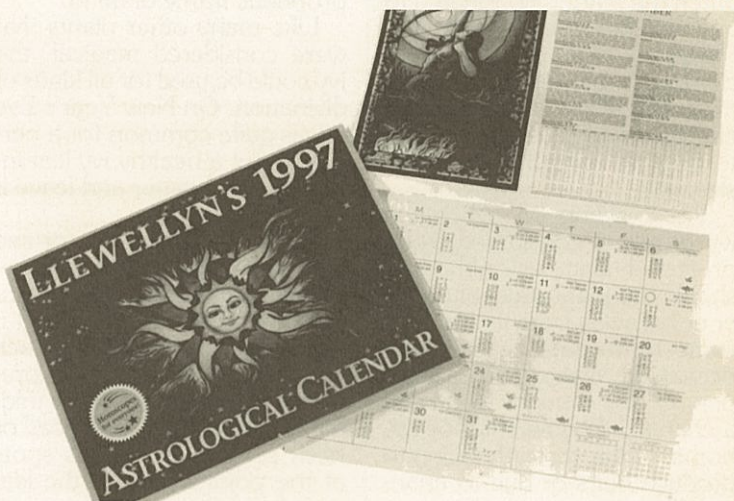


VIBRANT

That's the best word to describe the modern, lively, colourful illustrations by Anne Marie Garrison for each of the Sun signs and on the cover of *Llewellyn's Astrological Calendar*. As always, this attractive and useful calendar devotes a double-page spread to a month including Sun sign forecasts, ephemeris (GMT), Solunar data, ingresses and major aspects (EST).

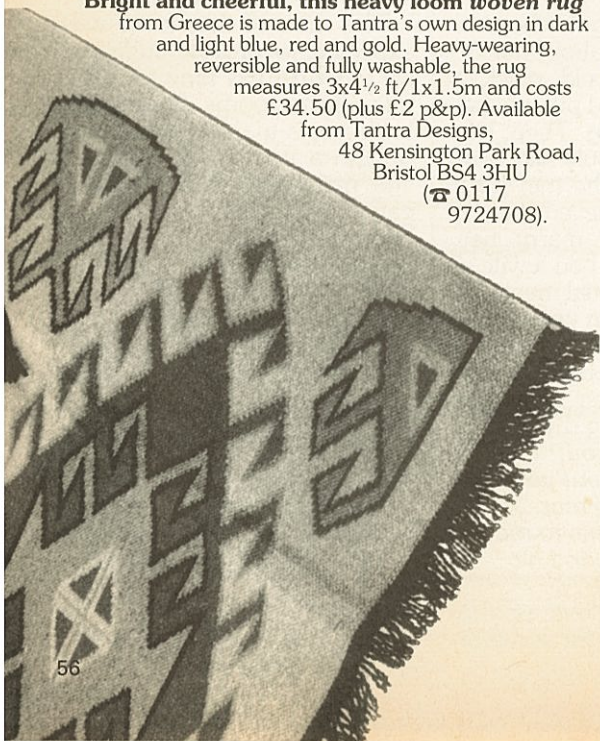
But this is only half the story, literally, for the calendar comprises another 24 pages of astrological information including planetary aspects, transits and retrogrades; eclipse data; international trends for 1997; Lunar gardening; travel and financial planning; time zone conversion and much more.

Widely available, eminently practical and reasonably priced at £9.99/ \$12.00.



WOVEN FOR WEAR

Bright and cheerful, this heavy loom woven rug from Greece is made to Tantra's own design in dark and light blue, red and gold. Heavy-wearing, reversible and fully washable, the rug measures 3x4½ ft/1x1.5m and costs £34.50 (plus £2 p&p). Available from Tantra Designs, 48 Kensington Park Road, Bristol BS4 3HU (☎ 0117 9724708).



ALL YEAR FUN

This book is simply a delight! Targetted at four to eight-year-olds, *Rhymes Around the Year* explores the traditions and customs associated with different times of the year through nursery rhymes, folk songs and the like. Published by Barefoot Books at £12.99, this beautifully produced hardback book is compiled and illustrated by Marc Vyvyan-Jones. Exciting, interesting, witty and wise, this is a smashing book for any age, full of wonderfully detailed, colourful drawings that capture the spirit of the seasons as well as the reader's imagination. Here you will find all the old favourites from Humpty Dumpty, the Cat and the Fiddle through to Robin Hood and White Rabbits, plus others not so familiar.

A fun-filled way of learning about traditional rites and customs; the most entertaining book to come my way in a very long time.



STOCKING FILLER

Well, almost! *A Garter Round the Bedpost* is a charming little hardback book by Jan Barnes: a collection of well-known and lesser known love charms and superstitions about black cats, red roses, knotted hankies, four-leaved clovers etc from the 18th and 19th centuries.

Beautifully produced and containing delightful Victorian pen and ink drawings, it is a convenient pocket-size (5x3½ in/125x90mm) and is one of a series published by Copper Beech Gift Books retailing at £4.99 each (add 50p if ordering by post on ☎/FAX 01342 314734).

Other titles include *The Ladies Oracle*, *Etiquette for Gentlemen*, *Mangles, Mops & Feather Dusters* and *How to Read Character in Handwriting*. The last contains over 100 pages with a listing of character traits on the right-hand pages facing the relevant samples on the left. There are also explanations of differing styles and hints on how graphology can reveal personality.



MOVING RAINBOWS

Add colour and movement to your Yuletide decorations or enjoy the visual display of this delightful butterfly spiral mobile all year round.

The laser-printed material reflects rainbow-coloured pinpoints of light even when placed in a poorly-lit position so just think of the effect of hanging it in a window where it catches the sunlight.

One of several mobiles from the 'Crystalites' range, this one costs £8.50 from Snapdragon, 12 South Park, Sevenoaks, Kent TN1 1AN (☎ 01732 740252).

PICK & CHOOSE



NATIVE WAYS

Shown is one of a collectible range of *Native American figurines* depicting chiefs to warriors, canoes to totem poles or family groups such as the one here. Roughly 4¾ in /110mm high, realistically coloured and with a textured finish, this North American family group is highly detailed right down to the dog's wiry coat.

There are 15 different figurines to choose from in the series, with prices ranging from as little as £2.95 to £19.75 for a large warrior figure; the one shown is middle of the range at £9.00. Available from the Fifth Dimension shop premises at 4 Church Walk, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 1HH or mail order ☎ 01293 441114.

FANTASY WORLD

Enter the magical and mysterious world of the dragon and journey through the realms of myth and legend on a worldwide scale. Your route is the *Dragon Tarot* by Terry Donaldson and Peter Pracownik, published by US

Games at \$15.00 and available in the UK for around £18.00.

Pracownik's fabulous artwork has gained increasing popularity in the past decade and his distinctive style is ideal for a Tarot deck illustrated exclusively by the varied legendary creatures that populate Dragonland. Here be dragons aplenty; colourful, fantastic beasts of imagination and illumination.

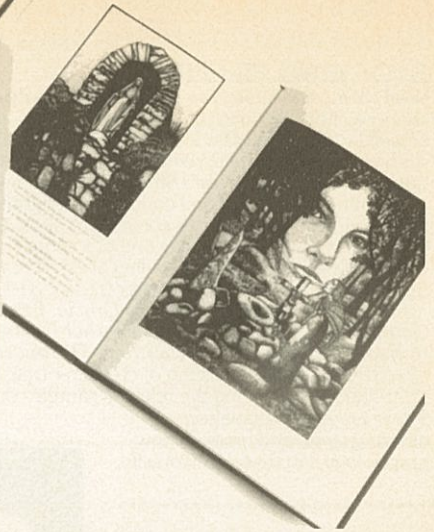
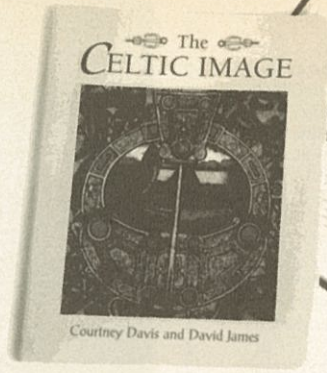
This is a really exciting new Tarot, a full 78-card deck to delight dragon-lovers everywhere. Individual cards are instantly identifiable but, for the novice, an explanatory booklet accompanies the pack.



CELTIC IMAGERY

This stunning book is a happy collaboration between talented artist Courtney Davis and experienced writer David James, both of whom are well-known for their interest in and knowledge of all things Celtic. Published by Blandford at £16.99, this 120-plus page hardback book presents the multi-faceted image of the Celt from earliest times to the present revivalist period.

The Celtic Image is an inspirational work, providing insights into the life and times of the Celts past and present, that will be of interest to anyone concerned with his/her historic roots or who simply appreciates Celtic art and design. Beautifully produced and presented, excellent value for money, a book to enjoy and treasure.



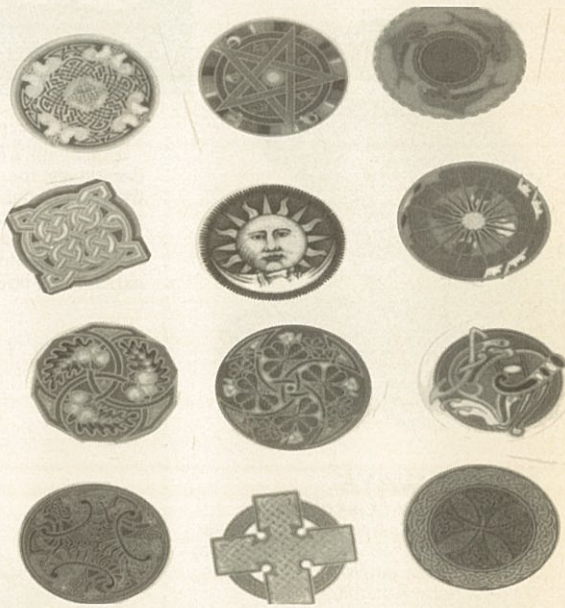
PICK & CHOOSE

FAERYLAND

This fairy scent bottle

would make a smashing gift for anyone into the realms of faerie, or anyone simply looking for an unusual but useful present, come to that. The glass bottle is quite hefty, 2in/50mm across approx, and the lovely fairy decor and cap are in metal with an antique silver finish.

Pretty enough for the dressing-table, it would make a practical container for perfume, aromatherapy or magical oils and the like. Affordable too at £9.99 from Snapdragon, 12 South Park, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1AN (☎ 01732 740252).



DUAL PURPOSE

A clever idea from Tantra Desgns is this selection of beautifully produced, mini window-print cards. Each finely detailed print from this colourful collection can be detached from its hammered, 4in/100mm white card mount and be stuck to your window with soapy water (easily removable for cleaning and reusable).

Or, if left in situ, these lovely designs (just a few from a huge selection) make very acceptable cards for any occasion. A pack of six assorted cards costs £4.95 and a 12-pack costs £8.95 (plus £1 p&p) from Tantra Designs, 48 Kensington Park Road, Bristol BS4 3HU (☎ 0117 9724708).

HAND-PAINTED

These unique, hand-painted T-shirts are available in two designs: the Green Man or the Dragon. They come in two sizes, large and extra large, so are generous enough to fit most people and are available with a white or coloured background.

Good value at £10 each (inc p&p), send cheques/POs to J. Easby, 39 Penistone Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS3 0DJ and state design required.



COSMIC PAIR

These glass Sun and Moon candle-holders are simple yet practical if looking for something suitable for tea/nightlights. Standing 3in/80mm high, they are very heavy and have an unusual part plain, part lightly etched finish that gives an interesting effect when a lighted flame shines through the glass.

Part of the Colony range, you should find them on general sale for around £4.79 each but, in case of difficulty, ☎ 01229 461111 for nearest stockist.

GETTING STARTED

Anyone looking for an easy to follow starter kit for learning the Tarot should be delighted with this one, simply called *The Tarot*, published by Carlton at £14.99. For this you will get a boxed 128-page book by Adam Fronteras and a full 78-card Rider-Waite pack.

The latter are slightly smaller than usual, much easier to handle, and printed in deeper, stronger colours which somehow give a rather more modern look to the familiar traditional imagery of the illustrations. The cards are also reproduced in full-colour in the book where each is accorded its divinatory meaning, upright and reversed.

There is also introductory text on the history of the Tarot, its occult development and, most useful this, hints on how to choose a deck and how to relate to the cards, get into the right mindset to use them effectively. Other pages are devoted to laying out and reading the cards, with several sample readings and suggested spreads to aid the novice.

Fronteras' no-nonsense approach is refreshing, he successfully demystifies what is, after all, an eminently practical divinatory tool that can be used just as effectively by a layperson as by an experienced reader. On sale through usual outlets or, better still, use the order form on page 69 to get a special PREDICTION reader discount!



MYTHIC

A real treat for those into world mythology

is the *Myths of the Gods and Goddesses Calendar* published in the USA by Llewellyn but also readily available here at £9.99 (\$12.00). Visionary artists Moon Deer and Kris Waldherr have captured the essence of traditional myths, legends and folk tales of deities, totems and ancestors in the 12 wonderfully evocative images accompanying the monthly texts by Stephen Larsen.

The calendar itself has plenty of room to note engagements, anniversaries and the like despite the fact that important seasonal/religious dates from around the world — festivals, saints' days, feasts, etc — are given throughout the year, as are the phases of the Moon. An unusual and inspiring calendar to delight the senses and raise the spirits.

KITTED OUT

Following the tremendous success of *The Pendulum Kit*, Sig Lonegren has now compiled *The Dowsing Rod Kit*, published by Virgin at £14.99.

The kit comprises L-rods, marker pegs, notepad and, most importantly, a 160-page book covering every conceivable aspect and use of dowsing. The uninitiated may believe that dowsing is limited to locating water, minerals and the like but this is far from the case as this comprehensive, well-illustrated book testifies.

Several authors have contributed to this work, each bringing his/her expertise to a specific facet of dowsing, whether for lost objects, Earth energies, the interpretation of dreams or the most auspicious orientation of furniture using Feng Shui. In fact there is everything here you need to know about this ancient art, from underlying principles to practical applications in everyday life.



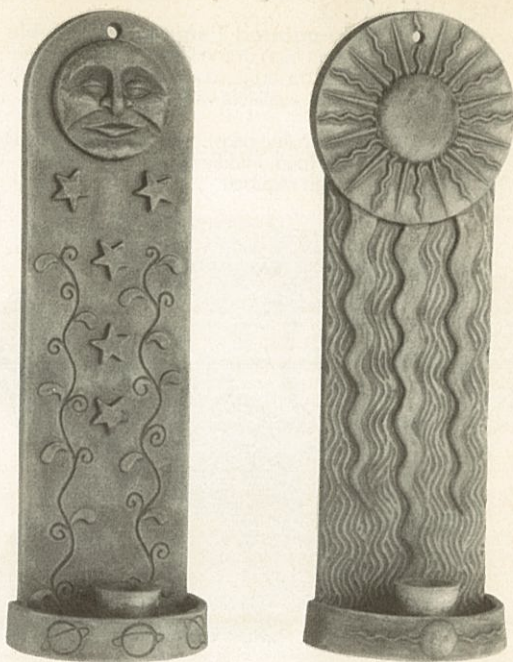
STERLING WORTH

This super selection of silver pendants range from as little as £5.95 for the double-sided Celtic Moon design (AP342)

to £14.95 for the really chunky Dragon Man (AP444) and £16.95 for the Celtic Dog Triangle (AP458) which also carries a runic inscription on the back.

Others shown are the Conait Knot (AP386) and Runic Circle (AP336) both priced at £6.95; the 1in/25mm interlaced Pentacle (AP60) at £7.50 and Orrin Knot (AP370) at £9.95 are both double-sided; the Ceannich Cross (AP347) costs £8.50 and, again, has a runic inscription on the back. The delicately wrought large Oval Knot (AP410) costs £9.95, as does the amazing, three-dimensional Glastonbury Sword (AP294) complete with runic inscription on the blade, back and front.

Each of these really smashing silver pendants to suit all tastes come gift-boxed and prices quoted are all-inclusive from Tantra designs, 48 Kensington Park Road, Bristol BS4 3HU (☎ 0117 9724708).



SOLUNAR

At a generous 12½in/31cm high, these delightful ceramic wall sconces will accommodate most sizes of candle and make an ideal setting for ritual or festive illuminations. Drilled, ready to hang on the wall, they cost £17.50 each from Snapdragon, 12 South Park, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1AN (☎ 01732 740252).

The warm, sandstone-coloured finish should fit in with most people's decor and there are two equally pleasing designs to choose from: a radiant Sun or Full Moon with stars. Or you could, of course, buy both or persuade someone else to do so as they would make an ideal gift and you could save money too with Snapdragon's special Xmas offer of £32.50 the pair.



DREAM MEANINGS



DECISION TIME

THE DREAM

I AM SUPPOSED to meet friends at the station to go to a show but fail to do so. I feel flustered when I see the train leaving and wonder whether I have missed out on something.

I realise that my friends will be back soon and feel uncomfortable about this. Suddenly a man makes an appearance but pays me no attention.

THE MEANING

IT seems that others are trying to influence you to take a route which does not attract you. Going to a show also signifies that there is a falsity about this path because the theatre is not reality.

Despite this, part of you wants to go along with others' ideas so there is a feeling here that, should you be offered a second chance, you would accept. The unhelpful man indicates that you are on your own in this decision.

WARNING

THE DREAM

I AM CYCLING along a busy road with my girlfriend when I am suddenly sucked under a large lorry. Apparently my face turns blue then white and when my girlfriend touches me I am cold.

My eyes are open and although I am dead I can hear her speak. She says, 'Have you gone to heaven?' and I reply, 'There is no such place.'

THE MEANING

DREAMS of accidents or death very rarely have any connection with real events. However, in a few cases they do, so should always be regarded as a warning to take extra care and avoid any potentially haz-

by SOPHIA DANIEL

Dreams are soon overlaid by waking thoughts making them impossible to remember unless something happens to 'break the dream.' Therefore it is a good idea to make a point of writing down any important dreams as soon as you wake, before attempting to do anything else.

ardous situation that does arise.

In the main, such dreams are about our need to examine the course we are on. Here the use of a bicycle denotes that great personal effort is being put into your present relationship and that this could lead to a clash of personalities with one party overcoming the other. In such an eventuality remorse could be followed by the symbolic death of the partnership as the result of some aggression.

BEACHED

THE DREAM

I AM ON a grey, empty beach when I come upon a large fish warehouse. Eagerly, I fill a bag with small fish that have green and red circles on their skins then walk up an incline to a sunny place.

THE MEANING

BEACHES are places of transition where the daily tides wash clear all signs of disturbance. So it would appear that you are in a transitional phase.

Fish usually represent spiritual food for thought so you enter your spiritual space for nourishment. This, in turn, leads you to higher levels of thought.

THE SEARCH

THE DREAM

I AM LOOKING at a piece of paper on the back seat of a car parked in an empty, grassless field. Then I am in the car's front seat leafing through a black briefcase but cannot find what I am looking for so zip up the case and put it aside.

THE MEANING

CARS are about our personalities and yours is parked in a grassless field. So, either you are currently in a barren space or the ground is being prepared for a new relationship.

You need, therefore, to look around you for signs. Your dream makes it plain that you are searching but it also tells you that you tend to give up easily and zip up your feelings and needs.

UNATTAINABLE DREAM

THE DREAM

MY EX-GIRLFRIEND, Trish and I are flying in a small plane when she appeared like a shadow, drawing away from me, and I felt sad. Next I am lying on my back on the pavement and Trish passes me by. She says, 'I will come in my own time' and I reply, 'make it soon.'

THE MEANING

FLYING high above the Earth often signifies that you are a high-flyer or have very high ideals. Perhaps Trish left you because she felt she couldn't live up to your expectations.

If so, this would account for the image of your dreams represented by Trish passing you by, leaving you vulnerable (lying on your back). You haven't come to terms with your unattainable dream and are still chasing it to the detriment of the outcome.

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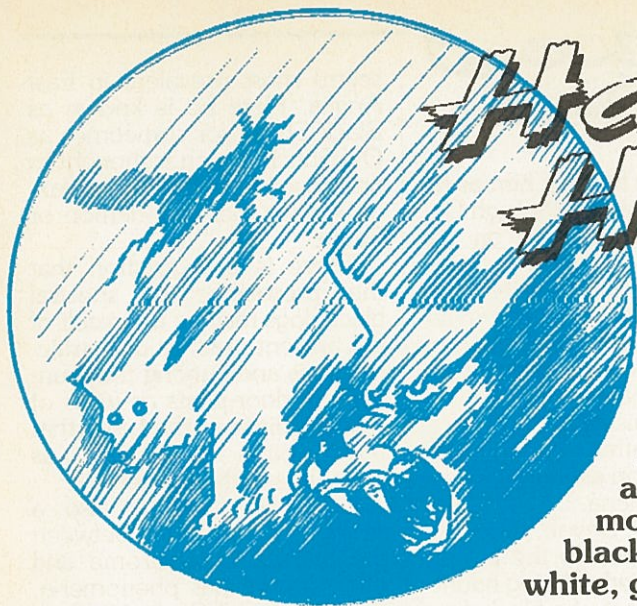
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Haunting Hounds

by JULIE BOYD

A large and complex folklore surrounds Black Dogs — in some senses a generic term meaning a supernatural canine. Though most reports describe them as black, there have been cases of white, grey, and brown 'black dogs.'

The legend of the black dog could be rooted in prehistory, yet it is in historical Britain where the legend is most fully documented. However, the phenomenon is based on a worldwide folklore which is known from England's West Country area to the American Deep South.

Unlike dogs of this world, spectral hounds seem to attach themselves more to places than to people. It is not completely unknown, however, for black dogs to attach themselves to certain families, perhaps in a way similar to the poltergeist phenomenon where spiritual energies are known to haunt a particular family for a period of time.

Indeed, such a real-life family legend inspired Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to write *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, probably one of his most famous Sherlock Holmes novels. Nevertheless, black dogs are more likely to be known as creatures who walk alone, often seen loping along river banks or lonely roads, or leaping over churchyard walls before disappearing among the tombstones.

Travellers may encounter a black dog on a dark, lonely road where the animal may ei-

ther menace him/her or guide him to safety out of a dangerous situation. Sometimes the presence of a spectral hound presages the death of the witness. In medieval and post-medieval manuscripts and chronicles of manifestations associated with witchcraft, the legendary black dog was regarded as a shape-shifter or even a manifestation of the Devil himself.

Apart from worldwide traditional beliefs, there are documented reports of alleged actual sightings. Witnesses to such encounters usually describe the dogs as quite large beasts and often mention the creature's bright, glowing eyes.

Sometimes, in fact, the witness claims to have seen little more than the eyes but, for one reason or another, assumes they belong to a ghostly dog. When the animal is seen, it doesn't matter how dark the night may be as his form is so much blacker that he can still be identified.

Those who have felt the animal brush past them or who have touched it describe the creature's coat as wiry like pig bristles. Such dogs are also said to appear in an instant and mysteriously vanish just as

quickly. Most such sightings are at crossroads, the animal having a tendency to appear on the left-hand side of the witness, cross the road from left to right, then disappear into a hedge with a rustle of leaves.

The first known written account survives in a French manuscript, *Annales Franco-rum Regnum* (856 AD). Here a chronicler records what happened after a sudden darkness enveloped a provincial church midway through a service. Apparently, a large black dog with fiercely glowing eyes appeared suddenly, dashed about the church as if searching for something and then vanished abruptly.

Then there is the well-documented Black Dog of Bungay (ten miles from Norwich). Here, on August 4th, 1577, a spectral hound suddenly appeared inside the church during a violent storm. The creature ran down the aisle killing two worshippers and injuring another by burning him severely. According to an old pamphlet, the two dead appear to have died from strangulation and the burned man was left looking like, 'a shrunken piece of leather scorched in a hot fire.'

Haunting Hounds

On the same day, a similar attack occurred inside a church in Blibery, a mere seven miles away. And it was during this 'great storm' that the Devil is said to have left his mark in Blythburgh church.

There is no shortage of 20th century sightings either. In rural Mississippi early this century, the black population told folklorist N.N. Puckett of huge black dogs with big red eyes glowing like chunks of fire-coal. Ethel H. Rudkin also collected a number of reports of such sightings in her native Lincolnshire and published them in a 1938 paper on folklore.

In the 1950s, George Ker-son received an account from Theodore Ebert of Pottsville, Pennsylvania, who told him that he had a childhood encounter with this mysterious beast. He was out one night walking with friends along Seven Stars Road when a big black dog appeared from nowhere and came between him and one of his friends. When he went to pat the dog, it simply disappeared instantly from right under his hand.

On October 25th, 1969, a hound the size of a great dane was reported to have steeped out in front of a moving car on Exeter Road in Okehampton. Before the driver could stop, the car passed right through the animal which then disappeared. In April 1972, in Great Yarmouth, a coastguard saw a large black dog on the beach. As he watched, it ran then stopped as if looking for someone, then simply vanished in front of his eyes. During the Spring of 1974, sightings of creatures which looked half-cat, half-dog were reported by Hampshire and Cheshire residents.

One Autumn night in 1984, a man noted seeing a large

black dog in front of him as he was driving his car through Devonshire. As he put on his brakes, the animal walked right up to the car and looked over the bonnet to stare at the driver with green, glassy eyes before vanishing completely from sight. The man recalled feeling the hair on his neck stand up: a sensation often experienced when a person encounters psychic phenomena.

In Uplyme, Devon, there is a legend attached to the inn. A local man, tired of being haunted by the ghost of a black dog, chased it into his attic where he struck at it with a pole. The dog escaped through the thatching but the pole disturbed some old beams and a cache of ancient coins fell to the floor. With the money, the man bought the pub which he renamed The Black Dog Inn after his ghostly intruder which, according to reports, can sometimes be seen running through the neighbourhood at dusk.

Dartmoor is infamous for the so-called Whist Hounds, or hounds of hell, said to be a pack of spectral dogs which haunt the locality. In Cornwall, these creatures are known as Dandy Dogs while in the North of England they are called Gabriel Hounds from the ancient term *gabbara* meaning 'dead body.'

The black dog phenomenon



seems most prevalent in East Anglia. Here he is known as Black Shuck, or sometimes as Old Shuck, which is thought to be derived from the Anglo-Saxon *scucca* meaning demon or Satan.

There is a suggestion that the prevalence of spectral black dogs may be the result of the ancient practice of sacrificing dogs and burying them under the door-posts or walls of new buildings in the belief that their spirits would act as guardians of the property.

However, there is also a strange connection between the black dog syndrome and other anomalous phenomena, in particular UFOs. In 1963, in South Africa, two men were driving along the Potchefstroom/Vereeniging Road one night when they observed a large dog-like creature crossing the highway in front of them. Minutes later, they also observed a UFO which buzzed their car several times, causing them to leave the scene in quite a hurry.

In 1973, in Georgia, USA, several youths claimed to have spotted a group of ten, big black hairy dogs run out of a landed UFO and through a cemetery in Savannah.

Ed Walters, in his book *The Gulf Breeze Sightings*, claimed to have had images of many dogs implanted in his mind during his alleged experiences with persistent UFO phenomena. In the Loch Ness area, famous for its reputed monster Nessie, there have also been sightings of UFOs as well as reports of spectral hounds.

There appears to be a connection with, or at least an overlap of seemingly separate categories of anomalous phenomena that pervade our world. Black dogs are observed in areas of reported UFO activity and other strange sightings. So, alongside other unexplained phenomena, these creatures remain a mystery.

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BOOK REVIEWS

10,000 DREAMS AND THEIR TRADITIONAL MEANINGS (Foulsham, £3.99/\$7.95)

THE TITLE SAYS it all, for the interpretations here are often very familiar from other dream-book formats. However, they are all detailed, often quite lengthy and with a little effort almost any meaning can be found to troublesome dreams by looking for the symbols dreamt about.

The little effort comes in because some descriptions come under slightly unexpected headings. For instance, it is best to look at Spy-glass or Telescope rather than Binoculars if these feature in your dreams; hopefully they don't, though, as this would mean unhappy arguments and loss of friends apparently. Similarly, look up Seamstress rather than Dressmaker (delayed visits and unexpected luck); but don't confuse Umbrella with Parasol as they offer totally differing omen.

However, once the reader masters the style, the old-fashioned terminology, the dream interpretations come alive. Best advice is to try and recall as much detail as possible and browse through the book until the right word is found then interpret the dream according to the symbols remembered.

This is not only fun to do but very helpful too, especially when a dream can be disturbing. Not all the meanings are obvious and some are contradictory but one can heed warnings if necessary or be pleased if the interpretation is helpful.

At this low price, a veritable bargain — every bedside should have a copy! — J.C.T.

MYTHS AND LEGENDS OF CORNWALL

by Craig Weatherhill & Paul Devereux (Sigma Leisure, £6.95)

A TRIP TO Cornwall is always a special experience because the South-West corner of this island is so very different from anywhere else. It has an atmosphere; there is 'something in the air,' a sense that there may be something unseen just beyond the corner of one's eye.

Hence an informative book such as this would be useful to take along in the suitcase or rucksack. The authors are certainly very thorough, recounting legends from the length and breadth of the county. Whether your special interest is ghosts, fairies, King Arthur, piskies or giants, there is almost bound to be an entry for you to read. Also covered are myths about the tin-mines,

standing stones and wells, plus a special chapter on ley-lines.

There are map-references, plenty of illustrations, a full index and a list of further reading. Weatherhill is a historian and Cornish speaker; Devereux is well-known for his investigations of ley-lines in print, on TV and radio. Together they form a winning combination and present a guide well worth reading. — J.T.M.

CELESTIAL CHARTS: Antique Maps of the Heavens by Carole Stott (Studio Editions, £12.99 hbk)

THIS BEAUTIFUL BOOK will enthral stargazers of every age. It is a fascinating selection of ancient star maps, superbly reproduced in their original colours, from diverse sources including museums, libraries and private collections.

Some of the illustrations and constellations are familiar, others are rarely seen and feature a wide range of wondrous beasts, strange creatures and unlikely objects which are not, perhaps, immediately associated with the heavens nowadays. Here are early depictions of the giraffe, toucan, bird of paradise, water snakes, etc alongside telescopes, sextants, sailing ships, lyres and air pumps!

This is a wonderful book, full of fascinating facts, not only about the gradual evolution of the constellations but also the ancient astronomers and map-makers who charted the heavens and the myths associated with them. The result is a superb collection of star-maps spanning the centuries which will be treasured by anyone who has ever gazed in awe at the night sky.

Highly recommended. — M.E.

IN THE ZONE by Michael Murphy & Rhea A. White (Penguin/Arkana, £7.99/\$11.95)

WHETHER YOU JOG, swim, run, meditate or just play golf, you could be on your way to attaining Nirvana. Or at least a state of grace comparable to the Satori of Zen masters and the Samadhi of Yogis. This is what Western athletes who have experienced it call being 'In the Zone.' And this is what Murphy and White have chronicled here.

There's no solid explanation as to how this state can be brought about, nor is any real attempt made to analyse it. Newspaper and interview accounts of one athlete after another is what you get, with the odd supposition thrown in

as filler. However, it's fascinating stuff.

With an extensive bibliography that spans some 115 pages out of a total 299, this reviewer found the price a little steep for what is essentially a collection of sporting stories. However, if you've got a penchant for discovering parallels between states of consciousness routinely experienced by mystics and those unexpectedly reported by 'ordinary' athletes, then this is a book for you. — D.A.

CELTIC GODDESSES by Miranda Green (British Museum Press, £20.00 hbk)

THIS COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY provides a stimulating study for the student and general reader. The author's knowledge and expertise are apparent from the text.

I found this book to be well researched and beautifully produced with 68 photographs and drawings of sacred sites, associated statuary and artefacts showing the role of women in Celtic society, myth and religion. Dr Green is a senior lecturer in Archaeology and Early Celtic studies and has written numerous publications on Celtic religion and mythology.

Here she provides the reader with an in-depth exploration of the history and development of the Goddess in the triple guise as warrior, virgin and mother as well as the significance of the female in Celtic belief and ritual as expressed in surviving archaeological remains and written sources. — C.B.

JUNG FOR BEGINNERS by Maggie Hyde & Michael McGuinness (Icon Books, £8.99)

UNLIKE MOST INTRODUCTORY books on the psychology of C.G.Jung, this one presents the subject in a light-hearted and amusing style. Basically, it tells the story of Jung's development from childhood onwards and shows how his thoughts and insights emerged from his own, at times, uncanny experiences.

The text is woven around a series of delightful cartoon-like illustrations by Michael McGuinness (I love the one of the 'animus dominated woman' on page 95, described as 'obstinate, ruthless and domineering, craving power and irrationally opinionated.' The profile is more than vaguely familiar!). The whole book carries the reader along and gathers that kind of momentum

(continued on page 73)

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BOOKS

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that makes it impossible to put down until you have read it from cover to cover.

Although a light-hearted introduction, it nevertheless brings out the serious essence of Jung's thought and method. Even if you consider yourself familiar with the subject and beyond the primer stage, you'll still find this book a delight to read. — R.H.

PSYCHIC FAMILIES

by **Cassandra Eason**
(Foulsham/Macmillan, £6.99)

THIS ENTERTAINING BOOK deals with psychic experiences that occur within families. Her research has revealed the frequency of sightings of ghosts of loved ones and interesting communications between living and dead family members, for instance.

It is well-known that emotional factors contribute to the production of extrasensory perception (ESP) and intense feelings are experienced within a family context far more readily than in any other sphere of human relationships. Therefore, death and danger to a loved one or, at the very least, someone with whom one is in constant contact, is virtually bound to facilitate psychic phenomena.

Eason goes into considerable depth and relates a variety of experiences which have been undergone by families under stress, emotional crisis, bereavement, etc. Again, it appears that the most acceptable and ultimately valid acknowledgements of psychic phenomena come within the realm of anecdotal evidence. This may be considered unscientific yet it takes a lot of beating!

An interesting and easily read book. — M.R.

OF WATER AND SPIRIT

by **Malidoma Patrice Some**
(Penguin/Arkana, £9.99/\$12.95)

A DIFFICULT BOOK to review because in some ways it is in the same genre as the fictional works of writers such as Lynne Andrews and Carlos Castaneda. It describes the initiation of an African shaman, although it is unclear whether African medicine men and women actually fit that description; especially how it is used as a cultural cliché by Western 'wannabes.'

The author was born in an African village and the first part of the book describes his early life with his grandfather. The middle section, as it were, deals with his negative experiences at a

Jesuit mission school where he suffered mental and physical abuse until finally returning to his village and being initiated into the spiritual ways of his people.

I have little knowledge of African village life or the magical beliefs of its people so it is difficult for me to judge genuineness or otherwise of this book. Ultimately, the reader must decide for him/herself whether the beliefs and practices described in this work come out of Africa or are a product of Californian dreaming. — M.H.

EARLY PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

by **Olaf Pederson**
(Cambridge University Press, £19.95/£55.00 hbk)

THOSE WISHING TO acquaint themselves with the development of scientific knowledge in the Western world will find this book both fascinating and illuminating. The author throws the main focus on the gradual emergence of the mathematical description of nature, mainly in the science of astronomy and, to a lesser extent, in mechanics and physics.

Each of the 20 chapters deals with an important theme in the history of scientific discovery and exploration. Pederson begins with how speculative knowledge of the universe started to take shape in pre-Classical Greek times, then leads on to what Plato, Aristotle and their fellow contemporaries had to say on the subject.

From here we proceed through the centuries until the Middle Ages when the first stirrings of the modern scientific spirit became evident. The final chapter looks into the enormous flowering of scientific thinking that emerged in the Renaissance, with the figures of Galileo and Copernicus naturally taking the spotlight.

Altogether an excellent introduction. It is especially helpful for those who want to delve deeper into the subject for it contains a huge bibliography as well as an extensive biographical account of all the major figures in the history of science. — R.H.

TAROT: The Complete Handbook for the Apprentice

by **Eileen Connolly**
(Thorsons, £10.99)

THIS GREAT LITTLE book was first published in 1979 and has since established itself as a modern classic on the interpretation of the Tarot.

The object of this book is to offer concise reference to anyone interested in investigating and interpreting the fascinating symbology of the Tarot in relation to the Cabbala, astrology and numerology as well as straightforward divination. It also teaches the reader as simply as possible how to work with and understand the cards themselves.

The book is divided into three sections covering basic lessons and exercises, Major and Minor mentors, and procedures for laying out the cards and, of course, reading them. Well written and easy to follow, there are individual explanations for each card and suit plus collective coverage of the court cards and Minor Arcana.

An excellent ready reference and guide to the Tarot, especially for the novice who should feel inspired to take the subject even further. — C.B.

MUHAMMAD: Man and Prophet

by **M.A. Salahi**
(Element, £24.99 hbk)

IN THIS EXHAUSTIVE biographical study, Salahi presents what is undoubtedly one of the most comprehensive, contemporary accounts of the prophet Muhammad's life. He also manages to conjure a colourful description of the turbulent historical context and unpromising desert culture from which Islam sprang.

The author's stated purpose is to reaffirm the religious roots of those Europeanised Muslims who have grown away from their faith and to confront the common misunderstandings about Islam which trouble many non-Muslim Westerners. Unfortunately, while this book will probably appeal to the converted, its style and content may do less to assuage the non-believer's fears.

Not only does Salahi adopt a very limited historical perspective, based on Islamic teaching, but his faith often disguises a failure to engage with the most basic human psychology so that Muhammad the Man is largely eclipsed by Muhammad the Prophet. The overall result is rather disappointing; a massive and costly work which, far from confronting people's misconceptions about Islam, displays many of the characteristics that arouse their suspicion. — M.M.

CELTIC MYTHS & LEGENDS

by **T.W. Rolleston**
(Senate, £1.99)

CLEVERLY REPRODUCED FROM what looks like the original plates for both text and illustrations, the Rolleston collection of myths and legends from our Celtic past is full of interesting and often delightful tales. These are the occult equivalent of old-fashioned fairy-stories, with some ingrained truths of past customs and beliefs which rely on hard facts too.

Many of these legends have formed the basis of occult traditions handed down over generations. They can be read as enchanting myths or as valuable knowledge told in story form to make it palatable for the sceptical.

Interwoven with these legends are comments by the author which put

(continued overleaf)

BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

many of the tales into a better perspective. As a record of past, pre-Christian beliefs this work provides useful information that is very easily digestible.

Ireland, Wales, themes linked to the Otherworld, the Celtic traditions we know, plus some that are unfamiliar — all come flooding back like a race memory. An enjoyable book, to be read with delight. — J.C.T.

THE ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ESSENTIAL OILS

by Julia Lawless
(Element, £16.99)

THE AUTHOR is well qualified to write this book having been a practising aromatherapist for many years. This, her latest literary work, is simply excellent: over 250 pages absolutely crammed with information and superbly illustrated in full colour throughout.

Accurately subtitled as 'The Complete Guide to the Use of Oils in Aro-

matherapy and Herbalism,' this is a very comprehensive study of a fascinating and increasingly popular subject. The book is divided into three major sections; Part 1 offers an introduction to aromatics, Part 2 provides a therapeutic index and the final section covers the oils specifically.

The main body of the work dedicates a page to each plant, detailing its botanical genus, appearance, characteristics, constituents, actions, various herbal and aromatherapeutic/domestic uses, related species and, most importantly, safety data. This is superbly presented and easy to follow even for the uninitiated; truly a practical guide.

Other chapters cover the historic roots of medical herbalism and aromatics, basic biology, differing methods of usage, etc. In fact, everything you need to know is contained within these beautifully illustrated, sensibly written pages, including useful addresses of sources of essential oils worldwide.

Thoroughly recommended to practitioner and novice alike. — M.E.

THE ANATOMY OF FATE:

Astrology and Kabbalah
by Z'ev Ben Shimon Halevi
(Penguin, £6.99/\$10.95)


UNLIKE MOST ASTROLOGY books, this one focuses on a much deeper dimen-

sion. By viewing astrology in the context of Cabbala the author illumines the profound philosophical and mystical roots upon which it is based. The end result is that we come to see astrology not just as a method of character analysis and prognostication but as a symbolic language that can be utilised to understand the deeper meaning of life and of the cosmos as a whole.

After giving a brief account of the emergence of human knowledge, the author explores the ancient notion that man (the microcosm) is a symbolic embodiment, a reflection in miniature, of the total forces of the cosmos (the macrocosm). Man, according to Cabbalistic and other esoteric teachings, occupies a position in the manifest creation about halfway between the lowest spark of life and the Divine being.

Inherent in this scheme of manifestation is a pattern of emanation, a dynamic creative movement which contains an evolutionary impetus. By understanding the insights of Cabbala and astrology it is possible to become more consciously aware of this system, thus attain greater mastery of Fate.

Despite the author's rather pompous and stilted writing style, this book is well worth the effort for it is a very reliable guide to the great mysteries and meanings which lie at the heart of astrology. — R.H.



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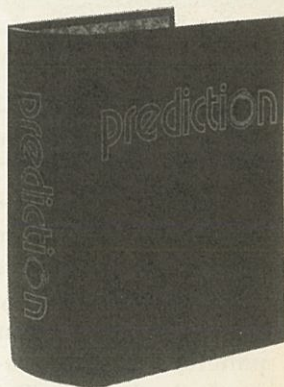
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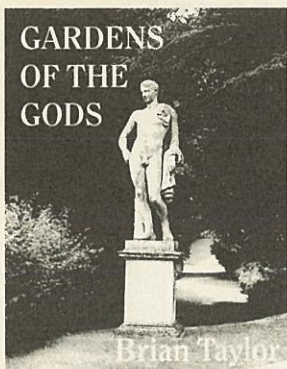
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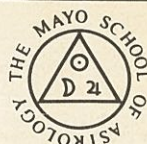
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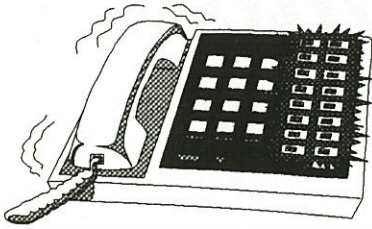
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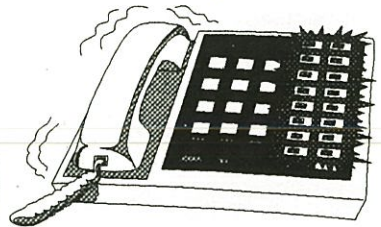
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