

# prediction



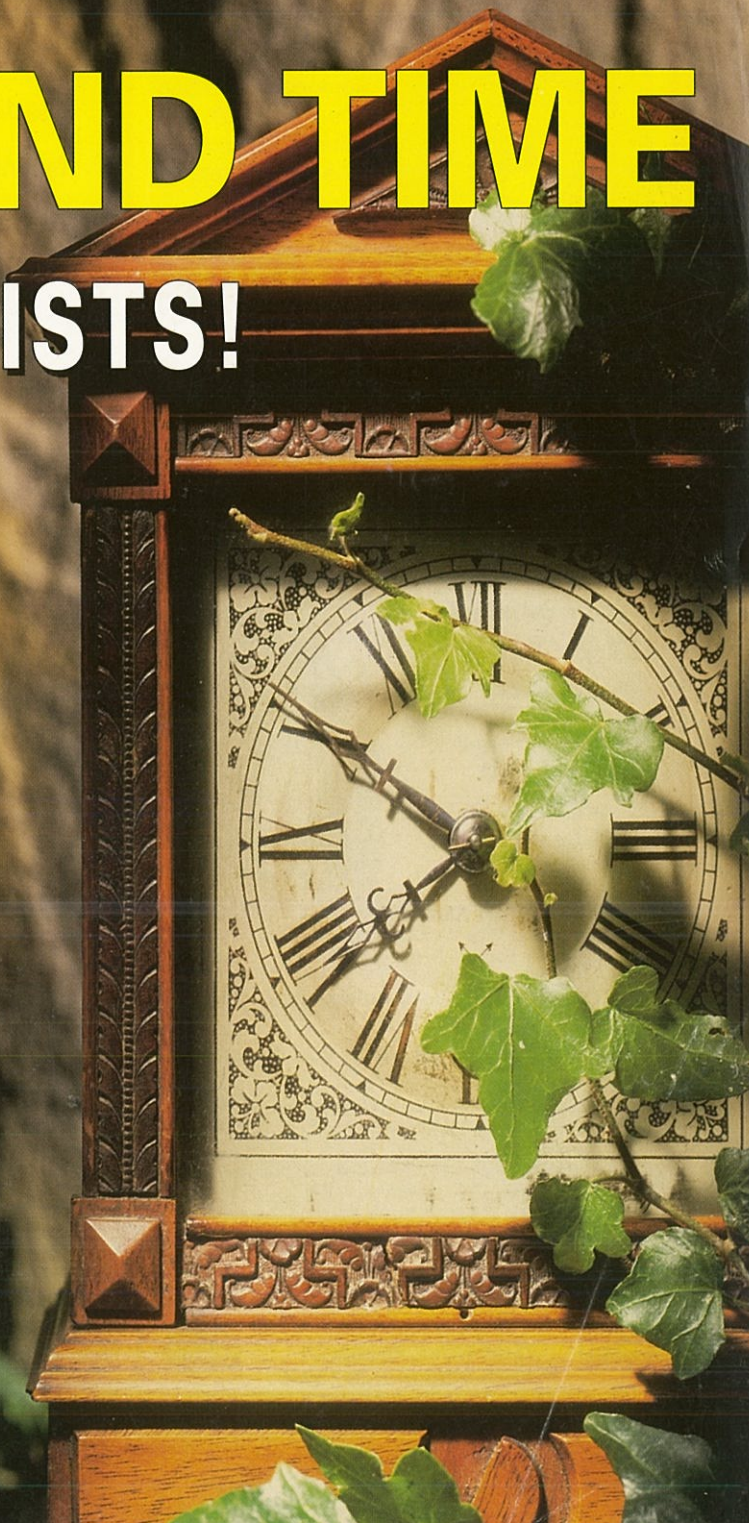
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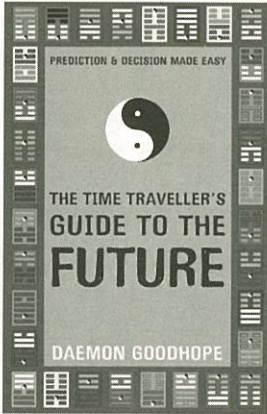
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Cover photography by Tony Petch.

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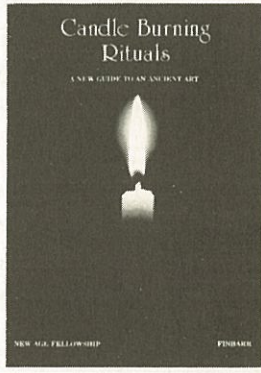
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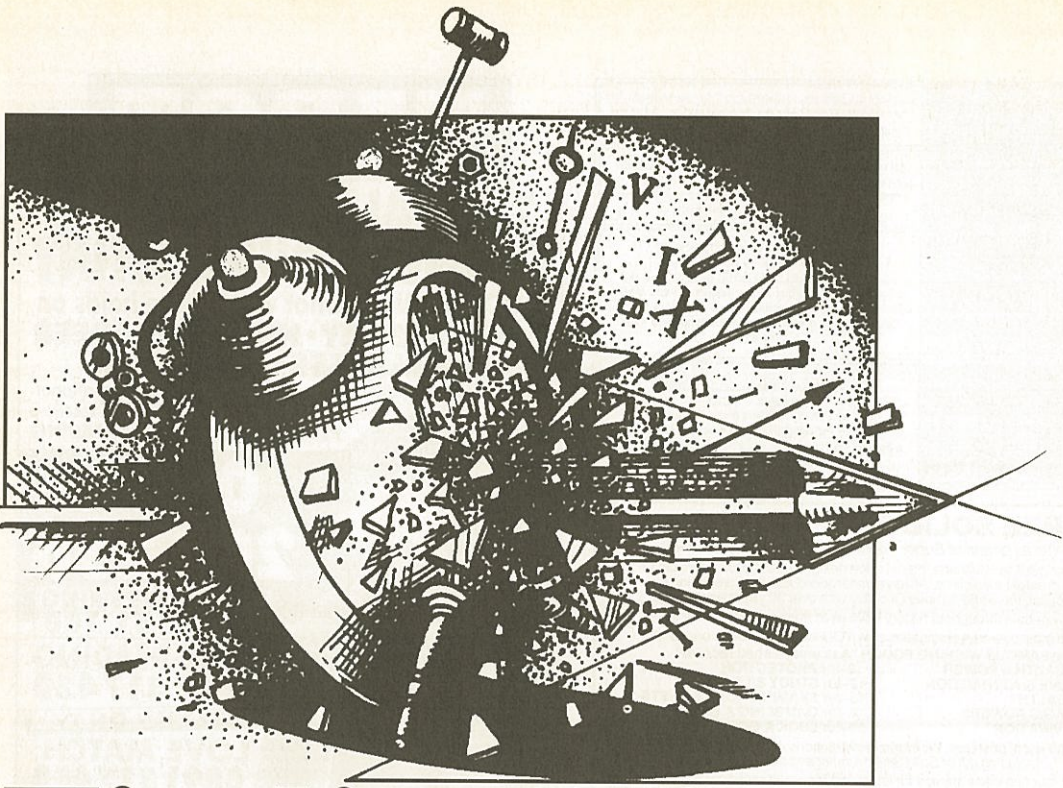
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# Finding Time by GAELLEN

**How can one possibly see the future from the present? This is the cry of many a sceptic.**

This monotonous beat is usually accompanied by a string of pseudo-logic, in which the phenomenon of divination is thoroughly disproved to the cynic's satisfaction. These blinkered arguments do not, however, fool the mystic.

To achieve a greater understanding of prediction, we must look further than the events themselves. The mechanisms or possible mechanisms involved need to be inspected with an intelligent and enlightened approach.

A mystic using such methods is much like a scientist. Scientists, however, would never agree that the mystical approach is scientific. Science is unfortunately too bound up in its self-imposed restrictions to accept mystical disclosure.

The mechanism at the core of prediction is time. Theories of time exist which show that

the process of prediction can be logical. In particular, the combination of a pair of opposing theories presents the possibility of a time outside of time.

This opens up new vistas to those who have only ever seen time as an enemy. Because of its connection with divination, I will refer to this alternative concept of time as Divine Time.

Before presenting an explanation, it is necessary to contrast this concept with aspects of time to which we usually relate. The two major ones being cyclical time and linear time.

## **The arrow of time**

The idea that time corresponds to the metaphor of 'the arrow of time' is known as the linear concept. This idea represents time as an exceedingly long line with the past at one end and the future at the other.

The arrow flies from the past

into the future and wherever it is positioned on the line of flight represents the present, or now. Each new 'now' is different from any old now and any portion of the arrow's flight corresponds to the duration of any now.

The accepted image of this metaphor is life's journey from the cradle to the grave. This path is marked by retrospective milestones, such as leaving school, or turning points like falling in love.

The alternative to linear time is that of cyclical time. An awareness of the passing of the seasons, the rising of the Sun and the phases of the Moon highlights this concept.

Mechanical, electronic and atomic clocks have been built which designate this sort of time with varying degrees of accuracy. This feat has been accomplished to the extent that our lives appear to be governed by this pedantic machine.

Modern society does not rise



with the Sun and rest when it sets. We tend to distort our personal rhythms to fit the machine rather than the rhythms of nature. Yet our internal clocks are not governed by man-made machines but by natural cycles.

For instance, Geoffrey Workman lived in a cave for 100 days and his sleep/wake cycle settled at 24.7 hours. Similar effects have been found on Antarctic research bases during the long Winter night period. Without the Sun's presence, our internal clocks are regulated nearer to a 25 hour period than the accepted 24 hour day.

The human biological clock consists of a pair of small, clustering cell bodies called the suprachiasmatic nuclei in the hypothalamus and close to the optic nerve. In the brain, this is in the region of the pineal gland which is accepted as being the 'third eye.'

These two areas make up part of the old reptilian brain and in some lizards the pineal is connected to a light-sensitive membrane. So, in the brain, sight, foresight and time appear to be interconnected.

Chronobiologists believe that the internal clock is governed by an environmental clock referred to as a *zeitgeber* or time-giver. The Sun is a powerful example of this and takes the majority of control.

The 25 hour cycle which occurs in the absence of the Sun is the resulting synthesis of the Lunar and Solar cycles. Bodily rhythms apart from that of the sleep/wake cycle are profoundly influenced by these two celestial bodies.

So, do the two concepts of time so far described provide us with a logical explanation of divination, the ability to experience future events? I think not.

If time is linear, the past is the past and only accessible through our fading memories; the present is here and changing but the future remains logically inaccessible.

There is also a problem with cyclical time. Each cycle is different from any other. So, although we may be able to predict that a Spring will follow Winter, we cannot logically predict the events which make this Spring a different Spring from the preceding one.

So, to provide a satisfactory logical explanation for the varying forms of divination, we certainly need a better concept of time than the two so far described. Perhaps we can get a better perspective by considering the origin of time.

*'The idea of time having a beginning appears contradictory.'*

### Start the clock

Physicist Stephen Hawking believes that time began with a 'Big Bang.' Researchers Andrei Linde and Alan Guth have shown how a tiny seed of energy, smaller than the nucleus of an atom, could have triggered this supposed Big Bang.

Convincing though their arguments may be, the lack of information about the origin of this 'tiny seed of energy' precludes any convincing scientific declaration on the start of time. Indeed, many cosmologists and physicists regard these questions as beyond the scope of science.

If one asks Hawking about the events which occurred before this explosion, he glibly states that it is like asking what is North of the North Pole, implying that no further information is available. This reasoning aptly illustrates the restrictions

of reductionist thinking.

Critical inspection reveals that either there was something occurring before the Big Bang or that there was nothing before it. In either case there is an earlier time at which there is either something or nothing occurring.

Thus the idea of time having a beginning appears contradictory. If time began it would imply that there was a moment before this beginning at which time did not exist. Very simply, this reasoning suggests a time which is earlier than the earliest time!

### Two-timing

In the face of scientific befuddlement, the mystic produces reason from myth. Chronos was a primeval god who was also known as Aeon. Chronos emerged from the darkness and fashioned a primordial silver egg out of the Aether, thus creating the cosmos.

This legend implies that there was definitely something occurring before time began. Also, that Chronos was part of that previous time.

Supporting information can be gleaned from the thoughts of philosophers. Plato divided reality into two types — two realities — each of which related to time in a different way.

One involved the impermanent or imperfect being and belongs to the realm of things which come into existence and pass away in time. The other, true being, belonged to the everlasting, the eternal. The former reality can be regarded as encompassing both linear and cyclical time, the latter is involved with eternity.

'Eternity is the possession all at once of unlimited life.' This traditional description of eternity was propounded by medieval philosophers such as Boethius and Aquinas. This idea reveals the ownership, 'all at once' or instantaneously, of something that has no beginning or end.

Take, for instance, a life which is eternal and experi-



# Finding Time

enced instantaneously. Not only does this mean that the whole gamut of life is enjoyed simultaneously, it also means that no single part of the life is earlier or later than any other part. An entity enjoying this sort of life could be considered as a deity.

Modern Theists, theologians and philosophers, however, do not seem to understand the existence of a deity in terms of a single instant. They make the mistake of assuming that the instant at which God exists is a part of time and not one of the infinitely many instants which exist outside of time.

The Chronos myth implies that he emerged out of Divine Time and created a universe with its own time. This would indicate that Chronos exists in what the medieval theologians call the *nunc stans*, meaning 'the standing now.'

Beings who exist in time exist in the 'moving now.' Thus a polarity emerges which is cognisant of the Yin and Yang principle.

## Tensed up

It is commonly accepted that left brain activity is logical and limited, whereas right brain activity is abstract and infinite. Language functioning takes place almost exclusively in the logical left brain, while symbolism is the realm of the abstract right brain.

We refer to time in the English language using the past, present and future tenses. It is difficult to convey the concept of a time outside time with this linguistic construction.

The Hopi language, for instance, does not suffer these grammatical restrictions. So a Hopi Indian would find it easier to understand the concept of Divine Time.

There are two opposing theories of time which go hand in hand here, one called the Tensed theory, the other known as the Tenseless theory. The first suggests that events are either future, present or past; the latter implies that all events exist equally, regardless of whether they are earlier or later than today.

It is logical to assume that if something exists but is neither future present or past, then it exists outside of time. It exists in the *nunc stans* from which Chronos emerged. We could say, therefore, that Chronos

*'Eternity is the possession all at once of unlimited life.'*

exists in tenseless time and the universe exists in tensed time.

The important point is this: if something exists outside of time, it can exist simultaneously with the events which are in time. So a being outside of time, in the 'standing now,' can be instantaneously aware of all the events occurring simultaneously in the 'moving now.' In relation to time, this being would be everywhere instantaneously.

## The all-seeing eye

To create an analogy, imagine a dandelion seed cluster: that round, white, diaphanous puff-ball which floats on the Autumnal air. An imaginary observer on the circumference would be aware of the events occurring on the surface of the ball only as far as the range of the horizon.

For instance, if you stand on

the surface of the world and look around you, you will see only a minute portion of the total surface. This means that only a minuscule proportion of the events that are occurring on the surface of the dandelion seed-ball are available to the observer.

Now, imagine an all-seeing eye that can observe 360 degrees in all dimensions and place it at the centre of the seed-ball. This common point will be able to register all the events that are occurring on the surface of the ball in any one instant, and continuously for all other instants.

An observer on the surface requiring information about events anywhere on the ball needs, therefore, only to contact the information source at the centre of the ball. Extend this analogy so that the common point registers all events instantaneously in the past and future and you have an idea of Divine Time.

Human brain anatomy shows a connection between the sense of sight, foresight and time; but the correspondences do not end there. Plato's polarity of realities — true being and imperfect being — correspond with other polarities in the concept of Divine Time.

Imperfect being belongs to the 'moving now' which corresponds to logic, linguistics, the tensed theory of time and morality. These are all left brain oriented or the Yang principle.

The alternative polarity, true being, belongs to the 'standing now' and is abstract, non-linguistic and relates to the tenseless theory of time and eternity. Those are all right brain oriented or the Yin principle.

For the mystic it is sometimes the little things that whisper in your ear which are important. There is information at the edge of awareness which is sometimes teasing to process. Nevertheless, it is there. It is part of the whole process of being, of living, of existence.



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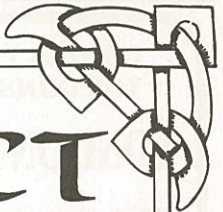


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# GRAPHOLOGY

by PETER MARSHALL

## POINTS OF YOU

**To see ourselves as others see us is very important but to see ourselves as we actually are is absolutely vital.**

Every one of us has his or her own point of view on the world and everyday happenings which gives us our ideas and opinions. Our approach to everything is founded on our character and personality.

The measure of situations and how we accept them often relies upon our degree of emotional response. The five examples here will illustrate various reactions to most circumstances in daily life.

The first writer does not like to express her true feelings and reactions freely. This is inhibited in her leftward slant of

introversion. This script is broadly round without any angular formations. Therefore she is not by nature aggressive, but fundamentally friendly.

Word spacing is rather wide implying that the writer prefers to keep others at a distance for self-protective reasons as a defence against imposition. Consequently this writer, although affable, is not really easy to penetrate and understand readily. The capital I points to a creative ability if cultivated. The lower projections are not greatly emphasised and display only average

interest in physical urges.

Number two leans markedly to the right. This has extrovert connotations with quick receptivity to all kinds of stimuli from the world outside. There is a highly sensitive awareness and quick reaction to sadness and happiness.

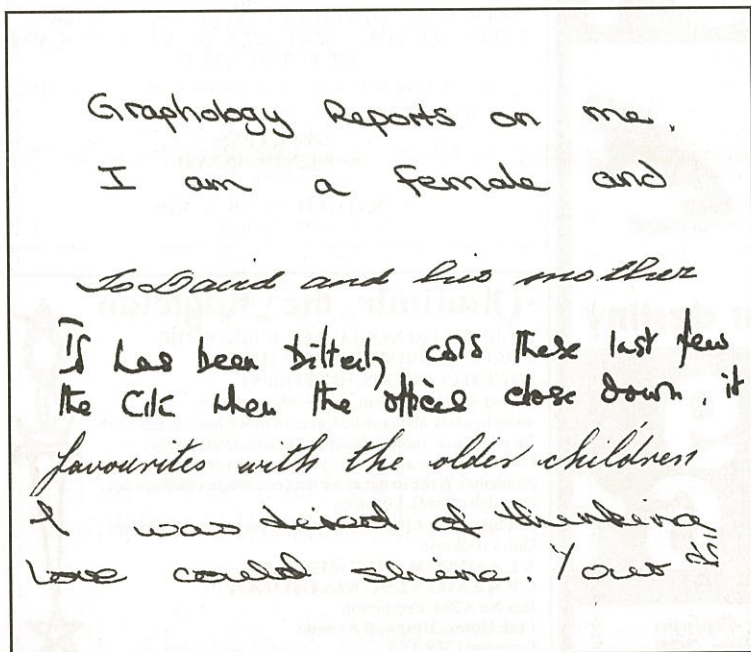
Word spacing is acceptably controlled, showing regularity in most circumstances. The t-bars of the lower case are normally placed showing an average degree of ambition. The middle zone height is one millimetre, so self-esteem is not greatly active.

The loops in the upper extensions are slightly inflated which is a feature of a certain amount of imagination. The height of the i-dot also confirms this.

Our third specimen has a vertical style exhibiting independence, self-containment, impartiality and cool-headedness. Short endings or final adjustments are brief which alludes to a rather blunt statement of opinions and ideas. Again the spacing of words is slightly wide revealing that 'keep your distance' attitude.

The capital I is interesting as it has both strokes top and bottom made apart from the stem. This suggests some complex troubles regarding the writer's inner self and private life hidden below the surface.

There is a pull between the upper zone of mind and the lower one of body. In a number of cases here and the remainder of the script the i is small. The arcade forms manifest some reserve and are often seen in the writing of artistically inclined individuals.



(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 Leliew, The Edware 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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# NEWS & VIEWS

## Far out!

**Over 6.3 billion miles from the Earth in fact.** That is the incredible distance spacecraft Voyager 1 has travelled since its launch in August 1977. So, in 20 years, it has reached a point more than twice as far from the Sun as Neptune — and is moving even further away at something approaching 40,000 miles an hour.

Indeed, Voyager 1 and 2, launched the same year, are now passing through the outermost regions of the Solar system on their unimaginable journey into the outer reaches of the cosmos. Still sending back signals to the Earth, the two spacecraft have enough power to continue operating for another 20 years or so: the mind simply boggles at what they may encounter on this incredible journey into outer space!

## Classes/courses

**The Wessex Astrologer Intermediate Astrology** classes take place in Central Bournemouth every Thursday evening (7-9pm). Although classes started in October, each session can be attended sepa-

ately at a cost of £3.50, so it's not too late to go along. Bookings/details from Margaret Cahill on ☎01202 424695.

**A new series of Tuesday evening Tarot classes** begins on December 9th in Sheen, London SW14. 7.30-10pm; £15 per class including dinner. For more details call ☎0181-876 2833.

**The International Institute of Projectology and Conscientiology (IIPC)** is running a series of free introductory lectures, open to the public, on Friday evenings in London, starting at 7pm.

*Verb and Action* is the title of the talk on November 14th and *Evolutionary Hierarchy* the one on December 5th. To book a place or for more information on these talks or the work of the IIPC ☎/FAX 0171-637 2849.

**There are still a few adult education places available** on Philip Solomon's *Psychic Awareness* courses for beginners and advanced students in Birmingham. If interested, contact Linda on ☎0121 444 8078 for places at the

Swanhurst Centre, Billesley, or Anne on ☎0121 360 7126 for the Great Barr Adult Education Centre location. Or write direct to Philip c/o PO Box 141, Willenhall, West Midlands WV13 3QR with SAE for details.

**The newly established Scottish Tarot School** offers a one-year *Diploma Course in Tarot Studies* which will enable successful candidates to join the register of the Professional Tarot Society. Classes take place on alternate Monday evenings (7.30-9.30pm) at the Seminar Room, STS, 1st Floor, 90 Quarry Street, Hamilton, South Lanarkshire ML3 7AX starting January 12th 1998.

The complete course costs £200 including examination and assessment (which takes place November '98) if paid in monthly instalments or £180 if paid in full before January 31st; a £50 deposit is required by December 1st in either case as places are strictly limited. For more details and information on distance learning facilities for students unable to attend evening classes, write to

## December Diary Dates

**3rd-7th. Mind, Body, Spirit Festival** at Halls 4 & 5, Sydney Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, Australia. 11-6pm Wed & Thur, 10-7pm Fri — Sun. Free programme/details (02) 9552 6833.

**5th. Resounding Experience: Tibetan Singing Bowls** with Susan Green for BAPS South London Branch at 56 Otford Close, Penge, SE20. Starts 7.45 pm; £2/£3 non-members. Enquiries ☎0181- 289 9126/653 7993/657 6711.

**5th. Introduction to Feng Shui.** Evening talk with Anosha for Isle of Avalon foundation at Georges Room, Glastonbury Experience, 2-4 High Street, Glastonbury, Somerset. 7.30-9.30 pm; £5/£4 concessions. Enquiries ☎01458 833933.

**5th-7th. School of Channelling Certificate Course Part 3** (intermediate level, for those who have taken Parts 1 &

2) at Runnings Park, Croft Bank, West Malvern, Worcs WR14 4DU. Starts Friday evening; £189 fully residential/£135 non-residential. Bookings/details from Runnings Park or ☎01684 573868/FAX 01684 892047.

**6th. Inward Harmony Fair, presented** by Twelfth House, at Sheen Lane Centre, Sheen Lane, London SW14. Stalls, sculptures, cafe, music plus free talks on the hour including astrology, Reiki, healing, Tarot. 2-10pm; entrance £3 inc free raffle & programme. (10% profits to charity). Enquiries ☎0181-876 2833/892 8424.

**6th-7th. Introduction to Bach Flower Remedies.** Weekend seminar with Gale Halleran for Isle of Avalon Foundation in Miracles Room (see 5th for venue or ☎01358 833933). 10-5 pm daily; £60/£40 concessions.

**7th. Casting the Horoscope workshop** with Graeme Tobyn for The

Company of Astrologers at Kingsway College, Holborn Centre, Three Cups Yard, Sandland Street, London WC1R 4PZ. 12.30-5pm; £20/£19 one week in advance. Bookings/details ☎01227 362427.

**8th. The Alchemy of Relationships.** Evening talk with Jay Ramsey at Alternatives, St James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, London W1V 0LL (☎0171-287 6711/FAX 0171-734 7449). Starts 7pm; £6/£3 unwaged.

**9th. Bromley Astrological Association Christmas Meeting** with charts, discussions and lots of fun at the Small Hall, Bromley Central Library, High Street, Bromley. 7.30-10 pm; £1/£3 non-members. Enquiries ☎0181-464 2097.

**10th. Nodes, Needs and No Nodes** with Christine Gear for The Scottish Astrological Association at The Theosophical Society, 28 Great King Street, Edinburgh. 7.30 pm; £1/£2 non-mem-



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# NEWS & VIEWS

the principal, Collette Halket, at address given or ☎01698 891900.

**A Vedic Astrology Beginner's Course** with Komilla Sutton begins in January and is available both in London and Romsey, Hampshire. The London sessions are on Tuesdays, January 20th-March 24th, 7-10pm, at the ASC/Urania Trust, 396 Caledonian Road, London N1 1DN. The Romsey sessions are on Mondays, January 12th-March 16th, 7-10pm, at Town Hall, Market Square, Romsey, Hants.

The cost of this ten-week intensive course is £60 or £50 if paid in full by December 20th. Bookings/details write to Vedic Astrology Beginner's Course, 2 Tee Court, Romsey, Hants SO51 8GY or call ☎01794 524178.

## Way out!

**The strange and the mysterious**, from crop circles and unknown beasts to UFOs and alien implants, have always had popular appeal but are now enjoying an even wider audience thanks to such TV pro-

grammes as *The X-Files* and *Dark Skies*. Evidence for such apparently inexplicable phenomena is the subject of a very unusual exhibition, *The Unexplained*, from the National Museum of Photography, Film & Television.

Here, at the Museum's temporary location while its original site is undergoing extensive redevelopment, is an unique opportunity to see, at first-hand, evidence for these world famous phenomena and make up your own mind what such images convey. The venue is a converted textile mill in Bradford's Little Germany district and the exhibition opens on November 22nd. For more details call ☎0171-371 3333.

## New ventures

**The Occult Emporium is the** name of a newly launched mail order company (run by Wiccans) which offers a wide range of magical equipment and ritual paraphernalia including wands, staffs, athames, oils, inks, incenses, jewellery etc.

For a catalogue send your name, address and first-class stamp to The Occult

Emporium, PO Box 125, Carlisle, Cumbria CA5 6GB.

## Making history Testimony Films is seeking

people willing to share their experiences, specifically of fortune-telling and astrology, for an oral history programme on Channel 4 TV. Here is part of a letter we received from Maria Acton, Associate Producer of Testimony Films, 12 Great George Street, Bristol BS1 5RS to whom any relevant information should be sent.

'In the 1930s economic depression led to a huge upsurge of interest in astrology and fortune-telling. National newspapers started printing daily horoscopes in 1930 and these were an instant hit. In the fairground and down the pier the fortune-teller was a must and people were experimenting with ways to discover their destiny through such practices as tealeaf divining and palmistry.

'If you were involved in predicting the future during the 1930s, 1940s or 1950s, or if your destiny changed as a result of a reading, please write to me with your memories.'

bers. Details/enquiries ☎0131 557 2908.

**12th. Dolphins. An evening lecture** with Yana for the New Dawn Network at The Friends Meeting House, Holloway Road, Dorchester. Starts 8pm; admission £3. Details ☎01305 760213.

**12th-14th. School of Channelling Certificate Course Part 3** at Runnings Park (see 5th-7th for details or ☎01684 573868). £189 fully residential/£135 non-residential.

**13th-14th. Inner Sound and Voice Workshop.** An introductory weekend on using your voice for healing with Jill Purce at Regent's College, Regents Park, London. 10-5pm daily; £89. Bookings/details ☎0181-444 4855.

**13th-14th. A Festival of Body/Mind/Spirit** at the Belle Vue Community Hall, Belle Vue Road, Cinderford, Glos offers a variety of stalls,

readers and workshops; vegetarian catering available. 10-5pm daily; £3 entrance. Enquiries to the Forest Light Complementary Therapy & Healing Centre ☎01594 825662.

**15th. Psychology of the Millennium** with Chris Robertson. Evening talk at Alternatives, St James's Church, Piccadilly, London W1 (☎0171-287 6711). Starts 7pm; £6/£3 unwaged.

**20th. Sacred Sites of Glastonbury.** Guided tour, meditation and visualisation with Rob Deavall for Isle of Avalon Foundation starting with short talk and slide show at Georges Room (see 5th for venue or ☎01458 833933). 10-4 pm; £15/£10 concessions.

**20th-21st. Mind, Body, Spirit festival** at The Stanley Palace, Watergate Street, Chester offers range of stalls, vegetarian restaurant and full workshop programme. Also evening of healing with

Sam Ng on the Sunday, 7-11pm. 10-6pm daily, £2/£1 concessions. Details ☎01244 311425.

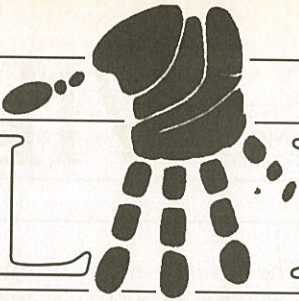
**22nd. Winter Solstice Celebration** with the Alternatives team at St James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, London W1V 0LL. For more information ☎0171-287 6711/FAX 0171-734 7449.

**29th-January 1st. New Year's Gathering** at Guant's House, Dorset. Four days of relaxation, meditation and celebration. Fully residential £210. Bookings/details ☎01202 841522.

**29th-January 3rd. New Year Workshop: Awakening the Dreambody.** A bridge to magical perception with Leo Rutherford & Howard G. Charing at the luxurious Grimstone Manor, Yelverton, Devon. Bookings/details from Andrew Dawson, Down the Line Promotions, Shepherds Cottage, Taviton Lane, Tavistock PL19 9JL or call ☎01822 615261.



# PALMISTRY



by PETER WEST

## A GOOD SPORT

**Career guidance is an area in which palmistry can help by pointing out the individual's strengths and weaknesses. Here the hands of an athlete are examined.**

To be a successful athlete and all-round sportsman a strong personality and dedication are needed. Patience, enthusiasm, good health and a sense of personal responsibility come close behind because, when and if such a person reaches the heights, many people (including the young and impressionable) look to him or her for inspiration.

Thus we must also include leadership qualities, good manners and an instinctive consideration for others, good organising ability and, obviously, a love of sport.

Our subject this month has all of these qualities in abundance. I have known Steven for many years and have watched him grow from a rather quiet but determined youngster into a steady, mature young man — still equally determined.

Throughout these years he has always had a love of sport. He will take part in rugby, football, tennis and squash with more or less equal enthusiasm. He has competed in two London Marathons, 1991 and 1995 and has been involved in a couple of 'Swimathons' which did his personal self-esteem a power of good. In both endeavours he helped raise money for charity.

A keen gymnast, he works

out regularly and has his own gymnastic equipment at home. To stay fit and healthy he runs a few miles EVERY morning.

On a personal level he is always polite and considerate which is reflected in his job as a supervisor in a bank's public relations department. But he has an ambition to train as a physiotherapist, an aim he has had for some time.

When we turn to look at Steven's hands several factors vie for immediate attention. The sheer size of his hands in relationship to his body is quite an eye opener. Both hands measure just over 7in/18cm from the tip of the middle finger to the first rascette. The maximum width across the palm is a shade over 3½in/9cm.

Both hands are held open even when relaxed so here we have a well supported love of action. In such a case outdoor pursuits have to attract. There will be an obvious dislike of petty bureaucracy.

In fact, any restraint, unless natural or necessary, will not be liked at all. Here is a spirit that has to be free to follow his path through life his way and follow it he will.

This rather smacks of being a trifle selfish and at the base phalange of each of the fingers there is a well-developed front-facing bulge to support this.

The thumbs are strong but carried just a little too close to the palm, offsetting any personal or obvious bossiness but suggesting a character you don't push around.

Apart from his physical build, which is quite forbidding, these hands tell you to come to the point straightaway and be reasonable.

The base of the palm is full, perhaps over-full and dominates the rest of the hand completely. When this base section is overdeveloped and the wrist at the actual joint to the palm is quite thick the personality leans toward physical life. He or she can also be stubborn!

A palm wide at the wrist always indicates a great love of the outdoors, either from a sporting viewpoint or quite simply that the freedom of an outdoor life appeals. Such folk are practical and often have a good business head coupled with plenty of common-sense.

### The mount of Venus

The mount of Venus is also the base phalange of the thumb. Here it is well developed, implying a healthy libido with an instinctive sense of affection and a love of home and family life.

### The mount of the Moon

On the other side of the palm is the Luna mount and it too is well developed. This betrays a developed imagination and not a little restlessness. He can be hard to tie down and needs plenty of room for manoeuvre at all times.

With a long palm and short fingers Steven is impulsive. He may not always stop to reason out the full involvement of his



next step when he begins a new project, task or action. He becomes intense; the aim is to achieve and he won't stop until he does.

Once again, the broad wrist has its influence. It always means determination and whether that is sheer stubbornness, a rebel streak or just plain doggedness depends either on the action under consideration or, often the case, the amount of opposition being faced.

The fingers are well spaced so he loves his independence but in each hand the narrowest spacing is between the first and second fingers. Steven, despite his slight rebel streak will, deep down, prefer to stay with the crowd and go along with the majority most of the time.

Both little fingers are short compared to the others, suggesting difficulty putting over his ideas in a clear and lucid manner. Interviews for jobs and promotions may be a strain.

### The lines

In each hand the three principal lines are reasonably well etched but each is different

from the other.

The left-hand heart line is more gently curved but low-set on the top of the palm. In the right hand the line is just as low-set but much straighter. This means he exerts more control over his emotional responses.

He experiences feelings very strongly but doesn't want to feel vulnerable under any circumstances. So he has created a shell to keep others at a distance where he can feel more in control of his responses.

The head lines in each hand differ as well. In the left it is shorter and slopes more into the palm. In the right hand it is longer and straighter. He has taken control of his mental responses and remembers to check himself especially before making important decisions.

The great quadrangle, the space between the heart and life lines, is very well formed. Except for the fate and Sun lines which should cross this area anyway, it is relatively free of all other influence marks.

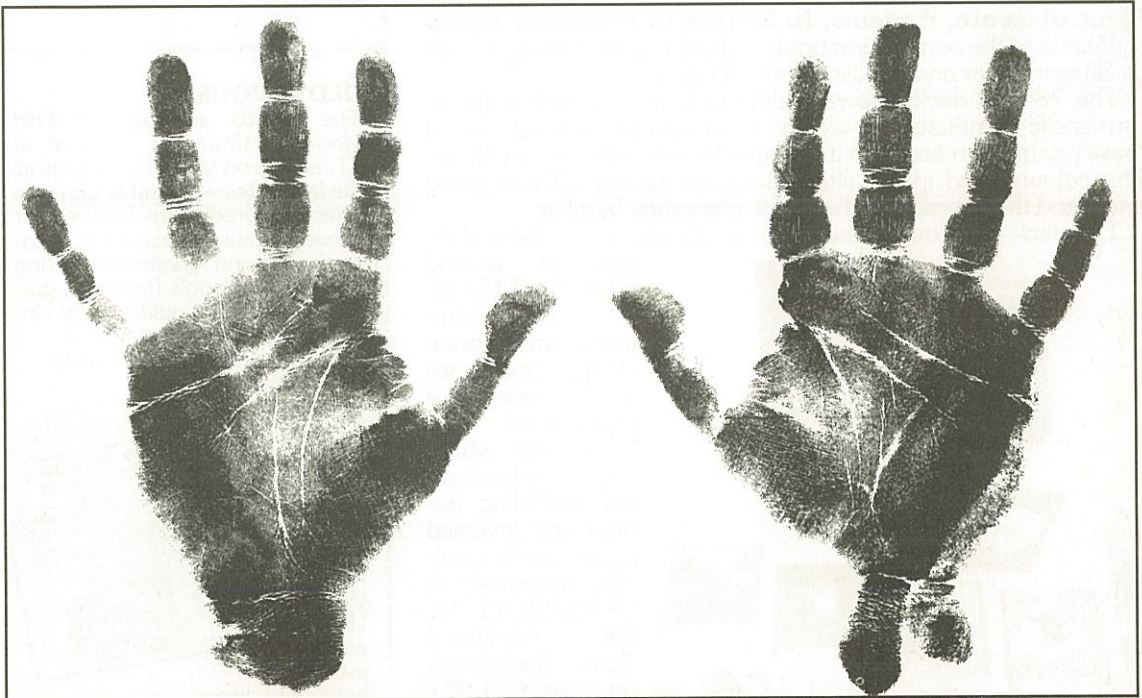
The right hand formation is far more evenly shaped than the left denoting a well-bal-

anced personality. Steven has good self-control. The great triangle, the angle between the head and life lines, is rather narrow which indicates caution in relationships. However, the whole formation generally looks well-balanced.

This can suggest an interest in the arts which is borne out by a good creative curve on the ulna, or outer edges of both palms. On square hands such as these it follows that he has developed a good sense of creativity inclined more toward the dramatic arts.

The life lines themselves differ, too. In the left hand the line of life stays close to the mount of Venus while in the right hand it swings out more into the palm. In his earlier years he was quite sensitive. These days he is more open, less controlled in his responses but still cautious when dealing with people or things unknown.

Steven has made a good job of keeping the balance right in all he does and, if he keeps the pressure up, there is no reason why he should not make his ambitions come true.





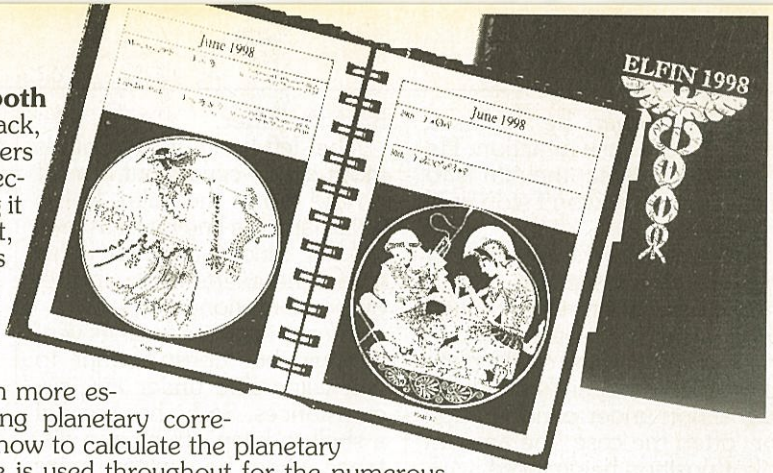
## CLASSIC

This year's *Elfin Diary* is both smart and practical with its black, mock crocodile-skin hard covers and washable, transparent protective wallet. Spiral-bound, making it easy to open each spread out flat, the actual diary section allocates a double-page spread to a week, leaving lots of room for writing in despite the inclusion of relevant astro data for the day.

Introductory pages cover even more essential astrological data including planetary correspondences, Lunar phases and how to calculate the planetary hours. A classical Greek theme is used throughout for the numerous illustrations and introduces the non-diary section (over 100 pages!) with an alphabetical listing of Greek gods and notables.

This is followed by a comprehensive astrological guide and exploration of palmistry. Next comes a revised and enlarged psychic guide: an alphabetical listing and definitions of everything from afterlife to yin & yang, caduceus and chaos theory to Feng Shu and T'ai Chi.

An essential diary and easy reference for a very reasonable £8.64 through selected stockists including Waterstones and most Dillons. Or order direct by sending cheque/PO payable to Elfin Productions, PO Box 684, Longridge, Preston PR3 2LX (discounts for two or more; p&p 84p per copy).



## STAR SCENTS

An acceptable gift for anyone at any time is this really substantial scented candle in its own chunky glass holder. There is a choice of 12, one for each sign of the zodiac, scented and coloured accordingly. Retailing at £12.30 each from selected stockists including The Astrology Shop, 78 Neal Street, Covent Garden, London WC2H 9PA (☎0171-497 1001/FAX 0171-497 0144).



## MYTHICAL QUEST

Many of us are, it seems, *In Search of Unicorns* which is the title of the companion book to the *Unicorn Tarot*, created by Suzanne Star and published by US Games.

The 78-card deck follows traditional lines and each is therefore easily identifiable as well as incorporating at least one of these mythical creatures in its image (the able artist is Liz Hilton). The colours used in the illustrations are strong without being brash and the overall visual effect is pleasantly familiar.

The deck is accompanied by an explanatory booklet and retails at around £13.99 (\$15.00). The more comprehensive book (164 pages) shows all the cards, here reproduced in black and white, with explanatory text including upright and reversed meanings is available separately at £8.95/\$9.95. Or the combined Tarot deck/book set costs £24.99/\$26.00.

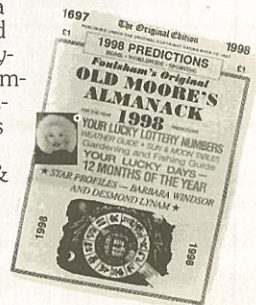


## OLD FAVOURITE

The 1998 edition of *Old Moore's Almanack*, priced at £1, is now on sale and contains all the favourites — monthly Sun sign forecasts, predictions for the year ahead, notable dates, Lunar phases, horse and greyhound racing tips, football pools forecasts, gardening & fishing guide, lucky bingo dates and lottery numbers.

This year's astro profiles feature Barbara Windsor and Desmond Lynam. To complete the picture, there is a weather guide, Sun & Moon tables, major UK fairs and events listings and lighting-up times.

What moore could you want?



Prediction

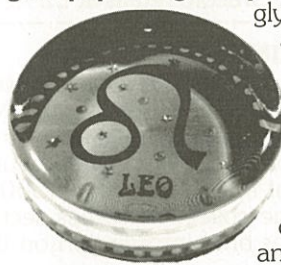


# PRESENT I M E

## WEIGHT FOR IT

Designed by **Myra Schroder**, exclusively for The Astrology Shop (78 Neal Street, Covent Garden, London WC2; ☎0171-497 1001), is a collection of *Zodiac Paperweights*. Measuring roughly 2½ in/65mm diameter by ⅝ in/20mm deep, each chunky glass paperweight displays a named zodiacal

glyph in black against a satiny, pale gold or blue background with a scattering of golden stars and silver Moons. Each of the 12 designs comes ready boxed and costs £15.90.

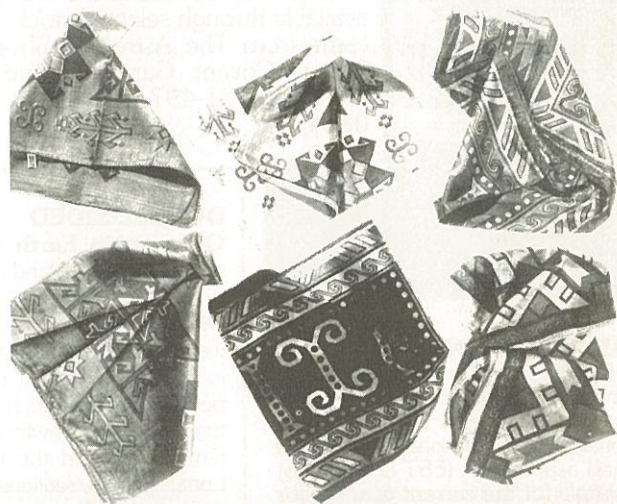


## COLOUR CODED

**The Qabalah Tree of Life Chart** is an easy to use, colour reference guide to the Cabalistic Tree of Life. Fully laminated and measuring 8½x11in/21.6 x 28cm, the double-sided chart clearly shows the Tree of Life glyph in the stunning colours used by the Golden Dawn.

From the same author as *The Kabbalah Poster*, this new chart is also intended to be used as an instant reference guide and inspirational tool for visualisation and meditative purposes.

The chart includes the following tables for all the paths and sephiroth: English/Hebrew names; Tarot correspondence and numeric value; planetary and astrological glyphs; body/being; intelligences; spiritual experience; symbols. Available mail order by sending cheque/PO for £5 to Paul Guess, Blue Haze, Fontwell Avenue, Eastergate, West Sussex PO20 6RU.



## CRYSTAL POWER

This well thought out package enables the user to work on various

levels of consciousness. *The Crystal Wisdom Kit* comprises a comprehensive, easy to follow 112-page hardback book by Stephanie Harrison and Barbara Kleiner, 12 good quality tumbled gemstones, three nicely printed casting wheels and a drawstring pouch.

You will find all you need to use the crystals for healing, divination and insight; you may even add a new selection of stones to the ones supplied once you have mastered the methodology and perhaps wish to expand the possibilities. Published by Piatkus at £17.99, this is one of the best and most all-encompassing kits I have seen for some time.



## SHEER QUALITY

The sheer luxury of a *silk scarf* for only £3.25 (RRP £3.95). Available in three designs and many different colourways, the scarves measure 10 x 60in/25 x 152cm approx and the jewel-like colours will brighten up any outfit.

Even better value for money is a pack of three designs in assorted colours for £9 (add £1 p&p). Available from Tantra Designs, 48 Kensington Park Road, Bristol BS4 3HU (☎0117 972 4708/FAX 0117 972 4709).

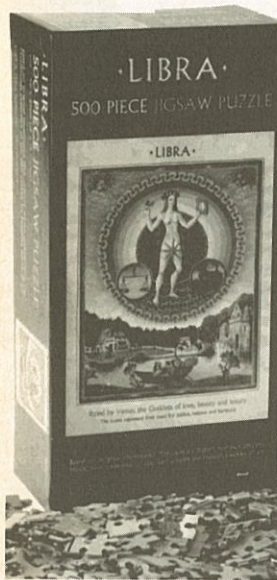


## WATCH IT!

Always innovative, Swatch have come up with the *Oracolo watch*: a limited edition, water and shock resistant, quartz timepiece. With its primary coloured face and bright blue strap, it is certainly stylish but it is also more than this.

For, in keeping with its 'oracle' label, it is also a fortune-telling device. Four balls of different colours rotate around the watch face which incorporates 12 symbols, each with three indentations into which a ball can roll. Then, with the aid of the accompanying booklet, you can obtain a reading for those chance encounters — any time!

Stylish and fun, the Swatch Oracolo retails at £29.50.



## PUZZLING

Based on original 15th century illuminated Italian manuscripts, the MindGames *Sun sign jigsaw puzzles* are beautiful works of art which provide hours of entertainment for all, too. Each 500-piece puzzle in the collection comes securely boxed and gives brief information on the relevant sign.

Priced at £8 each, the 12 puzzles are available through selected stockists and ours came from The Astrology Shop, 78 Neal Street, Covent Garden, London WC2H 9PA (☎0171-497 1001/FAX 0171-497 0344).

## DOUBLE-SIDED

Once again Earth Child have

come up with a brand new divinatory tool. Called the *Green Moon Divination Set*, it comprises 13 wooden 'counters' depicting specific trees to represent categories of people (for instance, holly for a mature male and hawthorn a mature female) and, on the reverse side, Lunar phases/seasons and a destiny counter (the querent).

A 14th counter shows the Solar spread layout used to interpret the pieces which can be read as one of two sets of symbols or a mixture of both — the choice is yours. Full instructions and drawstring pouch

## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

For those who prefer reading a screen to reading a book, Arc Media has produced a series of CD-ROMs (PC/Mac) called *Horoscope Companion*, one for each sign of the zodiac. Colourful graphics and clear screen prompts make this a simple and fun way to learn the basics of astrology and explore the Sun signs.

There is a personality profile, yearly forecast up to the year 2000 and a 'fortune arcade' to help plan the day ahead plus how



you fare in relationships and the birth dates of some of the famous people who share your Sun sign. There is a fun element too where you can see what Fate has in store through the Wheel of Will, Slot Machine and Fortune Chimes.

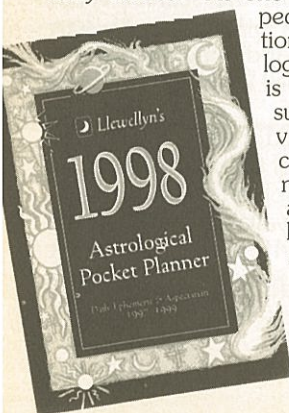
Obviously not for the professional but *Horoscope Companion* deserves the tag 'it's fun finding out' and will help while away many a happy hour. Distributed in the UK by Gazelle, the retail price is £11.99 (\$14.95).

## MAKING PLANS

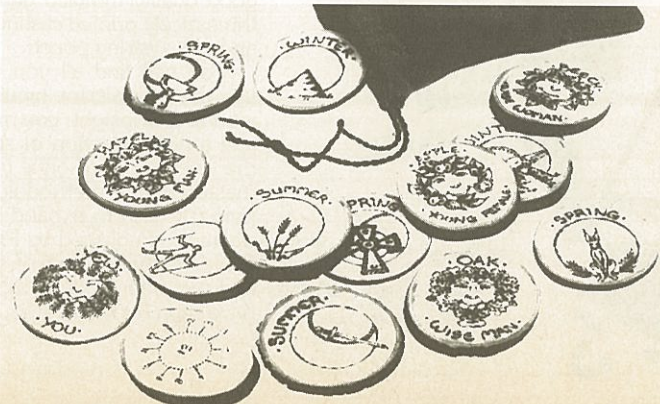
Handy for the astrologically inclined is Llewellyn's 1998 *Astrological Pocket Planner* which provides a daily ephemeris (GMT) and aspectarian (EST & PST) not simply for the current year but for three, 1997-1999, allowing for real forward planning as well as a retrospective look at the planets.

The *Planner* is laid out in traditional diary format, a week to a spread, with plenty of room for daily entries. As one would expect,

additional astrological data is provided, such as void-of-course Lunar tables and the like. Reasonably priced at \$7.95/£7.99.



complete the kit which costs a very reasonable £10 from Earth Child, 39 Penistone Road, Park End, Middlesbrough TS3 0DJ (please make cheques/POs payable to J.Easby).





# PRESENT

# TIME

## PROBLEM SOLVER

**The I Ching has been renowned for centuries as a traditional Chinese method of solving problems and making decisions.** However, embracing Taoist philosophy and spending hours shuffling and selecting yarrow stalks does not necessarily appeal to the time-driven modern Westerner; never mind trying to make sense of old-fashioned terminology about 'the superior man.'

There have, therefore, been many attempts to find a quick, easy way to employ the I Ching and

make it accessible to modern wo/man without losing its essential spirit. The *I Ching Divination Made Easy* kit by Peter Rose from Emrys Products is the latest such.

This comprises a functional wooden box containing 64 numbered cards depicting the hexagrams and a handy little book in which to look up the meanings of each hexagram. The text is simple, easy to relate to everyday situations, yet somehow retains an echo of far earlier texts; in other words, this is a workable kit!

Available through selected outlets for around £24.95, in case of difficulty, contact the publishers at PO Box 3721, Earls Colne, Colchester, Essex CO6 2LW (☎01787 223198).

## NORTHERN EXPOSURE

**The latest divinatory kit from US-based Llewellyn is *The Rune Oracle*,** distributed in the UK by Airlift (\$29.95/£25.00). Comprising a very informative 256-page book and 25 colourful, delightfully illustrated cards, here is everything needed to set foot on the path to self-discovery.

The cards are the work of Nigel Jackson who co-authored the book with another well-known figure, Silver RavenWolf. They really capture the spirit of the runes as well as being visually descriptive of their literal meanings. (The 25th card is left blank to represent Wyrd, Fate or Destiny.)

The book is well written and provides much more than mere upright/reversed meanings of the cards for it delves deep into the magical/mythical lore of the runes and the Nordic mysteries. There is background information, suggested layouts, tips on how to read the cards and practise rune magic, guidance on healing, meditation and empowerment, tables of correspondences, etc.

In fact, this is one of the most accessible books on rune magic I have seen for a long while. Plus, of course, the added bonus of a really nice set of rune cards: well worth the price.

## NOVEL IDEA

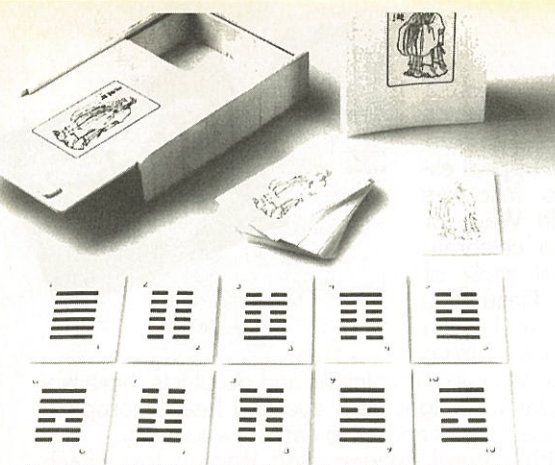
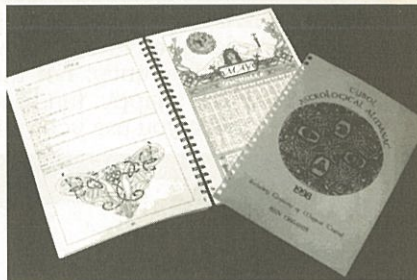
**A really nice idea is this bookmark impregnated with a blend of essential oils to produce a subtle aroma to enhance your ability to read and stimulate your imagination.** One side of the bookmark is printed with essential information on the Sun sign depicted and the oils selected will, of course, correspond to that sign too. A snip at £2.10 each from The Astrology Shop in Covent Garden, London WC2.



## ORGANISED

**The spiral-bound A5 *Tybal Astrological Almanac 1998*** would make a handy desk diary with plenty of room for those important entries. 180 pages crammed with astrological data including a monthly ephemeris, planets in signs & houses, Lunar phases and aspects, Sun sign analyses, void-of-course Moon, world time zones and glossary of magical terms, it is both practical and informative.

The *Almanac* retails at £5.95 through selected outlets or can be purchased direct from Tybal, 27 Heversham Avenue, Fulwood, Preston PR2 9TD (☎01772 465402) for an additional 55p to cover p&p.







### EGYPTIAN STARS

**This stunning set of 12 Egyptian Zodiac Cards** from original oil paintings by Judith Page depicts a major Egyptian deity in each of the great astrological Ages, spanning some 30,000 years, since the Age of Leo. Each colourful character is seen against a starry backdrop which echoes the movement of the constellation of Orion from one Age to the next.

Each unique image on these postcard-sized cards (blank-backed for your message) is beautifully reproduced in glossy full-colour and is available from outlets such as the Atlantis Bookshop, Museum Street, London WC1, The Astrology Shop, Neal Street, London WC2 and Osiris, Heath Road, Twickenham for 80p each. The complete set of 12 can be purchased direct from Judith Page, 76 Winchester House, Hallfield, London W2 6EB (T/FAX 0171-723 6297) for £8.80 inclusive (£9.00 EU; £9.50 overseas).

### ALL IN THE MIND

**Here's a real box of tricks to provide hours of fun for all the family, Edward de Bono's Mind Pack**, published by Dorling Kindersley at £14.99. The author's reputation as the pioneer of lateral thinking techniques gives a clue to the sort of mental exercises, puzzles and mind games you'll find in his 72-page book.

All are designed to expand your thinking skills, to view things around you differently, not through tedious intellectual training but in a quick, snappy, fun-filled way with a series of mental puzzles that make you use your mind more creatively.

To complete the picture, several board and/or card games are included.

You don't have to be a member of Mensa to participate in these mental games, nor are there age limits. Whether six or 60, go on — enjoy yourself, it can be fun finding out!



### CRAFTY

**The Llewellyn's Witches' Calendar 1998** will appeal especially to followers of the Old Ways or those who celebrate the natural cycle of the year. Beautifully illustrated and with contributions from well-known Wiccans, magicians and occultists, here is a wall calendar to delight both eye and heart, complete with significant dates and astro data for every day.

Rich with natural imagery and Wiccan lore, each page offers invocations and recipes according to that month's theme, plus you will find all the information needed to celebrate the Sabbats, garden by the Moon, bless your home and practise simple spells. A delightful guided journey through the changing seasons of the year. On sale for £12/£11.99.



### SOLUNAR

**Two annual favourites from American-based publisher, Llewellyn**, are the *Moon Sign Book* and the *Sun Sign Book* and those for 1998 come up to the usual high standards: absolutely crammed full of information as well as horoscopes for everyone.



The *Moon Sign Book* £5.99 (\$6.95) is all about timing: the best times for buying and selling, hunting and fishing, health and beauty, gardening and herbs, business and legal dealings. In fact, it is an excellent guide to everyday activities, allowing you to plan ahead. Plus numerous Moon-related articles, Lunar lore and astrological data.

The *Sun Sign Book* £5.99 (\$6.95) focuses on the signs and how each can improve health, relationships, finances and career, month by month with the aid of the stars. You will discover what the planets have in store for you, friends and family. Plus feature articles from leading astrologers.



# PRESENT

# TIME

## SILVERWEAR

This attractive selection of good quality, heavy, solid silver pendants offers excellent value for money. Each comes gift boxed and prices quoted include postage and packing.

Prices range from £6.95 for the smallest at 5/16in/15mm, the Cointich Cross (AP 339) and the Sun (AP184), to £15.50 for the largest at 1 1/2in/35mm, the Solid Closed Triad (AP436); a matching brooch (AP/B436) is available at the same price. Also shown is the Closed Triad (AP457), Sgamhain Knot (AP371) and Lundaigh Knot (AP362), all priced at £14.95, as is the latter's matching brooch (AP/B362).

Middle of the range are the Moon/Star (AP194) at £8.95, the Pentagram (AP55) at £7.50 and my personal favourite, Magic Mushrooms (AP185) at £9.95.

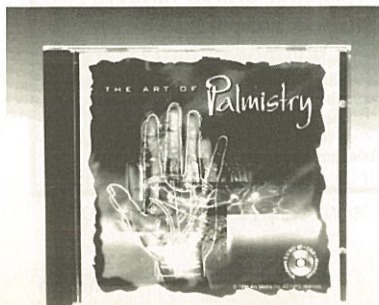
Available from Tantra Designs, 48 Kensington Park Road, Bristol BS4 3HU (☎0117 972 4708/FAX0117 972 4709).

## HANDS ON

Palmistry lends itself particularly well to the CD-ROM format and this one, *The Art of Palmistry*, is a case in point. Reading hands is mostly visual, so it makes sense to utilise computer graphics to identify specific features in the hands quickly and easily.

Here, after a brief introduction to the subject as a whole, all the basics are covered: hand shapes; the fingers including individual phalanges; major, minor and secondary lines. I especially liked the way that text could be scanned 'in a book' by the use of clever graphics while a particular aspect of palmistry was illustrated on screen.

It is simplicity itself to access any feature for an explanation so the user can go at his/her pace and really enjoy learning more about what the hands can reveal. Published by Arc Media (UK distributor Gazelle), this CD is PC/Mac compatible, retails at £11.99/(\$14.95) and is positively user-friendly.

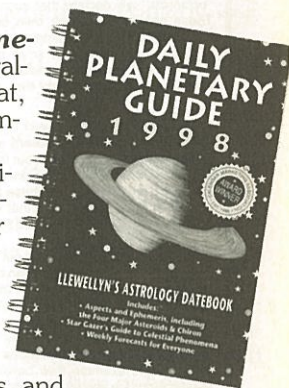


## MAKE A DATE

Always useful, *Llewellyn's Daily Planetary Guide 1998* comes as a handy, spiral-bound (A5) desk diary in a week-to-view format, so has plenty of space for entering all those important engagements.

It also, of course, contains lots of astrological data including Solunar ingresses, a daily aspectarian, monthly ephemeris (GMT; all other astro data in EST and PST, so some calculation necessary) including four major asteroids and Chiron, eclipses and other celestial phenomena, weekly forecasts, Sun sign profiles, world time zones and more.

Available through most good bookshops and specialists outlets, the *Guide* retails at \$9.95/£9.99.



## GREEK MOTIF

New from Elfin this year are machine/hand washable cotton T-shirts in a choice of two designs, both echoing the Grecian theme of this year's *Diary*.

One has a silver caduceus against a charcoal grey background and the other is in pale grey with a Grecian lady picked out in dark grey. The caduceus T-shirt is large (29in/74cm long approx) and the dark lady comes in extra large (31in/79cm long approx) so should fit most people. Both are short-sleeved, crew-necked and cost an amazing £6.84 each inc p&p from Elfin Productions, PO Box 684, Longbridge, Preston PR3 2LX.





# All Spruced Up

Central to the Yuletide festivities is the tree — but what are the reasons behind hundreds of years of ritual and tradition?

by **STEPHANIE SORREL**

Nothing is more central to the Yuletide celebrations than the Christmas tree. Hundreds of years of ritual accompany this annual visitor when it is hauled into the house, ritual which is heavily steeped in mythological and spiritual tradition.

The ordinary looking spruce, which will probably have come from the local tree nursery or conifer plantation, holds a rich symbolism which we have practically forgotten.

It is believed that the Christmas tree was introduced to Great Britain by Prince Albert during the Victorian era. It was a legacy of German

medieval mystery plays where the tree was celebrated each year as a symbol of rebirth. But there are older rituals which preceded the Christian symbol of the fir tree.

Pre-Christian celebrations at the Winter Solstice were reminders that the spirit is eternal and life is regenerative. Although the Church was aware of the festival's pagan origins, it was unable to ban the practice

entirely because too many people needed the reassurance of the symbol at a time

when the ground was barren and the trees stripped bare. This is probably why yews, symbols of eternal life, remain in churchyards to this day.

Latterly, the Norwegian spruce has become the traditional Christmas tree and, since the last war, Norway has given one to England each year where it stands for all to see in Trafalgar Square.

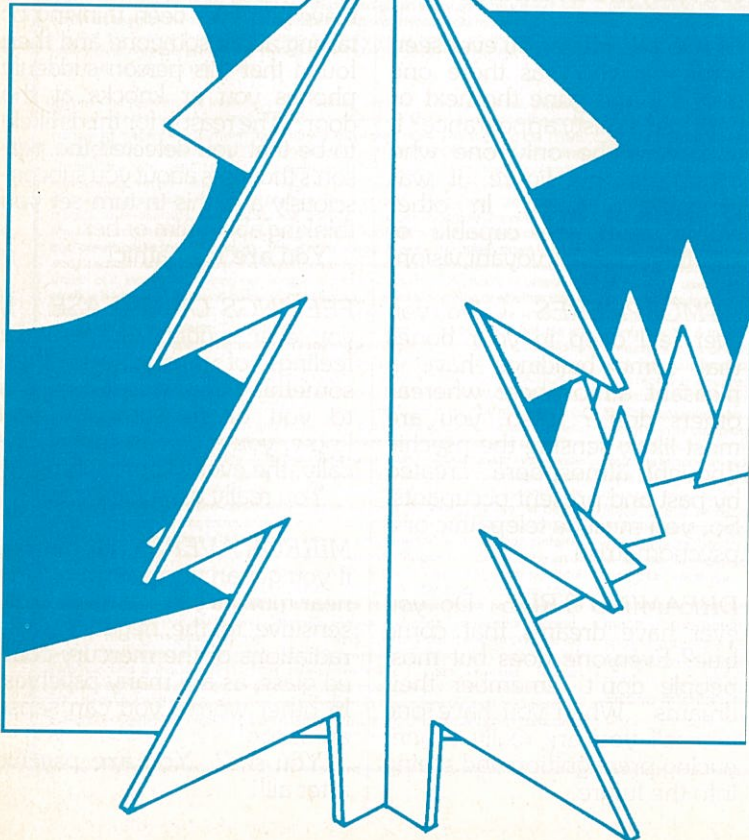
## Fairytale images

The Norwegian spruce also evokes fairytale images of an idyllic Christmas scene with snow several metres deep and the forest in pristine whiteness with only deer and moose tracks in the snow. It isn't difficult to imagine peeping through the wooden window of a house to see a family grouped round the Christmas tree telling stories while logs blaze in the grate.

In the Scandinavian countries the myths still run deeply through the culture. One of the greatest myths is that of the World Tree whose presence runs throughout history. The myth is of Yggdrasil, the tree of Odin the great All-Father god who hung from it for nine days and nights to gain knowledge of the runes.

Yggdrasil, also known as the World Ash and sometimes referred to as the cosmic tree, spanned the universe, its roots in the underworld and its branches supporting the heavens, while the trunk was the earth at its centre.

Symbolically, this model can be used as an archetype for our own spiritual, mental and emotional growth. Like the tree we are rooted in matter which we need to function on an everyday level. Yet the tools of spiri-





tual growth provide us with the ability to ascend the trunk, beginning the process of transmuting our base substance into gold, or fruit.

This spiritual process of transmutation can be likened to the process of photosynthesis which takes place in the leaves in the presence of sunlight. Making contact with the heavenly world allows us to function better in everyday life, giving us a wider picture, a clearer perspective. Like the tree, as we grow to greater maturity we are able to bear fruit and share our abundance with others.

## Enlightenment

The star which acted as a portent to guide the Wise Men to the manger, which we place at the top of the Christmas tree, represents a state of enlightenment. It is interesting that the top of any tree is referred to as the crown and the star is the enlightener that corresponds to the crown chakra in the body.

In Norway an arrow used to be placed at the top of the Christmas tree to symbolise aspiration. Perhaps in this context we can look at all the little candles and lights hung on the Christmas tree as symbolising the chakra system in the human being, while the presents placed underneath are the gifts we bring into the world to enjoy and exchange with others.

Those familiar with Buddhism will have read how Buddha sat under a banyan tree for 49 days and became enlightened. Here he faced all sorts of trials, was tempted by desires and challenged by his greatest fears. It was said that the missiles sent to him during his trial here turned to flowers as they entered his consciousness. But he remained firm because spiritually he was one with the axis of the universe.

Buddha and Christ weren't the only well-known historical figures who were linked with the tree. The laurel was sacred to Dionysus and in Egypt the tamarisk was sacred to Osiris.

Quetzlcoatl, the enlightened one in South America, returned to the valley of his birth, where he lived and taught the philosophy of the tree in the years preceding his death.

The Mayans also believed that at the end of every world cycle, the tree of life comes into blossom. And shamans who represented the wise men in any clan or group were believed to travel up and down the World Tree to access knowledge from other worlds. With the aid of a drum they ascended into the upper heavenly re-

*'...at the end  
of every world  
cycle the tree of  
life comes into  
blossom'*

gions with the same ease with which they descended into the underworld.

## Therapy

As well as being a wonderful tool for meditation in that the tree is a perfect symbol of centredness, with its roots reaching down and branches reaching upwards, it also makes an excellent exercise to find out more about ourselves.

I have devised one here which I have carried out with my friends. First draw a tree and then decide where you would place the following features in your life; children, spouse, creative gifts, friends, career, home, spirituality, parents, pets, money, holidays, health and possessions. These can either be drawn as box labels on or around your tree or, if you're feeling artistic, as icons.

It is best to carry this process out as quickly as possible as this sort of process is performed by the intuitive right side of the

brain. In this way, the left and analytical side becomes a barrier.

When you are happy with it, take an overall look. Are the features evenly spread through the tree or are they all in the branches, at the roots, or in the middle? Perhaps they are more on the left-hand side of the tree than the right-hand side. How balanced are the male and female aspects of your make-up? Next become aware of what you have put where and apply these basic guidelines to the overall analysis:

As **ROOTS** are usually below ground, features placed here have a lot to do with hidden or unconscious things. Since the roots take their sustenance from the soil, features placed here could both nourish you and be a source of strength to you. This depends on what you have placed here.

The **TRUNK** represents the heart area, or that which lies closest to the feelings. It's interesting that the inner layer of wood in the trunk is known as the heart wood. You are likely to feel protective and be deeply attached to any features placed here. If your spouse, children and friends are found here, it may be hard to be aware of boundaries — where they begin and you end!

The **BRANCHES** are worldly and linked with outer expression. As they bear the fruit, this might be where you place your possessions, either those gained on a material level or on the inner level. If the focus is mainly within the branches, perhaps you live a very outer life and are extrovert by nature. You are probably a go-getter rather than someone to sit back and let things come to you.

With the tremendous upsurge of activity in the world during the Christmas period, it is always a good time to connect with the inner self through meditation or contemplation and gain a deep sense of stability. This can be very energising at a time which can be physically and psychically draining.



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# THE TAROT

by JOHN CHRISTOPHER TRAVERS

## KING OF SWORDS

**The Swords King is the summation of all the others in the Swords suit, weighing all the factors in order to reach a judgment. Like the rest, though, this King has an unpleasant side.**

The King of Swords is a card of personal destiny. This simply means that this King holds the balance of power over individuals who cross his path or who come under his direct control.

It is vital to understand that, as with the Swords Queen, the Swords King has a malevolent streak. At the same time, it should be recognised that this King is also a figure of great influence for good.

Unfortunately, over the years there has been much confusion in anything written about this King. So perhaps it would be wise to try and strip away the accumulated debris of antagonistic attitudes which have surrounded this Tarot card for far too long.

It is better to approach the King of Swords as simply as possible, certainly without any prejudice. There is little point in trying to blame the Swords King when or if matters go awry. He is in control, it is true, but destiny plays its part too, with any outcome likely to be out of anyone's control. This King is a vehicle, a medium, a *modus operandi*, a means to an end. He is not the absolute power which can change anything or everything.

Imagine, for example, that

the Swords King equates with a surgeon. There is a serious operation in progress and the patient needs extensive surgery. Events may prove that the surgeon has a temporary power of life or death, according to what he does, but the state of the patient also has to be taken into consideration. If the body is unable to cope with drastic surgery, then even the surgeon cannot save a life.

This is exactly the influence,



among many others, of the King of Swords. In other instances he may represent a judge who, according to a verdict given by a jury, has to pass sentence. It is not the judge who is in any way to blame if that sentence is draconian or even later ends the life of the person who is being judged. The judge, or the King of Swords, is carrying out what is necessary to be done.

The consequences may be dire or they be resolved differently. The King of Swords has to follow the rules, whatever they are or however they are laid down. Far too many Tarot readings tend to make the Swords King a figure of blame rather than one who is carrying out what is essential and right.

Perhaps the malign influences of the entire Swords suit create too much of a easy way out. Certainly, the Swords warn and are often unpleasant, but they have to adhere to age-old traditions and concepts. They cannot wander from their paths of influence, however much anyone may wish it.

There is an old saying along the lines of it being only the creator who has the power to destroy. The King of Swords has created much and he controls what he has created to the best of his ability. But just as one would prune plants so the creator sometimes has to destroy. The King of Swords will not destroy indiscriminately but there will be a need to end situations — sometimes people — who can no longer be part of the whole.

The Golden Dawn philosophy even went as far as to make this point rather forcibly clear, in effect saying that the



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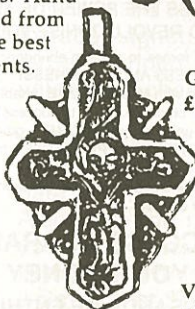
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# ASTROLOGY SECTION



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## DECEMBER

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### SIGN OF HOPE

**Most of the planets occupy a very small part of the zodiac as 1997 draws to a close, with only Saturn the odd one out. These rare clusterings of planets are often associated with times of unusual events. With the focus on Capricorn and Aquarius we can expect developments in the political arena which could have far-reaching effects on the whole of humanity.**

It is as if a major turning point is being reached — a time when the developments taking shape over several years will converge to a kind of crisis. This could be increased concern about environmental damage and the growing effect on human life (and indeed on all life).

Although unlikely to amount to an outright scare, there is an underlying feeling of urgency coming into the picture and perhaps a suspicion that vital information is being withheld. The fact that both Venus and Mars conjoin Neptune on the 8th and 16th points strongly to deception in the political field. It is the exposure of such deception that is likely to create quite a stir later in December.

The increasing emphasis on the sign of Aquarius

from mid-December suggests growing public awareness of the negative trends inherent in our lopsided materialistic values. As Neptune is about to move into this sign we can expect that many illusions and delusions to which hyper-materialism has given rise will be dismantled in one way or another.

Over-reliance on computer technology may reveal itself as a potent danger and this may first become evident in world trading and stock markets. These have now become so dependent on computer technology that it has virtually taken over, so that human beings are in a sense no longer in control.

The danger in this does not need spelling out! Sooner or later there will be a huge come-uppance and December's events could sound the warning.

However, underneath these ominous trends there does seem to be a growing seriousness about the basic sickness of modern materialism. With Saturn beginning to move direct and eventually shifting into Taurus, we may hope that a stable balance will be achieved in material and environmental matters.

Aquarius is the sign of hope, which gives us some cause for optimism as the New Year approaches!

### Remus

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### 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.

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# ARIES

MARCH 21 TO APRIL 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

## Do your best to settle any questions relating to career in the first week of December.

Early month is excellent for dealing with any messages concerning immediate aims. It's also worth keeping an ear to the ground as there may be advantageous developments — but you may need to act quickly.

The most important feature in the celestial pattern is Saturn's change of direction mid-month. While it was moving retrograde you proba-

bly felt that you were banging your head against a brick wall.

This may have been rather a tough time with some re-adjustment both in external circumstances and your inner self. It could be that a situation, probably a relationship or a career, reached a major crisis point during this phase but from mid-December any difficulties here are likely to be resolved. This may seem rather slow at first but changes are afoot.

Saturn becomes much more helpful where there is a need for greater stability and a focused sense of direction in life. December's events point towards a significant new beginning for many Arians. Whatever is begun around this time will be a main ingredient in your life's development over the next seven years or so.

Coming down to more immediate matters, it looks as if the approaching festive season will run away with your cash if you don't keep close tabs on your spending.

Don't be manipulated into feeling that you have to spend vast sums of money to keep up with the Joneses. Follow your own in-

stincts in choosing what to buy for people. With Neptune under adverse aspect during the third week it is essential to keep tight control on financial matters. Ask yourself whether you are splashing out to impress people or because you genuinely wish to give something out of love.

The Full Moon on the 14th indicates much activity around you and perhaps a lot of visiting. If possible, keep this date open for it is very likely that any plans you make will be completely disrupted.

In close personal relationships as well as domestic life there appears to be some stress during the middle portion of the month. Demands on your time and energy may create conflicts of loyalties and bring accusations of selfishness upon you. Everything seems to hinge on your ability to compromise and ensure that there is an element of give-and-take where home life is concerned.

Towards the end of the month you can expect a friendly but rather hectic atmosphere. All in all, though, a very hopeful start to the year ahead.

# TAURUS

APRIL 21 TO MAY 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

## A letter from a distance, perhaps overseas, is likely to set the theme early month.

In some cases this long-range link will contain a decidedly romantic tone and someone with whom you have been corresponding may begin to mean a lot more to you.

If you have relatives or friends abroad, chances are you will hear interesting news or receive an invite. This could be your opportunity if you have been in a quandary about holiday plans.

However, take note that Mercury begins a retrograde phase from the 7th so if possible get travel arrangements finalised and letters or invitations sent out before then.

Mercury also reactivates an area of your Solar chart during the third week relating to both personal and joint financial affairs. A problem you thought settled may re-emerge and perhaps a legal or official matter will need looking at again.

Although this might prove annoying the underlying trend is helpful. All it means is that fresh information or a change in circumstances will oblige you to take a closer look at your finances. Weaknesses will be brought to light but this will enable you to see where to apply corrective pressure.

Be prepared mid-month to assume extra duties for someone close will be under the weather and may need extra care and attention. It might be a good idea to look to your own health, too.

The most interesting feature of the current pattern is that all the planets occupy the upper hemisphere of your chart. Indeed, most

are clustered in a very small area, signifying a time when your attention will be focused on certain key interests.

The area highlighted relates very positively to mental activity, serious studies, plans for the future and career and professional aims. The underlying theme indicates that your sense of purpose is being greatly strengthened and that you are beginning to see exactly where you want to go in the future.

Whatever happens in December, everything points towards a very positive development, the fruition of past effort and the opening up of wider horizons. However, it probably won't be until early in 1998 that this helpful trend really and truly begins to take definite shape.

Looking towards the festive week, you will need to take a firm stand if you are not to be exploited by others. You are likely to be in high demand socially but if you're not careful could easily end up feeling harassed and resentful because you had hoped for something a bit more intimate and homely. Stick resolutely to what you really want!



# GEMINI

MAY 21 TO JUNE 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

**You are likely to find that people misunderstand you early in the month.**

There may be some dispute over a financial or business arrangement, so don't take anything for granted. Be sure to get all your facts straight if a problem needs to be tackled.

Mercury turns retrograde on the 7th signalling a change of strategy relating to current money or domestic affairs. Unforeseen circumstances may put extra demands on your cash but advance warning

will enable you to prepare. From mid-month expect a steadier pace and you will have a better idea of how to organise your resources.

After the 13th Mercury returns to your opposite sign, bringing into focus close partnerships and the need to develop clear communication between yourself and others. With Mercury retrograde old issues often need to be confronted anew, which may entail some intense discussions.

This is not a good time to brush things under the carpet or attempt to seek rational excuses for emotional difficulties. The more open you can be with those closest to you, the better — even if it means ruffled feathers.

A powerful Lunar trend in your sign on the 14th will have the effect of heightening your sensitivity and perceptions. If someone offers advice or criticism your instinct is to overreact or hide behind a smoke-screen of words. However, it might be better (and therapeutic) to swallow some pride and admit that perhaps there is a blind spot in your nature that can be irritating to others.

The most important event in De-

cember is Saturn's change to direct motion from the 16th. This is a turning point for long-term objectives.

After several months of uncertainty you will feel that things are beginning to move in the right direction, giving you more confidence in your abilities and a strengthening sense of purpose. As always with Saturn, developments can be rather slow at first. But, provided that you are firmly based and prepared to be single-minded in your efforts (at least for a while), then you will ultimately succeed.

Romantically inclined Geminians may have experienced a very intense love affair recently. This will have upset your emotional balance and perhaps caused you to be a bit neglectful in other areas of your life.

However, the changing pattern shows that this initial besottedness will give place to something steadier. This will turn out to be a make-or-break time for lovers. If your love is real then there'll be no problem but if based on wishful thinking you'll know about it soon enough.

Finally, there is much to suggest that many Geminians travel far and wide over the festive week.

# CANCER

JUNE 21 TO JULY 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

**It is to your advantage to push ahead with ongoing negotiations in the first week.**

Then you can expect a speedy and constructive result, particularly in financial matters or plans that you wish to put into action early in the new year.

After the 7th an adverse Mercury signals delays, mistakes and a general lack of responsiveness from others. You'll need to tread very carefully and keep your wits about you during the second week.

Information you receive may mislead and what you say may be misconstrued. Also finalise any travel arrangements before the 7th, after which you will probably find that the people you wish to visit will already have other plans.

The good news is that fiery Mars leaves your opposite sign on the 18th, enabling you to create better relations with those who may recently have opposed you. If, however, you feel that there is an urgent need to confront certain people and sort out long-standing differences, be prepared to act on the 3rd, 16th and 22nd. Steer round the 9th if antagonism is rife.

Your basic instinct is to establish your personal boundaries so that you can feel safe and look after your own best interests. However, if you take this attitude too far it can become rather insular so that everything outside your familiar domain becomes a threat.

You lock yourself into your shell to protect yourself against your own vulnerability. Over the past year or so it is likely that experience has caused you to take this attitude, so maybe you have become a bit

obsessive about keeping everything secure. The result is that you are beginning to feel frustrated.

With Saturn turning direct mid-month this negative pattern shows signs of changing. Over the following months events will help you to loosen up and feel that you are getting in closer contact with life once more. However, it might be a good idea to take an honest look at what has been motivating you recently.

Your love-life is unlikely to be dull with Mars and Venus stirring up your amorous inclinations. The conjunction of Venus with Neptune on the 8th, then of Mars with Neptune on the 16th, suggests that you could either meet the person of your dreams or that you are seeing things through a rosy glow.

If you can be honest with yourself these energies can help you to establish and strengthen a deeply meaningful relationship. Another way these planets can be used is in helping to sort out any confused emotions that may have upset a love affair in the past month.

Cancerians are likely to greet the coming year with a feeling of renewed strength and optimism.



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# LEO

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JULY 21 TO AUGUST 21



## Work pressures may be heavy in the first half of December.

Expect to make excellent progress in anything that demands energy, initiative and good organisation. The underlying pattern is very supportive and people will help and encourage you, especially in areas of current importance.

Someone you meet may have a spontaneous beneficial effect on your immediate aims and interests. It's a month when others become unusually significant in your life.

The Sun forms splendid aspects both to Jupiter and Saturn during the first ten days of the month. Not only does this indicate enhanced creative energy and reward for past effort but also ensures good health and social popularity. There is also an element of luck woven into journeys or long-range communications, particularly around the 5th and 10th.

A potentially tricky factor is Mercury's backward shift from the 7th onwards. There may be delays for younger Leos seeking employment. However, the experience you gain now will stand you in good stead and strengthen your resolve to succeed.

Around the Full Moon on the 14th keep social commitments flexible. Friends may leave you in the lurch at the last minute and it could cost you money. Don't make any promises now and be wary of the apparent good will of others.

With a powerful spotlight on relationships, the latter half of the month will be an eventful time for amorous encounters. For many this could mean that meetings over the festive season could be

destined to bring you much happiness. If your love life has been unsettled now is the time when prospects improve.

You'll need to watch your step later in the month when there is a danger of creating bad vibes with flirtatious impulses. Married Leos particularly are warned against the temptation of casual dalliance. The explosive potential of Mars and Uranus in conjunction on the 27th could be very damaging to an existing relationship. Take heed!

Potentially stressful trends later in the month show that it would be wise to keep social life within familiar horizons. You may be in demand socially but think twice about certain invitations for there is a danger of antagonism at home if you do too much gallivanting.

Everything indicates that you'll get far more enjoyment from sticking to close friends and family rather than getting into a social whirl.

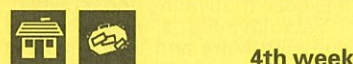
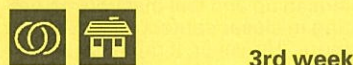
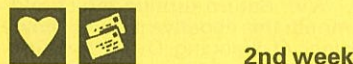
The old year comes to a close with a positive celestial pattern, inspiring you with a renewed sense of purpose and a feeling that the Fates are guiding you in the right direction.

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# VIRGO

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AUGUST 22 TO SEPTEMBER 22



## A journey or a message early this month could open up interesting social possibilities in the following weeks.

Romance is very much to the fore during the first half of the month, so new encounters may be the direct result of a sudden broadening of your social horizons.

The current cosmic pattern helps you to make good use of your creativity and brings greater incentive to express yourself. You are inclined to get into a routine which

makes little demand on your deeper creative energies. You may even deny certain needs for the sake of carrying out what you consider to be your duty.

This can give rise to frustration at times and you feel that life is passing you by. However, in view of factors now coming into force you will be able to enrich your life and personality by focusing on those interests that you may have pushed into the background.

Activities engaging your creative energies and allowing you to be true to yourself will certainly bring a feeling of enrichment. This may be some grand artistic endeavour or perhaps a humble spare-time interest. A hobby started now could become an absorbing occupation.

This is definitely a good time to consider potential alternatives in work and career. Anything that develops greater independence will be fortunate, so don't underestimate your capabilities.

Domestic and family matters are under a favourable trend during the first half of December. Here, too, there is a theme of enrichment. There may be good news

concerning a member of the family, such as career success or the announcement of an engagement.

Equally, the accent on property interests is fortunate. So if considering a change of residence in 1998 this is an excellent time to set the ball rolling.

A connection between career interests and home life could mean that new developments at work make you think seriously about a possible change of address. Whatever happens, the underlying trend is towards increased enrichment and stability in all to do with practical affairs — home, career and finance.

Over the festive week you are advised to take special care of your health. If possible make it a relaxing time and refuse to do anything that you don't really wish to do because other people will be only too ready to make selfish demands on your good nature.

On the whole there is much to suggest that you are at last freeing yourself from restrictions and moving into a way of life in which you are able to express yourself and find a sense of purpose.



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# LIBRA

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SEPTEMBER 23 TO OCTOBER 22

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1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

**An unusual grouping of planets in the lower sector of your Solar chart indicates a major turning point.**

Over the past year or so you have probably felt that everything has been in a state of transition, at times feeling rather uncertain and perhaps a little depressed. You can expect to see your way ahead more clearly from December.

The main difficulty may have been in close relationships. It is as if the Fates have been forcing you to face up to blind spots in your

character. Your attitude towards someone has probably changed in recent years but it has taken you a long time to admit this.

Librans are notorious for brushing their feelings under the carpet and going along with a situation in a half-hearted way just to keep the peace. If this is so it will not be long before events force you to come to a decision on any relationship problems.

Once you overcome your reluctance to make a definite move then everything will fall into place. If you are making a break and starting anew in some way, now is the time for a commitment to what you really want.

Looking at immediate concerns, matters close to home will occupy a great deal of your attention, particularly during the first two weeks. Any problems relating to family affairs will fade away and perhaps some matter that has tied you to the home will be resolved, leaving you with greater freedom.

Mercury's retrograde movement between the 7th and 13th warns Libran parents that youngsters may be difficult to deal with. A minor

contretemps between yourself and a relative (or neighbour) may also call for a tactful approach

If you're hoping for a more interesting social life your wishes should be realised after the 18th. Both Mars and Venus are activating an area of your chart referring to leisure, pleasure and self-expression.

You will certainly be in demand and very popular over the festive season, with tremendous scope for cultivating new friendships and perhaps getting on more intimate terms with someone you have admired from a distance for several months.

Indeed, everything seems to be shaping up for some spectacular romantic encounters later in December. The only trouble with Mars and Venus working together is that they often indicate wild infatuations destined not to last. If you are seeking a lasting and meaningful relationship, much depends on how realistic you can be about what you really want from it.

This is going to be a decisive month for Librans, heralding a time of change and readjustment.

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# SCORPIO

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OCTOBER 23 TO NOVEMBER 22

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1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

**Changes in routine will make it necessary to keep everyone informed of your movements.**

Likewise, keep close tabs on those people on whom you rely in everyday activities. Things will go into overdrive during the first week and much will depend upon your good sense to keep them from falling into confusion.

If possible, make extra efforts to catch up on outstanding correspondence or negotiations before the 7th, after which you will find

that people will be rather elusive. You should also tie up any travel plans early in the month, particularly if you are hoping to get away over the festive season.

It would be unwise to take a cavalier attitude towards finances but you are likely to see encouraging developments in this area. There is a favourable link between money and domestic affairs focusing on events taking shape around the 5th. This date could mark either the end of a phase of heavy expenditure or presage a windfall which ends certain worries that may have dogged your heels lately.

The Full Moon on the 14th also indicates a successful conclusion to a joint financial matter. However, stick to familiar territory and avoid risks mid-month.

For many Scorpios the pattern during the third week of December marks a mid-point in developments at work that began about six months ago. This may entail an important decision over which you are unlikely to hesitate. It is as if you are being shown a new direction which will finally come to fruition in another six months. The

final outcome is almost certain to boost your finances and career.

This does not mean that you can sit back on your laurels and await developments. Saturn continues to be a dominant feature at work, so concentration and determination are still needed if you have a special goal.

With so many planets converging on the lower sector of your Solar chart in the latter half of the month you can expect domestic and family interests to become a major focus of attention.

The traffic in visitors will reach a hectic pace soon after the 18th. This sociability is likely to continue through the festive week and into the New Year.

This will bring a great deal of pleasure but watch your step when adverse trends are in force on the 23rd and 27th. It's then that you are likely to be at loggerheads with visitors or members of the immediate family circle.

There is much to suggest major developments in the affairs of Scorpios, particularly for those of an ambitious nature aiming to establish a more independent or creative lifestyle in the coming year.



# SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 23 TO DECEMBER 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

**Expect financial affairs to take a relatively smooth course during December.**

Early month will bring good news concerning a business matter that was completed several months ago. A payment that has long been owing you will finally arrive, ending what may have been an anxious wait. This theme of completion also applies if you have been involved in a legal battle.

During the second week you are advised to keep your wits about

you where finance and business are concerned. Be wary of verbal promises and agreements and make allowances for those you deal with to be unreliable and absent-minded. Be prepared to do a bit of back-tracking if you remain unsure about a financial matter. Don't take anything for granted.

An uneasy Lunar trend on the 14th may find you coping with a hypersensitive partner or a moody friend or child. You often don't notice the more subtle emotional influences that you may have upon people. Experience now may bring you face to face with facets of your character that might need some re-adjustment. If any emotional problems arise face them squarely rather than using your usual tactic of laughing them off and glossing over them!

Both Venus and Mars change signs on the 12th and the 18th, so expect the pace of life to accelerate as the festive season approaches. Relatives, friends and colleagues are likely to make extra demands on your time and energy, so you will need to take a firm line if you wish to get some space to yourself.

This trend towards popularity will bring you much enjoyment but there may be times, notably on the 24th and 27th, when you may feel overwhelmed and liable to get short-tempered. If possible, make a point of cultivating peace and quiet on these dates otherwise you could end up feeling exhausted before the New Year arrives.

An important part of the astrological pattern is Saturn. On the 16th this planet resumes direct motion, signalling a steady upturn in activities engaging your creative energies and determination to overcome obstacles to your self-expression.

Over the past six months or so you may have experienced an element of frustration because circumstances have obliged you to shelve some interests. However, from mid-December you feel that a restriction is being lifted, enabling you to re-connect with something vital to your inner happiness and creativity.

Romance should also benefit. Here, too, you may have experienced frustration in recent months but from now on the situation will begin to flow more easily.

# CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 21 TO JANUARY 19



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

**Mars stays in your sign until the 18th so expect a progressive trend in your affairs.**

Mars stands you in good stead where initiative and decisive action are needed, so don't be afraid to force the pace where important goals are concerned.

Your abilities are best expressed where organising and management skills are needed. Whether or not this has to do with your main occupation, it is an excellent time to focus on any area in which you

feel some restructuring is required. If you work in a high-powered job you will certainly be in your element, gaining much experience in the process.

A potentially difficult factor is Mercury's retrograde motion during the second week. Concentrate on tying up any loose ends before the 7th. This applies especially to important communications, legal matters, business negotiations or educational pursuits. After the 7th, avoid any hasty moves if a decision is pending. Be prepared to await developments if uncertain about your direction at work.

You may need to take extra care of your health around the Full Moon on the 14th. If you have been under a lot of pressure recently, this is when you will begin to feel any negative effects. Diet may need careful consideration for any maladies that emerge now will probably be related to carelessness in your eating habits.

Even if you are OK yourself someone close to you, perhaps a child, may be under the weather. This may have a restricting effect so be prepared to make some sac-

rifices around mid month.

The 16th is significant to all Capricorns as Saturn begins to move ahead once more. This planet occupies an important area of your Solar chart, with much to suggest that the pattern of your life is soon to undergo a radical shift.

There is no need for alarm as the general theme focuses on increased stability, not only in your domestic and material circumstances but also within your self.

This Saturn factor represents a phase of maturing and/or consolidation. Experience garnered over several years will strengthen your position and enable you to feel that your whole existence rests on a solid foundation.

There is a marked accent on practical matters during December. Developments after mid month will point to a progressive trend in financial affairs in the near future. Also, with ample funds to finance a generous festive season, not only will you be in a generous mood but you'll also find other people reciprocating this feeling.

December's events throw a very promising light onto the future.



# AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 TO FEBRUARY 18



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

**In one way or another the focus is going to be on you!**

Not only are Uranus and Jupiter in your sign but Mars and Venus join forces with these powerful planets later to make it potentially an unusual and exciting month. Either you are about to be drawn into new social circles, your popularity will increase or you'll get the go-ahead for a project that has been on the launch pad for a while.

One thing is certain; you are destined to meet one or more kindred

spirits in the coming month. Sooner or later they will have a profound influence on your life, your thinking and your interests. If you are aiming to push yourself more into the spotlight, make contact with new individuals or special groups, now is the time for your best effort.

From another angle, a new romance may have a deeply stirring influence. Any love affairs that emerge during the latter half of December are likely to be special and definitely not run of the mill! If there is such a thing as meeting your true affinity, events now could easily mark an appointment with destiny.

Significant dates for such meetings are the 5th, 10th, 12th, 19th, 22nd and 31st. But take note, this is no ordinary astrological pattern, so expect the unexpected!

Mercury emphasises matters of a confidential nature during the first half of the month. If possible, try to get such matters sorted out before the 7th, then you can avoid unnecessary complications.

There may be minor worries about the educational situation of a youngster. If so, look into the

matter more closely. Chances are that your worries will be unfounded but you may find that a bit of extra encouragement is needed.

During the second week retrograde Mercury indicates a danger of misinformation or outright deception. Be wary of anyone who tries to coax you into parting with money by playing on your fears and sentiments. Be sure to check identities for there is an element of trickery around.

With Jupiter still occupying your sign cash-flow is easy, people are co-operative and the right opportunities come at the right time. There will be times during the month when you get a distinct feeling that luck is on your side.

Best dates for money matters are the 5th, 10th, 13th, 21st and 23rd. These are also the most favourable dates for buying gifts and planning something good for the festive season.

Although the Christmas and New Year period will be hectic, you'll have plenty of scope to enjoy life to the full. All in all, it looks as if you'll be feeling extremely optimistic about the New Year.

# PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 TO MARCH 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

**If money has been tight over the past few months, helpful trends during December will make things easier.**

A phase of study or preparation may be completed, leaving you with a feeling of greater confidence in the future. You will soon be taking material stability more seriously and the prevailing trend is becoming helpful for dealing with long-term financial matters, property interests and anything that helps you feel more rooted.

During early December you'll be actively involved with some kind of co-operative effort. Activities focusing on community affairs, clubs and wider social and political issues will gather momentum. Through these activities you are likely to make important new friends and meet people on your mental and spiritual wavelength.

Be prepared for irritations in the second week when certain persons may prove to be unreliable, absent-minded or downright dishonest. You are a very trusting person but this does mean that you are more vulnerable to being taken for a ride than are others. If you feel that someone is leading you around in circles don't be afraid to take a firm stand.

The pattern suggests that you are gaining strength. This could be quite literally, in the sense that you feel physically and emotionally more resilient than you have for some time. Healthwise, therefore, the prognosis is good.

Alternatively, this strengthening process may focus on your career or reputation. A powerful combination of Solar and Jupiterian in-

fluences indicate success in career aims or any other special goal towards which you are striving. Favourable developments are forecast around the 10th and in the week leading up to Christmas.

Amorous interests continue to come under the favourable light of Venus in the first half of December. The most significant date is the 8th when this planet conjoins your ruler, Neptune.

Any new attachments that flourish around this time are likely to be rather idealistic. At best this will mean that you meet someone with whom you feel a very deep and genuine affinity. At worst, it could be a case of seeing someone through rose-tinted spectacles!

Love moves into the shadows later in the month. This is not a bad thing and maybe you will prefer to keep things rather quiet. However, there may be trouble and perhaps embarrassment if you allow yourself to be carried away by flirtatious impulses, especially on the 24th or 26th.

On the whole it looks like you will have plenty to feel pleased about, both emotionally and materially, as the year draws to a close.



# Lunar Lore Gardening

## DECEMBER

**1** Cold to start, staying cool with some severe local frosts until the end of the month when it may ease a little.

### 2, 3, 4, 5

**6** After 04.08 hours dwarf french beans may be sown under glass.

**7** Pot up Winter-flowering shrubs in greenhouses.

**8** After 07.25 hours make plans for new Spring sowing.

**9** Clean greenhouse windows thoroughly — inside and out.

**10** After 10.01 hours stake and cover outside pot plants and shrubs in tubs.

**11** Continue all day.

**12** After 12.36 hours lay a thick piece of timber half in and out of ponds to break ice safely.

**13** Continue all day.

**14** After 16.26 hours spray fruit trees and bushes against mites.

**15** Continue all day.

**16** After 22.59 hours burn all pruning waste.

**17** Save ash from fires to mix with potting soil.

**18** Continue all day.

**19** After 09.01 hours clean, renovate and repair garden tools.

**20** Check and repair leaks in garden hoses.

**21** After 21.36 hours cut evergreens for Xmas decorations.

**22** Prune vines under glass. Lift leeks/celery for holiday use.

**23** Lift roots of mint, cover in soil, put in greenhouse to give shoots for Spring sowing

**24** Continue until 10.08 hours.

**25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30**

**31** Happy New Gardening Year!

**VICTORIA MATTHEWS**

**Greenwich Mean Time has been used throughout**

# The Planets This Month

☉ **The Sun** begins December in 8° 49' Sagittarius and enters Capricorn on the 21st at 20.08 hours. It ends the month at 9° 20' of the Goat.

☾ **The Moon** is waxing to the First Quarter on the 7th at 06.10 hours with the Full Moon on the 14th at 02.38 hours. Last Quarter is on the 21st at 21.44 hours with the New Moon on the 29th at 16.58 hours.

As the month opens the Moon is in 19° 43' Sagittarius and enters Capricorn on the 1st at 18.39 hours. It then enters Aquarius on the 3rd at 23.59 hours; Pisces on the 6th at 04.08 hours; Aries on the 8th at 07.25 hours; Taurus on the 10th at 10.01 hours; Gemini on the 12th at 12.36 hours; Cancer on the 14th at 16.26 hours; Leo on the 16th at 22.59 hours; Virgo on the 19th at 09.01 hours; Libra on the 21st at 21.36 hours; Scorpio on the 24th at 10.08 hours; Sagittarius on the 26th at 20.08 hours; Capricorn on the 29th at 02.49 hours; Aquarius on the 31st at 06.59 hours where it ends the month.

☿ **Mercury** begins the month in 0° 10' Capricorn, advances to 3° 22' on the 7th and turns retrograde at 16.57 hours. It re-enters Sagittarius on the 13th at 18.07 hours, moves direct again on the 27th at 11.42 hours and by the month end has advanced to 17° 57' of the Archer.

♀ **Venus** begins the month in 22° 57' Capricorn and enters Aquarius on the 12th at 04.40 hours. It advances to 3° 55' by the 26th when it turns retrograde at 21.22 hours. By the month end it has retreated to 3° 35' of the Water Bearer.

♂ **Mars** is in 16° 35' Capricorn on the 1st and enters Aquarius on the 18th at 06.38 hours. By the 31st it has reached 9° 59' of the Water Bearer.

♃ **Jupiter** spends the month in Aquarius and advances from 16° 33' on the first day to 22° 02' of the Water Bearer on the last day.

♄ **Saturn** begins the month retrograde in 13° 45' Aries and retreats to 13° 32' on the 16th at 10.30 hours. By the month end it has advanced to 13° 44' of the Ram.

♅ **Uranus** spends December in Aquarius and advances from 5° 40' on the 1st to 7° 04' of the Water Bearer on the 31st.

♆ **Neptune** is in Capricorn all month and advances from 27° 56' on the first day to only 28° 54' of the Goat on the last day.

♇ **Pluto** is in Sagittarius all month and advances from 5° 36' on the 1st to only 6° 44' of the Archer by 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.







# Horses *for* Courses

**The Martell Grand National** this year was due to take place on April 5th 1997 at 3.45 pm at Aintree Racecourse in Liverpool.

Shortly before 3 pm the racecourse received warnings that a bomb had been planted and it was swiftly decided that the race should be cancelled and the course evacuated — no bomb was subsequently found. There were about 70,000 people at the track whom Merseyside Police got out safely and with no casualties.

Damage to the racecourse during the evacuation was limited to knocked down running rails and damaged fences, with litter scattered around the track.

The biggest and most serious inconvenience was to the crowds. People could not return to their vehicles until they had been checked by security staff, which meant a large number of them were stranded in the Liverpool area overnight. Local people came forward to help in providing sleeping and eating

by **PAT HARRIS**

arrangements and, in general, everyone felt that they had been well looked after. They were amazed at the generosity of the Liverpoolians who welcomed them into their homes.

The race was rescheduled for 5 pm on Monday April 7th. Those people who had attended the cancelled meeting on the 5th were given badges which allowed them free entry to the rescheduled meet, together with the opportunity to claim a 50% refund on their original ticket prices.

## Alarm Signals

The chart for the race, set at 3.45 pm on the 5th at Aintree, gives several strong alarm signals indicating that the event might not go ahead. The Midheaven of this event chart falls at 24° 37' Taurus and close to the Fixed Star Caput Algol — in my experience one of the most troublesome of the Fixed Stars in traditional astrology.

The Midheaven could be viewed as indicating the success of the event and this is severely threatened by its conjunction with Algol — the head of the Medusa.

The name Algol originates from the Arabic 'Al Ghoul,' which means demon, evil spirit or devil. It has associations with murder, accidents and injuries so it is not a star one would choose to place prominently in the chart of an event that one wishes to succeed.

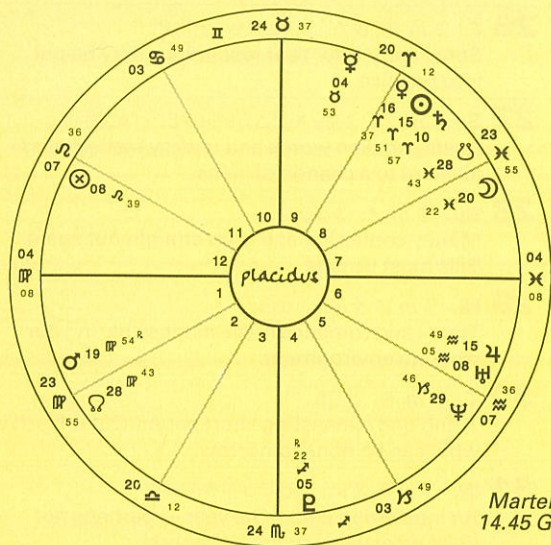
This is compounded by the Midheaven ruler, Venus, being in the 8th House, in her detriment and combust the Sun. This is to say that her power is consumed by the Sun's heat and rays because she is too close to him — not a very happy bunny! Venus also rules the 3rd House to which we assign vehicles in a chart of this kind — hence the major problems with people's transport.

Part of Fortune for the event is conjunct the 12th House cusp — an unfortunate but, nevertheless, ironically appropriate House as the 12th is associated with horses.

The possibility of a violent threat to the crowd is shown by the Moon's (ruling crowds) separating opposition to Mars (violence, criminal activity) which occupies the 1st House, the actual body of the racecourse.

In this chart, the separating aspect shows a threat which has occurred in the past. So, even before the race took place we can see that it would be destroyed by some threat of violence to the ordinary people attending the event which would put their lives in danger — Moon ruling them close to the 8th House of death.

Fortunately, the Moon is not making aspect to any other



*Martell Grand National  
14.45 GMT April 5th 1997  
Aintree*



planet — she is too far away from Neptune in the 5th to be in trine to him so she is technically void of course. This means she will make no aspect to another planet before she changes sign. She is going nowhere and nothing is happening to her.

She represents the common people attending the course, which is fortunate for them under the circumstances. She is also disposed of by Jupiter who helps to provide a protective influence.

The preceding Solar eclipse on March 9th occurred at 18° 31' Pisces, very close to the Moon/Mars opposition and, when the other factors are also taken into consideration, graphically describing the reason for cancelling the race. Saturn, ruler of the 5th House of gambling and speculation, is in his fall in the 8th of income gained from others.

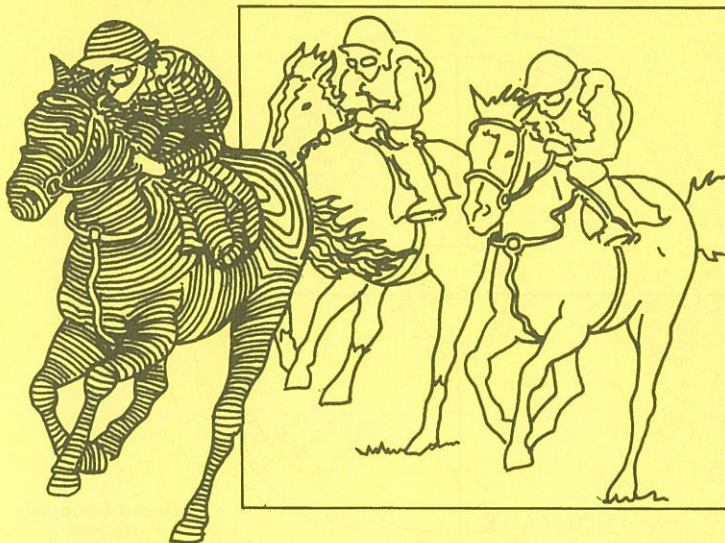
The South Node is also there, indicating the 50% refund offered on original ticket sales and free entry given to people from the cancelled first meeting who attended the rescheduled second.

The chart for the bomb warning which I set for 2.55 pm, shows the Moon in the 8th House within three minutes of arc of perfecting the opposition to Mars, indicating the impending and imminent danger. The retrograde condition of Mars may be an indicator of the hoax nature of the message.

When I heard that the Grand National had been postponed I decided to ask a question about a possible winner and, as Smith's Band owned by Jenny Pitman was one of the favourites I asked, 'Will Smith's Band win the Grand National?'

## Hopeful Moon

The chart for the question showed the sign of Cancer on the 12th House of horses. Smith's Band is a comparatively small but sturdy bay — light brown in colour and appropriately described by the sign of



Cancer. The Moon was in the horse's 10th leaving a conjunction of the Sun for a conjunction of Venus which, at first glance, might give hope of a positive answer.

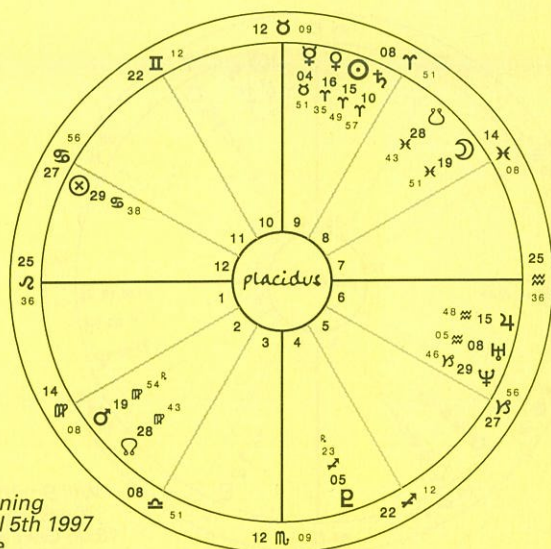
But Smith's Band's significator, the Moon, is in a very unhappy position, combust the Sun and peregrine (having no dignity in the sign in which she is found). Venus, to whom she applies, is in detriment — she rules the end of things, the conclusion — but this house is also a house associated with death.

The radical Midheaven of the chart is in exact conjunction with the Fixed Star El Sheratain

which is associated with Mars and Saturn and has a violent nature. It indicates danger when acting impulsively and in a foolhardy fashion; it is a destructive force.

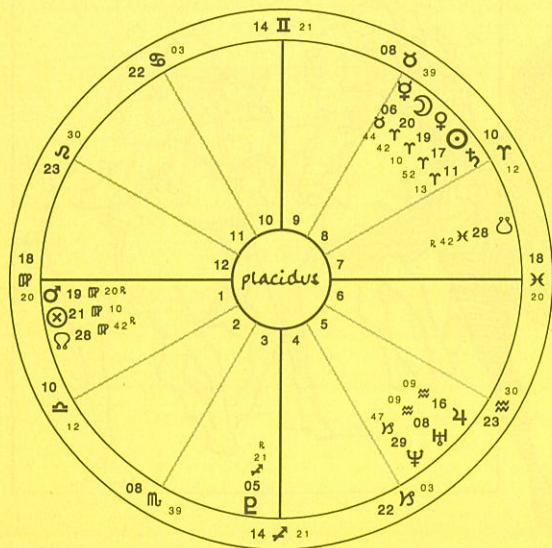
Tragically, Smith's Band was one of the two casualties in the rescheduled race. He fell at the 20th jump, broke his neck and was killed instantly. Aries, containing the Moon, significator of the horse, is associated with 'long necks.' The two jockeys escaped without serious injury.

In this chart, Smith's Band's jockey, shown by the 5th with Sagittarius on the cusp, is ruled by Jupiter in Aquarius, both of



*Bomb Warning  
13.55 GMT April 5th 1997  
Aintree*





Grand National  
Re-run  
April 7th 1997  
16.00 GMT  
Aintree

which traditional astrologers associate with the colour blue. The jockey's livery was white and dark blue with a blue and white striped cap.

Both the winner of the National and the danger to the horses in the race are shown by the 12th and its ruler in the event chart for April 7th. Leo is on the 12th and its ruler, the Sun, is in the 8th. The position of the Sun in the 8th indicates fatalities in connection with horses in general.

Mars, ruler of the 8th, is also

conjunct the Ascendant of the event — another indicator of the possibility or danger of death playing a prominent role.

### Lord Gyllene

The 12th House Leo and its ruler the Sun describe very well another runner; Lord Gyllene (Sun — a noble man!) is a physically large bay, very strong with long legs and described by his trainer, Steve Brookshaw, as narrow rather than wide and 'rangy.'

The jockey, ruled by the 5th

with Capricorn there, wore livery of dark green (Saturn) and white striped shirt with black (Capricorn/Saturn) and white shirtsleeves. Saturn is in the 8th House and is associated with green and black.

There appear to be three main areas of the chart in an event or race which will describe the winner or the runners-up if one is experienced enough to recognise the permutations in the list of runners and prioritise them correctly. The first two areas are the 12th and 5th Houses, the signs and planets of which will normally indicate the dominant colours worn by the jockey.

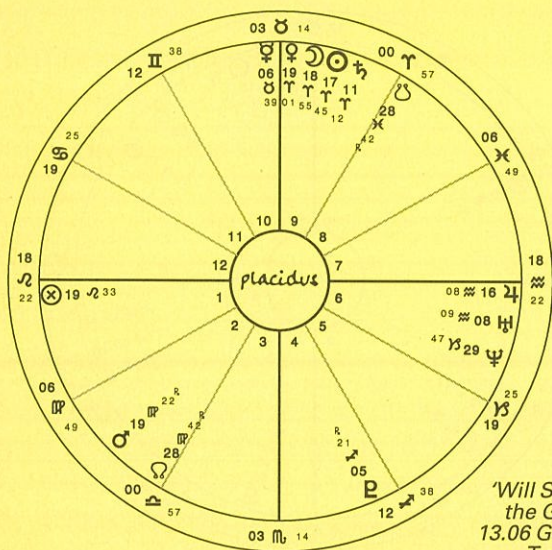
The third area is the Mid-heaven, the sign and planet of which will indicate both the colours and the name. Of course this is dependent, to some extent, on your ability to recognise what the names of the horses in any given race actually mean!

However, even with these difficulties in the system, I have used it over a considerable number of races and achieved around an 85% success rate.

I would, however, advise a considerable number of dry runs to people thinking of testing these factors out for themselves. You need to develop a strong sense of which colours are most frequently associated with which signs and also the meanings of horses' names.

For example, dancing is traditionally associated with Libra and Venus. I have never yet seen a horse with this meaning in its name where Libra or Venus has been one of the factors to be considered when seeking to identify winners or runners-up in a list. On the other hand, the words 'sing' or 'song' are associated with these factors in this medium.

*For those interested in learning more, I will be holding workshops during the Autumn/Winter 97/98 in and around the London area where these techniques will be more fully explored.*



'Will Smith's Band win the Grand National'  
13.06 GMT April 7th 1997  
Twyford, Hants



# ASTROLOGY TODAY

**Our modern zodiac is based** upon the concept of having 12 signs which help to encompass a diverse set of traits with which we can identify. Because the 12 signs pieced together form the zodiacal wheel, they are divided into six complementary axes which help us to achieve harmony in our lives.

The most apparent use of axial alignments can be perceived when interpreting the aspect called the opposition. This aspect occurs when a planet or point directly opposes another planet or point. This is usually interpreted as bringing conflict, which can help us to grow and evolve as human beings.

The **Nodal axis**, which is an example of such alignments, is considered to be of karmic influence. The North Node relates to what we must strive for in this life, while the South Node emphasises what we have already mastered in previous incarnations.

The **Aries-Libra** axis forces us to look at the way in which our own personal goals fit in with those of our partner.

Those who are centred predominantly on the Aries side of the axis may have difficulty in their personal relationships. Because they are so focused on their own ambitions, partners may feel that they or their own aims are being ignored.

Those centred predominantly on the Libra side of the axis may sometimes feel that their dreams have not been realised as they have chosen to sacrifice their own goals in order to accede to others.

The **Taurus-Scorpio** axis requires us to look at our acquisitions and possessions and in what way they relate to our lifestyle.

Those who lean primarily towards the Taurean side of the axis will tend to focus primarily

## COMPLEMENTARY OPPOSITES

by TRACY RICHARDSON

on the process of accumulating wealth and possibly its display, with little regard for its more implicit meanings.

Those who are centred primarily on the Scorpio side of the axis will care little for creating wealth independently but will tend to concentrate on acquiring wealth by going into partnership.

The **Gemini-Sagittarius** axis gives us cause to reflect on how we communicate with others. Because the vast majority of us must co-operate with those around us so that our daily lives will run smoothly, we must adequately communicate our needs in order to achieve our desires.

Those who are focused primarily on the Gemini side of the axis will concentrate on their immediate surroundings and take little or no interest in what is happening in the world at large.

Those whose focus is primarily on the Sagittarian end of the axis may find themselves so wrapped up in world affairs that they may not be aware of events going on in their very own backyard.

The **Cancer-Capricorn** axis gives us cause to reflect upon our status in life and the responsibilities which are a part of it.

Those who are centred predominantly on the Cancerian side of the axis will find themselves heavily involved with family. This may actually cause them to forfeit their own career goals in the process of raising and nurturing that family.

Those who are centred predominantly on the Capricorn

side of the axis may excel in their climb up their career ladder. They may well find their personal lives lacking in satisfaction.

The **Leo-Aquarius** axis places a great deal of emphasis on the love we give versus the love we receive. This is all about the way we need to relax and enjoy ourselves with someone about whom we care.

Those who primarily look towards the Leonine end of the axis will concern themselves primarily with children, pets and love. They may well consequently find that they do not have a great deal of time to develop a social life.

Those who are focused on the Aquarian side of the axis tend more towards the social life. These people may find that they spend so much time networking with like-minded individuals that they have neglected the creative side of themselves.

The **Virgo-Pisces** axial alignment causes us to analyse carefully the work that we do in relation to how we are evolving as spiritual beings.

Those who are centred primarily on the Virgoan end of the axis tend to concentrate on attaining spiritual enlightenment through the routine methodology involved in the process of serving others. As a consequence of this such people may have little time for reflection on what transpires beyond that elusive veil of consciousness in which we currently reside.

Those who find themselves centred on the Piscean end of the axis are the dreamers of this world. They can spend so much time meditating on universal principles that they may have difficulty in concentrating on the day-to-day obligations which must invariably be met.



# SAGITTARIUS



**Bishop, barrister or a career** on the stage. These are the careers traditionally associated with Sagittarius.

They are all 9th House concerns, you see, along with education and travel. The Sagittarian subject is also likely to have some association with horses, even if it is only the occasional weekend pony-trek.

The ruling planet is Jupiter, so your average Sag is likely to think big. No, make that **BIG!** He or she will probably be tall and could be inclined to portliness, especially if Jupiter is rising or in the 1st House. The thighs are usually long and well-muscled but if weight is a problem then this, along with the hips, is where it collects, especially with the ladies.

Sagittarians are naturally intelligent, although it may not

be noticeable until they are in their twenties. Before that they tend to be a little like an untamed horse — wild and inclined to gallop off in any direction as the mood takes them.

They also have some need to perform, which is where the acting and sporting action come in. The first appeals to their sense of the grandiose, the second to the pull of the outdoors. You can't tie a Sagittarian down for long.

Religion appeals to the philosophical side; a man of the cloth (any cloth) may well surprise his congregation with some rather advanced ideas mixed with the conventional wisdom. Any Sagittarian, though, is prone to dragging out his/her portable folding pulpit and pontificating at the drop of a mitre if someone is



by **MERCEDES  
DuQUESNE**

sufficiently unwise to press the wrong button.

The law also fascinates Sagittarius. Not the strict rule of law so much (that's Capricorn's bailiwick) but the idea of justice. After all, Jupiter was the one in Greek myth who made sure everyone got his or her just desserts, with a nice present here or a swift thunder-

## Sagittarius year ahead

**There is an interesting planetary line-up** in the Sagittarius Ingress chart which is likely, unless Sagittarians are extremely careful, to give a year's worth of foot-in-mouth disease.

The Sun and Pluto are conjunct in the 1st House, both sextile to Neptune (Capricorn) and Uranus (Aquarius) in 3rd House. There is much opportunity, therefore, for undirected (or misdirected) pronouncement on virtually any subject.

This is exacerbated by the fact that Mercury, also in Sagittarius and 1st House, is completely unsuspected, potentially adding fuel to the fire. The one saving grace is that Jupiter, your ruler, (Aquarius, 3rd House) makes a sextile to Saturn (Aries, 5th House) which may just put the brakes on a bit. You still have to be extremely careful!

One might think that Venus and Mars conjunct in the 2nd House may put you in the way of some financial good fortune. Add that pair in trine to the Moon (Virgo, 10th House) and you may associate it with work, although there could be a little fuss around it.

The fly in that particular ointment is Saturn, squaring Venus (and also Mars by association). Given his 5th House placement there may be something of a gamble involved — and you may be tempted to go with it — but Saturn might be playing the Tempter in order to teach a lesson,

so be very careful with any such activity.

The Moon is sitting in solitary splendour at the top of the chart, close to the Midheaven in 10th House. She is square to the Sun and Pluto and is also trine to Mars. This configuration should give plenty of energy to forge ahead at work, even if the motivation is mainly financial. There may, however, be some inner conflict over the way in which you have to work to achieve your ends and, given the Sagittarian love of justice, you will have to be careful that you don't suppress your moral conscience in order to make a fast buck.

The chart is an intensely personal one, in that Sagittarians will tend to be looking out for number one rather than spreading themselves thinly around. So, given that as a starting point, it's time to see how the rest of the year stacks up.

Virtually the first thing that happens is that, having just arrived in Capricorn, Mercury turns back to retrace his steps through Sagittarius. It would be wise to take especial care with what you say as this may make worse the conditions set up at the beginning of the year. Sagittarians are often regarded as being simultaneously accident-prone and lucky but you may find yourself heavily overdrawn at the Bank of Good Fortune if you don't watch your step, at least verbally.

While that's going on the Sun may well help



bolt there; his modern subjects are no different. They operate by the spirit, rather than the letter of the law so rules can be bent in either direction to get the right result.

Sagittarians are usually described as 'jovial' — jolly, good-humoured and so on — and this is generally what is seen. Get on the wrong side of one, though, and you'll catch the other side of Jupiter. It's over and done with quickly but it's rough while it lasts.

One Sagittarian characteristic, which goes back to the justice ideal, is an almost pathological honesty. It's not that they can't be untruthful; they just dislike it so much that it's transparently obvious when they are.

Sagittarian children can be wild and Sagi parents tend towards giving their children plenty of freedom. They are perhaps better suited as uncles and aunts than parents, as this allows them to indulge their younger relatives.

<b>POSITION IN THE ZODIAC</b>	NINTH SIGN
<b>CORRESPONDING TO</b>	NOVEMBER 23 TO DECEMBER 20
<b>PRINCIPLE</b>	FAITH
<b>ELEMENT</b>	FIRE
<b>QUALITY</b>	MUTABLE
<b>PLANETARY RULER</b>	JUPITER
<b>SYMBOL</b>	THE ARCHER

Having said that, they do have the discernment to stop short of spoiling a child as this can interfere with discipline — and here we are back at the 9th House!

The Sagittarian oddity is that they are simultaneously accident-prone and lucky. They will rush into things too quickly and fall over their feet — and not only will they stumble into whatever they were looking for in the first place, they are also likely to trip over something else better along the way!

So; honest, straightforward (just like the arrow which is part of their symbol), good-natured,

optimistic, intelligent (really formidable when that intellect is trained and directed), sincere and dependable. For the downside read negative Jupiter — exaggerating (extreme, even), careless, restless, irresponsible and capricious.

Knowing a number of Sagittarians I can also report that they are kind, generous, invariably friendly and charitable in a practical fashion, rather than simply giving money on flag days.

Life for Sagittarians, as for anyone else, is not all beer and skittles; they just treat it as if it is, that's all.

things by his aspect to Jupiter early in December, although Venus and Mars may give a rather bumpy ride financially. They play hopscotch through your 2nd House, Venus drawing away from Mars into Aquarius, then Mars catching up again when she turns retrograde — at the same time as Mercury goes direct.

Mars is going to provide the energy to make changes as he triggers the ongoing Uranus/Pluto sextile. These are likely to be in the form of new ways of communicating or possibly taking a course of learning. Given the planets involved, though, they could be very short-lived enthusiasms. It's a good time to look before you leap.

The same sextile receives attention at roughly monthly intervals as the Sun, Mercury and Venus respectively trigger the same points during the early part of the year. If Mars did get anything started then these are opportunities to keep the ball rolling; otherwise you have three more goes at making some lasting alteration — or even a number of alterations — to the way in which you do, think or feel about yourself. Don't waste them.

The one time of the year when you have to be most careful is in late March when Mercury turns retrograde while in conjunction with Saturn. An additional factor is that Mars is also in close company. If anything is going to happen it's most

likely to occur on or about the 28th when the Moon could be the triggering factor. Expect some disruption to travel and/or holiday plans, or a weekend break which goes wrong.

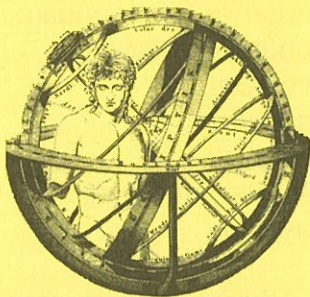
You may start hankering after moving house during April when Jupiter passes over the IC. Should that be the case it should all be over fairly quickly and painlessly, although you may find some leftovers to deal with later on when he approaches the IC again on his retrograde pass.

Jupiter's retrograde period starts in mid-July. This is likely to be a time for consolidating whatever has been achieved in the previous months while still watching out for the potential challenges made by the original chart. Awkward times are June, when Mars squares Jupiter for a time and early November, when Mars in is opposition. The first may be difficult but the later period will be mitigated by the presence of Venus in Scorpio making an aspect to both planets.

Venus also gets in on the act when she and Mars are conjunct in Cancer and trine to Jupiter. This period, albeit short, could well make up for any previous disappointments and is potentially financially fortunate, too.

The rest of the year is likely to be fairly quiet, which is perhaps as well. It doesn't look easy but if you maintain your usual happy-go-lucky attitude, you should be able to make progress.





# DECEMBER BIRTHDAY FORECAST

★ INDICATES AN EXCEPTIONALLY LUCKY 12 MONTHS AHEAD

- 1 Might become concerned with fads of health or dietary matters.
- 2 Career/business affairs slow a little. Professional and domestic life may clash.
- 3 Inclined to become interested in justice, fair play and equal rights for all.
- 4 Personal freedom and ambitions important but love life may take a back seat for a while.
- 5 Doors open to improved social and business commitments especially between March and September.
- 6 Run-of-the-mill until late April/early July when family problems likely.
- 7 Younger folk unhelpful. Trouble in containing an emotional imbalance.
- 8 Romantic involvement/intrigue/relationship carried on in secret will be found out.
- 9 Busy twelve months leading to a positive new direction in career.
- 10 Money, personal possessions and achievement matter most. Could move mid/late Summer.
- 11 Probably more than average dependency on the partner(s).
- 12 Feet ought to be on the ground in a quite cheerful year ahead.
- 13 Forward-looking period, perhaps more for the ladies although all should benefit.
- 14 Until August tend to promise more than you can deliver then sanity sets in.
- 15 Changes in personal beliefs and growth of inner spiritual development. More patient with others.
- 16 Stay on the straight and narrow no matter how tempting the gains may look.
- 17 Over-active ego, some selfishness, changeable and restless period.
- 18 Health problems, if any, improve. ★ Let others guide for best results.
- 19 Ups will be high, lows will be intense.
- 20 Useful period to develop leadership abilities and business acumen.
- 21 Avoid any new partnership agreements. Solo efforts will be better.
- 22 New romance, or an existing one ★ strengthens. October to December most beneficial.
- 23 To succeed it is who, not what you know. Despite this, mostly a beneficial time.
- 24 Emotional undertones affect decision-making in all aspects of life.
- 25 People around not too co-operative. A concerted effort needed.
- 26 You tend to get rid of nagging little problems that have been around for a long while.
- 27 Watch your temper and impulsive nature. Swallow pride if or when necessary.
- 28 Some financial gain. Will suit those in educational or legal pursuits.
- 29 Strong desire for travel and may make changes to achieve this.
- 30 Best not to start anything new unless absolutely necessary.
- 31 Emotionally vulnerable, more sensitive than usual. Tread very carefully at times.





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## TV & SPIRITS

*While watching TV I became aware of a figure who resembled my late husband standing by the set. I have since seen several other figures, too, but only when I am watching television.*

*This made me wonder if spirits from beyond use electric power in some way in order to manifest. What do you think? — E.S., York.*

All spirits, especially those of departed loved ones, are fascinated by film and television. Perhaps they recognise the similarity between themselves and the technical miracle of disembodied people materialising in a box in one's home!

Someone once remarked that it was as if the spirits were jealous of the TV images' success and were trying hard to emulate television in order to

be equally successful. Of course, it is quite possible that spirits use a similar vibration to TV transmissions when they materialise or try to do so.

So, if you have the same experience again, remain calm and allow the entity to respond to your confidence. This should allow it to become stronger and communicate in some way, hopefully with an important message.

## SEVEN-YEAR CYCLES

*How does one escape the peaks and troughs of the seven-year cycle? I have been successful in some such periods only to have disaster strike in others. — E.S., Lancs.*

There is no shortcut to this kind of experience but it is important, in any case, not to fight against Saturn when it

brings these regular changes at the ages of seven, 14, 28, 35, 42, etc. Instead, try to plan and learn so that when the 'down' cycles occur you will have a safety net organised and can then avoid the very low effects.

Saturnian effects are never exactly joyous and there can be no escaping their peaks and troughs but they can be of great value. Being aware of the pattern does allow more time to be forewarned and this can be of immense help in coping with the effects that are bound to impact on one's life.

## TAROT TALISMAN

*There is a theory about the Tarot card, The Lovers, being a love talisman but I cannot track this down as I think the book where this was mentioned is now out of print. Can you help? — P.H.K., Lincoln.*

Some Tarot exponents often refer to very old books from the Middle Ages when there was certainly a link between Tarot cards and the creating of talismans. For instance, there was a Venus or love talisman which depicted a lovely maiden chained to a young man, with a cherub carrying a bow and ar-

## graphology

(continued from page 13)

Middle zone heights vary, so the estimation and valuation of self modulates at times. The mixture of connected and unconnected letters points to a combination of intuition and applied reason.

T-bars are comparatively high, conveying acceptable ambition and passable enthusiasm. There are signs of originality here as can be seen in the slight deviation from the

original school copy. This writer prefers to come straight to the point and eliminate unnecessary details. This is observed in the obvious absence of initial or starting strokes to words, as well as the absence of elaboration of any kind.

Number four is definitely extrovert: that marked rightward slant. Although the adherence to the school copy suggests a degree of conventionalism, there is still that outward-looking influence in the personality structure.

Upper extension loops are tolerably tall, so there is inter-

est in intellectual subjects, the abstract world and idealism. The t-bars in this case incline upwards, again a sign of interest in the field of intangibles. One will see the beginning stroke at the start of words showing conventional standards and belief. Consequently we have an individual who responds to the outside world but retains customary, habitual and formal thinking when doing so.

There is a little squeezing and squashing of ovals, manifesting some insecurity when in contact with superiors and



row hovering above the couple.

This talisman had to be made when Venus was in the Ascendant in the first decan of Taurus, Pisces or Leo and would then bring love, happiness and good looks to its creator. This image was later incorporated into The Lovers card in most Tarot packs, notably those following the Rider-Waite designs.

### OPALS — GOOD & BAD

*Opals have a reputation for being unlucky yet I once read that they can be very beneficial for some health conditions. Which is right? — K.G., Barnstable.*

Both! Traditionally, opals are known as stones that bring unfortunate vibrations to their owners, except for Librans who are more in tune with this stone than any other sign of the zodiac. The Australian smoky kind of opal is said to have malignant Earth powers that manifest because the stone resents being torn from its roots.

Yet the black opal has long been used against eye disease and is believed to improve sight (and insight!). It can even bring good fortune to those who re-

ally believe in its powers.

### HIGHER SELF

*Is it possible to contact the higher self? — E.J.H., Taunton.*

The higher self is called the Overself in Tibetan religious beliefs and is, in fact, the soul. The Sanskrit term for the Overself is the Adhyatma, the total power of which controls all our lives.

On a personal level we call this the soul which, again in Tibetan tradition, links to the silver cord and thus to the body, allowing directions and advice to flow from the Overself to one's individual consciousness. Once the silver cord is broken, however, the body dies although the soul lives on.

### HATHA YOGA

*I have been recommended a course of Hatha yoga as part of spiritual development. Would this be helpful or not? — P.F., Liverpool.*

There are many forms of yoga that can be effective in promoting spiritual development though Hatha yoga is not usually considered one such.

Hatha yoga is considered by initiates to be a series of physical exercises designed to con-

trol the positions of the body. These can then be maintained so that other forms of yoga can be used to develop purely spiritual needs. In other words, Hatha yoga is a preparation of the body but, on its own, will never go further than that.

### SAHARA SEA

*I have read that the Sahara Desert was once an inland sea. Can you supply any more detail about this theory, please. — P.H.R., Crewe.*

Many occult writings refer to geological changes over vast periods of time. One of these theories suggests that the North African area known as the Sahara was once flourishing, verdant land with a vast inland sea. Geophysical upheavals shifted the tectonic plates of the Earth beneath the Sahara and drained off the sea, turning the area into a desert.

According to occult tradition, the Sahara sea dates back to 200,000 BC and the seismic upheavals which changed sea to desert occurred in 9,564 BC. This latter date is often quoted for a catastrophic flood which supposedly changed the structure of the Earth's surface to the pattern with which we are familiar today.

just a little inadequacy in the face of everyday problems. This has been written on printed guidelines exhibiting lack of independence, but a degree of reliability and discipline. Most of the down strokes are tolerably firm, alluding to a justifiable will power.

Our last specimen has quite a marked left slant. Not only does she dislike exhibiting her feelings freely but that distanced capital I points to a wish to keep a psychological space from those around, also a slightly underplayed self-esteem. The whole personality

stays behind that reluctance to make a public display of any emotional reactions. Those in contact with the writer may at times mistake this for coolness, which is not so. There are loops in place of single strokes which show a quick reaction to any criticism.

### Conclusion

Summing up these five points of view, it will be seen that the first and last writers seldom exhibit their inner reactions. Number two is very receptive to incoming stimuli from all quarters and the feel-

ing reactions are quick and sensitive. The third writer usually sees everything from an impartial view and, due to independence, is not nearly so responsive to outside influences. Number four reacts inwardly, but is careful to keep to the regulated and conventional path. The last writer does not easily demonstrate true reactions in an outward manner.

Consequently all these writers each possess their own very different way of viewing life in general. Look at your own writing and discover the points of you.



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And it only takes five minutes practise a day.

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For years I dreamed of an easy and automatic way to make any desire materialize quickly and without fail. I spent all my time studying obscure documents of ancient magic, searching for the secret that would bring me as much happiness and success as I wanted.

Then one day, after thousands – literally! – of experiments, and deep research into the magic alchemical secrets of the mind, I discovered the secret that had eluded me for so long. With mounting excitement I put this amazing discovery to the test, and was given absolute proof of the existence of the Invisible World! I was able to actually see and touch it (you, also, will be able to). The unseen spheres of existence seemed to shimmer into view, and take shape around me. I felt a strange sensation around me ... the secret force behind all psychic phenomena!

In the days and weeks ahead all problems seemed to dissolve and all my most cherished, most deeply desired dreams came true, right before my eyes.

Since then, rather than selfishly keeping it to myself I have taught this secret to others, only to be thrilled time and again to see how it has transformed their lives for the better.

**You need no experience, and you need no equipment. You only need belief, and within minutes you will have the PROOF you need.**

H.C. lived in a small council flat with only her canary and cat for company. **Because she was elderly and poor she made the mistake of thinking there was no way she could get money. I urged her to try these psychic powers – the very next day she received £200 from a totally unexpected source!**

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S.M., always a loser at horse betting, tried the Secret Psychic Magic Ritual. **A mere five minutes later she went to the track and bet her last dollar. The horse came home first past the post and she collected a cool \$300.** Her winning streak continued and in no time at all she had paid off her gambling debts! Today she lives in luxury, and no longer has to work for a living.

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The simple 5-minute daily psychic exercises cannot harm. But even so I am required by law to state that they should not be used as a substitute for your usual medication.

But do these powers really work? I will give you two amazing examples of its efficacy in my book. **Psychic cures do happen. I've seen them with my own eyes. I suggest you try the simple instructions in my book and witness these incredible powers for yourself.**

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# The Serpentine Bridge

**The origins of modern science lie in the art of alchemy which was widely practised until the late 18th century.**

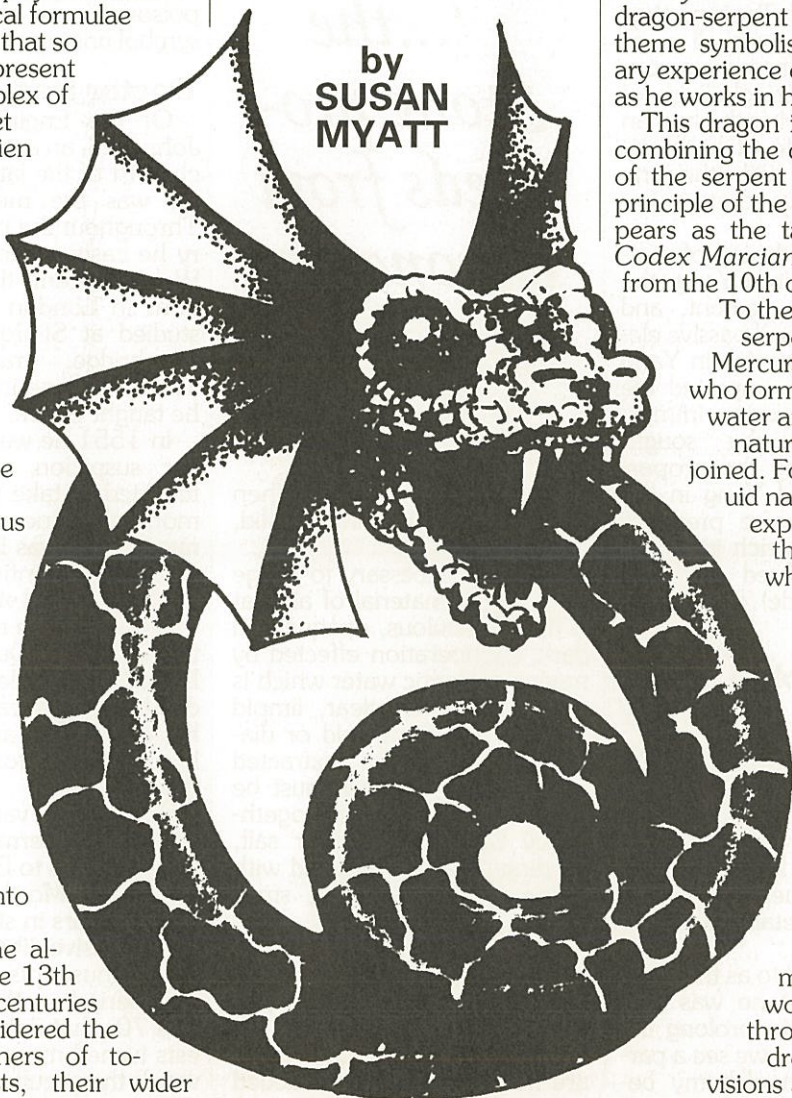
The symbols of science are generally considered to be those embodied in the language of today's modern chemistry and physics. Such are the chemical formulae and structures that so graphically represent the most complex of sub-systems yet seem totally alien to those of us who have turned away from these academic subjects. However, science has itself only recently (relatively speaking) turned from the path of a far more mysterious origin.

Alchemy was the mystical precursor to modern science. It is widely known that the alchemists' great search was for a way to transmute base metals, such as lead, into gold.

Although the alchemists of the 13th and 14th centuries could be considered the early forerunners of today's scientists, their wider

quest was far more spiritual in nature for they attempted to make sense of the universe. They were driven by the search

by  
**SUSAN  
MYATT**



for revelatory knowledge or divine enlightenment.

## Symbolic serpent

The symbols that the alchemists leave with us are numerous, the earliest and most prevalent being that of the serpent. Probably the oldest pictorial symbol in alchemy, the dragon-serpent is a recurring theme symbolising the visionary experience of the alchemist as he works in his laboratory.

This dragon is a monster — combining the chthonic nature of the serpent and the aerial principle of the bird. It first appears as the tail-eater in the *Codex Marcianus* which dates from the 10th or 11th century.

To the alchemists, the serpent represented Mercurius (or Mercury) who forms himself in the water and swallows the nature to which he is joined. For them, the liquid nature of Mercury expressed perfectly the nature of that which is animated within.

When the alchemist speaks of Mercurius he actually talks of the spirit of creation imprisoned in matter. Thus matter forms itself through illusion. In fact,

much alchemical work was inspired through visions and dreams or dream-visions are often found



to be sources of revelation.

These ancient alchemists sought for a spiritual perfection and release from time itself, they sought immortality through the quest for the Philosophers' Stone. First heard of in Chinese alchemy, a tiny amount of the *Opus*, as it was otherwise known, was required to transmute a much larger quantity of base metal into gold.

### Search for immortality

The Chinese, however, practised alchemy of a far more esoteric nature. They were more preoccupied with prolonging life than accumulating wealth as was often the case with Western alchemy.

Followers of Lao Tse Tzu and disciples of Taoism, they were associated with all manner of magic. Their main concern was preparing elixirs of life that would bring the human body into a state of harmony and perfection with the universe; they strove to attain immortality.

The Chinese theory of matter was divided into Yang, the active or male element, and Yin, the female and passive element. Substances rich in Yang were those that imparted life and caused longevity; immortality was thereby sought through adjusting the proportions of Yin and Yang in the body. Elixirs were prepared from substances rich in Yang, such as blood-red cinnabar (mercuric sulphide) or gold and its salts.

### The Philosophers' Stone

For Western alchemists it was the search for the Philosophers' Stone that fuelled their desires. The stone was thought to be a substance endowed with the power of transmuting the base metals — lead, tin, copper, iron and mercury — into the precious metals silver and gold.

Often referred to as the Elixir or *Opus*, the stone was also said to be able to prolong life indefinitely. Thus we see a parallel in Western alchemy be-

tween the transmutation of base metals into something more precious and the transformation of the mortal human into an immortal soul.

It was widely believed that the Stone could only be obtained by divine grace. Hence practical alchemy, which could be considered the forerunner to modern science, becomes inextricably linked with the mystical.

### Magic of the Stone

According to an anonymous 17th-century manuscript entitled *The Sophic Hydrolith*, the Philosophers' Stone is made from a kind of mineral by grinding it to powder, resolving

'...the  
Stone proceeds from  
the one and  
leads back  
to the one;'

it into its three elements then re-combining these into a solid, wax-like stone.

It is first necessary to purge the original material of all that is thick, nebulous, opaque and dark, an operation effected by means of Pontic water which is sweet, beautiful, clear, limpid and brighter than gold or diamonds. Then the extracted body, soul and spirit must be distilled and condensed together by their own proper salt, yielding an aqueous liquid with a pleasant penetrating smell and very volatile.

This liquid is known as Mercurial water or water of the Sun. It should be divided into five portions, of which two are reserved while the other three are mixed together and added

to one twelfth of their weight of the divinely endowed body of gold.

A belief commonly reiterated among the alchemists is that the Stone proceeds from the one and leads back to the one; it is a sort of circle like a dragon biting its own tail. Mercurius stands at the beginning and at the end of the work: he is the *Prima Materia*.

As dragon he devours himself and as dragon he dies, to rise again as the *lapis*. He is the original hermaphrodite that splits into the classical brother-sister duality and is reunited to appear once again at the end, in the radiant form of the Stone. He is metallic yet liquid, matter yet spirit, cold yet fiery, poisonous yet healing — a symbol uniting all opposites.

### Doctor Dee

Of the English alchemists, John Dee, an astrologer and alchemist of the late 16th century, was the most infamous. Throughout the pages of history he casts a dark shadow. Of Welsh descent, the doctor was born in London in 1527 and studied at St John's College, Cambridge, transferring to Trinity College in 1546 where he taught Greek.

In 1551 he was arrested under suspicion of having attempted to take the life of the monarch (Queen Mary I) by magic. He was later found innocent but confined to prison for his heretical views.

However, the next successor to the throne, Queen Elizabeth I, took a far kinder attitude. Indeed, he was called upon by her to calculate an astrologically suitable day for the Coronation.

Following various travels throughout Germany and Italy, Dee returned to England to buy a house in Mortlake, spending several years in study amassing an extensive library of books and manuscripts. It was during this period in the late 1560s and 70s that John Dee's interests turned more and more towards the occult.



# DREAM MEANINGS



## IN THE PENTAGON

### THE DREAM

I AM IN an empty, pentagonal room. Set into each face of the pentagon is a door, all of which are closed except one. US dollars fly through the open door followed by a crowd of happy people throwing more bills into the air. No one pays me any attention.

### THE MEANING

THE pentagonal shape refers to mankind so you are in a materialistic environment where you feel that people are throwing money around indiscriminately. Also, as this shape is associated with the US Government, perhaps you are involved in a wasteful project that is being influenced by politics over which you have no control. The American connection could indicate that the control comes from a distance.

## FISH & CHIPS

### THE DREAM

I WAS THE only customer in a fish and chip shop and was looking at the menu when I saw the surname of a woman I know alongside the word fish. I ordered fish and chips, including this person's surname in the order, which amounted to £6 on the menu but I was charged £13.

I took another look at the menu, thinking to place a cheaper order, only to find that the woman's name had disappeared. The shopkeeper informed me, however, that my initial order was already being cooked.

### THE MEANING

FISH represent things surfacing from the deep unconscious levels, often spiritual, whereas chips, being potatoes, are as-

## by SOPHIA DANIEL

**A dream diary can be helpful in interpreting one's dreams as they are often repeated, either in identical form or subtly different but with the same message. A diary can help throw light on messages which may have been missed when interpreted individually.**

sociated with the Earth principles. Together, of course, they are a cheap convenience food, prepared by someone other than yourself.

Therefore your dream seems to be saying that you appear to think you can buy spirituality, especially from an outside teacher, and already know a possible source. However, here you are being shown that this knowledge will cost you dearly. This is not your ordinary, mundane fare and, having started along this route, there is no turning back.

## PAST ITS SELL-BY DATE

### THE DREAM

I WAS IN a dimly lit market with bright stalls where a woman I used to work with was selling wares. Then I was filling shelves from a big, black hold-all. I had an old-fashioned toy car but the boss said it was unsaleable as it was made of tin.

Next I had some sherry glasses but he told me to throw these away. Then I had some Crunchie bars that were two years out of date. People asked where these had come from so I hid them.

Then I am serving on the stall with a new girl who complains that no one has welcomed her back.

### THE MEANING

DREAM shops and markets are

where we go to make a selection or changes. You realise the need for change, to sell your wares, but what you have for sale is out-of-date and you are advised to throw away such old-fashioned ideas.

You try to sweeten the situation with the chocolate bars but this, too, fails and your ploy is discovered. Thus you have to empty rather than fill the shelves of your life and start afresh.

The new girl represents the fresh, inexperienced you, prepared to learn new tricks. However, inside you know that you are the same person and regret that no one gives you credit for having the courage to take this step.

## PEDAL POWER

### THE DREAM

I AM WALKING down a road when hundreds of bikes rush past though I am the only one who sees them. I step back but no one is hurt.

Then a woman and child, dressed identically in riding clothes, with deep, dark red hair come purposefully towards me, staring directly at me. I know they will explain about the bikes but am afraid.

### THE MEANING

THE bikes rushing past show that your chosen direction will involve a lot of personal hard work — pedal power as opposed to motor transport. You will have to take the initiative and push for success.

The red-headed woman and child denote that lots of head (mental) energy will be required and, again, personal effort on your part — horsepower. They epitomise the effort and hidden fears that you are not confronting presently.



**Poltergeists are well-documented but the cause of such phenomena is still unclear.**

**H**istorically poltergeists have a long and impressive pedigree. Reports of these roisterous, rollicking spirits date at least from early medieval times. In 530 the deacon Helpidius, a physician at the court of King Theodoric, was pelted by mysterious showers of stones and medieval records show other saints and clerics suffering similar indignities.

The 19th century saint John Vianney, better known as the Curé d'Ars, seems to have attracted such phenomena in abundance. It is said that he was plagued by an exceptionally malignant poltergeist for 35 long years. His bed was violently moved about, sacred pictures were daubed with filth and he was forcibly levitated as if by some powerful, unseen presence.

Often the noise from the courtyard of his house was indescribable — suggesting a large army — and deafening sounds, as of the hooves of a 'large escaped horse' resounded from the ceiling.

The liking of poltergeists for men of the cloth is also illustrated by the famous poltergeist of Epworth Rectory which, for two months from December 1715, pestered Samuel Wesley and his family.

'Old Jeffrey,' as the family nicknamed their unwelcome visitor, was quite a performer. Moans and shrieks filled the house, a thudding in the attic scarcely ceased and the entire household was subjected to a relentless succession of rappings, crashes and ghostly footsteps. Accounts of several of these incidents are contained in the Wesley family letters.

### **Drummer of Tedworth**

One of the most celebrated of earlier poltergeist cases is that involving the so-called

# Creating a

'Drummer of Tedworth.' The disturbances of Tedworth (in Wiltshire) date from 1661 and began with the arrest of a vagrant drummer, William Drury by name, who was apparently making a nuisance of himself in the area.

From all accounts he had devised a novel way of extorting money from the locals. He strode about beating his drum vigorously, agreeing to stop only if people paid him to do so. This was too much for the local magistrate, Mr Mompesson. He arrested Drury, imprisoned him pending trial and saw to it that the offending drum was confiscated.

It was when the drum was sent to Mompesson's house that the phenomena began. These at first took the form of loud thumpings and drummings, and did not cease until Drury was sentenced to transportation.

Sadly the respite proved only temporary for shortly afterwards the phenomena erupted in a more violent and sinister form. They seemed to centre around the two young children of the house.

The children were shaken about in their beds, thrown into the air and generally terrorised in a most unpleasant fashion. They became the focus for indecorous smells and strange scratching and scraping noises came from beneath their beds. Other antisocial habits of this poltergeist included the emptying of chamberpots over the bedclothes.

The whole business lasted for two years and Mompesson found the phenomena so intolerable that he had the two children — demure little girls of tender age — moved to a neighbour's house for the sake of peace and quiet. The locals found the whole thing quite wearing too, for the distur-

bances frequently woke the entire village.

### **The Cock Lane affair**

The Cock Lane affair is a cause celebre which centred on a small terraced house in London's Smithfield in 1762. Here lived the impoverished parish clerk of St Sepulchre's, Richard Parsons — not the best advertisement for his profession since he was an immoderate tippler and perpetually in debt. The 'ghost' in this case claimed to be the restless spirit of Fanny Kent, one of Parsons' former lodgers.

Fanny had lodged at the house with her brother-in-law William Kent, with whom she was illegally cohabiting, prior to their move to Clerkenwell. Now her ghost wished to inform the world that she had been murdered by Kent.

In a series of rapped messages communicated to the Parsons' servant girl Mary Frazer — which anticipated similar phenomena later to be associated with Spiritualism — she insisted that Kent had poisoned her with arsenic. Kent was naturally annoyed by these allegations, all the more so because he had no remedy against them, coming — as they supposedly did — from beyond the grave.

When the case was investigated by none other than Dr Johnson, of dictionary fame, and the Rev Douglas, a future bishop of Salisbury, it was discovered that the phenomena — which included the usual quota of moving furniture — centred around the 12-year-old daughter of the house, Elizabeth Parsons.

At one point the 'ghost' agreed to accompany Elizabeth to the vault of St John's Church, Clerkenwell, where Fanny Kent was buried and there to strike the coffin as evi-



# Disturbance

by RUSSELL WARREN

dence of the truth of her statements. When the girl's hands were held, no such phenomena were produced.

By this stage the investigators were growing tired of not having witnessed any of these phenomena for themselves. At the third 'seance' with Elizabeth they decided to force matters by telling her that, unless something did happen, her father would find himself in Newgate Prison.

The girl was almost immediately detected in an artless piece of fraud — trying to secrete a small board and piece of wood inside her dress. All hastily agreed that the phenomena had been satisfactorily explained and Kent was able to seek legal redress against Parsons. This he did most successfully.

Nevertheless the whole affair remained shrouded in doubt. It seems that Elizabeth Parsons was frightened into fraud but whether she could have produced all the phenomena in question by such means is doubtful. The ease with which fraud was detected when she was eventually shown to have committed it would seem to argue that she was not especially adept at fooling people. The Cock Lane mystery must, in all honesty, be counted as unresolved.

## Amherst poltergeist

Of all the classic poltergeist cases, the Amherst case is possibly the most spectacular. Amherst was a small village in Nova Scotia and the scene, in 1878, of perhaps the most violent poltergeist infestation ever recorded. Central to the drama was 19-year-old Esther Cox.

Esther's mother had died while she was still in infancy and her father had remarried and moved away. Esther and her sister Jane lived with their elder, married sister Olive Teed.

Esther was the wallflower of the family, eclipsed by her attractive elder sister and by the Teeds' own young children.

The trouble began on one summer evening in 1878 when she was persuaded by a man called Bob McNeal to take a ride in his horse and trap. He drove her to a secluded wood and attempted to rape her at pistol-point. Her honour was fortunately

saved by the sound of an approaching cart. Panicking, McNeal drove her home at break-neck speed, bundled her out of the trap and vanished from Amherst for good.

The disturbances began exactly a week later. Esther and Jane, who shared a bed, were prevented from sleeping by a rustling movement in the mattress. Their first thought was that it must be a mouse trapped in the straw, but the source proved to be a cardboard box full of patchwork under the bed. When it was pulled out, it began to spring acrobatically about the room.

The phenomena rapidly reached bizarre heights. Esther's body swelled





# Creating a

up like a watermelon, her bedclothes were wrenched off — leaving her cowering with fright — and there was a deafening cacophony of bangs and thuds as if the roof were being pounded with a sledgehammer. Dr Caritte, who was summoned to attend the feverish girl, testified to the violence of the phenomena. During one call to the house, he was met with a fusillade of potatoes.

By Christmas, Esther had succumbed to diphtheria. She recovered from this illness but not from her strange delusions. An evil spirit was now announcing to her that it intended to set fire to the house. On several occasions lighted matches rained from the ceiling, a dress was incinerated and wood shavings self-ignited in the cellar. The invisible arsonist was nearly successful.

The Teeds, at the end of their tether, now decided to get rid of their dangerous sister-in-law. Esther was taken in by John White, a friendly neighbour who believed that all her troubles were due to electrical discharges and made her insulate herself by wearing thin glass soles inside her shoes. The phenomena then broke out afresh and White too had to confess himself beaten.

Esther next spent some time in New Brunswick with a Captain James Beck, who enlisted the help of several doctors in attempting to treat her, and then on a farm belonging to a Mr and Mrs Amburgh from which she was finally sent

home, allegedly cured.

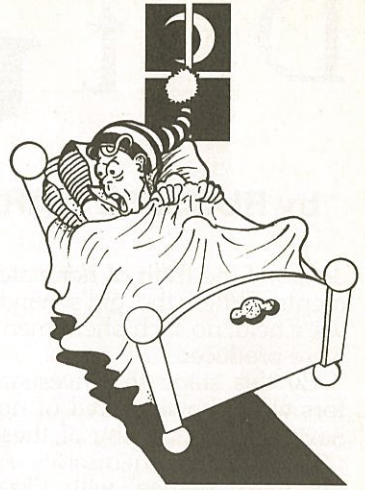
Regrettably there was a fresh catalyst in Amherst waiting to refuel Esther's troubles. Walter Hubbell, an actor and stage magician, had descended upon the Teeds to gather material for what he hoped would be a highly commercial book about the affair.

The ghosts indulged his curiosity. He became the target for knives, an inkwell and a sturdy glass paperweight. These and other phenomena convinced the delighted Hubbell that there was a mint of money to be made out of the girl. He hired a hall in which to exhibit her as a showpiece but her ghosts shunned the publicity and declined to perform.

## Sequel

In 1907 there was an interesting sequel to the Amherst case. An assiduous Anglo-American researcher, Hereward Carrington, interviewed a number of the surviving witnesses of the affair. Their testimony confirmed Hubbell's published account. Carrington also traced Esther herself to a small house in Boston. He found a frightened woman who refused to discuss the 'ghosts' she had once known, still fearful lest they should return.

These and other historical poltergeist cases illustrate how, as in contemporary reports, poltergeists seem to have a strong affinity for children and adolescents. Often, as in the emptying of chamberpots into



beds at Tedworth, the poltergeists show a low level of humour, symptomatic of a childish mind.

At the same time, many of the phenomena involved in these outbreaks are clearly beyond a child's powers of duplicity. In many cases, as at Cock Lane, it seems that when the incidents show signs of dying down, the child, relishing the excitement, has tried to simulate the phenomena by fraud and failed woefully.

More plausible is the belief, now shared by the majority of parapsychologists, that the phenomena are subconsciously produced. It is argued that repressed but powerful emotions may come bubbling and bursting to the surface in this violent fashion particularly when puberty looms.

Could it be that the mind is like a pressure cooker — for the most part simmering quietly away but occasionally exploding to dramatic effect? One thing is certain. We have merely scratched the surface of the workings of the human mind.

D<sup>i</sup>s<sup>t</sup>u<sup>r</sup>b<sup>a</sup>n<sup>c</sup>e



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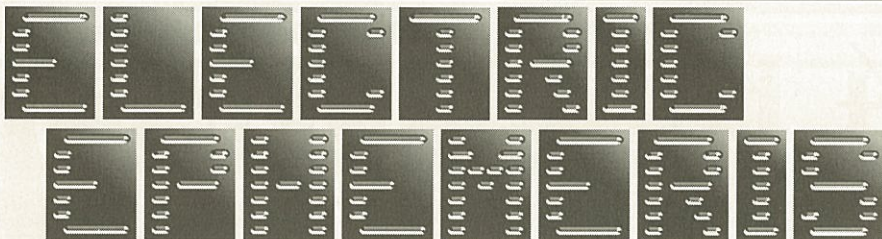
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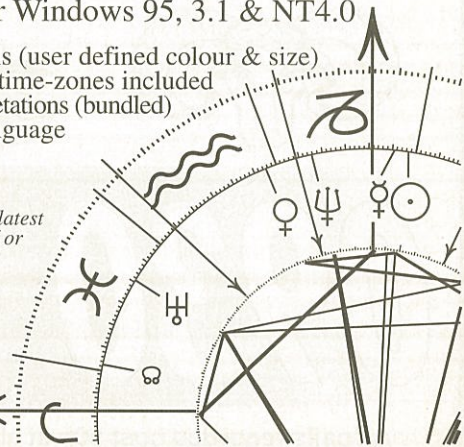
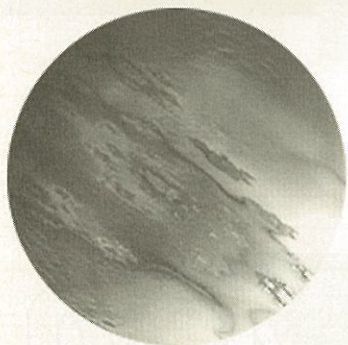
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**Above all mythical creatures, the most beautiful and noble is the unicorn, famed for its peaceful and kindly nature when left at peace in its own natural habitat.**

Appearing with great regularity in tapestries of long ago to fantasy art of today, from coats of arms and poetry to figurines, novels and films, the unicorn has long been prized and admired for a variety of reasons. Is it so im-

Rhine. This, from all accounts, seemed the perfect place for the habitat of these gentle creatures being deep stretches of secluded woodland.

Caesar claimed to have seen a unicorn in these woods; a creature resembling a stag but with a

purple head!

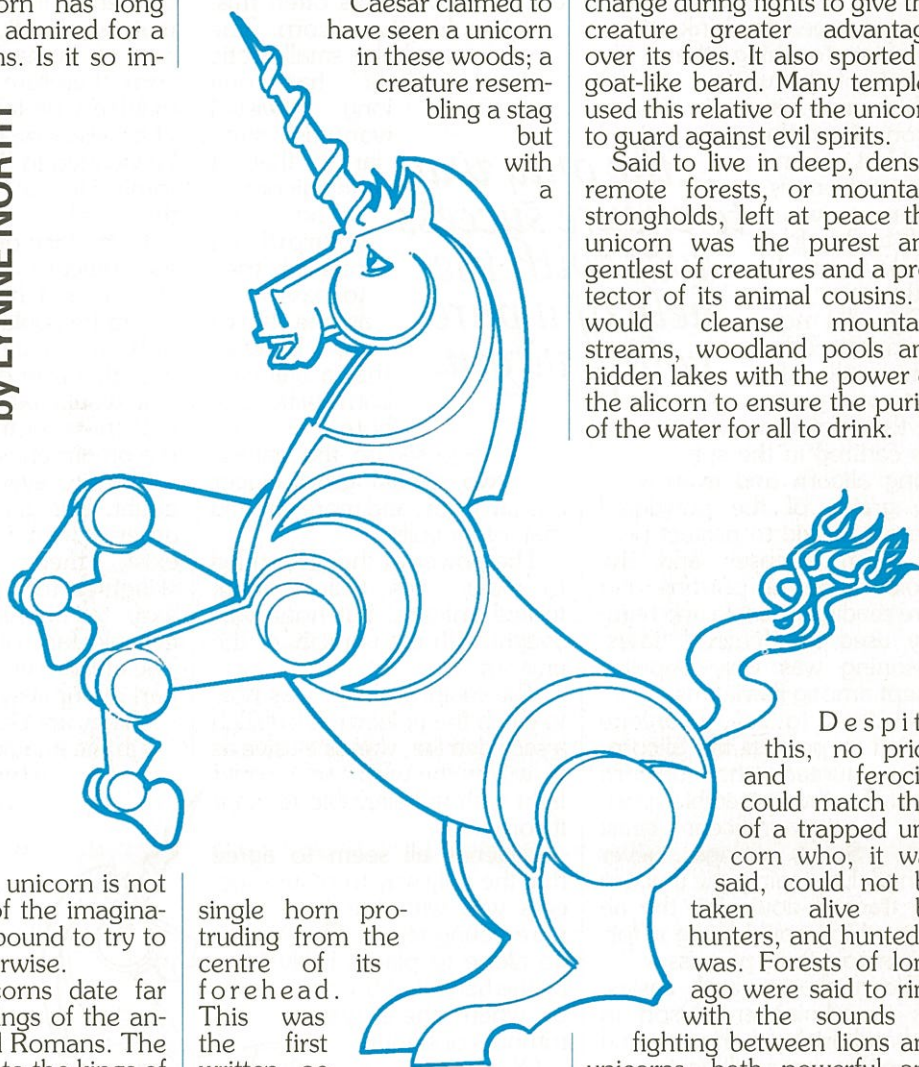
The name 'unicorn' derives from the Latin for 'one horn,' which makes the Indian version more a cousin to the unicorn rather than the creature itself.

The curious beast described in India as the eale or yale, bore two spiralling horns that were movable to allow position change during fights to give the creature greater advantage over its foes. It also sported a goat-like beard. Many temples used this relative of the unicorn to guard against evil spirits.

Said to live in deep, dense, remote forests, or mountain strongholds, left at peace the unicorn was the purest and gentlest of creatures and a protector of its animal cousins. It would cleanse mountain streams, woodland pools and hidden lakes with the power of the alicorn to ensure the purity of the water for all to drink.

# Paragons of Virtue

by LYNNE NORTH



possible that the unicorn is not only a figment of the imagination? Legends abound to try to convince us otherwise.

Tales of unicorns date far back to the writings of the ancient Greeks and Romans. The Greek physician to the kings of Persia in the 5th century BC, Ctesias, repeated tales that he had heard from travellers to the Himalayas who claimed that unicorns lived in India; while Julius Caesar described the sighting of a unicorn in his accounts of the Gallic War. It is said that he had heard rumours of unicorns living in the Hervynian Forest near to the

single horn protruding from the centre of its forehead.

This was the first written account of a unicorn being sighted in Europe.

Descriptions of unicorns vary, the Indian one being very different from that of the West. Usually seen as a pure white horse with a silken mane, blue eyes and a spiralling horn (the alicorn) from the centre of its forehead, the unicorn has alternatively been described as hav-

Despite this, no pride and ferocity could match that of a trapped unicorn who, it was said, could not be taken alive by hunters, and hunted it was. Forests of long ago were said to ring with the sounds of

fighting between lions and unicorns, both powerful and proud beasts competing for dominion over their territories.

Legend tells us that the outcome of these battles followed seasonal patterns. The unicorn was at its peak in Spring, then took more of a back seat as the lion's power grew to its strongest in Summer. At these times, the unicorn would wait and conserve its strength until



the new beginnings of Spring once again filled it with renewed might to reclaim its rightful rule.

Generally, the unicorn had few enemies save, as always, man. The horn of the unicorn, the alicorn, was from the earliest times believed to be magical and possessed of great powers.

The unicorn itself, whether aware of it as a power or not, never stooped to drink without first touching the surface of the water

with the tip of its alicorn. Even the murkiest and most poisonous waters were said to be instantly purified by this act.

This did not go unnoticed by man. All the grace and purity of the unicorn

was centred in the spiralling alicorn and even a few grains of the powdered horn were said to protect people from diseases and the whole range of poisons that were readily available and regularly used in Medieval times. Poisoning was very popular, except among its victims.

Needless to say, everyone wanted to possess the alicorn. Many hunted the unicorn merely for the 'incredible sport' that the magnificent beast gave. Some things never change. But mainly the unicorn was tracked down for the alicorn which could bring a fortune in gold to its possessor.

The favourite and easiest was to administer poison in food and drink, so the rich and unpopular were willing to pay thousands of gold coins for the alicorn. A complete alicorn, hollowed into a drinking goblet, was said to change colour or produce drops of moisture in the presence of poison.

Even if the imbibor had already taken too much of the demon brew to notice these miraculous changes, the power of the alicorn was said to be

able to counter any ill effect of the toxins anyway.

The entire horn was therefore almost priceless, while even the powder ground from it could bring a fortune. The rarity of the true alicorn led to a great trade in powdered bone or elephant tusks by potential fortune seekers.

In the Middle Ages, the tusk of the narwhal was often mistaken for the alicorn. The

narwhal, a small Arctic whale, has one long twisted ivory tusk, similar to that of the unicorn.

The unscrupulous certainly tried to pass it off as one. It was also believed that a bull calf, born with one horn as op-

posed to the natural

two, would grow bigger and stronger, and more spirited than other bulls.

The power of the alicorn led to many such beliefs about tusked animals, but none was sought with the voracity of the unicorn.

The main problem was how to catch the unicorn. It led such a secluded life, was as elusive as a willow-the-wisp and could fight with unbelievable ferocity if cornered.

Legends all seem to agree that the only way to ensure success was with the help of a pure young virgin. She would go alone to places likely to be the habitat of unicorns, or where there were rumours of sightings.

Of its own accord, the unicorn was said to come to the maiden freely and allow itself to be led to the King's palace.

Here, the hunters would cut off the alicorn then supposedly release the unicorn back into the wild. There was no life for the uni-

corn, however, without the magical alicorn that was the centre of its whole being. Even if not killed during the struggle, the unicorn could not live long afterwards anyway.

It is not truly known why the noble unicorn allowed itself to be led in this way, but it was acknowledged that the unicorn recognised its own purity and gentleness in the maiden, traits that were sadly lacking in the rest of humankind. The unicorn therefore bowed to the maiden's pretence and lost all of its wildness. For such trust to be violated in this way was unforgivable, but this is the way of the world.

In the face of such adversity, the unicorn never stood a chance and hid himself away where he could never be found or became extinct. The legend, though, never died.

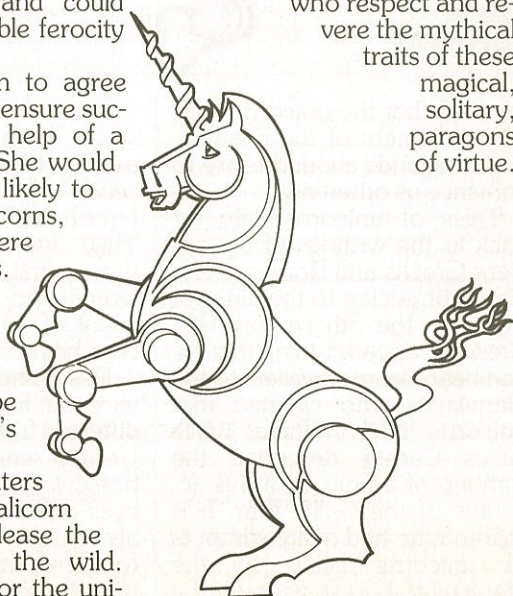
It would be nice to believe that these gentle creatures did live on our ancient Earth. Their popularity even now is in no doubt. But did we, or do we, deserve them? If unicorns did exist, then the legendary slaughter for greed is all too easy to believe. It is an inevitable fact of man's nature. The unicorn was too good to be part of our lives.

They are better off living on in the imaginations of those

who respect and revere the mythical traits of these

magical, solitary, paragons of virtue.

*...the only way to ensure success was with the help of a pure young virgin.*





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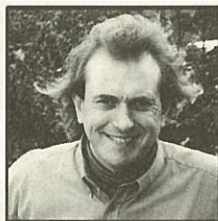
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# SPARK OF LIFE

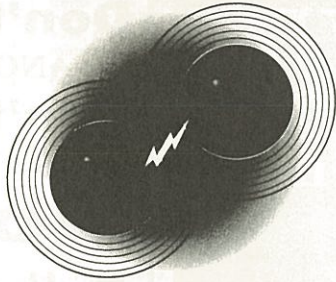
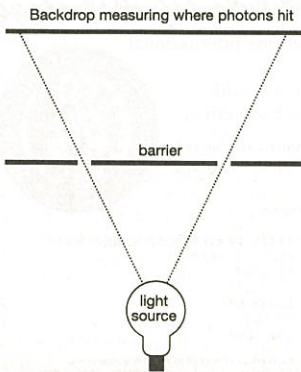
This article is a condensed explanation of a theory concerning the existence of the soul. It has been written in an attempt to promote serious discussion and research. Science and the spiritual are both used in support.

The theory is that all living things have a soul; that the soul is a high vibrational energy or structure; and this vibration is the spark that creates all life, from single cells to human life.

In the spiritual arena both astral projection and near-death-experiences lend support to the soul being of high vibration. Many documented cases in both areas refer to an increase in vibration.

In the world of science there is an experiment, the results of which may be explained by the existence of high vibrational energies or possibly their frequency/wave emissions. This experiment is undertaken by many degree-level physics students. It is called 'Young's Slits Interference Pattern' and is concerned with the pattern created by single light photons after passing through two slits (see Fig 1). The results of this experiment cannot be properly explained.

Dr David Deutsch has attempted an explanation by claiming that the pattern created is due to interaction with other dimensions in close prox-



by EDWIN T. PAGE

imity to ours. This seems far less likely, if not implausible, compared with the possibility that photons are interacting with forms of existence/energy similar to our souls or possibly their wave emissions.

Here we find a link between the theory and word origins. The word 'soul' derives from a Greek word meaning 'quick-moving.' This can clearly be seen to fit with the idea of a high vibrational, quick-moving soul. Ancient wisdom and language may hold more truth than previously believed.

Now the question of why this vibration causes the initial spark of life in living organisms must be answered. The soul connects with matter when the conditions are correct for life to begin. This connection transfers energy from the soul vibration to the matter. This type of transference can be seen clearly in Barton's Pendulum Law (see Fig.2). It can also be seen in such things as the Zeroth law of thermodynamics, through the transference of heat energy.

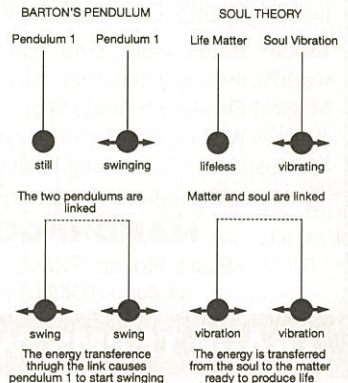
Again there is a correlation between the theory and word origins. The word 'spirit,' another term for the soul, came from the Latin *spiritus* which meant 'breath.' The soul can well be described as the breath of life if this theory is correct. The soul transfers its energy to the matter in a state ready to form life and creates the spark of energy that begins life.

The idea of a soul is held by many if not most religions. Many believe that the soul reincarnates through a series of lives. This could be possible in light of this theory as the soul vibration has an indefinite life-span. If this life-span is very long or even infinite then it is likely that souls link to new bodies when the old ones have passed into death through natural degradation of biological structures.

The soul being the prerequisite of material life means that all life, no matter how simple or complex, must have one. Without a soul, material life is not possible. But the vibration of the soul probably creates some kind of emission. This may be in the form of a high frequency sound or electromagnetic wave. Through scientific experimentation these emissions could be measured or detected.

The evidence gathered in support of this theory is by no means conclusive. However, it does create many questions and possibilities for research and discussion.

There are many implications and ramifications to this theory if it is considered true and can be proved by experimentation. It affects the views of science and religion, it affects the whole of society and the human view of the world and all life upon it.





# BOOK REVIEWS

## **THE GREAT COPERNICUS CHASE** by Owen Gingerich (Cambridge University Press, £20.95 hbk)

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED AS articles for scientific journals, 36 episodes in the history of astronomy are put together in one book here. But don't be put off by the word scientific because they are all well-written in everyday language — often with great humour.

The book is well illustrated in black and white and covers such topics as ancient Egyptian sky magic; the origin of the zodiac; Islamic astronomy; comets and the phases and moons of various planets; eclipses and the lives and discoveries of many famous astronomers and astrologers throughout history.

The title tells of detective work concerning the existence of copies of Copernicus' great work, *De Revolutionibus*, which makes one long to hold an original in one's hands, just once! It is also the adventure that gave the author the idea for this book.

The author is a Professor of Astronomy and History of Science at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, so knows what he is talking about! However, he presents a very readable book for those of a scientific bent and the layperson alike. — B.L.

## **WITCHES: An encyclopedia of paganism & magic** by Michael Jordan (Kyle Cathie, £17.99 hbk)

COMPILED BY SOMEONE who has been researching the subject for 12 years, as the title indicates, this is an encyclopedia of witchcraft, paganism and magic. It covers the historical aspects from alchemy to wax images but its real emphasis is on the modern revival of the last 50-60 years. It is obvious that the author's intention is to promote a positive image of the subject but this is somewhat dimmed by his references to the private lives of the (male) leaders of the current revival.

In addition to the encyclopedia entries, the book contains interviews with four prominent (female) witches and pagans who have been active in the last 30 years. It is in his questions to these individuals that the author's unbiased approach appears to slip and one begins to wonder if he might have a hidden agenda.

Despite these reservations, this is an informative and interesting study of the subject and it is illustrated by some very nice photographs. It makes a change to see that not all modern witches drop their clothes at the click of a camera;

that old 'skyclad' stereotypical image appears to be fading at long last.

Obviously there will be omissions, errors and incorrect information in any work of this type. Overall, though, apart from one infamous entry, the author has done his job well. This is a book that can be recommended to all those wanting to know more about modern Wicca. — M.H.

## **ANGELS: Companions in magic** by Silver Raven Wolf (Llewellyn/Mandrake Press, \$17.95/£13.99)

ANGELOLOGY, ALONG WITH Feng Shui, is the hottest New Age craze to hit us from the States. Most of the recent books on the subject have approached it from a Judeo-Christian/New Age angle and have been mostly anecdotal accounts of angelic interventions in daily life or angelic visions.

This book is different. It is written by a practising occultist and magus who writes from the esoteric viewpoint of a practitioner of modern angelic magic.

Her book contains a wealth of information on the various grades and sub-grades of angels in the universe. It also provides practical guidance on contacting and working with guardian angels, zodiac angels and planetary angels. At some stages one felt that Wolf was providing too much information and for that reason those less experienced could find this book a little confusing.

It is a rich plum pudding of a book. But for those special souls (you know who you are) who share a love for the angels it is one that can be dipped into constantly. Recommended. — M.H.

## **EXPLORING JUPITER** by Stephen Arroyo (CRCS/Airlift, \$12.95/£10.99)

ACCORDING TO THE author of this excellent work, the importance of Jupiter in the birth chart is underestimated in interpretation and in traditional astrology. It is something taken for granted as the 'Great Benefic' which shows where a person's opportunities are likely to arise. But surely such a large planet has a far deeper meaning?

It is the elaboration of this deeper meaning that Arroyo takes as the main theme of this book (the subtitle of which is 'astrological Key to Progress, Prosperity and Potential.' He believes that Jupiter is a far more dynamic planet than is usually assumed.

As ruler of Sagittarius it is by nature always moving, seeking wider horizons, developing towards fuller expres-

sion and progressive change — overcoming limits. In order to illustrate the richness of meaning in Jupiter, he utilises many example charts of notable individuals and, together with this inspiring material, provides much useful information on interpretation by sign and house, aspects and transits.

All in all, I would confidently say that this is the most definitive book to date on the nature and significance of Jupiter. — R.H.

## **HOW THE MOON AFFECTS YOU** by Arnold L. Lieber (Hasting House/Gazelle, \$14.95/£13.99)

AN UPDATED AND revised edition of a book first published in 1978 that sets out to prove what virtually every PREDICTION reader already knows: the Moon has an effect on us and everything around us. However, it makes interesting reading.

Chapters cover research on Lunar cycles in connection with practically anything one can think of including murder, other acts of violence, suicide; even excessive bleeding both before and after surgery. Dr Lieber has also studied the Moon's effect on mental health as well as sickness of a more physical nature.

He considers that the body experiences biological tides that make it ebb and flow in the same way as the ocean and, although neutral regarding astrology, explains various cosmic cycles in such a way that it would seem more odd if astrology didn't work!

Perhaps more important than just producing proof of his theories, the author ends his book with possible solutions for mankind learning to live in harmony with cosmic forces and the natural environment. Thus a less violent society would ensue. — B.L.

## **ANCIENT CHRISTIAN MAGIC** edited by Marvin Meyer & Richard Smith

(Harper Collins, £12.99/\$15.00)

THE COVER BLURB gives the impression that this is a popular book of spells deriving from ancient Egypt. This is misleading because it is, in fact, a very scholarly tome which will appeal to those who take a serious interest in the period of history from the 2nd to the 11th century.

It shows in great wealth of detail just how important a certain type of magic was to the people of this time and explains that this was all part and parcel of the Christian culture of the period.



This is a fascinating book, jam-packed with all kinds of ancient magical spells, rituals, incantations, charms and talismans.

In modern times all this has been summarily dismissed as so much superstitious nonsense. Yet the seriousness with which this was taken by our ancestors did, perhaps, endow it with a certain meaning and efficacy.

The incredible detail in this book will make it rather tedious for certain readers but then it is not meant to be a DIY book of magical recipes. For the historian it is a mine of insight and for others a very interesting book to dip into occasionally. — R.H.

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## RETURNING TO THE SOURCE

by Osho

(Element, £8.99/\$14.95)

I MUST ADMIT that this is the first time I have heard of Osho although his reputation as a spiritual teacher appears extremely well regarded. He founded a teaching centre in India which has attracted numerous people from all over the world and continues to be a major centre for meditation and Zen teaching.

Having dipped into the first few pages, it soon became apparent that here, indeed, is a highly sensitive and wise teacher. What he says bears a striking similarity to Krishnamurti in the sense that he looks at how we ordinarily see the world and points out that what we see and how we behave is very much a reflex of social conditioning.

Like all Zen teachers, he is constantly aiming to get us to see through our rigid and entrenched conceptual frameworks, expectations, world-views and beliefs. His hope is that at some time a breakthrough will be made and our ego-bound, idol-making minds will release their exclusive hold.

As the author says, the real teaching cannot be taught directly but it can be demonstrated and pointed out in many indirect ways. Osho is a master of this indirect method and this is a book well worth careful study by those who seek a genuine enlightenment. — R.H.

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## THE ELEMENTS OF RE-INCARNATION

by A.T. Mann

(Element, £5.99/\$11.95)

AS AN INTRODUCTION to the subject, this book certainly offers a wide-ranging sample of theories and mythology. Starting with the traditional teachings of Egyptian, Hindu, Buddhist and Greek religions, the author goes on to present the more modern concepts developed by Theosophy, Rudolph Steiner and Edgar Cayce which have, in turn, led to the contemporary thinking of psychologists and biologists such as Jung, Guirdham and Sheldrake.

The meeting of religion and science is then espoused within Mann's own

theory of astrological reincarnation. This marries Rodney Collin's logarithmic analysis of human lifespans with Plato's astrological Ages to produce a map of reincarnation within the stream of history.

Unfortunately, this sweeping vista of ideas fails really to explain the subject. By offering within a mere 130 pages a whistle-stop tour of such far-reaching proportions, the author provides a very sketchy analysis of each topic.

Nor does he develop any real argument to link the various sections. The end result is a mish-mash of information, often repetitive, sometimes contradictory and occasionally downright inaccurate. Poor editing and an apparent lack of proof-reading do not help this confusion.

All fascinating stuff but I wonder whether the reader will really be enlightened by this work or simply baffled! — M.M.

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## THE ESSENTIAL KABBALAH: The Heart of Jewish Mysticism

by Daniel C. M.

(Harper Collins, £8.99/\$12.00)

THE FIRST IMPRESSION of this volume is that it is obviously a work of beautiful and serious scholarship, the last quarter being taken up by copious notes, references and bibliography. At first, therefore, I made the mistake of assuming that it was unlikely to be a book for the newcomer to the Cabbala.

Later, however, I changed my mind. The first section is an excellent, concise introduction to the subject even for those with little or no prior knowledge.

The main part of the work comprises a selection of Cabbalistic teachings, few more than a couple of pages long, which in one sense dissect the Cabbala while, in another, put it back together again in context. If that sounds paradoxical, it is. It is also a measure of the book's depth.

The author, an American professor of Jewish Mysticism, has drawn heavily on many ancient texts and has made his own translations from the original Hebrew and Aramaic. The result is a collection of truly wise insights and keys for meditation in which the serious student at any level would find much to contemplate and learn. — J.T.

---

## THE TORCH AND THE SPEAR

by Patrick Regan

(Capall Bann, £9.95)

THE AUTHOR BELIEVES that by learning about the gods, seasonal festivals and heroic legends that inspired our ancestors we can rediscover a wisdom that our technological society has lost.

In this book, profusely illustrated by the author, Regan considers many of the mythological personages that successive peoples have brought with them to these shores. He explains his own neo-pagan beliefs, based on indi-

vidualism, tolerance and concern for the Earth.

There's quite a lot of information here. Sadly, however, the lack of any coherent structure (there aren't even any chapters) and the somewhat careless, repetitive writing style combine to make this potentially useful book difficult to follow. — N.J.

---

## THE SILVER WHEEL

by Marguerite Elsbeth & Kenneth Johnson

(Llewellyn/Airlift, \$14.95/£11.99)

BASED ON JUNGIAN psychology and the story of Rhiannon in the medieval Welsh legends of *The Mabinogion*, this book offers its female readers the chance to 'rediscover the sacred mysteries and eternal truths within every woman's life.'

The authors use the concept of the Triple Goddess as template for psychological and spiritual understanding but extend this into a fourfold image of the feminine principle. They therefore seek to define and classify women by the images (stereotypes?) of the Mother or Queen, the Medium or Sorceress (two totally different functions!), the Amazon or Warrior Woman, and the Lover.

Using meditation exercises and question-and-answer tests, the authors seek to 'uncover the archetypal goddess within you' through 'powerful techniques of empowerment and spiritual development.' As must be obvious by now, this is very much a book aimed at the New Age market.

But, to be fair, it is a cut above the usual New Age self-help/positive thinking/all sweetness and light material that often masquerades as spirituality and its concepts are grounded in pagan mythology. — M.H.

---

## DICTIONARY OF NORSE MYTH AND LEGEND

by Andy Orchard

(Cassell, £20)

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Usefully, there is a section on spelling and pronunciation, a list of appendices and full bibliography for further reading. This is definitely a great reference book to treasure for anyone interested in Anglo-Saxon/Norse myth and legend. — C.B.



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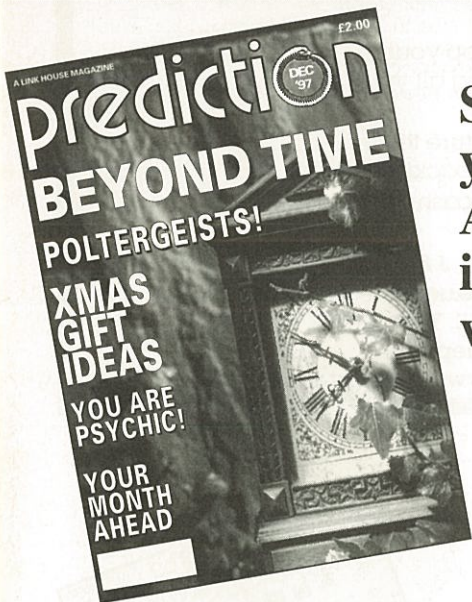
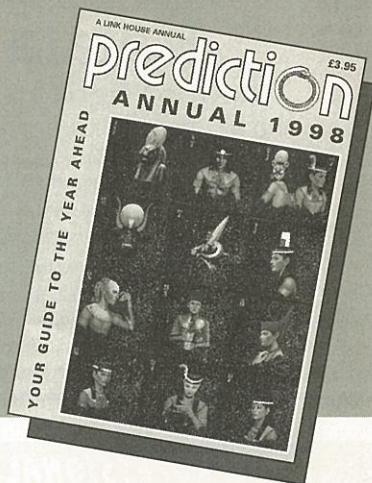
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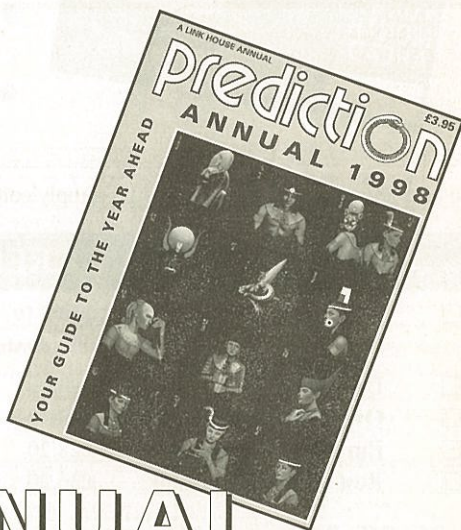
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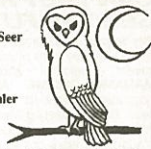
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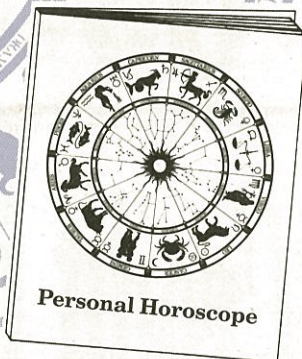


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