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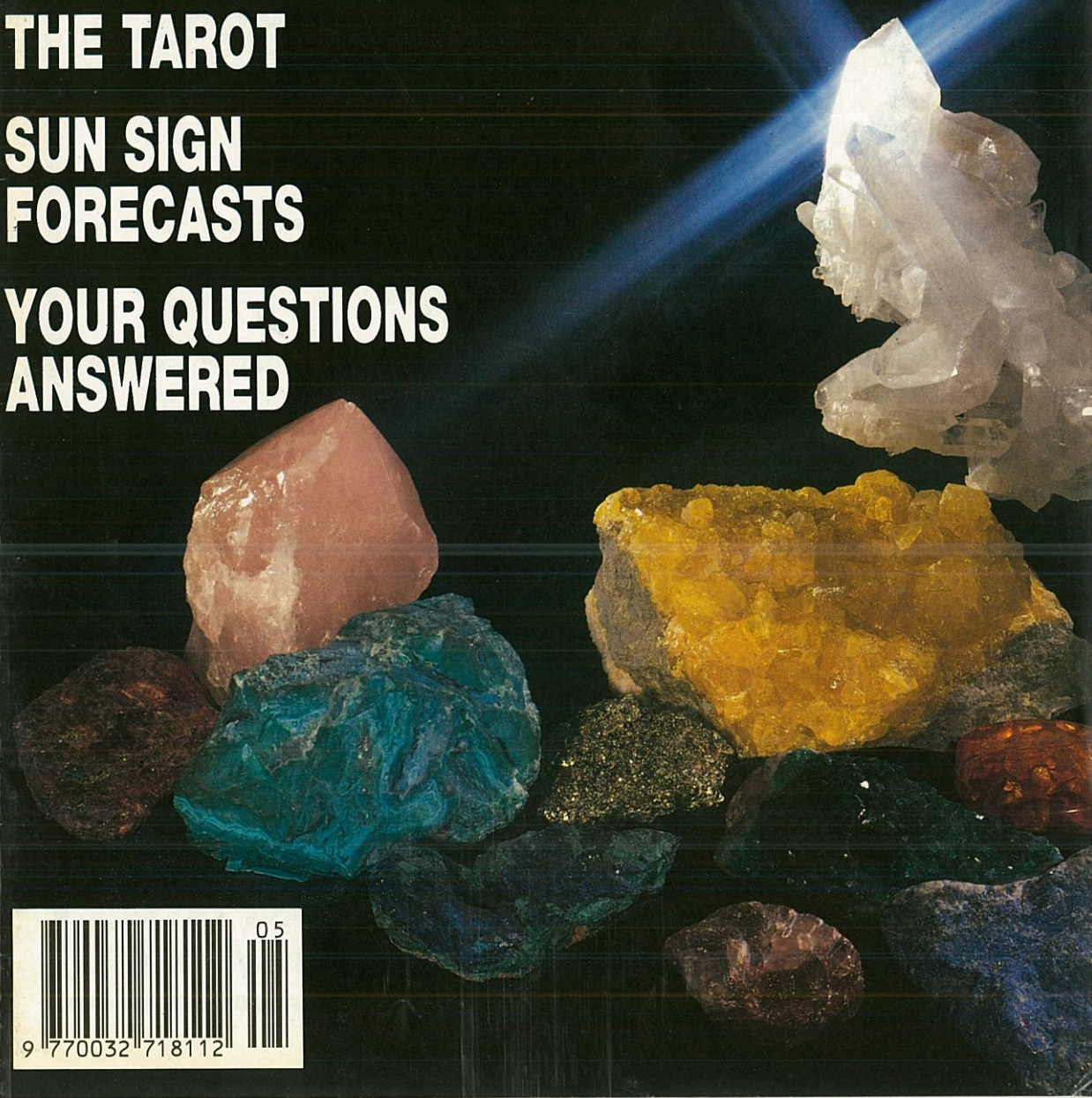


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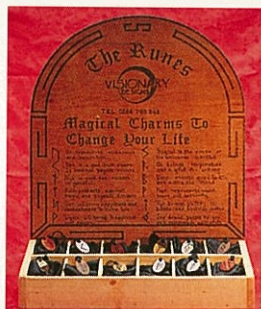
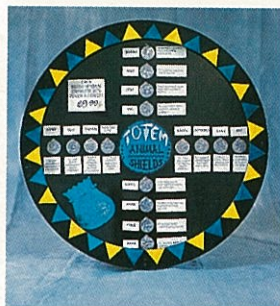
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The sheer beauty of natural gemstones belies their power in other fields — it is reputed that they can be most effective in healing for instance. See page 8.

Cover photography by Roger Phillips; selection of natural gemstones kindly loaned by Moonstone of Croydon.

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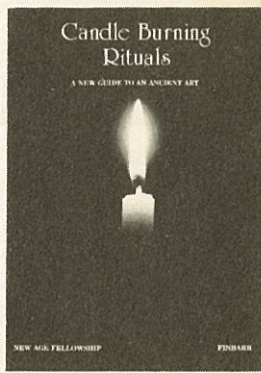
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A.K. (Bristol): "I have never had my prayers answered so I can't believe my luck. After years of trying to get my songs published I received my very first acceptance one week after I got your book! I am astonished!"

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

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

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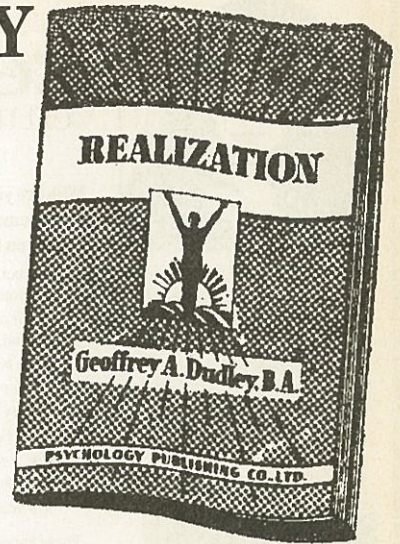
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Hidden in cavities beneath the surface of the Earth lie gems and crystals full of energy and power. Thankfully, the days when mankind had to search for these stones has long gone and now crystals of every shape, size and colour can be found at the many craft fairs held throughout the country as well as through numerous specialist outlets.

To the novice it is a daunting experience when gazing at a vast collection of stones to decide just which one to choose. There is no set method but perhaps the simplest is to use one's natural intuition.

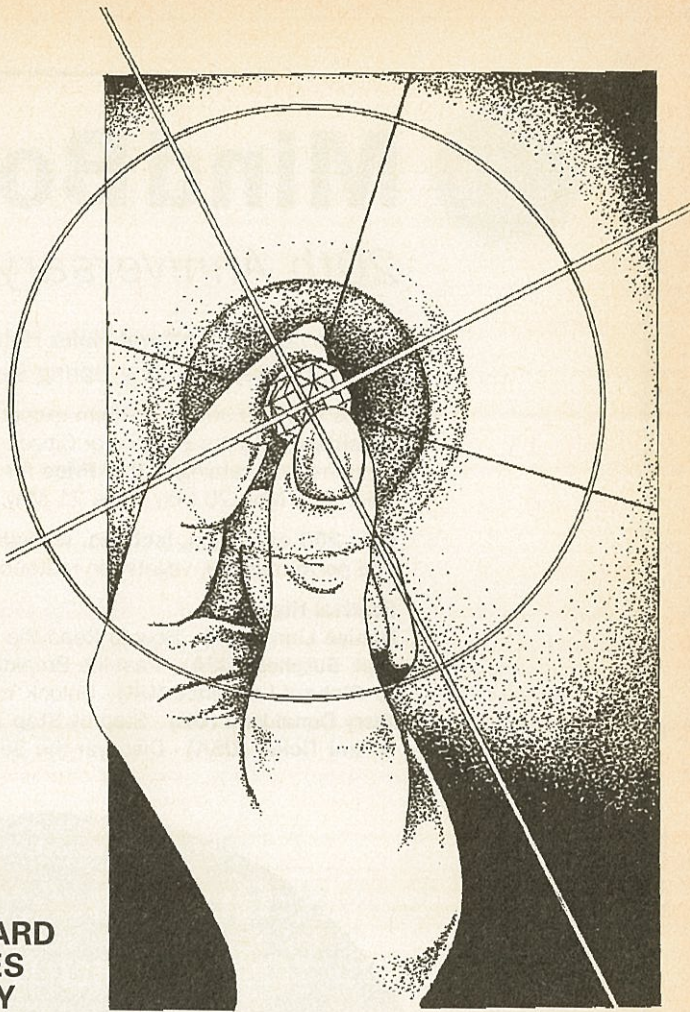
One way of doing this is to pick up a crystal and hold it in the region of your heart. Rotate the stone slowly and, if it is 'right' for you, you may feel a tingling sensation or a feeling of warmth or cold. Of course, you may not feel a thing and if this is the case put the stone down and try another. Repeat this process until you are satisfied that you have found one suited to you.

Each gem and crystal has its own special power. So, if selecting a stone for healing purposes or to enhance or aid a specific facet of life, choose one whose area of influence accords with the desired aim; the following may provide a few helpful guidelines in this respect.

AMETHYST — the gem to celebrate one's 17th wedding anniversary — is a stone to be worn during the day. Traditionally it is thought to offer protection against magic and is said to cure homesickness. The ancient Greeks, and later the Romans, drank out of amethyst-encrusted goblets in the belief that this would prevent drunkenness.

The amethyst is indeed a remarkable stone which, when worn, has a calming influence on the wearer. But, should that person become ill, the amethyst will change colour

by
**RICHARD
JAMES
PERCY**



and if brought near poisoned food become dull and lifeless-looking.

One of the most powerful healing stones, the amethyst is a boon for emotionally over-active types as it suppresses violence and anger. If you suffer from insomnia try placing an amethyst under your pillow at night; there is no other gem more suitable for ensuring a restful night's sleep.

For a nervous headache warm a piece of this stone in the Sun or place it near the fire. After it has soaked up the heat wrap it in a piece of silk and place it on your forehead; soon the pain will slowly fade.

Those wanting a healthy skin and beautiful complexion should soak an amethyst in the

bath and then relax in the energised water. Alternatively, pop the stone into a glass of water, let it stand overnight and, in the morning, remove the stone and drink the refreshing elixir. Whichever method you choose, your skin will feel cleansed and invigorated.

BLOODSTONE, as its name suggests, can be used to treat many blood disorders and improve the circulation. It has been known to help women who suffer from painful periods as it regulates the menstrual flow. To bring relief, lie on the floor and place the stone on your lower stomach below the navel. This will help regenerate the blood cells and should leave you feeling full of energy.

In olden times the bloodstone was used to help staunch the flow of blood from wounds or placed on the patient's chest to stop internal haemorrhages.

For those undertaking a new business venture the bloodstone is a very fortunate gem to wear. Although it is the stone for those born under the sign of Aries, who should complement it with the diamond and haematite, it can safely be worn by all, whatever their birth sign may be.

EMERALD, known as the jewel of love, is the gem to celebrate one's 55th wedding anniversary. It is also fortunate for those born under the sign of Cancer who should wear it with moonstone and pearls.

The emerald is regarded as a cure-all; its virtues are endless. To wear this stone is believed to help prevent epilepsy, cure impotency, strengthen teeth

fortune, can be worn safely by those born under the influence of Libra. The only people who should avoid wearing opals are those whose birthdays fall within the Cancer and Capricorn periods.

The opal is a symbol of hope and is said to bestow the gift of clairvoyance on its wearer. It is also considered beneficial for the treatment of lung conditions and to ease childbirth.

TURQUOISE is the stone for those born under Taurus but can be worn safely by others it accepts; for not all stones take to everyone and the turquoise is notorious for turning dull and lifeless-looking if not 'in tune' with the wearer's vibes. If this does happen, the only solution is to persevere for a week or two but, if there is no improvement in appearance after that time, discard the turquoise in favour of another stone.

complaints hold a piece of turquoise in your left hand about 3-4 inches away from the affected area and rotate it slowly in an anti-clockwise direction while counting up to 30. This will draw out the pain, though another session may be necessary to eradicate it completely.

This treatment should be followed up by some direct healing. With your right hand shake the stone to rid it of any impurities it has acquired then repeat the above process but in a clockwise direction.

AGATE is considered fortunate for those born under the influence of Gemini and, if worn in conjunction with chrysoprase, its power will be enhanced. However, the agate should not be worn by persons born under the signs of Virgo and Pisces.

This stone is said to bring wealth, good health and long life to its wearer. Noted for their soothing properties, agates make ideal worry beads when held in the hand. They also help eliminate emotional problems, prevent headaches and bring relief from tired and inflamed eyes. The moss agate is especially beneficial for these complaints as well as it being the stone to celebrate one's 14th wedding anniversary.

MOONSTONE, the mysterious gem beloved by the goddess Diana, should be worn or carried by travellers because of its reputation for protecting those on long journeys from ill fortune. It is also the stone of lovers as it heightens passion. Its medicinal properties range from calming fevers to bringing relief from dropsy.

During a Full Moon this gem absorbs the luminary's rays and glows with an eerie brightness. It is a fortunate stone for those born under the influence of Cancer and harmonises well with the emerald. The moonstone also symbolises one's 13th wedding anniversary.

Gem Therapy

To cure pain with a lump of rock may sound crazy to some yet it is one of those remarkable beliefs held by those who swear by complementary medicine.

and bones, heal inflammation and lessen the risks in childbirth.

Many years ago it was used to treat inflamed eyes by steeping the stone in water and then bathing the infected part. Such a lotion can be used to cleanse sores and ulcers and once was considered to be an antidote to poison.

OPALS, those mysterious stones that are prized by some but feared by many because of their reputation of bringing ill-

The turquoise has many properties. It symbolises prosperity and is known for its power to heal inflammation, improve poor sight and instil its wearer with courage and self-assurance. To gently soothe the pain of a sore throat, place a piece of turquoise on the affected part and relax for a few minutes.

This stone is regarded as beneficial for the respiratory organs and is a boon for those who suffer from arthritis and rheumatism. For these painful

SODALITE is the stone recommended for those suffering from reading difficulties. This pinkish/bluey stone perks up the memory and clears the brain, encouraging rational thinking, when placed upon the forehead.

There is some indication that sodalite helps those suffering from autism and dyslexia too. When held in the hand this stone is ideal for meditation as it brings peace of mind and tranquil thoughts.

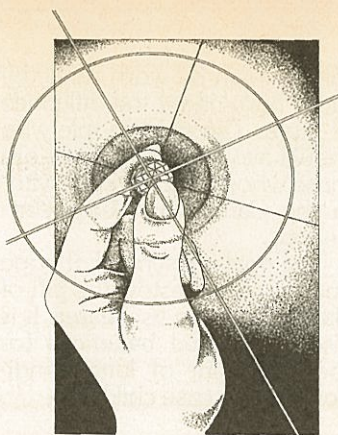
TOPAZ is another gem of especial help in these stressful times as, like the previously mentioned stone, it can act in much the same way to bring undisturbed sleep when placed under the pillow. When worn it helps to ease nervous tension and, when used in conjunction with amethyst or sapphire, its virtues are enhanced.

Though regarded as the birth stone for Sagittarians, topaz can be worn by all except those whose birthdays fall within the Pisces and Virgo periods. It is also associated with 16th wedding anniversary celebrations as it symbolises faithfulness.

Eastern soothsayers believe that the topaz helps them to receive messages from the astral plane. Nowadays, however, this gem is more usually associated with its earthly qualities although night terrors apparently vanish when topaz is worn and, as the Moon waxes, this stone's strength increases.

It is renowned for healing disorders of the lungs, including tuberculosis, and when worn brings relief from colds, asthma and is a boon for women's ailments. For stomach complaints place a piece of topaz in that region and feel its benefits; suitable alternatives are jasper, amber and citrine.

JADE is another gem believed to relieve asthma. It is also the stone to be worn to protect against heart and eye diseases, animal bites, epilepsy and kid-



ney problems. In olden times it was thought to strengthen the muscles, purify the blood and build strong bones when powdered and drunk.

Jade is the stone of friendship and when worn is said to bring a long and happy life. Virgoans in particular benefit from its protective and healing properties which will be enhanced if worn in conjunction with the carnelian.

KUNZITE is a lovely pink colour and should really be considered a feminine stone as it brings relief from menstrual problems and helps to maintain a healthy skin. It is also said to strengthen the heart.

FLUORITE, a shimmering violet, pink, white or green, is considered good for bones and pains in the lower back. It is also beneficial for the teeth and gums.

CARBUNCLE, a variety of garnet, is a beautiful deep, rich crimson colour. It symbolises hope and is fortunate for those born under the sign of Scorpio. When worn with aquamarine its power is doubled. However, both these stones are thought unlucky for those influenced by Aquarius and Leo.

In olden times the carbuncle was carried to give warning of the plague by turning a dull colour. Even so, it was not a popular stone because if it gradually lost its brilliance this was said to be a portent of the wearer's death.

JACINTH, also known as hyacinth, is an orange/red variety of zircon that is thought to bring peace of mind, happiness and prosperity if worn in a ring on one's third finger. Originally, it was worn to cure disorders of the stomach and heart.

It is not recommended for those whose birthdays fall within the Taurus and Scorpio periods. However, it is regarded as fortunate for all other signs, especially Aquarians who should complement it with the garnet.

JARGOON, another member of the zircon family, is perhaps not the most beautiful of gems. It is almost colourless, with a mere greyish tinge, and was sometimes passed off as a diamond although much softer.

Although never used medicinally, the jargoon was worn in the Middle Ages as a protection against the plague. Its protective qualities apply to all, irrespective of their birth signs.

SERPENTINE, an opaque greenish/yellow stone, was much favoured by the Jewish high priests and was often worn in an amulet to ward off venomous snakes and insects. It is particularly fortunate for those born under the sign of Capricorn.

Today it is widely used to treat rheumatism and arthritis or reduce swellings caused by excessive water retention. For relief from such painful conditions, place a small piece of the stone against the affected area and secure with a bandage.

Word of warning

The healing power of gems and crystals is well documented but, as with all alternative therapies, should be restricted to the relief of minor ailments and to complement rather than substitute for conventional medicine when it comes to the treatment of serious health conditions. Remember, too, that gem therapy should be used externally not internally.

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"We've sold our house, it's wonderful . . . you did it for us." Mr & Mrs J.L., Wales

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TANITH

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TESTIMONIALS:

- You warned me to seek medical advice in May. The early operation was a complete success. Thank you so much." Joan, Surrey.
- I cannot thank you enough. I followed your advice and did get what I wanted." D.G., Colorado, USA.
- Maybe it is mystic power, or maybe she is just exceptionally perceptive. But one thing is for sure, she got a lot right." The Guardian (S.L.).
- Everything you said has since happened, including tiny details which seemed irrelevant at the time." Pauline, London.



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GRAPHOLOGY

by PETER MARSHALL

GOING STRAIGHT

The evenness or otherwise of the base-line of a script can indicate much about the character and personality of a writer.

When writing it is not always easy to keep an accurate and level base-line. Those who are able to do so have a generally dependable and reliable degree of emotional response. It requires a tolerable effort of willpower to maintain a prolonged sense of direction, especially when one is a little upset. A number of writers prefer to use printed, lined paper. Another aid is to use a rule or piece of paper to prevent strokes from going too far down.

This can be observed quite simply in our first example. It stands out in the flat-based ovals made by the female writer. It may be interesting to look a little more into her per-

sonality structure. The impression is that the script is basically upright in general appearance but some of the letters possess variable slants.

Those base-lines are beautifully straight but the angles of slant are extremely uneven. Consequently one knows that although praiseworthy efforts at stability are being made, there are quite substantial emotional influences below the surface.

Word-spacing can be called acceptably even and, as this shows one's attitude to contact with others, the writer has a slightly variable attitude towards social mixing. She likes to stand alone but not actuality apart. There is a preference for

appraising the situation before getting involved.

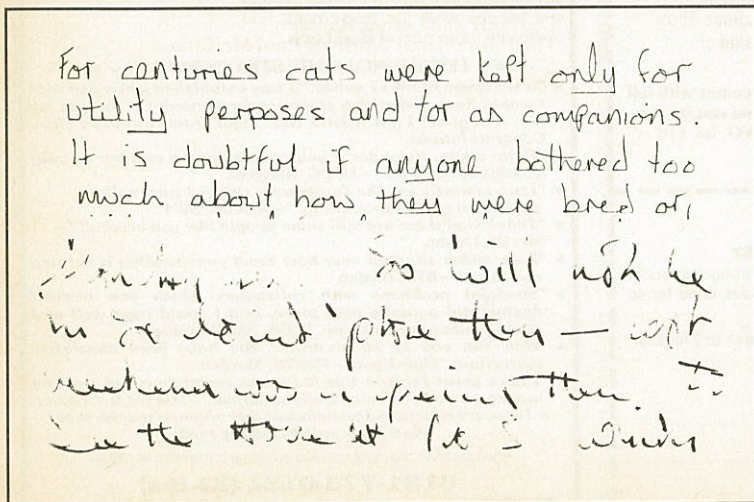
Fundamentally vertical script is made by those who like to judge the situation without being too influenced or pressured by others. They have an impartial judgment and dislike to display their feelings publicly.

They are mainly stable, have a sense of pride and independence with a cool-headed assessment of most circumstances. The negative qualities include unresponsiveness, a degree of detachment and, in many instances, inhibition. Were it not for those ovals with flat bases the writing could be called round. Therefore, under the outer shell this lady is non-aggressive and peace-loving by nature.

It will be seen that one or two angular forms appear here and there. Accordingly she is not one to be overlooked and take a back seat in the community. In altercation or disagreement she can defend herself quite successfully in contrast to that peaceful quality.

Many of her upper extensions show aims toward the sphere of the abstract, intangible and intellectual. The lower extensions do not point to any unusual interest in the worlds of sex and materialism. Imagination in these fields is very nearly absent. Although there is a small implication of idealism from the pointed tops of some loops, she cannot be classed as a true idealist.

The speed of writing is not fast so we can tell the thinking process is average to slow — caution before action. The t-bars are neither too high or too low which is a feature of an



(continued on page 52)

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- ★ Mr R Ramjan of SW17 writes: "I was astonished when you said I would have something stolen and returned. On leaving my car was gone! I got it back that night from Norbury Police. Congratulations."
 - ★ "Hello again, I wonder if you can do for me another of your wonderful readings" — Mr EG, Glasgow.
 - ★ "I can honestly say the Tarots were right — I was really impressed with your reading!" — Miss JS, SW4.
 - ★ "Thank God there are still some people like you around!" — Mrs BF, Dublin.
 - ★ "I am rather shocked over how exact your reading is turning out to be." — BT, Croydon.
 - ★ "Stressful problems with colleagues which you warned against did actually take place, and I could cope well as I could predict the outcome." — DA, Saudi Arabia.
 - ★ "How can you be so accurate? You have been absolutely marvellous. Thank you. — Mrs TS, Morden.
 - ★ "I have great faith in this lady, one certainly is not wasting money, you will be completely satisfied." — Mrs GP, S. Croydon
- ★ These are unsolicited testimonials and originals may be seen. Also press articles may be read.

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NEWS & VIEWS

OIBIBIO

The above is the name of a recently opened '2nd generation New Age centre' in Amsterdam whose aim is to promote the interface between spirituality and daily life. It is shortly to hold its first international astrology conference over the Full Moon weekend of June 1st and 2nd.

The conference theme is 'Uranus in Aquarius: Reawakening the Soul of Astrology' and there will be four parallel lectures and workshops held over the two days (half in English). Those taking part include Jeffrey Green, Charles Harvey, Suzanne

Lilley-Harvey, Jeff and Danick Jawer, Philip Sedgwick, Noel Tyl, Alexander Ruperti and Alan Oken who will lead a Full Moon Contemplation on the roof terrace of OIBIBIO overlooking Amsterdam.

Places for the latter and a pre-conference Astrological Moonlight Cruise through Amsterdam's canals on the Friday evening are limited so, if interested in all or any of these events, write to OIBIBIO, Astrology Conference, Prins Hendrikade 20-21, 1012 TL Amsterdam, Holland, for programme/booking details ☎ +31-20-55393355 or email: joyce.hoen@astronet.idn.nl.

Channel news

The world's largest radio telescope at Arecibo, Puerto Rico, will be starting a search for alien civilisations in space this Summer according to an item in *The Daily Telegraph*. The 1420 MHz frequency will be the subject of close scrutiny as it is, apparently, the frequency which would be known to advanced civilisations: will they reply via the Internet, I wonder.

Make a date ...

This year's AA Conference dates are September 6th-8th with the optional extra of a workshop led by Tad Mann or visit to Percy Seymour's plane-

Admirers of the work of mystical artist William Blake will be delighted with this latest Tarot deck and book from HarperCollins. The stunning full-colour cards capture Blake's distinctive imagery which, here, has been correlated with traditional Tarot symbolism.

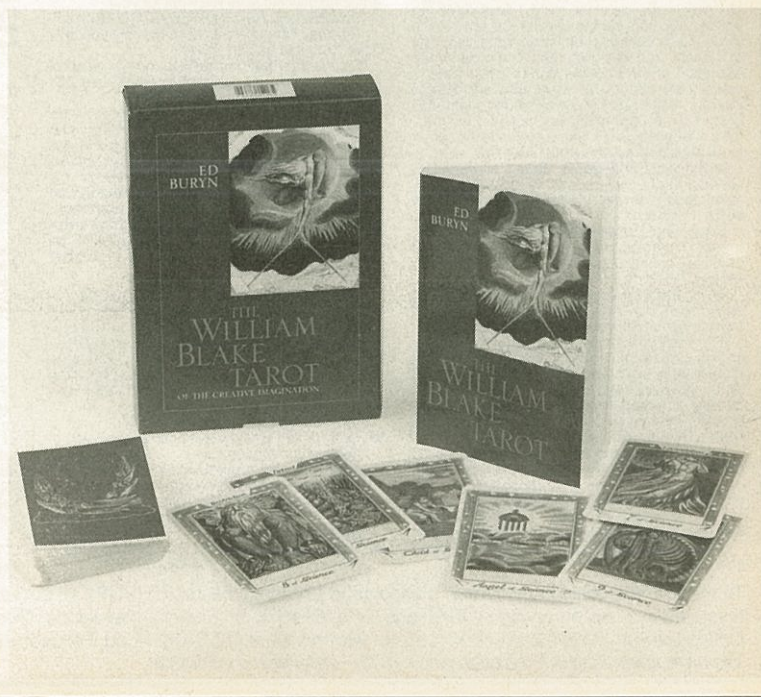
The four usual suits are renamed Painting (Pentacles), Science (Swords), Music (Cups) and Poetry (Wands) and each contains 15 cards; the extra 'Angel' cards being representative of the divine muses of imagination in its various forms.

Also retitled are the 22 Major Arcana or Trumps cards, though those familiar with traditional Tarot images should encounter no difficulty in reconciling the two. Indeed, all such distinctions are explained fully in the accompanying handbook by Ed Bury which also contains several helpful tables for quick and easy recognition.

CREATIVE IMAGERY

The William Blake Tarot is designed to embody the essence of Blake's philosophical system, which it does successfully, so will appeal to all

who admire this renowned artist, poet and visionary's work. The boxed set is available through usual outlets and costs £25.



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A week before writing this I won \$10,000 in a contest in which there were 80,000 entrants. Some say it was 'just good luck', but I know it happened because I used Magic Psychic Power.

How much do you need right now? \$500? ... \$1000? ... \$10,000? ... or very much more?

Be specific about the sum you want for with Psychic Magic Powers it can appear in your life in next to no time.

I will show you how to *materialize your desires out of nothingness*.

It takes only five minutes practise a day to witness the wonders of using Magic Psychic Powers.

No man or woman can resist you when you use these powers. Someone who is now cool towards you will burn with hot desire once you start using these magic powers.

You can prove it to yourself in just five minutes a day.

I will show you how to control objects such as dice, roulette wheels, and even other people's bodies with this amazing force.

And it only takes five minutes practise a day.

You can make good luck to order, command perfect health, win the admiration and respect of others, amass riches ... and this is only the beginning! The uses of Psychic Magic Powers are without end!

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!**

Nothing within reason is impossible with Magic Psychic Power. I will show you the secret of 'EME' – which concentrates your energies on one object/person to make it/them come to you freely!

J.C., a friend of mine, used EME and received \$5000 for the very item she wanted!

I will show you, in clear, plain English – without gimmicks – how Psychic Magic Power can:

\$300 WITHIN 5 MINUTES!

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.

- Double your income and keep it doubling!
- Break through social barriers!
- Make every dream come true!
- Bring gifts to you from others!
- Influence other people to do as you want!

I will show you how to harness the unused, psychic part of your mind to make almost all things possible! And all for just *five minutes practise a day!*

YOUR LOVE AND SEX DREAMS COME TRUE! Is there someone you desire who seems unattainable? How many times have you seen someone in a magazine, TV or movie who's your idea of the perfect lover?

Unattainable that person may be, **but your dream can still come true by having the next best thing: YOU CAN ATTRACT THAT PERSON'S DOUBLE INTO YOUR LIFE!**

This is truly staggering! I will show you how – through the miracle of Psychic Magic – you can *draw into your life a person who looks exactly like the person about whom you dream!* I discovered this incredible secret only after years of research and experiment. It takes **only moments** to follow my book's instructions, and you will **immediately** begin to feel that this amazing psychic spell will work for you!

YOU WILL BE ASTONISHED AT THE RESULT! You may find it hard to believe – but you only have to try it to be convinced!

The reason that you believe in your heart of hearts that miracles can happen is that they DO! You only have to know *how!*

I will also show you five amazingly simple 'Magnetic Chants' that by themselves can flood your life with untold blessings! These wonder-working chants *release from the Unseen Universe the manifestation of your dreams!*

M.K. cured her drug habit by speaking one of these powerful chants ... D.S., a commodities' dealer, suddenly made a fortune after daily repeating the Magnetic Wealth Chant ... U.B. won back her husband's love after using the Love chant!

PSYCHIC MAGIC HEALTH WONDERS!

With these powers you can actually *cleanse illness and disease from your body!* In Chapter Three you will find illustrated the seven invisible healing centres of your body which, once activated, *release the hidden healing energies of the subconscious.* You can receive fast relief from aches and pains, without side effects!

- But there is more. You will learn:
- How certain sound waves can act as psychic healing commands!
 - How your body's psychic healing centres can fill you with renewed energy and vigour!
 - How you can control bodily functions!
 - How magnetic psychic force can improve eyesight!
 - How to become a channel through which these powers flow – and heal others!

SEX HYPNOTIC-EYE COMMANDS!

You can make any man or woman *obey your silent psychic magic commands.* Staggering results! One man used this power and was astonished at the *immediate* positive reaction! Read how one woman used it and suddenly found herself the attraction of every man that interested her! *This power works regardless of your looks or status.*

Other people cannot resist this power – almost against their will they find you sexually irresistible!

Release this mighty, untapped power of your mind with only five minutes practise every day!

Learn the secrets of **Magnetic Sex Force!** Banish once and for all sexual frustration! You can have the person of your dreams and you can have the power to make them **always be with you.**

These Psychic Magic Power techniques are so easy to perform. They are based on secret psychic techniques from the Orient, only they are now de-mystified and made immediately usable for today's busy person!

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.**

THIS BOOK WILL AMAZE YOU!

It gives secret psychic mind techniques in clear language! No gimmicks! It shows precisely how – with five minutes daily practise – you can see through walls, hear the thoughts of others, and access secret information. You will get results the very first time you try! These powers exist! Now for the first time it is revealed how they can be yours! Truth is stranger than fiction!

With these powers D.E. was able to discover the identity of an obscene 'phone caller – and had him hauled off to jail ... C.P. used them to make \$35,000 extra in one year – he was able to 'hear' the thoughts of a competitor! ... F.D. found \$1000 in an empty house.

This book shows also how in *only five minutes* – it is so easy – you can construct a device which gives instant access to Spirit Helpers in the Beyond! Read how C.R. used this to **earn \$200,000 in one year!** Learn how G.D. gained hidden power over women! With this device you can avoid accidents ... discover identity of enemies ... develop perfect memory ... lose weight quickly ... find out the truth about any person ... find lost objects. Read, too, how R.A., with the aid of the book's author found 30 oil wells. As a consequence they both became very rich!

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NEWS & VIEWS

tarium and Merrivale megalithic site with Robin Heath on Monday the 9th.

The Conference venue is St Luke's Campus, Exeter University and the excellent programme offers the usual wide choice of lectures and workshops on the complete range of astrological themes with a range of popular speakers from home and abroad. Also, of course, there is the added attraction of meeting others who share your interests for lively debate and the opportunity to browse through the bookstall or see the latest

computer programs in action.

Early booking is advisable as numbers are limited for this ever popular event and those interested in further details should contact The AA Conference Bookings, 396 Caledonian Road, London N1 1DN, ☎ 0171-7003746).

... or two

If you want to combine an interest in astrology with a trip to the USA now is the time to book a place at the AFA conference to be held at the Chicago Hyatt Regency O'Hare Hotel. Entitled

Astrology and You, this event takes place July 18th-22nd and full registration includes attendance at the Starlight Reception, all seminars, lectures, workshops and accommodation at around £150.

Bookings must be made before June and details can be obtained from the AFA at PO Box 22040, Tempe, AZ 85285-2040, ☎ 001 (602) 838-1751, FAX (602) 838-8293.

PHFT

The Pagan Hospice and Funeral Trust, which gained charity status last year, is running a monthly series of one-day workshops in Bristol starting with one on hospital chaplaincy on May 11th. Each costs £40 and places are very limited so early booking is essential. If you would like to find out more about the Trust and what it does or wish to book a workshop place write to PHFT, BM Box 3337, London WC1N 3XX for further details.

Weekend courses

The Mountain Hall Centre, in Queensbury, West Yorkshire, runs monthly weekend courses on various topics. The next few are *Tarot Reading and Astrology for Beginners* (May); *Clair-voyance & Mediumship and Magic of the Old Path in the Modern World and Meditation and Tai Chi* (June); *Psychic Awareness and Have You Lived Before?* and *Tarot Level II and Transpersonal Body & Soul* (July). Prices from £35; call ☎ 01274-816258 for details.

Midsummer festival

The Order of Druids in Ireland return to their royal and ancient hill of Tara once again

USEFUL REFERENCE

Just published by Millennium Profiles is a useful reference work for anyone interested in the complementary medicine scene. *The Alternative & Complementary Health Compendium*, compiled and edited by Jane Robinson, is a comprehensive survey of a wide range of healing or health-orientated disciplines.

It provides a basic definition of the individual practices, what to expect as a client/patient, availability of training, related associations, groups and professional bodies plus a selected bibliography of books on each subject covered.

Sensibly and clearly laid out and indexed, the *Compendium* acts as an excellent guide to the layperson who simply wants to know what forms of treatment are available or for those actually seeking a practitioner or information on training schemes, courses and societies.

Like many such reference works, there are obvious omissions here and some topics

could, perhaps, afford to be discussed at greater length. However, this is the first edition and feedback is welcomed by the publishers who will, I feel sure, then be able to add more detailed information to later editions of what is, nevertheless, an extremely useful source-book for practitioner and potential patient alike.

The range of topics covered is impressive, from acupuncture and aromatherapy through to traditional Chinese medicine and yoga, including some often forgotten or ignored aids to well-being such as medical astrology, art, drama and/or music and voice therapy.

Specialist outlets, health centres, bookshops and healing groups would do well to keep a copy to hand, too, for quick and easy reference.

The *Compendium* costs £15.99 (add £2 p&p) direct from Millennium Profiles, 4 Bersted Street, Bognor Regis, W. Sussex PO22 9RR and, all in all, is a good investment.

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Here are details of the legends attributed to the 'Seals of the Spirits' . . .

AMDUSIAS Said to enable ones dearest wishes and innermost desires to come true, to allow natural talents to shine through and be recognised, also to give assistance when meeting important people who could help with the granting of your wishes.

AMON The Love Bringer. Said to cause love to flourish, romance to blossom, to give its owner friendship, popularity, and an insight into what exciting things will happen in the future.

AMY The Money Bringer. Said to show the way to money, wealth, prosperity, profits, hidden treasure and fortune, also teaches money-making secrets to those who ask.

ASTAROTH For Learning and Education. Said to make learning and understanding easier, to give explanations of the world and the way it works, helping its owner acquire the skills needed to survive and prosper. Often used by those who are studying or wishing to learn about any subject. Said to have been used successfully by those exploring the fields of medicine, engineering, science, technology, communications, social work, legal, technical or artistic pursuits.

BAEL Bringer of Wisdom. Often used with Astaroth (see above). Bael is said to bring its owners wisdom, and a clear understanding of complicated matters and any situation, aid in the making of correct decisions, overcome seemingly insurmountable problems and do the right thing at the right time.

BALAM Said to make other people interested in what you have to say, giving you eloquence, wit, charm, humour also to increase your vocabulary and mental ability, improve your speaking voice and your ability to think quickly and clearly.

BARBATOS Said to bring two people closer together, often as friends initially. Thought to provide friendship with 'no strings attached' and no romantic involvement unless you want it. Also believed to help stop all unwanted attentions or advances made towards you at any time.

BELETH The love, romance and passion bringer. Said to be often used by single people male or female, to attract others (male or female) also by married couples wishing to put a sparkle back into a partnership, and by divorced or separated people who want to live life to the full. Known as an exciting love and passion provider to all.

BOTIS Best known for bringing relaxation, contentment and happiness, to assist in the making of important decisions, to give you the courage to say what you really think, to stand up to others in positions of authority whilst protecting you from the dislike, jealousy and hatred of others who may plot against you. Said to ease all tension, encourage relaxation—and create a peaceful atmosphere.

BUER Said by some to cure illness and disease, and believed by many to be a brilliant health-bringer, giving its owner health, strength and vitality. Also used by those who wish to see an improvement in the health of family, loved ones or friends.

GREMORY Said to make its owner "beloved by women" it is therefore used by men to make them appear more attractive to women, by males and females who wish to gain the acceptance of women, also sometimes used to improve relations between parents and their daughter(s).

GUSION Said to grant position, honour, and respect and to make its owner respected by all with whom they come into contact, despite any problems which may have appeared in the past. Often used by business owners and leaders of men, rulers, diplomats, statesmen and royalty.

IPOS Said to help find lost people and lost objects. Said to help you make contact with persons who are lost or missing: friends, workmates or relatives, also to discover buried treasure and valuable items which others have lost.

MARAX Said to give knowledge of things magical, mystical, occult and paranormal, to enable its owner to see the past and the future with ease, to understand astrology, divination and uses of herbs, gemstones, etc. Also said to increase the power of all gemstones, symbols, charms, etc.

MARBAS Said to provide secret knowledge and to give answers to questions which are being kept secret, things which people in authority are hiding, or to reveal the whereabouts of stolen or lost items. Believed by many to be able to cure health problems and ailments which have not been solved by doctors in the past, or which have not been cured by the treatments which have been given, or where traditional medicine has failed.

MARCHOSIAS Said to assist you and help you to win any argument, or any situation where you need to persuade and make others accept your point of view. Much used by salesmen, politicians, negotiators, and business leaders.

NABERIUS Said to be helpful for those who feel they have lost a position of respect, or of power and honour to enable them to regain the position of prestige they once had, or feel that they should have had. Believed to make enemies fade away, and to cause times in the past which were successful to return.

ORIAS Said to stop enemies from doing damage and harming you, also said to have the power to make your body any shape you wish it to be, and to therefore enable its owner to change their weight, height and shape as they would wish.

OROBAS Said to give you the power to dominate and control others, their actions and their words. Believed to enable its owner to know what others are thinking, what friends or enemies are plotting, and also to stop them doing harm to you or anyone else.

PHENEX Said to give its owner writing ability, artistic ability, eloquence and wit. To reveal hidden skills and talents, and cause others to recognise and admire your abilities. Much used by writers, artists and poets both experienced and beginners alike. Often used by those who enter competitions, contests, prize draws, etc.

SALLOS Said to encourage faithfulness to one's mate, to bring back a partner or loved one who has strayed, also to arouse passion and stimulate desire. Believed by many people to give its owner the power over others to cause them to obey your every command . . . strictly to be used by adults only!

STOLAS Said to make you 'at-one' with nature, to help you appreciate natural things, also to give advance warnings of natural disasters: floods, earthquakes, etc. etc. Believed by many to give protection from evil and to increase the power of life-changing charms, gemstones, symbols, etc.

VALAC Sometimes known as the lucky-number spirit. Said to give luck and success wherever numbers are involved and therefore much used by those entering contests, draws, lotteries, football pools, horse and dog racing, casinos and other games of chance. Very popular indeed in Las Vegas, the gambling city of the world, and said to have been successfully used by people worldwide who have any interest in speculating or gambling.

VUAL Said to slow down or stop the ageing process making you appear more youthful, making you more attractive to younger people, allowing the regaining of strength and vitality which have been lost over the years.

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NEWS & VIEWS

on Midsummer's Day, June 21st. The main Solstice Ceremony will commence as usual at noon and all are welcome to attend, irrespective of race, colour, creed, etc. Full details can be had from the Archdruid, Michael J. McGrath, 18 Dominic Street, Kilkenny City, Eire, ☎ 056-51948, or contact the Order's representative in Britain, Archdruidess Brigid Eileen Ennis, 23 Leysdown, London NW5 3HT if wishing to join her party travelling to this event.

Hands free

Whitley Clinic in Bradford offers a free healing service. Dr K. Gupta says his healing does not involve religion and he cannot guarantee to heal everyone but anyone wishing to take advantage of this free service should call ☎ 01274-722335 to make an appointment.

Prism project

An organisation called **Psychical Research Involving Selected Mediums (PRISM)** is looking for mediums to take part in a fascinating research project via a specially compiled questionnaire. Six mediums and six researchers will meet regularly at Stansted Hall, home of *Psychic News*, and Professor David Fontana will analyse the test results.

Anyone interested in learning more or wishing to assist in this experiment should contact PRISM Secretary, c/o The Arthur Findlay College, Stansted Hall, Essex CM24 8UD.

Get in touch

Psychic fair organiser, T. Allen, who is based in the Leicester area, is seeking psychic readers and clairvoyants for events planned from April

this year. If interested, contact him on ☎ 0116-2762306.

Also, Philip Solomon is starting a new psychic fair tour of the Midlands shortly and he, too, would like to hear from readers and potential stallholders who wish to participate. He can be contacted on mobile ☎ 0585-130281 or write to him c/o PO Box 141, Willenhall, West Midlands WV13 3QR.

May Diary Dates

4th. Joyful Chronicles — Exploring the Astrological Jupiter & Saturn with Charles Harvey for the Bath Astrology Seminars, at The Stakis Hotel, Rossiter Road, Bath. 10-5pm; £30 inc refreshments. Early booking is advisable; call ☎ 01373-465147 for details.

10th-12th. Sweatlodge & Tyrants & Lovers Medicine Wheels with Eagle's Wing to be held in Aberdeen, Scotland. Info/booking call Martin on ☎ 01224-593305.

11th. Astro*Carto*Graphy and Local Space Astrology with Martin Davis and the Leicester Astrology Association. A one-day workshop, 10.30-4pm, at Countesthorpe College, Winchester Road, Countesthorpe, Leicester. Martin is also offering reduced priced A*C*G charts for attendees. Workshop £12, lunch £4 and charts £12. For details call Mary Clarke on ☎ 0116-277 7153.

11th. Mundane Day 1996 with Jamie Macphail and Christeen Skinner for the AA in association with Northern Lights Astrology Group. 10-4pm at The Lecture Room, Blackpool Central Library, Queen St, Blackpool, Lancs. Cost £10/£20 non-members. (This event will also be run in London on Sat June 29th). For bookings/details call AA on ☎ 0171-700 3746 or Northern Lights group ☎ 01253-764298.

13th. Bolton Astrological Society Spring Conference with guest speakers Jane Sunderland and Nicholas Grier. 10.30-4.30pm at the Ukrainian Club, Castle Street, Bolton, Lancs. £17.50 inc buffet lunch. Details: Jennifer Miller on ☎ 01772- 862463.

18th. The Participatory Mind — Towards a World-View for the 21st Century. An open conference of the Scientific and Medical Network with Prof Henryk Skolimowski, Dr David Peat, Jules Cashford, Dr Jean Hardy at Herringham Hall, Regent's College, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London, NW1. 9-6pm; £25/£18 unwaged inc refreshments. Early booking advised; details ☎ 01895-833633.

18th. The Pagan Federation Great Northern Conference 1996 in Newcastle, with talks, workshops and other activities. Guest speakers include Prudence Jones, Vivianne Crowley, Ruth Killick, Tony Willis, Phil Heselton, Peter Jennings and many more. Tickets £6/£8 non-members from Pagan Federation North East, 9 Springhill Drive, Crofton, Wakefield, W Yorks, WF4 1EX.

18th. Traditional Day 1996 with Mike Edwards, Barbara Dunn, Esther Gould, Rose Elliot, Sharon Knight and Denis Laboure for the AA. 9.30-5.15pm at the Astrology Centre, 396 Caledonian Road, London N1 1DN, Cost £18.00/£28 non-members. For details and booking call ☎ 0171-700 3746.

25th-26th. Shamanic Trance Postures with Howard G. Charing, a workshop of shamanic journeying in North London between 10-5pm, £75. For details/booking call Howard Charing on ☎ 0181-567 4061 or write to 63 Deans Road, London, W7 3QD.

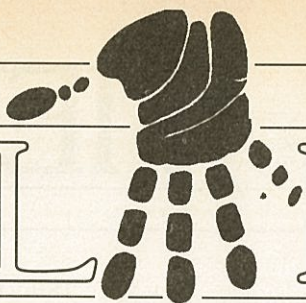
24th-26th. Noel Tyl Weekend with Manchester Astrology Group at Chetham's School of Music. The non-residential weekend features many lectures and discussions and costs £50 (Friday eve, all day Sat & Sun). For details/booking ☎ 0161-226 5481 (list of local hotels/B&B available on booking).

28th. Planets Workshop with The Company of Astrologers: how to calculate planetary positions using an ephemeris. 7-9.15pm at the Astrology Centre, 396 Caledonian Road, London N1 1DN.

29th-30th. Energy is Everything with Donna Eden at Flint House, 41 High St, Lewes, East Sussex. A discussion on the energy within. 7-10pm; Cost £35. For details ☎ 01273-473388.

PALMISTRY

by PETER WEST



Write On!

There is little doubt that there is a connection or provable relationship between hand-reading and handwriting.

When analysing a script we follow a set of rules and procedures similar to those we employ when reading the hand. With palmistry the hand is held open for an examination — ready for immediate and instant analysis. So it is with handwriting: the script is already on the page, ready for an immediate and instant analysis.

Of course, both disciplines display their varying strengths and weaknesses, faults, pitfalls and problems to be aware of when making a judgment but each offers a surprising level of accuracy dependent on the analyst. To correlate between the two is much easier than palmistry to astrology or with palmistry to the Tarot. Handwriting and hand-reading have so much in common — not least that both are so directly concerned with the hand. But there are also some very surprising differences as well.

As a general rule people with large hands tend to be very concerned with detail. For example, the first thing you notice when you observe the hands of a watchmaker or jeweller is the sheer size of their hands. It is fascinating to watch them work at their tiny intricate and delicate tasks with

such ease and facility. Based on this one might expect them to write a small, detailed kind of script but this is not always so.

Conversely, those who have small hands do not necessarily write a large script either. So, as the differences are not always as obvious as this we must look elsewhere for these clues and, when we do, we find there may be other, more subtle correlations.

Slant

Those whose script is upright with a just a very slight variation in a left- or rightward direction usually have square hands. The palm is firm to the touch and the fingers reasonably well spaced. There should also be the support of a good, well balanced thumb. The first finger may be either slightly longer or the same length as the third finger. When the writing is quite firm with a heavy pressure the first finger will be slightly longer.

To check for heavy handwriting pressure on a sheet of paper turn it over and hold it up to the light. You will see quite definite trace marks of the script. The clearer the outline of the script the heavier the pressure. The heavier this

pressure, the firmer the hand will feel to the touch. In addition, the life line will be very strongly etched.

To a lesser degree, but still apparent, the lines of head and or heart may also be quite strongly marked in the palm. If the subject tends to get quite passionate or carried away with the mood of the moment the heart line will be much more strongly etched and, in some extreme cases, could feature a partly or wholly formed Simian line.

If handwriting slants to the left, that is, has a backward slope, it is likely the lines of head and life will be joined at their commencement. When handwriting seems to be rounded, in arcade or garland fashion, these two lines will be seen to run together for some way into the palm. There will also be many lines criss-crossing the palmar surface, not necessarily a full hand as such, just a lot of lines but without direction.

Forward slanting script suggests an impulsive, social nature. The more this is so, the more enthusiasm for life there will be. In such cases the hand will have long palms and short fingers. When handwriting is very right slanted with many loops the palm is likely to be soft to the touch. There will be a long sloping head line, perhaps a little frayed or furry about the present age of the writer.

Writing that is either too large or too small suggests there may be something wrong with the writer and you may ask why. Large handwriting can look quite confident and even striking the way it splash-

es across a page. Equally, such a script can seem immature or childish for it also shows up faults.

Large writing implies expansiveness with poor self-control and a strong desire to be noticed. The writer needs to be in the centre of the action. Such folk seem to flourish best and are only happy in company. (But even in a crowd some can be inwardly lonely.) This writer will probably have a soft, conic or round palm with fleshy basal finger phalanges. There may also be a slightly over developed mount of Jupiter with a pronounced Luna mount, both of which will be slightly soft to the touch.

When script is quite small or very tiny it generally means the writer is full of inner tensions. Such folk can be rather tidy minded, over neat at times and

this can indicate basic thrift or even outright frugality in extreme cases.

Generally, such writers have small thin fingers and palms with signs of inner tension like longitudinal fluting on the nails and influence lines coming in from the lower percussion edge on the Luna mount showing restlessness. There will almost certainly be white lines on the inner top phalanges of each of the fingers and thumbs.

Where small writing is so tiny it is partly or wholly illegible, there will be signs of deliberate wilfulness to deceive in the hand. A small, poorly formed little finger, an over developed Mercury mount, a badly constructed head line with a weak thumb is another possibility. If writing should also slope backward the thumbs will

oppose the fingers when held naturally r e l a x e d . These writers often present an outwardly quite different face or persona to that of their real inner self.

Handwriting with a mixed slant and a wavy base-line implies poor self control: there may be many reasons, some good, some bad. The writer might have such a very quick perception that the hand cannot keep up with the sheer speed with which the

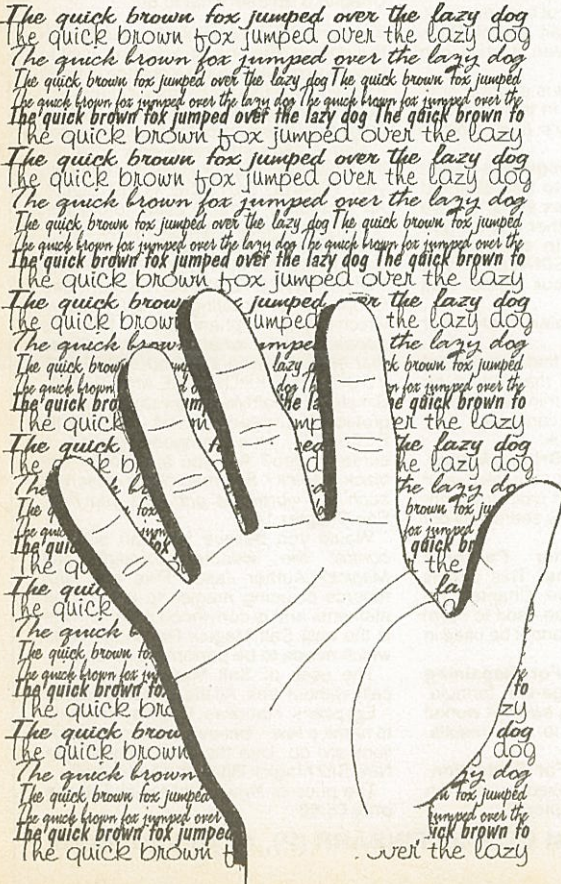
mind operates and processes information. The owner could get involved with such a variety and overwhelming flow of ideas that things get started, left half finished only to be taken up again - if or when there is time.

Sometimes, writers like this start things hesitantly, especially if pressured by a stronger personality. They tend to continue for as long as they can (or dare in some cases) and then simply leave things up in the air when it all gets too much for them. In such cases expect to find a soft, spatulate or flared hand with mixed fingers shorter than the palm.

The third finger will be a little longer than the first. The head line will be a wavy affair with islands, with dots and influence lines crossing it. The fate line may not be present or, if it is, it will be very short, badly broken, many-faceted and weak looking. It goes without saying this is also a contributory sign of inner tension, the mind finds it difficult to switch off when it supposed to.

Handwriting with a medium pressure, reasonably well dotted is and fairly well crossed ts is a sign of a good memory with a sound commonsensical approach to life. The overall personality is quite well balanced, especially if the handwriting has a good rhythm to it. In such cases, the hand will be firm to the touch with a good well formed thumb. If you look at the palmar surface the heart and head lines are likely to run parallel and the quadrangle thus formed tends to present an even appearance.

This formation reflects a good memory and the more even the quadrangle appears, the more common sense the owner displays. It is rare for such folk to be disturbed when things go wrong. They have a happy knack of being able to do the right thing for the right reasons.



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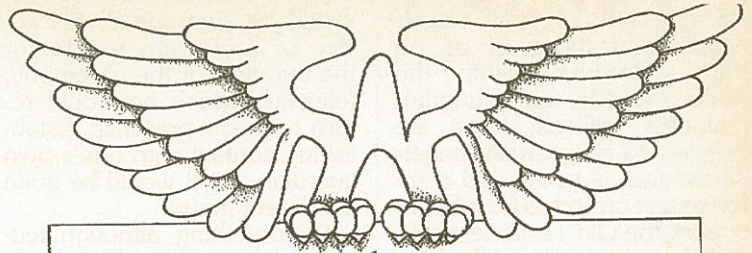
Not since the Middle Ages has there been such widespread and intense interest in the study of angels or angelology as it is properly known. In everyday life, images of angels suddenly seem to be everywhere; in books, films, posters, advertisements, shop window displays and promotional videos for new pop songs.

A practical handbook of advice on communing with angels sold almost half a million copies last year in America, while a glossy magazine on the subject has a regular monthly circulation of over 200,000. Some New Age shops now have entire sections given over to the subject. Angels apparently are big business.

Most ancient cultures had myths and legends about winged messengers who acted as intermediaries between man and the gods. In the 4th century BC Plato said, 'God does not deal directly with men; it is by means of winged spirits that all communication of God with man is carried out.'

The Christian tradition of angels is embedded firmly within the prehistoric Middle East. The *Pentateuch*, the first five books of the Bible, were already of incredible antiquity when they were first gathered together about 1,000 years before the birth of Christ. Already though, in the first of these books, *Genesis*, the nature and purpose of angels was clearly defined. The word angel is derived from the Greek *angelus*, meaning messenger. This is itself a translation of the Hebrew *malak* which also means messenger but is altogether more colloquial and better translated as go-between.

Throughout much of the Bible, God does not speak directly to man but sends his go-betweens with instructions and advice. The whole concept was very neatly illustrated by the dream which Jacob had while sleeping near the village of Beth El. He dreamed that he



Winged Envoys

by JAMES TREGARTH

A survey by *Time* magazine revealed that 69% of Americans believe in angels and half of these, some 80 million people, claimed actually to have met one!

saw a ladder or stairway extending from Earth to heaven, with angels ceaselessly walking up and down it. Jewish mythology holds that not only was God sending out messages in this way but that the angels also acted as information gatherers, carrying news of the world back to heaven.

These early angels were indistinguishable from ordinary men. Often, it was not until some time after meeting them that their identity became obvious, hence the expression 'entertaining angels unawares.' Something that strikes one with great clarity when reading these accounts is the stark contrast between the sexless, emasculated beings who decorate our Christmas cards and the vigorous, forceful entities who appear in the scriptures. It is something of a mystery how these fierce secret agents of the Lord became transformed over the centuries into a species of celestial choirboys!

Categories

The first systematic attempt to categorise and describe the various types of angels was undertaken by a Syrian monk in AD 478. Dionysius the Aeropagite divided angels into nine orders. In his *De Hierarchia Celesti* or celestial hierarchy

he described them as follows. The first rank consists of the seraphim, cherubim and thrones. The second circle is composed of dominions, virtues and powers, while the last is made up of principalities, archangels and angels. The first circle are constantly in God's presence and so have no contact with our world at all. It is with the third rank, specifically the angels and archangels that man has dealings.

The Bible and *Apocrypha* give names to seven angels and archangels. These are Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Anael, Camael, Sachiell and Cassiel. It will be noted that all these have the suffix 'el'. This is the old Hebrew word for God and simply denotes their divine origin and mission. Gabriel for example means 'man of God.'

Gabriel is perhaps the most familiar of the archangels, at least to modern readers. It was he who announced to Mary that she was to give birth to God's son. Later he appeared to the shepherds outside Bethlehem and to the wise men.

Modern interest in angels is concerned not so much with such esoteric matters as the ordering of the hierarchy of God's realm or how many angels can dance on the point of a pin, as with the more practi-

cal question of how angels might help those of us on Earth. Because within the ranks of angels, said to number countless millions, there are believed to be guardian angels whose task is to aid and comfort us and protect us from harm.

Now the Old Testament subscribes in principle to the idea of guardian angels. Chapters 10 and 12 of *Daniel* describe the archangel Michael to the Hebrews as 'the great prince who has charge of your people' — in other words the guardian angel of the Jewish people.

Personal guardians

It is not until the New Testament, however, that the concept of an individual, personal angel appears. In *Matthew* Jesus tells his disciples with reference to children, 'See that you do not despise one of these little ones. I tell you they have their angels in heaven who look continually on the face of my heavenly father.' Thus was born the idea that we each have our special angel whose job it is to watch over us and keep us safe.

This is by no means an un-mixed blessing. *The Koran* says that we each have four guardian angels watching over us, two by day and two by night. In addition to watching over us, though, they are also busy recording our every action in preparation for the day of judgment. Incidentally, Muslim folklore suggests that the most dangerous times of day for humans are dawn and dusk when the pairs of angels 'change shifts' and for a second or so we lose their protection.

Is it possible to contact one's guardian angel? This is rather a tricky question, particularly from a theological point of view. Certainly, calling upon the aid of angels was once a pretty routine part of ritual magic. Some old grimoires contain many spells which include incantations to Raphael, Uriel and the rest. These are one off events. The archangel

would be summoned, his advice or protection sought for the duration of the ceremony, following which he would return to God's presence. Establishing contact with one's own guardian angel would be quite a different matter.

For one thing, although dedicated to our cause the angels are also supremely moral. There would be a conflict of interest if we invoked the help of our angel in, say, robbing a bank or seducing somebody's wife. This is why, according to the Islamic legend, we have two angels. It is a failsafe system so that, if one of them were tempted to help us in some unethical undertaking or turn a blind eye to a sin, the other could intervene.

If for this reason alone it would probably not be desirable for men and angels to become over familiar. Angels are not incorruptible, as the story of Lucifer testifies. Maybe too frequent intercourse would result in our dragging the angels down to our level rather than their elevating us to theirs.

Indications

Some see the current revival of angelology as positive and healthy, an indication that humanity is becoming more finely attuned to the spiritual world. Many Christians believe that this is God's final desperate attempt to save as many souls as possible before the end of the world — that our angels have been given more leeway recently to reveal themselves and bring us to the true path.

Others see the manifestations of angels as another form of hysteria, akin to alien abductions or visits from ghosts. To them, angels have no objective reality and are relegated to the status of little more than culturally determined fantasies.

One thing is certain. We shall be hearing and seeing a great deal more about angels. Fact or fancy, angels are likely to be with us at least for the foreseeable future.

One of the commonest and most irritating habits of those unfamiliar with the practice of magic is to assume that the art is divided into two discrete and wholly separate parts: black magic and white magic. The former, it is supposed, deals with curses and necromancy, while white magic is concerned with amulets and healing.

This distinction is, as all true practitioners know, quite false. Magic, like electricity and nuclear power, simply is. Nuclear power can be harnessed to light homes or destroy cities. It is the intention of the operator that determines the outcome, not the nature of the force.

So it is with magic. The power that harms the magician's enemies is identical with that which imbues his amulets and charms with good fortune. The mastery and manipulation of this power is the goal of all magicians.

Paradoxically, much of the ignorance about magic has been propagated by magicians themselves. They are not, unlike physicists and chemists for example, over eager to share their knowledge and discoveries with the world at large. Their wisdom is for transmission to a select few, not for broadcast in the market place.

This explains in large measure the infuriatingly opaque style of the classical magical texts. The uninitiated are often puzzled and frustrated by the obscure language found in the grimoires of Europe for example.

Performing the rituals prescribed in these works is rendered all but impossible due to the assumed knowledge, baffling hints, words of apparent gibberish and arcane allusions which abound on every page. They are incomprehensible to all but the most skilled adept.

The procedures themselves, as set out in a grimoire such as the *Key of Solomon*, are dauntingly complex. They call, among other things, for ab-

MAGIC IS!

by SIMON WEBB

The art of the magician is very different from what is commonly supposed by the uninitiated.

stention from sex, fasting and prayer and special diets. The ingredients are frequently rare, repugnant or in some cases non-existent. Before he even draws the circle, the magician has been hard at work for weeks, focusing his mind upon the task in hand.

Way of life

But, for the true magician, magic is not an occasional pastime but a way of life. Magic is, after all, not a science but an art. There are no sterile rituals or spells which, when recited, will infallibly accomplish certain ends.

In short, the art of magic may be learnt but it cannot be taught. Only by actually *performing* the rituals will the aspiring magician understand the matter. Those who seek shortcuts and instant gratification are destined for disappointment.

For the ultimate goal of the magician is not only the mastery and change of the world about him/her but also mastery and change of himself. Nobody can practise magic and expect to remain unchanged.

The truly dedicated practitioner of the great art is a lonely, haunted individual whose character and mind have been irrevocably altered by what he has seen and done. He is a man prepared to sacrifice everything in pursuit of his aims, including family, friends, health and social standing.

If the cost is high, then the rewards are correspondingly great. The ability to foresee the future, to levitate, to read minds, to control the actions of other people, to become invisi-

ble; the list of powers claimed by the great magicians is almost inexhaustible.

Interestingly enough, many of these supernatural powers are uncannily similar to the paranormal talents being investigated in universities and laboratories throughout the world. Their existence seems unquestionable but how to develop them is a question now exercising the minds of researchers.

All in the mind?

It is by no means inconceivable that the rituals and ceremonies of classical Western magic are no more than a series of mental exercises and disciplines designed to cultivate the power of the mind. After all, our 'scientific' tradition dates back a mere three or four centuries. Before that scientists and magicians were indistinguishable from each other.

Then, almost overnight, science and magic parted company for ever. Every branch split into two; alchemists and chemists, astrologers and astronomers, and so on. Henceforth it was a case of 'never the twain shall meet.' Both sides have suffered from this breach.

Scientists are contemptuous and dismissive of anything which

smacks of the occult or supernatural. 'Magic' is seen as a term of abuse, supernatural thought to be synonymous with superstitious. While, for their part, magicians have rejected the scientific method out of hand. Reason itself is viewed as being out of place in the world of magic.

Yet Paracelsus, the famous alchemist, wrote, 'Magic has power to experience and fathom things which are inaccessible to human reason. For magic is a great secret wisdom, just as reason is a great public folly.' An extreme case, many will feel, of throwing the baby out with the bath water! Magic has nothing to fear from reason nor should the scientific world be nervous or suspicious of the occult. The two complement each other, there is no contradiction between them. Alone, neither can explain the world fully.

Together, the two systems could combine to form a world view which would encompass all phenomena, both of the natural world and the human mind. It is an alluring prospect.



FROZEN in TIME

Cryogenics — viable option or pointless delusion?
by ALLISON WHITEHEAD

Human understanding of the process of freezing and preserving food has developed to bizarre proportions. Ever since its advantages were discovered by the Native Americans in Labrador, it has become an essential and ideal way of preserving food until it is needed.

Yet in recent years freezing has been employed as a means to a far different end. In an attempt to defy the laws of nature, human corpses can now be frozen, the idea being that when a cure is found for the cause of death, the corpse can duly be brought back to life. This is known as cryogenic freezing where liquid nitrogen is used to keep the body as near as possible to absolute zero.

The question of preserving corpses for future reanimation raises some interesting points some of which make you wonder whether the whole exercise isn't merely a waste of time and money. Consider the possibility of the afterlife for example. There is much evidence to suggest that we can and do exist independently of our physical bodies and the act of dying is simply casting away the outer skin, enabling the soul to move on to a higher plane - a heightened state of existence.

Spiritualists believe the spirit body is attached to the earthly body by means of a cord. We may float out of our bodies at night while we are sleeping or during an out-of-body experience but the cord keeps us connected with our physical form and is only broken when we no longer need our solid form and thus die.

Soul

It seems impossible to suppose the human soul might also be frozen by the act of cryo-

genics, since the soul departs from the body at the moment of death, becoming an entirely separate entity. So even if the cause of death could eventually be prevented, the corpse could not be brought back to life without the reintegration of the soul which, by this time one could reasonably assume, would be existing elsewhere in the scheme of things and would have no need to return to its earthly shell.

Reincarnation

Or would it? The subject of returning from the grave naturally brings into play the possibility of reincarnation. Would successful attempts at cryogenic freezing and reanimation prove that reincarnation was indeed possible?

Many people believe they have lived previous lives and their current life is simply one of many, their souls being incarnated into another body at birth. If this is true, do we only return in new incarnations and bodies simply because the previous ones have decayed and are unable to continue as souls do?

If the process of cryogenic freezing was proved to work with humans at some point in the future, would departed souls return to their earthly bodies and continue to live their earthly lives as they had before death — in essence, as our living ancestors? Or would we merely be left with thousands of perfectly preserved corpses, cured of whatever killed them but still lacking the one vital component of life over which no doctor or scientist has any control — the soul itself?

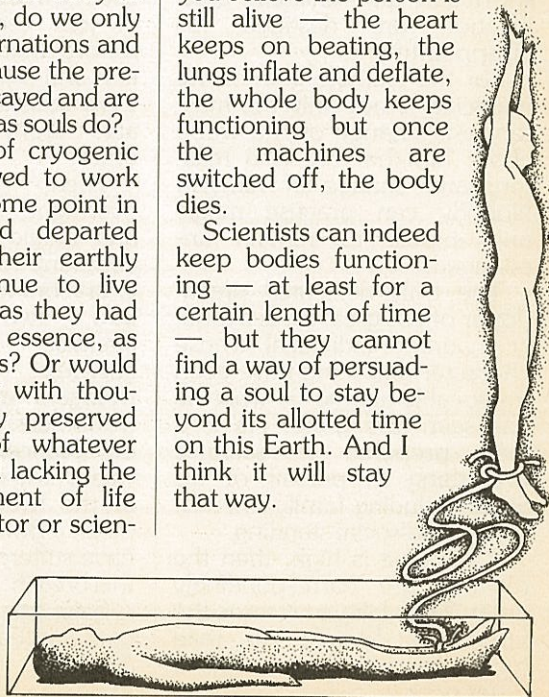
The possibility of resurrecting nothing but

zombies may also have entered your mind - and indeed, there have been apparent cases of people who have died, only to come back to life as zombies at some later date. Haiti is often mentioned in cases such as this, where voodoo and black magic are said to be responsible for the phenomenon.

However, it has been shown that suspended animation of this kind was due to carefully administered doses of poison from the skin of a certain type of toad and several species of puffer fish. Thus people who died in this way and were then resurrected were not really dead in the first place and we could assume their souls had therefore not departed from their bodies. Their vacant, lifeless appearance could easily be put down to shock at what they had experienced, rather than the reanimation of a body minus its essential core - the soul.

So it seems that cryogenic freezing can and will do little to affect the ghost population. Holding a body in suspension in this way is very similar to placing someone who is brain dead on a life support machine. The monitors will have you believe the person is still alive — the heart keeps on beating, the lungs inflate and deflate, the whole body keeps functioning but once the machines are switched off, the body dies.

Scientists can indeed keep bodies functioning — at least for a certain length of time — but they cannot find a way of persuading a soul to stay beyond its allotted time on this Earth. And I think it will stay that way.



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My name is John Williams and I'm here to report a method of CREATING MAGICK WHILE YOU SLEEP - in other words, being able to reach your heart's desire - whatever it is - by allowing images to float into your subconscious (sleeping) mind whilst you are asleep. For the last 15 years, I worked with a famous professor who literally gave his whole life to finding the answer to the reason why so many people who use talismans for creating magick sadly fail. The original manuscripts were handed down to me to publish at the right time - and ONLY the right time. Professor Griffin was waiting for the time that it was possible to print books using MAGICKAL INK. He knew that when this was possible he would be able to supply the answer to many peoples problems. As he was also an astute astrologer, he also knew that new advances would be made in the direction of magick when Uranus moved into Aquarius, which has recently happened - we are now in the Dawning Of The Age Of Aquarius.

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The professor did many individual tests before compiling the main manuscript. Here are some stunning examples of how ordinary people benefited from using the 57 Talisman Handbook...

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"Dear Professor Griffin, I can hardly believe my luck! I am so grateful for being chosen as part of your test for the 57 Talisman Handbook - since receiving the book my life has turned around dramatically. So far I have used only 6 of the talismans, including the luck talisman (talisman number 21) and I have won more than £6,000, on the football pools, (talisman number 44) competitions and the National Lottery, plus 'gifts' from literally nowhere amounting to several thousands of pounds!! Both family and friends have benefited. You asked if you could use my comments to show others - please go ahead - I thoroughly recommend your work!" *Margaret, Grimsby*

Just like Margaret, you too could be celebrating a win or sharing in the fun of a prize in a competition.

Another participant in Prof. Griffin's experiment was Jean, S. Manchester. She used talisman number 51 to gain control over a relationship. That was in 1983. Today Jean is still very happy with her partner and has used other talismans since to increase her luck in life.

The Anti-Fail talisman (number 29) was used by another test participant who wishes to remain anonymous. Mrs X tried time after time to change a negative situation using every book that was available. It was after 8 years of trying that she tried the Anti-Fail talisman. Although Mrs X was a very intelligent woman and was sceptical about the magickal ink part - she managed to get her husband back after 10 years!

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16. Forgiveness Talisman
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19. Re-Birth Talisman
20. Creation Talisman
21. Luck Talisman
22. Anti-Theft Talisman
23. Chance Talisman
24. Gambling Talisman
25. Peace Talisman
26. Joy Talisman
27. Trust Talisman
28. Protection Talisman
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38. Family Talisman
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40. Career Talisman
41. Hope Talisman
42. Prayer Talisman
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45. Faith Talisman
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With this collection of talismans, together with their ease of use, all those dreams can come true. One very very lucky case of Prof. Griffin is Elizabeth, previously W. Midlands, now living half the year in Barbados. She wrote to Prof. Griffin as she was lazing on the golden Beaches of Barbados with the sound of the sea gently lapping the edge of the sand. She enclosed a photograph of her second home. Why not just put this magazine down for a few seconds and imagine that YOU are in that situation? Using the book is as easy as that!

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It's odd. People go about their daily lives in this world — eating, sleeping, working, plus a thousand and one other things — but never stop to consider just how strange and amazing life, the universe and everything is. Take life, for instance.

Life...

Now there's a subject! How did it start? Where did it come from? What is its purpose? These are just some of the questions that have puzzled scientists and philosophers for centuries. Here is just a tiny handful of strange and amazing facts about it.

FACT 1: The very centre of life, the brain, is only a fifth of the size that people think it is! This is true because a huge 80% of it is pure water, which actually makes your brain thinner than blood. And you can't think with pure water, can you?

The size of the brain is, in reality, about as small as a tennis ball. No wonder scientists and philosophers struggle to comprehend the meaning of life!

FACT 2: The purpose of life is not death! This is common knowledge to most PREDICTION readers for we know that life goes on after the physical body is discarded. But to the rest of humanity it isn't common knowledge and most people don't even seem to want it to be.

The subject is ignored totally. Or, as Alice Bailey once said, 'We face the inevitable experience which we call death, and yet take no rational steps to ascertain whether there really is a life beyond.' Strange.

FACT 3: The world is back to front! It must be because in many people's lives the most important things are made unimportant and the least important things are made the most important. For instance, the great works of literature

and art gather dust while people's minds soak up game shows on the TV. The divine gift of music, which was meant to aid mankind's spiritual development, is misused to create sounds which stimulate only the animal side of human nature.

The churches and temples of spirituality are empty while the pubs are full. People starve to death in the poorer parts of the world while people in the opulent West worry about which new car or house or hi-fi system to buy next. And as for those who have had spiritual or psychic experiences, they are thought not to be connected with reality by most people!

FACT 4: Perhaps the strangest fact of all about life in this world is that much of your body is not alive at all! When you look in the mirror you may think you're looking at living flesh

clear night and it seems like nothing more than a bit of thin, high cloud trailing across the sky. But do you realise that there are 400,000 million stars out there shining down at you?

All of them are Suns similar to our own Sun, perhaps with millions of planets too. And do you also realise that some astronomers estimate that there are at least hundreds of billions of other Milky Ways in the universe? Mind-boggling doesn't begin to describe it!

FACT 6: Space is full of life! This is the opinion of many astronomers these days. Gone are the times when man arrogantly assumed that he was the only intelligent creature in this universe, for some astronomers now predict that there could be at least a billion planets with life on them in our own Milky Way galaxy alone.

At least one planet has al-

STRANGE BUT TRUE

but you are not! The skin on the surface of your body is actually dead and so is the hair on your head, while inside your body millions of cells die every second of every day.

Yet mystics have always taught that many people in this world are like the dead anyway. So if you've been looking a bit gaunt lately, you now know why!

the universe ...

If the small world down here is strange and amazing, so is the enormous universe above and around it!

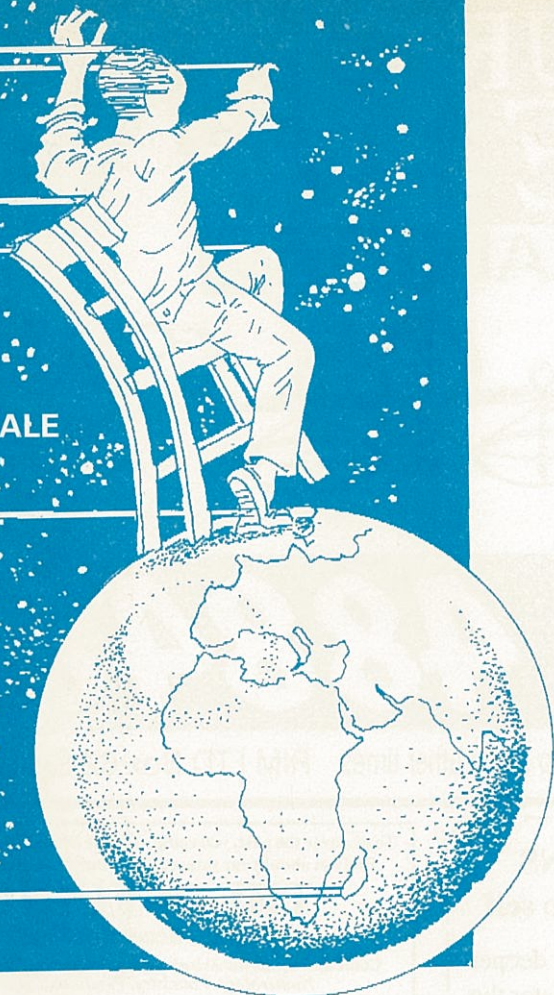
FACT 5: Space is not full of space! No, the universe is not empty at all. Just consider the Milky Way. Look up at it on a

ready been discovered around one of our closest stars. In view of this, if spacecraft from other worlds really exist, it's hardly surprising!

FACT 7: You are flying at warp speed through the universe in your own spacecraft! Yes, as you sit there reading your beloved PREDICTION you are travelling at literally thousands of miles per second through the universe in a huge, glowing blue spacecraft that has its own silent, exhaust-free engine and life-support system.

There are also billions of other people on it with you, even animals. It's called the Earth. Yet tell most people that beings from other planets may be able to travel at thousands

by
**DAVID
STOCKDALE**



of miles per second in huge, glowing, silent spacecraft in order to visit us and they'll say such things are impossible.

FACT 8: God did not create the universe! He can't have done because scientists confidently inform us that the belief in a powerful, creative intelligence called God creating the universe is totally absurd.

The real truth, they say, is that one day the universe, for no reason at all, just happened to be there, having formed from absolutely nothing. Yet their belief is not absurd at all, or so they claim.

..and everything

And everything else is strange too!

FACT 9: Bumble-bees are psychic! They must be because scientists have proved that bumble-bees cannot fly. They're just not designed right, the scientists say.

So the only conclusion we PREDICTION readers can possibly come to is that bumble-bees are actually adepts and can levitate and propel themselves through the air by mind power alone.

All that wing flapping must be to generate the necessary psychic energy. After all, you can't doubt what scientists say, can you?

FACT 10: The Bible mentions over 700 prophetic dreams and clairvoyant visions, plus numerous other supernatural

events! But that isn't the strange thing.

The strange thing is that many Christians condemn anyone who claims to experience such things him/herself and label the esoteric as evil mumbo-jumbo! Could they be suffering from too many 'Toronto Blessings,' do you think?

FACT 11: You can't trust your senses! So don't ever believe anything they tell you. Take vision, for instance. Look at, say, a country scene and what do you see? Green grass and trees? Yellow wheat in the fields? Bluebells? Wrong! The grass and trees are really red, the yellow wheat is really purple and the bluebells are really orange.

This is because all objects reflect only the light that is complementary in colour to their real colours and absorb the rest; which means that your eyes never see the true colours at all. Even pink skin is really green.

Yes, most Westerners really do look like little green men from Mars! And if your skin should go purple with cold in Winter, well, then it's really yellow. Strange, but true!

FACT 12: Everything is unreal! Not only can't you trust your senses but the world and universe around you is not even reality! All is maya, or illusion, as the Hindus say, or the dream of Brahma, the creator.

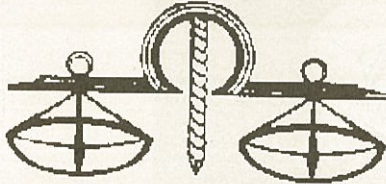
Even scientists appear to admit that this is true these days when they confidently state that matter is an illusion and that fields of insubstantial energy are all that exist. Or, as Albert Einstein put it, 'There is no place in this new kind of physics for both the field and matter, for the field is the only reality.'

So the final strange fact is that this article and this copy of PREDICTION don't physically exist. And neither do you. Weird, eh? So, remember, truth really is stranger than fiction!

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THE TAROT

by JOHN CHRISTOPHER TRAVERS

NINE OF CUPS

The Nine of Cups is one of the most beneficial cards to find in a spread and gives the right to enjoyment of one's achievements.

From now through to the end of the suit, the Cups cards are full of hope, comfort and general beneficence. The Cups Nine is no exception, in fact it is one of the better cards of the entire Tarot.

The man of substance surrounded by his trophies, of which he is rightly and undoubtedly proud, puts the right image onto the meaning of this card. It is a symbol of contentment, success, stability, happiness, intellectual advancements and difficulties overcome.

If, at the same time, the card suggests complacency, a blind faith in events and intuitive congestion, so be it. Nothing is exactly perfect. And there are certainly times when anyone can rest assuredly on his/her laurels.

Of course, it is better that any self-satisfaction is of short duration but, surely, it is permissible to enjoy the fruits of one's labours for a little while without undue criticism? Just as long as reality is not blocked out at the same time or pomposity creeps in to stay.

Recognition is an enjoyable thing to experience. After all the hard work put in, the appreciation is welcomed by most. There is a glow of contentment in the success attained while praise is no bad thing either for those who deserve it.

The Nine of Cups strongly suggests that the time is right, the acknowledgment due with all the trappings that accompany it. Just for once, there is a good feeling, one that can be enjoyed without reservation for a reasonable amount of time.

From time to time these articles on the Tarot quote from various other writers, simply because their interpretations are so good and valid and, sometimes, not bettered. I now want to quote from Madeline Montalban's writings about the

Nine of Cups, quite extensively at that, because what she used to write — in particular about this card — was always so pertinent and remains so to this day.

'The Nine of Cups is one of the luckiest cards in the pack and its good effects apply no matter what the nature of the wish may be because it is the card which symbolises good fortune and fulfilled love. It implies the lasting happiness which is earned rather than a flash of good luck that can fade as quickly as it appears. It is, therefore, an excellent augury whenever this card appears in a spread.

'We all experience dark years when one thing after another goes wrong, when nothing but struggle and disappointment seem to fall to our lot and life is very hard to bear. Such times are sent to try us, literally, and if we emerge bloody but unbowed, surviving the hard times and learning from them without resorting to selfishness, deceit or dishonesty, then we will earn our just rewards: we will gain the blessing that the Nine of Cups has to offer those who deserve them.'

I don't think anyone since has put the essence of the Cups Nine in such a perfect way.

There are other views; that



the Nine is a loner card, indicating a miser sitting on his gains and not letting them benefit others. In part this is true but only if the success factor is taken far beyond its natural span. The Cups Nine is more of an indication that rewards will be shared rather than locked away untouched.

The Cups Nine has often been called a wish card, one of several in fact, but where one's material wishes can prosper and bring great gains. I suppose it must be compared to a wish for the lottery numbers to come up or for a win from the football pools or Premium Bonds, to find that the win does occur with great rejoicing by all concerned. It does not happen often but it can and in recent months frequently appears to have done so if all the

media stories can be relied on.

There is not really an actual warning with all of this but, if there was, it would be to take care not to go overboard — in celebrations, in spending the gains or in letting the success go to one's ego. Nothing exceeds like excess — which is worth recalling when enjoying the undoubted benefits of this generous and welcome card.

Once the prizes, adulation, recognition, benefits *et al* have been accepted, then it is time to think of what can be done with the actual gains. Whether they are financial, creative, emotional or a pat on the back does not matter. It is what follows on that does. One's life will never be quite the same.

There will be quite a lot of changes to cope with or to instigate. From that point on it is

what one can do with the opportunities placed in one's path ahead that becomes the most important factor. Do not rest on your laurels; allow time to enjoy the benefits but then put to good use all that has been achieved.

There will be chances offered to only a select few that can be taken and made to work even more successfully. There will be people to help, things of importance to do, above all wealth to share. Indiscriminate actions or attitudes must be put to one side.

The influences of the Cups Nine are far too good to waste. Such a card comes but once in a lifetime to most people, to some not at all. But when it does, value it, cherish it and use it. It will prove to be well worthwhile.

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ASTROLOGY SECTION



MAY

SOBERING INFLUENCES

With several planets undergoing a retrograde shift during May we can expect something of a topsy-turvy month ahead. There will be much talk of the urgent need for greater stability in the economy and a more conscientious approach to problems of the environment. Increasing numbers of people are beginning to take the idea of 'downshifting' more seriously and anyone who is concerned for our Earthly habitat will be feeling greatly encouraged.

While I am not quite sure what this new buzzword means, it does suggest a trend towards greater realism, greater appreciation and, above all, less greed in regard to our needs and expectations.

It is significant that this trend has arisen since Uranus moved into Aquarius. This is a sign that has more to do with the need for creative and free human relationships rather than with the unbridled acquisitive urge that seems to have been running amok over the past decade or so. The winds of change are certainly going to be felt most strongly in the sphere of human attitudes to life in coming years.

As Mars moves through Taurus from early May, the political situation in Ireland could become rather tense, most critically around the 8th when Mars forms an adverse aspect with Uranus. Worries about a renewal of violence could become very real and it's significant that Uranus turns retrograde on this date, hinting strongly at a setback in political initiatives.

The good news is that Uranus forms a very sobering aspect with Saturn just after the New Moon in Taurus on the 17th, indicating that perhaps old grievances are about to be healed. This favourable combination, together with a more positive picture later month, augurs well for property markets, building and agriculture. With Saturn and Uranus we can expect that some kind of meeting between the old and the new will give rise to alternative ideas in these areas. There are also likely to be interesting and quite revolutionary developments in architecture.

At the very end of May there is a sense of urgency in the financial markets. This will not necessarily be due to a sense of panic but the pace of things should increase considerably. Controversy over a large-scale take-over is likely to be very much in the news.

Remus

HOW TO READ THE SYMBOLS

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

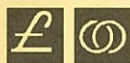
Here is the key: *Heart*: love affairs. *£ sign*: money and material matters. *Sword*: quarrels and disputes. *Sun's face*: health. *Letters*: correspondence and documents. *Linked*

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

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

ARIES

MARCH 21 TO APRIL 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

You can expect the pattern of life to take a more settled direction during May.

This isn't to imply that everything is about to grind to a stop but it does mean that you'll have extra time to stand back and take a more objective view.

The underlying trend is entirely constructive and, though you'll need to take a rather cautious approach to finance over the coming month, it's an excellent time for taking first steps towards a new career.

The most significant feature in the zodiac is Saturn in your sign — which puts a somewhat fateful emphasis on the situation. Generally, when this planet moves through one's Sun sign it signals a time when efforts of the previous decade or so come to fruition.

It's a time to pull threads together and give a much more definite structure to your scheme of things. Playing things by ear or trusting to luck are out of the question with Saturn. It demands a disciplined and down-to-earth approach.

The more organised and constructive you can be over the next couple of years, the more likely you will reap the rewards of Saturn in the long term. This may not be entirely appealing to Aries people — you prefer instant action and instant results.

Patience is not something you possess in abundance and usually you are leaping ahead while others are still thinking. This approach very often works very well for you. Not without good reason has your sign been associated with the pioneer and leader. However, under Saturn's more sober regime, a

slower pace will avoid a lot of frustration.

During the coming month you may get the feeling that your energies are being blocked in some way. This is probably because it's time to be honest with yourself about what you really want, rather than what you feel is expected of you. Setting your goals too high will be a very disappointing road while Saturn is in your sign. So make it a policy to be realistic.

Financially, there is a kind of quick-quick-slow pattern this month. Your ruler, Mars, helps you to push ahead with financial matters but retrograde Mercury may throw a few spanners in the works.

Here again there is a need for care and planning, rather than a too aggressive approach. Take extra care on the 3rd, 4th, 17th and 24th. Poor judgment or lack of preparedness could be expensive. If you're applying for a job or fund raising, the cosmic trend later in the month favours enterprise.

Avoid getting anxious if things seems slow. Your life is undergoing a subtle shift from May onwards — best take your time!

TAURUS

APRIL 21 TO MAY 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Your patience will stand you in good stead during May.

Things sometimes appear to be taking a backward step but in reality a subtle progress is being effected. You'll be obliged to stick to very ordinary routines rather than trying to force the pace.

The potentially adverse trends around the Full Moon early month, again on the 8th and the 24th, indicate that you'll need to play the role of trouble-shooter. This could be due to a minor crisis in your per-

sonal finances or the need to change policy quickly in business.

Provided you stick to a very practical line all should be well. The main danger is that you'll be tempted to venture into unfamiliar territory and end up losing your footing. New offers are likely to be very much pie in the sky at this time so a sceptical approach may be needed. Also be wary of bluff or those with excessive enthusiasm.

If you are forced to traverse the same ground twice, this may be no bad thing. It could enable you to strengthen your position and gain insight into the motives of others.

Mars and Mercury in your sign throughout the month could be something of a two-edged sword. At best these planets will enable you to cut through the hype and get straight to the point. The main danger is that you'll antagonise people by putting them on the spot. Be diplomatic and aware that people are likely to get the wrong end of the stick — especially when adverse trends are enhanced on the 4th, 9th, 17th, 24th and 29th.

Mars in your sign not only helps you to sustain self-confidence but

should greatly increase your physical stamina. Provided you don't overdo things, this is a good month for health matters. Mars usually indicates an increase of energy and vigour, as well as a greater will to get yourself in better shape. It's a good time for a keep-fit programme and to focus your attention on modifying your diet.

It must also be said that Mars in your sign can have an equally invigorating influence on your love life (especially for the males of the species). Sexual attraction is likely to be a powerful feature now. New romance may be very ardent but the only trouble with Mars is that things don't often last. The tendency is always towards a quick burn out after a lot of excitement. It all depends what you are looking for. But if you are hoping for a lasting relationship, perhaps this is not the best of months.

Finally, if travel or various lines of communication suffer disruptions during May, try and take this in your stride. Better still, wait till after the 27th when a more positive trend ensures that everything will run to schedule.

GEMINI

MAY 21 TO JUNE 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Mercury retrograde might make it hard to keep a clear vision at times.

What people say to you will be somewhat vague or double-edged so you'll need to make a conscious effort to keep your critical faculties alert. Dates when you are most likely to be tripped up by misinformation are the 4th, 10th and 24th. Also double-check any special appointments on these dates.

Overall, it looks as if it's going to be one of those months when you

feel that everything is in the air. A decision being pressed upon you may be hard to get into perspective or you might feel that you are in danger of upsetting various apple-carts. However, the situation is not as urgent as it appears. Other people's misplaced perceptions are giving a distorted picture.

Geminians are inclined to feel uneasy if not much is happening. But this type of situation is probably just what you need at present. If things seem to be rather static, take this as an opportunity to get things in better perspective and prepare for a more satisfying way ahead in the coming months.

The emotional climate during the second half of the month may be rather bewildering at times. For those involved in a relatively new romance, a sudden change of heart soon after the 20th could throw you off balance.

Your feelings towards the other person may be rather changeable, probably because you realise that you've been putting too idealistic an interpretation on the situation. You'll either end up kicking yourself for being such a dupe or you

will realise a new level of feeling and affection that takes the relationship to a more enduring level.

Apart from this potential emotional blip which could make or break a recently formed love affair, the prevailing trend is not at all bad for closer ties of love and affection. Venus in your sign throughout the month ensures that peace and love prevail — not only in spheres of greater intimacy but also at an everyday level.

For instance, a fairly long-standing disagreement with a relative or neighbour will more easily be resolved. At a business level, too, most negotiations and dealings will run smoothly, provided you keep in mind that now is the time to stick to your principles rather than being unduly influenced by others.

Once Mercury begins to change direction from the 27th onwards, minor irritations will quickly disappear and you'll have a much clearer perception of where you stand in regard to other points of view. If health has been a worry (either yours or another's) then there will be some positive developments later in the month.

CANCER

JUNE 21 TO JULY 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Fate is taking a noticeable hand in your life during May.

Of high significance is the recent transit of Saturn into the top sector of your Solar chart. This position signifies an important phase in a person's life; often a change of direction and the development of a new sense of purpose. It's a highly constructive trend and will be welcomed by those who have not been happy about career interests over the past few months.

Saturn does, of course, have a

rather difficult side but this will only be experienced by those who refuse to be realistic line or who insist on sticking with old and now irrelevant conditions. Although you may be about to experience a rather difficult time of transition, the final result will be that your determination to succeed will be greatly enhanced.

If your work or some other activity depends a great deal on team spirit and co-operation, the underlying trend is highly progressive but the retrograde motion of Mercury between the 3rd and 27th will cause upset through differing views and ideas.

The greatest difficulty will be felt by those who take a leading role. Be prepared for some tactful negotiating. Alternatively, a campaign or community venture may be held up by a lot of petty bickering or red-tape. Patience may be needed.

Dates when your best laid plans and arrangements are most likely to go awry are the 3rd, 4th, 8th, 24th and 31st. Think carefully before putting your signature to anything on these dates and be wary of sharp-talkers.

What you may find with this tricky Mercurial trend is that people will tend to turn up an inconvenient moments to upset your plans or distract you from your main interests. You are most likely to experience this on the above dates so keep things flexible if possible.

Dates when you can expect progress in the more important areas of your life are the 7th, 11th, 15th, 16th, 21st, 25th and 29th. If it's co-operation and support that you are seeking, these are the dates to make your best efforts.

At a more intimate level, it seems that romantic affairs will tend to have an air of secrecy about them this month. This is not necessarily a bad thing but you would definitely be courting disaster by attempting any kind of two-timing. Steer clear of anything that might give rise to scandal. If you are going to make a fool of yourself in love, this is a likely time — so be warned!

Although there are potential emotional hazards in May, there are also positive experiences that will help you to get a surer footing in the world.

LEO

JULY 21 TO AUGUST 21



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Efforts towards career or other important goals will have a very positive impact.

You'll be radiating a lot of confidence and can afford to adopt a fairly high profile. Although there may be minor irritations during the second or third week, it is unlikely that this will cause any lasting disagreements provided you don't get too high-handed and ride roughshod over people's feelings.

The somewhat paradoxical combination of Mars with a retrograde

Mercury in the top sector of your chart indicates that the best policy is to make haste slowly. Any attempt to rush things will land you with more demands than you can cope with. Don't jeopardise your credibility by playing the hero. Stick to what you are capable of and you can be sure of success.

Job seekers may find the coming weeks a bit of a struggle. A series of disappointments may incline you to give up but this would definitely be out of order. Once Mercury changes pace later in May you should get encouraging news or an unexpected opportunity. Past efforts will not have been wasted. A decision or contact you made a few weeks back could turn out to be extremely fortunate.

On a lighter note, a favourable Venus factor until the 20th augurs well for the romantically inclined. For many Leos this could be a time when cherished hopes and wishes are finally realised. The most auspicious dates for affairs of the heart are the 1st, 10th, 15th — maybe also the 25th and 29th, except that things are likely to be rather slow to get off the ground.

You can also expect to be increasingly in demand socially.

Leos are at their best and happiest when people notice and appreciate them for what they are, rather than for what they do. This month certain encounters are almost certain to make you feel very flattered.

On the domestic front things may not be quite so easy-going, especially around the Full Moon on the 3rd or when Mars and Uranus are antagonistic around the 8th. Be prepared for minor emotional traumas within the family circle then. However, don't over-react if you discover that a youngster has been getting into mischief. This will only make matters worse. Aim at understanding rather than censure.

Now that Saturn is moving in favourable angle to your sign you can expect that certain financial restrictions that have dogged your heels in past years will now ease. The indications are that you'll be feeling increasingly confident about making longer-term plans and shaking yourself free of various hindrances.

Potentially, this is going to be a month of positive developments.

VIRGO

AUGUST 22 TO SEPTEMBER 22



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Serious consideration of long-term or joint financial matters will probably be called for during May.

After a phase of fairly heavy expenditure you'll now find yourself in a more secure position. This is an excellent time to discuss finances or to push ahead with property transactions. The main astrological accent is increasingly on the need for stability so take this as your guidepost now.

You may not experience any

spectacular progress in May but, if you play your cards right, there will be surprising scope for successful manoeuvring — particularly if you are business-minded. Be alert for opportunities on the 7th, 16th, 17th, 25th and 29th. These also happen to be the most favourable dates for travel.

If you have arranged a journey on other dates than these there is a chance of delays or last-minute disruptions. This applies also if someone has promised you a visit. Keep your plans fairly flexible, especially under adverse trends on the 2nd, 4th, 9th and 24th.

You may also have to deal with various legal or official matters on these dates. There's a sense of urgency here so don't waste time if something needs to be cleared up.

Looking at the most positive astrological factors, there are three exceptionally fortunate dates for Virgoans. The first of these is the 7th when a powerful combination of Sun, Moon and Jupiter give a decidedly lucky prospect. This would probably be the best day to indulge in games of chance or to up the stakes on the Lottery. Alter-

natively, luck may come as an unexpected opportunity to further a creative or spare-time interest.

The second auspicious date is the 18th. This has a more esoteric and spiritual quality and is particularly significant for those with a serious interest in occult matters or alternative healing. It's also a good date to get a message across or to write down your thoughts.

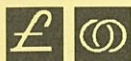
Finally, a varied combination of favourable cosmic trends on the 25th and 26th give a strong indication that something important is about to move ahead. The pattern is highly creative so, if you are seeking to give form to your ideas and improve your self-expression, now is the time to act.

Later in the month you may not feel entirely on form health-wise. Take special care when adverse trends prevail on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th. If it's not your own health, then perhaps someone close to you will need extra care.

As the month closes you can expect the pace of life suddenly to put on a spurt. Be prepared to shoulder some added duties — for which you'll be highly appreciated.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 TO OCTOBER 22



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Three major planets have changed position in your Solar chart recently.

The powers of transformation are beginning to take a hold on your destiny and take you in a new direction. As Uranus now occupies a highly creative and helpful area, you'll find increased scope to express your deeper self. No longer will you put up with things or accept tenth best.

However, having given this very positive message, you can expect

very little if you are not willing to take greater initiative. You might be moving into a time of greater opportunity and creativity but much will depend on your response. If you get the feeling that it's now or never, take decisive action.

The recent movement of Saturn into your House of Partners has a double significance for Librans. It signifies the end of a rather negative and perhaps frustrating phase at work. If you are hoping for better job satisfaction or better pay, the prospect begins to look more promising from May onwards.

Efforts towards improving the situation are likely to get best results under favourable trends on the 11th, 16th, 25th and 27th.

Apart from this practical effect of Saturn, there is now also an emphasis on close personal relationships. At best, this planet signifies that love and romance will take on a more serious quality. The chance of a more enduring relationship is greatly increased.

Although single Librans may feel at times that they are being left out in the cold, there is also much to suggest that Fate is weaving

something special. It may be a slow process (Saturn being the planet of time) but if you are destined to meet your affinity, the next year or so could be highly significant.

Saturn does of course have a rather chilly side so many Librans may experience a cooling off in established relationships. Something that you shared with another may be coming to an end. To kid yourself that the old fires can be revived will only invite Saturn's frustrating effects. If you do experience a difficult parting of the ways soon, it is happening at the right time.

Under Saturn's rule any attempt to rush marriage will be very unwise. The essence of success in any relationship will consist in your willingness to be patient and let time work its own miracles.

Coming back to practical affairs, special attention is needed in finances. Retrograde Mercury indicates mistakes due to misinformation and carelessness. Be particularly wary on the 3rd, 4th and in the final three days of May.

It looks as if the tide of change flows strongly, opening up positive new vistas for Librans.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 TO NOVEMBER 22



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

You can expect the pace to ease from early May onwards.

At last, you'll be able to develop a clearer view of what you want out of work, as well as being able to re-organise things more to your taste.

Finances are likely to take a relatively smooth course for most of the month but you will need to make more of a conscious effort to keep things stable after the 20th. Most likely is that money owing to you will be delayed later in the month when there is also a danger

of having to pay for something twice over. Be on the lookout for deception and very suspicious of people who may be intent on charming money out of you.

If you have been unrealistic or over-optimistic about a joint venture, then this will be brought home to you rather sharply. If returns have consistently failed to materialise, perhaps it's time to call it a day and try something else. Let things ride for you'll get a clearer picture of the situation in about six weeks time.

The main bugbear during the month ahead is Mars' transit through your opposite sign, together with retrograde Mercury between the 3rd and 27th. This suggests confrontation and conflict, perhaps with your nearest and dearest. If feelings have been suppressed, now is the time when emotional trauma is likely erupt.

Potentially the most explosive date is the 8th when something trivial could spark off an intense argument. Tread very tactfully with those closest to you. Other dates on which to expect an element of disagreement are the 24th and

29th. However, there are other favourable trends then so perhaps it would be a good time to clear the air. In discussions and debates on any of these dates, be prepared for things to become overheated.

More positively, the overall astrological trend suggests that certain unwanted influences are about to disappear. Something that has made you uneasy or confused in the past will finally fade from view. And even if there is conflict during the month, it will leave you with a much clearer picture of where you stand.

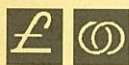
The final ten days of the month will bring favourable developments in property transactions or large-scale business. A combination of Saturn and Uranus brings success to those who can somehow combine the old with the new.

The weekend of the 25th and 26th contains a spectacular series of very positive planetary aspects. Powerful Solar forces will enable you to obtain the right contacts and respect from people who matter.

Perhaps not the most harmonious of months but it looks like a valuable lesson will be learned.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 23 TO DECEMBER 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Be prepared for readjustments in your work routines during May.

By nature you are adaptable and it is precisely this which will put you at an advantage in practical affairs over the weeks ahead.

The under lying trend is decidedly progressive in all to do with career and employment but while Mercury is retrograde between the 3rd and 27th you may have to cope with minor irritations, delays and hindrances. At times you'll feel

that things are conspiring to prevent you from getting on with the main tasks so be prepared to draw the line if others push their luck.

If it's not other people that distract you, it could be that a bout of poor health during the second or third week upsets your schedules. There is an increased danger to health through too many demands on your resources. Try to get things in perspective and pace yourself. Don't fall into the psychological trap of thinking that you need to play the hero to win respect. People will only exploit you. It is important that you look after your own health now.

The astrological pattern may have a progressive undertone but this certainly does not mean you should key yourself up and get anxious about pushing ahead. Financially you are now moving into a six month phase when the accent will be on stability and steady growth. Don't be fooled into thinking that you can make vast profits overnight. Care and attention, as well as a sense of realism, is the best policy for success.

If these matters are of particular

importance now, the most favourable dates are the 7th, 16th, 18th, 25th and 26th. Your hunches are likely to be reliable then.

The prospect appears bright if you happen to be seeking the perfect partner. Venus resides in your House of Partners throughout the month, helping to strengthen close ties of affection. New romances stand the best chance of success if begun before the 20th.

This is also a favorable time for matrimony. Where a relationship is already fairly settled, Venus will help you to sort out any underlying difficulties and reach a deeper understanding with your partner.

After the 20th Venus turns retrograde which could mean that where love is fairly new there may be a change of heart. If the situation does disintegrate there may be a subtle benefit in terms of learning about your own emotional response (or lack of it).

The whole month seems to contain a theme of learning. Experience, both in the practical and personal spheres, will deepen your insight, strengthen your confidence and make you wiser.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 21 TO JANUARY 19



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Capricornians are renowned for practical good sense and organising abilities.

During May the success you achieve will be strongly linked with the exercise of these qualities. Jupiter in the very centre of your sign at present inclines most things to come up to expectation.

Over the past month or so it is likely that you suffered some crisis. This may have caused a lot of emotional stress. However, something which seemed rather negative

then will turn out positively. The general theme seems to be that you will find yourself with greater freedom to express your real self.

The month ahead is particularly fortunate in regard to creative and spare-time interests. Whether you pursue them as a hobby or more professionally, there are going to be opportunities for widening your scope. The most significant dates are the 6th, 7th, 11th, 12th, 16th, 17th and 26th. Anything that opens up a prospect of doing your own thing will be worthy of attention.

There is just one minor proviso in this otherwise bright picture. Both Mercury and Jupiter are fairly low key throughout the month, giving the message that things could be held up and that there is a need to take your time over matters that may affect your future. Don't get over-ambitious and expect instant miracles.

Now that Uranus is established in the money area of your Solar chart, you may have to get used to the fact that unexpected shifts in your financial fortunes are more likely. Although you are under Jupiter's protective gaze at pre-

sent, there are times when you need to take extra care.

The trickiest date is the 8th. An adverse angle between Mars and Uranus suggests that something expensive will crop up. This is likely to be mechanical, like the car breaking down. Make sure in advance that everything is checked and in working order. Other dates when you are up against negative trends are the 24th and 29th. Avoid taking risks with money then.

Staying on a very practical note, the third week of May is particularly favourable for property. Now that your ruling planet (Saturn) is accentuating domestic affairs it is likely that such matters will take on added significance. In fact this is an excellent time for pushing ahead with a change of residence.

Although love and romance may go through a rather turbulent phase during May, the prospect is not entirely hopeless. Towards the end of the month the tide does appear to be on the change. Pleasant developments in your social life are forecast and new friends (and potential lovers) are likely to be moving into your orbit.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 TO FEBRUARY 18



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

You may be forced to think twice before pushing ahead with a new venture this month.

You are advised against cutting corners and will need to do some serious reflection on your priorities. It may not be a case of having to downshift your objectives but you may have to realise that what seems important one moment can quickly fade into insignificance.

In view of this, it would be better to be more detached and flexible — at least until late month when

events could pull you into centre stage once more. Take note of potentially explosive trends on the 8th. Emotions at home may be difficult but, if you feel it's time for a showdown, maybe you should trust your instincts.

Also a sudden emergency could crop up. This could be something completely mundane such as electrical gadgets going haywire. It might be a good idea to have the phone numbers of technicians handy during the second week.

Patience and careful thought will be needed in all to do with property interests. Beware of hidden pitfalls; that apparent bargain may turn out to be a rip off. Danger signals are at their peak when adverse trends come into force on the 8th, 9th and 24th.

If important transactions need to be dealt with, choose the favourable times — notably the 7th, 17th, 25th and 26th.

Although the pattern of events may throw obstacles in your path now, you can at least expect things to run more sweetly in amorous experience. Venus ensures that love will find a way. The only ob-

stacles will be those of your own making. Until the 20th you have great scope for strengthening your love life but if any uncertainties persist after this date you'll find that this situation cools off.

You are rather wary of expressing emotion and this may create problems. However, provided you have cultivated a genuine level of friendship, you can expect things to go from strength to strength.

Venus will also have a favourable reaction on your social life during the first three weeks of May. Any special friendship that you happen to strike up, especially around the 10th, 15th, or 25th, could prove significant.

Having your ruler, Uranus, in your sign shows that your ideals are likely to undergo quite radical changes. This is all to the good for you are now moving into a phase of your life when your actions and decisions will be geared more towards asserting your own uniqueness and independence.

You may feel that life is something of a tightrope walk this month but the final result will be a clearer and more positive view.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 TO MARCH 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

No matter how carefully you lay your plans, they could suffer disruption during May.

This is not to imply that you simply throw everything to the Fates and play things entirely by ear but it does mean that your best policy is to keep to the familiar.

Some kind of communication breakdown is the most likely scenario, especially when adverse astrological trends reach critical levels on the 8th, 9th, 17th, 24th and 31st. Be careful about what you

say and to whom. You could easily be misinterpreted which could seriously undermine your good reputation. Alternatively, you may get the wrong end of the stick. Aim for clarity and insist that others do too.

It's very much a time for straight talking rather than attempting (as you often do) to pussyfoot around other people's feelings. Others won't think any the less of you for being completely open and honest.

The good news is that heavy financial pressures that you had to cope with since early in the year will ease over the weeks ahead. If you are recently married, buying a house, starting a business venture or striving to bring up a family, you will find that the going gets easier.

Saturn helps you to establish greater strength and stability in finances. This planet will incline you to focus more on your personal economic situation and to take an increasingly down-to-earth approach. What you must take seriously with Saturn is that you cannot expect any quick successes. However, you can make the most of this potentially constructive trend by creating a sense of order

in how you approach finances.

Saturn throws a favourable angle to Uranus during the third week. You may find yourself turning attention towards a neglected area of your life. An old interest may occupy your thoughts and show a way to boost your finances.

An area in which you will experience more than your fair share of disruption is travel. This is especially so between the 3rd and 27th when Mercury is retrograde. You may have to cancel or at least postpone a journey or visit that you were looking forward to. Day-to-day, you'll find irritations even on relatively short trips. Be particularly careful on the 8th and 24th when you are most prone to accidents.

These dates also see certain personal differences coming out into the open. You are likely to come into conflict with the views of a relative or neighbour. However, you can set a good example by insisting on the need for genuine dialogue rather than confrontation.

Towards the end of the month the pace of life gathers momentum and, at last, you'll feel that real progress is being made.

Lunar Lore Gardening

MAY

- 1** Dry, cool start, possibly very cold in second week then gradually warmer.
- 2, 3**
- 4** After 16.06 hours clear onion rows of weeds.
- 5** Thin out carrot and beetroot seedlings.
- 6** After 17.55 hours plant potatoes and other root crops.
- 7** Continue all day.
- 8** Continue until 19.40 hours.
- 9, 10, 11, 12**
- 13** After 03.01 hours turn soil, dig over new plots.
- 14** Edge lawns, clear pathways and clear away debris.
- 15** After 09.26 hours prepare ground for outdoor tomatoes.
- 16** Shade greenhouses, stake and tie young carnations.
- 17** After 17.49 hours thin apricots, dust to prevent flies.
- 18** Divide violets into two or three crowns. Replant.
- 19** Continue all day.
- 20** After 04.17 hours water newly planted fruit trees well.
- 21** Plant out begonias, harden off bedding plants.
- 22** After 16.29 hours tie-in young peaches, train shoots.
- 23** Examine recent grafts, begin to loosen where necessary.
- 24** Continue all day.
- 25** After 04.59 hours mow lawns to increase growth.
- 26** Use a chemical fertiliser only. Dead-head flowers.
- 27** After 15.34 hours plant flowers noted for beauty.
- 28** Plant runner beans and peas.
- 29** Continue until 22.31 hours.
- 30, 31**

VICTORIA MATTHEWS

Greenwich Mean Time has been used throughout

The Planets This Month

- ☉ **The Sun** begins May in 10° 54' Taurus and enters Gemini on the 20th at 18.24 hours. It ends the month at 9° 49' of the Twins.
- ☾ **The Moon** is waxing to the Full on the 3rd at 11.49 hours with the Last Quarter on the 10th at 05.05 hours. The New Moon is on the 17th at 11.47 hours with the First Quarter on the 25th at 14.14 hours.
As the month opens the Moon is in 9° 29' Libra and enters Scorpio on the 2nd at 12.43 hours. It then enters Sagittarius on the 4th at 16.06 hours; Capricorn on the 6th at 17.55 hours; Aquarius on the 8th at 19.40 hours; Pisces on the 10th at 22.30 hours; Aries on the 13th at 03.01 hours; Taurus on the 15th at 09.26 hours; Gemini on the 17th at 17.49 hours; Cancer on the 20th at 04.17 hours; Leo on the 22nd at 16.29 hours; Virgo on the 25th at 04.59 hours; Libra on the 27th at 15.34 hours; Scorpio on the 29th at 22.31 hours where it ends the month.
- ☿ **Mercury** is in 28° 15' Taurus on the 1st, advances to 28° 39' on the 3rd when it turns retrograde at 22.41 hours. It retreats to 19° 39' on the 27th, turns direct again at 19.03 hours and ends the month at 20° 2' of the Bull.
- ♀ **Venus** begins the month in 22° 4' Gemini and advances to 28° 18' on the 20th when it turns retrograde at 06.09 hours. By the end of the month it has retreated to 26° 59' of the Twins.
- ♂ **Mars** begins May at 28° 40' Aries and enters Taurus on the 2nd at 18.17 hours. By the month end it has reached 20° 54' of the Bull.
- ♃ **Jupiter** begins the month at 17° 38' Capricorn and, still in the same degree, turns retrograde on the 4th at 15.38 hours. By the 31st it has retreated to only 16° 35' of the Goat.
- ♄ **Saturn** spends the month in Aries and advances from 2° 42' on the first day to 5° 28' by the last day.
- ♅ **Uranus** is in the same degree of Aquarius all month. It advances from 4° 34' on the 1st to 4° 35' on the 8th at 19.37 hours when it turns retrograde. By the month end it has retreated to 4° 23' of the Water Bearer.
- ♆ **Neptune** is retrograde all month in Capricorn and retreats from 27° 45' on the 1st to 27° 30' on the 31st.
- ♇ **Pluto** spends the month retrograde in Sagittarius and retreats from 2° 19' on the first day to 1° 31' on the last day.

All positions are for 00.00 hours GMT.

Reading the Aspectarian

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

First of all memorise what the symbols stand for:

♈ Aries, ♉ Taurus, ♊ Gemini, ♋ Cancer, ♌ Leo, ♍ Virgo, ♎ Libra, ♏ Scorpio, ♐ Sagittarius, ♑ Capricorn, ♒ Aquarius, ♓ Pisces.
☉ Sun, ☾ Moon, ☿ Mercury, ♀ Venus, ♂ Mars, ♃ Jupiter, ♄ Saturn, ♅ Uranus, ♆ Neptune, ♇ Pluto.

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

* (60°) sextile: generally helpful.
◻ (90°) square: mostly challenging.
△ (120°) trine: strongly helpful.
♁ (180°) opposition: conflict and tension.

The minor aspects:
∨ (30°) semi-sextile: slightly favourable.
∠ (45°) semi-square: somewhat stressful.
⊥ (72°) quintile: creativeness.
◻ (135°) sesqui-square: usually unfavourable.
⋈ (150°) inconjunct or quincunx: stressful.

Each month the Moon travels right round the zodiac making every aspect to every planet at least once. When there are several aspects in one day we group them after one Moon symbol thus:
♁ △ ◻ ♁ ♁ ♁
This means Moon trine Sun, Moon sextile Jupiter, Moon square Venus.

ASPECTARIAN

MAY

- 1 W.** ♃ in ♎. ♃△♀□□△.
Entertain at home with a small dinner party or a few friends in for drinks.
- 2 Th.** ♃ in ♎ & ♎. ♃♂♂□□□□♀.
Hasty decisions and impulsive actions likely.
- 3 F.** ♃ in ♎. ♃♂♂×♀.
Work matters may spill over into personal life and spoil plans later on.
- 4 S.** ♃ in ♎ & ♏. ♃♂♂△♀×♀×♀×♀♂♂.
New faces help change some long-held beliefs.
- 5 Su.** ♃ in ♏. ♃♂♂♂. ♂♂♂♂.
Take great care in sports, travel or all things involving physical activity — accident prone day.
- 6 M.** ♃ in ♏ & ♏. ♃♂♂♀△♂♂♀.
Emotions liable to run the full gamut of expression all day.
- 7 T.** ♃ in ♏. ♃△♂♂♀. ♂△♀.
Listen to your sixth sense, follow a hunch. Small flutter worth trying.
- 8 W.** ♃ in ♏ & ♏. ♃△♂♂♂♂♂♂. ♂△♀. ♂♂♂♂.
Expect the unexpected, plan for alternatives — the best laid plans!
- 9 Th.** ♃ in ♏. ♃♂♂♂×♀♂♂♂.
Spur of the moment decision, something unusual or out of the ordinary could occur.
- 10 F.** ♃ in ♏ & ♏. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♀.
Make time for a cosy twosome, love and romance strongly aspected.
- 11 S.** ♃ in ♏. ♃×♂♂♂♂.
Difficulty with close friends, a serious divergence of opinions possible.
- 12 Su.** ♃ in ♏. ♃×♂♂♂♂♂♀×♀×♀.
Emotionally charged, quite confusing Sunday.
- 13 M.** ♃ in ♏ & ♏. ♃♂♂×♀♂♂♂♂.
Assume command, take charge, do what has to be done.
- 14 T.** ♃ in ♏. ♃♂♂♂.
Neither lender nor borrower be. Money is just passing through for many.
- 15 W.** ♃ in ♏ & ♏. ♃×♀♀♂♂♂♂♂♂. ♂♂♂♂.
Start new ventures, make the most of opportunities.
- 16 Th.** ♃ in ♏. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂.
Socialise, enjoy yourself, pay your bills and count your blessings.
- 17 F.** ♃ in ♏ & ♏. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂.
Difficulty in concentrating, liable to throw a 'wobbly' or two.
- 18 S.** ♃ in ♏. ♃×♀♂♂♂♂♂♂. ♂△♀.
Let others take the lead, sit back and learn by their mistakes if they make any.
- 19 Su.** ♃ in ♏. ♃♂♂♂♂. ♂×♀♂♂.
Much can be achieved despite opposition from surprising quarters.
- 20 M.** ♃ in ♏ & ♏. ♃♂♂♀♂♂♂.
Home and family affairs must take priority today.
- 21 T.** ♃ in ♏. ♃×♀×♀♂♂♂♂♂♂.
Feelings run very deep. Things may be said or done that can be very hurtful.
- 22 W.** ♃ in ♏ & ♏. ♃×♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂. ♂♂♂♂.
Power struggles in the office or the shop floor — and a lot of jealousy is about.
- 23 Th.** ♃ in ♏. ♃△♀♂♂♂♂♂.
Old habits die hard: conflict between what was and what may have to be.
- 24 F.** ♃ in ♏. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂.
An irritating day; people, things and even transport all contribute to it.
- 25 S.** ♃ in ♏ & ♏. ♃♂♂♂♂×♀♂♂♂♂. ♂△♀♂♂. ♂♂♂♂.
Excellent for starting any long-term project. Sign on the dotted line.
- 26 Su.** ♃ in ♏. ♃△♀♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂. ♂×♀♂.
New responsibilities offered or may be imposed at work.
- 27 M.** ♃ in ♏ & ♏. ♃♂♂♀♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂.
New boss, new faces, new rules, new procedures.
- 28 T.** ♃ in ♏. ♃△♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂.
Problems talked through with someone else can become less burdensome.
- 29 W.** ♃ in ♏ & ♏. ♃△♀♂♂♂♂♂♂. ♂♂♂♂♂.
Defer important decisions, postpone commitments. If anyone complains — tough!
- 30 Th.** ♃ in ♏. ♃♂♂♂♂.
Plans go awry, people may not be very co-operative.
- 31 F.** ♃ in ♏. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂.
Stress and strain can take its toll, ease back and deal only with essentials.



POINT OF SUCCESS

PART 2

by GEORGINA KERR

Having looked at the general meaning for the Midheaven (MC) through the signs in a previous article (December 95) the next step is to take note of the aspects made by Natal planets to the MC degree.

In the following analysis I have not made any overt discrimination between the so-called 'hard' aspects — the conjunction, square and opposition — and the 'soft' aspects — the sextile and trine. This is mainly due to space but also because each planet that aspects the MC will, in effect, bring the same energy/influence to bear irrespective of the aspect involved.

In other words, it is the quality of that energy and its likely effect on the individual that may differ according to the type of aspect involved. For example, Ernest Hemingway and George Sand, both writers, had Uranus in aspect to the MC. In Hemingway's chart Uranus made a 'hard' aspect, an opposition, while in Sand's chart the aspect was a 'soft' trine. Yet both writers were outstanding examples of independence and originality in their individual ways. In their own personal expression of this (as they experienced it) Sand would have

found it easier to deal with the Uranian energy than was the case with Hemingway.

Combined meanings

Again it is important to understand that often more than one planet will aspect the MC and, when such is the case, their meanings must be combined and account taken of the sign on the MC before a complete picture can be put together.

For example, HRH Princess Diana (see chart on page xii) has a Libra MC giving her taste, fashion sense, beauty and flair for public relations, with great diplomacy. She also has the Moon trine her MC, giving great popularity, and Uranus sextile the MC, giving her an air of originality and independence, whereas Saturn square her MC points to difficulty with authorities (such as the Royal family perhaps).

Planets aspecting the Midheaven

In the following section we consider the implications of each of the planets when in aspect to the MC. Also included are examples of celebrities whose charts share these

particular planet/Midheaven combinations.

THE SUN Any aspect from the Sun to the MC is generally favourable because it gives great ambition. Good aspects will help one to accomplish goals, often with the help of those in authority. With the difficult aspects the Native may have to contend with envy and backbiting but success can still be attained.

Celebrities Barbara Streisand (Sun trine MC), John Fitzgerald Kennedy (Sun square MC), Mae West (Sun opposition MC).

THE MOON Sometimes the Native takes a delight in attracting others' attention in any way possible yet popularity does come easily to this placement. These people know how to appeal to the public at large and have excellent public relations skills. However, they may lack determination and be too readily swayed by the opinions of others. A need for change and a liking for travel. Also a strong link with the mother in some way.

Celebrities R.D. Laing (Moon sextile MC), Alfred Lord Tennyson (Moon sextile MC.),

Lewis Carroll (Moon sextile MC), Freddie Laker (Moon square MC), John Travolta, (Moon square MC), Liza Minelli (Moon opposition MC).

MERCURY A very versatile nature, with great adaptability and a way with words; many writers and journalists have these aspects. Travel and education are also careers that lead to success. These people need to learn the value of concentration, however, as they crave constant stimulation and can be too restless, although other aspects and the MC sign may compensate for this.

Celebrities Jules Verne (Mercury conjunct MC), Honoré de Balzac (Mercury conjunct MC), Simone de Beauvoir (Mercury trine MC), George Sand (Mercury opposition MC).

VENUS The ability to put forward an appealing and pleasing public image is given by this aspect. Natives usually have diplomatic ability as well as a liking for working with other people. Artistic tastes and fashion sense often go hand in hand so these folk are talented at any work that requires taste and have an excellent eye from the aesthetic point of view.

Celebrities Marilyn Monroe (Venus conjunct MC), Oscar Wilde (Venus trine MC), HRH Prince Charles (Venus opposition MC).

MARS A public expression of personal courage and daring is likely, a very direct way of dealing with others. There is also an element of enjoyment

of risk-taking with this aspect. These people can only work well with others by exercising extreme patience and need to give themselves plenty of freedom for self-expression. They may work well in teams when part of an organisation such as the army or prison service, an occupation that often appeals. Sports also provide a good vent for their energy.

Celebrities Evel Knievel (Mars conjunct MC with Neptune), Marlene Dietrich (Mars trine MC), HRH Princess Anne (Mars square MC), Oscar Wilde (Mars opposition MC).

JUPITER An expansive and optimistic approach to life, as well as a tendency to go to excess in some way, can sometimes mar rather than aid the Native's public image and career. Nevertheless, these people often have luck on their side and others help them along the road to success. Usually they have an instinct for what the public wants and an ability with words, as with Mercury aspects.

Celebrities Barbara Cartland (Jupiter conjunct MC), Jane Fonda (Jupiter square MC), Aristotle Onassis (Jupiter opposition MC).

SATURN A steady, somewhat cautious approach to public life and to career. This Native will certainly learn by experience and by many falls along the way. Parental influence is strong and the Native's need to gain a position of power and influence may well stem from parental problems. There is a need to be someone, often

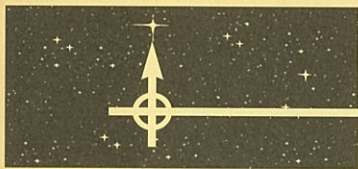
in order to compensate for an inferiority complex, yet hard work and dedication are always rewarded with this aspect. However, such folk need to be honest and aboveboard at all times or may suffer the backlash often associated with difficult aspects.

Celebrities Oscar Wilde and Adolf Hitler (Saturn conjunct MC), HM Queen Elizabeth II (Saturn conjunct MC), Carl Jung (Saturn square MC), Henry Kissinger (Saturn trine MC), Janis Joplin (Saturn opposition MC).

URANUS Any aspect of Uranus to the MC gives an original approach to public life and a great need for independence. These people will insist on doing things their own way at all times yet can work well with large groups as long as they are given enough room! They are somewhat unsteady in their energy levels but have great enthusiasm for personal projects and know how to pass this on to others in order to succeed in business or chosen career.

Celebrities Jane Fonda (Uranus conjunct MC), Franz Schumann (Uranus conjunct MC), Princess Diana (Uranus sextile MC), George Sand (Uranus trine MC), Janis Joplin, Frank Sinatra, Ernest Hemingway and William Shakespeare (Uranus opposition MC).

NEPTUNE This aspect can give mystical qualities, even religious devotion, but more commonly indicates confusion in regard to public life



and doubts about the best path to follow for success. Definite guidance is necessary with this aspect or years may be wasted following dead ends. However, personal intuition is very strong and should be heeded as much as possible even if a tendency to listen to others rather than one's inner voice is very strong. Often the Native has musical talent and inspiration in regard to the arts in general. These people often seek privacy in which to work as they do not function well in crowds or large groups (except for those following religious vocations).

Celebrities Satya Sai Baba (Neptune conjunct MC), Christina Rosetti (Neptune conjunct MC), Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (Neptune sextile MC), Maria Callas (Neptune square MC), Salvador Dali (Neptune square MC), HRH Prince Charles (Neptune opposition MC), James Joyce (Neptune opposition MC), Frederic Chopin (Neptune opposition MC), Honoré de Balzac (Neptune opposition MC).

PLUTO This aspect gives an energy and intensity to the self-expression, similar to that experienced with a Mars/MC aspect. However, here this energy is much more internalised and the individual may be secretive and sometimes obsessive in pursuit of his/her goals. These folk know too how to use the power of their will to influence others but must take care that this does not backfire. Certainly they have an aura of great personal magnetism and power. They need to work in fields that allow them to use their abilities to the fullest or

will quickly revert to the negative expression of this aspect, becoming too introverted for their own good.

Celebrities Rod Stewart (Pluto conjunct MC), Robert Koch (Pluto trine MC), Janis Joplin (Pluto trine MC), HRH Prince Charles (Pluto trine MC), Walt Disney (Pluto opposition MC), Carl Jung (Pluto opposition MC), Lewis Carroll (Pluto opposition MC).

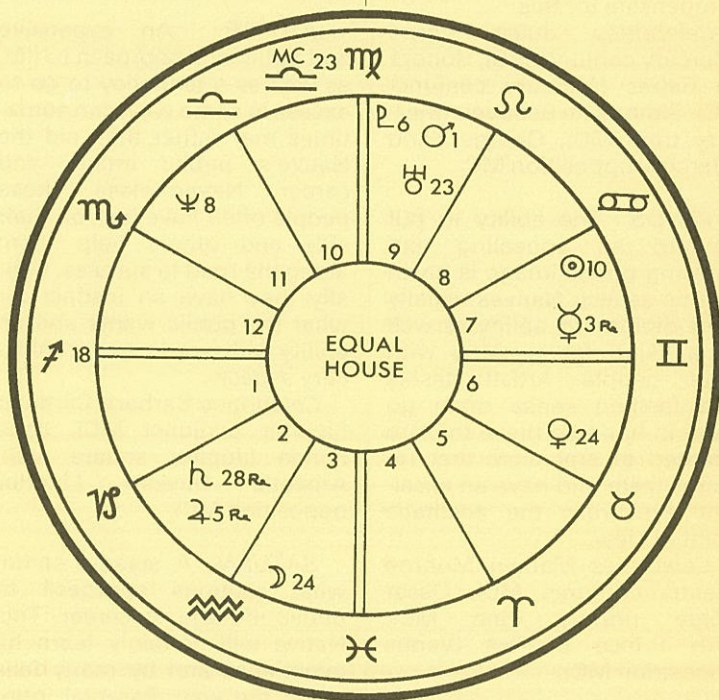
Afterword

As can be seen by the above, understanding the Midheaven is not a simple process yet it is a most rewarding one. The birth chart is a complicated picture of the heavens at the

moment of birth and even the most experienced astrologers are forever finding new ways to approach its interpretation.

A great deal of attention is given to the Sun and Moon signs, even the Ascendant, but without a complete evaluation of the Midheaven degree this will not provide a complete picture, especially in regard to the Native's public life and his/her achievement of success and recognition.

We all strive for success of some kind and it is the Midheaven of the birth chart which offers the best clues as to where our talents are to be found and how best to utilise these.



HRH The Princess of Wales
6.45 pm GMT
July 1st, 1961
Sandringham, Norfolk

ASTROLOGY TODAY

Do you know the Moon's phase today? What about at the time of your birth? Sophisticated astrologers often fail to take account of our closest neighbour, Queen of the night, emotions and the rhythms of life.

In most cultures the Moon is a feminine symbol. Waxing, Full and Waning she is Maiden, Mother and Crone. Her phases correspond to menstruation and pregnancy; designated as lasting 40 weeks, it is actually nine Moons from conception to birth. Nine (3 x 3) is a number sacred to the Goddess in her three aspects.

In our Solar culture logic is exalted but the potential destruction thereby courted becomes yearly more apparent. There is no doubt we need to reconnect with our bodies, instincts and Mother Earth. Earth and Moon are heavenly sisters, the pull of the Moon gently rocks Earth in her orbit.

How then do we reconnect with this important symbol? Firstly by awareness of the Lunar phases, timing initiative with the waxing phase, reaping at Full Moon, rethinking as she wanes and meditating when she is in the mystery of her darkness.

In natal charts we should be aware of the Moon's phase as well as her sign and house position. A fiery chart containing a waning Moon will be more contemplative, whereas the New Moon in more reserved Capricorn can show an almost Arien dynamism.

Phase is designated by the angle between Moon and Sun, starting with conjunction at the New Moon, First Quarter being opening square, opposition at Full Moon, Last Quarter closing square and so to the next New Moon. There are nine major stages in this cycle (again the

LUNAR PHASES by TERESA VIDGEN-MOOREY

number sacred to the Goddess) but demarcations are not rigid and you need to use judgment, consider the chart as a whole and blend where necessary.

1 NEW MOON (less than 60° ahead of Sun). These people have a childlike exuberance and spontaneity. Affectionate and open, they can be demanding, possessive and moody. As the Moon is at a primitive stage the ways of caring for the self can be extreme. This phase correlates with the first smile of a baby; consciousness newly establishing itself.

2 OPENING SEXTILE. Enthusiastic and confident, these people display a certain tremulousness. The feeling is of being poised on a new threshold, finding out, putting new things into practice. Consciousness and unconscious work in creative harmony — corresponding to a child gaining initial mastery.

3 OPENING SQUARE. Akin to adolescence and the first major challenge — 'What am I?' Conscious not always backed up by unconscious, these Natives can be argumentative, challenging and rebellious. The potential for either creativity or destructiveness is considerable.

4 OPENING TRINE. Corresponding to young adulthood, building for the future. Effectiveness, calmness and a sense of purpose are evident. Able to use conscious and unconscious, these folk are caring and rewarding.

5 FULL MOON. Corresponds with parenthood. Conscious and unconscious face each other, balancing or pulling apart. Intuition strong and well used

as it is modified by logic. The past is important and the Native keeps his/her life path under review. A feeling of serenity although there may be a fear that the irrational will overwhelm.

6 CLOSING TRINE. While waxing the effort is to establish identity (child); while waning the need is to express identity to others (mother). This phase corresponds to maturity, awareness of what one has to give. Peace-makers, understanding bosses, good hosts these people make loyal friends and create harmony.

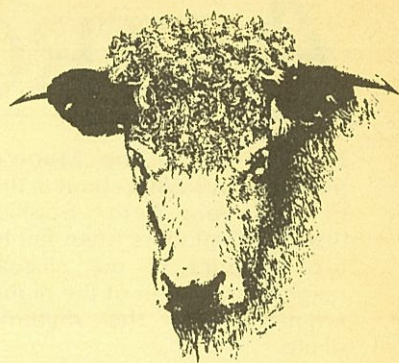
7 CLOSING SQUARE. Corresponding to the older parent (of adolescents), there is a fear of being misunderstood. These folk fear their wisdom may be undervalued. Possibly fanatical or stubborn, they are teachers returning seeds to the Earth. Both squares show defensiveness: the closing square suggests melancholy; while the opening square tends towards aggression.

8 CLOSING SEXTILE. The grandparent phase of wisdom and gentleness. The priestess, helpful and peaceful giver of good counsel.

9 BALSAMIC/DARK MOON. The most meditative phase. Natives may be old before their time, world-weary possessors of incommunicable secrets. Possibly mystical, they may be out of touch.

The provinces of the Moon are the body's hidden depths that never see daylight and the hidden light of the soul. To connect with our Lunar natures we need only open ourselves to the Moon's radiance, bathing in nocturnal landscape. Contemplating the Moon can be illuminating. A candle-flame disappears in Sunlight but shines bright by Moonlight - and there is no danger of getting one's fingers burnt!

TAURUS



by JOHN YATES

At first glance, the consensus in astrological circles as far as Taurus is concerned seems to be that he/she should hire an at least half-decent public relations firm. Scintillating is not exactly the first word which comes to mind on mention of our friend the Bull. He/she is generally regarded as a stubborn stick-in-the-mud or, at best, as stolid — or something equally boring.

'Stolid' may be meant as a compliment to the tenacity and practicality of the second sign's Fixed Earth nature but, if it is, it's a pretty back-handed one — damning with faint praise, if you like. Other stated qualities echo a similar sentiment — cautious, reliable, considered, steadfast, worthy — it's a dull and uninspiring catalogue

which all boils down to the idea that he doesn't move much, or very quickly, except, possibly, on those rare occasions when he loses his (red?) rag and proceeds to wreak havoc in the proverbial china shop.

All of which, besides being biased and unfair, totally misses the main point of what Taurean energy is about. Yes, the predisposition to cling to things long past their sell-by date and the tendency not to budge one iota without the application of the irresistible force are there all right but there's also a very good reason — Taurus' job in the zodiacal scheme of things is to express the concept of possession. 'To have and to hold' could be Taurus' byword.

Taking the idea that the 12

signs/houses of the horoscope symbolise the emergence and development of the human individual through all the stages of life, this is the point where the totally self-absorbed, infant innocence of Aries begins to realise that there are others in this world. The Taurus phase is concerned with distinguishing between self and other and our young Bull reaches out to

Taurus' year ahead

The thing to the forefront of your mind as your year begins will probably be how best to get your message across, to others or even to yourself. Aspects between your ruler and the current placement of Neptune suggest that things may be none too clear and getting emotional about it may only serve to muddy the waters even further.

The message(s) may also be between you and your bank manager in that this year could see you having to do a fair amount of rushing hither and thither just to keep the books balanced. If you do have to do this, strangely enough, you'll no doubt come to enjoy it in the end and possibly discover a talent you didn't know you had.

You are something of a natural home-bird but there could be surprises and not a few changes in this area as the year progresses, particularly after the middle of July. If there is some confusion about the way that domestic matters have been running, this year could see a resolution arrive like a bolt from the blue as Uranus gets in on the act.

It could be something to do with a pet project or with your offspring — it's the same energy astrologically speaking. Either way, there will be a sense of emotional commitment which you are not willing to forego and which will be the cause of much happiness. The Moon and Jupiter in

good aspect have an input here and this is one of the most pleasant indicators you could have.

It's very much a year when you will be able to go out and happen to the world, rather than the other way round. There is a great deal concentrated into self-promotion and career matters with most of the planets clustered in the 1st House and Midheaven areas of your Solar chart.

Just exactly how you exchange energy with the world will be brought into focus in the coming months with particular emphasis on the work scene or anything which, for you, comes under the heading of a vocation. You should beware of trying to give too much, though, however committed you may be to a particular cause. Being over-generous is just as bad as being stingy when it's a question of getting the balance of energies right.

Your sterling qualities of patience and perseverance will certainly get to the end of the task, where others might throw in the towel, but there are other factors to consider. You could unwittingly be putting everyone else in your debt, only to wonder why they seem so resentful when you were just trying to help. Alternatively, you could overdo it to the detriment of your health which, ultimately, helps no-one, least of all you. Try to keep a sense of proportion and make sure that others do their fair share.

demonstrate the fact by recognising and concentrating on what accrues to each — what is possessed and by whom.

So, yes, there is a tendency for Taurus to define him/herself by the goods he owns. And what he has gained through all his patient hard work he is not going to part with in a hurry — even if it has served its purpose and is of no further use. When Taurus gets the bit between his teeth the hoarding of all kinds of junk because it 'might come in handy one day' can get elevated to an art form!

Being the Fixed expression of the Earth element also gives a strong connection to land and the acquiring of it, in one form or another. Let's face it, every Bull needs a field, or preferably three! So it's hardly surprising that farmers, land-owners, builders and other such Earthy professions are common in this sign. To them, satisfaction and beauty are intimately connect-

POSITION IN THE ZODIAC	SECOND SIGN
CORRESPONDING TO	APRIL 21 TO MAY 20
PRINCIPLE	THE POWER OF POSSESSIONS
ELEMENT	EARTH
QUALITY	FIXED
PLANETARY RULER	VENUS
SYMBOL	THE BULL

ed with that which is tangible and solid, the very matter of the Earth herself.

That's another thing — beauty. Real beauty, not the superficial glitz, gloss and glamour, is the province of Venus in her role as Taurus' ruler. Real beauty takes time to acquire but then endures. The ladies of the sign can often be quite plain in youth but then grow up to become beautiful in a truly classical Venusian way. This is not a delicate 'chocolate box' prettiness, more the full-blooded, voluptuous, fecund Earth Mother energy when in full flow.

The men are, well, — beefy — usually well-built and with at least their fair share of muscle power. And this physical attractiveness in both sexes is complemented by the fact that they can also express their Venusian part through a sensuous delight in luxury and the best that life has to offer.

Taureans may not be the whizz-kids of the zodiac but then, not everyone would want to be. Think about it, those apparently dull qualities are actually the very foundations of civilisation and culture. And where would we be without them?

This applies to partnership matters generally too. A good aspect between Pluto and Saturn suggests that you will have to put in a fair amount of work where any jointly held assets are concerned. However, you will not be averse to this and a positive change in your commitment to the venture is a likely result.

You may well find that some of your unexpressed fears are brought to the surface and resolved thanks to someone else's efforts — or that you may have to play that role for someone close to you. Certainly you will be seeing a more philosophical trend creeping into your attitudes during the next 12 months. A concern for justice and an interest in any subject which expands your mind-set are the most likely manifestations since Jupiter in the 9th House of your Solar chart is a prime player here.

Career matters could go through a rather 'lumpy' phase caused by a combination of Uranian and Neptunian energies in this area but, equally, this could bring just the inspiration you need to excel. A lot will depend upon how well you are able to 'go with the flow.'

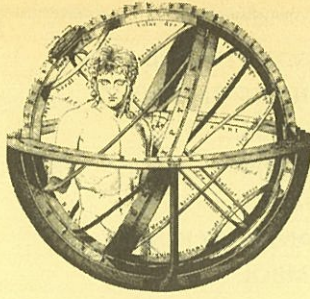
If you can 'surf' the prevailing astrological tide without being ruffled by sudden upsets, this could well be the year for startling success. If, on the other hand, you remain too rigid — as Taureans can be prone to do — the energy will find the line of least resistance in order to mani-

fest and this is likely to mean setbacks when you least expect them. Take it easy and you'll end up much better off!

This is good advice on another level too. You may find that for the first month or so of your birthday year your physical energy is somewhat depleted particularly for anything in the public eye or in making career moves. This harks back to letting others take their fair share of the load. Equally, others may be the weakened ones so that you end up doing everything and putting your health in jeopardy. Either way, the warning in the astrological line-up is that, even at your most dogged, you do not not have unlimited reserves — so take care.

It looks as though there could be a certain amount of to and fro in romantic matters during the early part of your year. The planetary configuration suggests that something just before your birthday which you were unable to pursue, or couldn't bring to a satisfactory conclusion, will have to be revisited. This could, in fact, turn out to be just the ticket. In early November a repeat performance of a superb aspect suggests great emotional happiness. After that, January 1997 is likely to mark the high point for anything which you have set your heart on.

It promises to be a progressive year on most fronts, especially later on as most of the major planetary players return to direct motion.



MAY BIRTHDAY FORECAST

★ INDICATES AN EXCEPTIONALLY LUCKY 12 MONTHS AHEAD

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>1 Your artistic nature matures. Monitor diet and health.</p> | <p>11 Friends are not always what they seem and may use you.</p> | <p>22 Defer offer of a new commercial partnership or opportunity to start your own business.</p> |
| <p>2 Avoid partnerships, best to work on your own and at your pace for best results.</p> | <p>12 Confusing times, let your head rule your heart.</p> | <p>23 Much gets done but stay on the straight and narrow or accept the inevitable.</p> |
| <p>3 Mixed fortunes financially until about March 1997, then things become more settled.</p> | <p>13 Duty and obligations heavy to begin with, then life eases quite a bit.</p> | <p>24 Let others lead where work or career matters are concerned.</p> |
| <p>4 Steady start ending on a very bright note indeed. Social life greatly improved.</p> | <p>14 Some conflict in close relationships or with family otherwise variable fortunes.</p> | <p>25 A year to remember with strong ★ benefits all round.</p> |
| <p>5 From about July to October generally adverse, then life brightens up.</p> | <p>15 Might try to exclude those who want to be closer than you will allow.</p> | <p>26 Possibility of a difficult romantic situation at work.</p> |
| <p>6 Social and private interests at odds with your job/career obligations.</p> | <p>16 Plenty of effort and energy but can occasionally lack the right direction.</p> | <p>27 Smooth and quiet with unusual travel opportunity early in 1997.</p> |
| <p>7 Favours the ladies mostly with new romantic involvements likely.</p> | <p>17 Many fingers in many pies, little seems permanent.</p> | <p>28 Beware those who promise much but do nothing.</p> |
| <p>8 Positive period. Many changes, not all for the good, but challenging nevertheless.</p> | <p>18 Socially, a much improved period. Easy going.</p> | <p>29 Progressive and very forward ★ looking period all round.</p> |
| <p>9 Working area about the best this year.</p> | <p>19 Unusual experiences/people come into your life.</p> | <p>30 Sudden upsets and changes either made by you or imposed by circumstances.</p> |
| <p>10 Listen to advice or risk losses. Financially, you need to be cautious.</p> | <p>20 Excellent 12 months all round. ★ Make the most of it.</p> | <p>31 A high profile period in career ★ matters with interesting new associates.</p> |
| | <p>21 However hard you try, your heart is going to rule your head.</p> | |
-
-

TAROT

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Poetry Competition

—£16,000 prize money to be won—

The International Society of Poets, an affiliate of the widely respected US National Library of Poetry is sponsoring an International Open Amateur Poetry Competition — with a total of 840 prizes to be awarded over the next twelve months. The closing date for entry is 31st May 1996. Another competition begins on 1st June 1996. The competition is open to all and entry is free.

Publication Opportunity

All of the poems entered into the competition will also be considered for inclusion in one of the Society's forthcoming anthologies. Every poem remains the exclusive property of its author. Anthologies published by the organisation have included *On the Threshold of a Dream*, *Days of Future's Past*, *Of Diamonds and Rust*, and *Moments More to Go*, among others.

"It's always exciting to discover new talent. We have been sponsoring competitions in the United States for

more than ten years now - and it's a special pleasure to be running these events in the UK," stated Elizabeth Barnes, President of The International Society of Poets. "We're especially interested in poems from new or unpublished poets."

How to Enter

Anyone may enter the competition simply by sending in one original poem, any subject, any style to:

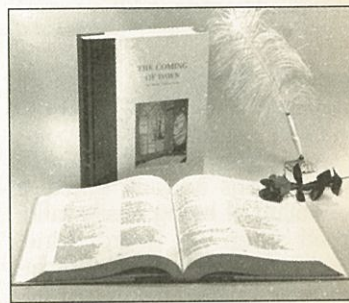
**The International Society of Poets
Dept. 9063
FREEPOST LON 2229
London EC1B 1TY**

Your poem should be no more than 20 lines, and your name and address must appear at the top of the page. Every poet who enters will receive an evaluation of their artistry by the judges.

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The International Society of Poets

was founded in 1982 to promote the work and achievements of contemporary poets - and is now recognised as the largest organisation of its kind. In recent years it has awarded more than £60,000 in prize money to more than 5,000 poets from over 60 countries around the world.



The Coming of Dawn, is one of The National Library of Poetry's recent hardbound anthologies.

OCCULT QUESTION TIME

SEND YOUR QUERIES

TO MAGDA

(Please include sae)

FLOWERS OF LOVE

A very close friend gave me a bouquet of flowers saying that they carried a special message. I don't know what this message is, exactly, but the flowers were carnations, lily-of-the-valley, honeysuckle, marigolds and violets. Can you interpret the love message these flowers are supposed to contain? — J.P., Hartlepool.

What a charming gift! All the flowers mentioned have a particular message and, in the form of a small bouquet, are a token of love and admiration for you.

The individual meanings are interesting; carnations show trust and fidelity; lilies promise steadfastness in a friendship or relationship; honeysuckle is a symbol of constancy; marigolds denote wisdom; violets

are linked to patience and hope.

It seems, therefore, that your admirer wants you to know that you have a true and loving friend who will stay the course and await a favourable response when you are ready to give him an answer. Don't delay too long, though, as the flowers also indicate that this is a last attempt to win your love and affection!

CHINESE ELEMENTS

I understand that there are more elements in Chinese than Western astrology. Can you explain what these are and their meanings, please? — K.F., Birmingham.

Western astrology uses four elements — Fire, Earth, Air and Water — divided between the 12 Sun signs. Chinese astrology also has 12 signs but

one to each year which is also an element year and either a Yin or Yang period.

The Chinese elements are Water, Fire, Metal, Wood and Earth, each of which has two sides or aspects, Yin and Yang, so each period lasts for two years. For example, 1994-5 was a Wood Dog Yin year, 1995-6 was a Wood Pig Yang year, we are now in a Fire Rat Yin year and 1997-8 will be a Fire Ox Yang year.

The meanings of the five elements and their planetary rulerships form the basis of Chinese astrology and its philosophy. In order to obtain an accurate reading, it is necessary to study the actual year, element and planetary ruler, among other factors, all of which can be found in most books on Chinese astrology.

Here, for those who want them, are the basic underlying principles of the five elements. Water produces Wood but destroys Fire and is ruled by Mercury; Fire produces Earth but destroys metal and is ruled by Mars; Metal produces Water but destroys Wood and its ruler is Venus; Wood produces Fire but destroys Earth and is ruled by Jupiter; finally, Earth produces Metal but destroys Water, its ruler being Saturn.

graphology

(continued from page 13)

average degree of ambition. They are inclined to have a concave or cupped appearance implying only a little interest in things and, at times, a possibility of being easily influenced when off guard. Line-spacing is quite good, indicating a reasonable ability to plan and organise.

The contrast between the second example and the first is

obvious. Here one has a lively, active and restless individual. Emotion plays a much stronger role and influences the writer's psychological make-up. The different slants express a rather moody person whose next move may not be easily predicted. The base-line is uneven which is characteristic of a variable degree of willpower.

In the main the script is upright which refers to a dominance of reason, a desire to be independent and a neutral observer of reality. There may be a query regarding the opposing traits of impulsiveness and ap-

plied reasoning but this writer possesses many different directives. One may certainly get the impression of an exceedingly active mental sphere.

Some of the downstrokes have force implying strong but sudden and changing opinions. The ovals are rather compressed, alluding to a fraction of uncertainty in connection with the ego function. This can be confirmed by the variation in middle zone height.

The whole movement in this writing presents someone who is restless and impatient. Detail especially is not considered.

PHYSICAL MEDIUMS

What do so-called physical mediums do during a seance? — P.G., Staffs.

Mediums who have the special gift of producing physical phenomena usually produce ectoplasm from their mouths which then forms a visible face or apparition. Ectoplasm, a substance halfway between matter and spirit, is supposedly controlled by the medium's spirit guide.

Even given such an ability, only very physically strong mediums are advised to use ectoplasm as its production leaves the medium feeling drained and possibly unwell for some time after. It is of vital importance that neither the medium nor the ectoplasm should be touched during a seance as this can cause shock and even physical harm to the medium.

Once very popular, this form of mediumship seems to have fallen from favour. Nowadays most physical mediums prefer, instead, to make direct contact with the spirit world through their own guides without resorting to the use of ectoplasm.

Some mediums are capable of assuming the facial features of a contacted dead loved one, again through their spiritual guides. But this method, too,

takes its physical toll and may cause illness or the loss of the original gift.

FURROWED BROWS

Is it possible to predict the future from lines in the forehead? If so, how is this done and what is this method called? — D.S., Stow-on-the-Wold.

In the 16th century the art of face-reading, physiognomy, was very popular and reading the lines of the forehead developed as an offshoot of this. Called metoposcopy, the lines were named after the seven traditional planets — Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Sun, Venus, Mercury, Moon — reading from the top of the forehead down to the eyebrows.

Each line represented the attributes of the planet whose name it bore. A firm, straight line indicated its finer points, a broken line showed uncertainty and wavy lines denoted travel. If, for example, the fifth line down (Venus line) was wavy, this was interpreted as an enjoyable trip but if the Mars line was wavy this meant the traveller should expect problems to arise.

As a means of divination metoposcopy may well be worth exploring but it would be

advisable to familiarise yourself with the planetary meanings first in order to avoid any confusion.

FOUR-FOLD FOOD

What are the four kinds of food mentioned in the Bhagavad Gita? — F.A.F., London.

The ancient Sanskrit writings contained in the *Bhagavad Gita* mention a four-fold food which is interpreted as being: what is drunk; what is licked; what is powdered with the teeth; what is eaten without powdering.

It has also been explained as connected to sacred food or liquid substances. Mainly, however, it refers to everyday foods and drinks that nourish both the body and mind.

UNLUCKY CUTLERY

When is it considered unlucky to use knives, etc? I was once told that there is a time of year when this is forbidden. — D.R., Hereford.

The Chinese think it unlucky to use scissors and knives at the time of their New Year. However, once New Year's Day has passed, celebrations can continue and work resume as any metal tool will than have been blessed by the Moon for another year.

The long horizontal strokes are a feature of enthusiasm. Putting these traits together, one will conclude that the writer is a demanding and impetuous, quick-tempered type of person.

In one or two places there is a loop where there should normally be a straight stroke, notably in the upper extensions. This intimates some sensitivity about criticism from others.

Warmth and affection are present but come in bursts. Well-meaning is also there but often only for the moment; similarly sincerity. Intentions

are well meant but one cannot be definitely sure for how long.

One may receive intuitive impressions from handwriting and these can be correct in some situations. However, the ability to evaluate the whole personality structure correctly by these means will not always be faultless. There are specific and meticulous rules of procedure in the graphological field to which one should adhere. One can see the potentials of a writer but not the actual forthcoming circumstances.

Graphology should point to the character and personality

and instincts. Prophesying about what will happen in the future does not come within the scope of handwriting analysis, although it can certainly evaluate how the owner will be likely to act under certain circumstances.

The impression when first seeing these two scripts is that they are very different indeed. The behaviours of the owners are, of course, likewise dissimilar. Going straight is not always easy, it requires a backing of sensible determination softened with a little consideration and understanding.

Beltane is one of four folk festivals revered in Britain long before the advent of Druidism or Christianity and shared with people of Europe and the Near East. It marks the beginning of the Summer season and the return of full-blown fertility.

The focal point of village celebrations was the Maypole, a phallic symbol representing the divinity ruling Beltane. He is the Solar Fire deity whose various names include Balor, Bel, Belenos and Baladur.

Fire was jealously guarded in early times; the Celts, for instance, never allowed the domestic fire to go out until being ritually extinguished on May Eve. The people would then rekindle their domestic fires from the communal Beltane fire.

This fire was traditionally constructed of nine kinds of wood and the custom was for people to leap through the smoke and flames of the newly kindled fires in order to purify themselves, to prepare for Summer and promote fertility. Cattle, too, were sometimes driven through the smoke for the same purpose.

Hand in hand with the Maypole was the collection of flowers and green branches which symbolise the Goddess. Thus the Maypole and flora together represented the mating of the God and Goddess, the fruit of their union being rich harvests.

Rituals connected with Beltane survive in many parts of the world even to the present day. So there can be no doubt that the medieval Church would have been fully aware of the powerful influence of this festival on many in their congregations.

At Beltane people began once more to get out and about in the countryside. They took the cattle, sheep and pigs to the open pastures and wood-



ty (rather like modern governments apprehensive of workers' celebrations) and issued warnings against such pagan practices.

Not surprisingly, therefore, a Christian saint was introduced into the proceedings. From behind this female figure the Church was able to issue strong warnings against the great evils supposedly abroad at Beltane when the veil between the real world and the witch-world thinned and people celebrated the old gods and goddesses.

The saint that was supposed to fight fire with fire was Walpurgis, an English nun who went to Germany as a missionary and became Abbess of the

convent at Heidenheim. She died around 778AD and her relics were deposited in rock at Eichstatt.

This rock excluded a bituminous kind of oil which was reputed to have mirac-

ulous healing powers and later became known as Walpurgis oil. Canonisation followed. A further confusion, possibly seized on by the authorities, was that there was a local Saxon goddess in Germany by the name of Walpurga.

Walpurgis Day, May 1st, is known as the Festival of the Dead in Spain and Portugal and is also the high point of Beltane. The rites of Beltane have been practised throughout the centuries, right up to the present day.

Such rites were often held at high places. One example of this is Brocken, the highest point of the Harz Mountains and the German witches' holy mountain. Recently, it was ceremonially reclaimed by women's groups, an event that joins the ranks of other modern remnants of Beltane, such as the day of workers' freedom being held on May Day.

BELTANE FIRES

by MICHAEL PAGE

Fire festivals are an ancient tradition within pre-Christian religious practices.

land, attended to the land, the burgeoning crops and the growing grass. It was a mystic time. Like Hallowe'en, it marked the transition between contrasting seasons, a time of change.

At such a time the settled division between the everyday and the Otherworld became blurred. The opening up of the countryside after the dead hand of Winter, combined with the example shown by the God and Goddess, led many a young couple — reunited again after long Winter months spent under their respective family roofs — to enjoy their newfound freedom to the full.

However, the increasingly authoritarian Church was concerned at the effect this freedom had on the populace and their morals — or lack of them. The Church feared that this sharing in the gods' delight would undermine their authori-

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MILK BLOOD TEARS

by
NELSON JONES

Miracles or elaborate hoaxes? During this century alone and right up to the present, there have been some amazing reports of strange goings-on which seem to defy rational explanation.

An epidemic of milk-drinking statues swept the Hindu world last September. Though it lasted scarcely longer than a day, the alleged miracle generated extraordinary excitement among worshippers and attracted frenzied media attention.

The event left a trail of bafflement and wild claims. So was it just a brief fad or did it have wider implications?

The story began in a Delhi temple on the morning of September 21st 1995. A statue of the elephant-headed god Ganesh (god of wisdom and good fortune) was being presented, in the usual way, with an offering of milk. The milk appeared to disappear up the god's trunk.

As news spread, statues all over India (not only those of Ganesh) began drinking milk. Gallons of the stuff. Many were filmed doing so. Supplies of milk in some parts of India dried up completely.

The apparent miracle was reported as far away as New York and Singapore. Here in London 1500 people — worshippers, journalists, sceptics and the merely curious — descended on one temple alone.

Amazing events! Yet, in the context of Hindu belief, it was neither incomprehensible nor without precedent. Hindu statues are regarded as the embodiment of the gods, almost as being alive.

They are washed and dressed in the mornings, offered flowers and incense, sung to and fed. Many Hindus believe that food presented to idols drops slightly in weight as the gods consume their portion — providing a basis for the more visible drinking of last September.

Other miraculous events concerning statues are reported from time to time. A statue of the goddess Parvati in Southern India, for example, is said to bleed regularly.

The astrologer Krishna Dubey said that the milk 'miracle' was the kind of portent that traditionally marks the re-birth of a great soul. Other Hindus saw it as an encouragement to the faithful or even as a sign that, in the coming century, Hinduism would grow in strength. All agreed that it was a positive event.

Absorbing theory

There were sceptics, naturally; there always are. And they

had no shortage of theories. But too many of the statues had been filmed drinking for it to be dismissed as merely a delusion.

A more promising theory pointed out that many of the statues were made of absorbent materials like alabaster and marble which, through capillary attraction, could absorb surprising amounts of liquid. In demonstrations, some of the researchers fed milk to domestic ornaments or garden gnomes. For many, the mystery was solved.

Unfortunately, this explanation is only superficially convincing. In all but the most absorbent material, such as blotting-paper, capillary attraction is a slow, inefficient process. My own experiments using a range of stones and ceramics met with only very limited success. Yet, even allowing for the puddles of sour milk that formed around many statues, the quantity of milk absorbed by Ganesh and his fellow gods was astounding.

Nor were all the statues naturally absorbent. One of the best performers was a silver statue in Hong Kong that consumed 40 pints. In any case, if the process involved were really so simple, why did it seem so surprising to begin with? Why wasn't it happening all the time?

Could it all have been an elaborate hoax? The statues could have been hollowed out and fitted with suction pumps or high absorbents, it was said. This seemed preposterous: the scale of organisation needed would have been phenomenal — and to what end?

On the other hand, some aspects of the affair seemed somewhat suspicious. News of the miracle spread with remarkable speed across India, some people seeming to know about it even before it had begun.

Moreover, it looked to be running to a pre-arranged timetable. Officials at the Vish-

wa Temple in London announced that the miracle had ended at 1.36 pm on Friday; and this despite the fact that some statues were still accepting milk.

Rumours of plots were soon circulating in the feverish world of Indian politics. Some singled out the leading guru, Chandra Swami, a controversial figure said to wield influence with the Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao. A network of his supporters was alleged to have orchestrated the milk miracle by telephone, working to a strict schedule. Other theories linked the phenomenon with Hindu extremists opposed to the government. Though there was little or no hard evidence, nationalist groups undoubtedly did make capital out of the events.

But even if a shadowy group had been responsible for initiating the miracle, it soon took on a life of its own.

Some of the worshippers lining up outside the London temple reported that statues in their own homes were drinking milk. One Hindu, a journalist (unlikely to be excessively credulous!), claimed that when he offered a spoonful of milk to a framed photograph in his bedroom, most of the milk disappeared yet the glass frame remained dry.

A limited number of statues in Indian temples could, with much planning and remarkable secrecy, have been manipulated. But a worldwide phenomenon would only have been possible if almost the entire Hindu priesthood had set out systematically to dupe their believers. And, as many anecdotes showed, even that would not provide a complete explanation. So the mystery has yet to be solved.

Blood and tears

Miraculous statues are not uncommon in the West, especially in Catholic countries. Statues of Christ or the Virgin Mary that weep, shed blood or

even move about have been recorded since the Middle Ages and seem to be on the increase.

The most recent spate began in Italy in February 1995 when Fabio Gregori, an electrician from Civitavecchia, announced that a plaster Madonna in his garden was weeping tears of blood. Witnesses claimed to have watched a dark red liquid ooze from the statue's eyes for up to five minutes at a time.

Tests confirmed that the blood was human. The fact that it was male blood led many to conclude that it was a hoax. Nevertheless, the subsequent two months saw more than ten similar cases in Italy alone. A plaster relief in a block of flats in Tivoli wept; a statue bought in Lourdes developed bloodstains on its face, throat and hands; and in Subiaco near Rome another statue exuded pus. The Pope was said to be taking a keen interest.

Various scientific explanations for these phenomena have been suggested. Where it is not certain that actual blood is involved — as was the case with a statue belonging to a village postmistress in Co Wicklow, Eire, which wept in May 1994 — melting paint in the statue's eyes could give

rise to a similar effect.

Professor Luigi Garlaschelli of Pavia University suggested how it might be hoaxed. Liquid poured into a statue's hollow interior would be soaked up (capillary attraction again) and, because of the glazed surface, would not leak out. If small pricks are then made around the eyes, the statue will appear to weep.

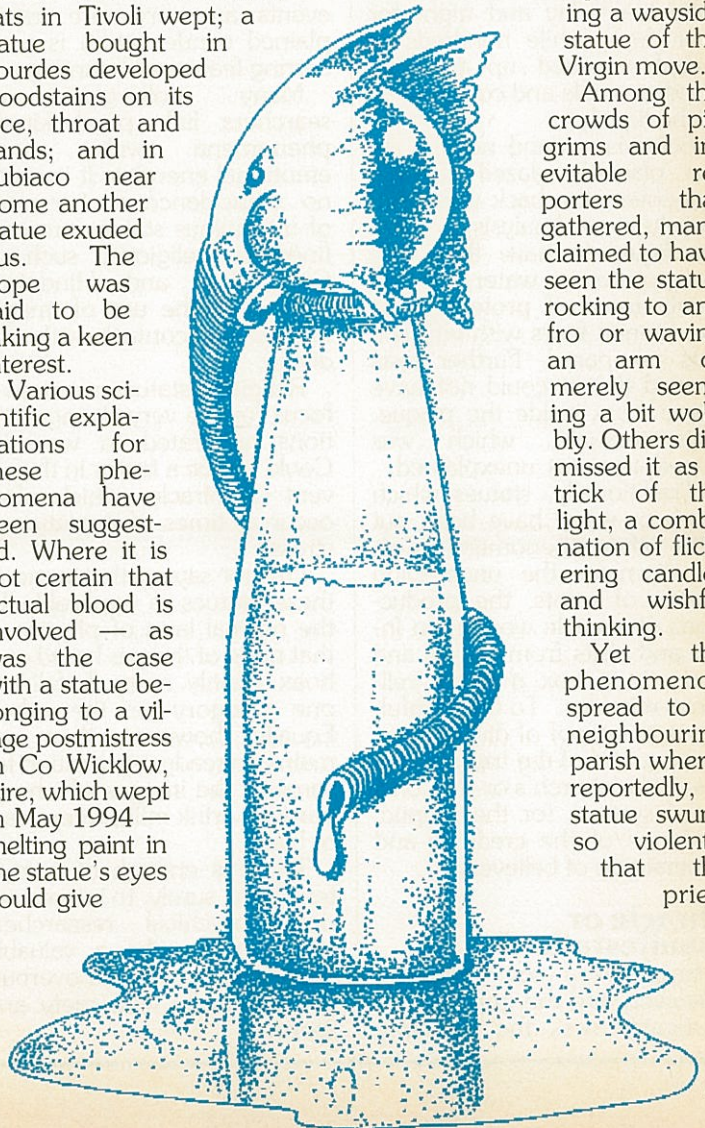
Moving moments

Some so-called miracles, that would seem to stretch the credulity of even the most devout, are nonetheless not easy to explain satisfactorily. There was great excitement in Ireland in 1985, for instance, when

several people reported seeing a wayside statue of the Virgin move.

Among the crowds of pilgrims and inevitable reporters that gathered, many claimed to have seen the statue rocking to and fro or waving an arm or merely seeming a bit wobbly. Others dismissed it as a trick of the light, a combination of flickering candles and wishful thinking.

Yet the phenomenon spread to a neighbouring parish where, reportedly, a statue swung so violently that the priest



had to hold onto it for an hour to stop it from running away! That Summer moving statues were reported in 15 of the Republic's 25 counties, while in Pittsburgh USA a freshly repainted statue of Christ closed its eyes in prayer during Mass, in front of 100 people.

Could such phenomena be the result of mass hallucination? Understandably, the Catholic Church is cautious, possibly even embarrassed about accepting such reports. One of the few cases that it does accept as genuine, however, occurred in Sicily in 1953.

A cheap ceramic wall-plaque of Mary, belonging to a newly married woman, started weeping. It wept huge quantities of salty tears day and night for four days, while hundreds of people queued up to soak handkerchiefs and cotton wool in the liquid.

Scientists found no hole in the plaque's glazed surface; moreover, the back was completely dry. Analysis showed the liquid to have the same composition — water, salt and small traces of protein — as the human tears with which it was compared. Further tests proved that it could not have come from inside the plaque. This miracle, which was filmed, remains unexplained.

Traditionally, statues which drink or weep have been put with other phenomena, such as stigmata, the undecaying bodies of saints, the productions of miracle workers in India and visits from angels and gods, in a box marked 'religious miracles.' To the faithful, these are proof of divine intervention and of the truth of one particular church's or religion's belief system; for the sceptic, evidence of the credulity and superstition of believers.

Miracle or manifestation?

Strip away the theology, however, and the impartial investigator sees the similarity

between miracles and other manifestations of the paranormal.

Poltergeists are well known for causing objects to move; less frequent, but far from non-existent, are cases where objects or fluids materialise or vanish.

Blood

In September 1987, in a curious echo of the Italian cases, a couple in Atlanta, Georgia, found blood dripping from their bathroom wall. The police were unable to discover the source of the blood which continued to drip down.

Tests confirmed that the substance was indeed human blood, but the mystery remains unsolved. Although such events are very rare, unexplained condensation is a recurring feature of hauntings.

Many poltergeist researchers link psychokinetic phenomena with strong emotional energies. It is surely no coincidence that reports of miraculous statues are confined to religions, such as Catholicism and Hinduism, that stress the use of images in making contact with the divine.

Religious statues serve as a focus for the very strong emotions generated in worship. Could this be a factor in the advent of miracles which often occur at times of anxiety and stress?

I'm not saying that none of these statues is explicable by the normal laws of physics or that none of them is based on a hoax. Plainly, many do fall into one category or the other. Equally, however, there remains no ready explanation for some of the images which apparently drink milk, weep tears or bleed.

There is enough of a mystery here, surely, to interest serious psychical researchers who could make a valuable contribution to a field overburdened equally with piety and scorn.

Long ago certain flowers were linked to specific days of the week and their ruling planets. So, if you know on which day of the week you were born, it will be easy to identify the flowers most likely to bring you luck.

Simplest of all is to plant one small bed — lozenge-shaped, circular, square or diamond, whichever you please — entirely with flowers ruled by your birthday. As the plants grow, so will your luck strengthen; or so the gardeners of old believed. Here, then, are a few suggestions on what to choose, whatever day of the week you were born.

SUNDAY ruled the powerful Sun, this is the day on which leaders were often born according to tradition. All golden or orange-coloured flowers come under the Sun's dominion and are therefore lucky for those born on this day.

Richly coloured day lilies, sunflowers, marigolds, gaillardia, California poppies and the like are right for these magnetic personalities. Golden rod, montbretia, yellow irises and doricum are other varieties suitable for Sunday-born folk.

MONDAY, by the same token, is the Moon's day. Thoughtful, home-loving individuals, with very close family ties, is how the ancients summed up Moon folk. All white or silvery blooms are regarded as lucky for them.

So, if your birthday falls on a Monday, try growing honesty, lily of the valley, Moon daises, white Canterbury bells, white roses, snowdrops or scented white phlox.

TUESDAY is traditionally ruled by Mars, so those born on that day are said to be bony fighters with plenty of drive. Not surprisingly, therefore, red is the colour for your lucky flowers, if born on a Tuesday.

Scarlet nasturtiums, geraniums, dahlias, red-hot pokers (kniphofia) and red-berried

Prediction



THANKS A BUNCH

by
BEL BAILEY

If your luck left something to be desired last year, try planting your traditionally fortunate flowers for 1996.

plants bearing thorns, such as holly, all are appropriate. If looking for a climber, the exotic flame-red glory flowers are hard to beat.

WEDNESDAY falls to clever, intellectual Mercury. Born communicators, flowers of rainbow hues are lucky for you Wednesday people, especially the iris, known as the 'messenger of the gods.'

All colour-blended blooms suit Wednesday's child, such as well shaded Russell lupins, columbines, vervain, salpiglossis, with their beautiful pencil markings. Also plants with variegated leaves like clary or multi-coloured roses such as masquerade.

THURSDAY traditionally belongs to Jupiter and his subjects, it is said, are born to command but jovial with it! All blue/mauve and purple flowers are fortunate for Thursday's children.

Included in the list of choices are lilacs, lavender, stocks, violets, Michaelmas daisies and love-lucky cyclamen. Erigeron looks like pretty lilac-coloured

daisies and violet crocuses are also in your special group.

FRIDAY, ruled by Venus, is the day of the week associated with natural charmers and tactful diplomats. If this is your birth day, you have both pink and clear blue as your lucky colour plants.

Pink roses, carnations and dicentra (bleeding hearts), or light blue forget-me-nots, love-in-a-mist (nigella) and delphiniums are just a few possibilities for your choice is extra wide. If scent is important, then delicious, clove-scented pinks or pink or blue verbena may appeal.

SATURDAY falls under Saturn's sway. So those born on that day tend to take life more seriously than most and often are very ambitious too. Brownish tones or dark red flowers suit their fortunes best.

The Saturday-born should grow heavily-scented, dark russet wall-flowers, bronze chrysanthemums, deep-toned fuchsias, garnet-hued peonies and dahlias to help their ambitions! Sprays of bronze beech

leaves (preserved in glycerine) in handsome pots would provide suitable home decorations in Winter.

Language of flowers

Floramancy also offers many general hints about flowers for specific purposes. For instance, an arrangement of red and yellow flowers is said to be the ideal combination for party decorations as the blend of these two cheerful colours helps encourage a festive atmosphere. These, in effect, act as ice-breakers!

But if you want to swap secrets with a best friend the presence of roses in the room is the ancient symbol that what you say must go no further. In past centuries roses were even carved on ceilings as a warning to secrecy and the expression sub rosa or 'under the rose' means exactly that.

Lilies represent purity and calm so, if you crave for a beautiful peaceful garden where you can wander happily, be sure to include Madonna lilies. Ferns grown in shady corners add a restful touch, too, for green is an ideal background colour for thinking — as Andrew Marvel said when he praised, 'A green thought in a green shade.'

Finally, somewhat strangely perhaps, floramancy warns about picking only that first primrose or violet seen in Spring. It is, though, thought wisest to pluck these flowers when there are enough growing together to pick a small bunch — at least a dozen.

Another very well-known belief is the warning against bringing flowering hawthorn or May into the house if you want to avoid ill-luck. As a compensation, though, is the following equally old tradition:

*'The fair maid who, on the first of May,
Rises at the break of day,
To wash in the dew of the hawthorn tree,
Shall ever after handsome be!'*

DREAM MEANINGS



UNDEVELOPED

THE DREAM

I TAKE A peek at a swaddled baby's face as I fear it may be dead. I discover that it is unformed, like a giant embryo, and a great sense of loss hits me.

I felt swamped with love and tenderness. But then the baby looked at me with hatred, saying that I never loved it, and I tried to throttle it in order to stop its evil tongue.

THE MEANING

BABIES in dreams represent our hidden ideas and talents which we give birth to. Here it seems that the birth is premature so whatever project you are working on at the moment needs far more effort; you are trying to push the idea forward before it is ready and are therefore disappointed because it is not good enough to survive fully on its own.

Despite your apparent expressions of love and devotion, your attempt to kill off the dream baby shows you are not really prepared to put in the effort needed for the project to reach completion and fruition. In other words, you are letting slip an opportunity that could bring you much satisfaction if only you would allow it to do so.

SAFE RETREAT

THE DREAM

I WAS IN Russia, hiding with some peasants from the war that was taking place. A group of men ran down the road and shot someone; there was blood everywhere.

The peasants took me back home with them; they lived in rooms under the earth, like animals. I awoke feeling very frightened.

by SOPHIA DANIEL

If you are struggling to understand a dream, you may find that is much less complicated than you first imagine. Try a simple word association with the main points of the dream. Common phrases, of which we all have our favourites, may give you the clue to what the dream is trying to tell you in your own idiosyncratic version of symbolic language.

THE MEANING

BEING in a Russian war zone shows that you are currently in an alien environment where there is considerable friction. You feel like the underdog, threatened by those around you. As a result, your life's blood is being spilled so you retreat to a safe underground space.

The safest thing to do in the present circumstances is to retreat. Avoid any form of confrontation as you could come off worst, which is why you felt afraid when you awoke.

SELF WORTH

THE DREAM

I WAS IN a very big room in a large building. Beside me was Prince Michael of Kent who was presenting me with an award that looked something like a medal in a box.

THE MEANING

BUILDINGS are about our personal images and here it would seem that there is a need to have a better opinion of yourself, as shown by the large building. Also, standing beside the Prince shows that you are perfectly entitled to be there.

Being presented with an award indicates that you are worthy of recognition, so you should acknowledge this and stop having such a low opinion of yourself. Equally, of course, this dream may mean the opposite, that you have too high an opinion of yourself.

FEET ON THE GROUND

THE DREAM

I WAS IN a theatre with a friend and the show had just ended. Then we were in a lift descending rapidly. Although there were holes in the floor of the lift we reached the bottom safely.

THE MEANING

BEING in a theatre indicates that everything is not as it seems; it is all an act and that act is now over. The descending lift shows a need to get your feet firmly on the ground in order to obtain the nourishment needed to continue your personal development.

BLIND AS A BAT

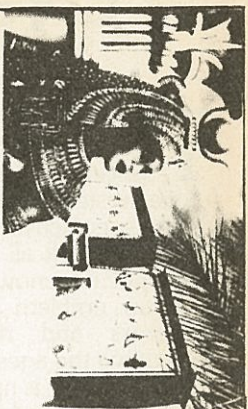
THE DREAM

MY FRIEND AND I find a bat which, when we take it out into the Sunshine, grows bigger and bigger. I wanted to take it for a ride so towed it in a cart behind my bicycle but then realised that it had departed, leaving a set of shell-shaped footprints behind.

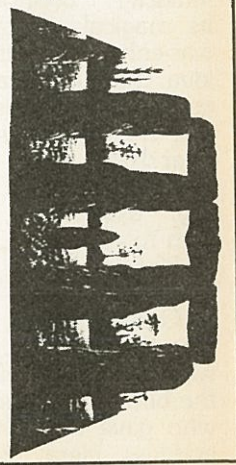
THE MEANING

FINDING the bat shows that you have been blind to a situation and need to nurture your ability to see what is false around you. The set of footprints indicates that when you can see matters more clearly you will be able to follow where your true (in)sights lead.

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Proud as a Peacock

by MARY BROWN

That elegant head and neck, the wonderful iridescent blue plumage, fragile crested head and, above all, the spectacular tail feathers of the peacock all combine to guarantee its renown as a royal bird, an emblem of princes, emperors and mythological gods down the ages.

The peacock is mentioned in the Bible, referred to as one of Solomon's treasures. In Christian art the bird symbolises resurrection; while the 'hundred-eyed' tail represents the 'all-seeing' Church.

The bird features in common folklore as a weather prophet, its call being a presage of rain. But if it cries more than usual or at an unusual time this is supposed to foretell a death in the family.

Many people believed (perhaps some do still) that bringing peacocks' feathers into the house was unlucky; more specifically, that such an action 'would make old maids of the daughters.' Yet keeping a peacock on a farm was considered to be lucky.

Other superstitions concerning this bird are that it hates gold; cries at night because it is afraid of losing its beauty; and that the 'eyes' in its tail are an embodiment of the Evil Eye, which may account for the 'unlucky' connotations. Its magical reputation was enhanced by the idea that the peacock's flesh was said not to decay after death.

Attributes usually associated with this beautiful bird are vanity and pride. Yet in Greek mythology the peacock was an emblem of the bird-god Phaon who gave it to the goddess Hera. She

then blinded the god Argus by taking his 100 eyes and setting them in the peacock's tail.

The ancient Greeks considered the peacock so sacred that it was kept in the temple. Not surprisingly, therefore, anyone who stole even one of its feathers merited the death sentence. For the Romans, the bird was an emblem of the Emperor and often carved on tombs and funerary ornaments. The classical writer Ovid called it 'Juno's bird.'

The Hindus also recognised the peacock's special qualities and said it had 'angel's feathers,' likening its mournful cry to the voice of the devil and its gait to the walk of a thief. They also said that the bird screamed when it saw its own ugly feet and black legs. In Hindu mythology the bird was associated with Kama, the god of love, and Veda Sarasvati, the goddess of wisdom, learning and music.

In Buddhist lore, the hundred-eyed tail symbolises compassionate watchfulness, thus the peacock feathers stand for compassion and fidelity. They also held the belief that the peacock would die of grief or

remain single for ever more if its mate died.

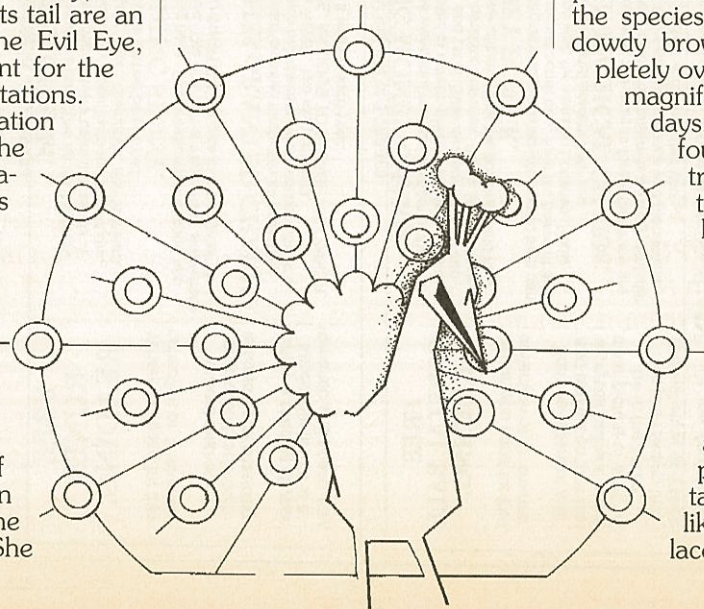
A certain Indian tribe worshipped the god-like peacock and performed regular grain-offering ceremonies. These people were fearful of stepping in the bird's tracks because, they believed, this would cause them to contract a disease. If a woman chanced to see the peacock-god, she had to cover her face and turn away.

In the 17th century the Peacock Throne was built in Delhi for the Indian ruler Shah Jehan, who also built the Taj Mahal. Each of its 12 pillars was decorated with two jewelled peacocks and later, in 1739, this throne was taken to Persia.

Representations in Persian art depicted two peacocks around the Tree of Life, signifying humanity's psychic duality. In Islamic myth the peacock's tail represents the Eye of the Heart, while in Egyptian art the peacock is often linked with the goddess Isis and to the Chinese it is the sacred emblem of the Ming dynasty.

Peafowl were originally game-birds, eaten at royal banquets. Native to India and SE Asia, they belong to the pheasant family. The female of the species, the peahen, is a dowdy brown creature, completely overshadowed by her magnificent mate. Nowadays, peacocks are

found mostly in country parks or zoos, though many stately homes allow them to roam their spacious grounds, calling mournfully across the manicured lawns. At a hotel in Gretna Green a few years ago I saw a white peacock trailing its tail through the trees like a jilted bride in a lace gown.



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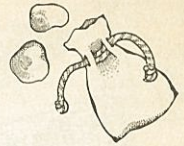
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DOG-GONE!



Probably the most common of all domestic animals, the dog was once held as a sacred symbol and companion of the gods.

by MARION PEARCE

Today the dog is seen as a family pet but in ancient times it was regarded as a symbolic animal. In fact canines are prevalent in many religions of the Mediterranean area, such as the Graeco-Roman god, Aesculapius, who had a dog.

Aesculapius was a god of healing, introduced into Rome during a plague in 293 BC. He became very popular and was always depicted carrying a sceptre carved with two entwined snakes, the caduceus. His enduring popularity can be shown by the fact that even today the symbol of the medical profession is the caduceus.

The Roman hunting goddess, Diana, was also accompanied by a dog or two. Then, in Graeco-Roman myth there is Cerberus, the three-headed dog who guarded the entrance to the Otherworld. Similarly, dogs guarded the graves in ancient Egyptian times.

This association of dogs with healing, hunting and death is very interesting as it is also common to the Celtic faith. Obviously, healing and death symbolise rebirth and spiritual healing, while hunting is of course associated with death. So there appears to be a link

between the Celtic and Mediterranean religions.

Interestingly, the divine huntress Diana, complete with hound, can be seen at Cirencester and London. While the god Apollo Cuno-maglus, meaning Hound Lord, can be found at Nettleton in Wiltshire. Apollo of course is a noted healer so, again, there is an obvious link between dogs, healing and hunting.

The most important centre of the dog cult in Britain is Nodens at Lydney, overlooking the River Severn in Gloucestershire. This is a very impressive Romano-Celtic temple, dating back to the 3rd century AD, dedicated to the god Nodens. The temple contains a sanctuary, a large hostel or guest-house, baths and a long building thought to have been a dormitory where pilgrims slept.

Many dog figurines were found at this temple which contained references to the healing dog Mars and the hunting god Silvanus. Here, then, is yet another link with dogs, healing and hunting.

Water

It is thought that the temple was a healing centre based, as

it is, by the River Severn and its famous Bore. The aquatic theme is emphasised by a mosaic seascape and bronze relief of a sea god, thought to represent the Roman god of the sea, Neptune.

Water, of course, was a central element in Celtic healing. There was also a Solar link at Nodens, evidenced by the discovery of a diadem or head-dress depicting a Sun dog driving a quadriga, a Roman chariot drawn by four horses abreast. Also on this diadem are tritons and anchors, again emphasising the Solar and aquatic theme.

The name Nodens has been difficult to translate but is thought by archaeologist O'Rahilly to mean 'the Cloud-maker.' In Celtic folklore, Nodens equates to Nuadha Argatlamh, known as Nuadha of the Silver Hand, a divine leader of the gods and first ruler of the Tuatha De Danaan on their arrival in Ireland.

According to legend, Nuadha was a prophet, champion and king of Ireland and it was his sword that was one of the four treasures of Ireland brought there by the Tuatha De Danaan. Once unsheathed, this sword was said to be invin-





cible, none could escape from its wrath.

At the first battle of Magh Tuireadh, fought against the demonic Firbolg, Nuadha lost his hand. A replacement was made out of silver by the Celtic god of medicine, Dian Cecht. One interesting suggestion proffered by Anne Ross in her book, *Pagan Celtic Britain*, is that the silver hand of Nuadha corresponds to the silver waters of the River Severn.

Also interesting is the fact that the Irish Nuadha is associated with the Welsh god of the underworld, Gwyn-ap-Nudd. As both are identified with the god Nodens, it appears that this god may have had quite a widespread following. Nudd is also associated in mythology with Lud, Lludd or Lludd Llaw Ereint, the son of the god of death, Beli. He even appears in Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Historica Regum Britanniae*, commonly known as *History of the Kings of Britain* (c1139 AD).

In this work Geoffrey states that Lludd built London and that there was a temple dedicated to him on the site of St Paul's. Entrance to this temple was through Parth Lludd or Lludd's Gate, which of course is now known as Ludgate. Talking about gates, Geoffrey also says that there was a gate named after Lludd's father Beli which opened out into that sluggish river Tamesis, the modern Thames. Known as Beli's gate, this is of course now known as Billingsgate.

The other main deity associated with dogs is the Germanic goddess Nehalennia. This goddess was very popular in the area now known as Holland and she is always depicted accompanied by a dog. In fact her image appears there on

over 100 altars and she has two sanctuaries dedicated to her, one at Domburg, on the Isle of Walcheren at the mouth of the Rhine, and the other at Colijsplaat on the East Scheldt Estuary.

The sea

The latter shrine is especially interesting. It was discovered in 1970 when fishermen found altars beneath the sea, at a depth of over 85 feet below the surface. More than 120 altars dedicated to Nehalennia have since been found, all submerged in the sea.

It appears that at about 200 AD there was a temple dedicated to this goddess which sank without trace into the sea, where it remained for the next 1700 years, before being discovered. She is depicted with baskets of fruit and often a cornucopia, or horn of plenty. She is always accompanied by a dog and is obviously strongly associated with this animal.

There also appears to be a link between Nehalennia and the sea as she is considered a goddess of seafarers and tradesmen. The fruit and cornucopia, of course, represent abundance and fertility, so perhaps she should be regarded as a mother goddess.

Archaeologically, various bronze dogs have been found in Britain. One of these, a bronze terrier, was discovered with a bronze horse at Coventina's Well at Carrabrough in Northumberland. This may be evidence of a dedication to the cult of the dog associated with healing water at the well.

Another interesting find is located at a 2nd century AD Roman site at Staines. Here, 16 dogs were found, complete with Samhain bowl, in a well.

Again, this suggests ritual involving dogs and water.

The dog was also used as a divinatory tool according to Irish mythology. Cormac, in his glossary of Old Irish states, 'the fili (seer) must chew the flesh of a dog (red pig or cat) in order that his gods should show him the things which he desires they should reveal.'

Title

There are also numerous references to 'hound' as a form of title in Celtic mythology. Examples of this are Cunobelinus, meaning Hound of Belinus; the Welsh Cynhaval, meaning Like a Hound, and Cynon, meaning Great or Divine Hound. Hounds seem to predominate in Irish myths, for example Conmhael, Cuchulainn and Cu Roi all contain references to hounds.

Perhaps of most interest here is the great Irish hero Cuchulainn, meaning Hound of Culann, so named because he killed a ferocious dog which was owned by Culann the smith. What is especially interesting here is that he had a *geasa* or prohibition imposed upon him forbidding him to eat the flesh of the dog. But that is just how Cuchulainn died, by transgressing this ban.

Numerous references to the link between dogs, death and the Otherworld abound, even today the superstition that dogs howl at death persists in some areas. Or, as Longfellow put it in *Golden Legend* iii:

'In the rabbinical book it saith

The dogs howl when, with icy breath,

Great Sammael the angel of death

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LETTERS



Levitation

REGARDING THE CORRESPONDENCE on levitation: a distant relative of mine was a professional medium who could levitate, an ability demonstrated in front of her relatives. I have no mystic gifts and try to equate levitation and psychokinesis with what part it would play in nature and the survival of the species.

Would these phenomena have been part of early man's survival from being overwhelmed by more powerful and cunning predators? With only one gene separating us from other primates, it is hard to explain why they do not have these abilities.

The clue may lie in the extremely powerful brain of ho-

mo sapiens. It is basically of the same structure as other primates but their evolution has given them greater physical strength and higher development of the five senses.

If levitation and PK occur naturally in man, it is usually around puberty, a very dangerous time for the early hunter-gatherers. Could danger have increased the electrical energies of the large brain and of the body, creating a field that could be directed to levitate or to move nearby objects?

When man mastered the art of weapons and tools, making him a predator, the paranormal would then have become less important for survival.

This may be over simplistic

but I do think the paranormal has become too overlaid with mystery and mysticism.

E. Ford Hedge End, Herts

Support

I WOULD LIKE to send congratulations and give spiritual support to the protestors, Friends of the Earth and various Rainbow Warriors who have successfully halted work (if only temporarily) on the Newbury by-pass.

When I see these people on TV the hairs stand up on the back of my neck in admiration. It's very comforting to know that some people really do care about Mother Earth and the environment.

Mr Burnand

Clwyd

PERSONAL CLASSIFIED

MISCELLANEOUS

I WOULD like to make contact with someone who has successfully removed curses. This is a genuine request for genuine replies only please. Box E528.

PENFRIENDS

AMERICAN FEMALE, 32, living in the States seeks pen-pals. I love Celtic mythology and history. I am an artist and do not believe in organised religion but do believe in love and God! Box E526.

FEMALE occultist, 20s, interests include music from Gothic rock to classical, also Wicca, Chaos magic, poetry, literature, art, cats, Tarot, crystals, reincarnation, dreams and ancient sites. Box E526.

MALE, 36, Piscean, would like to correspond with sincere, intelligent, individualistic people. I live in the country and my interests include magic, astral-plane, rave music and recorded audio letters. Scotland/anywhere ALA. Box E530.

VIRGO, female, 24.8.76, beginner in self-development, astronomy, astrology, the unexplained, wildlife and much more. I am open-minded and wish to correspond with like-minded learners or those prepared to help/guide me. Romford/Essex/anywhere. Box E534.

VIRGO female, 29, wishes to correspond with people interested in American Indians, Tarot, dreams and mystical subjects. Box E536.

CONTACTS

MAGICAL group, meeting in West Country, invites serious seekers to learn the magical arts with us. Our only agenda is whatever the group wants to explore. Box E522.

ARIES female, Aquarius rising, involved in the arts. Interests include Tarot, Wicca, numerology, Greek religion, telepathy, past lives, cats, reading, art, history and Linda la Plante. I'd love to correspond/meet similar folk, 25+ in Southern England/anywhere, write soon. Box E524.

SAGITTARIAN female, 25, into astrology, Tarot and most PREDICTION subjects wishes to make a fresh start in life and join a commune in Yorkshire/anywhere. Any offers or information please write to Box E527.

AQUARIUS, male, 9.2.49, trainee astrologer, interests include Earth mysteries, visiting ancient sites, Feng-shui, Taoism, wishes to correspond/meet others with similar interests. SW England/anywhere. E529.

WANTED

THE *Elemental Tarot* with instruction book by Caroline Smith & John Astrop, published by Penguin. Also *Jung Tarot* with book, cost paid, postage refunded for both. ☎ 0171-987 7680.

CAN anyone help me find a poem entitled *Resolution of a Witch?* Please write to Ms Hughes, 82a Faire Road, Glenfield, Leicester, LE3 8ED.

This page is intended primarily for individuals wishing to locate or dispose of occult items and those seeking astrological twins; it is NOT A DATING SERVICE. However, those wishing to contact other like-minded groups/individuals for correspondence or debate on subjects covered by this magazine may take advantage of this free service if limitations of space permit. Entries should not exceed 50 words (Contacts, 30), the age limit is 18, no repeats are accepted, box numbers, compulsory for Contacts/Pen-friends, cost £2, postal order/cheque only, DO NOT SEND CASH, and the Editor has the right to reject any that she finds unsuitable and is not obliged to give a reason for so doing. Address your advertisement to the Editorial Offices, PREDICTION, Link House, Dingwall Avenue, Croydon CR9 2TA.

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

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

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

Prediction of outright 1992 General Election victory for the Conservative party and John Major.

Resignation and defeat of Neil Kinnock and the Labour party.

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

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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BOOK REVIEWS

SUPERNATURAL BRITAIN

by Peter Hough
(Piatkus, £8.99/£12.99 hbk)

THIS GUIDE TO Britain's most haunted places is carefully researched by the author, an experienced investigator into the paranormal.

Divided into areas of England, Scotland and Wales, the reader is taken on tour to such locations as Pendle Forest, for the only too familiar witches, to the lair of Count Dracula in Whitby, inevitably to Borley Rectory, plus Glastonbury, Loch Ness and Glamis Castle among many others. The bonus here are copious illustrations and photographs, with such diverse subjects as UFOs, various monsters, hauntings, et al weaving their way through the illuminating and informative text.

The author's interest in UFOs does rather dominate but, as such absorbing case histories unfold, one is very grateful for objective detail rather than mere speculation. These are investigations into new, or unfamiliar territory as well as many old favourites. Consequently, theories surface that seem to make more sense than several other tomes on similar subjects.

Above all, this is a useful guidebook for anyone who wishes to visit the locations covered. Unusually clear directions, including map references, are given on how to get to specific sites of interest and this is an excellent and very welcome publication. Highly recommended. — J.T.C.

CHINESE MEDICINE

by Tom Williams
(Element, £5.99/\$9.95)

THIS IS A particularly succinct and informative work by a practising acupuncturist who clearly is in a position to judge the effectiveness of this ancient Yin/Yang methodology.

As Williams points out, Western medicine is not at the stage of accepting energy fields or ethereal forces which determine health. Therefore the necessity to provide harmony and a balance of the inner energy system is only a superficial aspect of mainstream medical practice in the West. Such is, however, the main characteristic of a healthy life to the Chinese practitioner.

Some of these aspects, as described here, will undoubtedly strike the reader as quite esoteric and difficult to accept. But semi-hypochondriacs like myself will thrill to the refreshingly long list of symptoms which can appear on the tongue, for example, indicating various illnesses from 'internal wind' to heart defects.

There are some interesting case studies here to whet one's appetites too! — M.R.

THE WICCA SPELLBOOK

by Gerina Dunwich
(Hale, £14.99 hbk)

THIS WORK IS packed with modern magic for interested pagans, be they experienced or novice. The author reveals secrets of Wicca through very easy to follow yet highly powerful spells.

In addition to the magical rituals and arts, there are chapters covering divination, amulets and even some scrummy recipes for the sabbats! There is also a handy appendix of pagan resources in the UK at the back of the book.

Although it covers a wide range of Wiccan traditions and is very well-written, this book is best regarded as an introduction to the subject rather than an in-depth survey of the philosophy of witchcraft. However, it is none the worse for that and is an ideal primer for the novice. — C.B.

THE MOMENT OF ASTROLOGY

by Geoffrey Cornelius
(Penguin/Arkana, £8.99/\$12.95)

WHEN IS THE moment of astrology? Is it when the cord is cut at birth or when one takes that first breath; is it the minute that a question is first thought of that is important or should it be when this thought is put to an astrologer? Or can the wrong chart be used for any or all of these moments and still produce a good result?

Revolutionary ideas such as the latter, as well as many others, are examined by Cornelius, an astrologer of note who has the courage to challenge the current vogue for a more scientific style of astrology.

Here is a tome that combines philosophical discussion with sound astrological craft; it shows how wonderful it is to be intuitive and how problematic. I have been to the realms of which Cornelius writes and feel his work has considerable merit: perhaps you, like me, will read his book and remember some remarkable moments of your own.

But those who tend to favour a more clinical approach to astrology may be forced to stop and consider the following words. 'Our interpretations cannot be secured, in theory or in practice, by an appeal to a large number demonstration' because 'Interpretation is an open-ended moment of astrology,

changing over time and circumstance, and varying with the context in which the horoscope symbols have been taken up.' — B.L.

THE ARTHURIAN TAROT COURSE

by Caitlin Matthews
(Aquarian, £9.99)

I HAVE NEVER taken to the Arthurian Tarot but it has attracted many followers so a handbook about it was inevitable. So, for admirers of these particular cards and theories this comprehensive course will be invaluable.

However, as the interpretations are mainly confined to Arthurian legends and personalities, it is not easy to use this Tarot or follow the course through without wishing both were not quite so fey and wrapped up in a self-absorbed, way out quest for inner illumination. Much depends on one's own interpretation of the Grail and its true meaning which, here, may be considered too symbolic for some and repel rather than attract.

One tiny nugget that I did find helpful, though, was an intriguing section on Bach Flower Remedies and the Arthurian Tarot. Other than that, I'm afraid, this course is best left to devotees only. — J.C.T.

EARTH MAGIC

by Margaret McArthur
(Capall Bann, £8.95)

ADVERTISED AS A 'seasonal guide to the Old Religion', this work represents the author's personal approach and interpretation of the subject. Her views on the nature of the God and Goddess and the Triple Goddess, popularised by Robert Graves, are given.

An extensive part of the book describes five of the seasonal festivals (Candlemas and Lammas are excluded) and various sacred sites in Southern England including Stonehenge, Avebury, Glastonbury and Tintagel. The second half of the work has more practical material, such as the type of ritual equipment required to be a witch or pagan, crystals, incenses and divination.

At the conclusion can be found recipes for such mouth-watering treats as honeycake, Yule pie, elderberry ham and mead. The book ends with a short ecological message for the reader. — M.H.

(continued overleaf)

BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

PSYCHIC COP

by **Keith Charles & Derek Shuff**
(Blake, £14.99 hbk)

CHARLES IS A Metropolitan Police detective and a Spiritualist medium. It is helpful to read a book written by someone who has to be extremely analytical, clear-thinking and down to earth in everyday life but who has had quite a number of fascinating spiritual experiences too.

Charles first saw a ghost when eight-years-old and later heard voices from 'beyond.' Eventually, when he became a policeman his psychic powers became more developed, possibly aided by his policeman's capacity to have hunches or a 'sixth sense' about people and situations.

The author has an interesting view concerning the fate of the not much lamented Lord Lucan based on a vision he had. Many Spiritualists are hostile to reincarnation but Charles believes he was a Confederate soldier killed by the sword in his previous life. He is especially afraid of knives in this life.

An enjoyable, easy read, much in the style of other, recent, popular psychic life stories. — M.R.

THE NEW CONCISE GUIDE TO HOMOEOPATHY

by **Nigel & Susan Garion-Hutchings**
(Element, £6.99/\$10.95)

ANYONE LOOKING FOR a simple, easy to follow yet comprehensive introduction to homoeopathy need look no further than this excellent guide. Here the reader will find everything he/she needs to know in order to improve health and identify the correct remedy for everyday ailments.

Divided into four main sections, the book begins by explaining the underlying principles and philosophy of homoeopathy and gives a brief history of this healing art. Part Two is a complete practical guide to identifying common maladies and corrective treatment.

This is the core part of the work and should be read and re-read before attempting to prescribe or treat yourself or others. This is not such a daunting task as one might suppose as the text is not only easy to follow but provides ready answers to the sort of questions a novice would pose; there are even 'test cases' one can use to evaluate one's grasp of the principles involved in discovering the correct remedies.

Part Three starts with a very useful At-a-Glance Guide and Index of Symptoms which are followed by the various remedies themselves. The latter are

presented individually in two sections, the first being 'the picture,' which details the mentals and generals, followed by the 'particulars' or spheres of usefulness.

Part Four comprises the homoeopathic first-aid remedies and their applications; a handy glossary of terms; answers to the test cases in Part Two; Further Reading and, very usefully, details of homoeopathic stockists and organisations/groups that provide training plus, of course, an index.

Highly recommended. — M.E.

TRUE IRISH GHOST STORIES

by **John Seymour & Harry Neligan**
(Senate, £1.99)

FROM EARLY TIMES Ireland was divided but the border line in 166 AD was a series of gravel hills from Dublin to Galway. The Northern sector was created by 'Conn the Hundred fighter' while the Southern area was known as 'Moghs half' having been formed by 'Mogh Nadat.' It is for this reason that two of the chapters of this new and delightful work, originally published in 1926, are devoted to these areas. But the province of Connaught is, or was then it seems, ghost-free.

This brilliant collection of authentic cases of all types of hauntings, including banshees but disappointingly no leprechauns, will be welcomed by all those fascinated by aspects of the unexplained. The variety of reports include death warnings, legends, ancestral ghosts, visions, even simple hallucinations and poltergeists.

This welcome book is certainly not one of blarney but of rational and genuine reports which will help to promote interest in Irish folklore but mainly, I think, stimulate greater research. 'Have the spirits of the departed anything to do with matter?' is a question that continues to be raised some 70 years after this book's first appearance in print. — A.M.G.

THE MAGICAL LORE OF HERBS

by **Marion Davies**
(Capall Bann, £10.95)

HERBS HAVE LONG been used for healing, certainly since mankind first began to roam the Earth and discovered their varied qualities. Even modern medicine would be far less effective without the use of herbs in many pills and potions, in whatever guise.

The pendulum has swung back in favour of natural cures and there can be few who do not take advantage of the products that at one time any village wisewoman knew to be effective. This book could hardly be more timely as it includes a short historical background to herbalism then launches into more detailed information on how herbs can be used in everyday life.

There are herbs which link to an-

cient festivals, herbs for each season, for love potions, even poisons. All for their special place, some have symbolism attached, others link to cities and countries.

Whether from bush or tree, grown in gardens or gathered wild, herbs are not just something added to a delicious stew. They have numerous uses, as this book expertly explains, and I shall never be able to look at raspberry leaves, parsley and some other herbs in quite the same way after reading the chapter on herbs, love and marriage.

Not merely a herbal but a treatise on magical properties, medicinal use, folklore and really useful information. — J.C.T.

THE HEALING PATH

by **Marc Ian Barasch**
(Penguin/Arkana, £7.99/\$11.95)

IN THESE DAYS of seeming admiration for 'rapid results' it is very refreshing to read an absorbing, comprehensive and deeply felt book that deals with an aspect of life which concerns us all. It covers our response to illness and the healing process, as well as spiritual aspects that can arise when one is faced with life-threatening conditions.

Barasch has written a sensitive and detailed analysis of various methods used to cope with 'a soul approach to illness' that is a far cry from some of the numerous ludicrous, shallow and ineffective books on how to approach serious illness.

One slight disappointment, as far as I am concerned, is that there is no mention of the Rudolph Steiner Anthroposophical ideology or approach to illness. However, the author is clearly impressed with Jungian approaches and this is a good absorbing read nevertheless. — M.R.

PSYCHIC EMPOWERMENT

by **Joe H. Slate**
(Llewellyn/Macmillan, \$12.95/£11.99)

THE PUBLISHERS PRODUCE quite a range of introductory books on occult matters and this one follows much the same pattern. Its subtitle, 'A 7-day Plan for Self-Development,' provides a pretty good idea of the message the author tries to get across, as of course does the latest jargon word, empowerment.

I found most of the empowerment slogans and aphorisms very positive and doubtless life enhancing. However, the descriptions of psychic powers and abilities are definitely only for those with little or no knowledge of esoteric terminology.

Personally, I am very hostile to the notion that we can develop very much of anything through 7-day plans. However, such a book is eminently predictable in today's ever increasingly 'instant' society. — M.R.

AROMATHERAPY MASSAGE BOOK

by **Clare Maxwell-Hudson**
(Dorling Kindersley, £9.99)

THIS WORK ACCOMPLISHES the difficult task of combining useful information with visual appeal and an entertaining, personal style of writing. At first glance the high quality printing and beautiful photographs can make this book look more suited to the coffee-table than the massage couch but on this occasion a glossy appearance enhances the content rather than compensates for it!

An informative introduction covers the history of essential oils, methods of production, carrier oils, blending techniques and rules for storage and safety. This is followed by a catalogue of 21 'favourite oils' ranging from exotic jasmine to familiar lavender.

Each entry gives historical insights, information on constituents, scent type, expense rating and contra-indications, therapeutic value in treating emotional and physical conditions and beauty applications. Maxwell-Hudson's anecdotes further enliven the text. Photographs of the oils and their source materials augment our understanding and I particularly liked the photos of the oils in clear glass bottles to display their colours.

The massage section takes us step by step through a full body massage explaining basic strokes and techniques, including what to do if you forget what to do next! The abundance of informative photographs, both individual strokes and full body shots of the masseuse at work, gave a feeling of sitting in on a demonstration.

The beauty section is equally direct and well presented, providing advice on making cosmetics and directions for facial treatments. The author sums up with problem-solving listings for common complaints ranging from stress and indigestion to dandruff.

Highly recommended. — R.S.

E.T. 101: The Cosmic Instruction Manual for Planetary Evolution/An Emergency Remedial Earth Edition co-created by Mission Control and Zoev Jho (Thorsons, £4.99)

THIS REVIEWER HAS long believed that humour is one of the finest aids to teaching and this book is outstanding proof that this is so.

Imagine, if you will, a concoction of Richard Bach's *Illusions* and Douglas Adams' *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, liberally seasoned with the astoundingly simple yet powerful and undeniable logic of Spock from *Star Trek* and you might just be prepared for this book.

It is wickedly funny, mainly at the expense of 20th century society and especially its crazier manifestations, usually referred to by the rest of us as the

norm. In the process it manages to turn society's accepted 'wisdom' on its head and make one think seriously about what we are all doing on this planet — and what we should be doing!

It is too wonderfully quirky to do it justice in a short review so buy it, read it, laugh at it, tell your friends about and, above all, think about it. You may be surprised at how much sanity lurks beneath the humour. Brilliant. — J.T.

THE SACRED RING: The Pagan origins of British Folk Festivals & Customs by Michael Howard (Capall Bann, £9.95)

ALL OVER THE British Isles today old seasonal festivals and folk rituals are being celebrated still. Howard introduces the reader to the Old Religion by providing information in a simple, straightforward manner.

Most of these early pagan celebrations and customs are of an agricultural nature, marking the year's progress, the changing seasons and the products of sacred Mother Earth. This book covers all the British folk festivals from Yule in December right round to the end of the harvest festivals in late Autumn and Hallow's Eve in October.

The author explains how the Christian church adopted these pagan practices and beliefs, many of which are still incorporated into Church rites and rituals. Although all the pagan festivals and customs are covered in this work, in my opinion it fails to provide sufficient information and detail to justify the cover price. — C.B.

CENTURY FRAGMENTS: BERYL POGSON compiled by Lewis Creed (Quacks Books/Ashgrove, £15.95)

THE COMPILER HAD a dual aim in publishing this limited edition work: the first is to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Beryl Pogson's birth on June 4th 1995 and, secondly, to make available fragments of the teachings of Gurdjieff that have been hoarded in Creed's attic.

This reviewer cannot resist noting that the result is a hodge-podge of essays, lectures, conversations, poems and notes, though none the less valuable for that. After a meeting with Dr Maurice Nicoll, Mrs Pogson became a dedicated student of 'The Work,' as the Gurdjieffian system is called, for over 30 years.

From her beginnings in Lancashire she settled in Cuckfield at a house named 'The Dicker' from which she ran the Sussex Group for several years until her death in 1967. Older members of the Astrological Lodge will recognise her name as she was also a keen astrologer.

Interspersed with numerous photos

and drawings, there are notes and quotes on Plato and Plotinus, St Paul and Shakespeare. This is an excellent introduction to Gurdjieff's ideas and fitting tribute to a lady who was obviously more than just a teacher. — J.T.M.

THE DREAM-HUNTERS OF CORSICA

by **Dorothy Carrington**
(Orion/Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £6.99/£20 hbk)

THIS IS A first-hand field study of surviving ancient occult practices in Corsica gathered by Carrington, an expert on the island and its culture from 1948 onwards.

The *mazzeri*, or dream-hunters of the title, relate how they go out at night to find and kill any animal, whether pig or goat or cow, in which is recognised a human face. The next day a death is announced in the village and this always occurs within the year. The fact that the hunt is 'dreamed' makes no difference for the death is real.

However, the real mystery is that villagers often swear to having seen *mazzeri* out at night when supposedly tucked up in bed. There are also much friendlier folk known as *signadori* who practise medicine and cast spells in order to release people from the 'evil eye.' Naturally, the latter are more in demand than the *mazzeri* although this reviewer could find little sympathy for either practitioner.

In the latter chapters similarities with the practice of shamanism are examined. This is a fascinating, well told tale of a European culture steeped in ancient beliefs and one wonders if reading this book may influence your decision where not to go for your next package holiday in the Mediterranean Sun! — J.T.M.

THE BOOK OF CURSES by Stuart Gordon (Headline, £6.99)

MOST OF US have been tempted to bring down a curse on someone at one time or another but few actually succumb to such a temptation. Yet it is still a matter of fascination to read about curses throughout history and how they have wreaked havoc on so many people.

These true stories of voodoo, hoodoo and good old-fashioned witches' curses are not for the fainthearted nor for those foolish enough to experiment. However, they are of interest as providing a historical record of genuine events where some form of curse has had its dire effect or where a legend lingers on concerning famous personalities from the past.

A full, detailed, fascinating paperback, but not to be read late at night! — J.C.T.

(continued overleaf)

BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

A SEARCH FOR THE HISTORICAL JESUS

by F. Hassnain
(Gateway, £8.95)

DRAWING FROM APOCRYPHAL, Buddhist, Islamic and Sanskrit sources, Professor Hassnain presents an intriguing research into the life of Jesus that has far-reaching implications for the Christian Church. His pragmatic interpretations cast a radical light on almost every aspect of Western dogma, from the Immaculate Conception to the redemption of sins, providing a cross-cultural perspective which is rarely seen in orthodox Christian theology.

He begins by positing a life-long relationship between Jesus and the secretive Essene Order which was influenced strongly by both the Apocryphal Hebrew sects of the Middle East and the Buddhism of Northern India. Developing this theme, he argues that Jesus' mission to save the Jews was part of a far broader religious crusade than the New Testament presents, his role as a messiah built upon extensive childhood travels which exposed him to a wide variety of cultures and doctrines.

Hassnain proposes a familial intimacy between Jesus, Mary, Joseph of Arimathea and the Apostles which ties them into the powerful political elites of the day, a link that not only provided great influence with their Roman overseers but also suggests how the Crucifixion was a contrived affair, allowing Jesus to survive his ordeal on the Cross and continue his preaching in exile for many years until his eventual death in Kashmir.

An unusual book which certainly sets one thinking although the argument is rather disjointed and raises far more questions than it answers. — M.M.

HAWAIIAN RELIGION & MAGIC

by Scott Cunningham
(Llewellyn/Macmillan,
\$12.95/£11.95)

FOR MORE THAN 40 years the key guide for anyone interested in Hawaiian beliefs has been the books of Max Freedom Long. However, this comprehensive illustrated work by the late and highly-respected Scott Cunningham provides a more than worthy successor; incidentally correcting many mistakes and misconceptions in the process.

The book is divided into three parts, the first of which introduces the people of Hawaii and their numerous gods and goddesses, the second illustrates various aspects of traditional Hawaiian culture and religion and the final sec-

tion deals with magic, sorcery and divination. As Cunningham studied the island and its people for over 20 years this is a fascinating, 'hands-on' work rather than a mere factual textbook.

The function of each deity is outlined and the importance of divine ancestors discussed, as is Mana, loosely translated as the spiritual power that resides in everything on Earth. We are told that 'hula' has nothing to do with hoops but is a sacred dance, that visions, voices and ghosts are real and that reading omens and practising magic is entirely normal not supernatural.

Finally, it is worth noting that Hawaiians were consulting the spirits of the departed for advice long before the fad of Spiritualism swept the West in the last century. So just say 'Aloha' and enjoy reading this superb account of a truly spiritual culture that is currently under threat from materialist values. — J.T.M.

CHESHIRE: Its Magic & Mystery

by Doug Pickford
(Sigma, £7.95)

ANOTHER IN THE excellent series by Sigma Leisure that delves into the folklore and traditions of various parts of England. Pickford has written several in the series and has provided a meticulously researched work into a particularly rich vein of mystical history, the county of Cheshire; he even provides some interesting explanations for the famous cat's grin.

Basic themes such as The Green Man, ghostly sightings and so on feature in various similar publications but are none the worse for appearing regularly. This merely confirms how magical and folklore traditions are common throughout the land, with only a smattering of local colour distinguishing each story.

This book will be a welcome addition to the library of any reader addicted to folklore but more especially to tourists with a mystical bent in the area surveyed. — M.R.

THE WISDOM OF THE BUDDHA

by J. Boisselier
(Thames & Hudson, £6.95)

TRANSLATED FROM THE French edition, this New Horizons publication offers a beautifully illustrated review of Buddhism. Principally a reflection of the author's own extensive studies of the art and archaeology of Southeast Asia, the book is not a religious discourse but concentrates instead on the wealth of anecdotal stories which surround the Buddha's life and the rich artistic heritage that grew from his teachings.

The written text is supplemented by numerous colour plates that depict the aesthetic impact of Buddhism on both Hindu India and the many neighbouring cultures of Southeast Asia: a pictorial composition that would have suited

a large-format book better than this small paperback edition. There is also a brief addendum summarising the principle tenets of Buddhism and the way these have subsequently been developed by other cultures which seems rather out of place when set against the rest of the book.

The overall result is a pleasing and reasonably priced oddity that has neither the depth of a religious text nor the quality of an art book yet manages to avoid the superficiality of a coffee-table publication. Worth a look if only for the superb selection of Buddhist memorabilia. — M.M.

UNDERSTANDING GRAPHOLOGY

by Ellen Cameron

(Aquarian/Thorsons, £4.99/\$8.00)

THIS LATEST WORK on handwriting analysis clearly demonstrates the basic rules and disciplines of graphology without too many technical terms to puzzle the beginner for whom this book is intended. The introduction provides a good fundamental survey of the subject then the all-important three zones. It is pleasing to find that speed is also mentioned as this is another significant aspect of analysis.

The implications given to single letters may influence readers to rely a little too heavily on these at times. However, pressure, rhythm and regularity of writing are again afforded fair consideration. Also covered are base-line levels, starting and ending strokes and other significant characteristics to be seen in one's script.

This book will prove extremely helpful and useful as an introduction to the study of handwriting analysis, after which the reader can approach deeper, more comprehensive publications. All in all, a good, straightforward beginners' book for anyone interested in this rewarding sphere of personality interpretation. — P.M.

THE BOOK OF JUPITER

by Marilyn Waram
(ACS/Airlift, \$12.95/£10.99)

I WAS VERY disappointed to read a book on Jupiter which contained so little astrology. Instead, the author concentrates on myth, legend or case histories that are dealt with psychologically in a manner that almost makes the astrology redundant.

When the planet is taken through houses, signs and in aspect to other bodies the interpretations are adequate; though even here I felt there was little that has not been said and written before.

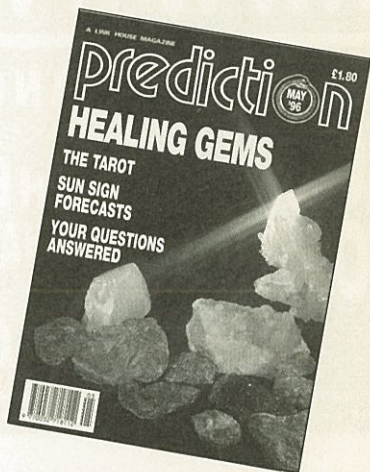
However, my natal Jupiter is in Virgo so perhaps I am overly critical: thus I fall back to the suggestion that potential readers should examine this tome then decide whether or not to purchase it themselves. — B.L.

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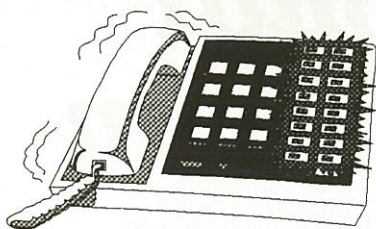
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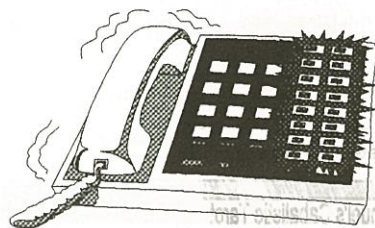
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