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The screenshot displays the Astrology software interface with several windows open. On the left is a 'Secondary Progression' chart for Dave Wilkinson, dated 30/07/1996. On the right is a 'Transit 30/07/1996 13:15:29 Hhge' chart. Below these is a 'Yearly Transit Forecast - Dave Wilkinson 1996' table. The table lists months from July to June and shows transit events for various planets (Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto) with their respective signs and degrees. A text window at the bottom left contains a comment about the relationship between Dave Wilkinson and Tracy's Mercury sextile to his Sun.

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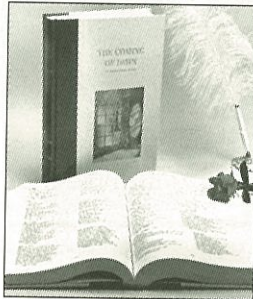
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Cover photography by Tony Petch.
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Golden Bough Bookshop, Croydon.

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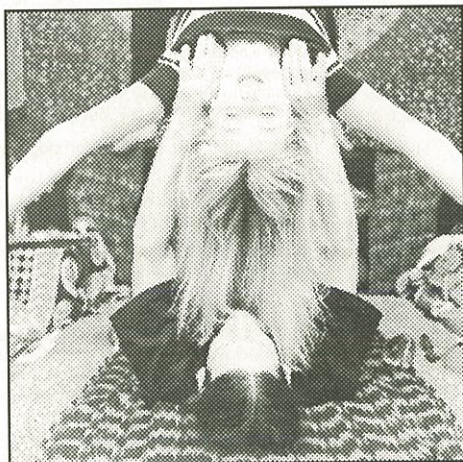
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WINNING WITH WITCHCRAFT

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

HOW TO WIN IN LIFE

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

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

AMAZING RESULTS

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

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

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

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

WHAT WITCHCRAFT CAN BRING YOU

In my book you read about:

- Winning the admiration and respect of people. *Stop* them exploiting and using you
- Using witchcraft to promote your self interests at all times, without harming the interests of others
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- Compel a thief to return stolen property
- A Romany Love Spell for catching all *the men you will ever want!*
- A simple formula for finding out which of two lovers loves you the most
- An ultra-simple ritual for keeping your partner true
- A spell that compels a deserting partner to return to you
- How to *leave your physical body and travel invisibly anywhere*. You can invisibly "spy" on your lover, rival, enemy, *completely without his/her knowledge!* This way you *always win* in the game of life because you can anticipate in advance the actions of others! "Invisible travel" is easy; it only needs practice. I succeeded on my third try. It is not only easy, but fun, too. And it is perfectly safe
- A simple step you can take for stopping any witch from invisibly spying on you!
- A powerful self-rejuvenation ritual for renewing your personality and character; extremely potent!
- How to use The Witchcraft Circle to break disease and ill health and regain perfect well being.

THE SECRET SCIENCE OF NATURE

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

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

THE ULTIMATE WITCHCRAFT RITUAL

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

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

CLEAR CUT

Clear quartz, the most common of the Earth's crystalline structures, is Mother Nature's own little power pack. Its energies have been used for thousands of years, in cultures as diverse as ancient Egyptian to Native American.

Put simply, the clear quartz crystal is a multi-purpose programmable power tool which can be used to amplify energy towards any desired purpose, be it healing therapy, shamanic journeying, meditation, spiritual connection or magical working.

If you look carefully, however, you will see that crystals vary not only in size and clarity but also in their structural formation. It is these subtle differences in structure which give certain crystals additional and unique properties.

Receivers

Also known as channelling crystals, this formation is identified by a large, seven-sided face at the centre front of the terminated point coupled with a triangular face opposite it at the back. Used to receive or pull energy towards you rather

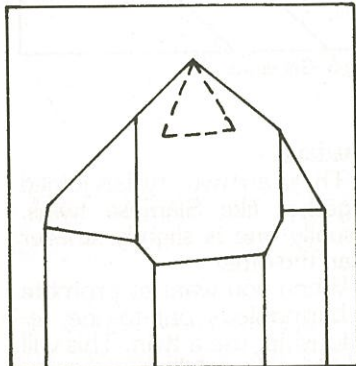


Fig 1: Receiver Crystal

than transmit outwards, it can be a great help in channelling — accessing information from higher sources of wisdom — either through meditation or by verbal or written communication.

In other words, it can be used to gain answers to specific questions or to get general information on different topics. Receiver crystals can also be used in healing to pull pain out of the body and to ease hurtful emotions. They're also useful as a memory aid if you have trouble remembering meditations or dreams.

At those times when you feel you have no one to whom you can talk, a receiver crystal will not only listen but will also help put you in touch with your own inner wisdom or spirit guide. Also, if you have a record-keeper crystal (see below) a receiver can help you to access its stored information.

Record-keepers

These are quite rare and unobtrusive, can be any size, shape or form but are recognised by one or more small, slightly raised triangles on the crystal faces. You won't find a record-keeper by looking for one — you only come across them by supposed accident.

Record-keeper crystals are said to be the ancient library books of the crystal kingdom. They store the secrets of the universe that were

How to choose a crystal

by **ELISABETH ALLEN**

programmed in to them by those who seeded life on this planet and those, such as the Atlanteans and Lemurians, who were descended from them. The information stored in a record-keeper can only be accessed by those people who are ready, by way of spiritual awareness and responsibility, to receive it.

The record-keeper is accessed through meditation by placing the face with the triangle on it over your third eye. You must enter the meditative state with a completely open mind — no limitations, demands or prejudgments. If the information in the crystal is meant for you, it will be received.

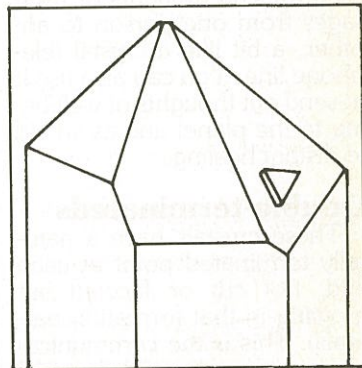


Fig 2: Record Keeper

Transmitters

This is similar to the receiver but has a clearly defined, triangular face with two symmetrical, seven-sided faces on each side of the triangular one. This is the crystal to help you push your question outwards. First define your need clearly and precisely, then mentally project it into the transmitter with its triangular face placed over your third eye.

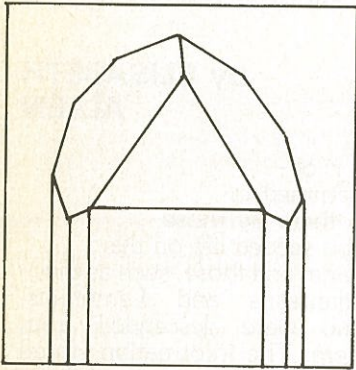


Fig 3: Transmitter

Leave the transmitter undisturbed in an upright position in a special place, such as a Sunny windowsill or a Moonlit garden for 24 hours, during which time it will transmit your communication. You may receive the answer by placing the triangular face over your third eye again. Centre your concentration and open your mind to receive the answer.

Transmitters can also be used to send thoughts or messages from one person to another, a bit like a crystal telephone line. You can also use it to send out thoughts of well-being to the planet and as an aid to distant healing.

Double-terminateds

These crystals have a naturally terminated point at each end, not cut or faceted but growing in that formation naturally. This is the communicator crystal par excellence as its energy flows freely outwards in

either direction or both directions at once.

It is a crystal of perfect balance containing both polarities — negative/positive, yin/yang — united in the centre. It reconciles opposites, enhances free-flowing communication of thoughts, ideas or emotions between two people and helps us to explore and reconcile extremes within ourselves or our situations to bring us to a place of balance.

Double-terminated crystals are both receivers and transmitters. They help us to listen as well as to speak.

Clusters

Also known as a crystal bed, this formation has many crys-

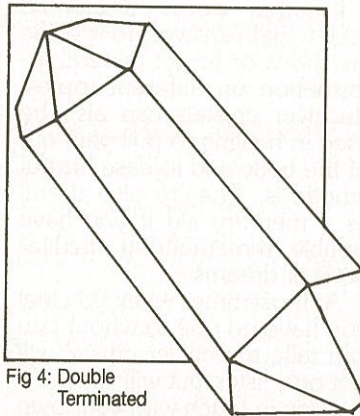


Fig 4: Double Terminated

tals growing together in different directions from the same matrix base. A crystal cluster is wonderful in any group situation such as families, workplaces, waiting rooms, encounter groups, workshops, etc. It helps promote a smooth and non-intrusive energy flow so that everyone involved in the group can 'do their own thing' without impinging on others' freedom.

Clusters help with group intercommunication and promote efficiency and harmony in teamwork. They are also very useful when placed on top of a TV set or VDU monitor

where they will absorb and neutralise any negative energies which are being emitted.

Generators

A generator crystal has six triangular faces joining together to form the terminated point. Some grow this way naturally, others are cut and polished into the formation but both are equally powerful as generators.

The generator is an all-purpose power tool for energy manipulation and magnification. Direct the energy by directing the crystal like a handheld torch or a pointer. The energy can be used to stimulate the physical body, the intellect, the chakras, etc.

Generators are excellent tools for energising other crystals or magical objects and equipment such as Tarot cards and crystal balls. Use a generator when you want to clear turbulent or blocked energy spots, either in the body or in physical locations such as a room with a disturbed atmosphere.

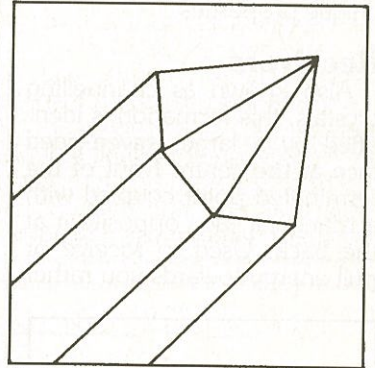


Fig 5: Generator

Twins

These are two crystals joined together like Siamese twins. Usually one is slightly smaller than the other.

When you want to promote a harmonious one-to-one relationship, use a twin. This will provide the ability to merge with another person without

CLEAR CUT

Loss of individuality, thus promoting mutual support, respect and love. If you are looking for your soulmate, use a twin to attract him or her into your life.

Don't think of the twin just for romantic relationships, however, as it is also excellent for encouraging understanding and communication between parent and child, brother and sister, or work colleagues, etc. Indeed, any situation involving a close relationship between two individuals can be eased by the twin.

Windows

A window crystal has a large diamond-shaped facet on the termination at the centre front. The top point of the diamond connects with the line leading to the termination while the bottom point connects with a line leading to the crystal's base.

When you are willing to look within, honestly, and to accept the truth you find there, then you are ready to use a window

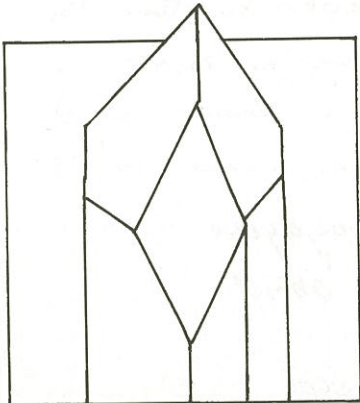


Fig 6: Window

crystal. It acts like a window into the soul, enabling you to see and understand the underlying truths of your nature. With permission it can be used to detect the inner state of another person.

Place the diamond window facet on the third eye and be open to receive the pictures it will send into your mind. Window crystals can also be used to reflect the state of someone's aura by turning the window towards that person as if it were a camera, then placing it on your own third eye to read the picture.

If you want to find a lost object, or even a missing person, mentally project an image of that which is lost into the crystal. It may then allow you to look through its window, again via the third eye, in order to see the location or other relevant information.

Phantoms

This crystalline structure contains a 'phantom' image of its own smaller self inside it. At some point in the crystal's growth it was covered by a fine dust of another material which remained as the crystal continued to grow and cover the trapped particles. In the finest examples of these crystals the internal image is like a perfect 3D hologram of the crystal as a

'child.'

Use a phantom when working with your inner child or when exploring past lives. They are also very helpful in those life situations where you need to let go of the old self in order to allow the new self to grow and blossom — for example a child going through puberty or a woman adjusting to the changes brought about by menopause.

Phantom crystals help you to accept and assimilate all parts of your nature. They allow you to recognise that all past experiences, even painful ones, have been a necessary and valuable part of your personal evolution.

Cosmic energy

Clear quartz crystals provide the pathways for body, mind, emotion and spirit to connect and align with the energy of the cosmos. Whatever your need or purpose, the clear quartz crystal can help you.

It is a precious gift from the universe — use it wisely and well.

GRAPHOLOGY

by PETER MARSHALL

UPS AND DOWNS

There is hardly anybody who doesn't have trouble in one way or another, at some point in life.

There are times when we feel bright, with an optimistic spirit, and others when the outlook appears very dark and depressing. Some folk live in a world of fantasy and the abstract while others have their feet firmly on the ground of reality and the material side of existence.

These different aspects of life are reflected in our handwriting. Taking first the upper extensions which comprise the top loops in various forms; the taller they reach, the more will be the effort of the mind to think in an intellectual direction.

They reach up to the intangi-

ble sphere of aspiration, ideals and moral codes. The larger and more inflated these loops are, the stronger the imagination in that area. If the upper extension is a straight single stroke, there is only little amount of imagination.

The first example has some slender loops, also inflated ones. This implies changeable ideas and approaches in the intellectual sphere. The lower extensions have some exceedingly large loop forms which exhibit an active interest in material subjects, combined with a lively and restless mind and body appertaining to the world of sex.

This writer's imagination is directed to all kinds of life's fields. But it is not exactly happy as the strokes are a little bent in various cases: emotion is upsetting the psychological function. The owner has conflicts militating against serenity and calmness.

Those wide spaces between words show a need for occasional isolation and a mental protection by keeping others at a slight distance. The slant is slightly uneven alluding to some moodiness.

In this example and in the main body of the script, the capital I gets larger. This suggests more self-confidence as the writer gains assurance. These capitals lean away from the next word; a little inner insecurity shows itself.

The t-bars are placed low on the stem, establishing a lack of drive and ambition. Our writer has ideals but not the motivation to put them into successful

(continued on page 52)

equally ensure
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The Most Powerful

Hand Crafted Talismans

In The World

Created Under The Channelled
Supervision Of The Great
Eliphas Levi From Unpublished
Magickal Manuscripts



Eliphas Levi

IT REALLY is a well known FACT that many 'unusual' people such as famous celebrities, the rich, the influential and those from 'noble' descent, both men and women alike have used talismans to help them in their lives whether to help them achieve, reach or maintain their status in life. Our famous friends have problems too - although you may not think it. It is another well known fact that people such as these are highly secretive and utterly discrete with regard to the wearing of amulets or talismans. Although we would NEVER divulge to ANYONE under ANY circumstances the identity of you or our successful, rich famous clientele, we CAN, however, offer certain clients the very same construction technique that has brought our other clients their success. The beautiful talismans that are on offer below will be EXACTLY the same types that the rich and famous have - there is just one difference - the price. Because some of our clients were in a position to spend a LOT more than most - we asked some of them if they would mind if we shared in their good fortunes immediately by allowing certain customers to buy their talismans at a much reduced price. This means that YOU can now receive all the benefits of the rich and famous. REMEMBER - Their talismans have brought to them POWER, holidays in exotic locations, exciting relationships, MONEY to spend WHENEVER they wish, FAME, GLORY, status, FREEDOM, PROTECTION and of course, the ability to open doors that are usually locked firmly to most. These talismans are not simply bought wholesale and sold! Our clients would not stand for that! Neither will you! Each talisman is hand crafted under the channelled supervision and unpublished manuscripts of ELIPHAS LEVI to the absolute specifications of it's powers... and to your date of birth and personal circumstances if you let us know at the time of ordering. Each attractive talisman is hand made and appears to look like a piece of highly fashionable jewellery (not parchment!). The one you buy will be the only one of it's kind in the world. All the work is done for you. Simply wear it around your neck or place in your purse/wallet or under your pillow or anywhere...

1. THE TALISMAN OF ELIPHAS LEVI (aka Alphonse Louis Constant)- (Pictured top right) - Knowledgeable of Greek, Latin & Hebrew & author of many highly acclaimed works. This talisman made under his channelled supervision will enhance the owner with secret knowledge of the Cosmos and provide the wearer with great intuition, understanding & foresight. Ideal for developing a higher consciousness and levitation of the etheric body - can be especially used in conjunction with talisman number 2 below to reach even higher and more profound journeys on the astral pathways: Price: £35

2. THE TALISMAN FOR THE ASTRAL TRAVELLER - The experience of Astral Travel is something you will never forget. It will probably be the most exciting, fulfilling and rewarding event of your life. The expert who will personally supervise the making of this talisman for you, began travelling 'astrally' over 20 years ago. It really IS just like the description given in books and really IS exactly the way people describe it. Yes! You really CAN look down at your physical body whilst you float above. Yes! You really CAN simply 'think' where you want to be and you are there! Yes! You really can communicate on an empathic level with others! And Yes! you really CAN visit ANYONE - Time and distance is no barrier. Once you have experienced this new dimension in time and space, we promise you'll want to do it again and again and again. A FREE (no nonsense) BOOKLET written by our expert accompanies your talisman to show you how to use your talisman to travel safely and joyously along the astral pathways. Also explains how just one minute of Astral Travel can equal several light years. Especially for the absolute beginner or simply curious. This is the REAL THING Price: £45

3. THE TALISMAN OF PROTEUS - This advanced and specialised talisman has the capability of vibrating with the human aura of the wearer at over c100,000⁹ impulses per second - thus cleansing the whole etheric and physical body. Each pulse is designed to cleanse the aura using a type of radionics. The invisible pulse is also constantly checking for any evil energies being sent from any would-be evil doer to the wearer. Just like a virus detector on a computer, the talisman is programmed to recognise EVERY type of evil from the lowest form to the highest. No magician however superior can break through this talisman's protective barrier. If any negativity is detected near to the wearer, the talisman acts as a parabolic reflector, and sends back the very same evil straight back to the sender, amplified by 100 times. This talisman is not for the beginner. It is a serious talisman for the person who knows the feeling of psychic attack and wants to put an end to it right now. Distance is no problem for this talisman, it can detect and tackle energies from the other side of the world. Powered by the wearer's aura, (when removed and replaced) it remains active 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year. Tests have revealed that this is THE ultimate cure for those who have been unsuccessful in the search for a talisman of power before. Due to this talisman's ability to send back evil amplified 100 times directly back to the sender - the decision to buy this fine and powerful talisman should not be taken lightly. Price: £75

4. THE LIVING TALISMAN OF KARMIC REVERSAL This talisman gives the wearer the opportunity to reclaim or live again any period of time that was lost during life. Whether the loss was due to youthful rebellion, or circumstances beyond your control in mid life - perhaps you've even been held back by a person or persons known or unknown. This very specialised talisman connects directly to the Mother element of the Psyche, and is therefore a talisman of growth and development with connectivity into the current world in which you live - this talisman is like being given a second chance - a fresh start - without hindrance. This talisman has been programmed in such a way that FORGIVENESS becomes a main element. In other words the wearer will not be impeded any longer by the emotional debts from the silly mistakes of the past, as this talisman has the power to remove all karmic debts from the wearer. When you own this talisman, you can stop paying for the past and start living for the future without the blockages! Price: £50

5. THE FAMOUS MAXIMUS ULTIMUS BENEFICUS TALISMAN - This is THE KING of Talismans. The most celebrated, recommended and talked about amongst those who own one. This is literally a LIVING talisman, partially made under the influence of powerful secret herbs and constructed under exacting planetary influences. When sending for this talisman, you will need to state your date, place and time of birth (if known) - as this talisman is totally personalised. By wearing or simply possessing this talisman it is said that your thoughts and wishes manifest themselves immediately. It appears that those who are privileged to own the The Maximus Ultimus Beneficus Talisman, after a time, have ANYTHING they want. How about just deciding to fly off somewhere for a couple of weeks to an exotic place under the sun? Take your friends or leave them behind (you may not care) - Imagine just thinking about what you want for yourself or others. Imagine the POWER. Most who bought this talisman just KNEW they would hit the jackpot one day. They just KNEW it was their turn! Are you one of them? This talisman is for those who feel they have missed out on things for far too long. Have you seen enough of others winning millions on the lottery? Have you seen enough of celebrities and the rich and famous living in total luxury with everything available to them at a whim? Are you totally unshamed of riches? Can you handle the ultimate freedom money and success brings? OK - This one is for YOU. If you want a slice of the GOOD LIFE and are sick and tired of working for nothing, and you would like a very large helping of lady luck (it can happen in many ways) - then DO IT RIGHT NOW - send for The Famous Maximus Ultimus Beneficus Talisman TODAY! BELIEVERS NEED HEAR NO MORE - LIMITED TO ONE PER HOUSEHOLD PLEASE- Special Price Only £125

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Gremlins

What can crawl into any man-made machine and cause chaos? Gremlins! by G.W. SMITH

So what are gremlins? Are they green, pink, red? Thin, fat? And what do they wear? Or are they nude? Have they big ears and a little nose? How many legs have they? Or have they no ears, no nose and no legs? Whatever they are, whatever they look like, gremlins are weird and certainly exist.

Machines have always been plagued by mysterious stoppages and erratic behaviour ever since man discovered the wheel. But no one could discover the causes. It wasn't until sometime between the World Wars that the mythical gremlin was invented. and blamed for all mechanical faults.

The actual name gremlin was said to have been invented by a Royal Air Force bomber squadron stationed on the North-West frontier of India before the Second World War. They were experiencing so many unexplained problems with the engines of the aircraft that they invented the gremlin as the culprit; the name being a conflation of the Brothers Grimm and Fremlin's Brewery, the main beer in the squadron bar at the time.

Since then, it has been discovered that gremlins in any machine can be stopped from their mischievous activities by placing an empty beer bottle close by. This will, apparently, cause the gremlins to leave the afflicted machine, crawl inside the bottle and stay there.

Because gremlins never appear to humans, there are some who say they do not exist. But the proof is everywhere: in every machine, every home, in every corner of the world. They wait until just the right moment, then strike.

How else could you explain the report about Kevin Kelly in

the *Daily Mail*, February 2nd 1977. He parked his new Rover 2000, switched off the engine, took out the key and went indoors. Hearing the engine racing in his car, he ran out and tried everything to stop it; he jammed rags up the exhaust pipe, even ripped out the ignition leads, but still it ran on.

He called the AA but even after the mechanic had removed the battery, it still ran on. An hour later the engine stopped of its own accord.

And what about watches and clocks? Most people can tell a story about the watch or clock that stopped, then started again by itself: hours, days, weeks, or even years later. Some people can't even wear a watch. They put this down to static electricity in their bodies, magnetism or some other technical reason.

But the real reason for erratic behaviour in clocks and watches is, of course, gremlins. They are everywhere. Furthermore, they have learnt during their short existence how to contact each other in separate machines.

The *Daily Telegraph*, July 28th, 1979, reported that two dark blue Ford Capris in Nottingham suddenly swerved into each other on an open road. Their registration numbers were reported as UNU 93S and UNU 89S. Was that coincidence or communication?

In highly intricate computers and technical machines there has been evidence of growing understanding between the gremlins in the machines and humans. Maybe the gremlins have grown accustomed to us and realise we need help; our short tempers are not directed at them personally but at our own frustrations.

A report in *Celebrity*, No-

vember 5th, 1987, says Oskar Malecki of Gdansk, Poland, makes house calls to help start neighbours' cars on cold mornings. His rapport with car engines is phenomenal. He runs his hands over the bonnet of the car and hums like a perfectly tuned engine. On one occasion Malecki started four cars in two minutes by just holding his hands over their bonnets. His mother says her boy has special powers with machines; his touch fixes them like magic.

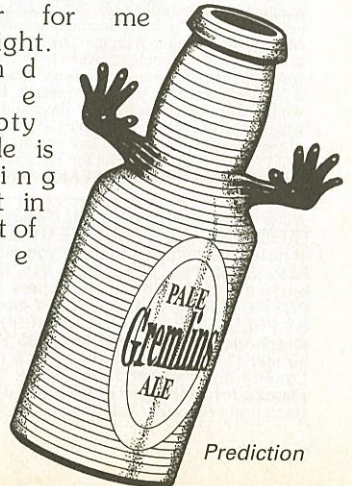
Many computer manufacturers of today weed out those technicians who consistently report faults on the assembly line. They are replaced by known magicians who can control gremlin problems.

Michael Shallis, a physicist at Oxford University, said in *The Electric Shock Book* that he once met a computer healer. When a fault occurred in a machine he would be called in and all he would do was switch it back on and it would function normally. Later, just telling the machine that the company would get Peter to come and put his cold screwdriver down its circuits was enough to get the machine started again.

So are gremlins beginning to co-operate? I don't think so. Monday morning my washing machine played up; lunch time, the kitchen clock. Tuesday, it was the microwave oven followed by the fridge. And tonight, Wednesday, the TV is on the blink.

But I'll catch the little devils. It's a beer for me tonight.

And the empty bottle is going right in front of the TV.



Prediction

NEWS & VIEWS

Right on time

Well, no, not altogether. As the Deeside Astrology Group very politely and kindly pointed out in their letter, there were four errors in the recently published list of British Summer Times (page xii March edition). So, astrologers please note and amend as follows.

02/10/1950

should be 22/10/1950

11/03/1963

should be 31/03/1963

07/10/1963

should be 27/10/1963

29/10/1995

should be 22/10/1995

As DAG quite rightly say, accurate times are vital in drawing up a horoscope chart so we are very grateful for an opportunity to set the record straight. — Ed.

Good news and bad

The not so good is that it has been decided to cease publication of *Viewpoint Aquarius*, originated in 1972 by Rex Dutta who, as readers will doubtless be aware, died in 1989. Then, last year, came the death of Frank Coulsing who produced the newsletter's Yoga/Meditation/Healing section.

However, the happier news is that their work is being continued and there are regular meetings the third Sunday of every month in Camberley (☎ 01276 21531 for details) and occasional Tuesday morning meetings in North London (☎ 0181-348 2831).

Also, those interested can study Theosophy via the Internet. The WWW address is <http://members.aol.com/HPB/welcome.htm> and the email address for the HPB Lodge is HPB.Lodge@aol.com

Many readers will know

Merlin's Cave bookshop in Ashby-de-la-Zouch which has served the local community well for many years. Sadly, this shop has now closed but the good news is twofold.

Firstly, its mail-order service is unaffected by the shop's closure, so make a note of the number ☎ 01530 415233. Secondly, the other branch, at 31 North End, Brighton, W. Sussex (☎ 01273 622859), remains open, so there is still somewhere to go and browse for a good book or two.

Postal library

One of the benefits of AA (Astrological Association) membership is access to their comprehensive library and the good news is that those outside London can now borrow astrology books via the new postal service. So, if interested in joining the AA, details are available from 396 Caledonian Road, London N1 1DN.

New ventures

The latest new Age shop to open is in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex. Called Moonbeams, opening hours are 9.30-4.30pm Monday to Saturday with early closing on Wednesdays at 1pm.

The stock carried includes crystals, gemstones, minerals, painted glassware, carved boxes, cards and books. So pop in to 1542 London Road (near Thames Drive traffic lights) for a browse, a coffee or herbal tea or phone Jean on ☎ 01268 462967.

Recently opened is the Peterborough School of Tarot at Unit 2, Arts Centre, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough PE2 5JQ. Currently on offer are evening classes (Mondays and Wednesdays 6.30-9.30pm),

day classes (Thursdays 9.30-12.30pm) for six consecutive weeks (£20 per session/£100 pre-booked) and weekend residential courses at £185. For more details contact Ray or Jean ☎/FAX 01733 232900.

Healing dreams

Author Brenda Mallon is now researching a further book and is asking readers to share their experiences of healing and dreams, including psychic phenomena, creativity and problem solving. As always, confidentiality will be retained so, if you feel you can help, write to Brenda at Healing Dreams, 7 Didsbury Park, Manchester M20 5LH (email lapwing@gn.apc.org) or call her on ☎ 0161-448 8780/FAX 0161 448 2269.

Experiencing astrology

The Astrological Association's (AA) 29th Annual Conference takes place September 5th-7th inclusive. This year's theme is *The Rhythms of the Sky* and speakers include Bernadette Brady, Robert Hand, Lindsay Radermacher, Barbara Schermer, Robert Schmidt and Erin Sullivan.

The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, in the beautiful Cotswolds hosts this year's conference which, as usual, offers a wide choice of workshops and lectures to suit all levels of expertise from novice to professional. Plus, of course, bookstall, computer software, astrological products, information on schools and organisations plus a range of optional extras including a guided visit to Avebury and Stonehenge on the 4th.

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NEWS & VIEWS

tails are available from AA 1997 Conference Bookings, 396 Caledonian Road, London N1 1DN (☎ 0171-700 3746/FAX 0171-700 6479).

An astrological workshop, *Soul Centred Astrology*, with Alan Oken takes place at the Beacon Centre, near Exeter, Devon, June 4th-7th. This three-day fully residential workshop costs £198 but spaces are limited so early booking is recommended; contact Joyce Hopewell, English Huber School of Astrological Counselling, PO Box 118, Knutsford, Cheshire WA 16 8TG (☎/FAX 01565 651131) for programme/bookings.

This workshop is one in the *Face to Face* series at the Beacon Centre in late May/early June. For further information either contact Joyce, as above, or Richard Llewellyn on ☎ 0151-606 8551/FAX 0151-605 0300.

Part Three of Paul Wade's *Written in the Stars* series of astrological workshops also takes place late May/June. These one-day sessions (10-4pm) deal with Relationships and Compatibility at an introductory (May 31st) and advanced (June 14th) level and cost £13 each. The venue is Brighton College of Technology, Connaught Centre, Connaught Road, Hove, East Sussex BN3 3WB (☎ 01273 736491).

Fair deals

If you are a clairvoyant or psychic living or working in the Leicester area, perhaps you should get in touch with psychic fair organiser, T. Allen, who is seeking readers for events planned later this year. If interested, call ☎ 0116 2762306.

Another psychic fair organiser, Nigel Kerr, wishes to contact potential exhibitors - readers, healers, stallholders, etc. He is based in Cornwall so, if interested, call ☎ 01822 833892 for more information.

Shooting stars

A unique exhibition which interprets the signs of the zodiac is on show at The Association of Photographers, 9-10 Domingo Street, London EC1Y 0TA, April 29th-May 10th. Opening times are 9.30-6pm Mon-Fri and 12-4pm Sat; admission free.

Diary dates

2nd. Shamanic Meditation Workshop with Satori at The Research House, 86 Marylebone High St, London, W1M 3DE. 7.30-10.00pm. For more details call Mr R. Hill on ☎ 0181-539 9686.

2nd-4th. Circle Around the Sun. A weekend walking the Glastonbury Zodiac with Chris Craig and Jonathan Fryer. Details from Isle of Avalon Foundation, 2-4 High Street, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9DU (☎ 01458 833933/FAX 01458 831324).

3rd. Introduction to Shamanism. Morning workshop organised by Satori, venue as the 2nd. 9.30-12.30pm. For details call ☎ 0181-539 9686.

3rd. Myths, Legends and Sacred Landscapes. Evening talk and slide show with Roland Pargeter. 7.30-9.30pm. Details see 2nd-4th or call ☎ 01458 833933.

3rd. The Shamanic make-up of Man. Afternoon work-

shop organised by Satori, venue as the 2nd. 2-5pm. Details call ☎ 0181-539 9686.

3rd. Open Day at Isis, 1 Market Place, St Albans, Herts AL3 5DR. Healing events, talks and demonstrations throughout day, 9-6pm; £5/£2 single event (programme details ☎ 01727 866720).

3rd-4th. Spiritual Awareness and Healing Weekend. A seminar with Paul through the mediumship of Ray Brown in Leeds, Yorkshire. For further details/bookings call ☎ 01268 735 125.

3rd-4th. Mayan Dream-time Festival at the Assembly Rooms, Glastonbury, includes seminars, ceremony, sacred sound and meditations, art exhibition and concert. Details contact Amma-Ra ☎ 01485 544081.

4th-10th. Seeing & Sensing. Psychic self-development course with Sue Rowlands, Sue Woods and guest speaker at Tre-Ysgawen Hall, Capel Coch, Llangefni, Anglesey, North Wales LL77 7UR. Fully residential, £320 (single supplement £40). For 1997 programme, bookings and details call ☎ 01248 750750/FAX 01248 750035.

6th. Merlin and the Daemon. Evening talk with Paul Weston for Isle of Avalon Foundation. 7.30-9.30pm. Details see 2nd-4th or call ☎ 01458 833933.

9th. Creating the Global Sacred Grid. Evening talk with Terry Walsh in Glastonbury.

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A brief description of the contents is as follows:

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- In one month a man lands a £5,000 lottery win and gets a job promotion worth £1,600.
- A young waitress, not particularly bright or attractive, tries Cabalistic Magick in an ambitious bid for wealth. Two years later she has become a millionaire, owns several restaurants, and marries a rich banker.
- A special money rite for "immediate day-to-day" situations. Extremely simple it is for those desirous of meeting short-term financial obligations.
- Unveiled: Cabalistic Secrets of Moses and Solomon.
- The truth about **astral travelling**. Many authors complicate this subject, others over-simplify it; the result is that few ever achieve it. The Master Grimoire explains **exactly how it is achieved**, and reveals the **secret magickal rite** for attaining a successful astral projection within one week of beginning the instructions.
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- A middle-aged widow, in financial difficulty, unexpectedly gets and weds a wealthy bachelor.
- To **Compel a Stranger to Introduce Himself/Herself** Cabalistic ceremony, it builds an **irresistibly magnetic-compelling effect** on the person you wish to influence. Perhaps not "ethical", but if you really want someone this will work for you.
- **Make Someone Contact You Rite**: can be used for all sorts of situations, including re-awakening the interest and passions of an old flame!
- The "**Bombshell**" **Venus Love Ceremony**: it enabled one girl to get her boyfriend back from a rival, and persuaded him to marry her immediately! Another woman used it on her always "too busy" husband and found him turn into a hot latin lover!
- A woman, plain and unattractive, found her true Soul Mate and became the envy of her more attractive sisters.
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- **How to use magickal ritual to heal yourself and others**. Demonstrates the powerful healing methods of ceremonial magick. A woman who had suffered for years without relief from a painful stomach ulcer suddenly finds pains greatly reduced after trying magick. A month later her doctor pronounced her completely healed. Even more amazing stories of miraculous healings of "hopeless" cases are related!
- A **fabulous ancient beauty rite**: a woman in her mid 30s uses it and finds facial lines receding. Four years later they still haven't reappeared! An unattractive man uses it and suddenly finds himself the centre of female attention.
- The sensational **Ancient Youth Ceremony**: partially revealed in other grimoires, but here it is in its **complete form** for the first time! This is a centuries old jealously guarded magickal secret, and like the other rites and ceremonies is **very easy to perform!** Case histories include an elderly man who gains incredible virility; a woman loses weight and feels 25 years younger - even attracting the attention of younger men; a middle-aged divorcee finds herself transformed, facial lines receded, hair texture stronger, bust firmer, and as an exciting "bonus" acquires an adoring young lover!
- **Evil-crushing magickal ceremonies that reverse psychic attack**, and create total invisible protection for yourself, for loved ones, and property!
- **Master Grimoire techniques that triple the power, speed, and effect of all your magickal workings.**

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

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

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

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

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

NEWS & VIEWS

7.30-9.30pm. Details as for 2nd-4th or call ☎ 01458 833933.

10th. Chant & Heal. Meditation, mantras and sound, with Melanie Abhassara at Flint House, 41 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 2LU. 10-4pm; £25/£18 cons. For more details call ☎ 01273 473388.

10th. Introduction to Aura-Light Colour Therapy with Gabrielle Symonds at Flint House, address as above. 10-5pm; £25/£18 cons. Details call ☎ 01273 473388.

10th. Predictive Astrology to Change Your Life. One-day horary seminar with John Frawley in Highgate, North London. Suitable for all levels; details call ☎ 0181-365 2553.

10th-11th. Natural Healing Exhibition for the Mind, Body & Soul at the Charter Hall, Colchester Leisure World, Colchester, Essex. Stands, lectures and demonstrations; wide range of healing and complementary medicine. 10-6pm daily; £3. For more details call ☎ 01206 795866/FAX 01206 794197.

10th. Basic Shiatsu with George Forbes at Flint House (see 10th for venue). 10-5pm; £30/£23 cons. Bookings/details ☎ 01273 473388.

11th. Re-Expressing the Birth Chart. CPA seminar with Charles Harvey, 10.30-5pm. Details from BCM Box 1815, London WC1N 3XX or ☎/FAX 0181-7492330.

11th-17th. Pathways of

Communication with Paul Jacobs, Sue Rowlands and Joan Lambert at Tre-Ysgawen Hall. Fully residential course of psychic and mediumistic unfoldment; £320. Bookings/details see 4th-10th or call ☎ 01248 750750.

13th. The Yod. An astrological discussion with Mariella Cassar for Bromley Astrological Association at The Small Hall, Bromley Central Library, High Street, Bromley. 7.30-10.00pm. Entrance £1/£3 non-members. Details call Dione Smith on ☎ 0181-464 2097.

13th. Witchcraft — the Rebirth. Evening talk with Paul Weston in Glastonbury. 7.30-9.30pm. Details 2nd-4th or ☎ 01458 833933.

14th. Andrew Carnegie: Benefactor or Tyrant? Evening talk with Anne Sweeney for the Scottish Astrological Association at The Theosophical Society, 28 Great King Street, Edinburgh. Starts 7.30pm; £1/£2 non-members. Details Susan Swan on ☎ 0131-557 2908.

16th. The Far Side of Far Memory. Humorous tales of regression with Frances Taylor for BAPS Southwest Branch at The Grange, Clyst Heath, Woodwater Lane, Exeter. Starts 7.30pm. bookings essential for personal sessions. Details/bookings for personal regression sessions call Sue on ☎ 01392 832005.

16th. More about Crystals. Evening talk with Christine Hull in Glastonbury. 7.30-9.30pm. Details 2nd-4th or ☎ 01458 833933.

16th-18th. Astrology, Tarot & Psychic Development. Weekend workshop with Sasha Fenton for Leicester Astrological Society at Countesthorpe College, Countesthorpe, Leicester. Non-residential, £35 complete or £5 *Psychic Development* (Fri eve); £18 *Astrology* (Sat); £15 *Tarot* (Sun). Details: Mary Clark ☎ 0116-277 7153.

16th-18th. SSPP Conference 1997 at Old Jourdans, Beaconsfield. Fully residential £125/£138 non-members; daily rates available. Places limited, booking closes April 14th; details call Mrs Graham on ☎ 0181-876 7544 (7.30pm-9.30pm).

16th-18th. 5th Annual Astrology and Stock Market Conference sponsored by the Astrologers Fund at Hotel Intercontinental, New York City, USA. For programme/details call ☎ 001 (212) 949 7275/email: AFund@aol.com URL: <http://www.afund.com>

16th-18th. A Weekend with the Mahatma Letters at the Southern Federation Spring Conference with guest speaker Alan Hughes. Fee £70 inc light refreshments. For more details contact the Theosophical Society on ☎ 0171-935 9261 or Donald Murray on ☎ 01869 241248.

18th-24th. The Sacred Dance of Life with Bobby Kovacs at Tre-Ysgawen Hall. Fully residential, details as 4th-10th or call ☎ 01248 750750.

23rd-26th. Practical Astrology Workshop with Bruno and Louise Huber for The English

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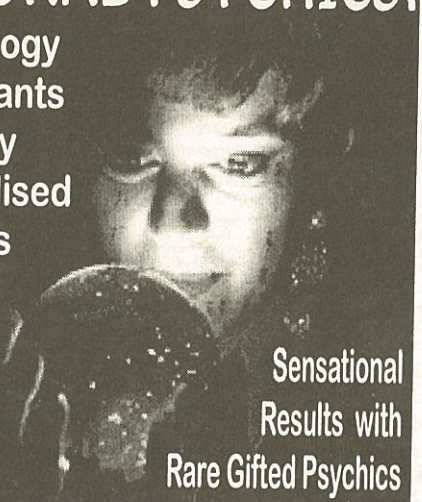
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NEWS & VIEWS

Huber School of Astrological Counselling at the Beacon Centre, Nr Exeter, Devon. Fully residential £161.50 (£25 deposit required with booking). Contact Joyce Hopewell, EHSAC at PO Box 118, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 8TG or ☎ 01565 651131.

24th-25th. Crystal Healing. Introductory workshop with John and Ann Cooper at The Frontia, Complementary Health Care Centre, 4 Bath Road, Worcester. Weekend £30 (£15 per day). Bookings/details phone Fiona or Rita on ☎ 0181-686 0558 or pop in at The Frontia.

24-25th. The International Cross Colour Healing Workshop at Silver Wings Healing & Enlightenment Centre, The Vines, Robbs Lane, Outwell, Wisbech, Cambs, PE14 8PN. Spaces limited; bookings/details call June on ☎ 01945 773806.

25th. AA Tour of British Museum with Ian Freer. A guided tour of astrological and related exhibits in the world's most popular museum. £5/£10 non-members. Bookings call ☎ 0171-700 3746.

24th-June 1st. 21st Mind, Body & Spirit Festival at The Royal Horticultural Halls, Greycoat St, London SW1 (10 mins from Victoria Station). Stalls, free demos, full workshop/lecture programme. 10-7pm daily except 25th-30th (11-6pm); entrance £8/£5 cons/children free (midweek half price). Programme/details call ☎ 0171-938 3788.

25th-31st. Astrology Week with Marcia Day and Clare Morgan at Tre-Ysgawen Hall. Fully residential, details as 4th-10th or call ☎ 01248 750750.

28th. Imagine, Mr Jones. Evening talk with Sara Dunkley

for the Scottish Astrological Association in Edinburgh. Starts 7.30pm; £1/£2 non-members. Details see 14th or call ☎ 0131 557 2908.

29th-June 1st. Your Health Show at Olympia, London. The latest in health, beauty and vitality including food, cookery, complementary medicine and therapies. 10-6pm daily; entrance £8/£6 if booked in advance (ticket hotline ☎ 0171-373 3733).

31st. Astrology: Looking to the Future. Oxford Astrology Group Conference at Ruskin College, Oxford. 10-5.30pm. Details call Louise Jones ☎ 01993 702813.

31st. FAS Seminar: Subpersonalities. Experiential workshop with Babs Kirby at ASC, 396 Caledonian Road, London N1 1DN; 10.30-5.30pm. Details ☎ 07000 790143/FAX 01689 603537.

ALIEN OUTLOOK

And now for something completely different! *Contact Cards* is the title of the latest divinatory package from Bear & Co, publishers of the ever popular *Medicine Cards*.

Here the theme is extraterrestrial with the 60-card deck divided into five suits: Aliens, Ships, Stars, Planets and Crop Circles. The cards depict 12 different images in each category; there are 12 different types of spaceship, for instance, ranging from a probe to a complete space station and each is allocated a specific attribute.

Contact Cards are the brainchild of Kim Carlsberg and Darryl Anka who is also responsible for the illustrations which, incidentally, are in black and white (there is a different coloured border for each of the five suits). Details of each card's significance and how they are used are explored fully in the 192-page hardback book that completes the package.

All in all a thoroughly modern approach to divination that will appeal to those who wish to expand their awareness of inner as well as outer space. On sale through selected outlets, *Contact Cards* cost \$30/£25.



PALMISTRY

by PETER WEST

THE ART OF DIPLOMACY

Few of us are really as honest with ourselves as we should be. So many of us ignore signals we ought to observe when we deal with others.

Most of us know, or think we know, our limitations. Of course, there is nothing to stop us from trying to better ourselves — to try to exceed what we think are those limitations — but not at the expense of relationships or our personal integrity.

We try so hard to present the right face all the time because we all need to be accepted by our peers. We all have this need to be appreciated by everyone and, just as we create a picture of everyone we meet so, therefore, must they form a picture of us as well.

Basically, there are two types of people: those who feel the need to present the best picture at all times or those who choose to ignore this and accept others on the picture that they themselves create of these other folk. This leads to all kinds of problems in many a relationship, often when least expected. Such difficulties are usually hard to overcome.

The art of diplomacy, expertise in managing relations with others, is something many of us have to a greater or lesser degree but just as many do not!

Hand sizes

People with large hands and good, well-etched major lines on the palms are pretty good at managing people. They are quite adroit in the way they propose answers to problems.

They have an eye for detail, are particular about how proposals they make could affect all parties concerned. They seek perfection wherever and whenever possible. Basically truthful and honest, not only with themselves but also with others, they expect this in return.

When the hand is stiff or unyielding there will be an element of self-preservation in their overall make-up. A slightly more elastic hand allows them to be far more pliable but with less of the high standards of the stiff hand. The yielding or flabby hand denotes a weak but, surprisingly, an obstinate character as well.

These folk rarely take the feelings of others into consideration when dealing with them. They tend to be unsympathetic: there is little sentiment in their make-up. There is a tendency to use people for their own ends then drop them when they have no more use for them.

People with small hands tend to see all. Little escapes them as a rule. However, having said that, their capacity for detail is often very limited. They can only conceive plans and ideas on the grand scale, the rest is left to others.

Those with small, firm hands usually have unbounded energy and, should both the head and heart lines be well formed, they will also possess largesse.

They are the first to help others with all the tact and diplomacy they can bring to bear — but only if they like you. If you are not in favour then expect nothing unless you have something they can use to their advantage.

These people are never afraid to shoulder responsibility and will not shrink from hard work either. The ability to bluff is often second nature and when they negotiate they do it very well.

Fingers

When the first finger is long, straight and square expect to find a diplomat of the first order. When there is a wide space between the thumb and the index finger there will be a great love of fair play and justice for all. They make great diplomats and when (rather than if) they defeat you in any negotiations you will be made to feel honourable and comfortable. There is no loss of face or shame in losing to them.

However, should the space be narrow or the index is pointed at the tip, expect to find the same clever diplomat but one with a very well-developed sense of self-preservation. This is the type who has a good escape route and who will use it the minute he/she feels the time is right to decamp. They also leave everyone else to share the blame.

If the first finger is very long and pointed expect a good degree of self-deception. Such folk fall prey to their own wild imagination and strongly marked ambitions. They can and will sacrifice anyone and everyone to achieve their goals.

When the index fingers are pointed and have knots at either of the phalanges the nature is far more reasonable. Their behaviour is more constant and there is a better understanding of others. There may also be an excellent intuitive streak.

A long and straight middle finger makes the owner rather serious: the type who always puts something away for a rainy day but then never uses it even if it storms. They do not take chances. When they practise diplomacy it will be with a great deal of self-preservation in the back of their minds all the time.

When the first and second fingers are of the same length there is an inclination to gamble, to take more chances in negotiations. Should both the first and second fingers be rather short expect to find a gambler of the first order. These folk do not practise diplomacy, they just gamble

their way through life.

A middle and third finger of the same length shows an unbalanced attitude in business matters. These folk are unlikely to prosper for long because of the unnecessary risks they take.

The third finger signifies the artistic aspects of life, whether inspirational, professional or purely as a hobby. A straight and well-formed finger suggests practicality with a sense of realism and dedication. Such people negotiate with an innate sense of what might be — as against what does happen. They have a sixth sense that helps them deal with people at all levels at all times, especially when the tip is spatulate.

These are people who sense how a dialogue is going and who can make the necessary adjustments to even things out in their favour. People with square tips on this finger are rather more selfish in their approach to life. There is a great love for creature comforts and

the pleasures of life. Little will steer them away from these.

The little finger is often the best indicator of the diplomat, certainly of how the person communicates. Should the tip reach the nail phalange of the third finger or be slightly longer there will be a good command of language. These people so enjoy self-expression. They like to talk — and talk they can!

When there is a square tip to the little finger expect to find strong diplomatic and negotiating powers. If pointed, a sense of humour or just plain fun can dominate the way they communicate.

It is better for this tip to be supple. This helps them to be more accommodating in their negotiations. The firmer or stiffer the tip the more they stick to accepted principles, and a very stiff little fingertip denotes a rigid adherence to the rules. Such people offer nothing and expect nothing in return.

Figure 2 (below)

Short fourth finger

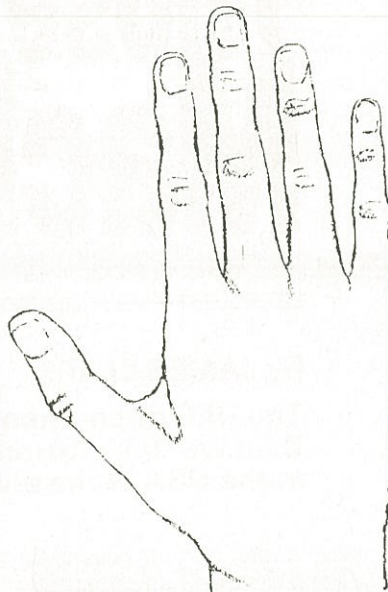


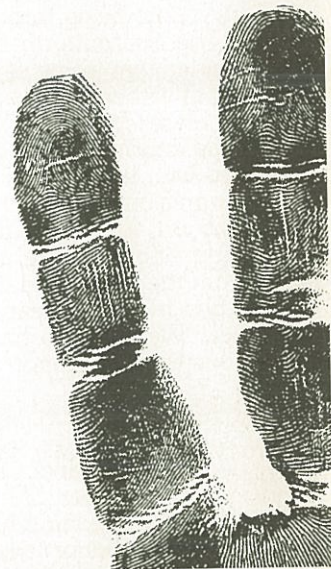
Figure 1 (above)

Wide gap between thumb and index finger shows a love of fair play

Note the knotted or prominent finger joints

Figure 3 (below)

Long, square-tipped first finger



This year sees the 50th anniversary of Kenneth Arnold's famous sighting of what came to be known as flying saucers. Although this encounter is often said to have begun the UFO era, reports of mysterious aircraft are actually much older than a mere half-century.

Even ignoring biblical and other ancient accounts, the first real UFO flap occurred not in 1947 but twice as long ago, with the great airship wave that swept across the USA during 1896 and 1897. Shouldn't we therefore be celebrating the 100th anniversary of this?

During October 1896 newspapers began to report unidentified craft in the skies over Nebraska. At that time the only dirigible airships (those that didn't just drift with the breeze but could be steered) that should have been flying were a few prototypes being tested in Europe. This small detail didn't deter the witnesses, though, and isolated accounts of airships flying above the United States continued to come in.

On November 17th the first major sighting took place. On that date, at some time between 6pm and 7pm, large numbers of townsfolk in Sacramento, California, watched what seemed to be 'an electric arc lamp' come flying through the air. The *Sacramento Bee* later reported that 'some of the hundreds of witnesses who obtained a closer view said the object was enormous and cigar-shaped with large wings attached to an aluminium body.'

It went on to report that shouts and laughter were also heard from the object and that at least two men had heard a voice call, 'We hope to be in San Francisco by tomorrow noon!'

What may well have been the same object that was spotted by people in Oakland, California, on November 22nd, though this time the lamp was described as a bright white searchlight. According to the *Oakland Tribune*, the object

'moved rapidly, going at least 20 miles an hour' before turning quickly and departing.

The story spread quickly and in the excitement reports starting flooding in from surrounding towns. In Stockton, a night watchman told how he had been patrolling a building on November 23rd when a cigar-shaped craft with smoke coming from both ends had arrived with two loud booms and flown low over him.

On November 24th, a crowd in Red Bluff noticed a star-like light moving rapidly through the sky. Then, on November 25th, came what is probably the first claim of attempted alien abduction.

The *Stockton Evening Mail* reported that Colonel H.G. Shaw and a companion had encountered three strange, hairless beings near Lodi, California. These beings, who

across the country until on April 9th 1897 they reached Chicago where there were 'thousands of amazed spectators' (*New York Herald*, April 11th). Many of the eyewitnesses declared that they could discern a winged, moving cigar-shaped body behind the bright searchlight and its accompanying red and green lights.

Astronomers, however, were not convinced and a Professor Hough trained a telescope on the object. After examining it, he pronounced it to be Alpha Orionis, a first magnitude star in the constellation of Orion and explained the varicoloured lights as the effect of Earth's atmosphere.

The professor's statement did little to dispel the reports, though, and it wasn't long before there was a new development; people started finding letters allegedly written by the

Those Flying Machines

by JAMES CLARK

The UFO phenomenon may be a lot older than we think. Strange craft were observed in the USA at the end of the last century.

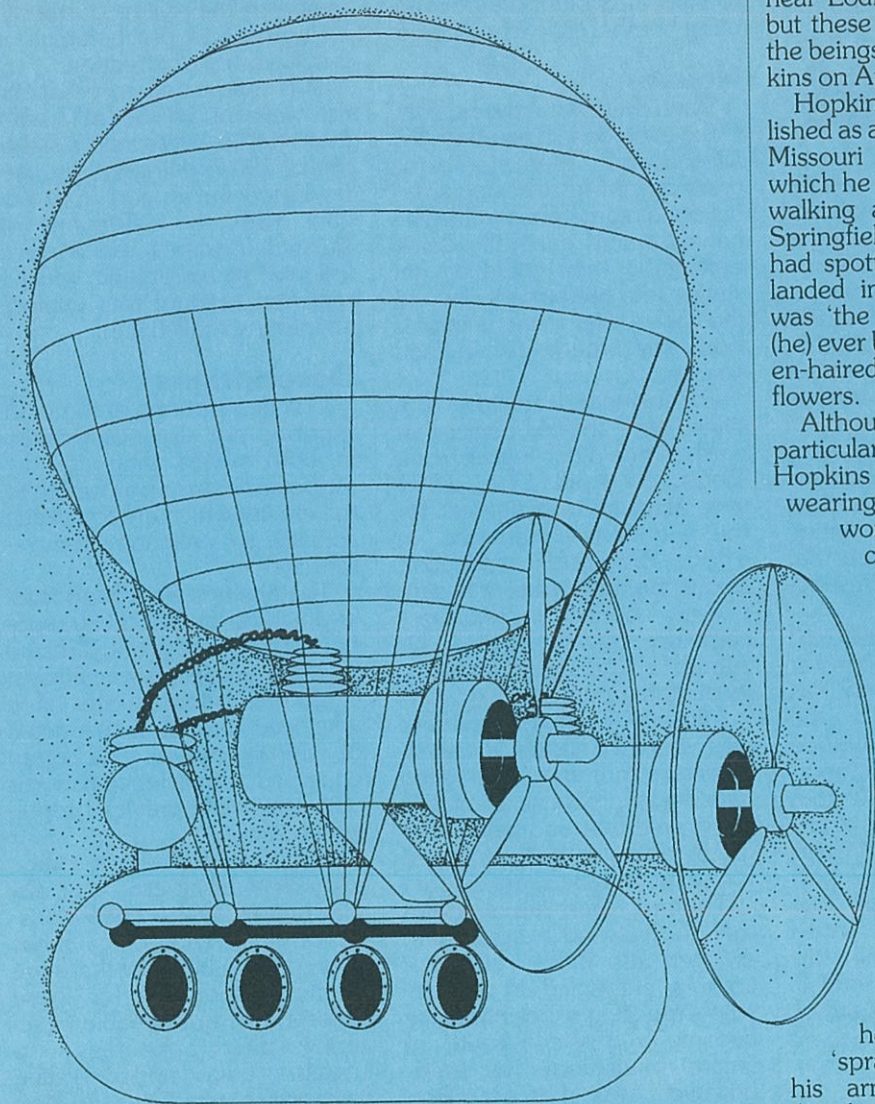
were 'nearly or quite seven feet tall and slender' had apparently tried to force the pair into a nearby hovering airship but, on discovering that they lacked sufficient strength, gave up, fled to their craft 'with a swaying motion' and left.

The airship sightings continued, spreading Eastward

airship's crew. The *New York Herald* of April 15th carried the story of a letter discovered attached to an iron rod stuck into the ground on a farm near Appleton, Wisconsin.

This purported to be from the airship Pegasus and explained that the crew had spent the last month test-flying their

Prediction



craft and were now satisfied it was a success. 'We have been able to attain a speed of 150 miles an hour, and have risen to a height of 2,500 feet above the sea level.'

On April 17th an envelope was found on a farm near Astoria, Illinois. Written on this was a request from the airship crew to the finder to mail the enclosed letter to Thomas A. Edison. The actual letter, which was written in cipher, was dated April 16th and was signed, 'C.L. Harris, electrician, Airship N.3.'

The *New York Herald* showed Edison the letter but, after glancing at it, the inventor responded 'You can take it from me that this is a pure fake. I have had several men in my employ, but I know nothing of C. L. Harris.' He went on to insist that American airships did not exist.

Letters continued to appear but if it was unclear who was sending them, it was equally unclear what the crew(s) looked like. We have already learned of the three would-be alien abductors encountered

near Lodi in November 1896 but these bear little relation to the beings met by Mr E H Hopkins on April 16, 1897.

Hopkins' claim was published as a letter in the *St Louis, Missouri Post Dispatch* in which he told how he had been walking across fields East of Springfield, Missouri, when he had spotted a 20-foot airship landed in a clearing. Nearby was 'the most beautiful being (he) ever beheld,' a petite, golden-haired woman picking flowers.

Although the day wasn't particularly warm — indeed Hopkins emphasised he was wearing an overcoat — the woman fanned herself continuously with 'a fan of curious design.'

She was accompanied by a man 'of noble proportions and majestic countenance' resting in the shade of the craft and also fanning himself. Hopkins wondered 'if Adam and Eve had come back to Earth again.'

When the couple noticed their observer, the woman shrieked and ran to her companion who 'sprang to his feet, threw his arms around her and glared . . . in a threatening manner.' However, Hopkins was able to persuade them of his peaceful intentions and soon was engaged in conversation using signs to overcome their lack of a common language.

He asked where they had come from and when they finally understood the question they 'gazed upward for a moment as if looking for some particular point.' They then gestured in a certain direction and spoke a word 'that sounded something like Mars.'

Expressing wonder at this, Hopkins was invited into the craft which shortly after began to lift off. He leapt out and

Those Flying Machines

watched as 'the vessel rose lightly as a bird' with the man and woman laughing and waving at him, then it 'shot away like an arrow' and was quickly gone.

A rather more Earthly origin for the airship was reported by Captain James Hooten after he encountered the vessel in Homan, near Texarkana, on around April 20th. His story was published in the *Arkansas Gazette* and told how he had been returning from hunting when he'd heard a noise that sounded to him like a Westinghouse air brake.

A man wearing smoked glasses was tinkering around at the airship's rear and, as Hooten approached, he looked up in surprise, wished Hooten a good day and, upon being asked, confirmed that this was indeed the famous airship. Three or four other men emerged from the ship's keel and announced that all was ready, whereupon the entire crew re-boarded and the ship lifted off. 'In less time than it takes to tell,' it had gone out of sight.

Explanations

So what was it that was being seen by so many people? There were many explanations popular at the time. A large number of people were convinced that what they were seeing were genuine airships, built in secret by American inventors and being test-flown.

While not impossible, this idea does have one serious flaw; the craft were obviously successful so why have their creators vanished from history? A Chicago preacher sincerely believed that the vessels heralded the Second Coming of Christ, while a rival theory had it that there were six airships being flown around by anarchists whose intention was

to start a revolution by distributing bombs, etc to the people.

Hoaxes

Then there were the hoaxes. Once everyone knew about the alleged craft, pranksters took great delight in releasing small balloons, sometimes with fires beneath, and generally doing everything they could to get stories into the papers. Two of the most famous accounts from this time were, in fact, hoaxes.

For instance, the story of a silver, cigar-shaped object that crashed into a hill near Aurora, Texas, on April 17th, 1897 was actually investigated for the Condon Committee in 1966. The craft's dead pilot, said to be a Martian, was supposedly buried in Aurora's cemetery but investigator Dr Alfred E. Kraus was unable to locate the remains.

Likewise, when the crash site was searched using a metal detector, nothing interesting was found. Kraus eventually discovered that an ageing telegraph operator had confessed to the hoax some years before.

Thomas Hamilton's claim that he watched a cow being dragged into the air after becoming entangled in an airship's mooring ropes has since become a classic account of animal mutilation. The truth, however, was that Hamilton belonged to a 'liar's club' whose members competed to tell the tallest tales and the fact that this story was indeed a hoax was reported as long ago as 1943.

That said, it does seem probable that there was some underlying genuine phenomenon involved. Many honest folk who believed that they had witnessed the mysterious airship were undoubtedly seeing only stars — in their excitement convincing themselves they could see a dark shape behind the light.

Yet surely something must have happened to trigger off this wave of near-hysteria. Even if the answer lies ulti-

mately in the realms of the sociologists and psychologists it is still worthy of attention.

It is interesting to compare the wave of 1896–1897 with that started by Arnold's sighting in 1947. Although the latter lasted far longer, both began with a scattering of isolated incidents which were followed by a dramatic, widely-reported account that exploded into a so-called flap.

Descriptions

The descriptions of the craft reported are also noteworthy. In both waves they are described in terms appropriate to the era yet which are too vague actually to enlighten the researcher.

The airships were supposedly powered by electricity, supported by gas bags and directed by huge propellers or paddles. While the flying saucers were advanced aircraft, constructed of shining metal and often equipped with science-fiction's ubiquitous 'anti-gravity' propulsion systems.

The trend continues today, with silent black craft that display many of the characteristics of stealth technology. It has been proposed that if there are entities responsible for these objects they are capable of altering their appearance to match our understanding and/or expectations and that this is why the general shape of UFOs alters with the passage of time.

Alternatively, some believe that the true appearance of these craft is so alien to us that our brains can only interpret them in familiar ways, hence sightings which follow trends.

It seems unlikely now that we will ever know for certain what lay behind the airship wave but flaps do still occur and we should continue studying them as they happen. We should not, however, neglect the past and the events of 1896–1897 may yet prove to hold valuable clues that will one day enable us to understand these mysterious phenomena.

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On The Force

It is perfectly possible to learn to perceive and attune to the life force in all things.

by **CHRISTOPHER KENWORTHY**

What is life? This may seem like an obvious question because we can easily distinguish between something living from something that is dead. There is a mystery here, however, which can give you access to paranormal energy.

Some people believe that there is a detectable life force, perhaps created by living beings or maybe giving life to inanimate matter. Whatever this force is, it can be felt with practice and, once you are aware of it, you can use it in many beneficial ways.

Nobody is certain what the life force is exactly but various theories abound. For instance, some people are convinced that it is a natural energy, created by the physics and biology of evolution; a natural result of life on Earth. Others say that the energy comes from a higher power and is a form of soul energy which gives life to humans, animals and plants.

However, it doesn't really matter which opinion you subscribe to because all that is necessary in order to appreciate and use the life force, is that you are open to the idea of its existence. If you find this concept difficult to grasp, think of those occasions when you have felt fully alive and at one with nature. Sometimes these feelings only last for a few moments, at others they can last for days and days.

You may have found yourself feeling that nature was truly alive around you, not necessarily sentient but somehow giving off an energy that made you feel good. At other times it

may even have made you feel nervous or overwhelmed.

You may have felt this same force when surrounded by people, too. It is more difficult to recognise the force in people because there are so many other emotions and moods that can influence your feelings, yet it is still there.

Exercises

Try to recall times when you have been aware of this life force. If nothing springs readily to mind, your senses may need opening up more with the following exercises. If you do recall times when you felt the life force, understand them for what they were; at the time you may have dismissed your sensations as imagination or a good mood. Understand now that you were in touch with a primal and beautiful source of life.

The best way to detect the life force is to observe nature calmly, without trying too hard to sense its presence. If you try and try to detect what is there, you may frustrate your efforts. It's like trying to look at dim stars: if you stare straight at them, they disappear; you need to look just to the side, using the more sensitive part of your retina.

The same is true of the life force; mentally, you should look to the side. In practice this means that you should observe passively, allowing your senses to be true rather than trying to force any appreciation. If you try too hard you may simply become annoyed or irritated, so take your time and observe nature in a relaxed way.

Wherever you live, go for a

walk and look for things that are living and growing as well as things that are dead or decaying. Even if you live in a city this shouldn't be too difficult, there are trees, plants and animals practically everywhere.

At this stage all you are trying to do is detect whether something is growing vigorously or whether it is past its peak, dying, dead or decaying. Don't try to sense the force directly, just observe the plants and animals around you, decide what state they are in.

Sometimes this is obvious, as with a young sapling or a pile of rotten leaves. In other cases it might not be so clear, as with an Autumnal tree; part of which is alive and well, other parts dying and falling away. You may find it difficult to decide but this is all right; it is the act of observing and trying to make a decision that counts.

You don't have to spend too long with this exercise. Ten minutes is enough, but you may find that you enjoy it and immediately feel more aware of the life around you. If so, that is fine but be aware that actually detecting the life force is essentially a paranormal experience.

Surprise

As such, when it comes, it may be quite a surprise. Try not to be too shocked because the paranormal often retreats when you are too surprised. You shouldn't exactly take things for granted but should be prepared for the strange and accept this as a normal part of the universe.

Be aware that things which are hidden can be seen when you allow them to come into view. With this in mind you can progress to the next stage.

You should now become aware of any emotions that come to light when observing nature. Again, don't try to force anything. If you try to

generate emotions in a desperate 'make it work' mind-set, you will simply delude yourself. Again, passive observation is required, both of nature and of yourself.

This isn't as difficult as it may sound because everything we look at creates some sort of emotion in us. For instance, if you look at a packet of cigarettes this might create various emotions such as desire, anger or nostalgia. All objects have this capacity to affect us. Usually, this emotional effect is created by our own memories and associations.

It's the same as smelling a perfume that you haven't smelt for a long time and recalling an exact emotion from years before. Everything we see can create an emotional response, even if only a small one. The key to detecting the life force is to observe and be aware of any emotions you experience.

With nature, there is also a chance that your memory and association will create some response. If you see a rowan tree, for instance, this might hold poignant memories for you. If so, be aware of them, then put them aside. You are looking for a purer, less personal emotion. Go for a walk, perhaps the same walk you have practised your exercises on, and observe nature, observe your emotions.

If you are relaxed and open to this idea, you will find that in time you begin to detect two distinct emotional responses. One for matter that is living and vigorous, the other for matter which is dying, dead or decaying. Once you become aware of them, they will feel quite obvious to you.

The most important point is

that you don't try to create these feelings but allow them to arise gradually and they will be genuine. If you follow these simple instructions, in time you will become aware of these emotions. Living matter will have an emotion that might remind you of a cool, Spring sunset. Decaying or dead matter will feel more like night, perhaps like starlight.

Sensations

Most observers believe that these sensations are caused by different aspects of the life force. It isn't that one energy is dead and the other alive; both are the life force, doing different jobs. Decaying matter is simply preparing to become alive again in other forms. Recognising this cycle can be an uplifting experience in itself.

For some people, sensing these emotional states is all there is to detecting the life force. For others, it can become more visual and they find that observing life produces definite haloes and patterns around or over creatures and plants. Some people actually see the life force.

There is no technique to be learnt, except to observe nature with the intention of seeing its life force. Do this and you will find a level of appreciation that suits you, the individual.

So, once aware of the life force, how can you use it? You will probably find that, simple as it sounds, being aware of the life force improves your enjoyment of life. It makes you realise just how alive and mysterious the universe is.

Often, we

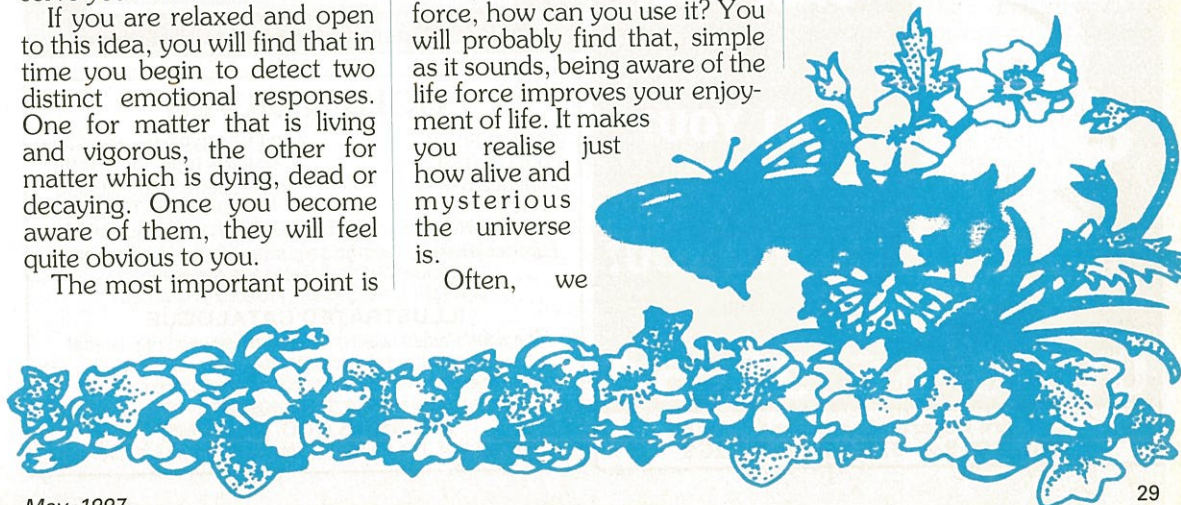
think of the universe as mechanical and cold, peopled by organic machines, without meaning. Such thinking is destructive and damages all occult and psychic work. By becoming more aware of the life force you will find your own flashes of psychic insight and occult workings will be empowered.

You can also try to use the life force in healing, magic and other psychic practices. The secret is to be aware of the life force and to allow it to flow through you. If you try to steal it or hoard it, very little will happen. But if you become aware of it and let it pass through you as you work, your results should be improved.

Many forms of magic try to create an intense atmosphere, but inside the home it is difficult to generate primal, intense feelings. As anybody who has practised a ritual out of doors knows, nature is automatically an empowering force.

Performing even the simplest magic outside is an energising experience far more intense than can be achieved indoors. Once you are aware of the life force, this power can become even more significant.

Whatever the true nature of the life force, you can detect it in your own way, allow it into your life and use it to improve your psychic abilities.



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

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

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

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

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THE TAROT

by JOHN CHRISTOPHER TRAVERS

SEVEN OF SWORDS

The illustration is one of the oddest in the Swords suit and often misunderstood. Nothing new there, as so many illustrations are misconstrued.

The thief, stealing away from an armed camp, appears to take with him a valuable collection of weapons, albeit leaving two Swords behind acting as sentinels. However with this particular picture there is at least an undercurrent of meaning that does throw some much-needed light on the matter.

Of course, we are once again in the realms of symbols, the obvious one being the theft itself. Any indication of such a loss, whether it be a personal experience in a dream or an actual event, usually indicates a need to look at one's own character which is under some strain.

There is an indication of bad luck on its way which will affect the reputation. The Seven of Swords (in itself, in a spread or interpreting it) thus indicates a need to take care with anything that affects one's reputation.

The symbol of the swords is not too dissimilar, as it shows a form of defeat in any situations where rivals are concerned. As this would affect one's reputation as well, the message is very clear: take care in upcoming actions and try to ensure, if that is in any way possible, that one's reputation is above reproach. Not easy but at least the warning is there.

The man carrying the swords is also running away from danger which hints a losses which may not be avoided.

The fact that it is a military camp in the background of the illustration has a symbolic meaning all its own. It links to relationships and endings that separate, perhaps leading to a divorce.

These are mundane meanings of the illustration, it is true, but whenever the Seven of Swords appears the indications are certainly not very favourable and it is time to take heed and not ignore the obvious trends.

There are other influences here too. The Swords Seven

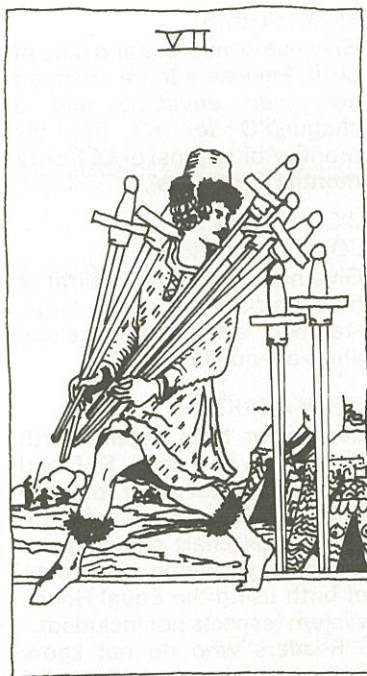
has long been considered as a card of secrets. There are possibilities of all kinds of clandestine events. These could be meetings or they might be connected to spying or state secrets that have to be kept out of the public eye.

The trouble is that there is a likelihood of these secrets coming to light or the persons involved being found out. Then a curious influence creeps in: is it in the common good to publicise whatever has been found out or is it better to let the matter remain in a closed circle.

The situation has to be carefully assessed before such a decision can be made as it is likely to create all kinds of opposition. And, especially these days, secrets have an unpleasant habit of being paraded before the public eye whether they are best revealed or not.

Yet another aspect of the Swords Seven is important to consider. There are times when obstacles and difficulties in life seem totally unsurmountable. The only solution seems to be to give in and cut one's losses as gracefully as possible.

This card of the Tarot is strongly advising the exact opposite. Give the problems further thought, make one final push to try and break down all the obstacles. Above all do not make any decision prematurely, just because the going is tough. In making one last effort the hoped-for breakthrough



will actually be possible and is likely to happen.

The reason is usually that changes have been on their way all the time and are well worth waiting for. By not acting precipitously, the chances of reversal and complete success become higher than ever. The reversal, in this instance, being the ending of the very obstacles that have seemed to be immovable before.

The problem with the Seven of Swords is that it is a contradictory card. Some of the influences it brings are certainly unpleasant and even unlucky. Others suggest that the challenges raised by the card can bring good fortune and success.

This ambivalence has made many writers about the Tarot, and this card in particular, make contradictory state-

ments. Hardly surprising but not helpful. In fact, most of the comments are perfectly correct simply because of the dual nature of the Swords Seven.

With this duality come alternatives. By thinking through the problems and assessing the opposing influences, a clearer picture emerges of what needs to be done. It might mean some doubtful or dubious actions or a need to force the issue.

It might mean running away to fight another day or to adopt tactics that belong to opposing sides. It could even mean evasion to avoid confrontation entirely. All of these are right: none of them totally wrong. It has to be a personal decision, as always according to the given circumstances and the personalities involved.

There is a curious influence connected to the Seven of Swords, one which suggests that higher powers could intervene. Man proposes, God disposes. It is as if what we would like to have happen may not be what destiny has in mind. Or even that, if the matter is so strongly important that no other recourse is possible, then a plea to those higher powers may be heard and intervention become a possibility.

Such pleas should be made only after all else fails and the matter has been given very careful thought. Any link to the powers of wisdom and to higher powers themselves will inevitably have a price that must be paid. The case may or may not be heard but on rare occasions it can be worth the try.

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ASTROLOGY SECTION



MAY

CHANGE IN THE AIR

A series of adverse astrological factors prior to the New Moon on May 6th suggests confusion in the political sphere. As Neptune and Mercury are at odds with each other we can expect that the shadow of scandal and rumour will hover over certain political figures. There may also be public outrage due to a sudden backtracking on government policies.

Once Mercury begins to move in a more positive direction from the 8th onwards we shall soon find whether certain rumours have a basis in fact. It's very much a time for revelations which will shed light on much that is dubious or unrealistic in current political or economic thinking.

This does not imply that there are no positive features in the cosmic pattern. Indeed, as Mars is forging ahead in the very practical sign of Virgo, we can hope that the employment situation continues to improve and industrial productivity increases.

Together with this encouraging Mars factor, Jupiter gives an auspicious boost to smaller business, community affairs and self-help groups. As

Jupiter and Uranus occupy Aquarius, a marked increase in the numbers of individuals and groups willing to experiment with alternative lifestyles is likely. A shift away from conventional patterns is indicated here, especially in education.

Already we are seeing a swing back to the old apprenticeship system in certain areas. This is understandable since our over-obsession with qualifications has ended in self-defeat. To work for several years for a qualification only to find that it is already outmoded when it comes to applying for a job is fast leading many to see the futility of the system, apart from its doing nothing in terms of real education.

Hopefully, too, the powerful activation of Aquarius will bring more appreciation of genuine community and co-operation. The idea that everything depends on competing will come under increasing criticism in the media. The irreversible damage that this view has done to our environment is only too apparent but perhaps there is some hope of a swing towards equilibrium while Uranus moves through Aquarius.

Generally speaking, it's a month when we will get a distinct feeling that change is in the air.

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

Information early in May will help sort out a financial problem.

However, this is not the best of times to make any hasty decision concerning your career, particularly if this might affect those closest to you. You are moving into a phase of increased financial stability but only if you stick to a fairly familiar path — at least for the time being.

Just prior to the New Moon on the 6th a series of tricky astrological aspects warns you to exercise patience where others are concerned.

The atmosphere seems rather vague and deceptive so take rumours with a large pinch of salt.

Avoid situations where you might say something that you'll regret, especially around the 5th. People are liable to misinterpret what you say and then broadcast it further afield so that you find yourself with a reputation for holding views that are not yours at all.

Once Mercury shifts back into the money area of your Solar chart on the 12th you can expect an end to any delays and a much more buoyant trend in all business and commercial activity. You can maximise the positive energies of Mercury by developing new money-making ideas, establishing contacts and giving more serious thought to skills that perhaps you have not been making best use of.

The most favourable dates for important financial and business transactions are the 15th, 17th, 20th, 25th and 29th. But tread carefully when Mercury is under stress on the 24th. Impulse and extravagance are likely to lead you astray.

If your life has been all work and little play since early in the year,

expect pleasant changes of routine during the latter half of April. Whether you have planned a break or not, the prevailing trend is excellent for those things that make life truly worth living.

Events during the third week are certain to bring you a great deal of pleasure. A short journey, a visit from a friend or maybe unexpected news will add spice to life. But remember, if you are aiming to achieve a better quality to your time, much will depend upon adopting the right attitude.

You have Saturn in your sign now which could incline you to make rather heavy weather of life and end up blaming everyone and everything else. You learn by experience under Saturn's rule and the message is that if improvement is to be made it is no good just hoping for the best. At best, Saturn inclines you to reflect so that you discover where you may have been sabotaging yourself.

Basically, you have a highly constructive month ahead. It's a time for serious thinking, getting priorities in order and pulling yourself out of a rut.

TAURUS

APRIL 21 TO MAY 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

One of the best qualities of Taureans is determination.

However, your determination can easily turn into sheer stubbornness which, in turn, creates antagonism. This is precisely what you need to watch out for in early May.

If certain people are being off-hand and hostile, the cause of this is probably your behaviour. You could easily become your own worst enemy by being too inflexible or by attempting to bulldoze others.

Provided you take heed of this and do something about it, then you can expect a highly satisfying month ahead, particularly in practical matters. Although you may feel that various minor problems keep distracting you from your main aims earlier in the month, you should be clear of these difficulties once Mercury re-enters your sign on the 12th. After this date you'll find that the pace of life gathers a more satisfying momentum and you'll feel confident about important decisions.

Enrichment and diversification are indicated during the third week. Plans and projects you were obliged to shelve earlier in the year will now come up again but with much better prospect of success. Don't be afraid to try out new ideas and interests in the latter half of May. This is an excellent time for developing creative energies and taking a more ambitious approach.

The word ambitious is highly apt in view of the prevailing pattern. The expansive planet Jupiter is riding high in your Solar chart, making this a time of great opportunity. And with Uranus accom-

panying Jupiter, opportunities are likely to be sudden or unexpected. Being rather cautious by nature, you often miss the main chance. However, as your self-confidence will be high now, you are more likely to make the right moves.

Whether aiming to further a career or begin a new one, be on the alert for new doors opening when Jupiter is highlighted on the 9th, 19th, 23rd and 28th. These dates are unusually fortunate for Taureans striving to further creative endeavours. The same applies if you are interested in a career in sports as Mars is definitely giving you a boost throughout the month!

For the romantically inclined, the first half of May offers the rosiest prospect. Your ruler, Venus, in your sign until the 10th ensures harmony and contentment in all close ties of love and affection. The Fates are definitely smiling on new love that blossoms now.

Towards the end of the month amorous affairs are again accentuated but with a danger of a short-lived, emotionally stressful affair. You may need to be very honest about your real feelings.

GEMINI

MAY 21 TO JUNE 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

You'll be tempted to spread your energies too widely during the early days of May.

If possible make a conscious effort to keep things simple and stick to what is most important. On the 5th steer well clear of webs of intrigue and gossip. Above all, don't interfere in others' emotional affairs or you'll end up taking the blame even if your intentions are well meant.

A situation that may have been causing underlying anxiety over the past month or so is likely to

reach a stage where it can be resolved. Events soon after the 8th will enable you to view things in clearer perspective. There seems to be a great sigh of relief as you realise that certain worries are unfounded.

There's good news for lovers in the coming month as the amorous planet Venus voyages through your sign. A relationship that has perhaps been undecided for several months is about to take a positive turn for the better. You'll notice favourable changes once Venus begins work from the 10th.

For those hoping to find the right partner, promising developments are forecast when Venus joins forces with other planets on the 17th, 18th, 24th and 28th. Each date has its own emphasis.

The 17th favours sudden, unexpected encounters or love at first sight. The 18th is particularly favourable for social life which could easily bring you in touch with someone special. The 24th favours those aiming to put a relationship on a more permanent and committed footing.

Lastly, the 28th brings very pas-

sionate affairs into focus but be warned of a danger of getting involved in a rather stressful emotional situation.

Whenever Venus is highlighted it is not only intimate affairs that flourish. This planet also makes you more conscious of your personal image and inclines you to be very sociable. Even without trying you'll find that your social life expands later in the month.

Venus is always a friend to those involved in artistic projects. Any activity that engages your creative energies will be both satisfying and rewarding at this time.

In matters closer to home, the prevailing trend suggests positive progress for those intent on making changes in domestic circumstances. After a rather frustrating phase, you'll now begin to see results for your efforts, especially if setting up home for the first time. It's the ideal month for newly weds!

The weeks ahead should turn out to be an enriching time for Geminians. Emotional matters become increasingly settled while home life and personal popularity gather fresh momentum.

CANCER

JUNE 21 TO JULY 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Until Mercury resumes normal pace on May 12th you'll feel that you're swimming against the stream.

The best way to handle this is to set your own pace and not allow everyday pressures to determine all your actions. There is a danger that others may blackmail you emotionally into taking on extra chores but it might be better to say no. If someone does you a favour, don't feel that you are obliged to return it immediately.

Having Saturn in the top sector of your Solar chart at present and for some time to come, the pattern of life will tend to impose a certain discipline on you. This means that you need to focus your energies more intensively rather than attempting to spread yourself too widely. Saturn can be a great strengthener but in order to get the best out of this planet you need to learn how to stand your ground and steer clear of time-wasters.

Saturn's position in your chart puts a very powerful emphasis on your worldly aims and ambitions. Many Cancerians are likely to find themselves taking a more serious attitude to life, focusing on the need for solid achievement, long-term projects and a much clearer sense of purpose.

During the first half of May you'll need patience if hoping to move ahead with something involving the co-operation of others. However, from about the 12th onwards much easier progress will be made. Wait until after this date if you wish to embark on something new or are aiming to rally support.

On a lighter note, expect social

life to bring you more out into the open in the latter half of the month. There are indications of new contacts and significant friends or joining forces with a group of like-minded individuals. It's an excellent time for those involved in special causes and campaigns.

Affairs of the heart continue to get the benefits of Venus until the 10th. The Moon's conjunction with this planet on the 7th promises a realisation of cherished hopes. Someone already on friendly terms may begin to appear in a more attractive light and it is likely that the feeling will be reciprocal!

During the latter half of May love is likely to take a more secretive path. This is not to imply trouble but steer away from potential intrigues when adverse trends prevail around the 14th and 28th. Jealousy and secret rivalry may be stirred up so watch your step.

Later in the month it looks like you are going to be very much on the move. The pace will speed up but it is unlikely that you'll find this daunting. Mentally you'll be on good form so if you wish to get a message across now is the time.

LEO

JULY 21 TO AUGUST 21



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

During May you can expect financial matters to gather a favourable momentum.

Also, you'll be more strongly motivated to improve your earning power now that various obstacles finally fade into the background. Adventurous and enterprising Leos will certainly find greater incentive to take fresh initiatives and put things on a more up to date basis. The main emphasis is on progress so make the most of this forward-looking trend.

Earlier in the month you may be faced with a dilemma over career interests. If so, tread cautiously as appearances will be deceptive. If in doubt, wait until after the 8th when the situation will become clearer. Even so, unless something is absolutely fail-safe, you are best advised to stick to familiar paths.

Younger Leos are particularly favoured careerwise during the latter half of the month. But whatever you achieve will be very dependent upon your initiative and commitment. Don't kid yourself that the world owes you a living! Favourable dates for seeking information and advice, or attending interviews, are the 15th, 19th, 28th and 29th. But don't be bulldozed into hasty decisions on the 24th.

The third week of May promises a welcome change of pace and routine. The 18th and 19th are excellent for getting out and about, arranging visits and contacting friends. Indeed, the prevailing atmosphere appears very friendly.

You may actually be celebrating the good fortune of a friend or something pleasant in your life around this time. The underlying

theme seems to be one of sharing good feelings.

As Venus figures strongly here, romantic affairs should be very much in the spotlight. New attachments are likely through a short journey or an unexpected social invitation. If hoping to meet someone special, you'll help this process by getting out and about. Significant encounters are most likely around the 17th, 18th, 24th and 28th. Expect the unexpected!

Several dates in May are of particular significance for Leos. Your ruler, the Sun, forms powerful aspects with other major planets. Between the 7th and 11th Mars and Jupiter receive the Solar rays, indicating a tremendous boost to self-confidence, renewed energy and success. This is the best time to focus on practical affairs.

The Sun-Neptune aspect on the 20th stimulates your imagination and brings luck and opportunity in all to do with creative activity. Long-range travel and communication will also figure at this time.

Finally, when the Sun links with Uranus late month your wishes may be realised sooner than expected.

VIRGO

AUGUST 22 TO SEPTEMBER 22



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

After a rather uncertain start, May should be a surprisingly progressive month.

Not only will events put you at an advantage but added energy and self-confidence will work wonders. However, before moving on to the positive features, it will be useful to know where the pitfalls lie.

On Sunday the 4th certain people, perhaps a relative, may make heavy weather of an emotional matter. Patience will be needed but don't be afraid to offer suggestions

or criticisms if this might help.

The 5th also has an adverse trend with the main emphasis on finances. Be on the alert for deception and trickery. Carelessness could easily lead to loss on this date so make doubly sure that everything is safe and secure.

The positive trend begins with a New Moon in your sign on the 6th. Mars is very much enhanced around this time and as this planet is in your sign you can expect a very active and progressive few days. It's a splendid time for initiatives, especially if you are aiming to make important changes such as in property, finances or career.

You usually prefer a fairly quiet routine but with such a powerful energising force stirring within you it is likely that you'll feel restless and inclined to alter ways that have become restricting. Basically, you'll have it in your power to take greater control of your life, to organise things in a way more in tune with your needs and aims. Don't be afraid to act forcefully now for this is what will get results.

From a different angle, travel is likely to be an important feature

over the coming weeks. However, if possible, wait until after the 8th to embark on any significant journeys. If travel cannot be avoided early month, be prepared for delays.

Long-range trips are definitely favoured in the latter half of May—particularly for business, commercial and educational matters. Travel certainly seems to have an element of luck around the 20th.

The prevailing trend contains a general message of broadening horizons, not only in travel. You can also expect your network of social contacts to become more diversified later in the month.

Journeys of the mind are also highlighted so, if you're pursuing studies or involved in a spiritual quest, progress will be good. People you meet are likely to prove inspiring and stimulating, especially when Mercury is activated on the 15th, 20th, 24th and 29th.

In legal and official matters, you'll get the speediest results in the latter half of the month. Indeed, the pace of life will be a great improvement on the previous few months. At last you'll feel that you are once more in the driving seat!

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 TO OCTOBER 22



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Elements of deception prevail early month so keep your wits about you.

Others may misinterpret what you say so be sure to make your intentions absolutely clear. You often find it hard to make definite decisions, preferring instead to await further developments. However, this tendency could get you into deep water around the 5th.

Apart from this rather hazy beginning, the month soon takes on a more positive aspect. Once Mer-

cury begins to gather pace after the 8th not only will you be clearer in your mind about what you want to do but other people will be more responsive and reliable.

Personal and joint financial interests come into sharper focus from the 12th. Wait until after this date before committing yourself to new projects, investments or contracts.

A financial or business matter that had to be postponed about six weeks ago may be brought back into action now. If shortage of funds was a major obstacle, you'll now be pleased to see this situation improving. Whatever happens, it seems that you'll feel more confident about finances during the latter half of May.

Jupiter in an exceptionally lucky area of your Solar chart at present ensures that you'll land on your feet. However, this does not give the go-ahead for taking all kinds of risks. Provided you keep financial and business affairs well organised, problems will be avoided.

At present it is very much a case of keeping within your means rather than attempting anything adventurous. But efforts towards

improvements won't be wasted. Opportunities are heading in your direction but give them time!

From the 10th your ruler, Venus, gives a pleasing prospect for travel. The third week of May is splendid for getting away from it all. There may in fact be an unexpected opportunity for travel on the 17th which will enlarge your social life and bring new contacts. Alternatively, there is a high chance of meeting up with or at least hearing from a old friend.

Venus is, of course, the planet of love and here, too, there is an element of the unexpected. New romantic developments may be to do with a journey and also have an intriguing link with the past.

Saturn in your House of Partners during 1997 will mark an important turning point in close personal relationships. This planet always signifies a testing time and any weak points in an existing relationship will surface now. You may be able to deal with problems that arise or be heading for a major change.

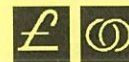
Whatever happens in May, you will at least begin to see your way into the future with greater clarity.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 TO NOVEMBER 22



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

You will need patience early month to iron out certain differences of opinion.

If you are hoping to reach an agreement on a business deal, adopt a flexible approach. But don't be bamboozled into signing anything if you still feel uncertain.

Once Mercury gets into proper stride from the 8th onwards you'll begin to see a speedier progress in all to do with communication, negotiation and commerce. Mercury helps greatly if you need advice or

information. Even people you chance to meet will stimulate your mental processes, giving you a new angle on ideas or helping you to come to an important decision.

Take note of Mercury's best aspects on the 15th, 24th and 29th. It's then that you may find yourself getting further insights into what makes certain people tick.

From a more emotional angle, Venus in your opposite sign augurs well for close personal relationships until the 10th. This is the best time if you are worried about something and wish to discuss it with your partner. If a recently established love affair seems to be fading, there is much to indicate a turn for the better around the New Moon on the 6th.

Maybe your secretiveness has been causing problems. The more open you can be about your deeper feelings, the better it will be for your love life. The prevailing pattern points to a greatly improving situation in all close ties of love and affection so take heart!

Domestic affairs continue to receive the beneficial rays of Jupiter throughout the month. Although

this planet can incline you to become restless and dissatisfied, this may not be such a bad thing. Scorpios who have been feeling increasingly cramped by their surroundings will now be strongly motivated to do something about it.

Indeed, you'll probably be in a better position to do just this in the month ahead. Luck is on your side for seeking somewhere more congenial and spacious. Make your best efforts when Jupiter is well placed on the 9th, 19th, 23rd and 28th and you can't go far wrong.

You can count on the enthusiastic support of others if you are involved in group activity or community ventures. Anything that calls for team work will make progress and you won't feel that you have to over-exert yourself.

Although you are often described as introverted and secretive, it is likely that you'll become more outgoing and sociable this month. Indeed, certain people whom you meet may stir up a more extravert energy within you.

Towards the month end, unexpected financial developments will put you in optimistic spirits.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 23 TO DECEMBER 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Mars in a pivotal area of your Solar chart throughout May ensures a go-ahead month.

There'll be plenty of scope to take fresh initiatives and test your skills. You'll suddenly see efforts coming to fruition and perhaps a short-term goal achieved. It's as if you are about to take a quantum leap to a new level of independence and authority. This is definitely a month in which to step up to pace.

Don't worry if things seem rather slow in the work sphere early in the

month. This is a temporary blip that will soon fade into the background from about the 8th.

Exercise caution in financial dealings on the 5th when adverse Mercury vibrations incline you to be absent-minded and impatient. If in doubt about a business transaction avoid snap decisions even if you have to go over the same ground again. Make haste slowly!

Although Mars exercises an extremely positive influence during May, as always with this fiery planet there is a lurking danger of overstepping the mark. You may be rather flippant about other people's feelings or views, leading to unnecessary antagonisms.

Tread tactfully when Mars is adversely placed on the 2nd, 9th, 16th and 30th. There is danger of neglecting matters closer to home and being accused of selfishness.

The prospect appears favourable for close personal relationships. The gentle influence of Venus in your House of Partners from the 10th ensures peace and harmony between you and your nearest. The latter half of May is excellent for those taking the

plunge into matrimony or setting up together for the first time. If you're already married or in a stable partnership, it looks as if contentment is increasing.

Single but romantically-inclined Sagittarians stand a better chance of meeting the right partner under the encouraging sway of Venus. Don't despair if things have felt rather uncertain lately.

From the 10th onwards events are much more likely to bring favourable developments. Even if there are emotional difficulties to confront, the prognosis looks favourable. By being entirely open about your deeper feelings, you'll be surprised just how easily problems can be sorted out.

The most eventful dates for romantic affairs are the 10th, 14th, 17th, 24th and 28th. This latter date is a bit tricky for there is danger that a casual flirtation will stir up trouble. New affairs are likely to be passionate but short-lived towards month end.

Finally, a journey or message received at the end of May will create nostalgia. An old friend (or flame) may renew contact unexpectedly!

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 21 TO JANUARY 19



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

There is new light appearing on the horizon during May.

You might not realise this right away because events early month may be rather confusing. However, don't lose heart for several major planets are at last shaping up in a much more supportive fashion.

Looking in more detail at the rather convoluted cosmic pattern early in May, it looks as if the main source of difficulty is domestic. This probably won't be anything serious but will frustrate your

plans. Maybe a youngster falls ill and needs more attention. Patience and flexibility are essential if you are to avoid negative feelings. Take life as it comes, rather than imposing any definite structures on it — at least until after the 8th.

On this date Mercury begins to resume a more positive direction, indicating the end of delays and increasing scope for action. If social life has been a bit thin on the ground lately, this situation will be rectified soon after the 12th.

At a more serious level, Mercury will also be extremely helpful for those engaged in education in the latter half of the month. Younger Capricorns aiming to develop and improve their skills and qualifications should make their best efforts, as should those aiming to make an impact in the creative arts.

The best dates for all these matters are the 15th, 19th, 20th, 24th and 29th. Also, keep your ear to the ground if you are seeking suitable employment. Positive results are more likely on these dates.

A decidedly powerful factor in your Solar chart throughout May is Mars in your 9th Solar House. This

not only acts as a tonic to your physical well-being but inclines you to feel more adventurous than recently.

This very positive feeling is likely to be complemented or inspired by highly encouraging developments on your horizon as the month progresses. Although life may not be without challenges now, you'll be able to face these with confidence and overcome obstacles with an ease that probably will surprise you.

Usually when Mars is prominent there is more scope for initiative. Indeed, you should be much more in control of your own destiny. If you wish to make changes or branch out, much will depend on you taking the first step. Once this step is taken, events seem to back you up — so don't be afraid to take a bold approach to life now.

Finally, if you have planned any important journeys in May you couldn't have picked a more suitable time. Whether it's for business of pleasure (or both) you'll not be disappointed.

On the whole, an increasingly progressive month in view!

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 TO FEBRUARY 18



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

A problem from the previous month may come to a head early in May.

Be prepared to take decisive action of you have to face some kind of ultimatum. It could just be that a misunderstanding with a relative or neighbour has to be sorted out but, whatever the case, now is the time to offer the olive branch.

Once Mercury gets into gear from the 8th any difficulties and delays concerning communications and domestic affairs should

end. Where there has been doubt about a property transaction or perhaps the welfare of a young person, this will be clarified very swiftly.

During the third week you may also notice that an indefinable feeling of optimism creeps over you as you have Jupiter in your sign and Venus beginning to favour you from the 10th. All of which adds up to a decidedly optimistic prospect!

Psychologically, any vague worries or anxieties (perhaps over finance or home life) that have plagued you for some time will fade away spontaneously. You'll feel that things are now beginning to fall into place and that your mind becomes very clear about what you want from the future.

Emotionally, the general trend is therapeutic. Aquarians who have been feeling isolated will now find that events pull them into a more active social life. Romance is also in the air so, if seeking a suitable mate, now is the time to circulate. Unexpected events around the 17th should work the magic!

Another date of high romantic significance is the 28th. New encounters are likely to become in-

tensely passionate very swiftly. However, as Venus adversely aspects Mars on this date there is a danger that romance will be short and sweet — exciting but ultimately you may feel let down.

After a rather difficult financial phase, you can hope to see a welcome improvement. As Mars is much in evidence, cash-flow will be buoyant. You may still find it quite hard to hold onto what comes your way but more secure in the way things are shaping up.

Take advantage of the favourable Mars trends on the 7th, 21st and 26th, particularly for a joint venture or new investment. But watch your step on the 16th. Impatience could land you with added expense or a white elephant!

Generally, this is a fine time for reorganising your finances. Mars in Virgo helps you to make things more efficient and streamlined. Also, married Aquarians may hear good news about their partner's finances before the month is out.

Finally, Uranus in your sign receives powerful Solar rays late month, ensuring good health, increased energy and determination.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 TO MARCH 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

You'll probably have to cope with difficulties during the first ten days of the month.

Repercussions from the rather stressful events in early April are likely to be felt but you'll finally shake yourself clear of these.

Financially, the situation will be rather tight early in May when you'll need to keep things on a very organised basis. However, there is an underlying element of good fortune coming so, from now on, it looks as if your financial situation

will improve steadily.

As Saturn is firmly placed in the money sector of your chart, much will depend on your willingness to put some effort into work, career or anything aimed at improving your earnings. As always with Saturn you cannot expect to make a fortune overnight but the more solid your foundation, the better. If you have been working hard over the past year or so, then you will begin to feel that you are reaping the rewards of past efforts.

You'll be pleased to see the end of various delays and irritations once Mercury gets into stride from the 12th. The focus is on communication and travel so any problems here will give way to something more helpful and satisfying.

Mercury helps with bureaucratic red-tape or special advice on a personal or financial matter. The latter half of the month is excellent for discussions, exams, new ideas and fresh interests.

People you meet when Mercury is strongly activated on the 15th, 24th and 29th will stimulate you mentally. Alternatively, you might be inspired by something you

chance to read, hear or see on television. Whatever happens, your mental energies will be in a higher gear towards the end of the month.

In affairs of the heart the trend is favourable for established relationships but rather tense in recently established romantic links. As Venus throws a pleasant and harmonious aura around domestic life during the second half of May, this is bound to be a reflection of marital good vibes.

But fiery Mars in your opposite sign could give warning signals. Any underlying tensions are likely to become unbearable and you will be forced to do something about it.

The trickiest date is the 16th with a Moon-Mars conjunction. The indication here is of trouble with men so lady Pisceans are more likely to have to face up to some antagonisms then. Nevertheless, Mars is great for getting things out in the open and resolving them.

Domestic events and family life should generate good feelings towards the end of May. Also, for those involved in changes and property transactions, satisfying progress is forecast.

Lunar Lore Gardening

MAY

- 1 Colder than average especially in the second week, after which it will gradually become warmer.
- 2, 3, 4
- 5 After 17.01 hours plant out onion sets. Plant potatoes.
- 6 Plant biennials and perennials.
- 7 After 20.16 hours cultivate and turn soil.
- 8 Prepare new planting beds.
- 9 Continue all day.
- 10 After 01.23 hours plant out spring-sown cabbage.
- 11 Sow chicory, plant out celeriac and cucumbers.
- 12 After 11.25 hours weed well, especially around strawberry beds.
- 13 Destroy weeds, mow lawns, edge pathways, clear drains.
- 14 After 10.56 hours spread compost and manure where needed.
- 15 Continue all day.
- 16 Continue all day.
- 17 After 12.15 hours sow flowers for their beauty.
- 18 Plant out half-hardy annuals and bedding plants.
- 19 After 22.58 hours plant tomatoes.
- 20 Sow marrow seeds in pots — but only two to a pot.
- 21 Plant out and stake dahlias.
- 22 After 06.35 hours separate/ plant old cloves of leeks.
- 23 Continue all day.
- 24 Continue until 21.01 hours.
- 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31.

VICTORIA MATTHEWS

Greenwich Mean Time has been used throughout

The Planets This Month

☉ **The Sun** begins May in 10° 40' Taurus and enters Gemini on the 21st at 00.19 hours. It ends the month at 9° 35' of the Twins.

☾ **The Moon** is New on the 6th at 20.48 hours with the First Quarter on the 14th at 10.56 hours. The Full Moon is on the 22nd at 09.14 hours and Last Quarter is on the 29th at 07.52 hours.

As the month opens the Moon is in 22° 23' Aquarius and enters Pisces on the 1st at 19.05 hours. It then enters Aries on the 3rd at 14.56 hours; Taurus on the 5th at 17.01 hours; Gemini on the 7th at 20.16 hours; Cancer on the 10th at 01.23 hours; Leo on the 12th at 11.25 hours; Virgo on the 14th at 10.56 hours; Libra on the 17th at 12.15 hours; Scorpio on the 19th at 22.58 hours; Sagittarius on the 22nd at 06.35 hours; Capricorn on the 23rd at 21.01 hours; Aquarius on the 26th at 15.01 hours; Pisces on the 28th at 04.11 hours; Aries on the 30th at 20.52 hours where it ends the month.

☿ **Mercury** begins April retrograde in 01° 43' Taurus and moves back into Aries on the 5th at 01.49 hours. It retreats to 29° 29' of that sign when it turns direct on the 8th. It re-enters Taurus on the 12th at 10.26 hours and by the end of the month it has reached 16° 4' of the Bull.

♀ **Venus** begins the month in 18° 1' Taurus and enters Gemini on the 10th at 17.21 hours. It ends the month at 24° 53' of the Twins.

♂ **Mars** spends the month in Virgo and advances from 16° 48' on the 1st to 22° 37' of the Maiden on the 31st.

♃ **Jupiter** is in Aquarius all month and advances from 19° 30' on the first day to 21° 47' of the Water Bearer on the last day.

♄ **Saturn** spends the month in Aries and advances from 14° 3' on the 1st to 17° 14' on the 31st.

♅ **Uranus** is in 8° 37' Aquarius as the month opens and advances to 8° 40' on the 13th when it turns retrograde. By the month end it retreated to 8° 33' of the Water Bearer.

♆ **Neptune** is in 29° 57' Capricorn on the first and turns retrograde the same day at 23.21 hours. By the month end it has retreated to only 29° 44' of the Goat.

♇ **Pluto** spends the month retrograde in Sagittarius and retreats from 4° 52' on the first to only 4° 5' of the Archer by the 31st.

All positions are for 00.00 hours GMT.

Reading the Aspectarian

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

First of all memorise what the symbols stand for:

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

The major aspects:

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

* (60°) sextile: generally helpful.

□ (90°) square: mostly challenging.

△ (120°) trine: strongly helpful.

♁ (180°) opposition: conflict and tension.

The minor aspects:

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

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

⊕ (72°) quintile: creativeness.

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

⋈ (150°) inconjunct or quincunx; stressful.

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

♁ △ ⊙ * ♃ □ ♁

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

ASPECTARIAN

MAY

- 1 Th.** ♃ in ♍ & ♃. ♃*♃□□. A friendship or business relationship could end.
- 2 F.** ♃ in ♃. ♃*□*♀♂♂. ♀□□. Could be a trifle fragile or a little over sensitive and reject well meant advice and guidance.
- 3 S.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃. ♃*♃△□. Get out and about, visit those places you always wanted to but never did.
- 4 Su.** ♃ in ♃. ♃♂♂*♂. Family affairs adverse and social matters only a little better.
- 5 M.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃. ♃♂♀*♂□□. ♃□□. Avoid large-scale purchases and don't sign agreements.
- 6 T.** ♃ in ♃. ♃♂♂♂♂□□. Others try to influence you. Stand your ground and don't be intimidated.
- 7 W.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃. ♃♂♀□□♂♂♂. ♂♂♂. New project at work. Self-employed get a chance to boost earnings.
- 8 Th.** ♃ in ♃. ♃*♂♂♂♂♂. Good creative period, artistic endeavours favoured.
- 9 F.** ♃ in ♃. ♃♂♂♂♂. Judgment and timing good. Prove a point, be firm, go for that raise.
- 10 S.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃. ♃*♃. ♀♂♂. Inside and outside DIY and decorating go well.
- 11 Su.** ♃ in ♃. ♃*□*♂♂♂. □□□. Stick to the rules. Watch speed if driving.
- 12 M.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃. ♃□♂*♀♂♂♂♂. ♃□□. Highly sensitive and emotional start to the week. Some might throw up their jobs.
- 13 T.** ♃ in ♃. ♃♂♂♂♂. Bluff is the keyword today. Avoid gambling.
- 14 W.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃. ♃□□♂♂. ♀□□. Not the best of days. Be careful what you say, how you say it and to whom.
- 15 Th.** ♃ in ♃. ♃♂♂□□♀□. Travel for business. An unexpected bill perhaps. Watch diet if eating out.
- 16 F.** ♃ in ♃. ♃♂♂. People seem slow or unco-operative. You may have to force issues.
- 17 S.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃. ♃♂♂♂♂♂. ♀♂♂. A new romance or brief affair. Unexpected gains likely.
- 18 Su.** ♃ in ♃. ♃♂♂♂♂♂. A change of some kind — off with the old and on with the new?
- 19 M.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃. ♃♂♂□□. Late pm is an accident-prone period. Night workers take care.
- 20 T.** ♃ in ♃. ♃♂♂□□. □♂♂. Concentration difficult. Visit a theatre, dine out.
- 21 W.** ♃ in ♃. ♃*♂♂□. Others may be unreliable. Self-starters succeed. A firm hand will win the day.
- 22 Th.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃. ♃♂♂*♂*♂♂♂. A good friend or a trusted advisor will help you through a hard decision.
- 23 F.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃. ♃♂♀□♂*♂♂♂♂. A mixture of what you want — and what others want you to have.
- 24 S.** ♃ in ♃. ♃-. ♃□□. ♀*♂. Opportunity for a new or improved job opens up. Travel may be involved. Go for it.
- 25 Su.** ♃ in ♃. ♃♂♂♂♂. □♂♂. More than just a rebellious streak is in the air. Some folk are definitely contrary.
- 26 M.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃. ♃♂♂♂♂♂. A change of address or a temporary move is suggested.
- 27 T.** ♃ in ♃. ♃♂♂□♂*♂♂♂. Look before you leap. Acting now instead of waiting might cost you dear.
- 28 W.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃. ♃♂♂♂♂. ♀□♂♂♂. Expensive day! In the end it may have been worth it.
- 29 Th.** ♃ in ♃. ♃□□*♂♂♂. □♂♂. Excellent for those who move in the right circles or know an opportunity when it arises.
- 30 F.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃. ♃□♀♂♂*♂♂. Rush things and nothing will get done. One thing at a time.
- 31 S.** ♃ in ♃. ♃*♂*♂♂♂. Favours the ladies. Strong romantic overtones to the day — and the night!

INTERCEPTED HOUSES



and how they affect our lives

by
TRACY RICHARDSON

With the exception of the equal house system where each house in the horoscope is divided equally into 30 degrees, most house division systems used by astrologers today are mathematically designed to allow for a variance of house size. When a house is composed of more than 30 degrees there is a likelihood that it will have one sign intercepted within it — that is, an entire sign is sandwiched inside the house.

While many astrologers tend

to differ on the significance of intercepted houses, most agree that these houses have special significance in the chart and should therefore be interpreted differently from other houses. An intercepted house contains elements of the sign directly on the cusp and the sign inside and many have also experienced influences of the third sign which is actually on the cusp of the following house, if the two previous signs have been activated and tran-

sceded through spiritual evolution.

Intercepted houses never appear singly in a chart but in pairs. Opposing houses will be intercepted forming an axis so that anything affecting one house will also influence its complement. This also applies to the theory that the two signs or houses which lie on an axis possess qualities of each other so any transit or progression affecting one house will also affect the house opposing it.

Aries/Libra 1st/7th House Axis

If your Aries/Libra or 1st/7th House axis is intercepted in your horoscope then people around you are likely to find that you have a very complex personality which can be very difficult to understand, while you may have alternately observed that those who you tend to form close alliances with are very complicated themselves.

You may find that your lifestyle has or will change in a major way at least once and this change in circumstances is likely to be directly linked to a marriage, divorce or partnership. It is very likely that you will consequently go through some rather profound transformations and persons who knew you when you were young will consider you to be completely different in later years.

Partnerships will be very important to you as you develop several multifaceted relationships which give you the stimulus you need. At least once during the course of your life you will find that an adversary will have such a profound impact on you that it will forever change the way you view the world. Although this experience may be deeply unsettling, it will help you to understand fully the true meaning of friendships from those who stand by you in your time of need.

Taurus/Scorpio 2nd/8th House Axis

If your Taurus/Scorpio or 2nd/8th House axis is intercepted you will view money and possessions in a very compulsive manner which others may have difficulty fully understanding. You will begin earning money at an early age and acquire wealth in a variety of ways because you are not content to have just one source of income.

You may also change your career at least once and this is likely to profoundly change your standard of living. Many career changes are likely to

bring about a loss of income, at least initially, so you may find yourself in a financial depression while you are working on establishing yourself in your new line of work.

An inheritance or unsolicited gift will play an important role in your life because the money you receive will affect your lifestyle as you will be able to do things which had previously been beyond your means. Because nothing in this world is free and an exchange of energy must come with everything which you receive, it is essential to ensure that all unearned wealth is acquired honestly, otherwise any deceptive ventures will ultimately be uncovered to expose breaches of trust.

A piece of property will take up many of your thoughts because you have a strong desire to own your own home. This wealth will carry with it responsibilities as it may be acquired through a marriage, partnership or inheritance.

You will inevitably encounter individuals in your daily life who invoke those elements which are compulsive in your nature and will have some rather extreme power struggles with these persons who you are for some reason unable to from break away from.

There will be at least one person in particular who you will be totally obsessed with because he/she seems to have such a great influence on how you see yourself. Although you may dislike this person intensely for the feelings which are aroused in you whenever he is nearby, you will feel a great void when he does actually leave your life and move on.

Gemini/Sagittarius 3rd/9th House Axis

If your Gemini/Sagittarius or 3rd/9th House axis is intercepted you will likely have been bitten by the wanderbug as you desire to travel and acquire knowledge through your life experiences.

Because you need a lot of freedom, you may select a vocation which keeps you out of an office or any other highly regimented vocation. Even if you must work indoors, you may decide to enter academia, philosophy or religion to enable you to study and impart knowledge to others.

You may initially decide to enter the secretarial or administrative fields because this will allow you to perform a wide variety of tasks and utilize your short-term thinking processes without easily becoming bored. After a while, however, you may find that other opportunities will open up to you which will allow you to travel, train or expand your knowledge in some other way.

While you are a spiritual person, you are not normally dogmatic about your beliefs and do not expect others to view the world as you do. Because you are not content to accept traditional explanations for any religious belief system, you will tend to ask many philosophical questions which put your primary certitude under scrutiny. This may consequently cause you to change your religious beliefs several times as you struggle to fully understand the complexities of the universe in which mankind lives.

Cancer/Capricorn 4th/10th House Axis

If your Cancer/Capricorn or 4th/10th House axis is intercepted you will have a private life which seems to be intricately interwoven with your public image. Although we are told throughout our lives that one should not bring personal problems to work and, conversely, work difficulties into the home, you will find this very difficult because your career is so closely aligned with your inner feelings of security.

You are one of those individuals who actually finds solace in a fulfilling line of work. So, if your career is suffering it will be very difficult for it not to af-

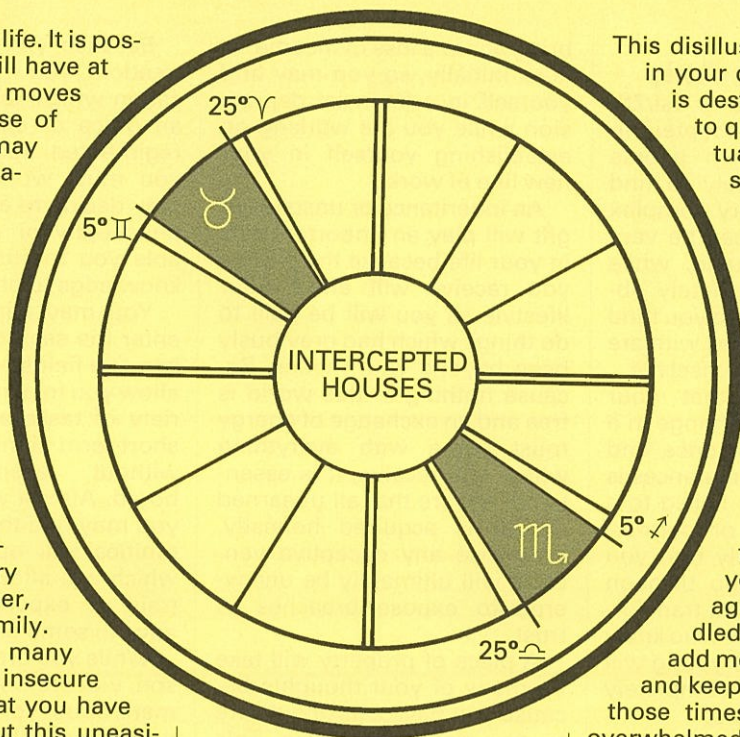
fect your private life. It is possible that you will have at least two major moves during the course of your life which may also involve a career change.

Your parental upbringing will greatly influence you because the persons who acted as mother and father to you will have played a major role in the development of attitudes you carry regarding career, home and family. You may spend many years feeling insecure and believing that you have no true home but this uneasiness will subside as you slowly begin to realize that security lies within yourself and not through other people, places or things.

Leo/Aquarius 5th/11th House Axis

If your Leo/Aquarius or 5th/11th House axis is intercepted you will find that you develop some rather illusive friendships in an attempt to feel as if you belong. Because many of the persons you come into contact with are not quite compatible with you character, you may at times feel somewhat depressed as you seek a group of people with whom you feel comfortable. This sequence of friendship building through trial and error is a valuable testing ground for you as you slowly gain confidence and begin to realize who your true friends are.

Holidays will be very important to you as you have an innate desire to have fun and enjoy yourself in your free time. Even if you are unable to travel abroad, you will relish those day trips which help you to break free from day-to-day liv-



ing which can be so confining.

Much of your free time will be devoted to leisure activities such as sightseeing, walking the dog or lavishing affection on the one you adore. You are likely to have at least one rather torrid love affair in your life which will help you to clarify those attractive persons who you should get to know better and those who are better left alone.

Pets are paramount figures in your life. Even if you personally don't want the responsibility, your partner may convince you that he or she won't be happy until these loving souls are able to enter the home. If your partner is unable to sway you into getting a family pet, then you may alternatively have an addition to the family in the form of a child.

Virgo/Pisces Axis 6th/12th House Axis

If your Virgo/Pisces or 6th/12th house axis is intercepted it may take you quite some time to find a line of work which you find to be fulfilling.

This disillusionment you feel in your day-to-day routine is destined to force you to question your spirituality and seek answers of a rather esoteric nature to help you better understand the life role into which you were born.

You are an old soul who has experienced much in lives past and will find yourself bumping into people who you knew long ago. These rekindled friendships will add meaning to your life and keep you going during those times when you feel overwhelmed with trials.

Unfortunately, you will learn from experience that you must continually question the motives of those you meet casually because many will have agendas which are at cross-purposes to your own. While secret enemies abound, these encounters will help you learn to keep your own counsel and look beyond the veil of the outer persona when judging a person's true character.

You will in all probability have a part-time job or business in addition to your primary vocation which will bring you a little extra money as well as help fulfil some of your self-actualization needs.

You may at times feel as if you have heavy burdens because you will find that you have many obligations and responsibilities which keep you firmly grounded to the earth. While it can be depressing to find that you must tend to your day-to-day duties while it seems that others around you have much more free time, you will be able to find solace in quiet meditation which will enable you to develop your inner world further.

ASTROLOGY TODAY

Birth charts tell two separate stories, a personal one as we develop ourselves through the faster planets and a collective one from the patterns of the slow planets. Whether we realise it or not we are always part of history, never just living our own lives.

Depending on the year of birth, everyone alive has something significant to add to the human story as it evolves. The 20th century has been introducing lessons of great importance and, as we approach the next one, the pressure to progress seems to be increasing as if we were cramming for an end of term exam. But do we know what we are supposed to be learning?

A major lesson started in the lives of our grandparents or great-grandparents in 1891 when Neptune and Pluto were conjunct, beginning a cycle of 492 years. Since 1942 all the other outer planets, from Saturn to Pluto, have been in conjunction with each other, starting new cycles of varying lengths.

The cycles bring new chapters in understanding the overall theme. When the slow planets move together, like a conception, they plant seeds of new growth for humanity to digest and then manifest.

The generations in which these conjunctions take place are singled out for making special efforts in introducing different attitudes to whatever energies they represent. The urgent need for change is repeated in the 172-year cycle of Uranus and Neptune (change with anxiety or compassion) starting in 1993-95 and the 127-year cycle of Uranus and Pluto (change with destruction or reorganisation of power) begun in 1963-65.

From 1891 the collective unconscious was being intro-

NEW GENERATIONS by SHELAGH KENDAL

duced to the high ideals of Neptune and the dangerous choices of construction or destruction that Pluto poses. But as Pluto was not yet discovered, people born around the turn of the century experienced a Neptunian confusion and need for faith in a time of painful cleansing after Pluto's existence was known in 1912 and its actual arrival on the scene in 1930.

The 1st World War launched the shocks that would expose Neptune's illusions, like a tide sweeping away old assumptions. Watching a few episodes of *Upstairs, Downstairs*, it is easy to see how much adjusting was going to be done in a reasonably short time and has continued at intervals since, periodically shaking us up. And the atom was yet to be split.

During the desperate year of 1917 when World War I was no longer a bid for national glory, Saturn and Neptune were conjunct in Leo, a hint that the shapes (Saturn) of nations and families were about to be dissolved (Neptune). This message was repeated in 1952, in Libra, and in Capricorn in 1989 with groups of souls born to remind us once again that materialism (Saturn) must be used caringly, not worshipped (Neptune).

The first of these generations lived through the Depression, the second through the financial setbacks of the 1970s and the most recent may experience a complete collapse of the present economic system.

The fight against old ideas

was heralded by those born in the 1960s with Uranus conjunct Pluto in Virgo. This generation started an intense need to discriminate between service and servitude so that the civil unrest of the 1830s, the beginning of the last cycle, is not repeated.

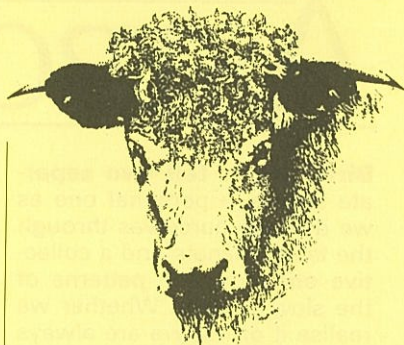
Already changes in attitudes to health and employment are forging new lifestyles and community volunteerism is proliferating from necessity or awareness of the need for mutual help. Pluto offers black-and-white choices and this cycle is concerned with slavery in all its forms. With Saturn and Uranus coming together, in 1942, in Taurus and again in 1988, in Sagittarius, tensions between tradition (Saturn) and need for change (Uranus) have become obvious. The past had to make room for the future.

The generations due to experience extreme tensions between themselves and the status quo were born with Saturn conjunct Pluto, in Cancer in 1914, in Leo 1947 and again in Libra in 1982, challenging and transforming (Pluto) authority (Saturn). These were years that would begin to dredge up the cruelty of over-regulation, corruption and misuse of power for us all to see.

The patterns of the outer planets we are born into are imprinted somewhere in our destiny and will be experienced as a phase of history to be endured or as a particular strength to share with others. As the combinations occur humanity has a choice between trying to ignore the lesson or doing something to manifest the planetary energies positively.

Those born in the special years of major conjunctions have the responsibility to tune in quicker than the masses but we all have to learn. What a century this is!

TAURUS ♋



by **MERCEDES
DuQUESNE**

Next time you're at the supermarket, take a look at the check-out queue and play 'Spot the Taurean.' Aries is checking his watch every 30 seconds, Gemini has got at least two conversations going and Capricorn is seriously considering reorganising the whole system. But our Taurean is standing quietly waiting. It's not that he — or she — isn't seething just like all the rest; it's just that nothing can be done to speed up the process so Taurus isn't going to waste the energy required to make a fuss.

The apparently downmarket qualities attributed to Taurus — dependable, trustworthy, steadfast, cautious and the like — don't really do justice to the second sign of the zodiac. True, Taureans are not over-fond of physical exercise *per se* but, if

there's work to be done, they will do it and get their exercise that way. Taurus could be seen as the embodiment of the law of conservation of energy. He will rarely move any faster or further than absolutely necessary.

Earth signs are generally regarded as practical types and the Fixed quality confers a certain determination. Give Taurus a job and it will get done. Mind you, the flip side of that positive determination is the negative one of downright obstinacy. A Taurean with his or her mind made up is like setting concrete — and you know how difficult that is to shift.

None of the above seems to have much to do with Venus, ruler of Taurus, but there are traits that do. An appreciation of beauty — the real thing, not superficial prettiness — a love

of music, good food and comfortable surroundings are in the armoury and can be rather obvious; Taureans tend to be well-padded unless there is something ruthless in the chart to offset self-indulgence.

That said, there is always something attractive too; it's a well-rooted, Earthy attractiveness, redolent of oak trees, placid rivers and gentle breezes speaking soothingly of calm and quiet.

Taurus' year ahead

With no less than four quincunx aspects in the Ingress chart for 1997, Taureans intent on making any progress through the year are going to need all of their staying power. Quincunxes (also known as inconjunct aspects) tend to have an air of awkwardness about them; they also have the effect of being 'cruel to be kind' — devastating change at first, later proving to be a Good Thing.

The ones here are Sun (Taurus/4th) quincunx Moon (Virgo/9th conjunct North Node), Venus (Taurus/4th) quincunx Pluto (Sagittarius/11th), Mars (retrograde Virgo/9th) quincunx Jupiter (Aquarius/2nd) and Saturn (Aries/4th) quincunx Midheaven (Scorpio).

It doesn't finish there. There is a clutch of square aspects to throw in as well; Sun square Neptune (Capricorn/1st), Mercury (Taurus/5th) square to Uranus (Aquarius/2nd) and conjunct to Venus which, itself, is square Uranus and Neptune. 'Challenging' is a pretty good word for this lot!

The main axis of all this energy is concentrated between 2nd and 4th Houses with occasional input from 9th (Moon and Mars) and 11th (Pluto). With the Sun highlighting domestic arrangements, look for some considerable change in home circumstances with a knock-on effect on

personal finances. With Jupiter and Uranus transiting the 2nd House finances and matters material will take on enlarged importance but be warned that unexpected outlay is as likely as a windfall. Planning what you are going to do and sticking as closely as possible to that plan is the best way to avoid too many setbacks — but with Uranus around anything can happen.

Saturn and Pluto, trine to one another for most of the year, will aid the planning of your strategy and Uranus (again!) on or about the Saturn/Pluto midpoint will help you to incorporate any alterations that may be necessary. This is your chance to make use of the energies available, rather than have them use you.

The mixed blessings of the quincunx aspects are likely to be chucking spanners around if your ideas get too detailed too soon (Mars/Jupiter) or where too much heed is paid to outside criticism, (Pluto/Venus). You may also wish at some point that you hadn't started your project (Sun/Moon) which is where the Taurean determination needs to be cranked up. Basically, keep your plans fluid, your options open, listen to advice — and then do your own thing.

Saturn, as always, also has his say in things, specifically about your career and position in life. His quincunx to the Midheaven from his 4th

Rub Taurus up the wrong way, though, and you will probably be regarded with a warning glare — a snort is optional. Try really hard and you will be rewarded with an explosion of wrath which is as short-lived as it is violent. Conservation of energy again; once the point is made, further energy consumption is wasteful.

Now there's another thing. Taurus has the reputation of being something of a pack-rat and very reluctant to throw anything away. The usual reason given is that 'it might come in useful...' What you are seeing here is the famed Taurean possessiveness, given that the 2nd House is all about material goods and acquisitions. Chances are that behind the given reason are thoughts of how much effort went into acquiring the object, how nice it looks (or feels — Taureans are very tactile) — and that it's mine.

Don't mistake that quality for envy. Taureans are very good

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

at knowing what's theirs and where it is, especially if it isn't actually in their possession. They're also good at looking after others' possessions. So there we are, back with the dependable, trustworthy bit that looked so boring earlier on.

There are other Venusian shots in the locker, not the least of which are the sensual delights. The Taurean tactile tendencies have already been touched upon so it comes as no surprise that a Taurean can rarely see something soft and cuddly — a kitten, a dog or an angora sweater — without wanting to stroke it. Having a

Taurean as a partner is likely to involve a lot of cuddling, kissing and hand-holding, the last as much a demonstration of possession as of affection.

So here we are, right back where we started. Aries has by now reached the foot-tapping stage, Gemini's conversation has widened to the two adjacent aisles and Capricorn has just about completed the mental reorganisation of the entire supermarket. Taurus, however, is still standing there, knows exactly what is in the basket and is looking forward to getting home to a cup of tea. And possibly a doughnut.

House position will have the effect of examining your current status, aided and abetted by his friends Uranus and Pluto. So don't be surprised if your position at work or in public life (or both) come under the spotlight during the course of the year. You may well feel some unease if you do come under scrutiny but the effect is more likely to confirm or improve your current lot than otherwise.

As the year unfolds Venus, your ruler, moves out of the 4th House (hence the domestic beautifying) and continues her journey around the zodiac. As she squares Uranus and Jupiter in the last few days of April you may be tempted into a flutter — horses, pools or Lottery — and you could gather a little windfall; just don't let Jupiter spoil things and go too far.

Be careful around sharp objects, implements — and tongues — when Venus in Gemini makes aspect to Mars towards the end of May but, otherwise, her transit of the 6th House should prove beneficial; some unexpected overtime to swell your coffers, perhaps.

July is likely to prove financially interesting, too, with Venus' opposition to retrograde Jupiter. It will probably be a case of having to balance expenditure against income as the former could well outstrip the latter if care is not taken. The Saturnine voice of wisdom should be lis-

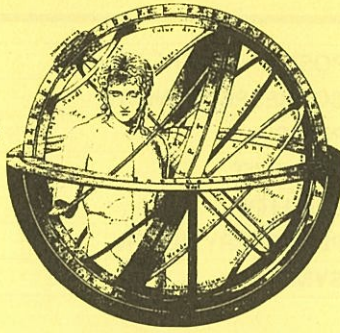
tened to and the brakes applied where necessary — or else it could be done for you.

This period also coincides with the last of the Mars/Saturn opposition which has rumbled on through the first half of 1997. So if there is going to be anything of a jolt then now's the time — if you let it. Try to keep an eye on the way things are going in financial and career matters, especially where you are concerned, and use the energies available to make the best of things rather than being pushed around.

Things settle down pretty much after that for the rest of the year although Venus retrograde in Capricorn between Christmas 1997 and early February 1998 may see you feeling a little bit unloved. Don't take it to heart; a little stocktaking will see you bounce back to get things moving when your ruler goes direct.

The next 12 months have a strong feel of consolidation and cataloguing of what has already been achieved, rather than making great strides forward. That is not to say that no progress will be made, or indeed that laurels should be rested upon, but it is as well to stand back, catch your breath and take stock sometimes just to see where details have been missed.

You also get to smell the flowers and take in the view, too!



MAY BIRTHDAY FORECAST

★ INDICATES AN EXCEPTIONALLY LUCKY 12 MONTHS AHEAD

- 1 Full of interesting events, nothing earth-shattering but after April a relative could be a problem.
- 2 Let things happen as they will, don't force issues. Love life a little dull perhaps.
- 3 Quite an intensely emotional ★ 12 months.
- 4 Responsibilities, both old and new, seem a little hard at times.
- 5 Domestic/family and financial affairs slightly adverse.
- 6 A rebel streak gets out of hand around July/August. Busy at work and at play.
- 7 Nothing concrete gained. Inclined to fritter away time in useless social endeavours.
- 8 Ambitions strongly marked. ★ Influential folk helpful.
- 9 A realistic frame of mind needed. Watch health and diet, ensure adequate rest.
- 10 Some people will be torn between established lines and the attraction of the new.
- 11 All work and no play may lead to conflict between your personal and occupational life.
- 12 No great changes but ups and downs may occur in your family relationships.
- 13 Single-minded determination can make enemies, keep half an eye on your back.
- 14 You may be the unwitting cause of any strain in a close relationship.
- 15 Ease up, relax more. Other folk will appreciate it.
- 16 Family disputes, petty mindedness and emotional tension likely.
- 17 Romance is definitely in the air this year! ★
- 18 Favours the ladies. A period of constructive awareness with new interests and new people.
- 19 Temptation to talk yourself into situations you may not always be able to talk yourself out of.
- 20 Idealism increases because of political correctness or just not being happy with how things are.
- 21 Any domestic changes well worth ★ the effort and expense.
- 22 Changes may be drastic, not all for the good, but the air will be cleared.
- 23 Some friends not all they seem. Some home truths needed, perhaps.
- 24 New business opportunities. New partnership profitable.
- 25 Tendency to dominate, ease back and let others have more room.
- 26 A good year for almost everything except sharing. Some problems in trusting others, perhaps?
- 27 Not always able to keep up with all that goes on — but it's fun trying.
- 28 A close and emotionally rewarding relationship can start.
- 29 Small windfall possible around ★ August/September. Career matters prosper.
- 30 Impulsive and wayward at times. Avoid over-indulgence.
- 31 July marks the beginning of a period of changes in many ways. Play each one as it happens.

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VISUALISATION

Countless times I have visualised an outcome and the opposite reaction has happened. I wonder if there is a 'law of opposites.' This seems to be the case in my experience. — P.C., Coventry.

Visualisation has to link to the subconscious mind so, when the opposite of what one has visualised occurs, this frequently means that the subconscious goes into overdrive. This alters the mental picture one has created into what is intended to occur rather than what one wishes to happen.

In other words, factors of destiny can override anything we ourselves would wish to happen unless, of course, one visualises successfully events that are due to occur in any case.

TALISMANIC PURIFICATION

I have been given a talisman by a close friend and have been told it will need cleansing before it can help me. How can I do this easily without any elaborate ritual? — P.G., Sunderland.

The simplest and easiest way to cleanse a talisman is to hold it under cold running water, preferably in a river or stream or dip it into the sea. If this is not possible, running tap water will suffice; also, tap water to which sea salt has been added can be used at home. Once rinsed, the talisman should be left to dry in the air or gently patted dry with a clean cloth or tissue.

Alternative methods include placing the talisman in direct Sunlight at noon; putting it on the ground and leaving it

overnight so that it will be bathed by morning dew; taking the talisman to a sacred stone circle and placing it on the ground within the circle for a while. Choose whichever method seems the most convenient and the talisman will work its powers for you on your personal wavelength.

THREE QUEENS

Who were the Three Queens who conveyed the dying King Arthur to Avalon? — J.B., Bath.

There is some confusion about their identity. Some sources insist that the queens were Guinevere, Morgan and Morgause (wife, sister, half-sister).

But in his *Mort D'Arthur* Malory wrote that the three queens awaited Arthur in a barge on the shores of a lake and took him to Avalon (Glastonbury Tor) in the company of Nimue, the Lady of the Lake. These queens were Morgan, the Queen of Northgalis and the Queen of the Waste Lands.

GUIDES

I think I have met my guide while meditating. Firstly I meet an old man who tells me to go further and wait. Then a figure appears whose

graphology

(continued from page 10)

action. There is warmth and understanding, as well as affection, deduced from the absence of angular strokes.

In the second example, both words and lines are nicely spaced. There are no unnecessary elaborations, suggesting a preference for uncluttered and straight facts. The single-stroke capital I is another reminder of a wish for main essentials and basics. The left slant reveals

some repressed tendencies and an introverted nature.

This writer may give the impression of being slightly detached and cool as emotional reactions are kept under control and hidden. There is an inner reserve originating from shyness and introspection.

The small i points to a degree of self-consciousness by its size being smaller than other letter forms. This characteristic is a very striking sign produced by individuals who have a secret doubt about themselves.

The word spaces in this specimen attest to that guarded manner of maintaining a

mental distance from others as a self-protective measure against encroachment — and the distance between words is just a little wide. It was written rather slowly so the owner is not normally a fast thinker.

Coming to the third example, it will be noticed that there are no abnormal upper and lower extensions that catch one's eye. The rightward slant of approximately 65° indicates one who responds emotionally with a sympathetic understanding. The general disposition is friendly with an open, accepting attitude when in contact with others in the environ-

face is a golden blaze although I see no features and he puts a talisman into my hand saying, 'patience.' — E.O., Barnsby.

Guides are often elusive and reluctant to reveal themselves. But, as your guide took so much trouble to convey impressions to you, it is important to heed the message of patience that he gave you.

Time will bring benefits and psychic development. In the meantime, you are being protected while changes in your lifestyle will now be vital and may perhaps entail moving away from certain people and situations.

DEVIL'S LUCK

Where does the phrase 'the luck of the devil' originate? — D.H., Stockport.

The very idea of the Devil originates from earlier religions and some traditional demons portrayed in Mesopotamian and Egyptian art forms. The numerous tales of the Devil, especially in medieval times, often portray him (or it) escaping all kinds of retribution by last-minute trickery and thus getting away with it.

To have 'the luck of the devil' springs from these old tales

and simply means that someone has avoided trouble or managed to manipulate events to his/her advantage against all the odds.

HEALING CRYSTAL

Is there a crystal that can help ease a heart condition? — M.H.C., Manchester.

Lapis lazuli has long been associated with the relief of chest and heart ailments. Indeed, in medieval times the gems were ground to a powder and mixed into a potion which was said to help cure pneumonia and heart tremors.

More practically and safely, nowadays a piece of lapis lazuli would be placed on the affected area of the body, especially just over the heart, and left to lie there for some hours. Any palpitations should gradually ease as the healing properties of the stone take effect.

CITY OF GOLD

What or where is El-Dorado? I am told it is a lost city in South America with buildings made of gold. — T.C.J., Shoreham.

El-Dorado, a legendary city of the Incas, may exist but is more likely to be somewhere in the Mediterranean region. The

name derives from the Phoenician god, El, who was worshipped throughout the Semite lands and whose name was later absorbed into Jewish lore and became Elohim, the plural name of the Jewish/Christian god.

Dorado is a golden-coloured dolphin and a symbol of the Phoenician peoples, so the complete name of El-Dorado means a place associated with both an ancient god and a golden dolphin. It is quite probable that the great Phoenician city of Byblos (in modern Lebanon) is the true site of El-Dorado and that it may, therefore, not be just a myth.

WITCH POWER

At what time of year does a witch lose her power? — H.G., Colchester.

Witches seldom lose their power unless they withdraw from the Craft of their own free will, though remnants of power still remain even so.

I think you may be thinking of the Shakespearean quote from *Hamlet* where he wrote that it was the Christmas season when 'no planets strike, no fairy takes, no witch hath power to charm, so hallow'd and so gracious is the time.'

ment. The nature is warm and reacts well to others.

The facet of conventionality reveals itself in the adherence to the style learnt at school. Base-lines are comparatively even and kept in good order in respect of their spacing; a good sense of proportion is present. The capital I is also rather conventional with its conforming shape.

The mixture of garland and arcade letter connections registers an ability to solve difficulties without too much aggressiveness. The ovals are nicely closed so the writer will retain confidences when requested to

do so. Most of the letters are connected, so there is a methodical thought process. The owner tackles problems in an orderly manner and proceeds towards objectives systematically and sensibly.

Biological urges and sexual drives are not absent but do not rule or control the structure of the personality; as may be observed from the average way in which the lower extensions have been produced.

The left margin is kept acceptably straight and is normal in width. Consequently one can assess this writer as being passably firm-willed without

any belligerent tendencies.

These three specimens of reaching up and down to the very contrasting spheres of mind and body show just how much interesting information is contained in these strokes.

The first writer possesses a rather varied emotional field with an influential sexual make-up. The second is not quite so interested in that area and also keeps feelings within.

Writer number three has some pleasing qualities of softness and will respond to the qualities of others. With this is a slight extravert tendency of needing contact with people.

We have all known people who seem to attract bad luck; the kind of people who happen to jump out of the way of a moving object, only to be hit by another. The people of primitive tribes say that a person who experiences continual misfortune is accursed, we would describe them as accident-prone.

Our explanation implies that proneness to accident arises from an individual's own clumsiness or nervous tension. Such people all too often seem to suffer from other people's carelessness or from plain undeserved misfortune. Yet we still have the feeling that there is some unseen force which cruelly seems to single out its victims.

Take the case of Marie Lambert. In Japan, 1928, she bought a statuette of a half-naked fat man seated on a cushion. She recognised the figure as Hotei, the Japanese god of luck. Unfortunately, though, the statue seemed to cause strange ailments to befall all who owed it.

Back on the cruise ship, Marie and her husband examined their purchase closely. The statue seemed to be skilfully carved out of ivory; the only visible imperfection was a small hole on the underneath. The Lamberts concluded that the statue must have been carved out of an elephant's tusk and the hole, therefore, indicated where the root had been removed.

The statue seemed to be one of those bargains that tourists can only dream of. However, the next 12 days were agony for both the Lamberts who were afflicted with toothache. Yet the ship's doctor, after examining them, could find no possible explanation for their pain.

Within a few days Mr Lambert contracted a fever the chief symptoms of which were

pain in every joint. While Marie, still plagued with toothache, called the dentist for a consultation. During the examination his drill slipped and drove straight through the nerve of her tooth.

The Lamberts' pain continued until a fellow passenger, interested in ivory, asked if he could borrow the statue to show his wife. Only then were the Lamberts' suspicions aroused when, after a pain-free



Life & Soul

by JOANNE LORD

night, the statue was returned.

The man told the Lambert's how he and his wife had spent a terrible night due to excruciating toothache. The Lamberts suddenly realised that their toothaches only occurred when Hotei was in the room. Mrs Lambert wanted to throw the statue overboard but her husband refused, afraid that whatever it was that was causing their pain would take revenge and rot every tooth in their heads.

Instead, he took it to an Oriental art shop in London and showed it to the Japanese shop manager who offered to buy it. The Lamberts agreed to part with the statue but refused to accept any money, explaining their recent troubles.

Curious, the manager sent for an old man, expert in Japanese customs, who examined the statue and said it was a

temple god. He explained that in the East these statues were given a 'soul' — a small medalion hidden inside — which accounted for the small hole in the statue's base.

The old man placed the god in a shrine and spoke a few holy words while lighting an incense stick. This, he believed, would put the soul of the statue to rest. The Lamberts left the shop, never to return.

This story seems bizarre, even for those of us who have supreme faith in the occult. But there is a theory which may go some way to explaining it. Could it be that some kind of thought energy or biological electricity had impressed itself into the statue, rather like a fingerprint?

If this theory seems unacceptable, it may be because we tend to no longer think in terms of negative psychic forces. Or

perhaps it was all a coincidence? Or were the Lamberts accursed?

There are some people who believe

that there is a connection between a person's personality and ill-luck. Perhaps such an individual has a negative attitude to life — a certain expectation that life will always deal him/her an unlucky hand, no matter what he does.

This then raises the question of whether the accidents are somehow triggered by a person's subconscious attitude. We know that the mind is a powerful tool and, the more we learn, the more it suggests that thought-fields may be much more influential than we would like to believe.

Can thought-fields impress themselves into objects, rather like magnetic or static electricity does and create the same kind of pattern that an electrical field can produce on a tape-recording? Or do inanimate objects really possess souls, ones that seem to last the test of time?



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The Holy Bible is an historic account of the numerous tribes of the Middle East and the power struggle that prevailed for many generations. It also details our divine origins and gives us the foundation for the Christian faith. But why is the last book considered to be a prophecy? Why finish an historical tome with a guess at the future?

The book of *Revelation* apparently forewarns what to expect if we don't behave ourselves. But as it is written in the vernacular, the sense of prophecy becomes somewhat lost. So, is *Revelation* really yet another chapter of history?

The *Mahabharata*, which is a very old book, seems to describe battles fought in the air, weapons of mass destruction and nuclear wars. Does *Revelation*, therefore, describe chemical and/or biological warfare from long ago?

Throughout mankind's entire history, he has fought a constant war against disease — the plague, VD, hepatitis, etc. Medical science has made giant steps forward in that war and many known illnesses have been conquered and filed away in the history books.

Yet some still haunt us with devastating consequences and new mutations of 'older' types of illness step under the spotlight or microscope. HIV/AIDS being the contemporary attention seeker.

But where do all of these viruses come from? Which came first, the chicken or the egg — humankind or the virus? The answer is mankind. Before a virus can do its worst, it has to find a nice warm host — you! So who designed the virus?

Since man's war with the



virus began, one illness has claimed more lives than any other infectious disease; and still stalks us even today. As yet, medical science still has no cure for the common cold. Every Winter has become a familiar battleground with thousands of people taking to their beds with cold and flu symptoms.

Pandemic

In 1918, a flu pandemic infected nearly half the human population. It claimed the lives of 20 million people, more than had died during the 1914-18 War which had just ended. In Britain alone 6,700 died in 1957; 25,000 in 1969; another 25,000 died from the flu virus in 1989.

Now that is some weapon, if

it can be called that. One that can't be detected and can't be stopped. It can disappear for almost 40 years and then suddenly strike once again: insidious is the only word to describe it.

According to *Revelation*, the seven angels with the seven plagues wore shining linen (protective suit?). And no one was allowed to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed (air-tight laboratory with restricted access?).

When the first angel poured out his vial upon the Earth, painful, ugly sores broke out on the people. The second angel poured out his vial into the sea and killed everything in it. The third turned the rivers and waters into blood. Armageddon followed shortly afterwards.

Obviously these angels were not very benign beings, so what was their purpose? If you wanted to conquer a planet, you could do one of three things: have a good old-fashioned invasion and commit your ground troops, which would be very messy; scorch the land with a nuclear strike, *Mahabharata* style, then come back in a 100,000 years or so when the radiation had calmed down; or simply drop a test tube full of flu virus (or similar) and wait for the population to succumb before taking over.

Imagine an ideal looking planet with plenty of dry land, fresh water and breathable atmosphere but unfortunately occupied by rather large and aggressive reptiles. Did the common cold wipe out the dinosaurs?

Returning to matters a little

prisingly, the only reasonable answer has come from the most unexpected quarter: that great laboratory in the sky (whether this is the same one mentioned in *Revelation* or not is unknown).

However, the point is that these viruses could be dropping out of the sky, quite literally. For instance, in 1981 Hans Dieter Pflug identified a micro-organism closely resembling the influenza virus inside a meteorite that fell in Australia in 1969.

This could perhaps explain how an outbreak of flu can sometimes spontaneously erupt in different parts of the globe. It is a well-known fact that meteorites and cosmic dust continually penetrate the atmosphere and even recent data from Halley's Comet has shown signs of microbial life.

in the face — they usually do when we search for explanations, it's merely a question of recognising them for what they are worth.

First, though, remind yourself of some of the unanswered questions. For instance, the demise of the dinosaurs is a subject for much debate and still remains a mystery. However, we shall concentrate on more recent events such as approximately 35,000 years ago when Neanderthal man became extinct. But why? After all, he was doing quite well for some time but then apparently simply died out.

Civilised

Neanderthal man was a very well organised hunter-gatherer. He sewed clothes from animal skins, built himself a home and cooked over an open fire. He also buried his dead and put flowers in their graves. What a civilised beast he was! Yet, for all his skills, he is not an ancestor of modern man, nor is he still around today.

There is evidence to suggest that, for a while, he co-existed with his successor, Cro-Magnon man. Now Cro-Magnon man was just as organised as Neanderthal man, just as skilful, just as strong and doubtless just as intelligent. So why did Cro-Magnon man become extinct?

As an interesting footnote to the history of the Cro-Magnons, there is evidence to suggest that this species of human beings ceased to advance. In fact, losing some of their skills, they actually began to regress.

However, the Neanderthals and Cro-Magnons are but two examples of many human species that no longer exist. For instance, whatever happened to Java man, Peking man, *Homo Diluvii*, etc?

Various schools of thought have grown up to explain these enigmas and one of the more fabulous theories regards

Natural Born Killers

by
DAVID WOOD

Perhaps the common cold is not quite so common as we would like to believe!

more scientific, the humble virus is a bit of an oddity. Biologically speaking, it is very easy for the virus to slot itself into the evolutionary chain. What could be more simple than a single microbe?

Essentially, we have here a biological entity that says 'copy me.' Which is exactly what DNA does. Unfortunately for the virus, though, its parasitic nature prevents it from doing this for itself — it must have a host before it can copy itself.

So where is its origin? Sur-

Is this therefore a science-fiction nightmare with tenuous threads of reality — the deadly spawn? An insidious life-form arriving on Earth via a comet or on the back of a NASA space-craft; one tiny organism capable of destroying all forms of life. Is this where all our diseases have come from?

The evolutionary trail can not provide us with any answers for reasons already stated and, so far, neither can medical science. However, the answers may be staring us right

mankind as nothing more than the product of genetic engineering and selective breeding. Now if you think about this for a while, you will find it very difficult to prove this theory untrue beyond all reasonable doubt.

After all, if the evolutionists can not prove Darwin's theory of evolution, then one of the options left to us is that every species of biological life on this planet was brought here from other points of origin. Quite a mammoth task perhaps yet this option does of course require the help of a technology far superior to our own.

Consider, if you will, this retrospective scenario. You find a suitable planet and rid it of its aggressive reptiles. You begin your genetic experiments and watch how matters develop. You first attempt refuses to walk on its hind legs and prefers swinging from tree to tree instead of learning basic survival skills. Not wishing to wipe out the animal population, you isolate a virus that will infect only your biological experiment. You then return to the drawing-board.

Selective breeding

Albinos: genetic curiosities that lack any coloration. True albinos have white skin, white hair or fur and pink eyes purely due to the absence of any colouring pigments such as melanin. They are rarely found in the wild but, because of their crowd-pulling potential, zoos are full of them. Yes, we have all seen white harts, white tigers and white peacocks — and yes, they can be produced to order.

Think for a moment, how many canine breeds can you name? Chihuahua, Great Dane, Alsatian, Rottweiler, etc. The important point here is that they are all dogs and breeders select and manipulate to produce what they consider to be the perfect specimen.

Selective breeding is going

on constantly. Certain breeds of sheep are better suited to the rugged and harsh terrain of the Scottish Highlands and Lakeland Fells than other available species. Other types of livestock are selected and bred for qualities found only in a few. Even the food we grow is becoming more commonly produced in the laboratory. Genetic engineering is no longer mere science-fiction.

How many racial types can you name? Aborigine, Chinese, Eskimo, Caucasian, etc. Some are better suited to hot climates, some to cold climates; but they are all human. Then consider all the subdivisions: Scandinavian, Romany, Teutonic, Middle East Asian and so on. Each has its own genetic peculiarities: tall, short, dark, fair, blue eyes and so on.

The purest race on this planet is the Chinese. They have shunned inward and outward migration for thousands of years; which is why they look so alike. Virtually all other types, however, have jumped into the melting pot to produce every hybrid imaginable.

Most societies are multi-racial nowadays. Yet if one examines the geographical evidence of 2,000 years ago, before the advent of global migration, racial types and their various subdivisions were found only in small areas. Had they, perhaps, been genetically mastered to suit their own particular environment?

Have the 'genetic engineers' finally got it right? There are no more Neanderthals and we are still here. Can we assume, therefore, that we are paragons in a

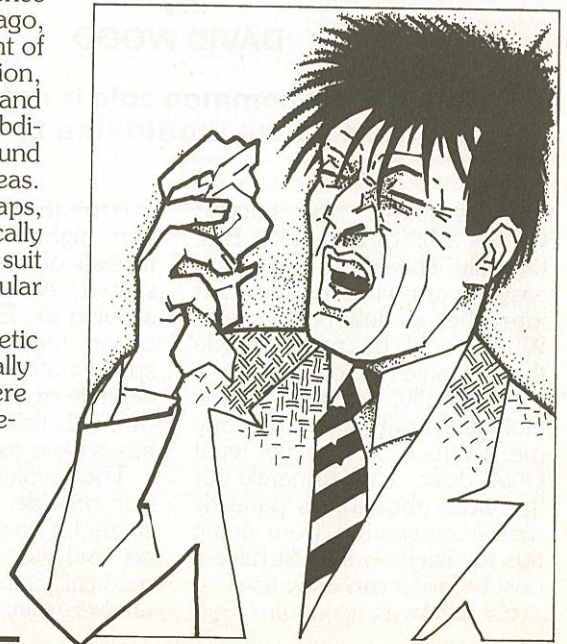
cosmological zoo?

If the foregoing could be proved and accepted, we only have one problem — what are we going to do about all these viruses? The trouble with viruses is that they have a habit of mutating themselves into different strains; the flu you caught this year is not the same type you caught last year.

Which is rather a pity as your body's natural defences have made a note of the old one and know how to deal with it. It seems, therefore, that the human race is doomed to fight a never-ending war with very small and insidious Natural Born Killers.

This may not be a very nice legacy from our supreme creators but, if Neanderthals and Cro-Magnons were not suitable, who are we to complain? If each stage of mankind's development was the product of a genetic experiment, then perhaps each stage somehow failed to bloom as expected.

Maybe we have been perfected; certainly, the lack of any other hominids on Earth would appear to support this. By the way, anyone seen Big-foot recently?



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DREAM MEANINGS



IMPEDING PROGRESS

THE DREAM

I WAS ON a train when, outside the window, a man unknown to me held up a coloured block of stone. He shouted, 'stop the train there are bricks on the line.' I panicked and yelled, 'stop the train.' Everyone else laughed and said, 'he often does that.'

A few seconds later the train came to a sudden stop. There were bricks on the track.

THE MEANING

THE train represents your current path which appears to be impeded with obstacles which you can see but others mock. However, your view of life is correct and you are being shown that you need to believe in yourself in order to combat opposition.

UNCOVERED

THE DREAM

I AM WALKING through a cemetery when holes start to appear where the coffins lie. I have to jump over the holes to get out of the cemetery.

THE MEANING

CEMETERIES usually indicate burying something; perhaps in the past you did this, burying something you thought had outlived its usefulness or could keep out of sight. Lately, however, this has been uncovered and you are trying to escape the contamination of it.

MURKY WATERS

THE DREAM

I AM SEARCHING for a child whom I can see across the river. I step carefully through a flock of swans and feel their breath on my ankles.

As I wade across the river I

by SOPHIA DANIEL

Modern research suggests that we dream virtually every time we go to sleep whether we subsequently remember the dreams or not. The dream world appears to be an intermediate stage between waking and deep sleep which we pass through every time we go from one to the other and is distinguished bodily by a period of rapid eye movement (REM) under closed eyelids.

can feel the carcasses of the dead swans beneath my bare feet. I reach the far bank and gather up the child.

THE MEANING

CHILDREN in dreams refer to our own ideas or creations, so here one has developed but been taken away from you. Water symbolises emotion, thus the child is across an emotional divide.

In order to regain your creation you have to step into murky waters which are both protected and contaminated by the swans. Swans signify wisdom but are also about transformation from ugliness into beauty.

It seems, therefore, that you must make a move, a conscious decision, to achieve progress. Are you prepared to take that initial step of going through the ugliness of the situation?

PLAYING WITH FIRE

THE DREAM

I AM GOING up the back stairs of a club but realise that I have gone up one floor too high so try to open the fire exit door. I retreat and open the door into an alley where a large Dober-

man pounces on me.

I cover my face with my hands thinking, 'never mind, I will be all right when I wake up.'

THE MEANING

YOU are approaching life by the back door at present and this involves playing with fire. This, combined with going a level too high, means that you need to come down to Earth a little in order to escape the fire.

However, when you go through the door you are attacked by a dog which, in a dream, usually symbolises a friend. So it seems that you need to take a good look at your so-called friends in order to discover which one is compromising you.

Since you are aware that you are going to wake up, the dream is partially lucid which indicates that you can control it if you try. Similarly, you can control your life if you stop being afraid of the consequences.

STOLEN CHILD

THE DREAM

I AM WITH a man and child when a vehicle arrives to take the child. Both man and child disappear. I stop the vehicle and inside lies a sleeping man wearing an astronaut's visor. When I go to wake him the vehicle disappears.

THE MEANING

YOU have made contact with the masculine, protective aspect of your persona. Thus when others try to steal or take away your ideas (child) you are able to protect them and stand up for yourself.

The vehicle indicates that your ideas could be in the possession of a sleeping man, of alien appearance, and would not be developed.

The popular legend of Herne the Hunter, a ghostly huntsman who haunts Windsor Great Park with his pack of spectral hounds, is a classic example of how pagan beliefs survived and were preserved in folklore as late as the 16th century.

Herne is mentioned in the Shakespeare play *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, first performed on St George's Day (April 23rd) 1597 at Windsor Castle. In Act IV, Scene IV, the play states, 'There is an old tale that Herne the Hunter, sometime a keeper in Windsor Forest, doth all the winter-time, at still midnight, walk around about an oak, with great ragged horns. And there he blasts the tree, and takes the cattle, and makes milch kine (milk cows) yield blood, and shakes a chain in a most hideous and dreadful manner.'

This evocative description of Herne the Hunter is based on the story of Richard Horne or Richard Horne, a gamekeeper or royal huntsman in the employ of Richard II, Henry VII or Henry VIII. A manu-

script in the British Museum apparently refers to a 'Richardye Horne, yeoman' who confessed before the king of hunting deer in the royal forest of Windsor.

In the most popular account of the story, drawn from several sources and romantically embellished in the 19th century, Herne was out hunting with the king and wound-

ed a stag. Enraged with pain, the beast charged at the king.

Herne threw himself in front of the stag and killed it but was mortally injured in the process. A wizard then appeared who told the king that the only way to save the huntsman's life was to cut off the stag's antlers and fix them to his head. This the king did and Herne miraculously came alive.

Following this event Herne either lost his hunting skills and was dismissed from his royal position or was caught poaching and the king, not wishing to show favour, ordered him to leave his service. Either way, a distraught Herne committed suicide by hanging himself from a 'blasted oak' that stood in the evocatively named Fairy's Dell in Windsor Forest.

Ever since then it is said that Herne's ghost has haunted the vicinity of the tree. The original oak was cut down in 1796 on the orders of the mad King George III. In 1906 Edward VII researched the legend and, as a result, had an oak tree replanted on the site of the original and this can still be seen today.

When Herne the



The Wild Hunter

by
ROBERT HUGHES

The ancient legend of Herne the Hunter persists into modern times.

Hunter materialised as a ghostly vision he was a bizarre and terrifying sight. He was said to be robed in a phosphorescent deerskin and wore a strange helmet made from a stag's skull complete with branching antlers. On his left wrist was an iron bracelet and this, too, shone with an unearthly light. An owl flew above as Herne, riding a coal-black horse with blazing red eyes, led his pack of demon dogs on their wild ride through the park.

Bad omens

Sightings of Herne were usually regarded as bad omens and most were reported during the Winter months and especially around All Hallow's Eve (October 31st). He was reported to ride at times of national crisis or before events of a tragic nature associated with the royal family.

It is said that he was seen in 1939, just before the start of World War II, and in 1952 prior to the death of King George VI. However, there were no reports of such sightings before the recent fire at Windsor Castle.

The last (reported) sighting of Herne and his Wild Hunt was in 1962 and sounds like what would be termed an urban myth nowadays. It is said that a group of teenagers were larking around in Windsor Great Park at night and stumbled upon an old hunting horn. One of them blew the instrument and was answered by a similar call. Then Herne and his phantom hounds came riding through the trees and the terrified teenagers fled in fear of their lives.

Ancient myth

It is evident from the symbolism in the story of Herne that it is in fact the re-telling of an ancient myth. In the popular legend of Herne he sacrifices his own life to save the king from

tions, instantly obeyed by the king, Herne is resurrected from the dead by being crowned with the antlers of the slain stag.

Later Herne hangs himself from the oak that has been struck by lightning. The oak is the sacred tree of the Indo-European storm/thunder god and lightning is his magical weapon.

Some folklorists have claimed that Herne is a folk memory of the ancient worship of the Celtic god

Cernunnos, the Horned One, in the Windsor Forest area. From the symbolism of his legend it seems more likely that Herne represents the Norse god Odin who was known to the Anglo-Saxons as Woden, Lord of the Wild Hunt.

World tree

Odin hung for nine days on the world tree Yggdrasil to gain the mysteries of the runes. Sacrificial victims were also hung from trees in Scandinavia in his honour. When in human guise Woden often appeared to his human followers as a wizard.

The Saxon kings of England claimed to have been descended from Woden and his sacred blood flowed through their veins. This would explain the link between the appearance of Herne and the royal family who claim descent from the Anglo-Saxon royal dynasty of the House of Wessex through both their English and German ancestors.

What is amazing is that such ancient beliefs about the Old God should have survived for nearly 1,000 years and then be recounted in the works of England's greatest literary genius for all to see.

The Wild Hunter



the wounded stag. By this act he becomes a 'substitute divine victim' for it is the king who should have died in his place.

Herne is killed by a stag, the sacred beast form of the old Horned God and totem animal of the goddess Diana-Artemis. A 'wizard' then appears from nowhere and on his instruc-

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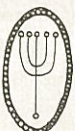
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Although we might often wish to 'turn back the clock' and return to a time in the past, we know this is impossible. Or is it?

What if it were somehow possible to shift time and slip back into a previous era just as easily as Nicholas Lyndhurst's character does in the television series *Goodnight Sweetheart* where he leads a double life in the present day and in wartime London? It may be fiction but we all know that real life is often far stranger.

When Mr P. Chase stood waiting for a bus one day in 1968 in Wallington, Surrey, the last thing he had on his mind while he idly gazed around was looking for phantom cottages. But his eye was caught by a pair of small, thatched-roof houses — bearing the date 1837 — and their decorative gardens.

When he later casually mentioned the cottages he had seen to a colleague, the other was positive that there were no such buildings on the site, only two brick houses. Not believing that his eyes could have deceived him, Mr Chase went back to take another look and, just as his friend had said, there stood two ordinary brick houses and there was no sign of the cottages he thought he had seen.

Later, however, it was confirmed that originally there had been a couple of thatched cottages standing there but they had been demolished some years earlier. Could Mr Chase have had a mental flashback to that earlier time; perhaps triggering a memory in his deep unconscious of an earlier sight-

Playing with Time

by LINN BRANSON

Do time-slips really happen?

ing? Or did he experience an actual time-slip?

Theorists tell us that we cannot move time: only 'now' exists. We cannot, therefore, see the future as it does not yet exist, nor can we return to the past as it has been and gone.

It is easy enough to understand time as it stands — Monday is followed by Tuesday, each hour is followed by another, and so on. But what is harder to accept is that time exists in a continuous loop: that we can just as easily step back into the past — or even forward into the future — as we can be in the present. But think of it like a video recorder — press Rewind and you can replay the previous recording — and the concept is easier to understand.

Then there is the 'stone tape' theory, covering sightings of ghostly people, buildings, landscapes and sounds from the past, which postulates that certain events (quite often those which generate a lot of emotional energy) become imprinted on the environment, such as the stone walls of a building. These may remain dormant for some time until triggered by electromagnetic energies in the atmosphere or someone who is sensitive sets off the recording.

This would seem to rule out the idea that the percipient has travelled back in time physically but merely pressed a Play button. It could also explain the lack of interaction between percipient and apparitions. Some accounts, however, seem to contradict this theory.

In 1973 an avid coin collector went into a small stationery shop in Great Yarmouth to buy some envelopes for his coin collection. He noted the cob-

bled pavement, the newly-painted shop front and, while inside, that the cash till was of the old-fashioned sort not seen any longer and the floor was covered with a kind of oilcloth.

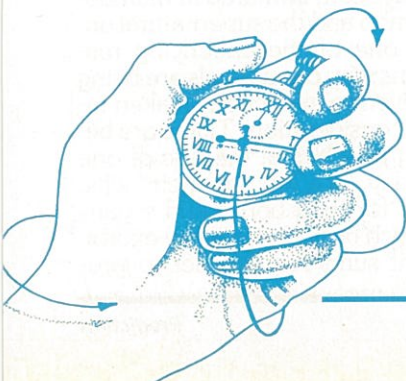
It was only upon his return to the shop a week later that things became distinctly odd. Although very definitely the same place, it looked completely different. Gone were the cobblestones, replaced by paving stones. The shop itself looked rather drab and worn, certainly it had not benefited from a recent painting.

But even more astonishing, the plastic envelopes purchased there just the week before were not sold by the shop and, as far as the assistant knew, never had been. Curiously, when dated by the manufacturers, these envelopes were thought to be probably ten to 15 years old, certainly not from the early 1900s (the era suggested by the description of the shop), though still of a type that was out of date and no longer stocked at the time the man had bought them.

Was this, then, a true time-slip? Or was it an inherent family memory passed down from his coin-collecting grandfather?

Whether or not these kinds of visions are due simply to hallucination, the power of the imagination, time-slips or some other supernatural force of which we as yet have no understanding, one wonders how many phantom apparitions, whether of people or places, we may all have witnessed without actually realising it.

Maybe time is just like waiting for a train to take us to our intended destination — whether that be in the past or even in the future.



White Elephant

by STEPHANIE SORRELL

*If you talk to the animals they will talk with you
And you will know each other.
If you do not talk to them, you will not know them,
And what you do not know you will fear.
What one fears one destroys.*

(Chief Dan George)

It happened about two years ago. I was walking along a narrow winding road in India when a young white elephant calf emerged from one of the bends. I felt no fear as our eyes met, just an overpowering sense of tenderness, awe and love.

I had heard of these white elephants and understood them to be both sacred and rare. We stood looking at each other and I remembered thinking what beautiful deep blue eyes the calf had. There was a human quality to them as if they could see into my soul.

And I realised the love and compassion that I felt was emanating directly from the young elephant; as if it were able to look into the fabric of my life and see my past and present.

But then this idyllic scene was completely shattered by the events that ensued. An Indian came running round the corner, leapt on the elephant and began harpooning the unfortunate animal with a spear. All this happened literally in seconds and I could only witness the scene in stunned shock.

Afterwards, I experienced such a deep and terrifying sense of loss that it was as if something vital and beautiful had been wrenched from me. Yet, into this deep chasm of pain poured a sudden and intense sense of radiance, as if the dead elephant's spirit were

speaking to me.

'Don't grieve for me,' it said. 'I am not dead. I will be born again to you soon. You will never lose me.'

Upon waking

It took me some time to realise that I had actually been dreaming as I struggled to make sense of the bizarre images, recounted above, that had gripped me earlier. But, understandably, the dream left an underlying sense of loss and sadness which haunted me for a long time afterwards.

Environmentally, it spoke to me of the threat of extinction which faces many animals and the deep sense of loss which is consequently our heritage. Having spent a number of years researching symbolism, mysticism and world religions I had amassed enough material to know that dreams 'speak' to us in the language we are most likely to understand.

Thus, by the elephant expressing that it was not dead, it was echoing a belief that the North American Indians held when all their buffalo were slaughtered by the white men; that their spirits lived on with their ancestors, returning again through the law of reincarnation or residing in the 'heaven world.'

Whatever the dream's meaning, whether personal or impersonal, it led me on an 'elephant quest' where I dis-

covered that the white elephant is really tantamount to the sacred white buffalo whose return inaugurates the dawning of World Peace. Additionally, it was believed that one of Buddha's last incarnations was that of a white elephant. Indeed, his mother dreamed that a white elephant entered her womb, prophesying the birth of royalty.

The white elephant is greatly venerated in Thailand where it is a symbol of power, prestige and prosperity. In fact our Western term 'white elephant' originates from the story of an ancient Thai king who granted his troublesome son the title Keeper of the White Elephants which, though prestigious, was a financially debilitating responsibility.

But what about the ordinary elephant, if ever this magnificent creature can be referred to as such? What of its symbolism and power as a totem?

Because of the elephants' sacred roots they have been venerated and well tolerated even when they have raided food stores and crops. But this reverence is sadly diminishing among the young as they become more Westernised and consequently the elephant is under threat again.

Yet, really to understand how the elephant works as a talisman or totem it is necessary to study the animal, or at least observe its habits, appearance and general character. Basically a totem is a symbol of medicine or power bestowed by the spirit of the animal or plant with which it is associated.

Mumbo-jumbo

To the ordinary person this may seem immured in mumbo-jumbo and the supernatural until one of the underlying reasons why our animals are being driven to extinction is taken into consideration. Tigers are being poached at the rate of one a day, not just for their pelts, but for their bones and organs which businessmen pay exorbitant sums for in order to pro-

cure the prized qualities of that animal. Bones are ground down into powder and sold on the Chinese black market for this reason along with other rare animals parts.

In other words, they are used as poor and environmentally destructive substitutes for totems. Because we have cut ourselves off from nature and the animals, its spirit has become dead to us. We no longer hear or understand the voice of the wild.

Trunk

Due to its grey wrinkled appearance, the elephant has always been associated with the Earth. But perhaps the most significant feature of this creature is its trunk and the sensitivity with which it is able to both explore its environment and express feelings.

Because elephants have very poor sight they rely heavily on their trunks for information. With this ingenious piece of apparatus they are able to feed themselves, bathe, drink, touch each other and communicate vocally. They will perform an elaborate 'greeting ceremony' by linking their trunks with relatives and friends, then gently placing the tips of their trunks in each other's mouth.

Symbolically, and perhaps implemented by its size and longevity, the elephant has always been associated with strength, long memory, patience and wisdom. Aristotle referred to it as the most intelligent of all animals.

Elephants also appeared on Roman coins as symbols of imperial power. In Roman art Africa was represented as having an elephant's head which makes a lot of sense as I am sure that if any country is represented by a guardian spirit, it would be the African elephant.

Ganeesh, India's god of travel, wisdom, prosperity and humour, was an elephant-headed deity. Some readers may be familiar with a documentary of elephants featuring Goldie

Hawn who went and sought the blessing and aid of Ganeesh before embarking on her journey through India to seek 'her' elephant.

People who have had the fortune to observe elephants very closely have noted their moving and rather unusual behaviour towards elephant carcasses. A silence will fall on the elephants as they gather around the corpse and test it with their trunks, very gently moving the bones about. It is as if they are divining the bones for some clue of their owner or maybe it is a simple act of grief as elephants are very capable of grieving.

Elephants stick together, supporting each other in childbirth and death. In birth they will gather protectively around the new-born calf and take it in turns to look after the infant if need be.

If an elephant is wounded the others will lean towards him/her and hold the injured up with their trunks and tusks. If one of them is dying, the rest of the herd will refuse to leave it until it has taken its last breath. It is not uncommon, either, for elephants to bury their dead companion with grass and branches.

The relationship between elephants and man has polarised between extreme respect and love and sheer greed for the money their ivory tusks can fetch and this has driven them dangerously near to extinction in the past. Yet the love between an elephant and man can be as strong as that between a dog and its master.

Satya Sai Baba, a holy man in India, has an elephant that weeps physical tears when his master leaves. Then there was the case of the circus owner who

worked with an elephant for 16 years and left to get married. The elephant never recovered from his departure and refused to eat or drink and gave up the will to live.

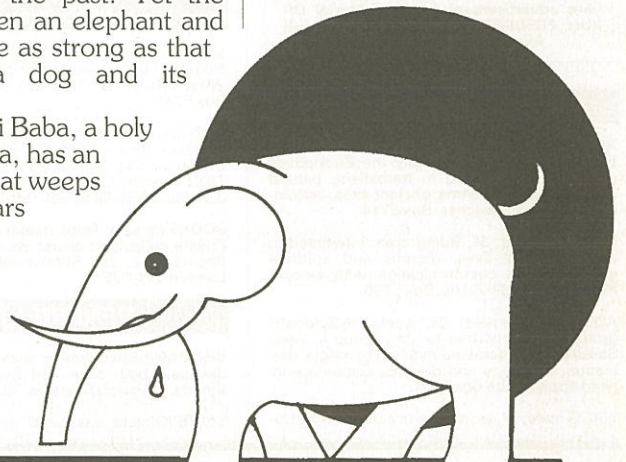
And there was another report of a young elephant who was being trained but couldn't understand what was expected of her. When her trainers became impatient, she rolled over on her side and cried with frustration; tears streamed down her face and sobs racked her huge body.

Totem

As elephants have a strong sense of family and community, using the elephant as a totem would strengthen a sense of family and belonging to the Earth. Also the elephant totem would bestow patience and wisdom where this would be needed in a particular situation.

Since the elephant uses its trunk to gain information from its environment through the use of smell, the totem would increase one's sensitivity greatly. This would probably, therefore, be an excellent totem for aromatherapists who need to have a keen sense of smell to work with the oils on a deeper, more intuitive level.

Lastly, but by no means least, the elephant could be called on for protection during pregnancy and for children in general as well as elderly and sick relatives.



Letters for publication are welcomed. Address: The Editor, Prediction, Link House, Dingwall Avenue, Croydon CR9 2TA. Correspondents must give their names and full addresses. All correspondence must be accompanied by an sae.

LETTERS



DILEMMA

I AM WRITING concerning the article, *Odds Against*, by Simon Webb (December 96). After many years of study and deliberation I had come to the conclusion that the spirit/soul about to reincarnate must enter the physical plane at the time of conception.

However, this article clearly states that Imad Elawar was born a few weeks after Ibrahim Bouhamzys' death. This evidence clearly puts paid to my adopted theory. I would be grateful for the views of other PREDICTION readers and writers on this subject.

J. Price Somerset

POWER SOURCE

IN PAST EDITIONS OF PREDICTION it was speculated that the Theosophists Annie Besant

and C.W. Leadbeater had discovered the ultimate physical atom clairvoyantly.

The different directions of the positive and negative spiral whorls seem to sympathise with the centripetal and centrifugal vortices of the Austrian Victor Schauburger and I wonder if these, in various proportions, are used on known and unknown elements to power UFOs and provide free energy.

Will the theories of these Theosophists and Schauburger become orthodox science and provide us with free energy?

G.J. Badgey Worcs

TUNING IN

MAGDA'S RESPONSE to a reader's enquiry concerning a crystal ball (OQT March 97) advised her to place the uncovered crystal by her bed

for a few weeks to become attuned to her vibrations. While I would agree that this is sound advice for most minerals, quartz has electro-magnetic properties which tend to be heightened during certain Lunar phases, notably around the Full Moon, and its vibrations can cause headaches and disturbed sleep if placed in the bedroom at such times.

I would suggest, therefore, that the best way to attune any crystal is to carry it around and handle it as frequently as possible. However, if this is not possible due to size, a series of candlelit meditations may have the same effect, perhaps with a little gentle background music. This same music could then be played when using the crystal for scrying.

G.C. Kent

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.

CONTACTS

AQUARIAN female, 29, seeks new like-minded friends anywhere, especially the Bucks/Beds area. I am interested in herbalism, natural magic, crystals, dreams, ancient sites, astrology, folklore and witches. Box E754.

LIBRAN female, 36, Bucks area, interested in astrology, past-lives, dreams and spiritual growth, seeks communication with sincere like-minded individuals. Box E730.

AQUARIAN female, 28, seeks individuals/group/magical partner to start group in West Sussex area. Interested in healing, magic, divination, astrology and dreams. Genuine only need apply. Write Box E731.

VIRGO male, 27, would like to contact individu-

PERSONAL CLASSIFIED

als interested in astrology, Tarot, religion, occult, psychic abilities, New Age ideas, healing and divination. Box E732.

AQUARIAN female, 26, would love to contact spiritual shamans, lovers of trees, animals, Sunsets, rain-mountains and all nature. I would like to form a group/correspondance club. West Country area. Box E733.

FOR SALE

LARGE collection of PREDICTION magazines from the 60s to present day including Annuals. What offers? ☎ 0181-651 5683 or write to Box E744.

BLOODLINE of the Holy Grail: Hidden Lineage of Jesus Revealed by Gardner. As new hbk, £10.00 inc p&p. Also titles on various PREDICTION subjects £2.00 each, send SAE for list to J. Hillier, 28 Rydal Street, Hartlepool TS26 9BA.

BOOKS for sale; Tarot, health and graphology. Private collection; please send SAE for list to Rosina Lock, 256 Rhodeswell Road, Poplar, London E14 7UE.

PENFRIENDS

SHAMAN/healer, female, seeks like-minded individuals both here and overseas for pen-friends. Warwickshire area, ALA. Box E734.

SCORPIO male, interested in ancient sites, ley

ines, Moon magic, herbcraft, paranormal and music (Goth, Trance & Techno), seeks pen-friends for views on any of the above. Box E736.

SCORPIO male, 26, archaeology student and crop circle enthusiast. Planning permanent retreat into Disc World via Middle Earth and Narnia, seeks enlightened navigators who can read the stars. Write please to Box E737.

CAPRICORN male, 31 seeks correspondence with similar people interested in most PREDICTION subjects especially Tarot to exchange views, widen contacts and develop genuine friendships. Box E738.

EAST Anglian male, 28, Aries, novice witch interested in but not highly knowledgeable about Paganism/Celtic tradition, myths and legends, UFOs, most paranormal subjects, Sandman comics and *The X-Files* seeks penpals in East Anglian/anywhere. Box E739.

ARIES male, 23, seeks correspondence with anyone interested in ritual magic, astral projection, psychic development and meditation. Write Box E747.

FEMALE Leo, 51, astrologer and interested in all other occult subjects, seeks penpals. Write to Box E748.

AMERICAN (living in US) female, 32, single and loves the stars, water, rain and fire. I believe in God but not religion. Looking for some good penfriends. Write Box E749.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE INFINITESIMAL DOSE

by Colin B. Lessell
(C.W.Daniel, £9.95/\$19.95)

HOMOEOPATHY HAS MANY adherents but is criticised by scientists because it has not been proved to work scientifically. It is this difference that persuaded Lessell to write this book, showing in simple terms the scientific justification for the two incongruities of homoeopathy: the potentisation (serial dilution) and posology (dosage).

This is a well researched and learned work deserving serious consideration by students. Lessell has adopted a style that varies between arcane medical language and the simple plus graphical illustrations. For instance, he explains that the different dosages prescribed are like curry, each has a flavour but a different strength.

Although he carefully discusses the structure of water, the theories of potentisation, ethanol and polymers, Lessell recognises that homoeopaths have concentrated their efforts on the remedial action rather than the scientific bias of their practice, asserting a natural law as the foundation of their therapy, feeling they have elevated their art to a science.

Yet, as Lessell points out, it is science that neither knows what it dispenses nor in which quantity. Despite prodigious vagaries, homoeopathy has been enormously successful and often constitutes a serious and superior rival to orthodox medicine.

This book should certainly achieve the author's objective of enlightening and promoting discussion as he has made such an interesting attempt to grasp the inherently characteristic nature of the topic. — V.F.

HANDS ON SPIRITUAL HEALING

by Michael Bradford
(Findhorn Press, £7.95/\$14.95)

THIS IS A useful, practical and relatively jargon-free exposition of one of the most valuable aspects of the New Age era, healing.

The publishers produce high quality material and, if you can overcome the constant and repetitive emphasis on Unconditional Love which permeates their reason for existence and message to the world, all will be fine. Bradford is very experienced in utilising this New Age healing programme and has travelled widely demonstrating his skills and methods.

There is no doubt in my mind that this is one of the most concise, helpful and suitably illustrated books in the

spiritual healing field written from a Findhorn community perspective. — M.R.

FOLK REMEDIES FOR COMMON AILMENTS

by Anne McIntyre
(Gaia, £8.99)

THIS IS A simple, easy to use book of traditional remedies that have been passed down through the generations. Here we learn how to create effective cures from ingredients found around the home in the kitchen, bathroom, garden and hedgerows; potatoes, tea, eggs, salt and the like.

McIntyre is a practising herbalist and a member of the National Institute of Medical Herbalists so knows a thing or two about traditional and modern remedies. Using the ingredients found around the home, she explains how to use and prepare tinctures, gargles, syrups, baths and poultices to provide inexpensive healing on hand at all times so that you and your family can benefit quickly and safely at the first sign of illness.

Each page deals with a herb, fruit, vegetable, plant, flower, etc, listing its internal and external uses and what it was used for in days of old. This book offers an invaluable resource for self-help, preventative and curative remedies and first-aid in an interesting and traditional way. — C.B.

THE CELTIC IMAGE

by Courtney Davis & David James
(Blandford, £16.99 hbk)

THIS STUNNING BOOK is a happy collaboration between talented artist Courtney Davis and experienced writer David Jones, both of whom are well-known for their interest in and knowledge of all things Celtic.

Here are 120-plus pages on the multi-faceted image of the Celt from earliest times to the present revivalist period. Chapters include the ancient tradition of the Celtic warrior, the kingdom of nature, sacred sites, Celtic Christianity and the illuminated gospels plus recommended further reading material and a useful index. The compelling but highly readable text is interspersed throughout with beautiful drawings and colourful illustrations to delight the eye and raise the spirits.

This is an inspirational book that provides insights into the life and times of the Celts past and present which will be of interest to anyone concerned

with their historic roots or who, quite simply, appreciates Celtic art and design. Beautifully produced and presented, excellent value for money, this book is one to enjoy and treasure. — M.E.

THE REFLEXOLOGY MANUAL

by Pauline Wills
(Headline, £12.99)

REFLEXOLOGY, AS A specific complementary therapy, has been growing in popularity in recent years and many individuals are now training in this field. This well illustrated full-colour book is aimed primarily at those who wish to become therapists although there is also some new material and ideas which might be of interest to those already practising.

As a guide it is excellent, with the illustrations showing clearly the different stages of treatments and, as such, I would recommend it as a 'must' for anyone who wishes to train in this therapy. The author, a professional therapist who has also trained as a healer and colour therapist, suggests links between these different disciplines and how they might be incorporated into a treatment.

However, despite its glossy illustrations, this book is unlikely to appeal to a wider readership as reflexology does not generally lend itself to self-help treatment. — D.F.

WHAT WITCHES DO

by Stewart Farrar
(Phoenix/Hale, \$9.95/£12.95)

WHEN I REVIEWED the first edition of this book 25 years ago, I remember observing that it should have been entitled *What Some Witches Do*. Despite the passage of time, this observation remains true because it is basically a product of the Alexandrian school of modern Wicca.

A brief reference is made to other branches of witchcraft and the author comments that he does not know much about traditional witches 'except that apparently they wear robes for their rites.' This is unconscious humour at its very best.

At the time of initial publication Farrar had just been initiated by Maxine and Alex Sanders into their version of Wicca and he was a bit starry-eyed about it all. In the 1990 introduction included in this edition, he does try to put Alex Sanders into perspective and debunk some of the myths.

(continued on page 71)

"Miraculous" Candle Rituals Give You Control of Your Life – Automatically!

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And we'll put our money where our mouth is: TRY A RITUAL FOR WHATEVER YOU WANT IN LIFE YOU MAY WANT JUST ONE THING OR SEVERAL TRY AS MANY RITUALS AS YOU LIKE YOU MUST GET WHATEVER YOU SEEK OR WE'LL REFUND NOT ONLY YOUR MONEY BUT ALSO GIVE YOU £3

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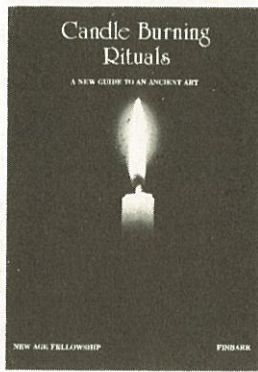
P.P. (Richmond) wrote: "I have tried so many candle burning books without success – this is the only one to help me"

J.G. (Toronto): "How can I thank you? I don't know where to begin. Have used your candle ritual every time before going out to play bingo – and have won prizes 4 times out of 5! Used your candle rite for my mother who won a \$5000 lottery prize! ... And just before writing this I've done a ritual for a new auto – I just know it's going to work! May God bless you."

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!"

O.J. (Washington): "I was sceptical, but after trying the ritual to get my lover back I became a believer! She called me the next day and begged my forgiveness! This stuff works!"

These and many other testimonials, demonstrate the amazing results to be obtained from these unique candle burning rituals. FOR WHATEVER YOU NEED OR WANT JUST LIGHT A CANDLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS BOOK'S INSTRUCTIONS, AND YOU WILL RECEIVE HELP! GUARANTEED!



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

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

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

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- To Forget The Past
- The Wisdom to Make The Right Decision in An Important Matter
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BOOKS

(continued from page 69)

He also acknowledges that the Craft has changed since he wrote the book. It has done so again in the last six years and it is a pity that we could not have had a further update with this new edition.

As an introduction to a popular form of witchcraft that flourished in the 70s, but which seems to have waned since the death of its founder, this book can be recommended. However, its title is still misleading and obscures that fact that there are many other witch traditions out there which bear little resemblance to what is written here. — M.H.

THE SELF-ESTEEM WORKBOOK by Lynda Field

(Element, £9.99/\$15.95)

THIS WORK is divided into two sections, a Personal Assessment of Your Present Levels of Self-Esteem and New Levels of Self-Esteem.

Part One shows how you can choose to create high or low self-esteem. It examines the personal elements that you bring to each of your life experiences by focusing on your own individual thought, feeling and behaviour patterns.

Part Two demonstrates the practical application of original and easy to use techniques to increase your self-esteem in any area of life. It looks in detail at developing high personal levels.

Each chapter includes questionnaires, exercises and affirmations. This requires readers to examine their own levels of self-respect, self love and esteem, to work through the exercises and affirm their raised awareness.

A book that can be read and used cover to cover or dipped into when needed, it is a powerful resource tool. Field creates a loving, supportive framework through which readers can personalise the author-led activities.

A valuable addition to anyone's bookshelf. — V.F.

WESTERN MANDALAS OF TRANSFORMATION

by Soror A.L.;

illustrated by Lloyd Nygaard

(Llewellyn/Airlift,

\$17.95/£15.99)

PART OF THIS publisher's excellent Golden Dawn series, this comprehensive work reveals the secrets of magical symbolism. Here you will discover how to create planetary, zodiacal, Cabbalistic and other symbolic images for use in meditation, ritual and magic.

Whether novice or experienced, if at all interested in talismanic magic, you

will find all the information needed here to make and consecrate talismans for every sort of purpose. Easy to follow text and clear, simplified diagrams plus comprehensive tables of correspondences allow the reader to follow traditional practices or explore new methods of empowerment.

This is an excellent reference work that lends itself to practical application too. Contents include magical squares and sigils, planetary/Cabbalistic kameas, healing and balancing tattwas plus advice on how to contact a guardian angel and achieve positive results.

Copiously illustrated, full of useful hints and suggestions, this is an eminently practical work that should prove invaluable to anyone seeking to enhance his/her life through well-established magical techniques. — M.E.

THE PRINCIPLES OF PAGANISM

by Vivianne Crowley

(Thorsons, £4.99/\$11.00)

WITH THE STEADY increase of interest in neo-paganism as a religion and way of life, a book such as this is long overdue. In simple terms it describes what modern pagans believe in and how paganism relates to life at the end of the 20th century.

At best, modern pagans are regarded as daffy eccentrics; at worst, they are denigrated as devil-worshipping weirdoes. Crowley explodes the myths to show that paganism is not some bizarre cult but a belief system based on ancient tradition updated to suit our modern world.

She demonstrates that paganism is all around us — in the sacred landscape of ancient sites where our ancestors worshipped the forces of nature before us. It is a religion preserved in the land and in the blood of its people, in folk song and dance, in seasonal festivals and customs. Above all, it is a religion that recognises the Divine and the sacred in the natural world.

Recommended reading for all those who want to learn more about what has been described as the fastest growing spiritual movement in the West. — M.H.

RUNE POWER

by Kenneth Meadows

(Element, £9.99/\$14.95)

IN THIS BOOK, subtitled 'The Secret Knowledge of the Wise Ones,' Meadows uncovers the mysteries of the runes. He explains what they are and where they come from, how they can be used in magic and personal discovery.

The meaning of each rune is explained in great detail and there are 20 'assignments' for the aspiring rune-master and/or diviner to work through at his/her own pace. There are plenty of illustrations and a useful bibliography.

Here, it is interesting to note that there were only three or four books

available on the subject of runes prior to 1980. This shows the enormous advances that have been made since Michael Howard's pioneering work, *The Magic of the Runes*. — J.T.M.

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN MEDICINE

by John F. Nunn

(British Museum Press, £25 hbk)

THIS ACADEMIC WORK holds a macabre fascination. It is a comprehensive survey of original Egyptian medical papyri and other sources of information such as skeletons, mummies, statues, tomb paintings and coffins carried out by a qualified physician and Egyptologist.

The result is simply stunning, not simply because of the amount of detailed information that has been gleaned from these sources but the extent of the ancient Egyptians' knowledge of human anatomy, their understanding of disease and range of medical skills including surgery. Much has been written about the ancient Egyptian art of preserving bodies through mummification but their expertise in the medical treatment of living persons has been sadly neglected.

Nunn remedies this situation in his enthralling book which explains how the Egyptian doctors made their diagnoses of both minor complaints and serious conditions and what treatments were carried out. There are even suggested remedies for restoring hair growth for the bald or curative measures against greying as well as techniques for the reduction of a dislocated shoulder or the setting of a broken limb which may well be used today.

And, if all else failed, there were always spells and incantation to help the sick or dying as magic, religion and medicine were intimately related; medical practitioners were both priests and doctors or surgeons. This fascinating book focuses a spotlight on the earliest known physicians, their understanding of disease and traumas and the ways in which they attempted to deal with them through surgery, drugs and magic.

Compulsive reading and a revelation on the depth of knowledge of an ancient civilisation. Highly recommended. — M.E.

ASTROLOGY REALLY WORKS

by The Magi Society

(Astro Rumi/Airlift,

\$12.95/£10.99)

BEFORE READING THIS book I had never heard of the Magi Society and thus cannot say how well-established or regarded they are in America. But I will admit that their approach to astrology is notably different from the norm.

Although they take their astrology seriously enough to constantly offer definite challenge to sceptics who wish to disprove their methods, the many

(continued on page 73)

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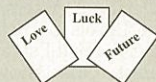
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BOOKS

(continued from page 71)

charts in this book are all timed for 1pm EST, which I find puzzling. The Magi regard most timed data as potentially inaccurate and thus dispense with the ASC and MC.

They also include two sets of planets in their charts: the first being the traditional planetary positions which are placed on the outside of the circle while the second set are positioned according to declination on curved lines. The parallel and contra-parallel are considered to be major aspects along with the conjunction and trine. As I said, this is a very different system to the one with which we are familiar.

As this group has a religious foundation, there is a chapter to prove that astrology comes directly from God because of constant mentions in the Bible. This section also devotes much space to disproving the work of Charles Darwin; all of which I feel is inappropriate in an astrological tome.

However, many of the Society's conclusions are interesting enough to force one to look at a chart from a new angle, which must be a good thing. Perhaps not a work for the novice — I feel one should study traditional methods before experimenting — but the more advanced may benefit from a perusal. — B.L.

ACUPRESSURE FOR COMMON AILMENTS by Chris Janey & John Tindall (Gaia, £7.99)

MOST PEOPLE NOWADAYS are aware of the benefits of acupuncture and it can only be a matter of time before it is available on the NHS. Acupressure works in a similar way on specific points of the body where subtle energies can be manipulated except that the practitioner's fingertips are substituted for the acupuncturist's needles.

As with acupuncture, this healing principle is based on Eastern philosophy and this discussed fully by the authors. The main part of the book covers the practical uses of acupressure to deal with common ailments such as colds, stress, asthma, depression, PMT, ME and even piles! The work is fully illustrated and shows how pressure can be applied to various parts of the body to alleviate the symptoms of these health conditions.

Just how much can be learnt from this method of DIY teaching is debatable. Surely there is a danger of creating instant 'healers' who, having devoted a weekend to reading this book, regard themselves as qualified to tackle any health problem. After all, there

aren't many books on DIY brain surgery available. — M.H.

FINDING YOUR GUARDIAN ANGEL THROUGH INCENSE & CANDLE BURNING by Michael Howard (Thorsons, £4.99/\$9.00)

THIS IS A particularly useful book, refreshingly succinct and to the point. There seems to be a growing appreciation of the necessity of applying some form of ritual into one's occult endeavours and Howard provides some interesting information regarding this.

The method of attaining grace and favour of the angelic beings who await in the spiritual worlds to facilitate Earthly requirements are outlined. It may seem daft initially to be so pernickety about evoking the proper archangel at the right time and for the delineated purpose using the correct colours, etc but this, in itself, has the great advantage of disciplining the oh so errant mind.

Ritual may be a bit of a bother, seemingly archaic and beyond the pale for sophisticated, intellectual, hungry for instant gratification modern humans yet we might do a lot worse than ask for assistance from the spiritual worlds using candle-burning. — M.R.

PLANETS ON THE MOVE by Maritha Pottenger & Zipporah Dobyns (ACS/Airlift, \$14.95/£12.95)

AS FAR AS I know this is the first book to bring relocation charts within the realms of interpretation for everyone. So many thanks are due to Zip Dobyns and her daughter for making this art possible to us ordinary mortals who have limited access to the complications of Astro[®]Carto[®]Graphy; all that is required is either the patience to calculate manually or a computer that will relocate a chart to anywhere on Earth.

The first half of the book is devoted to case histories that study prominent people and how they fare with the rest of the world. These include a detailed look at Bill Clinton along with other folk such as David Koresh and one of his child victims, Ross Perot, Pearl Bailey and O.J. Simpson.

The rest of the book follows a cookbook formula that allows the study of one's own chart or that of others relocated to anywhere and everywhere in the world. Also considered are the effects of all the possible different angles that can arise as well as aspects to the rulers of each/every House plus the new House positions for each planet and four major asteroids.

The latter section is the one that would be consulted in detail whenever a change of location was under consideration. The final chapter even advises where one should go to marry, achieve fame or riches, etc plus what may need

to be sacrificed in order to achieve a particular aim or aspiration.

This book comes thoroughly recommended. — B.L.

CELTIC MYTHS, CELTIC LEGENDS by R.J. Stewart (Blandford, £9.99/£16.99 hbk)

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED AS a hardback in 1994, this paperback edition is very welcome. Here you will find a wondrous collection of tales from Ireland, Wales, Brittany and England told by an author who really knows and understands his subject thoroughly and avoids the modern temptation to romanticise the Celtic myths.

In the true tradition of story-telling, Stewart recounts these tales of beauty and savagery that play such a significant role not only in our historical heritage but in the nation's spiritual development too. Some of the legends were preserved as poetry, both oral and literary, mainly in the form of ballads and many of these are included in this appealing collection.

It is also a visually attractive book containing some 11 full-colour and 40 line illustrations in its 176 pages. Admirers of talented artist Courtney Davis will be delighted to note that he is the originator of the evocative colour plates seen here; Sarah Lever has provided the line drawings that enliven the text.

There is a bibliography, recommended further reading list, index, introduction and afterward plus ten separate tales from Celtic Britain. An impressive yet accessible work which, in its new format, represents very good value for the cover price. — M.E.

KINESIOLOGY by Ann Holdway (Element, £5.99)

IT SEEMS THERE are at least 82 conditions that kinesiology can and has helped. However, it is difficult to test in practice. For example, hiatus hernia is listed but how this treatment will be of assistance is not really clear. On the other hand, another listed condition, cramp, would beyond doubt be helped by such methods.

The book's claim that kinesiology can help everybody and every condition is too general and too lofty to be tested. However, great credit should be given to the author for the enormous effort she has made in researching, collecting and presenting the relevant material of her specialist subject; the case histories make especially interesting reading.

This book could certainly be of value to individuals wishing to explore and practise these techniques. — V.F.

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BOOKS

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THE COMPLETE BOOK OF MAGICAL NAMES

by **Phoenix McFarland**
(Llewellyn/Airlift, \$19.95/£15.99)

UNLIKE OTHER NAME books, you cannot simply look up your name and those of friends and relatives to discover their meanings. Instead, this cleverly constructed work enables you to select an appropriate name for specific purposes, one with relevant associations or meaning.

For instance, if searching for a name connected with fertility, the index of characteristics at the end of this book will list all such entries and refer you to every section where the chosen name appears so that you can discover its origins and associations. Thus selection of the most propitious name is made easy — and interesting for this text makes for compulsive reading.

Here you will find all sorts of little known derivations, how names have evolved or been influenced by changing times and religious pressures, rituals and spells for naming ceremonies, even literary references to enlighten and entertain.

Whether seeking the ideal name for yourself, offspring, pet, business or whatever, finding the most suitable is made easy with the help of this unusual yet extremely useful book containing nearly 5,000 names from a variety of modern and ancient sources. — J.L.

THE EAGLE AND THE ROSE

by **Rosemary Altea**
(Bantam, £6.99)

ALL TOO OFTEN, aspiring occult authors seem to feel a few prophetic dreams, a smattering of ghost sightings and a few years on the demonstration circuit are all that are needed to produce a book on their life with spirit. Certainly there are far too many such mundane efforts around that belittle the whole scene. Happily, though, such is not the case here.

Ms Altea has written one of the most interesting and genuine sounding accounts I have read for some time. She is clearly a sensitive soul in many ways and has lived a very difficult life; seemingly a prerequisite of those destined to demonstrate genuine spiritual gifts.

This book is packed with accounts of Altea's various experiences and interactions with her Red Indian guide and twin soul, Grey Eagle. I get the feeling that the absorbing anecdotal material provided in this book indicates the author's genuine gifts and abilities.

All in all, a well written and enjoyable book. — M.R.

THE UNSEEN SELF

by **Brian Snellgrove**
(C.W. Daniel, £7.95/£15.95)

WHAT CAUSES THINGS to happen? Is the mind a separate entity form the body? And what exactly is the universe? The author, a Kirlian 'sensitive' and believer, starts his analysis of Kirlian photography, electromagnetic lines of force and morphic field phenomena with such questions.

Drawing from his own experiences, popular science and occult literature, Snellgrove paints a picture of Kirlian photographic techniques, analysis and practice. He also manages to work in some of the most current theories concerning the nature of occult phenomena and the beliefs of those who study them.

There's nothing Earthshakingly new here but what is written is lucid and well-planned, arguing against prejudice and leaving us with the tantalising notion that the universe may be more a great thought than a great machine. — D.A.

SAINT OR SATAN

by **Galina Vinogradova**
(Gothic Image, £11.95)

THIS IS THE life-story of Anatoly Kashpirovsky who appears to be a cross between Edgar Cayce and Uri Geller and is inevitably compared with Rasputin. Once a medical practitioner, he is now a full-time healer with a difference who has gained an enormous, almost mythical reputation in Russia.

Kashpirovsky carried out his healing sessions on television, called 'tealseances,' to nightly audiences of 200 million people. Such was his popularity as a 'telepschotherapist' that he received up to 200,000 letters a month reporting or requesting cures.

However, his broadcasts were eventually banned by the authorities, partly because he was accused of hypnotising his audience into ignoring political matters! Like Freud, Kashpirovsky rejected hypnosis, preferring to say that he does not cure diseases but merely helps a person to return to a 'memory of normality.'

This is a superb tale yet inexplicably lacks something in the telling for this reviewer found it difficult to read. It is, though, recommended highly to those interested in the subject. — J.T.M.

THE INSTANT HOROSCOPE READER

by **Julia Lupton Skalka**
(Llewellyn/Airlift, \$14.95/£11.99)

HERE IS A tome aimed at the absolute beginner to astrology that comes complete with the offer of a free computer chart.

It takes one through the basics of the art in detail, clearly showing the nature of planets, signs, houses, aspects and so on. The book ends with a guide on

how to interpret particular charts such as those of a variety of celebrities like Theodore Roosevelt, Grace Kelly, Ted Bundy and Mata Hari: fascinating stuff.

There is also a rough ephemeris of planetary ingresses from 1900-1999 for those who wish to begin to understand the rudiments of calculation. The aim of the work is to encourage the uninitiated to learn the basics of astrology in order to realise potential; which can't be a bad thing. — B.L.

IN SEARCH OF DEITIES

trans by **Clara Show**; illustrated
by **Wang Xuanming**

(Asiapac/Millbank Books, £6.95)

I MUST ADMIT that the outset that I do not much like the apparent modern trend to publish books on 'serious' subjects in cartoon style. However, this delightful little collection of fairy tales (compiled by Gan Bao) does lend itself admirably to such a format.

Mythical fantasies occupy an important role in Chinese culture and, according to some authorities, are the forerunners of ancient Chinese novels. This particular collection was compiled during the Six Dynasties, a period of civil strife when there was widespread movement of people from one place to another. This had the inevitable result that literary scholars, stifled by the Confucianism that monopolised the cultural climate, sought a freer mode of expression.

Here, then, are 16 assorted stories, each with a moral or philosophical message, of deities and spirits who dwell in heaven, hell or on the Earth and had intricate links with mankind. Some, indeed most of these fictitious characters possess supernatural powers, some are innately good, others evil. The plots are refreshingly simple, as befits tales that were originally passed on verbally rather than written down; which, again, may account for their suitability for a cartoon format.

An unusual and intriguing collection of fantasy tales to delight Westerners and Orientals alike. — M.E.

THE ENIGMA OF BORLEY RECTORY

by **Ivan Banks**
(Foulsham, £9.99/\$16.95)

THE GHOSTS AND weird reputation of Borley Rectory have been haunting investigators for some five decades, with media attention constantly reviving interest in what was 'Britain's Most Haunted House.'

After ten years intensive research in Belgium, Canada and France, including numerous historical archives, Banks has now produced a really intriguing spiritual and secular examination of the diverse aspects of the phenomena, for example the identity of

(continued overleaf)

BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

the ghostly nun, the possibility of murder in the Rectory and the association with Marianne Foyster.

One of the greatest attractions of this new book is the wealth of illustrations, many previously unpublished, together with the exclusive architectural plans and drawings of the building by the author.

The chairman of the Ghost Club, Tom Perrot, in his introduction states that, 'this is probably the most comprehensive volume of its kind so far produced,' while other contemporaries offer valuable insights into often conflicting views about the mysteries of England's classical haunting. — A.M.G.

TRANSFORMATION

by Julie Soskin

(The College of Psychic Studies, £6.99)

FOR STUDENTS OF the psychic, this is a fascinating and informative book; for

the rest of us, fascinating, yes, but not easy to understand or assimilate.

The author, who was a medium and is now a channeller, receives information from a group of beings she calls her 'Professors.' They and 'Bands of Helpers, Communicators and Beings of Light' on the higher astral planes and beyond are working for and with humanity. These beings forecast how this planet and its inhabitants will change physically and mentally, how these changes will be dealt with and how they should be dealt with.

The reader is urged to listen to the intuitive mind, the subconscious, to develop unsuspected powers. We all have our special work to do in our own surroundings but must learn to embrace all people, creeds and lands to adapt to global changes.

This book certainly contains many interesting ideas. — V.F.

CHAPBOOKS OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

by John Ashton

(Skoob, £9.95/\$19.95)

FOR THOSE WHO, like me, are unfamiliar with the term 'chapbook' an explanation is due. In 18th century England it was possible to buy a book of homely hints and recipes, puzzles, popular fa-

bles and tales, rhymes, ballads and romances, complete with woodcut illustrations, for the princely sum of one penny.

These chapbooks, for such was their name, provided virtually the only reading matter for the poorer classes. Now, of course, they provide a fascinating window into the heroes and legends, folklore and superstitions that prevailed in the popular literature of a bygone era.

This volume comprises a collection of over 100 chapbooks, complete with facsimiles of the original covers and woodcuts, encompassing a huge selection of traditional folk stories, old wives' tales, prophecies, traditional fortune-telling devices, fables and cautionary tales. It is a wonderful collection, both entertaining and educational in the sense of revealing unknown aspects of the literary history of a nation.

This is a book that can be picked through, opening pages at random, or will while away many a happy hour if read from start to finish. The contents are sufficiently varied to satisfy everyone's taste and the illustrations are simply a delight: I found it unputdownable!

Remarkable value for the money, an unusual present for anyone of any age — but remember to buy a copy to keep for yourself, too. — M.E.

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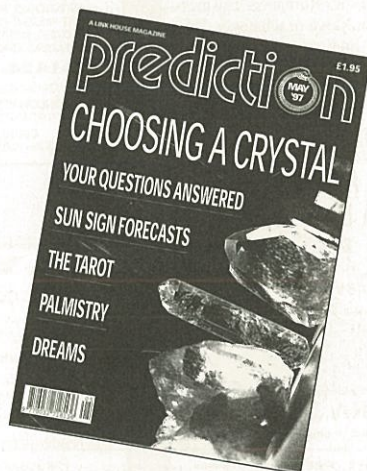
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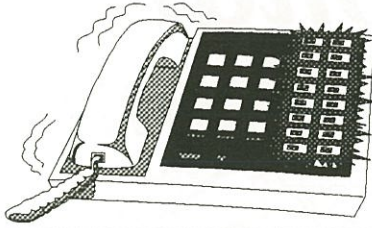
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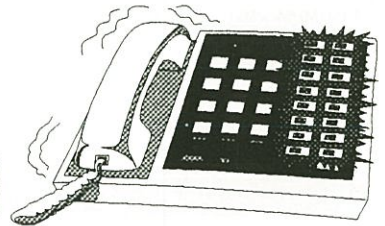
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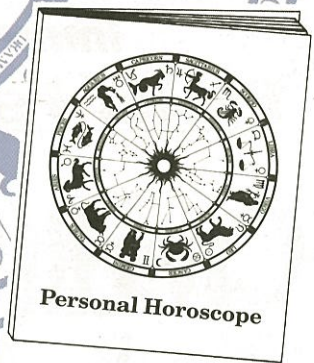
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