



NEWSLETTER

from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

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ARCHIVE

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The Greatest Hits of the 30's! the 30's! and the 30's!

Desert Island Books

THE worst bores are born under Sagittarius..." No, no, **Ludwig**. Calm down. **Charles** isn't talking about Sag Suns or Sag Mercs or Sagging Venuses. He's talking about Sag RISING. "...owing to their addictions to crazes and sudden enthusiasms." Most of the astrology books published prior to, say 1995 are already out of print & sad to say, few of them are missed.

I HAVE Gemini rising. Does this mean I can not be boring? (How boring!) Is that why you're still reading? (I've already been two-faced.)

FOR this month, the very best of the **Best of the Best**. If you were only going to get one book, if you were to be cast away on a **Deserted Island**, what book would it be?



signifies a prominent and afflicted Uranus." That's **Charles** again. "The fixed-sign influence is also inclined to terse and downright expression." But enough of this!

A week ago a caller asked, What's the **BEST BOOK** on Solar Returns? That's Anthony Louis's **The Art of Forecasting Using Solar Returns**. In it, not only will you

ALL of you are expert astrologers, but if you know someone who wants to learn, the **BEST BOOK** is Rae Orion's **Astrology for Dummies**. And it's not just because Rae is a very good writer. It's also because it has sidebars, helpful hints, cartoons, endless detail, superb organization. Except for the cartoons, all by Rae herself. Don't spill your coconut milk.

OKAY, **Transits**. The **BEST BOOK** really is a moldy oldie: **Rob Hand's Planets in Transit**. It's big, it's wordy, Rob is excessively cautious in many places (read between the lines) but it's comprehensive & definitive. It's a keeper. If you bought it years ago, know the 2nd edition has but one additional delineation: Pluto oppose Pluto. That happens to me in 2036.

Finance? No. Not finance. Not yet. "Abruptness of manner nearly always



get the best of Volguine, but also **Morin, Penfield, Shea, Eshelman & Merriman**. Even lunars & lunar mansions. At \$40, it's also the most expensive book on Solars. But, hey! you're on a desert island. Money has no meaning.

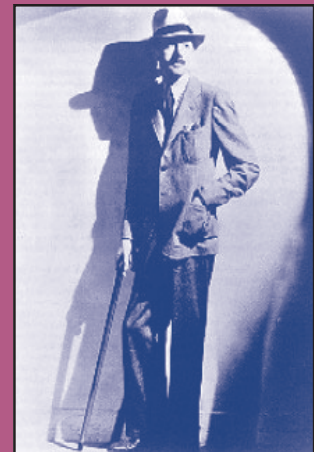
"Sagittarius rising folks are more generous, trusting & lucky than the rest of us. These sickening optimists appeal to everyone because of their happy-go-lucky approach to life." That's **Debbi Kempton-Smith**, the **Top Quark** herself. She says I can quote

her. That's the thing about a yummy book like **Secrets from a Stargazer's Notebook**. Everybody quotes Debbi, because they can't stop reading & laughing out loud.

SO how do you progress? I confess that I got stuck & don't seem to progress much at all, but if you are more successful in the world than I am,

I AM WORKING ON JOSEPH BLAGRAVE'S ASTROLOGICAL PRACTICE OF PHYSICK
GEE THIS TYPE IS SMALL CAN YOU STILL READ IT?

Joe, a country doctor from Reading, UK, lived from 1610 to 1682. This book, of astro-medicine, witchcraft & dyet-drinks, dates from 1671. Learn what a witch-bottle is, and how to make & use. About 150 pages, price should be \$20 or less. **May?**



Reporter: Say listen, is he working on a case?

Nora: Yes, he is.

Reporter: What case?

Nora: A case of scotch. Pitch in and help him.

There are still CALENDARS

THEY say it's just like the 30's. But it's not. Movies in the 30's had wit, sophistication, elegance. Sex was so hot they had to soak the screen with the **Hayes Code** to keep it from exploding. Movies now are larded with special effects. Sometimes I think we are watching noisy, dysfunctional machines. Boring.

the **BEST BOOK** on delineation is Alan Leo's **The Progressed Horoscope**. The **BEST BOOK** on techniques is **Blaschke's Volume 1**.

WE interrupt your deserted island to bring you Friday. Okay, so maybe it's just a temp passing through. Gazing upon him/her, are you a love-sick puppy or a professional matchmaker looking to make a buck? **Robson's Astrology & Sex** is the most comprehensive, but for planet-to-planet details, I use Davison's **Synastry**. Which I featured last month.

SO what do you think about this: **The true state of this lady's cause stood thus:** *A Gentleman had been a long time an earnest Suitor to her for Marriage, but she could never master her affection so much as to incline to Marriage-thoughts with him, but slighted him continually; and at last, to the great discontent of the Gentleman, she gave him absolute denial: After which denial so given, she became passionately affectionate of him, and did sorely repent of her folly, and so churlish a carriage, wishing she might again have former opportunities. This was her condition at what time she propounded the Question to me.*

What he didn't know about women! That's **William Lilly**, **Christian Astrology**. More than just the **BEST BOOK** ever on Horary. (With Bill's help, she got the guy, despite the fact he was on the verge of marrying another. Whereupon the two of them lived miserably ever after.)

The **BEST BOOK** on fixed stars is still **Robson**, and will always be **Robson**. Fixed stars don't do much to my chart & probably don't do much for yours, but with mundane charts & especially the charts of the High & Mighty, **RS** always check the **fixed stars**. You will be surprised.

But what about the money? you ask. What difference does that make? Money is boring. You're on an island. You're surrounded by water. Redeem the bottles that wash ashore. Nickels add up!

I GET asked questions. So where do I go for the answers? I have two favorites:

Nicholas deVore's **Encyclopedia of Astrology** for general reference, and, Holden's **History of Horoscopic Astrology** when I need the Who what why where & when of it. Both are **BEST BOOKS**.

Best book on midpoints? **Ebertin's Combination of Stellar Influences**.

Best book on the weather? **C.C. Zain's Weather Predicting**.

SO what about **Esoteric Astrology**? Since 1900 it seems every author with pretensions has written a book on it. Charles Carter was scornful of Alan Leo's attempt, and I think most of them need work. In my **Best Of...** I highlighted two: **Alice Bailey's**, as it's a hoary classic (even if poorly understood), and William Eisen's **Caballah of Astrology**, which I could make some sense of. You might call this the Religion in Astrology category. *more* **RS**

What About

Traditional-Hellenistic Astrology?

BACK to the Past! has been the slogan ever since Hindsight was created in the early 1990's. (The movement can be traced at least as far back as **Derek Appleby**, some 20 years earlier.)

By whatever name, I will support the return to astrological roots to my dying breath. It wasn't so much that I was shamed by the shelves of astro-psychobabble of the 1980's, so much as I was ashamed by the **lack of choice**. That there was nothing else.

The current State of Play is this: Some of the best stuff in this area has limited access. (**Hindsight**, **Prof. Dykes**, et al.) While this annoys me, I understand the economic reasons for it: Hindsight & Dykes have to pay mortgages & put food on the table & high prices & restricted access are the only way they can do it. If you've got the money. I wish we all did.

There is a vast treasure of books, in English, from the 17th century. William Lilly was but one of many. Photocopies of many of the best books can be had, but they are often of poor quality & difficult to read. Ramesey, Gadbury, Coley & many others need to be reset and then distributed widely. This is work I would gladly undertake, if (or when) I have the resources.

There are also many translations of early texts. **Firmicus**, **Al Biruni**, **Dorotheus**, **Ptolemy** are in print, as I have published them. They are all worthy of study. The late **David Pingree**, an astrologer in all but name (Professor, History of Mathematics at Brown) translated many early astrological texts. I want to reprint his translation of **Yavana Jataka** ("Greek Astrology") as soon as I can clear my schedule. I have not seen the book, but reports are that it is essential.

JAMES Herschel Holden translated Morin's complete **Astrologia Gallica** many years ago, but it was for many years unpublished. I have been encouraged the **AFA** has undertaken its publication, in well-made, reasonably priced editions.

I want to see early books on mundane astrology and weather forecasting, as well as Placidus di Titis' **Primum Mobile**. The house riddle is still outstanding.



Nick: I'm a hero. I was shot twice in the Tribune.

Nora: I read where you were shot 5 times in the tabloids.

Nick: It's not true. He didn't come anywhere near my tabloids



This just in –

Desert Island Shelter

Escape from an oppressive mortgage

SO you've now spent a couple of weeks settling onto your island. Just like in the **old radio show**, you found the Bible & Shakespeare already there. Glancing at the Old Book, you thought that a bit of editing would make it a pretty good triple XXX-rated adventure story. Which will be something to do when the days get long.

Eventually you think of shelter. All islands have caves, but caves are dank, dark places crawling with six-legged creatures. You want a house. Heck, you're already thinking of the tourist trade. You want a dozen. Rent 'em out. Make the island pay.

BUT the DIY manual that came with the island just didn't make sense. Houses = Signs? Maybe in Hollywood they do. Those Hollywood back lots. Those aren't houses. They're empty facades with painting on them. They may look real, but they're just signs.

On our desert island, a house counts for a lot. The **books on the shelf** just aren't encouraging. The read like a bunch of travel guides, though some are better than others.

The BEST BOOK was (not is) **Karen Hamaker-Zondag's The House Connection** (Weiser, 1994). That's where I learned. This book is **OUT OF PRINT**. I have no copies. I once tried contacting Weiser about reprinting but was unable to get through to them. You can get used copies from the usual suspects. Please don't ask me to name them, it would be gauche.

WHICH reminds me there is about to be a spike in interest in Mundane Astrology. It's a footwear thing – thrown or dropped – so you Desert

Islanders won't see it coming, but the rest of us will. The **BEST BOOK** is the compilation I made a few years ago: H.S. Green's book, Raphael's book, and Carter's book, all rolled into one: **Mundane Astrology**.

Along with that you should have Nick Champion's **Book of World Horoscopes** (the best mundane data book of all time), but as it's expensive & as most of you will only want it for the one chart, I will give you that data: **July 4, 1776, Philadelphia, 5:10 pm**. You should be looking at a lot more charts than that, but if you want them you will have to put out the money & get Nick's book.

I RECENTLY had reason to read that chart & realized it wasn't the chart of the US, but of Mexico. (Learn to read houses & you'll find the joke here.) **Regulus** (aka "Dr. H") had a better idea & put it in his new

book, **America Is Born: Introducing the Regulus USA National Horoscope**. He uses the same date & place, but moves the time to 6:17:37 pm.

Which reminds me that footwear is ruled, according to the **BEST BOOK** on the subject (should you be in need of it), by Saturn, Pisces, Jupiter and (Taurus Pluto). That's Rex

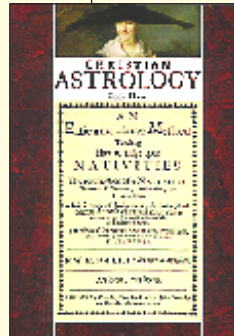
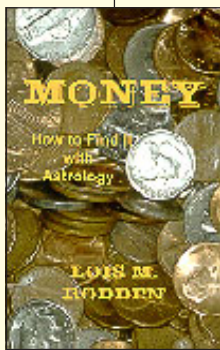
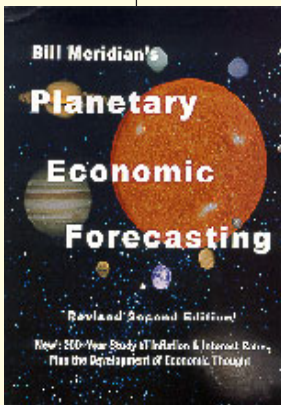
Bills' **The Rulership Book**, which includes Uranus, Neptune & Pluto. Should you be in need of the Traditional Approach, you should get **J. Lee Lehman's The Book of Rulerships**, but if you do, you should know that shoes are a modern invention & were not worn by Lilly

or any of the other Learned Ancients, as shoes are not in Lehman's book. But since you're on a desert island, you don't really need them anyway.

Or, well, maybe you do. Bare feet in the tropics will get you intestinal parasites quicker than you can snap your fingers. (You didn't think you were being stranded in Greenland, did you?)

THERE are a lot of good **Medical Astrology** books. I'm partial to **Judith Hill's**. Everyone should have **Cornell** (even though it's expensive), and for a lively read, there's always **Culpeper**.

Which brings me to food. Food, food, food... Ain't no books on astrology & food & the only books there ever were, were sun-sign books full of recipes intended for diet-



Nick: How'd you like Grant's tomb?
Nora: It's lovely. I'm having a copy made for you.

ers & long out of print. Food is gardening. There used to be books on astrology & gardening (the late Louise Riotte had some excellent ones, all now out of print). You can get the essence in various almanacs, or

you could, but you're already too late, as publishers, for perverse reasons, publish them in the fall, not the spring. You can get a one-page summary in the back of **Maynard's wall calendar**. I still have a few. If you have last year's calendar, look it up. It's on the first page after December.

SOME of you might consider farming. I'm having a go at vegetable gardening. I'd do better, but I might have to take up hunting as well. Seems I have an oversupply of squirrels....

BEST BOOK on Asteroids? That's still Martha Lang Westcott's **Mechanics of Future Asteroids**.

BEST BOOK on the dial? Maria Kay Simm's **Dial Detective**.

BEST ASTRO-NEWSLETTER? Why, **mine**, of course.

BEST BOOK on declination? **Beyond the Solstice by Declination**, by Leigh Westin.

BEST MOVIE of 1934? **The Thin Man**, starring Myrna Loy & William Powell.

BEST INTRO to Vedic Astrology? **Light on Life**, by Defou & Svoboda.

Best on Financial? Sorry. Out of space!

See you in the Spring – Dave