



# NEWSLETTER

NOW WEEKLY!

With art by Vera !

from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

April 26, 2011

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Email Dave@astroamerica.com

## Jean Rhys Bram turns 100

**J**ean Rhys Bram, Ph.D., for many years taught classics at New York's Hunter College. She is known to us as the translator of **Matheseos Libri VIII**, which she titled, "*Ancient Astrology Theory & Practice*," by the fourth century Julius Firmicus Maternus. Which is not only one of the finest astrology books of the Greco-Roman period, it is also one of the best translated. Bram's work was originally published in 1975 by an academic publisher, who did not make it available to the public *per se*. In 2005 I reprinted it for the benefit of astrologers everywhere.

At some point thereafter, Bram died, I regret I do not know exactly when. To celebrate her 100th birthday on April 26, 2011, let's set up her probable chart and have a quick look at it.

To work quick & dirty we don't need a lot of details. Bram got her first degree from Chicago, so we will presume she was born

thereabouts. Location, north & south, sets the angle between Asc & MC. East & west gets us the Moon's exact degree, but these are details.

Notable teachers should have significant placements in the 9th, and/or the 3rd. April 26, 1911 has Sun, Saturn, north node & Mercury (Rx) in Taurus, the only such cluster on the day. Put them in 9 (1:30 pm) and early Virgo rises, with Jupiter's opposition to Saturn falling in the 3rd & the Moon in Aries in 8.

Flip it – 1:30 am – and Sun-Saturn-Node-Mercury turn up in 3, with spare change in the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th & 6th. On balance, a bottom-weighted chart is not such a noble mind.

Anymore the internet makes me sad. It has ignored those who did not live into its age, such as Bram, while, on the other, the net has virtually no permanence of its own. It is a fools paradise.

### THANK-YOU!

To all those who sent their thoughts and prayers and helpful advice to Elizabeth and her eye. She is stronger this week, though still blind in one eye (we pray this is temporary!), so still far from recovered. But we now have hope. On Easter Sunday we gave thanks. — Dave

## ASTRO MED A to Z

FROM C.E.O. CARTER'S ENCYCLOPAEDIA

**CONSUMPTION** (Pulmonary). This disease is mainly concerned with the mutable signs; the 12th house & its lord. The most sensitive degrees are those close to 28° of the mutables & 27° Aries-Libra (more rarely 27° Cancer-Capricorn). If the mutable signs & 12th house are prominent, and a strong malefic is found involving one of these areas, a consumptive tendency must be feared. Out of 28 cases I find Cancer the commonest ascendant, while Aries, Capricorn & Pisces do not occur. Mercury-Neptune aspects are common.

The prevalence of affliction in these zodiacal areas can easily be tested by the student by reference to the examples given in Daath's *Medical Astrology*. It is to be noted that afflictions to Mercury or the 3rd house are not essential.

Afflictions in the earlier parts of the mutable signs may sometimes occasion consumption, but less frequently, and, perhaps, with less rapid & destructive action.

— An Encyclopaedia of Psychological Astrology

## ALMANACK

for the week (all times GMT)

Notes

22	00:57	☉ ♃ ♅	
26	11:29	☽ ♁ ♃	Void
27	04:58	☽ ♁	
	07:19	♀ ☐ ♀	
	19:26	☽ ♁ ☉	
	19:53	☽ ♁ ♀	Void
28	00:56	☉ △ ♀	
29	00:40	♀ ♃ ♅	
	13:02	♂ ♄ ♃	
	17:34	☽ ♁	
30	16:54	☽ ♁ ♀	
	17:41	☽ ♁ ♅	
01	00:15	♀ ♁ ♅	
	04:26	♂ ♁ ♃	
	15:21	☽ ♁ ♂	Void
02	05:24	☽ ♄ ☉	
	05:59	☽ ♁	
	12:06	♀ ♄ ♀	

Extracted from **AstroAmerica's Daily Ephemeris, 2000-2020**. Get yours!



## STAR OF THE WEEK

★★★ ★★★★★★★

**HAMAL** alpha Arietis 7 8 49

**Notes:** A yellow star situated in the forehead of the Ram & commonly known as the ram's Following Horn. From Al Hamal, the Sheep. Symbolically called the Death Wound & often incorrectly named El Nath

**Influence:** According to Ptolemy it is of the nature of Mars & Saturn. It causes violence, cruelty & premeditated crime.

**With Sun:** Dissipation, evil associates, loss & disgrace.

**With Moon:** Patient, slow success through hard work, trouble through love affairs but favourable for marriage, marriage partner gains by business or speculation

**With Mercury:** Dull mind, many friends, great determination, tactful, greatly influenced by marriage partner.

**With Venus:** Handsome, quiet, envious, jealous . . . — from **Fixed Stars**, by Vivian Robson

Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson  
1893-1990

# IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

Lesson 19

## Arrangement of Planets

**W**ITH your chart before you, the first thing you notice is the distribution of planets around the wheel, giving some indication of your mode of action in life – your pattern.

**Are they standing alone & thus dispersed?** This reveals a scattering of interests, too many irons in the fire & danger of knowing a little about too many things that may interfere with knowing a lot about something in particular. In such a case, take the planet that squares the 1st cusp, the Ascendant, and recognize that it is the one you will ultimately succeed with (the square being forceful & the Ascendant representing your personal activity). Note the house the planet is in to see where its interest lies (page 8 herein) and the Sign the planet is in to find the channel it will operate through (page 10 or 11), and also the decanate of that Sign (page 12), which gives an added characteristic to take into consideration in its make-up. If the ruler of the Ascendant is standing alone in a Sign or house it means that you work best alone: you can forge your own way in life, independently, and at an early age.

**Are your planets coupled in pairs?** This reveals reliance on another person, success in partnerships, and promise of co-operation in life according to the houses they are in. If coupled with a retrograde planet, however, there is an indication of lack of full co-operation from that quarter so that it is wiser to depend on another planetary couple. — **Correspondence Course in Astrology**, 1968

### The Chart of the Week:

(CHARTS ON PG. 5)

## Bette Davis, 1908–1989

**R**uth Elizabeth “Bette” Davis was born April 5, 1908, in Lowell, Massachusetts. Her mother, Ruthie, struggled with the birth, much as Liz Taylor’s mother would, some years later. Bette was born at 7:00 am, 8:44 am, 9:00 pm, and 11:50 pm (**Source**). A hot-shot rectifier at the **Church of Light** has claimed 5:33 pm, but I presume he did not talk to mother Ruthie. Astrologers have never been big on actual research, a failing I share. We cling to our theorems & slide rules.

You will remember the date from last week’s chart, as Bette was born the same day, month & year as Herbert von Karajan. To my great surprise, having been born the same day, they died a mere 82 days apart, at the advanced age of 81, in their 82nd year. (Herbie: July 16, Bette: October 6.) Very, very few people live this long.

From what I understand of **astrological life-expectancy**, the dates of death are, all by themselves, a powerful argument they had the same ascendants and planetary house placements. But this is unlikely, as Karajan had a 12th house Moon, whereas Davis was known for being temperamental. But there is something mysterious about the two charts. For every year that Karajan lived, Davis lived a year and a day. Precisely.

This reminds us immediately of **secondary progressions**, where each day after birth equals one year of life. The events of your 30th year are shown by the aspects made the 30th day after your birth, etc. The rationalist crowd wonders how such symbolic directions could be real, how days could translate into years, and are unhappy (as am I) with Biblical explanations.

I am working with an astrological theory that postulates the Earth itself as our primary astrological influence, the Sun and Moon as secondary influences, and the other planets playing comparatively minor roles. In my Earth-resonance theory, all the “symbolic” factors, such as those used in **Vedic Astrology**, **Solar Arcs**, and **Primary Directions**, as well as all those mentioned by **Charles Carter**, are all expressions of the Earth’s own resonance, so of course the Earth & its resonance will have more impact than, say, the transits & aspects of planets that are, in fact, far, far away. Which, when we look at the techniques of all the many astrologies on the planet, actually seems to be the case. The

outlines of my theory are in my book, **Skeet Shooting For Astrologers**, and it’s not that I’m plugging it, but that I seem to have stumbled onto something that has worth & to which I will be compulsively returning.

In my opinion, theories are never, ever, to be based on observation. Theories based on observations are, to me, upside down, since “facts” — very fragile things at best — are easily cherry-picked & unwittingly warped to fit. We have so many of these mediocre theories because most theorists are incapable of anything better.

A proper theory (those of Einstein & Newton come to mind) is an “Immaculate Conception” which is then put to the test, proven or disproven, by its ability to relate previously unrelated facts, to sweep them together and, collectively, reveal new & unimagined insights. I myself am strict about this. If a single relevant fact can be found that contradicts the theory, then the whole is thrown out and we seek some other Immaculate Conception to replace it. Which is the proper use of facts. Certainly two individuals, born the same day, who live to their 82nd year & die 82 days apart, are worthy of our study, come what may.

I flipped *pm* for *am* in Karajan’s accepted time of birth, which, crude as that technique is, gave him 15° Cancer rising. Presuming that’s more or less right, what if we were to add 82 degrees & give that to Davis? Each degree conferring one extra day of life? That gives Davis an ascendant of 7 Libra and a time of 5:26 pm. Not all that far from our wild-eyed rectifier at 5:33 pm and 8 Libra rising. If he’s right we could presumably apply the same correction to Karajan’s birth. Karajan’s chart was allegedly based on his recorded time of birth, the am/pm was presumably a transcription error. (If you’re curious, I have, from time to time, used one chart to rectify another.)

Why would this work for these two individuals when, by 1989, at least 95% of all people born on April 5, 1908 were already dead? I do not know. I would look for an answer in primary directions, a forecasting method in which I am not skilled.

Having by roundabout means been led to the 5:33 pm chart for Bette Davis, let’s read it and see if it proves out.

Libra rising, ruled by Venus. Note this critical difference from Karajan’s chart: Ve-

(continued, page 4)

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This is a serialization of Vivian Robson's masterpiece, **A Student's Text-Book of Astrology**. It is now in print.

**Part 36:**

**Health & Accidents**

**Libra:** Rules kidneys, lumbar region, skin. *Ailments:* skin & kidney disorders, diabetes, Bright's disease, nephritis, lumbago, eczema, blood disorders. *Remarks:* Saturn here, locomotor ataxia, and danger of contagious diseases.

**Scorpio:** Rules urinary & generative organs, nose, anus, bladder, appendix, pelvis. *Ailments:* Piles, ruptures, fistulas, venereal diseases, heart, throat & blood disorders, infectious diseases, and ailments arising from excess. *Remarks:* Saturn here, liable to epidemic complaints. Jupiter, gout, blood poisoning, hereditary diseases. Venus venereal diseases, heart trouble at end of life.

**Sagittarius:** Rules hips, thighs, nerves, arteries. *Ailments:* Rheumatism, sciatica, gout, blood trouble, ailments affecting lungs & nerves. *Remarks:* Saturn here, danger of nervous breakdown at end of life. Mars danger from operations or medical errors.

**Capricorn:** Rules knees, hands, bones, joints, teeth. *Ailments:* Rheumatism, skin diseases, eczema, leprosy, impetigo, urticaria, colds & chills, ailments affecting the knees. *Remarks:* Saturn here, chronic illness, Mars acute diseases. Sun heart disease. Moon biliousness, melancholia, hypochondriasis, chest & throat troubles.

**Aquarius:** Rules legs, ankles, blood, circulation. *Ailments:* Nerve & blood disorders, anaemia, cramp, sprained & broken legs & ankles. *Remarks:* Planets here may give avoidance of illness by the study of hygiene, food reform, or temperance. Venus or Moon varicose veins. Mars acute diseases, weakness or pain in legs.

**Pisces:** Rules feet, toes, lymphatic system. *Ailments:* Bowel disorders, gout, colds, dropsy, tumours, infectious diseases, ailments arising from excess. *Remarks:* Mars here, consumptive tendencies. Venus, tender feet, sickness after marriage. Sun, dropsy & diabetes. — **A Student's Text-Book of Astrology**, 1922

**The Sixth House**

from **The Encyclopedia of Astrology**  
 by **Nicholas deVore**

**In a Nativity:** Food, clothing, comforts & domestic pets; mental or physical conflicts resulting from the externalization of the Ego. As such it depicts any enmity between the Ego & the physical body, out of which mental, nervous or organic disease may develop. It is an obscure arc, since the nature of service rendered or received is more or less personal, unobtrusive & routine. It has been termed the House of Service in that it portrays one's capacity to serve, as also the character & qualities of those that serve him—his employees & dependents, and his relations with them. As the Sixth House is the third from the Fourth, it pertains to uncles & aunts on the father's side (Fourth House).

Sixth House action is generally under the Native's control; while Twelfth House derivatives by way of inhibitions, repressions & frustrations, spring from causes over which the Native has no control.

**In a Mundane Figure:** The public health; the armed forces, civil service workers & police, as the servants of the country; and in general, the laboring class & the workers in all trades; and all involuntary services rendered by the people.

In a National Figure: the Labor Party.

In a Court of Law: the deliberations of the jury, and the Court records as the field of activity of the Court reporter.

In an Organization: the workers or employees, their attitude, efficiency & general condition; the health condition of the personnel as affecting the organization. Strikes & labor troubles which have there inception here, will take form in the Twelfth House.

— **Encyclopedia of Astrology**, by Nicholas deVore

**Is This You?**

**20°–30° Libra rising**  
*The Gemini decanate*



Compare this head with the Libra ascendant (first decan). Note the short neck but Gemini face & figure of this man.

He would not be likely to get stout in middle life, but rather tend to Geminian thinness & nervousness.

The Gemini decanate of Libra is ruled by Mercury. The disposition is amiable yet baffling, refined but wanting in positivity. There is usually too much dependency upon others, often due to the lack of self-esteem so frequently revealed in the Libra head formation. This cranial development craves inspiring reassurance from the opposite sex.

As Mr. H.G. Wells says in *The Anatomy of Frustration*:

One of the functions of a lover is to tell us we are "all right". This assurance cannot be given by casually encountered lovers. It can be done with full effectiveness only by a chosen person who has chosen to specialize in this service. At times this imaginative necessity is the very core of love. When the lover shows that he or she sees coldly & plainly, then the love affair is finished.

— **Man & the Zodiac**, by David Anrias.

HEAD TO HEAD



nus in Davis's chart has slipped into Gemini. Now, instead of sublimating Mars in Taurus, only one degree back, (Venus rules Taurus), the two fight for dominance. Venus wants to go one way, Mars wants another. 29 degrees of one sign, 0 degrees of another, is a critical boundary.

Instead of being complete & self-contained, as in Karajan's chart, where it was in Taurus, Venus in Gemini is now ruled by Mercury. Mercury is still in Pisces, but here, in the 6th house, instead of conferring musical talent (as with Karajan), Davis's Mercury looks to the other side of the chart, to the 12th, of the actor (per **Carter**) & the sign Virgo. It's the same Mercury, it's the same degree. The difference is how the individual soul chooses to use it. This is why there can never be formal rules for chart interpretation.

In Karajan's chart, the Moon was applying to a conjunction with Pluto, 14 degrees away. In Herbie's 12th house, no one saw this except Karajan himself.

Born six time zones away and hours and hours later, in Davis's chart the Moon is now only 8 degrees from Pluto, and both are in the 9th house. This is an aspect of intellectual intensity. Combine them with the friction of Venus & Mars, add an aggressive Sun in Aries, and Davis was known for playing fiercely independent women. And was one herself. It seems she was the antithesis of sexy.

In the early days of her career Davis was encouraged by her mother. In the chart we see Cancer on the MC (the house of the mother), with the Moon, its ruler, twelve houses from it, in the 9th. Whenever the ruler of a house is in the preceding sign & in the house immediately behind it (one house back), it stands behind it, supports it, in the nature of the planet & the manner of sign it is in. In this case, Davis's mother, the Moon, worked behind the scenes (12th house from MC), speaking (Gemini) on behalf of her daughter. Whether Davis was aware of it or not, the Moon's applying conjunction to Pluto indicates mommy's efforts on her behalf were rather intense.

Daddy: At the age of 7 Davis's parents

were separated, with the mother taking her two daughters and moving to New York. Looking for daddy in the 5:33 pm chart, we find Capricorn on the 4th house cusp, exactly conjunct the south node. This reminds us of Jon Stewart's 4th house cusp and his unhappy relationship with his father. Capricorn on 4 is not good for the father. In Davis's chart, daddy is ruled by Saturn in Aries in the 6th, which, when you turn the chart, becomes daddy's 3rd. Saturn debilitated in Aries in 3 indicates he was off doing his own thing – and not very well.

Bette Davis's career took off fully 20 years before Karajan's, in the 1930's, as opposed to the 1950's. By the time Karajan comes into prominence, Davis was fading.

It is said that while married to her first husband, Harmon "Ham" Nelson, Davis had several abortions. We look immediately at the 5th house, to find it empty with Aquarius on the cusp. Davis's chart is even less fertile than Karajan's, since her Venus is in infertile Gemini. Presumably she had abortions for reasons of her career, but tracing the signs & their dispositors tells an interesting story.

Aquarius on the cusp of 5 is not fertile and, as it is opposite Leo, the sign associated with the 5th, shows a largely indifferent attitude towards children in general. Ruler Saturn is debilitated in Aries in the 6th, showing, on the one hand, that pregnancy may have made her ill, and, on the other, that children would be a financial drain (the 6th being the second from the 5th). Saturn, for its part, is ruled by Mars, in Taurus of the frontal attack, Taurus being the opposite of sneaky Scorpio. Mars & Saturn hate each other. Mars, the surgeon, compulsively terminates Saturn's difficult pregnancies. Astrology is often not nice, but it is always true.

Mars, for its part, is ruled by Venus in cold & calculating Gemini, which is ruled by Mercury in Pisces, which hardly knows what is going on from one moment to the next. Which is ruled by Jupiter in Leo.

Which would dearly LOVE to have children & lots of them, but can only look on, forlorn, from the wrong side of the distant 11th house cusp, the opposite house to where

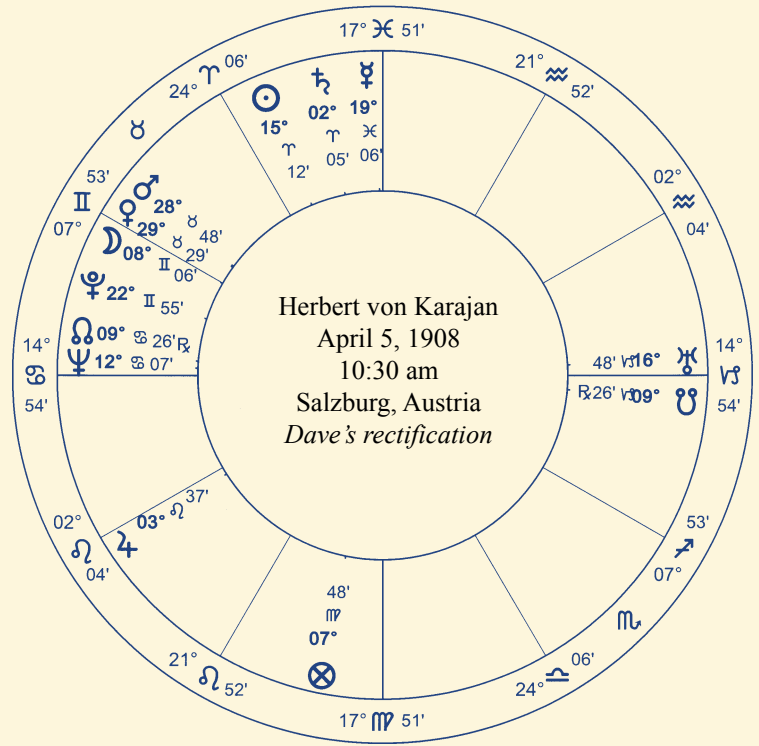
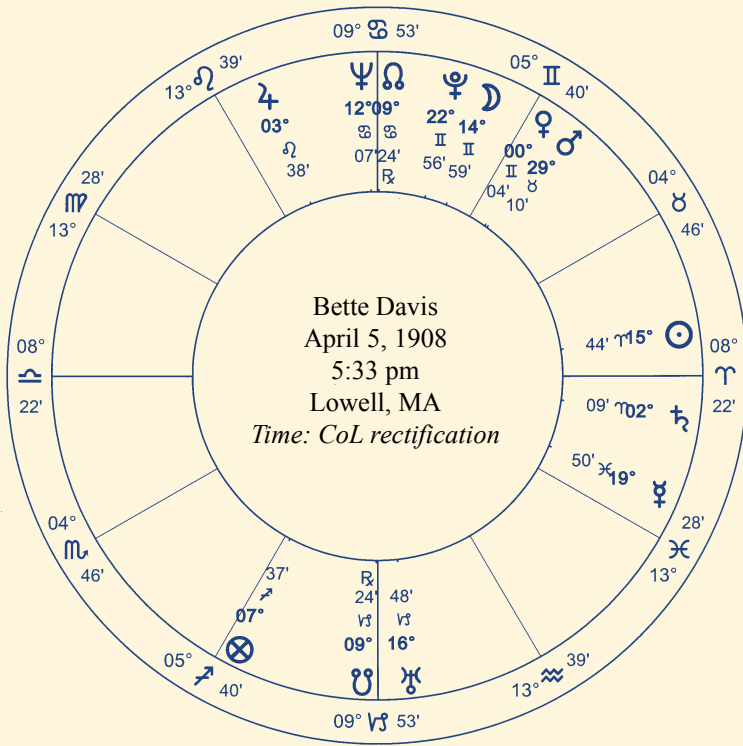
we find children. While we can continue with the dispositors (Jupiter ruled by the Sun, Sun ruled by Mars, which gives us a giant loop), having found a factor that relates to children (Jupiter in Leo opposite the 5th house cusp), we have found a de facto end of the matter. As a result of this difficult & convoluted scheme, Davis found children painful to contemplate, easy to ignore.

As with Karajan, Davis came late to parenthood, giving birth at age 39. A few years later she adopted two more (seemingly on a whim), and while I don't, off the top of my head, know where adoption may be in the natal chart, I am drawn towards Jupiter in Leo, finally having gotten itself into the 11th by means of a progression of some sort or another. Many years later, Davis's daughter, B.D. Hyman, accused her mother of being greedy. Davis shot back that if it were not for her money, B.D. would never have amounted to anything much. You will note that both of these opinions are neatly encapsulated in Saturn in Aries in the second house of children (Davis's 6th), as it withholds the financial support the child believes should be hers. — On balance I would judge the 5:33 pm time to be confirmed.

As with Elizabeth Taylor and Johnny Cash, and now with Karajan and Davis, we again see how the same planets, in the same signs (well, all but one) & making the same aspects, create radically different people when placed in different houses. Houses and their rulers are your keys to reading charts. Aspects are a side-show.

While I don't much bother with forecasting, realize that accurate forecasts are impossible until you have a firm grasp of the individual himself. The factors that propelled Davis to an early start in life were missing from Karajan's chart, just as the factors that made him internationally renown late in life were largely missing from Davis's chart. I have not made that analysis, but I am confident it will concern houses and ascendant, not the planets themselves.

*This week's charts are on the next page.*



# TIME TWINS

