



NEWSLETTER

NOW WEEKLY!

With art by Vera !

from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

March 12, 2013

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My Thanks —

TO all those who sent messages of cheer and goodwill when I was ill in February, as well as to all those who sent best wishes when I was ill with pneumonia last August. Many added personal notes and made queries, to which I would ordinarily have replied but did not, as I was too weak. Please accept my apologies for my silence. I was deeply moved, and more buoyed than you can imagine. Again my thanks.

Upcoming

ALL my life I have needed a focus. Which astrology eventually became, with the goal of helping to establish the subject as a fully scientific discipline, in the finest sense of the word.

This has now intensified, to promoting Astro-Medicine. The next step will be to add to the astro-medical books I already publish. The first of these, Heinrich Däath's **Medical Astrology**, one of the very best, is done except for the back cover. The next will be Dr. Duz, from 1912. It is a most superb book. It will be from a printed source I don't really think is good enough, but I don't have time for quibbles. We need the book.

I need to finish my 4th book of essays, Quad Bike Analysis and get it off my desk. After that will very likely be Brother Aloy-

sus. A couple of weeks ago someone told me of a 1970's edition, had I heard of it? I had not, and, slow witted that I am, I thought it questionable. I've since taken another look at my Weiser copy and realized that Donald Weiser never had the resources — and likely would never have spent them if he had — to commission a translator and two researchers to put the book together. But he would gladly stick a copyright notice in a book actually in public domain, as he did with my desk copy of Robson's Fixed Stars, from 1979, originally published in 1923 and known to have been in public domain at that time.

So there will be a new printing of Brother Aloysius later this year, as soon as I can get to it.

Which leaves Prof. Mark Riley's translation of Vettius Valens, which has been on my desk for two years and is three-quarters complete. What, frankly, stops publication of this book? It might be the remains of a very old curse against purloined copies. (Which, if so, can be found in the text of the book itself.) If I get stronger I will pull that. And it might just be that Valens is not as good as you want him to be. He is too far north for his hash-mark number system to support him, which results in a great many errors. I will publish as soon as I can.

From the distribution list for this newsletter, I have deleted all that have autoresponders, as they seem bogus and cause problems.



Slang (Use of) is particularly characteristic of the ordinary Sagittarian, and to a less extent of Aries and Leo. Natives of Sagittarius have a great love of bestowing upon human beings and their actions names applicable to the animal creation, of which they are so fond, and they are often slipshod in speech.

Sneakishness may be expected where the positive elements are obscurely placed in a nativity, and the Moon or Mercury is badly affected by Saturn or in a Saturnian sign. Probably low specimens of Scorpio might betray the same habit, but with definite purpose rather than as a permanent trait.

Sneering manner is probably due to influences much like those productive of Arrogance (q.v.), but with a strong Saturnian action in evidence. It may also verge towards Sarcasm (q.v.).

Smallpox. Most examples of this disease must now be sought, fortunately, in past history or in foreign countries.

— **Encyclopaedia of Psychological Astrology**, by C.E. O. Carter. **Buy.**

A L M A N A C K

for the week (all times GMT)

12	06:26	♂	♄
	09:42	☽	♃
	11:18	☽	♄
13	08:02	☽	♁
14	08:08	☾	♃
	19:09	☽	♁
15	16:27	☽	♂
16	23:11	☽	♁
17	06:10	☽	♁
	8:57	☾	♂
	20:04	♀	♁
18	01:49	☽	♂

Extracted from **AstroAmerica's Daily Ephemeris, 2000-2020**. **Buy.**

Vivian Robson's STAR OF THE WEEK

SCHEAT beta Pegasi 29 ✕ 33

Notes: An irregularly variable deep-yellow star situated on the left leg of Pegasus.

Influence: According to Ptolemy it is of the nature of Mars and Mercury. It causes extreme misfortune, murder, suicide, and drowning.

With Sun: Bad for success, danger through water and engines, liable to accidents or drowning. **With Moon:** Worry, loss and gain of friends through criticism, danger of accidents and by water, bad for gain. **With Mercury:** Many accidents and narrow escapes especially by water, many enemies, trouble through writings, bad for health and domestic affairs. **With Venus:** Evil environment, suffering through own acts, danger of imprisonment or restraint. **With Mars:** Many accidents, bad for gain, sickness to the native, and relatives. — *From Fixed Stars*, by Vivian Robson **Buy**



Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson
1893-1990



IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

Saturn

SATURN rules PLANS because, like a skeleton, they are architectural and basic in their reason for being. If it is the 1st House he is in or enters, you make your plans very early in life knowing from the first what your pattern is to be and how to mold it; it is usually a personal endeavor that you try to develop, and the pattern is in danger of being thwarted somewhat by your mate, an open enemy, the public or public service of some kind that interrupts a personal plan, due to being opposite the 7th House — and more surely if there is a planet there to “bring you down to earth” by its opposition to Saturn-the-practical.

Saturn in or entering the 4th House makes you put the family first: your pattern takes shape according to tradition or to nobless oblige (what is expected of you). You follow prescribed principles and build up an estate thereby, usually without parental help, because in the 4th and opposed by success-10th. It is his mundane (house) square to the 1st that may galvanize you into taking practical actions yourself.

In the 7th House Saturn removes you as far as you can get from the strictly personal: you defer to the other person dealt with and follow his lead or example in forming your own pattern and submerge your identity to a great extent: your pattern is largely his and you therefore merit less credit for what you do and what you are — which is your own fault because you separate yourself from yourself by being in opposition to the 1st House, thus operating to your own discredit. — [Here and There in Astrology](#), 1961. [Buy](#).

Finer Points of Medical Care

THOSE who write for a living, especially to short deadlines, write about whatever is buzzing in their head at the moment. I confess I am no different. On Friday I ran a bunch of old movie star charts, hoping for a diversion. Maybe next week.

I was discharged from the hospital on February 15. I was given a list of prescriptions and three follow-up appointments. My weight was 201 lbs. A week earlier it had been around 230. Speculation was that my real weight was 180 and the rest was water. While in the hospital I was on IV diuretics. I went home with Bumetanide, 2 mg per day. This is a “loop diuretic,” often prescribed in such cases.

Ten days later when I got a scale, I found I had already lost better than 20 lbs; my weight was 179. A bit of number crunching established that for my 6'1" frame, I was at my ideal Body Mass Index (BMI). Which, all other factors being equal, meant that I had no excess water, nor fat, on my body. Somewhat frightened, I discontinued the diuretic. It was a cheap decision. I was to see the doctor the very next day, Tuesday, February 26.

Who, to my surprise, said I must continue the Bumetanide for at least another two weeks. I protested. I said, the diuretic has removed two pounds of water per day, if I continue another two weeks, my weight will be 150 lbs, which would be a disaster. Will Bumetanide stop when it runs out of water, or is there a critical weight that would be a red line?

The doctor ignored me and said I must continue. I reluctantly agreed, but woke up the next morning knowing she was crazy. Later that day I saw my Chinese acupuncturist for the first time in six weeks. She ran the stethoscope over my lungs, and did so again this past Wednesday. *Your left lung sounds rough*, she said, *but there is no water in either*. Previously the right lung had long-running water problems. They were gone.

At the time my diet had not quite settled down. I was eating very small amounts of salt, I was retaining water and I could hear it, a very little bit, in the bottom of my lungs. Which two one-shot doses of diuretic fixed.

Disobeying the doctor inspired me to research Bumetanide. I learned that, lacking any other available source, it would take water from the blood itself, thereby messing up

the blood chemistry, in particular the magnesium/potassium/calcium balance, resulting in fatigue. Not to mention great danger. Which was why the doctor had prescribed, not magnesium tablets, but a blood test for the next week.

WHAT was actually going on? I thought about this. I remembered [M. Scott Peck](#), trained as a Freudian psychologist, who found he could only help his patients if he could first classify them into the Freudian system he had learned. In private practice he quickly learned he could not, meaning he could not help those who came to him. In frustration he abandoned what he had learned, in favor of what became neo-Judaeo-Christian morality (the Golden Rule, etc.). Which, as the society he lived in was based on it, was a successful adaptation. Towards the end of his life this became delightfully warm and compassionate, without being “preachy.” I recommend him to you. Peck is famous for his book, *The Road Less Travelled*, but his last books are wonderful.

This made me realize that all doctors, all healers, use formulas. Medical schools teach formulas, just as Peck was taught his. The doctors I am seeing are assigned to the big Baltimore hospital, where, presumably, they only see emergency patients, like me, on a short-term basis.

Short-term turns out to be a critical factor. Were these doctors in private practice, they would have been forced, like Peck, to abandon their simplistic training in favor of the frustration of, *Smith is like this, Jones is like that, McClousky is something else, all my patients just seem to be exceptions, dang it all!* Like as not these patients came for comparatively minor complaints and hung around long enough for the doctor to note their unique dispositions. Should any of these patients need major surgery, their private doctors would instruct the surgeon as to the patient's actual history.

Lacking this, the hospital-based doctor has only his formalistic training to fall back on. So imagine you're a hospital doctor and I walk in and say, *I am afraid of becoming dangerously underweight if I continue to follow your instructions*. What do you do?

If you agree with me and take me off the meds and later discover that I was okay

This is a serialization of Vivian Robson's **A Student's Text-Book of Astrology.**

Part 7:

The Fundamental Principles

6. ROTATION. The earth performs one complete rotation upon its own axis from west to east in 24 hours, and the effect of this movement is to make Sun, Moon, planets and stars appear to rise in the east, pass across the sky, and set in the west. In other words each sign and degree of the zodiac rises, culminates, and sets once in 24 hours, and it is on account of this that the *time* of birth is of such great importance in astrology, as it enables us to fix the exact position of the earth in relation to the other bodies and points in space. One complete rotation of the earth is called a *day* but it is necessary to distinguish between three kinds of day, viz:—Sidereal, Solar or Apparent, and Mean.

(a) *Sidereal Day.* Suppose a star is exactly overhead at a given time. The Sidereal Day is the time taken by the earth to rotate through one complete circle so that the star again occupies the same position, or in other words it is the time elapsing between two successive passages of a given star over a fixed point. The Sidereal Day is about 4 minutes shorter than the day registered by the clock.

(b) *Solar or Apparent Day.* Instead of a star the Sun is used as the standard and the Solar Day is the time elapsing between two successive passages of the Sun over a fixed point, and is about 4 minutes longer than the Sidereal Day. The reason for this is that the earth moves about one degree during the day so that at the end of one complete rotation the Sun appears to have advanced one degree and the earth has to rotate through this extra distance, which takes it about 4 minutes, in order to bring the Sun back to the same place. The Solar Day is not in general use as it is variable in length.

— **A Student's Text-Book of Astrology,** by Vivian Robson. **Buy.**

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Blagrave: Long and short sicknesses; if Patient is like to live or die.

These concern the decumbiture chart, not the natal. — Dave

First of long or short Sickness

A fixed sign on the Cusp of the sixth, or the Lord of the sixth, or Lord of the Ascendant, or the Moon in acute; or Sun in Chronic griefs be in fixed signs afflicted by the malevolent Planets, or by the Lord of the 12, 8, or 4th, argues long and lasting griefs or infirmities; if adhering to a partile aspect, the grief increases; if drawing from partile aspect, the grief diminishes: Also fixed signs gives months, and sometimes years before recovery; common signs gives weeks, and sometimes months, moveable days or weeks before recovery. Now concerning the number of days, weeks, months or years, you must observe how many degrees is wanting before the influence is over, accounting by the moiety of their Orbs, and so many months, weeks, days or years it will be before recovery; but if the figure shows death, then you must account how many degrees is wanting to make the partile aspect of the principal Significators, and so account so many days, weeks, months or years before the time of death.

2 The principal Significator of the Sick changing his sign, argues a change of the disease, either for life or death.

3 The latter degrees of a sign on the Cusp of the sixth House, or the Significator of the Sick in the latter degrees of a sign argues a sudden change either for life or death.

4 The Lord of the Ascendant, or principal significator of the sick person, being stronger then the afflicting planets shows recovery, in moveable signs the sooner; but if the afflicting Planets be strong, and the principal Significator of the Sick weak, more especially if the afflicting Planets has relation

to the eighth or fourth Houses, it shows death.

5 If the Lord of the Ascendant, or Lord of the sixth, or if the ☽ in acute, or Sun in Chronic griefs be afflicted in Azimene degrees, it shows a continued sickness, if not sudden death.

6 If the Lord of the Ascendant, or principal Significator of the sick turn retrograde, it shows a relapse, and the cure goes backward.

7 The Lord of the Ascendant, or principal Significator of the sick strong, swift in motion, with a fortune attending, especially in a moveable sign, shows a speedy recovery.

Lastly, We must heed the nature of the disease, for strong Fevers, Convulsions, Apoplexies, risings in the Throat, with some pestilential infirmities, and such like desperate griefs, will sooner terminate, than such which are usually lasting, as Consumptions, Dropsies, Agues, Gouts, and such like.

Some brief Rules concerning recovery.

First, A fortune, or the ☽ in acute, or ☾ in Chronic griefs strong in the Ascendant, and not afflicted, nor yet being Lord of the sixth, eighth or twelfth Houses, shows recovery.

Secondly, The Lord of the Ascendant strong, and more strong than the afflicting Planets, shows recovery.

Thirdly, The Lord of the Ascendant, or the ☽ in acute, or ☾ in Chronic griefs joined to, or friendly aspect with a fortune, or applying to a fortune, shows recovery.

Fourthly, The ☽ increasing in light, swift in motion, and strong applying to a fortune in acute griefs, shows recovery.

Fifthly, If the Lord of the ascendant dispossess of the afflicting Planet, especially being equal in strength, shows recovery.

Signs of Death.

First, The Lord of the Ascendant weak and afflicted by the malevolent Planets, and no fortune interposing, shows death. —

Blagrave's Astrological Practice of Physick. Buy.



(which does not necessarily mean I was right), then you breathe a sigh of relief.

Relief, because, if I was wrong and suffered a relapse, or even died as a result, you, the doctor, would be liable for having taken me off the standard formula, which, in America, with insurance companies and malpractice insurance, have **FORCE OF LAW**.

If, on the other hand, you had kept me on the prescribed formula, then *even if I had died*, you, the doctor, *would not have been liable*. You had done the **right thing**, the **legal thing**, and **could not be touched**.

So do you risk your livelihood because a patient says he is distressed, or do you adhere to the formula in order to save yourself? *Remember this is cardiac*. A lot of cardiac patients, just like me, die straight in front of them, in six months or less. Why would you be so foolish as to cater to them, to get to know them, to have empathy for them? You would only be heartbroken later. And if they get better and leave, you will never see them again anyway. Abandoning the formula, whatever it is, to cater, in other words, actually minister to, or treat the patient, is a lose-lose proposition. Nothing good whatever can come of it.

There is a particularly nasty coda, which is, should you have a family doctor who knows you and your personal situation, but you end up in the emergency room while he's on vacation, the staff in the ER will ignore your customary medications in favor of treating you according to the formula of the day, which, in a case personally known to me, led to the patient's death, in a matter of days. Which shocked my family, as the original reason to be in the hospital was a minor fall.

Indeed, we might say that when elderly people with no personal physician have a fall, they tend to rapidly weaken and die while in hospital care, and for precisely this reason. And the more often this happens, the more rigid and inflexible the hospitals become. The more wedded they are to the formula of the day. Which, to be fair about it, does work in many cases.

My Chinese doctor, while vastly better than her western counterparts in treating chronic (long-term) complaints, is no better. *You have congestive heart failure*, she says. (Which I have known since 2001 or so.) *Your digestion is weak, you should eat only soups and broths*. And for many years my digestion was weak. I took baking soda, I took Tums, I took Beanos with beans and Lactaid with milk, I took Pepto-Bismol. Calcium-Magnesium-Zinc tablets, as bad as the excess calcium turned out to be, was a way of

Dave's Decumbiture

February 7, 2013

4:57 pm EST

Bel Air, MD

Placidus houses

mean node

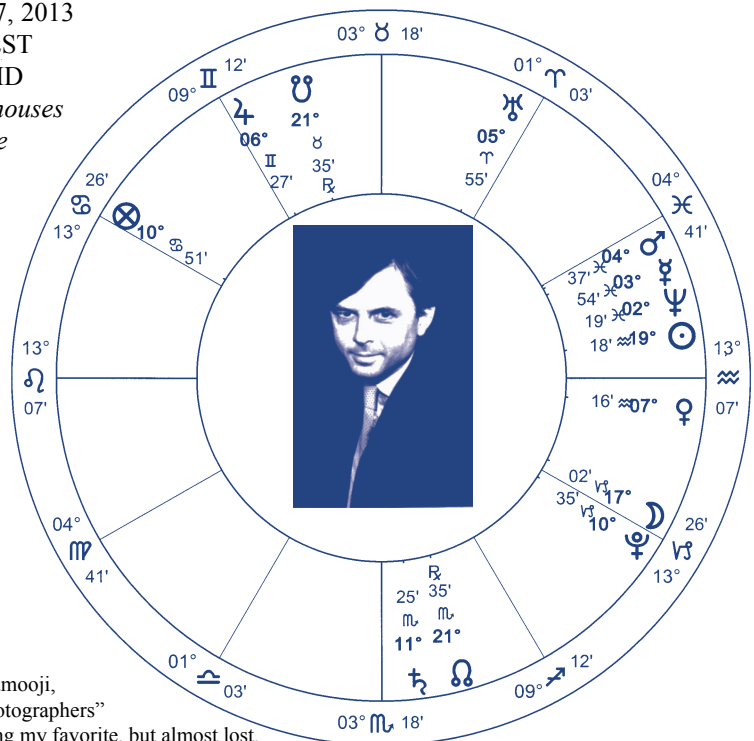


Photo by Mamooji, "King of Photographers" c. 1992. Long my favorite, but almost lost.

getting the large intestine not to squeeze every bit of water out of the stuff that came out at the end. But soups, for me, never had enough nutrition. They left me listless, so regardless of my digestive tract, her advice was ignored. Mysteriously, since fall my digestion has suddenly become quite strong. I now eat plates full of beans, forget to take the beans, but suffer no distress, not even gas. As I did last night. I sleep straight through without problem. I have no explanation, but suspect it is associated with Saturn's entry into Scorpio.

WHICH brings me to the surgeon I saw on Thursday, a kindly, older man. He was, I think, horrified to learn I had dropped the diuretic more than a week before. *Don't you know*, he said, *that blood pressure in your lungs is very high? We measured it by catheters in the hospital*.

I am not fast on my feet. Air signs, surprisingly, are not. Water is the quick thinker, the one with the instant retort. Not me. I give the slow, airy, retort here.

The catheters were done, on both sides of the heart, from a vein and an artery, both in the groin, on Wednesday, February 13. This was during Saturn's station at 11°30' of Scorpio. My Mercury is at 12°31' of Aquarius. Mercury rules the ascendant, which is Gemini, which are the lungs. It is therefore the lungs (and everything else ruled by Gemini) which are the essence of my life. The Saturn

square, from a fixed water sign, meant my primary problem was too much stagnant (fixed) water in my lungs, crowding out the air I needed. Which quickly overwhelmed an already weakened heart. I said as much at the time, that I had a lung problem, not a heart problem. This was ignored, since doctors can keep lungs going no matter what, but if your heart stops, that's it.

You will note the date of the catheters, February 13, was when the lungs were most severely stressed from the square to Saturn. My weight was then around 210 lbs. At noon on the 18th, Saturn went retrograde (a date I had long waited for!) and slowly, s-l-o-w-l-y relieved the pressure.

Well, this surgeon should have known my weights on the various days, yes? He should have known my situation had fundamentally changed? He instructed the nurse, who prepped me, to check for water in the lungs?

Well, no. The nurse did pulse and blood pressure only. The doctors had collected a great many isolated measurements during the time I was in hospital and presumably lack the means to organize them, even the obvious ones, like what I weighed and the date I weighed it. I have a scathing retort, which I should refrain from uttering at all costs, that *modern medicine mistakes minutia for significant detail*. Which it does.

It would not make any difference anyhow, since data is data and the conditions under which it was taken, good or bad, can-

not be helped. Moreover, there is still the fact of the formula, which must be obeyed, or the doctor takes a personal risk.

I have another appointment, with the first doctor, a woman, set for Tuesday. Which is tomorrow, if you read this on Monday. I dunno. It's my damn face. I can't just smile and say, *yes, yes, yes, I will do whatever you ask*, since people know when I am being insincere (lying), they always do.

Nor will it do any good to tell them the next crisis will be upon me a week on either side of April 15, when retrograde Saturn slides past natal Mars, the second of three conjunctions. Right now, mid March, is the time to take baseline measurements, after the first crisis, before the next one.

Doctors know nothing of astrology and attempts to tell them will go up against their internal mantra, *this is stupid, this is stupid, this is stupid*. As has every attempt to present astrology before these people, going back a full 2000 years. Who currently infest the medical and scientific professions. They previously made a mess as clerics. They tend to gravitate to positions of power and importance, which is how you will know where to find them. This is the hallmark of the intellectually insecure. Which is a really deep level of self-hypnosis, don't you think?

Precisely because it repudiated all external standards in favor of the simplistic *we know what's true when we see it*, science, including medicine, has traditionally been used to justify popular beliefs, both good and bad. When I was born it was scientifically accepted that blacks were an inferior race. In 1910 Abraham Flexner (see [last week](#)) used science itself to brazenly say as much. Seven years before my birth it was commonly believed that Jews were inferior. Were these aberrations? No. The science of **eugenics**, largely developed in the US and copied by Nazi Germany, said some people were so inferior that they should be involuntarily sterilized and forcibly kept from breeding. These fancies still exist. In California a law known as "5150" empowers any peace officer or paramedic to confine, at whim, anyone, for any reason, to a mental hospital. Which, if the patient is poor and/or a local nuisance, can and often does become a life sentence.

In each case, a vast body of perfectly rational, highly researched data exists to support these fancies. Equal, if not superior, to

any current faddish scientific or medical belief. Like Eve's apple, science holds out the seductive belief in easy and painless knowledge, while in fact bewitching and enslaving all those who eat it. It cannot be banned, but astrology can supplant it. It must.

THE traditional wisdom on the triple-transit, which you can read in **Hand** (pgs. 31-32) is that if you deal effectively with the problem the first time, the other two transits (retrograde, then direct) won't bother you. Hand says, *if you handle that issue properly, the other transits may go by without any notice*. He then warns, *if you do not handle the issue during the first transit, by the third time you will probably be so tired of the problem that you will do whatever is necessary to take care of it*.

Let's hope not. That's a heart transplant, which is evil. I've changed my diet, I am taking meds, I am taking Chinese herbs and see my Chinese doctor weekly, I will start up with Blaggrave's super herbs as soon as the nurseries stock them, in about a month. Let's hope it's just Robert Hand moralizing at me.

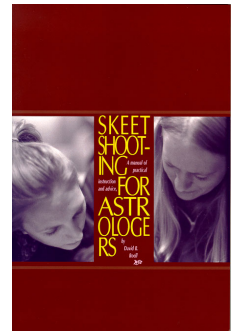
Medical astrology, of course, has its own set of formulas, though as the formulas that arise are based directly on the unique natal chart, these may truly be said to be the ultimate formulas, the ones that are most likely to be exactly correct and therefore produce the best and most complete healing possible, though one must guard against misreading the chart. Especially when it's one's own.

IT tears my heart out that the present economic embargoes on places such as Greece, Syria and Iran have resulted in shortages of "life-saving" medicines, when no such problem actually exists. Nor can it. The soil and climate of every country are more than adequate to grow the traditional plants and herbs which, in conjunction with local minerals and other materials, were used for centuries by traditional healers and doctors. Which, together, will cure every disease native to that area, **without exception**. And if for some reason they do not, then with only small effort, virtually any plant can be grown virtually anywhere in the world. While there are exceptions (Vidalia onions come to mind), these are rare. This is the medicine a flabby, fake "science" has tried to destroy. The true path to medicine, to real healing, is *in the past*. **Not the present**. True medicine is STRAIGHT IN FRONT OF US.

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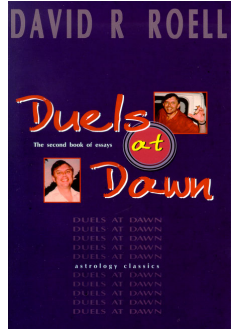
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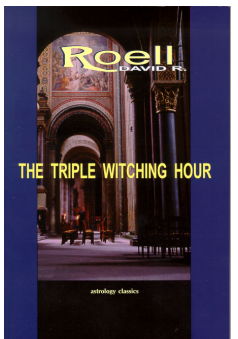
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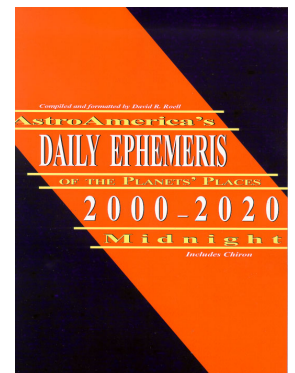
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AstroAmerica's Daily Ephemeris, 2000-20, also for 2010-20. Daily positions, including declinations, full aspectarian. Midnight.

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Quad Bike Analysis, the fourth book of great essays: Spring, 2013