



NEWSLETTER

NOW WEEKLY!

With art by Vera !

from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

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ARCHIVE

Email Dave@astroamerica.com

Found! Bessie Leo!

OVER at the **Astrologer's Memorial**, they've been looking for a picture of Bessie for a long time. Turned out, she was right under our noses. Her picture can be found on plate 2, page 4 of hubby Alan Leo's **The Art of Synthesis**. Well, if you have a copy (it's out of print), but then, all of Leo's Astrological Text Books went through many printings and can be found almost everywhere. But still I needed help. I was rambling through James Holden's **Astrological Pioneers of America**, when I chanced upon his short bio of her. Including where to find her photo.

I have triangulated the two most likely places to find a photo of the mysterious Mr.



Robson. One is in the archives of the Astrological Lodge, which still exists but under another name. I've contacted the two principals, I've yet to hear back.

The other possibility is the Alan Leo archives. Those archives must exist, they must be somewhere, but as yet I've not tracked them down. Do you know? **Email me!!**

The start of a most fascinating biography of Vivian Robson, by Hugh S. Torrens, is this week's featured article. There will be more of it in the coming weeks.

BOOKS. Two I wasn't so impressed with. Deva Green's new book on **Evolutionary Astrology: Pluto & Your Karmic Mission**, which is a rehash of her father's **Pluto Volume 1**, and, Carole Devine's **Solar Arc Directions, How to Read Life's Roadmap**. This isn't new, just overlooked. Next week, maybe **Persian Nativities III**.



§ 4. INTELLECTUAL ABILITIES

THESE cannot be judged from Mercury, for this planet rules self-expression rather than actual brain-power. If strong, it nearly always gives fluency with tongue and pen, but it may also be mentally shallow and flippant. On the other hand, a good Saturn gives good judgment, sense, and wisdom, in contradistinction to cleverness.

Uranus in good aspect to either planet may give exceptional talent.

General mental ability seems (in contradiction to the usual belief) to be most clearly indicated by good solar aspects, especially to ♃, ♃ or ♃.

Aspects to the asc. affect the brain, regarded as the physical vehicle for mental expression, and weaken and strengthen it according to their nature.

Many bodies in mutables make the mind active, often with a thirst for knowledge, especially the two positives. Virgo may be conservative and conventional. Pisces is artistic rather than strictly mental. — **The Principles of Astrology**, by C.E.O. Carter,

ALMANACK

for the week (all times GMT)

Notes

10	03:08	●	17♌25	New Moon
	04:04	♀	□ ♀	
	19:11	☾	♁ ♀	Void
	23:02	☾	♁ ♀	
11	03:52	☾	♁ ♀	
12	00:05	☾	♁ ♀	Void
	12:52	♀	♁ ♀	
	13:40	♀	♁ ♀	
	16:03	♀	♁ ♀	
	22:44	☾	♁ ♀	
13	02:02	☾	♁ ♀	
	08:59	☾	♁ ♀	
	13:22	☾	♁ ♀	
14	03:33	♃	♁ R	
	10:07	☾	♁ ♀	
	15:32	☾	♁ ♀	
	20:07	☾	♁ ♀	Void
15	00:27	☾	♁ ♀	
16	18:15	●	23♌47	First Quarter
	20:45	♃	♁ ♀	

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

August 13:

3114 BC—The **start** of the Mayan Calendar
1831—Nat Turner sees solar eclipse, revolts
1918—BMW founded



STAR OF THE WEEK

1925
★★★☆☆★★★

ALGENUBI epsilon Leonis 20 ♌ 42

Notes: A yellow star in the Lion's mouth.

Influence: Of the nature of Saturn and Mars, and has been called "He who rends." It gives a bold, bombastic, cruel, heartless, brutish and destructive nature, but artistic appreciation and power of expression.

THE EIGHTH NAKSHATRA, MAGHA 29 ♌ 57

The Mighty. Symbol, a House. Regents, the Pitris, Fathers. Ruled by the Dragon's Tail. A severe asterism belonging to the Shudra caste and favourable for acts of disgrace, destruction, deceit, imprisonment, beating, burning and poison when containing the Moon. Those born on the lunar day will be wealthy, fond of hills, merchants, valiant, and women haters. With Moon here at birth native will be wealthy, religious, contented, well-served, and fond of life. Rules grain boxes & the lips & upper mouth. — **from Fixed Stars**, by Robson

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Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson
1893-1990



IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

Reincarnation: Another time, another place

IN our circle of Being there is no end to either time or space, arriving & departing: nothing stands still in evolution; everything always goes forward, and like the Vernal Equinox we return full cycle in 360 degrees or years of continued existence between intervening periods elsewhere. We never truly die.

We arrive & depart by TRANSITION, a passing over from one condition to another dated by the TRANSITING Sun at each birth and each death, going forward each time from where we left off. In going through the karmic-understanding 12th House before rebirth we gain "A DEGREE of understanding" so that our Sun at birth has advanced by one degree more than where he was at our previous death whose transit is known.

We know this woman's transiting Sun was 26 Virgo this incarnation, Sept. 19, 1938 a degree more than at previous death Sept. 18, 1578 thus 25 Virgo then with the 12th cusp 13 Virgo her Past Ascendant: her Present Ascendant is 9 Libra & her Future Ascendant 8 Scorpio or 1° more than her natal Future-2nd cusp. At her death on Jan. 20th, 1972, the TRANSITING Sun 29 Capricorn disclosed that her next incarnation is to begin in 360 years, Jan 21st, 2332 A.D. the Sun to be 00 Aquarius and the 2nd cusp 8 Scorpio rising and followed in order by the remaining natal cusps. — **In the Beginning, Astrology**, 1975. *This might be a general rule, but birth no more follows strict rules than does death, and for precisely the same reasons.* — Dave.

Exclusive to the newsletter:

Vivian Erwood Robson (1890-1942) Curator Turned Astrologer

by Hugh S. Torrens, 1989

Dave's Introduction: Over at the **Astrologer's Memorial** it says that Vivian Robson was a curator at the **British Museum**. So I emailed and asked them. The only record they had of Mr. Robson was a **hand-written application** for a Reader's Ticket, dated May 1, 1917. He signed himself B.Sc., F.G.S. F.G.S. is "**Fellow, Geological Society**." So I went to their website, where I found **obituaries** of deceased Fellows. Vivian Robson was not among them, which did not surprise me. But, for the sake of being thorough, I emailed them anyway. The next day, back came this astonishing biography. I asked for permission to reprint, and, the very next day, the author himself replied. Here is Part 1:—

INTRODUCTION

This article was unusually inspired by an article in the daily press, in this case, one in the *Daily Telegraph* for 7 January 1987 entitled 'Towards an Enterprise Culture' by the journalist **Paul Johnson**. This spoke of the '*spirit of whining mendicancy and parasitism at our British universities*', some of which were so bad they should be killed off completely. Johnson felt that the solution for such universities was to expose them to what he called '*the discipline of the market*', whereby buyers in that market would now provide the '*educative discipline*' and thus decide whether a particular activity or field of research was worthy of that market's support. In short, if people want something researched they will pay for it and if people won't pay for it, directly in the market, then that research should not be supported.

This paper describes the career of a forgotten geological curator, and how his career interacted with the 'discipline of the market' and forced him to abandon the career of geological curator for the new career of journalist, a career shared with Paul Johnson!

ROBSON'S FIRST CAREER AS A GEOLOGICAL CURATOR

Vivian Erwood Robson was born on 26 May 1890 [12:04 pm GMT] in **Aston, Birmingham**, where his father Alfred William Robson was a surgeon, living at 111 Park Road, Aston. Some details of medical life in Birmingham at the time are provided by one of surgeon Robson's friends, Dr H.W. Pooler (1948), who noted in particular that Robson's family was from Yorkshire and gave other details about Alfred Robson.

Robson senior's practice as a surgeon was sufficiently lucrative for Robson junior to be sent to **King Edward the Sixth School, Birmingham**, in December 1901. His career at the school 'is mainly negative; in that he was not a member of a sports team, not

active in the literary society or debating society, and not a prefect'. Robson left King Edward's on 2 July 1907.

However, the seeds of his first career as a curator had clearly been sown very early, and at this school. The School Magazine for April 1906 contains a report of its Natural History Society's activities and includes a note that fifteen year old Robson, '*has undertaken the naming and arrangement of the collection of fossils and [that] it is hoped in a short time to have [the School] Museum again in a presentable condition*'. Nearly a year later the same source for March 1907 recorded that '*this term V.E. Robson has finished naming the collection of fossils and Mr. Robson has presented the Museum with a handsome catalogue of the fossils of the Museum*'. Robson himself later recorded that he was awarded the Walter Myers Prize in Geology and Palaeontology whilst at the school.

After leaving King Edward's, Robson passed to **Birmingham University**. Unfortunately, no Students Matriculation Registers for this period survive and the University records state only that he took the degree of B.Sc. (unclassified) in June 1913. But other records show that he had arrived at the University in October 1907, when he was recorded as Member 73 of the British Federated Society of Mining Students, living at home at 111 Park Road, Aston.

Charles Lapworth (1842-1920), who was now Robson's Head of Department, later provided further details of Robson's career as a student of geology in a testimonial, written after Robson had graduated.

At some stage, whilst still an undergraduate, Robson had come into contact with the English **ammonite** worker Sydney Savory Buckman (1860-1929). This seems to have been after the publication of Part viii of Volume 1 of Buckman's major work, **Yorkshire Type Ammonites**, after 15 June 1912. — *to be continued.*



WHY WHERE
WHAT WHO
WHEN
ELECTIONAL
ASTROLOGY

Part 72: Digging for gold

Marriage for gain

IN *marriage for gain* fortify the ascendant, its lord, the Moon and their dispositors. Let a cardinal or mutable sign be rising, and place the Moon in any mutable sign except Gemini. Let the ruler of the house containing the Moon be in Leo, and see that the chief significators are free from affliction and well placed, if possible with mutual reception. Fortify the first, second, fourth, tenth, and eleventh houses & their lords, or as many of these as possible and fortify Fortuna, placing it in good aspect to Jupiter or Venus.

CHRISTENING CHILDREN

FORTIFY the ascendant, its lord, the Moon and its dispositor. Place a fixed sign on the ascendant, with Jupiter strong in the first or ninth house, or in good aspect with the cusps of, or planets in, those houses, and let the planets in the ascendant or ninth be either benefics or at least well dignified. See that Saturn and Mars are not in these houses nor aspecting their occupants or lords. Fortify the ninth & its lord, and place Venus and the Moon in good aspect to Jupiter, if possible with reception, or let them all be in conjunction in the ascendant or ninth, and let the significators be in sextile or trine to Jupiter or Mercury. — **Electional Astrology**, 1937

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Of the Sol in Leo

from

The Astrological Judgement and Practice of Physick, by Richard Saunders

SOL in the first six degrees of Leo is hot & dry in the beginning of the second degree, and causes diseases of thick yellow choler, and thin sharp yellow choler, causing yellow jaundies, hot burning fevers, scabs, pimples, stopping of the liver, and heat of the liver.

Sol in the next 18 degrees of Leo is hot and dry in the extremity of the 2nd degree, causing diseases of abundance of yellow Choler; as the yellow jaundies, stopping of the terms, vomiting, indigestion, dryness & heat of the liver, pain of the heart, faintness, weakness, pining away and consuming.

Sol in the last six degrees of Leo is hot & dry in the 3rd degree, causing hot and dry fevers, yellow jaundies, stopping of the liver, pain of the head, overflowing of the gall, pain in the groin, with kernels like and near to the pestilential and infectious plague; the red plague is also caused of much choler, and also causes the running of the reins, and gonorrhea-passion in men & vomiting up much blood in women, through corruption and stopping of their terms, and consuming and pining away of the flesh, with overmuch heat and dryness, of choler, pain in the head and back, weakness and faintness.

The Cure of Sun in Leo of much yellow Choler.

Minister not in *hora* Sun nor Mars, neither put Aries, Leo nor Sagittarius in the ascendant, but minister in *hora* Moon, Venus or in *hora* Jupiter in Cancer, Scorpio or Aquarius, or in *hora* Mercury. — **The Astrological Judgement and Practice of Physick**, by Richard Saunders, 1671

PROEM

from Liber Primus,
from Matheseos Libri VIII,
by Julius Firmicus Maternus

SOME while ago, my dear **Mavortius**, I promised to dedicate this book to you; but for a long time recurrent periods of anxiety and self-doubt interfered with my writing. I was afraid that my slight talent would not be able to produce anything worthy of your ears.

When we first met, you had just been put in charge of the Province of **Campania**—a post you richly deserved—and I was completely worn out from a tedious journey through winter snows. With the ministrations of a true friend you made every effort to restore my enfeebled body.

After I was brought back to my former state of health by your soothing care, we spent much time in conversation, discussing our early lives & exchanging literary references.

After we had talked over our experiences & our successes, you began to ask me all kinds of questions about the geography of Sicily where I was born and where I make my home. You wanted to know the true explanation of the ancient fables: what really are Scylla and Charybdis, and what is the cause of the tremendous clashing of waters when at fixed times the two seas rush together in the strait. You were curious about the composition of the fires of Aetna: their origin & how they manage to erupt in flames without damage to the mountain. Also you asked about the nature of the lake called Palicus near the Symethus River, which is foul & black from discolored matter but has pale-colored foam and gives out a high-pitched hissing sound.

In discussing these & other questions, you also asked me about the wonders of Sicily which you had learned in childhood from the Greek and Roman writers. Finally you shifted the conversation to the **globe of Archimedes** . . . — **Maternus**, c.340 AD

