



NEWSLETTER

NOW WEEKLY!

With art by Vera !

from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

August 24, 2010

ARCHIVE

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Robert Blaschke is alive and well

AND will stay that way. He's written an **article** on the current **Venus-Mars series of conjunctions** he wants you to read. Robert is uniquely well-suited for the job: He has Venus and Mars, both debilitated by sign, in consecutive signs & houses, in mutual reception. As he himself notes, his life has revolved around the two of them and was significantly changed the last time they got together in Libra, Scorpio and Taurus. I especially liked the macabre touch at the end. I so love Scorpios for that! It's at the Mountain Astrologer site, [here](#). Meanwhile we await his next book in the Earthwalk School of Astrology series. *Vive Robert!*

NEW BOOKS

ANOTHER book in the **Evolutionary Astrology** series, this one a collection of **essays** edited by Rose Marcus. Evolutionary Astrology is Jeff Green's idea that Pluto = Soul. There's been a number of books on that of late, so I've put them all on **one page** so you can look them all over. If it keeps snowballing like this, it will be the biggest thing since Jungian astrology. Sure would like to see some snow in this heat!

Also new from Llewellyn, Amy Herring's book, **Astrology of the Moon: An Illuminating Journey Through the Signs and Houses**. Most of the book is on the progressed moon, by sign and house. Very much too wordy for me.

Plans to rush Robson's **Student's Text-Book** into print hit another snag when I came across yet another set of biographical notes, in this case, an Appreciation by Dorothy Ryan, published eleven months after his death. On the face of it, Dorothy didn't say much, but between the lines there are details to puzzle out. I want to put everything I can find into the back of the Text-Book, so that we might finally have some idea who this man really was. He wasn't a librarian.

But the cover is lovely!

PLUTO

THOUGH discovered as recently as 1930 (in 17° Cancer) the basic significance of this body is not difficult to determine.

It is the resurrection of the past—the forgotten or half-forgotten past—in the present. Not for nothing is this period associated with the great vogue of Freudian psycho-analysis and also with the rise of the Nazi doctrines, which in the end produced an eruption of brutality which the world at large had never dreamt of beholding again. In this sense Pluto is the skeleton in the cupboard and the slumbering volcano. . .

Howbeit, it appears to have a definite value in mundane maps, as we mentioned when discussing the subject of War on pg. 26. Its exact parallel with Hitler's ascendant may or may not be fortuitous. To us it seems a pagan, indeed a feral, influence, in its lower manifestations. — **Essays on the Foundations of Astrology**, 1947

ALMANACK

for the week (all times GMT)

Notes

24	08:30	☾♂♄	Void
	11:40	♃♁♆	
	14:11	☾♃	
	17:04	☉01♃26	Full Moon
25	20:46	♀♂♆	
26	05:11	☉♁♄	
	19:42	♀♁♃	
27	01:59	☾♂♆	Void
	02:49	☾♃	
	04:57	♀♁♆	
	09:45	♀♁☉	
28	04:37	☾♂☉	
29	08:45	♃♂♆	
	08:48	☾♃♄	Void
	14:36	☾♃	
30	03:41	☾♁☉	

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

August 25:

- 1609—Galileo shows off his telescope.
- 1814—The White House burns to the ground.
- 1835—NY Sun finds life on the Moon.
- 1920—Poland defeats Russia.
- 1944—Paris liberated.
- 1945—John Birch killed by the Chinese
- 1989—Voyager II reaches Neptune



STAR OF THE WEEK



ZOSMA delta Leonis 11 ♏ 28

Notes: A triple star, pale yellow, blue and violet situated on the Lion's back. From Zosma, a Girdle

Influence: Of the nature of Saturn and Venus. It causes benefit by disgrace, selfishness, egotism, immorality, meanness, melancholy, unhappiness of mind and fear of poison, and gives an unreasonable, shameless & egotistical nature.

Another method of prognostication by the use of fixed stars consists in noting the effects of their passage over the Ascendant and luminaries in the horoscopes for the building or foundation of towns, cities and institutions. Thus it is traditional knowledge that ♀ 17° 54' occupies the Ascendant of the City of London, and it has been pointed out that the plague & fire of London coincided with the passage of the Bull's north horn (El Nath) over this degree.

— from **Fixed Stars**, by Vivian Robson

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Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson
1893-1990

IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

The Gemini Twins

MERCURY 26° and Venus 48° never get any farther from the Sun than these degrees allow, thus conjunct, direct or retrograde, telling us how soon after arriving on Earth we will begin to exhibit promising powers of Mercurial brain-power and Venusian stability as we recognize-mentally and also attempt-physically.

If retrograde they go back when required to think it over or determine the best and quickest way to take. This is undoubtedly the “born astrologer” in us that brings success in arriving at “logical” conclusions.

Mercury and Venus are brother & sister by twinship as presented by the dual Sign Gemini's two identical lines in the 3rd house of blood-relatives. Gemini is so changeable that divorce is to be expected. With Venus the Part of Divorce is always opposite herself but she wants to maintain the status quo **balance** and especially if there are children to consider so that she decides to “get a GEY” (a private solution) with the family unbroken on the surface known only to her.

MERCURY

The youngest of our planets, Mercury's keyword is I THINK (but I am still not sure), thus the one most likely to make mistakes. The coming-&-going significator suggested by always wearing his hat distinguishing him from his twin sister Venus he is a messenger, go-between, traveler and representative carrying letters of introductory service and commitment.....which nonetheless require legalized authority, seeing that he **thinks** but still is not always sure, so another's signature has to back up his own. — **Explain Me Why Astrologically**, 1989

Exclusive: Part 3 of:—

Vivian Erwood Robson (1890-1942) Curator Turned Astrologer

by Hugh S. Torrens, 1989

I am skipping over some early details. In late 1914, Robson took a position as curator at the Bristol City Museum. He resigned it two years later. Behold what came next. — Dave

ROBSON had arrived in London to work for the Admiralty late in 1916. In March 1917 he wrote to Buckman from Putney about how hunting for digs in London and colitis had both been troubling him, but that he liked the work at the Admiralty and was getting on well with it. He then added ‘*what will happen after the war I don't know possibly I may stay on but I rather doubt it. I expect I shall drift back into Geology in some form or other though not at Bristol*’ where he said Bolton had spread the tale of his departure. Palaeontology, he noted, he had dropped entirely. The Admiralty work under such wartime conditions was undoubtedly hard and in another letter of 23 December 1917 he noted that he had then been working late into the evenings at the Admiralty for some months.

ROBSON'S LATER CAREER

The end of Robson's work as a geological curator and as a geologist was finally signalled early in 1921 when he resigned as a Fellow of the Geological Society and suddenly became a journalist and professional writer, on the subject of astrology. One could hardly find a more remarkable career change for any geologist. I have not felt it worthwhile to investigate Robson's career as an astrologer in great detail but the first date I have found Robson active in this field is 1919. This is the date of publication of a *Life of Alan Leo* (1860-1917) by Leo's widow Bessie (Leo 1919). Alan Leo had been a prolific writer on astrology and had founded the weekly magazine *Modern Astrology* in 1895, whose offices were at 39-41 Imperial Buildings, in Ludgate Circus, London EC4. In this biography there is a horoscope for Alan Leo (pp. 174-203) by Vivian E. Robson, which provides clear evidence of Robson's interest in the subject at this early date.

After his resignation from the Geological Society, Robson seems to have turned full time to the business of astrological journalism. He soon became a joint editor of the magazine *Modern Astrology*, with Leo's widow, and in 1922 the first of his eight separate astrological books and pamphlets was published. *A Student's Text Book of Astrology*. The book's preface is from a Bedford Park, London W4 address and London now becomes his permanent, and final, place of

residence. The eight astrological works that he published up to 1937 are listed below, in order of their dates of first publication.

1. *A Student's Text Book of Astrology*, 1922.
2. *The Fixed Stars and Constellations in Astrology*, 1923.
3. (editor) *Alan Leo's Dictionary of Astrology*, 1929.
4. *The Radix System of Astrology*, 1930.
5. *A Beginners Guide to Practical Astrology*, 1931.
6. *The Calculation of Sunrise and Sunset*. London, 1932 (privately published).
7. *Electional Astrology*, 1937.
8. *Your Affinity - the Astrological Guide to an Ideal Marriage and to Greater Happiness in Marriages already contracted*, 1937.

Copies of all eight of Robson's books are preserved in the British Library, London.

Two points are perhaps worth noting in this astrological output. The first is how the title of the last changes on reprinting, presumably in ever increasing attempts to achieve greater and greater ‘market penetration’; becoming progressively *Astrology and Sex* in its 1941 reprint edition, then *Astrology and Human Sex Life* in the 1963 reprint, and finally *An Astrology guide to your Sex Life* in the 1967 reprint! [This is wrong. **Your Affinity** (never reprinted) has not one word in common with **Astrology and Sex**. I have copies of both. — Dave] The second point is the frequency with which nearly all titles have been reprinted since publication. Of the eight titles above, numbers 1, 2, 3, and 5 were all still in print in 1987 and of the remainder, numbers 7 and 8 have been reprinted a number of times in recent years, and thus well after Robson's death. Number 4 on the above list is subtitled *Robson's Astrological Series no. 1*, although no subsequent publication in such a series ever appeared.

One final mystery remains in connection with Robson's geological work. In 1935 his own personal geological collection, by then a general unlabelled collection of fossils, turned up in London. It was purchased by the London dealers Gregory, Bottley and Co. who then sold to the British Museum 63 ammonites, the majority of them from the Robson collection. — **Next week: Dorothy Ryan's memorial of November, 1943**

Don't fall from the sky! Get your Astrology books from **AstroAmerica!** All the books, all the time, fast service, fair prices.

This week starts the serialization of Vivian Robson's **A Student's Text-Book of Astrology**, from 1922. I will skip the opening chapters and start with Section II, chapter 1, **General Principles of Judgment**.

I had hoped to have the book in print by the time this serial started, but I am still amassing biographical details to include with it. It will be the **Vivian Robson Memorial Edition**, a tribute to a great and long neglected astrologer. — Dave

Part 1:
General Principles of Judgment

THE art of judging a horoscope is usually divided into two branches, analysis and synthesis. The former process consists in splitting up the map into its component parts and thereby ascertaining the exact influence of each position and aspect, whilst the latter is concerned with the building up of all these isolated pieces of information into one co-ordinated whole.

Astrology, like everything else, requires the exercise of a great deal of common sense, and it is necessary to realize at the outset that the horoscope is a *person* and not a set of disconnected planetary influences. Always remember that there is something that links up these scattered and contradictory fragments into a connected and coherent whole, and blends contradictions in such a way as to form definite character or individual. The art of judging a map lies in the ability to make it live. Anyone can copy the effects of aspects or positions from a book, but this is not judgment and the result is a very wooden and artificial reading that is devoid of individuality and describes a puppet rather than a human being.

— **A Student's Text-Book of Astrology**, 1922

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From The Modern Text-Book of Astrology by Margaret Hone

TRINE

GENERALLY strongly helpful, though too much "ease" may signify an expectation of success in life through others rather than through special effort.

Grand Trine.—The easefulness will be intensified when three, or more, planets complete a triangular formation in the chart. Some authorities think badly of this. Certainly a weak character may be ruined by too much good fortune in life. The chart should be examined for compensatory strength of purpose in other ways. Also it is true that a person of bad character with such a configuration may find it all too easy to achieve his ends successfully.

If more than three planets compose the trine, the life is liable to be marked by an over-expression of the element so accentuated. The extra easy flow in life frequently comes because such a person is at ease with himself, hence a pleasant person whom others like to help and favour. A weak character may come to rely on this and bank on it, hence the idea expressed sometimes that those with a grand trine are "parasitical."

SQUARE

Generally obstructive or disruptive. But obstructions can be used as stepping stones by determined people, who will thus be energized to further action. This effect is accentuated when the formation is a T-square. Charts of those who are successful in life & strong in character usually show both trines and squares. — **The Modern Text-Book of Astrology**, by Margaret Hone.

Chapter 2: The Haylaj.

from **Book 3 of Carmen Astrologicum**, by Dorotheus of Sidon

THE haylaj is the indicator and the kadhkhudah is the governor of the matter of life. The haylaj by day is the Sun & by night the Moon, then the degrees of the term of the ascendant, then the lot of fortune. Whosoever's nativity takes place from conjunction to fullness of the Moon, for him it [the kadhkhudah?] is the degree of the conjunction, and whosoever's nativity takes place in what is between fullness and conjunction, the degree in which the fullness is; each period is 15 days in a month, and its nighttime is more powerful than that [daytime]. By day the Sun and by night the Moon, and the better of these two is what is in a cardine [angle], especially the ascendant. It is necessary that the lord of the term aspect the haylaj, or the lord of the its house, or the lord of its exaltation, or the lord of its triplicity, or the lord of its image [decan]. If it is in this situation, it is the haylaj, but if there does not witness it the lord of the term or one of those which I mentioned — the lord of its house or its triplicity or its exaltation or its image (the first of these is the lord of the term, then the lord of the triplicity) — then it will not be good that you make it the haylaj. See which planet casts its rays once you have found the haylaj, casts its rays to it from both quartiles and both trines and both sextiles or is present with it or in opposition. In a diurnal nativity if the Sun is in the ascendant in the degrees above the earth and one of those planets which I mentioned aspects it, then it will have the power to be the haylaj. Similarly is it if you find it in the midheaven or in the eleventh sign, which is the sign of good fortune. Similarly look in nocturnal natiivities from the Moon. — **Carmen Astrologicum**, by Dorotheus of Sidon.

