



# NEWSLETTER

NOW WEEKLY!

With art by Vera!

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June 21, 2011

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## Summer Solstice

**T**HE Summer Solstice is at 1:17 pm EDT (5:17 pm GMT) on Tuesday, June 21. As this is a subset of the Spring Equinox (March 20, 2011, 7:21 pm EDT), here's an idea how it shapes up:

There's a lot of things at 0 degrees. As I need to refer to both charts and as I think "solstice" and "equinox" to be clumsy, I will refer to the Spring and the Summer charts:

Normally the Sun from Spring to Summer squares itself, but in this case, the Summer Sun also squares Spring Uranus, at 0 Aries; and Summer Mars, at 0 Gemini, sextiles the Spring Sun & Uranus, and semi-sextiles the Summer Sun. Spring Neptune was at 29 of Aquarius. It's now 0 Pisces, which trines Summer Sun and semi-sextiles Spring Sun & Uranus. Which means it could be a dynamic summer.

And lots of fun in Washington, where the angles of both Spring and Summer charts are nearly identical. One degree Libra rises in both, both have one degree Cancer on the MC. Is this typical? Since June 28, 1914, one Libra has signified war, as 1♌ symbolically

shows a man pointing a gun. Looking at the Spring chart I said it looked like war (a lucky guess!). We were in Libya almost the very next day.

The Sun, which was on the descendant of the Spring chart, is now on the MC of the Summer chart. I would guess we spend the next three months lording over the world as its ruler, so if you're elsewhere in the world, or just out of luck in America, watch out, as increasingly Washington represents only itself.

Years after the event, **Ebenezer Sibley** created the first US chart, whole cloth, by taking the house cusps from previous Solstice chart and dropping onto them the positions of the planets as of noon GMT on July 4, 1776. Which is the real reason people think the Declaration was signed around 5:00 pm, as that's what his chart implied.

I have something different in mind. Take the cusps of the Summer chart, set for Washington, and onto it drop the Solar Eclipse positions, as of July 1, 2011, 4:54 am EDT :

Sun & Moon, eclipsed, are conjunct in the 10th, conjunct Summer's Mercury, square Summer's Saturn, trine Summer's Moon, which is in the 9th house from the eclipse. In Washington, pride and arrogance shouted from the rooftops (eclipse conjunct Mercury), ruined by the square from Saturn.

*Chart on page 6.*

### ALMANACK

for the week (all times GMT)

Notes

21	02:50	♂ II	
	17:17	☉ ☿	Summer Solstice
	18:43	♀ ☐ ♃	
22	02:51	☾ ☐ ♀	Void
	06:45	♂ ☐ ♀	
	14:07	☉ △ ♀	
23	08:24	☾ ♀	
	11:48	☉ 01 ♀ 41	Last Quarter
24	08:05	♃ ♃ ♀	Rare !
	22:08	☾ ✕ ♀	Void
25	20:53	☾ ♂	
	23:55	☉ ✕ ♃	
26	05:30	☾ ✕ ☉	
	10:14	☉ ☐ ♃	
27	10:26	♂ ✕ ♃	
	16:25	☾ ✕ ♀	Void

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

## ASTRO MED A to Z

**Erysipelas.** This seems to be a Venus-Mars-Jupiter complaint, these influences being represented by sign or planet. Two cases, both born in London and female, are August 1, 1864, and August 20, 1876, asc. 20 Gemini and 12 Aquarius, respectively. The later is also quoted under Measles.

**Foresight** seems specially connected with the "prophetic" sign Sagittarius, which, even in quite primitive specimens often shows a natural gift for foreseeing what turn affairs will take. If Mercury or Jupiter is heavily afflicted, however, great caution should be used in relying upon such forecasts. It is also advisable for the astrologer, when about to engage upon prognostic work, to assure himself that he is not under serious malefic directions or transits afflicting these planets. This is, of course, especially necessary if he has them radically afflicted.

**Forward Manner** results, in girls, from strong Mars aspects to Moon or Venus, and relative obscurity of the Moon and Neptune, and the negative influences generally.

—from **Encyclopaedia of Psychological Astrology**, by Charles Carter.



## STAR OF THE WEEK



**POLARIS** alpha Ursae Minoris 28 II 43

**Notes:** A double star, topaz yellow and pale white, situated in the tail of the Lesser Bear, and marking the celestial pole. Also called Al Rukkabah, the Riders; Cynosura, the Dog's Tail, and Stella Polaris, the Pole Star. Owing to the precession of the equinoxes the pole moves in a circle among the stars taking about 26,000 years to complete one revolution. At present [1920] Polaris is about 1°14' distant from the pole and will continue to approach it until the year 2095 when it will reach its nearest distance of 26'30" and then recede.

**Influence:** Of the nature of Saturn and Venus. It causes much sickness, trouble, loss of fortune, disgrace and great affliction, and may give legacies and inheritances attended by much evil. The Arabs were of the opinion that the contemplation of Polaris cured ophthalmia.

**With Sun:** Many troubles and evils.

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

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Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson  
1893-1990



# IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

## Jacobson Correspondence Course

**A**STROLOGY is that science that brings the astronomical positions of the Sun, Moon and planets down to earth in a manner of speaking; sets them in a wheel divided into the 12 sections or houses representing worldly conditions on the face of the Earth, and relates them to everything and everybody in the "circle" of the person whose chart it is.

Not only does the chart reveal the present, it also shows what the future is to be and when to expect developments. Since we use a logarithm card, the actual figuring is reduced to simple formulas even a child can use. The symbols are readily recognized, the aspects easily ascertained and interpreted, and the keywords quickly learned.

Where do we start to study astrology and how do we learn? By studying the text for each lesson and then explaining it to someone else, real or imaginary: we learn better by teaching what we are studying. By setting a chart each day for a different combination of time and locality, until the method is second nature. And by writing down and keeping important chart readings for future proof of accuracy.

What data must we have? The date, time & place of birth. What equipment do we need? A booklet called an **ephemeris** issued each year, giving the daily positions of the planets; also a list of Signs and degrees to place on the cusps of the chart, called a **Table of Houses**; also blank wheels . . . — **Correspondence Course in Astrology**, 1968.

### The Chart of the Week:

# Emperor Nero

(CHARTS ON PG. 4)

**N**ERO Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus was born on December 15, 37 AD, at Antium, near Rome. He was the only son of Gnaeus Domitius Ahenobarbus and his wife, Agrippina the Younger, sister of Emperor Caligula. When Emperor Claudius took Agrippina as his third wife, he took Nero as his adopted son & heir. Which somehow displaced Claudius's own son, Britannicus, from the throne.

The chart is from Vettius Valens, you will find it on pg. 242 of the upcoming Riley/Roell edition. On pg. 241, Valens tosses it off, thusly:

*For example: Sun, Mars, Mercury, Ascendant in Sagittarius, Moon in Leo, Saturn in Virgo, Jupiter in Scorpio, Venus in Capricorn. The Moon controls the second interval since it is two signs from Saturn. The same is true of the Sun, Mars, Mercury, and the Ascendant with respect to Venus. . . .*

As Valens does not name the chart as Nero's, this doesn't sound like much of anyone at all. As he does not give actual birth data, we use the following method to find it:

Sun in Sagittarius, we are looking for a day in November/December. The pairing of Saturn in Virgo, Jupiter in Scorpio, happens once every 59-61 years, which are quickly found. As Valens was writing in the second half of the 2nd century (101-200 AD), we are looking at 22 BC, 37 AD, 97 AD, 157 AD or maybe 217 AD. Any of these years should produce Saturn in Virgo, Jupiter in Scorpio, more or less.

We then look for Mars, which has a two year cycle. Saturn at 29 years, Jupiter with 12, Mars with 2, when all three are taken together, December, 37 AD is found to be the only possible month and year. The positions of Mercury, Venus and the Moon suggests the 15th/16th as the date, and Wiki, not Valens, confirms birth to have been on the 15th. The Moon is one day into Leo, while Mercury has turned direct only two days previously, having made a station at 0° Sag.

Rectification. I don't think we should go overboard. The chart is very old and most surviving accounts were written by Nero's enemies and may be suspect.

According to Valens, there can be any degree of Sagittarius rising. Early degrees put Virgo on the MC. Middle and late degrees have a Libra midheaven. According to **David Anrius**, late degrees of Sagittarius rising have

distinct "droopy eyelids", which remind me of grandmother Roell, who had them. Surviving busts of Nero lack this feature.

A ruler's midheaven is, essentially, his administration. A Virgo MC is sanitation and health, in other words, public works. With Pisces opposite, and Rome as the Emperor's place of residence, a Virgo MC will result in aqueducts and engineering. There were Roman Emperors who specialized in that sort of thing, but Nero was not among them.

According to **Wiki**, *During his reign, Nero focused much of his attention on diplomacy, trade, and increasing the cultural capital of the empire. He ordered the building of theaters and promoted athletic games. During his reign the redoubtable general Corbulo conducted a successful war and negotiated peace with the Parthian Empire.*

Diplomacy and trade, culture, theaters, war and peace, are all symbolic of a Libra MC and a birth time of about 7:00 am.

But, you will say, with Virgo on the MC, Saturn is there, and when Saturn is in the 10th, the native comes to a bad end. Nero came to a bad end, did he not?

Indeed, Nero came to a bad end, killing himself in anticipation of a stranger doing it for him, but it wasn't a Saturnine ending. Saturn in the 10th compulsively takes on responsibilities until it is finally overwhelmed and crushed by them. Nero seems to have taken on very little in the way of responsibilities. Saturn is time itself. Saturn in the 10th (I have a brother with this, I've had 50 years to observe it) builds slowly, painstakingly and only comes to a bad end after much toil and hardship. Which is rarely before middle age.

So this is our chart for Nero: December 15, 37 AD, Antium, Italy, 7:00 am. The chart on pg. 4 is not the same as what will be in the eventual book. In the book, all charts are in Porphyry (the house system Valens himself used), and none have outer planets. Here, the chart is in Placidus. Of the outer planets, we find the Sun conjunct Pluto, Uranus in the 9th with Saturn, and the Moon opposite Neptune.

Nero's chart is dominated by the Pluto-Sun-Mars conjunction in Sagittarius in the first. This is overwhelming cruelty, a bully, as it turns out. This will be focused in the area shown by the house in which we find

*continued, page 4*

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

**Part 44:**

**Special aphorisms relating to disease**

**Consumption, continued**

(d) Sun and Mercury afflicted in Pisces in 6th with Virgo ends to consumption.

**2. CANCER.** The astrological indications are not yet certain. As a rule the Moon is badly afflicted and there are afflictions from Jupiter, Saturn or Neptune, and the signs, Aries, Taurus, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn. Saturn in Cancer often indicates the death of a parent, usually the father, from cancer.

**3. EPILEPSY.** (a) Mercury and Moon not in aspecting each other, or when in Pisces and Capricorn, or in 6th, 8th, or 12th and neither aspecting the ascendant.

(b) Saturn by night and Mars by day strong in an angle and afflicting both Mercury and Moon.

(c) Saturn by day and Mars by night disposing of Mercury and Moon.

(d) Neptune in a watery sign on the Ascendant and afflicting, causes epilepsy or water on the brain. Other positions causing epilepsy are Moon in Ascendant opposite Mercury and Saturn; Saturn opposite Mars in angles; Moon conjunct Sun and Mars in 4th square or opposition to Saturn; Sun and Venus in Ascendant opposite Saturn; luminaries afflicted by Mercury and Mars. Malefics angular rising after Moon or before Sun and in Gemini or Sagittarius also cause epilepsy, but if in the very end of the sign they are said to produce gout, cramp, and rheumatism. In nearly all cases of epilepsy the Ascendant is heavily afflicted.

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

**June 21: Summer Solstice!**  
**217 BC—Hannibal defeats Rome.**  
**1749—Halifax, NS, founded**  
**1877—Molly Maguires hanged**

**Decanates**

from *The Manual of Astrology* by Sefpharial

**ARIES**

**1st decan, ruled by Mars:** It confers a warlike & aggressive spirit, a taste for political and public work; disposes to injuries in the head & face; gives success through pioneer work or military service, and renders the life changeful & remarkable in many ways.

**2nd decan, ruled by Sun:** A proud and haughty nature, desiring to bear rule; ambitious and aspiring; loving the practical arts; extravagant and generous nature; impulsive, critical, despising mean or underhanded actions; free, but courteous in manner; gives success in governmental positions and military life, and secures the favor of men.

**3rd decan, ruled by Venus:** Gives strong passions, love of pleasures; bright and sparkling nature, love of art & poetry; renders the nature kind & loving, but very impulsive and over-ardent. The decan is not a very fortunate one, but it confers a generous, warm disposition which attracts friends.

**TAURUS**

**1st decan, ruled by Mercury:** It gives a highly-endowed mind, poetical & creative fancy, amiable disposition, steadfast affections, intuitive faculty, fondness for the artistic and beautiful in form and colour; a sensuous love of life, desire for comfort, ease, and luxury, but capable of sustained efforts of a mental nature. It gives success in drama, music, fine arts, and secures the patronage of women.

**2nd decan, ruled by Moon:** This decan gives a changeful & romantic disposition, strong imagination, fine feelings, love of pleasure, fondness for dainty foods and good living generally; it confers the favour of women of position, and renders the native successful in travelling; disposes to artistic and poetical pursuits. It conduces to wealth and the acquisition of property. — *The Manual of Astrology*, by Sefpharial

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**Is This You?**

**20-30° Sagittarius rising**  
*The Leo decanate*



The Leo decanate of Sagittarius is illustrated by a portrait of the late **Empress Eugenie**. Here the face takes on some of the characteristics of the next sign Capricorn, which is usually intercepted in the first house for those born under this decan and therefore considerably influences the appearance as well as the point of view. This remarkable woman possessed the aloofness and dignity characteristic of the sign Leo, and was especially marked at the close of her life, spent in exile in England. The early part of it was wrecked by her Leo arrogance and lack of intuition; a combination which helped to shatter her husband's precarious hold over the French nation. Her Sun, ruler of the sign Leo, was in Taurus in the fifth house, bringing the sudden publicity followed by scandal and unpopularity, so frequently concomitant with this position at birth.

Both **Elizabeth Tudor** and **Benjamin Disraeli** were born with this combination of Sagittarius and Capricorn. This gave them sudden fiery flashes from the superconscious mind combined with earthy guile, expressed through skilful manoeuvring and subtle procrastination, masquerading as indecision. Both these remarkable people possessed the long face, drooping outer corners to the eyes and slight figure characteristics of the third decanate, in addition to the Leo ostentatious and somewhat daring way of dressing.

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



Jupiter, the ruler of Sagittarius.

Jupiter is in Scorpio in the 11th house of friends and ideals. Scorpio on the 11th, these are powerful and dynamic, intense people. Jupiter makes for a lot of them. On the receiving end of Pluto-Sun-Mars, they are literally eaten alive, chewed up en masse. This is not a nice way to treat your friends.

**W**HY would Nero do this? We must remember that he grew up in a family that was already guilty of fratricide. A mother, Agrippina, widely believed to have been a poisoner. This is a kill-or-be-killed environment. Nero murdered his step-brother, Britannicus, as well as his mother. In murdering his own family he was no different from many other despotic rulers, before and after.

This intensifies when we study Nero's 7th house, of partners and wives. It has Gemini on the cusp, which, for starters, means the people he most closely associated with tended to be two-faced. Say one thing and do something else. None of the planets in Nero's first house have any rights in the 7th, which put them beyond his direct control.

The ruler of the 7th house, Mercury, is in Sagittarius, in the 12th. This is the 12th house of secret enemies, meaning that Nero was likely to find himself associated with those who did not like or trust him. As Mercury, like the planets in the first house, is disposed by Jupiter in the house of friends, the way Nero controlled his wife was to lump her in with his friends and treat her accordingly.

Mercury being the planet of communication, in the 6th house from the seventh, Nero's wives (?) talked to everyone except him, inconjuncts/semi-sextiles (take your pick) by definition having no relationship to the rest of the chart. This also shows why Nero was reluctant to marry to begin with. It was so much easier to simply use brute force in personal affairs and let things fall where they may.

There is more. **Robson** says a debilitated Mercury in the 12th leads to hearing problems. Nero is not known to have been deaf, but on more subtle levels, his hearing was not good.

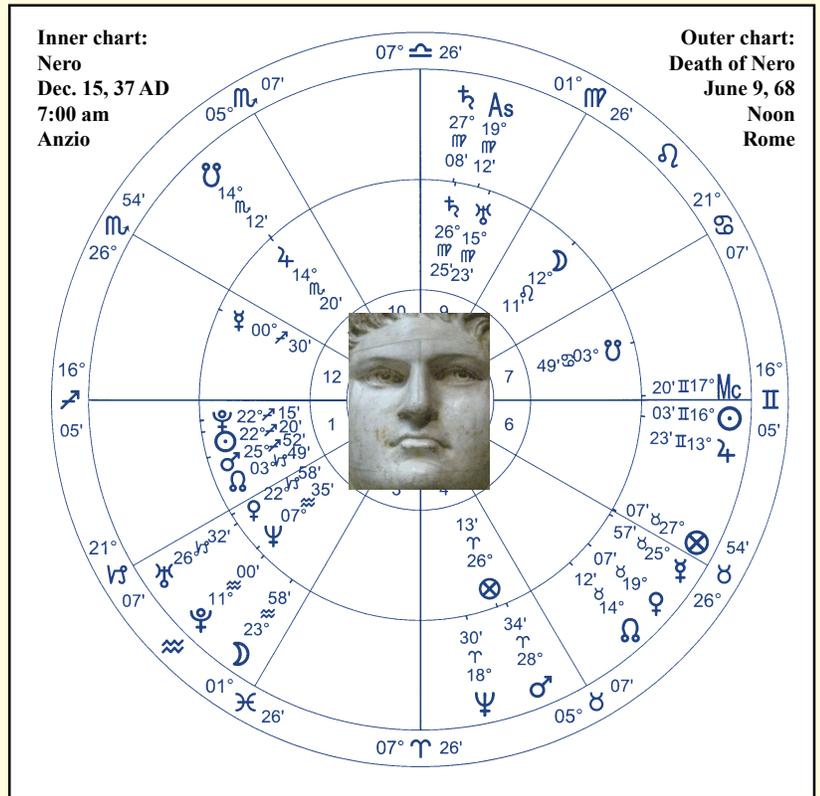
Mercury needs details in order to function, which is why it does well in Gemini and Virgo, third and sixth houses, and poorly in Sagittarius and Pisces, ninth and twelfth houses. Mercury in Sagittarius and the 12th is twice addled. In Sagittarius the concepts are too broad for it to handle, and in the 12th, Mercury is muzzled and so cannot speak. Nero has a third factor, that his Mercury had two days previously turned direct and was still, on the day of his birth, virtually immobile in the sky. Stranded.

In such a bleak situation, Mercury looks about for support, but finds little: A weak sextile with Neptune, which only makes things worse, a weak trine from the Moon, a weak sextile from Uranus.

Consequently we may conclude that Nero wasn't terribly bright. In his make-up we find the overwhelming, brute force of the first house, which terrified everyone around him.

Then, Venus in Capricorn in the second house, trine to Saturn in Virgo in the 9th. Venus, the ruler of the MC, is the image of Nero the Emperor, popular with the public, able to enrich them (MC and 2nd house), able to solve diplomatic problems (9th and 2nd) and largely avoid war.

A year or two before he died he erected a 100 foot bronze statue of himself (roughly the same size as the Statue of Liberty), which ultimately came to be directly in front of the Coliseum, built a decade later, which was only slightly taller. This statue stood for three



centuries, to the end of Rome itself. Efforts to replace Nero's head with the heads of others only resulted in Nero's head being put back. So far as the public was concerned, Nero was no ogre.

Finally, there is Nero's opinion of himself. A reckless bully who believed he had a good heart (Moon in Leo), a man who thought of himself as an artist (Libra MC), a musician, even an athlete (Sun-Mars conjunct). He was genuinely puzzled why his friends and associates did not understand him (Mercury debilitated), and why he was, in the end, abandoned to his fate.

Nero has the reputation as the first Emperor to persecute Christians, having them burned alive to illuminate evening parties. Analysis of Nero's chart suggests this had little to do with religion. Religion is 9th house, in Nero's chart we find Virgo on its cusp. Virgo is ruled by Mercury, which is hiding in the 12th and debilitated in Sagittarius. If these placements are accurate, Nero is, for the most part, unaware of other religions, since the ruler of a cadent house in a mutable sign and itself in a cadent house hardly rises to the level of waking consciousness.

**C**OULD Christian persecution have been caused by Saturn's presence in the 9th? Saturn in the 9th tells us that Nero's religion was that of his ancestors, or, for that matter, of the society he lived in, Saturn being a generational planet. Saturn in the 9th is generally moral, the consequences being too dreadful.

Since Christians were, in fact, martyred during his reign, I note the 12th is the house of hidden enemies, in other words, those who secretly dislike us. Twelfth house ruling the ninth, it might be that religious fanatics made Nero their scapegoat. Nero's reputation has suffered at the hands of his enemies, who wrote most of the accounts that have come down to us. So far as Nero was concerned, Christians were probably just another group he could have deadly fun with.

What if Nero's birth time was a little earlier and Leo was on the cusp of the 9th? It's a good question and worth a look.

Leo on the cusp of 9 would be ruled by the Sun in Sagittarius in the first. Ruler of the 9th house in the first, when you're the Emperor, will make you project yourself as a god, or claim that god

rules through you. Especially when the ruling planet is the Sun. It would have been aided by his Moon, also in Leo, which would have made religion a very personal matter. Nero was notably not guilty of anything like this.

So what about the burning of Rome? That's a different story. You will note the following inflammatory combinations:

**Fire signs:** Ascendant, IC, Sun, Moon, Mercury, Mars and Pluto.

**Air:** MC and Descendant. Air feeds fire.

**Water:** Jupiter in Scorpio. Scorpio has long been known as the sign of "firewater", i.e., alcohol.

**Earth:** Venus in Saturn's sign, showing what is old & decayed & presumably combustible, along with Saturn in another earth sign. And Uranus in Virgo, signifying that what is solid might turn out not to be.

This doesn't make Nero an arsonist, though it does not, of itself, absolve him. As the ruler's chart is the chart of his country during the period of his rule, it means Nero should be remembered for at least one good blaze, and, Libra at the MC, Mercury added, that he might just have thrown up his hands & played while the city burned around him. Although Rome had an abundant supply of water, Nero's chart, with its shortage of water, shows there was little to battle a fire. Nor were there explosives to blow up buildings to create firebreaks — as was eventually done to put out the great Fire of London many centuries later.

It seems that in Rome, like in many ancient cities, once a fire got going, there might not have been any recourse, save waiting for it to burn itself out. During its history Rome was subject to many serious fires, which eventually forced sturdy brick and mortar construction. History says that after the fire Nero opened his palaces to the displaced, and gave his own money to the victims. This does not sound despotic to me.

**W**E come to Nero's death on June 9, 68 AD. Valens says this (and yes, you can skip to the end):

*The horoscope is in its 31st year.*

*The operative stars and the critical points are found as follows: when calculating the previously mentioned critical points, begin at the third row (=third interval), because the preceding two intervals, the first and the second, are inoperative. (The first is operative to year 12, the second to year 24, the third to year 36, and so on.) It is calculated thus: since the 31st year falls in the eleventh column of the third interval, and since Sat-*

*urn, Jupiter, and Venus control the third interval at the nativity, investigate the stars in transit at the time in question to see if they transmit to another star or to themselves at a distance of 11 signs. Take the preceding nativity: the stars' positions at the time in question [date of Nero's death – Dave] were as follows: Sun, Jupiter, Mercury in Gemini, Saturn in Virgo, Mars, Venus in Taurus, Moon in Pisces [emphasis: Dave]. Now the stars controlling the interval of 11 were Saturn, Jupiter, and Venus, and we find at the time in question that Venus has returned to a position 11 signs from the Moon, but that no star has returned to a position 11 signs from Jupiter. Immediately I move to the fourth row. I find 32 in the eighth position. None of the ruling stars are critical in the fourth interval. I move to the fifth interval: the Moon and Saturn are operative in the fifth interval and are found to be returning to each other five signs apart. I move to the sixth interval: no stars are six signs apart. I move to the row of the seventh interval. [The chronocratorship is found to be passing through the fifth interval.] The seventh interval is found to be empty of any star (as mentioned above); Mars and Venus to Saturn <?>. I move to the row of the eighth interval: Venus rules the eighth interval because of the factor 4. It is returning to no star. Then to the critical point of the ninth interval: the Sun, Mars, Mercury, the Ascendant, and Venus rule the ninth interval; 36 is in this row. At a 4-year-interval the Sun, Jupiter, and Mercury are found to be returning to Saturn. Next I move to the tenth interval: the Sun, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, and the Ascendant rule the tenth; in this row is the number 4; therefore the Sun, Mercury, and Jupiter are found to be transmitting to Saturn.*

You are wondering what this is.

This is how Hellenistic astrologers made forecasts. Lacking ephemerides, with only a vague idea where the planets were at birth (or, for that matter, at death), they resorted to complicated counting schemes, which is what the preceding is. The overall framework is the 12 year cycle of profections. At age 31, Nero was in the seventh year of his third profection cycle, which is then used in many different and conflicting counts.

Valens is searching for an astrological explanation for an event which in his day was more than a century old. It seems he can make neither guesswork forecasts, nor find 20/20 hindsight.

Of this nonsense, William Lilly said,

*I will only proceed to annual Profections, holding this opinion, That if one should fol-*

*low the niceness of the Ancients in every particular, it were impossible to judge one Nativity exactly in half a year's time. (Christian Astrology Book 3, pg. 716.)*

Which Valens himself echoes elsewhere in his treatise, where he states that teams of astrologers needed months in order to make an accurate forecast. Valens gives mute testimony not only to the crudeness of Hellenistic astrology, but also the tremendous efforts the ancients made to comprehend and master it.

**N**ERO died around noon on June 9, 68 AD, in Rome. Valens gives the placements (pg. 243), as he did with Nero's natal. Of note, Valens puts the Moon in Pisces, when it was actually in late Aquarius.

While the time of death is shown by the natal 8th house cusp, the natal 4th house shows the method of death, and the general circumstances surrounding it.

Nero died by his own hand, a dagger plunged into his throat. In his chart, we find Aries on the 4th, ruled by Mars in the first house. Death from the first house is a self-inflicted death, by definition. Moon in Leo intercepted in the 8th is evocative of someone who is cut off and isolated at the moment of his death, which Nero was.

So far as transits are concerned, Saturn had just passed over Nero's Saturn, which was presumably in its third and last pass of his first and only Saturn return. Saturn rarely brings such a calamity in its first return, but as it did in Nero's case, we may presume it was a particularly desperate scene.

South node was exactly conjunct Nero's Jupiter, indicating that his luck had run out.

Moon in Aquarius was opposite Nero's natal Moon and in the vicinity of his Neptune.

Transiting Mars was trine to itself, and inconjunct Nero's Saturn, thus showing the difficulty the government (Saturn) had in actually killing Nero themselves (Mars). In his final days on earth, Nero frankly shows a great deal of cowardice, which is the mark of a bully. According to historical accounts, the assassins were not at his doorstep, but merely in pursuit, some distance away. Nero's actions indicate panic, stemming, I think, from a debilitated Mercury that could not think things through clearly.

Nero's natal can be manipulated to put transiting Mars conjunct his Part of Fortune on that day. It would tweak his birth time to 7:10 am. Note that no one has ever used the Part of Fortune for this purpose.

*(continued, next page)*

