



# NEWSLETTER

NOW WEEKLY!

With art by Vera!

from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

## March 29, 2011

ARCHIVE — Sign up!

Email Dave@astroamerica.com

Announcing AFA's autumn conference, September 22-24, Tempe, AZ (Phoenix):

## Traditional Astrology in the 21st Century

**J**UST announced this week, the **American Federation of Astrologers** is hosting a four-day conference on Medieval and Hellenistic astrology, generally known as **Traditional Astrology**.

The conference starts on Thursday, September 22, and runs through Sunday, September 24. The location is the **Embassy Suites Hotel**, at 4400 S. Rural Road, Tempe, AZ. This is right down the street from the AFA, at 6535 S. Rural Road.

The conference is in honor of **James Herschel Holden**, the translator of many excellent traditional texts. Speakers include **Demetra George**, **Chris Brennan** and **Benjamin Dykes**. Topics will include the historical context, the original authors, transmission of their works, planetary sect, dig-

nities, whole sign houses, house lords, planets aspecting houses, dexter/sinister aspects, horary, philosophy and a snapshot of what the future may hold for traditional astrology. Jack at the AFA says there will be a bookstore selling Traditional Astrology books. (I suggested he expand it a bit.)

Cost: If you register by August 1, \$150, which works out to about \$38.00 a day, which is cheap. Rooms at Embassy are \$104 a day, but **Hotels.com** (etc.) might find you something for less. If I were in the area, I'd drive rather than fly. Phoenix is a day's drive from LA & Santa Fe — or it is for me. (When I drive, I *drive*.) Which means you'll have your car with you.

**T**HE AFA is a huge resource that has been under used for decades. A good response — a good showing from Los Angeles, for example — will encourage Jack and Kris to host more of these. Make more of the AFA's stuff available.

I should have Vettius Valens done by then. Jack will have it, as well as many of the other books I publish, for sale at the show, not to mention those by **George** and **Dykes**, as well as the most excellent survey by Avelar & Ribeiro, **On the Heavenly Spheres**.

The better you prepare, the more you'll get out of the show.

## ALMANACK

for the week (all times GMT)

29	02:53	☾ ✖ ☉	Notes
30	20:49	♀ SR	
	22:23	☾ ♂ ♀	Void
	22:39	☾ ☿	
31	13:45	☾ ✖ ♀	Void
	14:45	☾ ♃ ☉	
01		Moon void	all day
02	04:51	♂ ♀	
	11:17	☾ ♀ nearly 46 hours void	
	12:28	♀ ✖ ♀	
	13:00	☾    ☉	
03	03:38	☉    ♃	
	14:33	● 13♄30	New Moon
	20:52	♂ ♂ ♃	
	23:57	☉ ♂ ♃	
04	10:05	☾ ♂ ♀	Void
	12:58	♂    ♃	
	13:37	♀ ☿	
	15:20	♀ ♃ ♀	
	23:47	☾ ♂	

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

April Fool!

1973—Jovian-Plutonian gravity!

1996—Space shuttle lands in San Diego!

## ASTRO MED

A to Z  
FROM C.E.O. CARTER'S ENCYCLOPAEDIA

**Carriage (Gait)** is chiefly a matter of quadruplicity. The cardinal signs usually walk quickly & directly. Aries often with a rush and Libra with a swing, balancing upon the toes. The mutables generally walk with a short, and, in the case of Gemini, a rapid, nervous step, but Sagittarius has a long, swinging stride. Pisces frequently rolls in its walk like a sailor; Virgo is a precise and careful walker, studiously avoiding puddles, etc. All four frequently look on the ground as they go. The fixed signs proceed with dignity, and rarely hurry. Taurus has a specially firm and measured tread; Scorpio has much dignity and often has a peculiar swing from the hips, as if swinging a tail. The specially quick, nervous walk is usually the result of Mars-Mercury contacts.

**Boisterousness** results from a prominent Mars influence, generally mixed with a lunar vibration. Moon in Scorpio often inclines to it, and the tendency manifests itself very readily if Aries or Sagittarius rises. — **Encyclopaedia of Psychological Astrology**, by Carter.



## STAR OF THE WEEK

☆☆☆

**ALPHERATZ** alpha Andromedae 14 ♄ 28

**Notes:** A double star, white & purplish, in the hair of Andromeda.

From Al Surrat al Fars, The Horse's Navel, as it was formerly located in Pegasus  
**Influence:** According to Ptolemy it is of the nature of Jupiter & Venus. It gives impudence, freedom, love, riches, honour & a keen intellect.

**With Sun:** Honour, preferment & favours from others.

**With Moon:** Energetic, persevering, honour, wealth, many good friends & business success.

**With Mercury:** Active mind, benefits from judges, lawyers or churchmen, pioneer work bringing prominence, accused of selfish motives, writes on science, religion or philosophy.

**With Venus:** Neat & tidy appearance, quiet life, good health, fond of pleasure & society, fortunate in speculation.

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

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Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson  
1893-1990

## IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

### The Oblique Ascendant in Progressions

**T**O be oblique is to be slanted, a word also used nowadays to describe certain political opinions and “double-entendre” remarks having a subtle or hidden meaning, but when used in astrology it refers to an ascendant accompanying the Directed Midheaven whose presence reveals a subtle or otherwise-hidden force that when in aspect involves the native personally.

Adding the age-arc for any year [one degree per year of age – *Dave*] to the Midheaven at birth gives the Directed Midheaven, used here to be located in a Table of Houses in order to extract its ascendant for the birth latitude; this we enter outside the wheel, and observe that it is “slanted” rather than parallel the horizon, so it is oblique.

Nothing could be simpler than this to figure and by the same token nothing could be simpler in finding many personally-important years ahead; agreeing that any ascendant must always be in aspect one or another when personal affairs are being involved whether it be the natal ascendant or the progressed or directed or oblique ascendant. Oncoming aspects promise action, but unless one of the ascendants is included – or planets in the first House itself – the native is only indirectly affected by what happens to another person or matter or thing in his circle.

Since any ascendant has to do with latitude that is itself a parallel, the parallel aspect formed by the Oblique Ascendant is of primary influence – the more so when by conjunction – and specifically when conjunction the second cusp, its first major “slant”.  
— *The Way of Astrology*, 1967

### Chart of the Week:

# Elizabeth Taylor

(charts on pg. 4)

**I** WAS asked yesterday how to put a chart reading together. How to make all the pieces fit, how to get an overall picture?

My method is to find the key way into the chart. Some personality quirk, some habit the person has that makes me think of some astrological factor or other.

This week I want to delineate the late Elizabeth Taylor. I thought it would be easy, that I could take her chart off the shelf and it would be laid out for me, but no such luck!

Dame Elizabeth Rosemond Taylor was born on February 27, in London (more or less), at 2:00 am, 2:15 am, 2:30 am, 7:56 pm and 8:00 pm. After this ordeal, her mother, Sara Southern Taylor (1895-1994) had no further children. Could you blame her?

Some of these charts have Libra rising. Some have Sagittarius rising. Astrologically, she was said to be defined by a precise Venus-Uranus conjunction in Aries, but in the 2:00 am-ish charts it falls in the fourth, not the 5th. In the 8 pm-ish charts, it falls in the 7th. If Taylor had Venus-Uranus in the 7th, she would be defined by her marriages, as in *who* is she with now and what is *he* doing? Seventh house charts are not about oneself, but rather, about the partner. Seventh house people *need* partners. When their partner changes, they change, often in fundamental ways. I have observed this to be true even when the sign on the cusp of the 7th is fixed.

This Libra rising chart puts the Mars-Sun-Mercury triple conjunction in Pisces late in the 5th. By my rules, where the sign on the cusp of a house takes in – or wants to take in – all the planets of the same sign, those planets are in the 6th. Mars in 6 is a workaholic. Sun in 6 would be a tyrant on the set (e.g., at work), Mercury in 6 is efficient & tidy, or would be, but in Pisces is debilitated & so would be efficiently slovenly.

The Libra chart puts Saturn in Aquarius in the 5th. Which would make her icy cold romantically, with the loss of at least one child, if she bore any at all. Taylor in fact bore four children and was a grandmother at age 39. Finally we consider the illustrations in *Anriasis* and conclude that Elizabeth Taylor does not look like *Jon Stewart*. Now we consider the Sagittarius chart.

At 2:00, 2:15 and 2:30 am, Liz Taylor had Sagittarius rising. Venus-Uranus now falls in the 4th, which is a home that is dynamic (Aries), quirky (Uranus) but beautiful in a

masculine sense (Venus, debilitated). As is true of all debilitated planets, Venus wanted to radiate to the opposite house, the 10th, to the public. In the Sag chart the conjunction itself does not seem to be all that significant, but note that Venus is disposed by Mars in Pisces, a sign in which Venus has considerable strength. Venus-Mars mutual receptions are a sign of sex appeal. Sex appeal happens whenever the boy planet (Mars) teams up with the girl planet (Venus), not by aspect, but by rulership. Aspects make dispositors stronger, and along the lines of the aspect itself, for better or worse.

In the third house of the Sag chart we find the triple conjunction of Mars, Sun and Mercury, all in Pisces. As all three of these are personal planets we would be justified in considering a disorganized & messy (Piscean) third house to be the main focus of Taylor's life. Just as one is known by his sun and ascendant signs, one is also known by his or her dominant house. For Liz Taylor, it seems to be the third. Since we suspect Taylor to have Sag rising, we check again with *Anriasis*, who confirms. (Rectification is never, ever, completely settled. At this point we would try to spot transiting Saturn hitting the angles, to see if the native reacts accordingly.)

Immediately we see the ruler of the 7th, Gemini, is in the third (Mercury), and that both are mutable, which is to say, unable to control the events around them. In Mercury's case, it doesn't want to control, it wants to oscillate among them, but as it's debilitated in Pisces, it won't do a very good job of it. Now we see that Taylor's Mercury is exactly conjunct her Sun, which means the Sun was driving it as if the Sun was Mercury. To me Taylor's Sun-Mercury conjunction is more interesting than her Venus-Uranus.

Sun-Mercury puts emphasis on the houses that Mercury rules, which were the 7th and 9th. Now we begin to understand her marriages. She wanted men who were witty and versatile, verbal and intelligent. They were also, unfortunately, mercurial and changeable, fleet of foot, so just as quickly gone from her life. In true double-bodied sign fashion (both Gemini and Pisces are double-bodied), she married the same man twice (Burton). And as is true of empty houses generally, the marriages were secondary to her busy life — the 3rd house.

*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 32:**

**Character by planet**

**SUN.** Dignified, proud, confident, honourable, arrogant, egotistical.

**MOON.** Ambitious, changeable, receptive, imaginative, romantic, sentimental, fond of novelty. Rising in Aries and afflicted Mercury, liar. Afflicted by Venus, untidy, and slovenly.

**MERCURY.** Active, energetic, clever, quick, alert, nimble, cunning, talkative. Takes on the nature of planet in nearest aspect. Aspecting Moon, good at languages. Afflicted by Mars, quick mind but contentious & sarcastic. If in Pisces angular and afflicted by Mars or Sun, fanatic. In good aspect with Jupiter, good judgment. If afflicted by Jupiter, hypocrisy & deceit. If conjunct Saturn, depth of mind. If opposite Moon in angles stupid. If retrograde or combust in Taurus or Capricorn in 6th, 8th or 12th, not aspecting Moon or lord of Asc., simple & rude mind.

**VENUS.** Artistic, affectionate, sociable, quiet, tender, refined, fond of pleasure, scents & ornaments. Afflicted by Mars, ardent & extravagant passions. Afflicted by Saturn, sorrowful.

**MARS.** Courageous, confident, assertive, active, energetic, consequential, aggressive, destructive, proud, passionate, extravagant. Afflicted by Saturn or Uranus, ungovernable temper. If rising in Virgo, insufferable conceit.

**JUPITER.** Dignified, proud, jovial, philanthropic, kind, sympathetic, generous. If afflicted, hypocrisy, and pride of the nature of the planet afflicting. Afflicted by Mars boasting & religious enthusiasm; by Saturn, grasping, and unsympathetic. If in Sagittarius with Virgo rising, pretentious mind. — *The conclusion of chapter 4 next week.*

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

**Character & Mental Qualities**

from **A Beginner's Guide to Practical Astrology**, by Vivian Robson

HEAD TO HEAD

The ascendant is the front door, and it is through this that the native must always appear. Every thought and act is finally coloured by the rising sign, and rising planet, if there is one. A horoscope with intense energy in the planetary positions and a weak ascendant will indicate weakness on the surface, and will spoil inner strength; while conversely a strong ascendant that is unsupported by the rest of the horoscope will create a false first impression of strength.

Then look to the ruler of the rising sign, which is the chief significator of the native himself. The ruler weak by sign and house or retrograde denotes a hampering influence, and a lack of proper self-expression. Examine the ruler's aspects. Each of these will give the good or bad qualities of the aspecting planets according to the nature of the aspect.

Next take the Moon and its aspects. The Moon is the chief ruler of the personal characteristics and largely governs the habits, instincts, and to some extent the mentality. The planet in closest strong aspect with the Moon, especially if the aspect is separating, will colour the feelings & determine the general quality of the lunar influence.

The deeper aspirations & inner character are ruled by the Sun, which should have next consideration in the same way.

Finally, to determine the intellectual nature of the map study the planet Mercury and its aspects, as well as any planets in the 3rd and 9th houses. Remember that Mercury takes on the nature of the planet in closest strong aspect, especially if separating, and that the influence of this planet gives the prevailing colour to the mind. — **A Beginner's Guide to Practical Astrology**, by Vivian Robson.

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**Is This You?**

**20°-30° Virgo rising**  
*The Taurus decanate*

**Appearance of the third decanate:**

**T**HE physique is clearly Taurian, with a tendency to stoutness in middle life. The eyes also resemble that sign and there is no indication of a "Hapsburg" under-lip. On the whole this is the most fortunate of the three decanates.

The *Taurus* decanate of Virgo is ruled by Venus. This gives an alert mind, combining artistic capacity with business ability or shrewdness if Mercury be well-pected. When this planet is afflicted there is often a tendency to indulge in shifty ventures, or by picking the brains of others.

**A**LTHOUGH there are other influences such as the Sun, Moon and the ruler of the ascendant which also affect the rising sign, the close study as an artist of the various Zodiacal types for over twenty-five years has led me to the conclusion that the decanate influences are the more powerful. To amplify these further by including other combinations of types would be to complicate matters by over-elaboration of the main theme. The eye is not capable of taking in more than a certain amount at one time, even if trained to observe things closely. — **Man and the Zodiac**, by David Anrias.



Whenever we see Mercury debilitated, and the Mercury signs prominent in one or other of the relationship houses, questions of sexual orientation arise, but here we must finesse carefully. You express yourself sexually through the 5th and 8th houses. Taylor had Taurus on the 5th, ruled by a hot-headed, impulsive Venus in Aries. That's not gay. She has Cancer on the 8th, ruled by the Moon in intense Scorpio. That's not gay, either. Not by a long shot.

But Gemini on the 7th, ruled by a debilitated Mercury, describes her husbands as men who could very well be bisexual. According to what I read on Wiki, Burton tried homosexuality, and allegedly attempted to seduce Eddie Fisher, another of Taylor's husbands. Early in her life Taylor was associated with Montgomery Clift, who was bisexual. Towards the end of her life she was associated with Michael Jackson, whose sexuality was murky, but, true to Gemini, definitely childlike.

Pluto on the 8th house cusp means one of the husbands would die. (Michael Todd. *Tod* is the German word for death, by the way.) As Taylor's Scorpio Moon rules Pluto, Todd's death hit her very, very hard. As did the deaths of Clift and Jackson, both of whom she considered more than just friends. Moon in Scorpio in the 11th, friendship was intensely personal to Taylor. Friends were never just "friends."

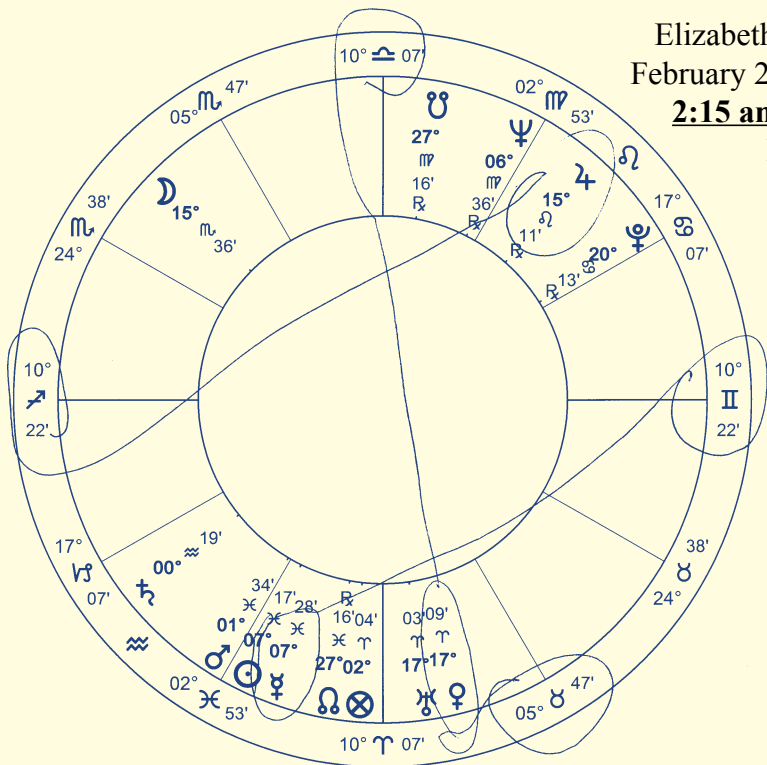
Jupiter, retrograde in Leo, is in her 8th house. The 2:15 am chart has Leo/Aquarius intercepted between the second & the 8th. Capricorn on the second, Taylor earned her money, and while Saturn-Jupiter opposed can indicate bankruptcy, I get the impression that the wideness of the orb, Jupiter being retrograde, both planets intercepted, and a great big fuss going on in the 3rd, 7th & 9th, Taylor was never really aware of her money. It is said she gave heavily to AIDS research, which was doubtless because of Gemini on the 7th house cusp and the many close friends she had in the gay community.

Note the Sun-Mercury conjunction lands, by Mercury's rulership, squarely on Taylor's Virgo 9th house, of religion. Mercury, like Venus, is debilitated by sign, and would rather have been in the house opposite, the 9th. Age 27, Taylor converted from Christian Science, to Judaism. The opposition with Neptune in Virgo meant this was not well understood by others, and, with the south node lurking nearby, kept her religion secondary to her career as an actress.

You will note that thespians often have a lot of mutables in their charts. This leaves them with a weak sense of their own identity, which makes it easy for them to abandon themselves and take on other characters. **Carter** notes actors have strong 12th houses, but Mars-Sun-Mercury in Pisces in 3 will do nicely.

Elizabeth Taylor is gone now, and we have only the memory. The memory of a great woman.

Elizabeth Taylor  
February 27, 1932  
**2:15 am GMT**  
London



Elizabeth Taylor  
February 27, 1932  
**8:00 pm GMT**  
London

