



NEWSLETTER

NOW WEEKLY!

With art by Vera !

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January 24, 2012

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Newt wins South Carolina

DO NOT underestimate the power of a full moon with a mission (Gemini-Sag). This is Newt's last hurrah and he knows it. Saturday's win has put a taste of victory in the man's mouth. He will be the next president or will destroy the Republican party if he is denied. There was record turnout on Saturday, so I got that one wrong. And the daffodils, which were 2½ inches, are still 2½ inches, only now with ice.

Hellenists Medievalists

WITH the arrival of Ben Dykes' *The Book of the Nine Judges*, and Chris Brennan's article on Hellenistic astrology in the new issue of the *Mountain Astrologer*, I'm starting to wonder if the revivalist movement has not peaked. Prof. Dykes has given us a translation of a translation that was not very well done the first time, and Ben regrettably did not take the opportunity to improve things. Mr. Brennan has given us a

nice summary of Hellenistic astrology. With both Dykes' medieval texts, and Brennan's Hellenistic approach, we are asked to learn a great many techniques but the result is only a slight improvement on what we could do twenty years ago.

This is in large part because the people at the forefront of these movements are either traditional psychological astrologers (either directly, or their teachers) or are university professors rather than actual astrologers. So, on the one hand, Chris Brennan has a largely aspect-dominated astrology (which seems to date from Charles Carter's 1930 masterpiece, *The Astrological Aspects*), on the other, Benjamin Dykes gives us a strictly academic approach, which, quite by accident, is heavily larded with academic politics.

Properly used, houses, signs, planets, dispositors and rulers produce such an amazing and powerful amount of detail that I cannot understand why I would need to fuss with either the medieval or the Hellenistic approach. Virtually every serious book published in the last 300 years has the essence of this system already laid out, but the books that teach how to use it are few: Patti Tobin Brittan's *Planetary Powers* is brilliant. Hamaker-Zondag's *House Connection* is okay, if dated. Morin's *Book 21* will introduce you to his system. I should be lecturing at UAC, but that will not happen, as there are some things my full moon cannot do.



Mental Deficiency. The fundamental indication is Saturnian affliction to the 3rd house either by his being posited therein, his being in affliction with its ruler, his afflicting it by cuspal opposition, or by Saturn's sign being on the cusp. Very often there is an additional affliction by one or more of the other malefics, but it is to be observed that the Moon and Mercury are by no means always afflicted; in some cases they are strong. The same may be said of the Sun and the ascendant. Venus is very frequently in square to Mars or Saturn, and the watery triplicity is nearly always connected with the 3rd house by sign or planet. The 22° of mutables, as in *Insanity*, is often involved in affliction. Numerous examples are given in *Modern Astrology*, July 1915, from which we may select three: 6:00 pm, October 18, 1906, Bolton. Jupiter is conjunct Neptune on the cusp 3rd opposite Uranus; Mars is in 22° Virgo semi-square Moon and Mercury. Venus square Saturn exact. — *An Encyclopaedia of Psychological Astrology*

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ALMANACK

for the week (all times GMT)

			Notes
24	00:55	♂ SR	
	09:23	☉ II ♀	
25	08:34	☽ ♂ ♀	Void
	09:12	☽ ♀	
26	13:13	☽ ♂ ♀	
27	04:53	☽ ♂ ♂	Void
	09:20	♀ □ ♃	
	18:12	♀ ♁	
	18:29	☽ ♃	
28	04:42	♀ ♁ ♂	
	10:01	☽ ♁ ☉	
	18:26	♀ ♁ ♃	
29	04:08	♀ □ ♃	
30	06:09	☽ ♁ ♀	Void
	06:29	☽ ♂	

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STAR OF THE WEEK

★★★ ★★ ★★ ★★

GIEDDI alpha Capricorni 3 ♁ 56

Notes: A multiple star, yellow, ash and lilac, situated on the south horn of the Goat. Symbolically called the Slain Kid

Influence: According to Ptolemy it is of the nature of Venus and Mars. It gives beneficence, sacrifice and offering.

With Sun: Peculiar events, unexpected losses and gains, sometimes great good fortune.

With Moon: Peculiar and unexpected events, eccentric, public criticism, new and influential friends, valuable gifts, love of respectable women but difficulties and sometimes platonic marriage.

With Mercury: Romantic, psychic, vacillating, bad for gain, many love affairs some of which cause notoriety, may elope with married person.

With Venus: Many strange and unexpected events— from *Fixed Stars*, by Vivian Robson

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Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson
1893-1990



IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

The TYPE of aspect

The square, semisquare & sesquare

THESE are PHYSICAL aspects in which the native's reaction in time of trouble either makes or breaks. He goes to extremes of effort, spends too much time or energy or money of his own volition, running the danger of causing resentment or alienation or exile. There is always some loss attached according to the houses involved and only a good accompanying aspect or a mutual reception can mitigate the severity and see the native home safe. At such time he should bend every effort, count the cost, and speak softly.

The sextile and semisextile

THESE are MENTAL aspects, each involving common-sense recognition of a prevailing situation or condition, especially as viewed from the standpoint of a disinterested third person able to accept reality. Such an activating planet's aspect is usually good, bringing a time of available opportunities in life; all the better if the accompanying aspects are also good to denote gain; if bad, expect some difficulty. You should acknowledge and evaluate the current state of affairs at such a time and not go off into the deep end if the ever-so-rosy opportunity also has drawbacks.

The trine

THE trine is a BIRTHRIGHT aspect granting ease and success in accomplishing what the activating planet signifies.
— *The Way of Astrology*, 1967

Whole Sign Houses

THERE were a number of requests to expand on my notes last week on whole sign houses. On Friday the **Mountain Astrologer** for February/March arrived and in it I found an article by the inestimable **Chris Brennan** on Hellenistic Astrology, including notes on the Hellenistic use of whole sign houses.

The *primary difference* between my approach, and that of Chris, is that he has read and studied and seeks to apply what he has learned. Whereas I skim books and invariably fall asleep in class. To compensate, I make things up and then try them out to see if they work. There are disadvantages to both of these systems, as we will quickly learn.

"Whole sign houses" is a Hellenistic term and we will therefore start with the Hellenistic definition: We take the degree of the ascendant and apply it to all the other house cusps. Isn't this the same as Equal houses, you ask? Not exactly. Equal houses start with the degree on the cusp, and continue to the degree of the next cusp.

Whole sign houses start with 0° and continue to 30°. The degree on the cusp is merely an interesting artifact. The exact degree on the ascendant is a sensitive point, but that seems to be about as much as the Hellenists mess with cusps per se.

Since the ascendant is going to be important, the first thing we need to do is *not* grab our existing ascending degree and slap it 'round the chart, but instead use Hellenistic techniques to find out what our proper ascendant should be. And while the Hellenistic ascendant should be the same as the modern ascendant, I don't think we should overlook this step. If the two do not match, we have an obvious problem.

I am not in possession of a comprehensive survey of Hellenistic methods for determining the ascendant, but I do have my nearly finished version of Valens to hand. From the First Book:

Book 1, Chapter 4, Valens says to take the Sun's degree position, note where its dodekatemoron falls. The sign in trine to the left will be the Ascendant. My Sun is at 21♄ and I am a day birth. The Dodekatemoria is 3♍. This is actually quite close to Valens' own example, Sun at 22♋. Therefore a day birth will have Pisces, or Taurus or Cancer as the ascendant. There is no mention of an exact degree ascending.

Second method: But if you don't like the first method, Valens has others. His next method is to take the Sun's degree position and add to it the rising time of the sign the Sun is in. Rising times are essentially Alcabitius houses. The system was invented, not by the Arabs, as you might have been told, but by Hypsicles (ca 190 BC – ca 120 BC) who divided the day into 360 equal parts, where each part was equal to four minutes of clock time. Why does Valens not use this as a house system? Presumably because he had not a number system that would let him. The various Greek number systems were little more than hash marks. Roman numbers were already an improvement. But I have digressed.

Anyway, my rising time for Aquarius at klima 4 (my latitude of birth, expressed in Ptolemaic notation) is 22:00. (These are four minute units. The actual rising time is 88 minutes.) Add 21 for the Sun to get 43. Count off from the Moon in Leo and I get Aquarius rising. Which is to say, a sunrise birth. But no exact degree.

Method no. 3, find the number of days from August 30, the Egyptian New Year, to the day of birth (never mind what that number is). Multiply the hour of birth (7, in my case, counting from sunrise, not midnight) by 15 and add this to the number of days. Count from Virgo, giving 30 to each sign. This results in Taurus.

Fourth method, for the "mystical, compelling ascendant": Multiply the hour of birth by 15 (7 x 15 = 105), add the degree of the Sun (21) to get (126). Divide this by the rising time of the Sun's sign at the klima of birth (22), count the result from the Sun's sign to get 5.75 signs from Aquarius. Which is late Cancer rising. Conception will have occurred in the hour of the sign opposite, which in my case would be Capricorn.

Fifth method, to get an exact degree: Multiply the hour of birth by the motion of the Moon, and then for a day birth, count from the Sun's position. On the day of my birth, the Moon travelled 11°56', which is to say 12 degrees. Twelve times 7, the hour of my birth, gives 84. 84 + 21♋ gives 12♉ rising. At last, a number!

Sixth method, for day births, such as mine: Add the remaining degrees in the Sun's sign (9) to the Moon's position (139), then
(continued, page 4)

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

Part 76:

Friends and Enemies

Aphorisms

The following are aphorisms dealing with friendship and enmity:—

Friends. 1. Ruler of the ascendant in the 12th causes solitary life.

2. Ruler of ascendant in 11th or aspecting its lord gives many friends.

3. Planets in 11th in good aspect to ascendant, its ruler, Sun or Moon give faithful friends.

4. Jupiter, Venus, or north node dignified in 11th gives constant eminent friends, but if debilitated, poor or unfortunate friends.

5. Sun, Moon, Mercury and the Part of Fortune in 11th denote many faithful friends, but if afflicted few false and treacherous ones.

6. Lord of 11th separating from lord of ascendant denote few friends and disagreements with them.

7. Cardinal signs on 11th or its lord in a cardinal sign denote ambitious friends who may prove to be treacherous; fixed signs, faithful friends; and mutable signs, fickle and inconstant friends.

8. Lord of ascendant in any sign in good aspect to lord of 11th in fixed sign gives faithful friends. The same occurs when Moon is in good aspect to lord of 11th; if Moon or lord of 11th is in a mutable sign, friends do not often fail the native, if in cardinal signs they promise more than they perform, but if badly aspected friends are few.

9. Lord of 10th separating by retrogradation from lord of ascendant or 11th, friends, if any, will be poor, and rich people dislike the native. —*A Student's Text-Book of Astrology*, 1922

Aquarius

from Book 8 of

Matheseos Libri VIII

Ancient Astrology Theory and Practice

by Julius Firmicus Maternus

WHOEVER has the ascendant in the first degree of Aquarius will be a king—great, famous, long-lived, possessing the entire earth, if Jupiter and Saturn are found in that degree, or if they aspect the ascendant in trine, and if the Moon is well located. The greatest powers are indicated for him over a period of time, but he will die in water. Whoever has the ascendant in the second degree of Aquarius will have a skill which has to do with painting or ornamentation; he will die leaving sons.

Whoever has the ascendant in the third degree of Aquarius will be great and powerful and possess much land if Jupiter is in that degree or in any aspect to the ascendant. But he will lose his possessions and gain great income through his own efforts. He will make war on his own people and be guilty of every crime of cruelty, rejoicing in the slaughter of many men. He will have sons from a slave woman but will lose them at an early age.

He will never be sad but will be generally disliked, and will alienate everyone so that all his friends will avoid him. He will be gluttonous, eat too much, and hold much land. In the process of time he will obtain high position. But when he has entered the threshold of old age he will cultivate his land with a weakened body. Whoever has the ascendant in the fourth degree of Aquarius will be just, a worshipper of the gods, a judge handing down decision on the opinions of others. But he will die a violent death.

Whoever has the ascendant in the fifth degree of Aquarius will hang himself. In the sixth he will have a wretched life drawing water. He will become a well-known athlete . . . [The seventh degree of Aquarius is missing.] — *Ancient Astrology*.

Is This You?

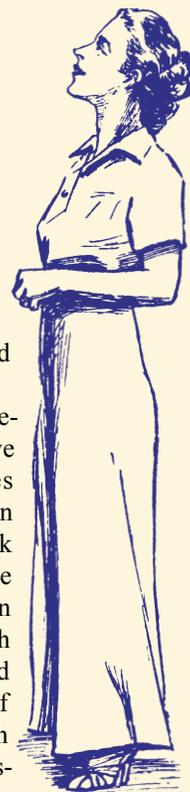
20°–30° Leo rising

The Aries
decanate

Appearance of the third decanate:

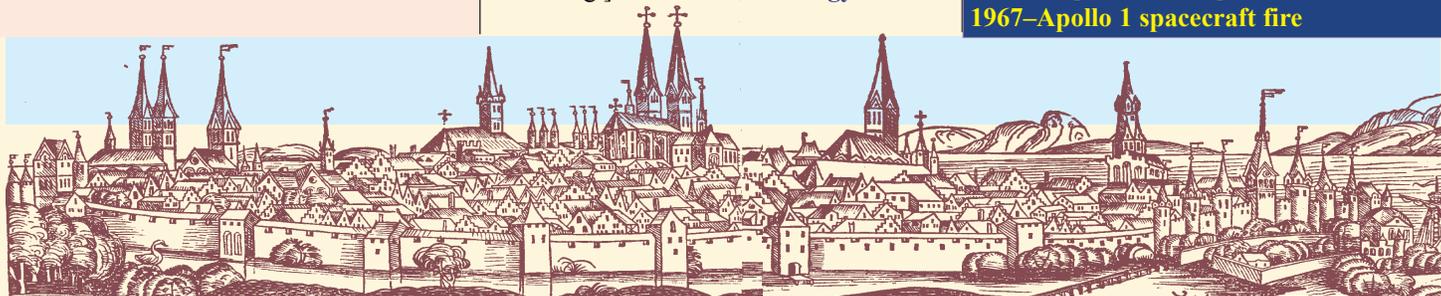
In the drawing here depicting this decanate we have an extreme Aries type. Note the formation of the brow, nose, back and legs. There are fine types of both sexes born under this decan, although they are usually small and slight. King Charles I of England was born with the last degrees of Leo rising, containing Neptune close to the cusp of the ascendant; this weakened his will and increased the physical sensitiveness to surrounding conditions. It also gave him strong aesthetic tastes.

The *Aries* decanate of Leo is ruled by Mars. This combination gives a strong will and much drive, there being the latent ability to rule over others. The disposition is frank and open, fond of hazardous enterprises abroad. In the advanced types the head may enlighten the heart through flashes of intuition, which raise the emotions to a higher plane. — *Man & the Zodiac*, by David Anrias.



January 27:

- 98—Trajan becomes Emperor
- 1756—Mozart born, lives 3 months
- 1888—National Geographic founded
- 1944—Siege of Leningrad lifted
- 1967—Apollo 1 spacecraft fire



divide by 30. The remainder (remember remainders?) will be the degree rising. Which in my case is 28. Presumably of Taurus, since that keeps coming up.

Seventh And Final Method: Count from July 19 (Epiphi 25) to the day of birth, then add 22. Starting at Cancer (for a day birth), count off by 30. The ascendant will be where the count stops. The remainder will be the degree rising. This gives me 18^W rising.

Humble reader, **I in fact have 14 degrees of Gemini rising.** A sign that Valens never once produced.

Caveat: Valens talks of sundials and the gnomon of the sundial. The gnomon is the upright part that casts a shadow. One easy technique that Valens did not give, perhaps because there was no need, was, for day births, to note the hour of birth and then read off the ascendant directly from a weekly table of shadows.

Yes. A common sundial and a simple table will give the ascending degree for a day birth without any calculation whatever. Which means the great Egyptian obelisks were in fact sundials. As their shadows were very long, they would have been extremely precise timekeepers and should have easily given the ascendant to the exact degree. Sunny climate, too. This would have been invaluable for horary work, but again I digress. Open at dawn, close at sunset.

Despite Valens' failure to find my correct ascending sign (never mind the degree), his method for finding the midheaven was much simpler.

Add the rising times from the sign on the descendant, to the sign on the ascendant, and divide by two. Since the consensus is that I have Taurus rising, if I give myself a putative 15^W rising, then at klima 4 (38 N latitude), the rising time from the 7th house cusp, 15^W, to the ascendant at 15^W is 145:20. Half of this is 72:40. Adding 72:40 to 15^W (215), I get 23^W40 as the MC. Using the computer, I get 28^W. Using this same method with my actual ascendant, 14^{II}, I get 23^W40. My actual MC is 22^W. Which, given the amount of fudging involved (klima 4 runs from 36 to 41°) the Valens method of calculating the midheaven (he only gives one method) is NOT BAD. I was impressed!

It was for this reason I said that **Andrea Gehrz's translation** of the first book of Valens was what you were expecting. Modern Hellenists don't think ancient calculations are important and so have ignored them. In fact, they are critical. If the Greeks could not actually calculate an ascendant,

which I think to be the case, then the delineation and forecasting methods based on it will be whimsical at best. From this and other study of Valens, I have concluded that Hellenistic astrology was in fact a work in progress. Not a perfected system. Which, by the way, was the medieval opinion. To medieval astrologers, the Greeks were an open book. Not a new and exciting discovery, which the Greeks are to us.

At a later point in Valens (I've not yet indexed the book, so cannot quite find it), he proposes trisecting the arc between MC and ascendant. Which are Porphyry houses. Pure and simple they are.

For his part, Brennan does not mention the midheaven, presumably because he thinks the Hellenists did not use it. In his TMA article he mentions Valens by name, so the omission of the Valens' MC is curious.

BUT as I say, I'm too lazy to stay awake in class, so I have to go about inventing the wheel for my own sake.

Hellenists and Westerners in general have always said the Indian civilization was borrowed from the west. India, for its part, has always disagreed, admitting that while they do indeed compulsively borrow, their civilization is their own. In the analysis of Hellenistic methods of calculation we have testimony to support the Indians. Traditional Hellenistic calculations, as given by Valens, do not work, whereas, traditional Vedic calculations do. So who copied who? Charts that lack midheavens are valid in equatorial climes, such as that of India, where the MC is rarely more than a few degrees from exactly square to the ascendant. But this is not the case at Alexandria (32°N), where the MC can wander quite a lot from where it should be. The problem is even worse in the Crimea (Sebastopol: 44°N) where I believe Vettius Valens actually lived and worked. Which is why he, and northern Europeans in general, found midheavens to be important, and why the latter invented so many ways of dividing the arc between MC and ascendant.

Forgive me, but I will now set modern Hellenistic fantasies aside and show you some interesting things about houses, as I use them.

IUSE Placidus houses because, well, everyone uses Placidus. Soon after I started studying astrology in the mid-1980's, I was stuck with the charts of friends who had no birth time. In frustration I would try to guess the houses where I thought their planets would be. I would spend several hours fussing about, this way and that, and would then go to my tables of houses (the

Rosicrucian, in fact), turn to the pages featuring the latitude of birth, and find the line(s) that put the planets in the houses where I wanted them. This always worked. I did not think anything about it.

At the time I worked for the New York Astrology Center and at the time everyone was crazy for Koch houses. Which had been invented a dozen years earlier by Dr. Walter Koch, of Germany. He claimed his system was the only "true birthplace" system, which meant that if you weren't using Koch, you weren't getting German precision, and we all know how precise the Germans can be.

So one fine day I had put all the planets in the houses where I wanted them to be, had carefully noted their zodiacal positions, and then, for the first time, turned to a Koch table of houses to find the "real" cusps.

I looked and looked, but to my surprise, there was no entry, there was no line, that put the planets where I wanted them. It was not there. It was at that moment that I realized that houses were not trivial affairs, that, whatever they were, there was "real stuff" going on with them. I closed the Koch book, I have not been back since.

Koch cusps in fact are sensitive to common transits. The intermediate cusps, that is. Koch angles are exactly the same as Placidus. Indeed, virtually all quadrant systems (Regiomontanus, Campanus, Topocentric, Porphyry, Placidus, Koch, etc.) give exactly the same angles. All the fuss is about the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 8th, 9th, 11th and 12th cusps.

So the first clue was that Koch could not be used for delineation, only transits. As transits to house cusps were trivial, I set Koch aside. Placidus cusps had value.

The next question had to do with planets which were not in the same sign as that on the cusp itself. Working this out led me to whole sign houses (the topic under discussion this week), but there are a number of kinks.

First, we have to realize that signs are real things. Not wispy, vague or ephemeral. It is commonly held that a planet 5 degrees outside a house is to be considered as actually in the house, but it seemed to me that if the signs did not match, the planet could not "jump into" a house of a different sign.

Which automatically meant that a planet in the same sign as the cusp, but further outside than 5°, was probably in that house as well. This problem, of a planet outside a house, in a sign that was, or was not, the same as the cusp itself, could only be resolved by whole sign houses. All planets in the same

sign were in the house with that sign on the cusp. Sound simple? It isn't.

What about 28 degrees on, say, the 5th house cusp, with Mercury at 4 degrees of the next sign? With our rectification system we've already established the Placidus cusp as being the right one (Koch is never that far off, but it clearly does not work), so that means Mercury is in the 6th?

But the actual 6th house cusp, at, say, 25 degrees, is a long way away. And in these cases, the native does not act as if his Mercury is in the 6th. He acts very much as if his Mercury really was in the 5th, even if whole sign houses said no.

So I made a fudge. I said, look, the house is like a 100 yard sprint. At the start line (the cusp) there is the blue team and things to do. At the finish (the next house cusp) there is the red team. For whatever reason you, a red team member, have found yourself standing on the blue 10 yard line. Do you run, run, run a long way to that distant cusp, or do you wander over to the blue team?

Before you insist on purity, that a house can be mostly in front of the cusp, rather than behind it, based entirely on the Placidus cusp, consider the angles.

As it happens, I was born with Sun opposite Moon, Moon conjunct Pluto, Pluto tightly opposed to the Sun. When my chart was first calculated I was delighted to see that my Sun and Moon were in fact smack on the MC/IC axis, a rare thing and obviously Important and Powerful. I felt privileged.

But I could not make the delineations work. Sun in 10, I'm supposed to shine, but, actually, I don't. Well, maybe Sun in Aquarius in 10 wants to defer to others and make them shine. Wouldn't that make me an ideal master of ceremonies, introducing others and letting them shine? Well, yes, except that, well, I don't. Go read the poisonous reviews I write.

Moon in 4, conjunct Pluto as well, I'm going to kick my family's ass and make something of them. Family is important! Family is essential! And by the way my old man (4th house is daddy) was a Terror!

Except that none of that was true. My father and I were never close. I have four brothers and four sisters, all of whom are still alive, only one of whom I am in contact with. So far as my own family is concerned, I was 48 before the birth of my first (and only) child, and 56 before I finally got married. Property? My first mortgage came in time for my first child. That isn't 4th house.

But then I suddenly remembered the little

mental trick I taught myself in the 8th grade: That I could put questions to myself, wait, and suddenly there would be an answer. That, when I was a teenager, I could argue logic in completely contradictory directions. That, at the age of 18, in frustration, I gave up logic and went to stream of consciousness. Which, today, is all I know. As a result I have long been of the opinion that I can know anything merely by thinking about it.

And finally it came to me: I had a Sun-Moon polarity, not in 10 and 4, but 9 and 3. I looked again at my birth time, 12:32 pm. What if there was a transcription error? What if the doctor wrote "12:52", but the clerk who transcribed his notes and filed the birth certificate wrote "12:32" instead? Mistook a 5 for a 3? I can't tell my wife's 5's from her 3's.

So I advanced the chart by 20 minutes and to my astonishment, I found the Sun, Moon and Pluto had all nudged back, ever so slightly, into 9 and 3.

Ever so slightly. Excitedly, I ran progressions and for the first time I got a real result. I quickly established a birth time of 12:47 pm.

What are the numbers? Correcting for a simple 20 minute transcription error, at 12:52 pm the MC is 23 \approx 28. Moving backwards 5 minutes gives a final rectified MC of 22 \approx 11 at 12:47 pm. The Sun is 20 \approx 59. One degree, 12 minutes shy of exactly conjunct the MC. Yet the strongest planet in the chart, at the second strongest point, do not connect.

Nothing excites me more than puzzling out something entirely new. I have set myself challenges, such as finding the cause of Mozart's death, or how astrology works, and found innovative and novel solutions. This is THREE and NINE. NINE and THREE.

Four and ten, I would be at UAC in May, I would promote myself ruthlessly, but as I have not a trace of Four and Ten in me, I will never be there. In fact I will never be asked, for I am a 9th house ideologue who has burned his 10th house britches. Believe me, if my Sun was in 10, if my Moon were in 4, burnt britches could not stop me. In puzzling out my own chart, I was shocked to learn the full strength of the Sun and Moon.

I have no reason to think planets just shy of the ascendant would not produce the same results. Which makes angles unique. It makes them walls.

So our whole sign house theory is evolving. Sometimes a whole sign is the whole house, sometimes it's not. It depends. You have to look at the chart and deduce.

Cadent houses (3, 6, 9, 12) are different from the others. They are larger, for one thing, as they start several degrees in advance of their cusps, and extent right up to the angle that follows.

Cadent houses customarily respond to not one, but to two different signs. If both signs are empty of planets, the sign on the cusp rules, by means of the sign and house of planet that owns it. If there are planets in the same sign as the cusp, then traditional dispositor rules apply.

If there are planets in the "left over" section of the next sign, those planets, by definition, are stranded. They are like a "surprise". I am of the opinion that such planets act out. Here I am thinking of **Michel Gauquelin's** work. From 30 years ago, he discovered great planetary strength, not in the 1st and 10th, which would be expected, but in the 12th and 9, where it was not expected. With few exceptions, planets in the Gauquelin sectors would be in the same sign as that of the ascendant. Stranded planets act out, encouraged, I suspect, by the fact that, although there is no "house" backside, there is a non-specific energy that powers them.

We look for analogies to angles and find them in the obelisk. The ascendant is the moment before shadows begin. The descendant is the last moment that has shadows. At the midheaven, first we have shadows on one side, and then in the next instant, we have shadows on the other. The transition, from no light, to light, from light to no light, from sun on one side, to sun on the other, is instantaneous. The angles are times and places of transformation, of magic itself.

THERE is one further detail: Intercepted signs. Crudely speaking, interceptions happen to those born north (or south) of the tropics, when the midheaven and ascendant are far from 90 degrees apart. When they are 70 or 130, two quadrants are huge, two are tiny and in the huge ones we will find signs entirely swallowed up in one house or another.

Going a long ways back in this essay, if a house cusp illuminates and defines the sign which is on that cusp, then a sign that lacks a house cusp has no direct way of expressing itself in the chart. It is stranded, like a ship without a rudder, or without a mast, or without an anchor. Such a sign is by definition excluded from directly expressing any of the twelve cusps. If this sign is empty there is no harm.

If the intercepted sign has planets in it, those planets are essentially trapped. They will be of the house they are in, but they will

express it poorly. The house will be known primarily by the sign on the cusp and the sign and house of its ruler. Not the planets trapped inside it.

With planets in the intercepted sign, there will, at the same time, be an entirely different way, or method, of dealing with the affairs of the house. The relationship between these two methods will be shown by the relationship between the two rulers, and if there is no relationship, no aspect, one does not rule the other, then the two methods will exist independently of each other. The native is often completely unaware.

When there are planets “in the forecourt”, which is to say, in the last few degrees of the sign on the cusp, those planets, and the ruler of the cusp, dominate the house, the intercepted sign is ignored.

When both the forecourt, and the intercepted sign, both have planets in them, the resulting relationships can be complex. In my opinion, the planets in forecourt have the initial advantage, but over time the planets trapped inside the interception will come to dominate. This will produce problems.

SUCH is a sketch of “whole sign houses”. While the overall concept is simple, the details can be quite complex. Your guide is not a set of rules to be memorized and recited, but your own head.

Increasingly I find astrology to be brutally literal. If you have a planet in a house but not in the same sign as on the cusp, and

if that planet is rather close to the next cusp, and that cusp is not an angle, then that planet is in the next house. Not the one you think it’s in. As I’ve been reading charts for astrologers, a number of them have strongly disagreed, but the proof is in the delineation.

Which side of the cusp a planet is on is important. Which is to say that those who use Placidus houses to rectify not only put planets *in* houses, but also exclude planets *from* houses. Such excluded planets would presumably be “loners”.

Planets in a house, in the same sign as the cusp of the house, are therefore comfortable in that house. Whereas, planets that were in the same sign as the cusp, but which fell outside, were “struggling” to get into the house, or “running to get into” the house, etc. It is also clear that this “running” had to do with the planet’s direct motion. A *retrograde* planet falling *outside* the cusp of the house it was associated with, would obviously *not want to go there*. He would be reluctant. He would *shirk his duty*. There are lots of details like this.

Which is why you should have your chart read by someone other than yourself, someone hopefully who is competent and can actually read a chart. You gain a useful perspective on yourself that way.

I tell you frankly, I have seen some really sad charts. Next week I may bring you the chart of a reincarnate female slave. In her last life she was forced to breed against her will. Slavery in America, which lasted

some 200 years, easily outstrips the Nazis in terms of sheer horror, as the chart I have in front of me mutely documents. Unlike the Nazis, who came and were quickly gone, the two centuries of unending terror of American slavery is still far from finished. The mass rape of females, the mass castration of males, the forced breeding that was slavery in America, was one of the greatest crimes ever committed on this Earth. It will take centuries to heal, as its victims reincarnate with nightmarish charts, for which they are not responsible, and over which they have little control, for that is the very definition of slavery, that you have no free will. Modern Americans have a unique opportunity to learn and be humble.

In this case, Saturn-Venus conjunct in Virgo, intercepted in the 5th are the sickly children she was forced to breed and which she does not admit to be hers, since Leo on the 5th house cusp will not “see” them. The Moon in Pisces intercepted in the 11th house, she disowns them, but, as Venus is debilitated, Venus in the 5th, it wants to run across the chart to Pisces to get the Moon’s (mommy’s) attention. Which, literally, is what children compulsively do: Search for their mother. So far as the individual herself, who asked for my help but who has not responded, it took some effort to arrive at a simple solution: She wants to be left alone to do her work. With all my heart, I wish her peace.