



# NEWSLETTER

**NOW WEEKLY!**

With art by Vera !

from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

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ARCHIVE

Email Dave@astroamerica.com

New

Coming soon – Newly Reset –  
C.E.O. Carter's Masterpiece:

## The Principles of Astrology

**O**NE of the best written, most masterful books on astrology is Charles Carter's **Principles of Astrology**, but it's been out of print for decades. While many of his other books are still in print - **Aspects, Foundations, Symbolic Directions, Mundane, Encyclopaedia**, etc., Carter's **Principles** is the book that puts them all into context.

The **Principles of Astrology** was first published in 1925, with revisions in 1931 & 1939. The type in my 1939 edition is cramped & ungainly, so I am resetting it in modern type. I should be finished by May. The book is intended for learners, but scattered throughout are keen insights & hard-won lessons. Here's an example:

### The Grand Trine

*It sometimes happens that two bodies are in trine and a third body is in trine with each. Such a configuration was considered very evil by medieval writers and unfortunately this view appears to be often correct. Often there seems to be too great dependence upon others.*

Think about this for a moment. We've all been told, The more trines the merrier, and, Grand Trines, Kites (where a planet is sextile to two & opposed to the third) is Even Better. But have you ever seen that to work in practice? Carter hasn't. And I haven't. My youngest sister, **44 this January**, has a fabulous kite: Mercury, Venus, Jupiter, Uranus, Pluto all within 2 degrees, Neptune 4 degrees out, with Moon, Mars & Saturn wide, all in earth & water. (Work it out.) Yet she lives in a trailer & has no family of her own.

This is just one of many surprises Carter has in store. Why this book was ever out of print is beyond me.

– To be continued.



## DUELING DICTIONARIES

### RECTIFICATION

**James Wilson**, 1819: The animoder of Ptolemy refers to the new or full moon preceding a nativity. If a new moon preceded, the degrees in which both luminaries are at birth must be taken; but if a full moon preceded, the degree of that luminary alone must be taken, which was above the Earth at the moment of delivery....

**Nicholas deVore**, 1947: Argol & Morinus used a method of rectification by directions timed to an important event. Hermes observed a certain relationship between the place of the Moon at birth & the Ascendant at conception, & vice versa, out of which developed the Prenatal Epoch, as advocated by E.H. Bailey...

## ALMANACK

for the week (all times GMT)

Notes

13	05:19	♀ # ♃	
15	04:08	♃ Void	
	05:28	♃ ♃	
	10:00	♂ ♂ ♃	
	12:04	♃ ♂ ♃	
	19:55	♂ ✖ ♃	
16	18:55	♂    ♃	
	20:02	♀ # ♃	
17	13:37	♁ 27♃40	Last quarter
	16:43	♃ Void	
	18:20	♃ ♃	
	19:26	♀ ♃	Love/money returns?
18	00:52	♀ Δ ♃	
19	14:54	♃ ♂ ♃	
	20:53	♃ # ♃	
	22:16	♃ ♂ ♃	Void
	22:45	♂ ♂	

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



## STAR OF THE WEEK



**Al Pherg** eta Piscium 26 ♃ 57

**Notes:** A double star in the cord near the tail of the Northern Fish. Associated with the Greek Head of Typhon.

**Influence:** Of the nature of Saturn & Jupiter. It gives preparedness, steadiness, determination and final success – from **Fixed Stars**, by Vivian Robson.

In modern times, the Sun conjuncts this star on April 16. On that day, 1947, Bernard Baruch coins the term "Cold War". 1972, launch of Apollo 16. 1990, Jack Kevorkian's first assisted suicide. **April 16 is the birthday of:** Anatole France, 1844; Wilbur Wright, 1867; Charlie Chaplin, 1889; Merce Cunningham, 1919; and Joseph Alois Ratzinger, 1927. Happy birthday to the Pope!

**P. Dominant Partner:** 242. Venus behind the Sun in the zodiac, strong, & in good aspect with Jupiter indicates that the wife will be the dominant partner.

## HAPPY EASTER!

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New Tarot Decks

Top Ten Books

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# Hot Tips in Real Estate

an occasional feature

**T**here's so much work to be done house training the psychological crowd, that I was happy, darn happy, when **Hindsight** & the **Back to the Past** crowd came along. Hellenistic astrology might not have all the answers & might not be to everyone's taste, but they were doing yeoman's work.

Or so I thought. Turns out, they've no better idea what to do with houses than their immediate predecessors. This shocked me. I thought the Greeks knew. Turns out, they didn't, and their proponents don't, either. **Houses are where signs & elements, qualities & dispositors, individual degrees, faces, sect & even aspects all come together & dance. Houses are the essential framework we've all been looking for.** Houses are of extraordinary importance. If the Greeks didn't "get it", I wanted to know why.

As Hellenistic astrology is currently understood, Greek houses are based on the rising sign. The entire sign, starting at 0 degrees, ending at 30. The other eleven houses are the other eleven signs.

Hellenistic astrology makes no use of the midheaven. Why? Because the Greeks had no reliable means of finding it, and, in their experience, it was rarely more than a few degrees different from 90° anyway.

**T**HIS was in part because they had no clocks. Daytime could be had with a sundial, but at night, or on cloudy days, there was only the **clepsydra**, the water-clock. To have any accuracy, water-clocks had to be set to a sundial, either at commencement, or at some point before they ran out of water. When the water ran out, time-keeping ended. Even among the nobility, timed births were rare. Which is why the Greeks had so many (mostly useless) rectification techniques. They had to. (If you were wondering how they knew where the planets were, the answer is they had **mechanical computers**. The rusted remains of a handful have been found.)

Then there was the matter of latitude above (or below) the equator. In tropical climes (23° N/S of the equator), the sun rises straight up out of the ground, goes directly overhead, then dives straight back in at sunset. In this area of the world, it makes no difference what house system you use. All house systems are equal. Literally.

Which is a good thing, because the math needed for the fancy spherical trig to calculate houses was unknown to the Greeks. And you will never guess why.

The Greeks, like the Romans, had no practical numerical system. The Greeks had **Attic numerals**. These were hash marks, combined with the first letter for the words, "five", "ten", "fifty" "hundred", etc. Roman numerals were actually an improvement, and for the rest of this example I will use them in place of the Attic.

A simple house division system is to trisect the angle between ascendant & midheaven. So, suppose the ascendant is CXV, and the MC is CCCXXII, where [ ] is 0 Aries (remember, neither Greeks nor Romans had a 0). The arc is CXVII. Trisecting this (the Porphyry method) gives cusps that are XXXIX degrees each. All you need do now is add XXXIX to the observed MC, CCCXXII, to get the XI house cusp. Which is CCCLXI. As this is more than CCCLX, we subtract CCCLX to get I. Which in modern notation is 1 Aries.

**I**N the Attic system of numbers, this house system, as simple as it is, was impractical to compute. It did not arise until the 3rd century, by which time Attic numerals had been replaced, among the Greeks, by the somewhat easier Romans.

The upshot was the Greeks weren't all that interested in computing actual house cusps, even presuming they could find the MC to start with. And they didn't need to, anyway. Despite what you might think, Greek astrology wasn't based in Athens, but in Alexandria. Athens is 38° N. Alexandria is 31°. At 31°, equal houses work well enough that the alternative – dealing with all those cumbersome Roman numbers – wasn't worth it. This is just as true with Vedic astrology. **Ujjain**, the traditional center of Indian astrology, is 23°N. In India, all house systems produce equal houses. All hours of the day. All days of the year. (Try it!) Which means that house development in India & Greece was stunted. It never got started.

The Europeans developed many house systems. The first question is why?

Rome is 42°N. Paris is 48°N. London is 51°N. The sun simply doesn't work the same way in these climes, as it does further south. It wasn't that they didn't know about Hellenistic houses. The only astrology books the Europeans had were Hellenistic,

as handed down to them by the tireless Arabs. It was that, for the Europeans, **equal houses did not work**. They needed a midheaven & houses calculated with it, but they were stuck with useless Roman numerals.

**T**HIS changed abruptly with the introduction of "**Arabic**" numbers (actually Hindu) and their promotion by the Italian **Fibonacci**, starting in 1202. Immediately came **Campanus** houses. **Regiomontanus**, the first "modern" system, arrived in the 15th century. **Morin** devised his own system in the 17th century, though neither he nor anyone else ever used it. About the same time Placido de Titis developed the (very sophisticated) **Placidian** system. These were the results of steady advances in mathematics, made possible by the modern number system. In the 20th century, A.P. Nelson Page & Vendel Polich developed Topocentric, a system almost identical to Placidus. Both were intended to flesh out Ptolemy's sketchy ideas about Primary Directions. Which is to say, the Greeks would have got here ages earlier, if only they had clocks & a decent number system!

It is therefore alarming that modern Hellenistic astrologers are ignorant of these essential facts. Equal houses do not work in the latitudes in which most people are born, live, work, and die. That's why they were abandoned!

The development of a true house-based astrology cannot be done using crude Hellenistic & Vedic charts. It is critically dependent on proper house division. It only got underway in the late 19th century, and is still far from generally known. We first needed a proper house system (Placidus). Then we had to puzzle out how to use it, and then we had to integrate the rest of astrology to it. This has taken, so far, the better part of 300 years. The resulting system, which I myself know well, is based on simple, fundamental astrological basics. It is the most powerful form of astrology I have ever found.

**Y**ET, modern ignorance abounds. For most astrologers, houses are simply things that "turn up", like gum on the bottom of your shoe. The German school (Witte, Lefeldt, Ebertin, along with Geoffrey Dean) is emphatic. Houses do not exist. The "modified" German school – Walter Koch – is of the opinion that house cusps should reflect transiting planet ingresses, and this is, indeed, a limited, but good use of them (see **Wehrman**). Modern Hellenistic astrologers spring from these roots. They have 2000 years of catching up to do!

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WHY WHERE  
WHAT WHEN

## ELECTIONAL ASTROLOGY

### Part 6: More on the Moon

**T**HE consideration of the Moon is of paramount importance in the study of Elections, and it is always essential to pay special attention to the lunar aspects & the sign & house in which the Moon is placed. In all elections it is a sound rule to fortify the Moon, whether she be a special significator or not, because the Moon is a general significator of everything relating to human affairs, and anything begun at a time when she is weak & afflicted is extremely unlikely to prosper. As in all branches of astrology, a good aspect between the Moon and the Sun is an excellent foundation for success, and will improve any election.

**T**O be at its best it is said that the Moon should be below the earth by day and above the earth by night, but this is not an important point, and is quite secondary to considerations of house position. This relation of the Sun and Moon is one of the fundamental factors that should be considered at the very onset of making an election, for the Moon's phase may make all the difference between success & failure. – **Electional Astrology**, by **Vivian Robson**

### Chapter X

## Ptolemy & Placidus

**T**HE name of Claudius Ptolemy will be revered wherever astronomy & astrology are studied. It is enough for the purpose of this sketch to note that he was born at Pelusium in Egypt, and became a brilliant disciple of the Alexandrian School. It appears he was born about the year 80 AD, flourished during the reigns of Adrian & Antoninus Pius, and died in the seventy-eighth year of his age.

Of Placidus die Titus, who first rendered a studied version of Ptolemy's work on astrology, we have very little information. It appears that he was known as Didacus Placidus, and was a native of Bologna, became a monk, and was appointed mathematician to the Archduke Leopold William of Austria. He wrote in the early part of the 17th century a work entitled *Primum Mobile*, in which he gives a thorough digest of the teaching of Ptolemy. The best English translation is by Cooper. Placidus showed that Ptolemy recognized two sets of directions arising out of two sets of planetary positions, one in the zodiac & the other in the world, i.e. in the prime vertical. To Placidus remains the credit of having elaborated that part of directional astrology which has regard to directions in mundo.

**P**TOLEMY makes it clear in his chapter on the "Number of the Modes of Prorogation" (bk. iii, ch. xiv.) that "when the vital prerogative is vested in the Ascendant, the anareta or killing planet may be brought to it by oblique ascension; and if it be vested in the Midheaven or a body there situate, then direction is to be made by right ascension... – **Primary Directions, A Definitive Study**, by **Sepharial**.



**B**ECAUSE you're always the star of your own horoscope (no matter what type of astrology you're practicing), the Sun is your personal marker & always represents you in one way or another in every type of birth chart. Thus, in karmic astrology (which is really just astrology for the soul), the Sun is your spiritual marker & represents you before you actually became you in this life. All forms of astrology, including spiritual astrology, recognize the inner natal planets like Mercury, Venus, Mars, and Jupiter as the personal planets that reflect your own chosen game plan for today. In karmic astrology the outer planets – in particular Saturn, Neptune, and Pluto – are actually your soul's planets. They represent the things that you did, or didn't do, yesterday – the things your soul promised to rectify & accomplish this time around.

**T**HEREFORE, these outer planets are the ones that we focus on in this book. These are the energies that become your karmic crossroads in this life today because, long before you got here, they were your soul's lofty promises to the cosmos yesterday, the ones you should be keeping now. – *from Cosmic Karma*, by **Marguerite Manning**. Used by permission.

