



NEWSLETTER

from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

January 2008

ARCHIVE

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Why, It's Fourth of July in January, It's.... It's....

MUNDANE MADNESS

Gather 'round ye Super-Patriots! Learn the astrology of that which is dear to your hearts! The Astrology of King & Country: Mundane! *The Grand Old Chart, it was set for thee!*

We start, as we always do, with a good introductory text, the basic definitions, the essential cookbook. About 1910, H.S. Green, an assistant to Alan Leo, wrote **Mundane, or National Astrology**. In it, he focused on mundane aspects, from planet to planet (Sun through Neptune). About the same time, Raphael 6 wrote, **Raphael's Mundane Astrology**. In it, he gave delineations for planets in houses, which makes his book an excellent companion to Green's.

About 1977, Edith "Joyce" Waldron, of Symbols & Signs, in Pasadena, CA, published the two of them in one volume. I stocked that small book until she died or disappeared in the late 1990's.

So I decided to reprint them, adding to them Charles Carter's unjustly neglected **An Introduction to Political Astrology**, of 1951. Carter starts with Green & Raphael, then goes on to ask, with all that astrological brainpower in London in the 1930's, why were astrologers caught flat-footed when the war began? (The young B.V. Raman, in India, was not, but that's a story for another time.)

All three books go under the title of **Mundane Astrology, The Astrology of Nations and States**. It sells for \$24.95.

The alternative is the massive **Mundane Astrology, An Introduction to the Astrology of Nations & Groups**, by Michael Baigent, Nicholas Campion & Charles Harvey. First published in 1984, with a revised edition in 1992, it is not, as the title says, "introductory". It is historical, it is a theoretical overview, it suggests many mundane techniques, as they were understood some 20 years back (Hindsight has had an impact). It is a wonderful compliment to the Green/Raphael/Carter volume, but not a replacement for it.

Then you need data. Basic mundane data are solar ingress charts (especially the Aries ingress), combined with the monthly

lunations, set for a country's capital city. Using the guidelines in the two books (above) you take the annual chart and read it against the country's own national chart, to forecast the year ahead.

You'll find those charts in Nick Campion's splendid **Book of World Horoscopes**. First published in 1988, we stock the latest revision of 2004. Timed horoscopes for every country in the world (around 200, including all the very, very small ones), with alternative & background charts for many, some 471 charts in all. In addition, Campion deciphers the mysterious "Sibley chart" of July 4, 1776. Sibley used a medieval technique of chart combining that I would like to see applied to other charts & other countries.

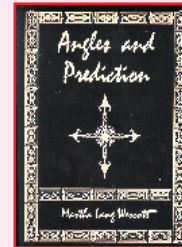
But you have another choice as well. Marc Penfield, a restless traveller, is engaged in his own compilation of national & US state charts, along with a priceless assortment of city charts, many of them available nowhere else. Among his books: **Horoscopes of the USA & Canada; Horoscopes of Europe;** and, **Horoscopes of Asia, Australia & the Pacific**.

There are many other books of note. See C.C. Zain's intense **Mundane Astrology** (some of his best work), George Noonan's **Fixed Stars & Judicial Astrology** with its overview of Ptolemy's theories, Jamie McPhail's priceless **Astrology & the Causes of War**, Carolyn Dodson's serviceable **Horoscopes of the US States & Cities**, Penfield's compilation of English monarchs in **Stars Over England**, Phil Brown's doodlings in **Cosmic Trends**.

Finally, there's history. What monarchs used astrology & how did they fare? Find out in Benson Bobrick's illuminating, surprising, **Fated Sky: Astrology in History**. For a view from the other end, of the unwashed masses, get Kim Farnell's **Flirting with the Zodiac**, the long history of sun-sign astrology. Kim quotes D.H. Lawrence as saying, "The Zodiac is well-worth flirting with."

No Newsletter in December, apologies. The holidays are crazy, I didn't want to disturb.

Books of the Month!



Angles & Prediction, by Martha Lang-Wescott, 551 pages, **\$49.95**. Comprehensive guide to planets, transneptunians & asteroids in solar returns, some 87 in all. **Now.**

A Rectification Manual, by Regulus Astrology LLC ("Dr. H."). Amazing, demanding, survey of Medieval rectification & chart reading methods. One of the finest. **February.**

On the Aquarian Age

Part 6:

The Cusp of the Ages

A few months ago I "discovered" the Cusp of the Ages. Which has to do with people.

When the Aquarian Age arrived in 1913, the people living on this planet were Piscean. Not by Sun sign or Ascendant or Moon or any other individual natal factor, but because each Age has souls unique to itself, individuals to whom the Age represents a "day of opportunity." This was touched on - obliquely - in Robert Blaschke's volume 4, **Relationship Analysis**, where he says that human souls may be divided into twelve tribes. And then stops there. While individuals are free to take birth in any Age and at any time, they generally tend to incarnate at times and places favorable to them. (Continued, page 2)

The Cusp of the Ages, *continued*

So Tureans incarnate during the Age of Taurus, Arians during the Age of Aries, Pisceans during the Age of Pisces, etc. The Aquarian Age is an exception to the rule, as Aquarius is the Age of Man & therefore represents a "day of opportunity" for many if not all souls - which, by the by, is one of two reasons for the Earth's huge overpopulation at the moment. The other is that morality, sexual and otherwise, is Piscean, ruler Jupiter. "Do your own thing" is Aquarian.

The end of an Age is the final moment of opportunity for members of that Age. They will not have such an opportunity again until the Great Year again comes round in their favor, which, for Pisceans, is approximately 23,000 years in the future. Consequently the final days are crammed with great talents who need just a little more time to finish their work, complete their tasks, and move on to whatever comes next. What of those who fail or run out of time? Christ gave us the amusing story of the shepherd with a lost sheep. Finding oneself "held back a grade," as it were, represents a significant loss to the individual, as well as his group.

What this means in terms of history is that the transitions from one Age to the next are cultural high points. We are still too close to the last transition to see it clearly, but the previous transition, from Aries to Pisces, produced the apex of the Greco-Roman civilization, as is well-known to students of that era.

So in 1900 the world was full of "last minute" Pisceans, rushing here and there, seeking the "ultimate" whatever: The ultimate symphony (Bruckner, for me), the ultimate novel, the ultimate social state, the ultimate religious experience, the Ultimate Ultimate. They in fact believed they had the Ultimate Answer, or could get it, if they only tried a little harder.

In 1913, in the midst of this final scramble, Aquarius arrived. At that time a "door of opportunity" opened to Aquarian souls who had long waited for that day, while the door to further Pisces incarnations closed for good. And so Aquarians flooded in. So far as their Piscean fathers were concerned, in 1913 a new set of opportunities, a new set of challenges presented themselves. The masters of the old order found themselves suddenly in charge of the new. They managed as best they could. In some ways they were brilliant. In others (the wars, the Depression, etc.) they were sadly lacking.

The first Aquarians came of age in the mid 1930's, but their Piscean fathers and grandfathers were still firmly in control, and, as is typical of those making a mess of things, refusing to give up their power and authority. Not that early Aquarians were in rush anyway. World War II was a fine distraction and a great way of getting rid of the young Aquarians wholesale. Afterwards came the sheer labor of rebuilding half the planet on the one hand, and on the other, endless waves of self-congratulation, as

seen principally in the US. Between the two, these kept the last of the Pisceans in power through the 1950's, one way or another.

But they could not last forever. In the 1960's, things changed. Aquarians wrested control of Aquarius from the aging Pisceans. This is the explanation for the popular idea that "The Age of Aquarius" arrived c. 1968, with the Hippies, Flower Power, Black Panthers, Mai '68 (Paris), Prague Spring, etc. After the 1960's, nothing would ever be the same again. It is important to pay attention to pop culture, as it is more often right than not.

To be explicit: President Kennedy, born in 1917, after Aquarius arrived, was Aquarian. His successor, Lyndon Johnson, born in 1908, before the change over in 1913, was Piscean.

Two important things come from this. One, factors unique to the cuspal years themselves, and, secondly, the relative merits of Aquarians running the Aquarian world, vs: the last of the Pisceans in Aquarius, or, for that matter, the last of the Piscean Age itself.

I have previously mentioned that 1913 brought about a fundamental & permanent change in the arts. It seems incredible to me, but it also seems that the roots of the dazzling technological innovations of the second - Aquarian - half of the 20th century can be found in the Piscean first half: Electronics, nuclear energy, rockets, computers, etc. The only notable exception would seem to be the internet itself, though if we define it as a telephone network of computers, then it's Piscean.

And there's a reason for this. The Aquarian Age is still in its infancy. It is yet a toddler. It hardly knows how to walk and barely knows how to speak. While we now have a solidly Aquarian world, the people in that world do not, as yet, know what to make of the various energies available to them. When we look at the world since 1970, it's clear that we have a combination of poorly applied new ways, sprinkled with a lot of old ways that no longer work.

When we compare our present state to the Roman Empire in the first two centuries AD, it is clear the first centuries of a new Age brings a general degradation of civilization, as the experienced population of the old Age is replaced by the young, inexperienced population of the new.

Does this mean that all Ages follow the pattern seen in the Piscean? In Europe the Roman Empire faded, to be replaced by the Dark Ages, which was itself succeeded by Medieval make-do, before finally giving way to the Renaissance, Age of Enlightenment, etc.

The answer? No. The Dark Age was unique to Pisces, as was the Roman Empire's long slide into it. This is because of the nature of the Ages in question.

The Aries Age was Cardinal. This meant it was forceful, masculine, outgoing. Pisces, by contrast, was watery, mutable and disorganized. So the cusp of Aries to Pisces lasted a good deal longer than that from Pisces to Aquarius. Even after the Age had ended, Aries was revived again and again and again. Each

time weaker than the last. When the last attempt collapsed in the 4th or 5th century (take your pick of dates), Pisces was still too disorganized, still too mutable, to assert itself. And so a Dark Age ensued. The wonder is that Pisces ever got organized enough to end it.

Aquarius, being fixed, did not have this problem, and Pisces, still being mutable, had no ability to hang on any longer than it did. So Aquarius will not slide into oblivion. While Pisces changed with every generation, Aquarius will go on doing the same things over & over again (fixity) until it collapses, or manages to find itself.

Of the many wonders of the cusp, two stand out, for different reasons.

The first is the Hollywood "studio system" of the 1920's - 1950's. This system encapsulated the essence of the "New Age" itself. The term "New Age" was coined by metaphysical authors, starting the end of Pisces and continuing well into the cusp. Aside from a stew of Piscean ideals (brotherhood, equality, rights of man, etc. - all Piscean, not Aquarian), the term "New Age" had no definition. I spent enough time looking for one.

In fact, the "New Age" was intended to combine Piscean idealism with Aquarian practicality. This can be seen not only in the overall structure of the studio system, but also in its many details. The system started at the very earliest moment - as soon as WWI ended - and continued until Aquarians finally seized control of the Age itself: The mid-1960's. What has been known as "The New Age" since then has been an entirely different animal.

The second example illustrates the nature & power of the cusp itself: The state of Israel.

The Zionist movement dates back to a reaction to the Dreyfuss affair (1894-1906). Its first great success was the Balfour Declaration of 1917. The state itself was formally founded in 1948, and until the Six Day War of 1967, at the very end of the cusp, it seemed a perfectly nice place.

The Six Day War, during the time when the Aquarian Age finally arrived in Israel (as everywhere else), changed that state in fundamental ways, as the Israelis themselves are slowly becoming aware. As we shift from the founding of the Jewish state, to the aftermath of the Six Day War, we see, as clearly as we ever will, the difference in skills and talent between the late Pisceans, and the early Aquarians who replaced them. Regrettably, I see nothing of great merit in these Aquarians, whether Israeli or American or French or Chinese or Russian or English; or, for that matter, Christian, Moslem or Jew.

I fear it will be another century, or maybe two, before the Age matures enough for the great men to return. They will be the first great men of the Aquarian Age.