

Hot Tips in Real Estate

an occasional feature

There's so much work to be done house training the psychological crowd, that I was happy, darn happy, when Hindsight and the Back to the Past crowd came along. Hellenistic astrology might not have all the answers and 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 and elements, qualities and dispositors, individual degrees, faces, sect and even aspects all come together and 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.

This 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, though, to date, they are misidentified.)

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. Four was IIII. Forty was TIIII (“T for ten”). 257 was IIH-F-IIIIIII. Or some such. 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 and midheaven. So, suppose the ascendant is CXV, and the MC is CCCXXII, where [] is 0 Aries (remember, neither Greeks nor Romans had a zero). 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.

In 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 and 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 and houses calculated with it, but they were stuck with useless Roman numerals.

This 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 it seems he was the only one who 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 and Vendel Polich jointly 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 and 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 and 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 system of astrology I have ever found.

Yet, 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 of the 1970’s – Walter Koch, et al – is of the opinion that house cusps should mark transiting planet ingresses, and this is, indeed, a limited, but good use of them (see Joyce Wehrman’s **What Are Winning Transits**). Modern Hellenistic astrologers spring from these roots. They have 2000 years of catching up to do!

April 16 birthdays:

Anatole France, 1844

Wilbur Wright, 1867

Charlie Chaplin, 1889

Merce Cunningham, 1919

Joseph Alois Ratzinger, 1927. *Happy birthday to the Pope!*

— April 14, 2009

Dancing Lessons

1. How the world sees you

Dancing is what I call the interplay of houses, their rulers, and the sign and house their dispositors are in. Learn to dance and charts will tell you amazing things. Let's start at the beginning. All else being equal, the house and sign of the Ruler of the Ascendant, aka Ruler of the Horoscope, is one of the most important points in the entire chart.

Ruler of the First in the FIRST:

This reinforces the sign on the ascendant. A Leo Sun, born at sunrise, is more of a Leo. Mercury in Virgo, Virgo rising, is more of a Virgo. Venus rising, Venus in Libra in the first, is always pleasant and good natured, at least on the surface (Bill Clinton, anyone?).

Ruler of the First in the SECOND:

Known for their money. What kind of money, you ask? Depends on the signs and rulers. Gemini rising, Mercury in Cancer in 2, a petty thief, perhaps. Work it out: Gemini is two-faced, Mercury makes for small-scale and light fingers, Cancer takes its money personally, and the second house is money. A pickpocket. Virgo rising, Mercury in 2 in Libra? Donates exact amounts.

Ruler of the First in the THIRD:

Is big shot. You don't follow? Third house is day-to-day life. Running around town, brothers and sisters, ordinary smarts, etc. First house magnifies that, so we run around town big-time. How? Look at the planets and signs

involved. Libra rising, Venus in Sag in 3, with grace and flair and a touch of *je ne sais quoi*, i.e., the exotic. More pronounced when ruler is sextile to the rising degree.

Ruler of the First in the FOURTH:

Is a homebody. What kind of home, what kind of body? Suppose it's Sag on the ascendant and Jupiter in Pisces in 4: A messy house full of religious icons and foreign souvenirs. Signs in square tend to fight each other, when the ruler is square the house it rules, things are stressful. More so when the ruler is actually square by degree to the ascendant.

Ruler of the First in the FIFTH:

Is a playboy, but not one you've ever heard of, as Hef had to work at it. When the ruler of the first is in the 5th you don't have to, you just are. Lucky with kids. Natural at gambling, but look to aspects to the ruler to know if they win or not. The closer to a perfect trine, the "smoother" they are.

Ruler of the First in the SIXTH:

Has a life of work. Likes small animals. Might be a cook. If the aspects to the ruler bring skill sets, could take up medicine. If the ruler is stressed, look for hypochondria.

Ruler of the First in the SEVENTH:

When the ruler is in the house opposite, that ruler is, by definition, in debility. It's going to wish it was in the house (sign) opposite, where it would rule. Ruler of the first in the seventh, the spouse is the boss, precisely because the debilitated ruler wants the spouse to run his chart. What kind of boss? Libra rising, Venus in Aries in 7, partners are aggressive, so, as a result, you (Libra rising chap) come with baggage and are never as nice as you seem.

Ruler of the First in the EIGHTH:

Other people's money, for better or worse. Capricorn rising, Saturn in Leo in 8, I'd be careful letting that man handle my money. Leo rising, Sun in Pisces in 8: known as a clairvoyant.

Ruler of the First in the NINTH:

Lives abroad if he can. Is brilliant and/or weird in any case. This is more pronounced as the aspect from ruler to rising degree gets closer to a trine.

Ruler of the First in the TENTH:

Lives in public. Has little private life. The closer the ruler is to exactly square the rising degree, the less he likes it, but the less control he has over it.

Ruler of the First in the ELEVENTH:

Lives for his friends. What kind of friends? Again, look at the ruler and the signs involved. Scorpio rising, Mars in Virgo in 11, picks fights with friends. Thinks he can do better than they can.

Ruler of the First in the TWELFTH:

Lives in secret. Is this good or bad? Depends on point of view. In a weak chart, there is frustration at being “held back”. In a strong chart, there is cunning.

Aspects to rulers are critical. Why do people think I’m smart and put their trust in me? Ascendant ruler in the 9th is smart. Ruler trine Saturn is trust. Both trine to the ascending degree makes it certain. Never mind that it always amazes me. **Note well:** Rulers and dispositors work regardless of “aspect”. Dispositors define houses by relating one sign to another sign. The better you know signs, as distinct from houses, the better this works.

April 22 Birthdays:

Glen Campbell, 1936

Marilyn Chambers, 1952. (*Died, April 12, 2009.*)

Ryan Stiles, 1959

— April 21, 2009

Dancing Lessons

2. Where the money comes from

Learn to read the second house and even jaded astrologers like me will sit up and take notice. There are more self-serving excuses, lies and outright denial associated with the money house than in all the rest of the chart.

Start with the element on the cusp. An earth sign on the cusp of 2 is practical. A water sign is emotional. A fire sign burns through money and doesn't care, an air sign has trouble connecting with it altogether.

The house and sign of the ruler of the 2nd tells you where the money comes from and how the individual handles it.

Ruler of the Second in the THIRD

The smarter you are, the richer you will be, or so you think. (The education trap.) Or, the more you run around town (local transport), the richer you will be. Or financial partnership with brothers and/or sisters.

But in practice it doesn't always work that way. Suppose Cancer is on the 2nd. Cancer says it's MY MONEY, keep your mitts off! (i.e., is possessive). Moon in Leo in 3, the more education you get, the more money you feel you should make. Both proud and possessive. Now look at aspects to that ruler. A 9th house opposition to a 2nd house ruler in the third means your smarts are unappreciated and you are eternally passed over. Squares to the ruler mean that, however smart you are, you never quite get the money you think you deserve, and the problems, in this specific case, stem from planets in the 6th and 12th houses, as plan-

ets in those houses are in square to 3, which is where your money (2) comes from. You're either sickly (6th) or are stuck in an institution (12th — the army?) where the bureaucracy limits your ability to make the money you desire.

Robert Blaschke is an interesting case. He published his horoscope in his **Volume 3**, but I will not give it here. Using my methods, where the whole sign is the house, the (Placidus) cusp merely the most intense degree of the house, Mr. Blaschke has 2nd and 3rd house rulers in mutual reception. Mutual reception binds the houses together. (Binds the houses, not the signs! This is an important distinction.) As a result, the more Blaschke tours (3), the more books he publishes (3), the more readings he gives (3), the more money (2) he makes. When he doesn't, he goes quickly broke. **Mutual disposition make for intensity between the two houses in question.**

Ruler of the Second in the FOURTH

If the second house is water, the fourth house will be earth. Farmers. Landlords. The relationship is a sextile. This often works very well, as one would expect of a sextile. Cancer on 2, Moon in Virgo in 4, a fussy landlord. Scorpio on 2, Mars in Capricorn in 4, an ambitious one. Pisces on 2, Jupiter in 4 in Taurus, a lazy one that makes lots of money. Note the first pair is cardinal/mutable, the second is fixed/cardinal, and the third mutable/fixed.

Shift this a bit. Put a fire sign on 2, the ruler (Sun/Mars/Jupiter) in an air sign in 4. Farming is out, because air and fire signs are infertile. Intellectual activity in the home becomes a source of income.

Ruler of the Second in the FIFTH

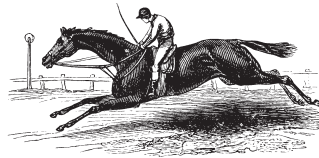
Income is from gambling, speculation, or sex. I.e., prostitution, to put it bluntly. Why are these avenues of income frowned upon? Consider that the 2nd and 5th houses are in square to each other. If one can handle the stress, much money can be made — or lost.

Ruler of the Second in the SIXTH

Income from food/cooking, or medicine, or from small animals, such as pets. Since the relationship between the

two houses is a trine, this can sometimes be too much of a good thing. The doctor who has too many patients, or the chef who is his own best customer, can both experience health problems. Which are 6th house! Both houses in earth, we have the practical chef or simple doctor. Both in water, the chef specializes in sauces — or booze. Both in air, the doctor is an intellect, more interested in technique than healthy patients. Both in fire, a great deal of enthusiasm, but a tendency to burn out in one's career.

This “Dance of Rulers and Dispositors” produces an amazing amount of detail. Aspects, by contrast, are vague. Alan Oken, my favorite aspect delineator, can only say, *Will Unites With Consolidation!* or, *Will Challenges Expansion!* or, *Will Versus Consolidation!* Which are all fine as far as they go, but tell you little by comparison to what you will get from house rulers and their dispositors.



Astrology and Number

Not an article on numerology, apologies

Two weeks ago in the April 14 issue, I touched on the Greek way with houses (**Hot Tips in Real Estate**). Turns out, Greeks didn't have sophisticated house division because they didn't have the numbers that would generate them.

And then I thought, what about the Chinese and their strange astrology? Animals and stems and branches. What were their numbers like? Turns out, Chinese numbers were even worse than Greek numbers. To express the number, 863, for example, the Chinese would write, $(8 \times 100) + (6 \times 10) + 3$. Which isn't a notation system at all, actually. In practice, the Chinese would write, 8H-6T-3, where 'H' is hundred and 'T' is ten. This was so unwieldy that, for multiplication and division, the Chinese invented the abacus. Which they also found useful for simple sums.

So let's take a quick and dirty look at Chinese astrology. Beijing is 40 degrees north – same as Philadelphia. At that latitude, equal houses won't work. (*Sorry, Hellenists!*) Lacking a proper number system, the best the Chinese could do seems to have been what they actually did. Chinese astrology is unique and for mundane affairs, effective, but it has only a tenuous connection to the sky because they had not the numbers to represent it. So far as the demanding uses, Chinese astrology fails.

But then, what about Vedic astrology? In equatorial climes, houses never got developed at all, but on the other hand, the combination of clever minds and a fabulous number system (which India, not the Arabs, invented) resulted in purely mathematical astrological representations. In other

words, Vimshottari and Yogini and all the other dasa systems, along with Ashtakavarga and myriad other number (not sky) based systems.

Which means that Europeans, blessed with India's number system and cursed with northern latitudes, have created a unique, sky-based astrology. This is not to fault the Vedic, the Chinese, the Tibetan, the Mayan, the Persian, the Native American and all the many other variants. But it is to say that if you're a western astrologer, you have nothing to apologize for. Get out there and learn it! There's more than you ever suspected, waiting for you.

April 30 in history:

1812, Louisiana becomes the 18th state.

Birthdays:

Willie Nelson, 1933.

Bugs Bunny, 1938.