



# Southern Star

Member Newsletter

[www.faasa.com.au](http://www.faasa.com.au)

Aries Edition 2014

## ***Musings from the President's corner***

**A**s I write this, we are still waiting for a final result from the SA election. If you didn't read Mari Garcia's article in the last newsletter, go back and read it now! Its accuracy is uncanny. Well, it's not uncanny, it's astrology, but how many of us have the skill to interpret the charts so wisely?

This month my Secondary Progressed Moon moved into Aquarius. After two and a half years of Capricorn, feeling obligated to and responsible for everyone and everything, I can feel the shift of energy. Things around me are changing. Commitments I had have ended. I

### **Reminder – subs are OVERDUE!**

Yearly subs can be paid by cheque or bank transfer – see details at the end of the newsletter. Full membership \$70, Concession \$50. Your association needs you!!

have holidays – short and long breaks - on the horizon. Financial paperwork is on its way out. Things stored in my house have been handed back. In a number of areas in my life I am no longer 'running things'. My shoulders feel several inches higher.

As I have 0 degrees Aquarius on my Third House cusp, my Progressed Moon also moved into the Third House, but I don't know that I'm really feeling that Third House focus yet. Words still dry up as I sit at the computer.

*Continued page 3*

## Inside this Issue

Musings from the President's corner .....	1
In Memorium.....	2
Speakers for 2014.....	4
The Mystery of Flight MH370 .....	6
Dymock's Test .....	8
Astro Words.....	9
A Brief History Of Western Astrology – Part 1.....	14

## What's On

### **5 April, Saturday**

Kris Svendsen

- Combustion

Anne Fryer

- Famous Weddings (main talk)

### **3 May, Saturday**

Sara Gilbert (Vic)

- Special Aspect Patterns

...



## *In Memorium*

**T**he astrology world is saddened by the death of Dymock Brose, whose contribution to our association and to astrology in general is unsurpassed. His wife Marguerite sent the following

Dear Astrologers,

At 95 years old, Dymock died on 11th March 2014 at 10 pm at the RAH, Adelaide after a 24 hour stay. His death was gentle and softly.

Though he never complained he lost nearly all sight, hearing and had heart failure.

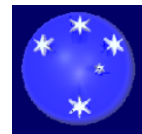
He was ready to pass over without struggles and did so.

I have been so lucky, so incredibly lucky to have been married for 43 year to a man such as he. A man with integrity and a genuine love of mankind.

Marguerite Dymock.

email to those who received Dymock's 'Tests':

Marguerite has been sending out Dymock's Tests of recent times. She advises that she still has 50 copies of his book 'New Astrology Forum – The Book', which can be purchased for cost price of \$15 plus postage. Marguerite can be contacted at [dymock@ozemail.com.au](mailto:dymock@ozemail.com.au).



## Musings from the President's corner (cont/..)

However, I am finding more requests to share my knowledge, and articles, in a few different areas, to be written, so perhaps this is the start of a more productive period from the point of view of connecting and communicating. I'm also investigating new smart phone – so that fits nicely into the Aquarius / Third House scenario!

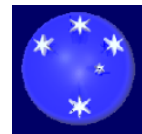
Progressions are powerful things, yet we often only notice them in retrospect, because they are not events, they are changes in our priorities and ways of thinking, and they come from within us. They drive us without us noticing. So if you

haven't been in touch with your Progressed Moon for a while, check it out– how many things about your current life does it explain?

FAASA's next meeting will comprise a short talk on Combustion by the versatile Kris Svendsen and a main lecture by the irrepressible Anne Fryer titled 'Famous Weddings'. It should be a fascinating afternoon and I hope to see you there on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

May love and laughter light your days

*Cate*



# Speakers for 2014

Monthly meetings of the Federation of Australian Astrologers SA Inc are usually held on the first Saturday of the month at the Theosophical Society, 310 South Terrace, Adelaide. Attendance costs for non-members is \$12. Afternoon tea is provided and everyone is welcome.

Please [contact us](#) if you would like more information about the Federation of Australian Astrologers SA and our activities.

## Sat 5 April, 2 pm

Kris Svendsen, Combustion (short talk)

Anne Fryer, Famous Weddings (main talk)

## Sat 3 May, 2 pm

Sara Gilbert, Special Aspect Patterns



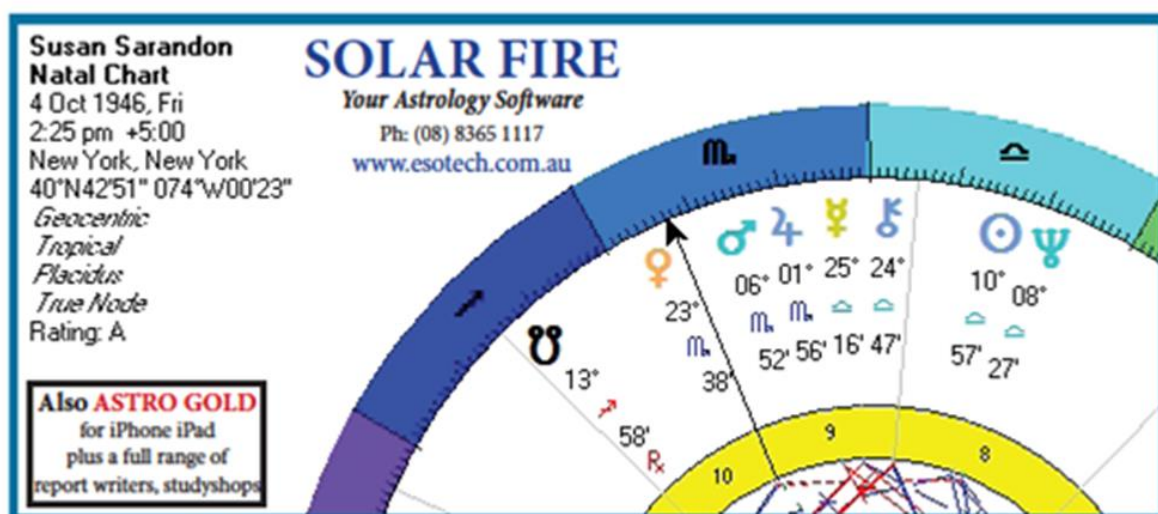
## Sat 7 June, 2 pm

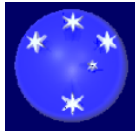
**Allied Arts**, *A look at other esoteric disciplines: Numerology, Tasseomancy, Australian Bush Flower Essences*

## Sat 5 July, 10—4.30pm

Ed Tamplin, WORKSHOP

*In this workshop, Ed will examine the planetary cycles that have led to current world events, and then go on to share his research on the Astrology of Belief and Behaviour. More details shortly!*





**FAASA presents:  
Saturday April 5, 2 pm**

# *Anne Fryer: Famous Weddings*

**Can a wedding chart really reflect the issues in a marriage? Examples of people who should have consulted an astrologer!**

*Anne Fryer, FAA Dip Astrol, has a long and varied astrological background. She has been to seminars run by the modern astrologer Noel Tyl and has studied more traditional methods with Astro Mundi. Her approach to horary is classical, along the lines of William Lilly, but she also likes to look at modern forensic techniques.*

**Plus: a short talk by Kris Svendsen on COMBUSTION**

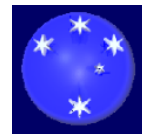
TS Rooms, 310 South Tce Adelaide, 2-4.30 pm

Members \$8, Concession members \$6  
Non-members \$12.

Afternoon tea provided.

[www.faasa.com.au](http://www.faasa.com.au) find us on Facebook  
or ring Cate Whelan on 8557 7417 for more information.





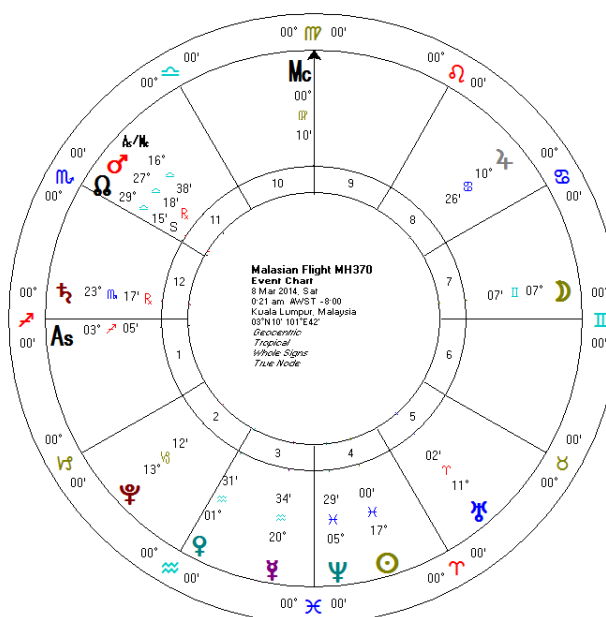
# *The Mystery of Flight MH370*

Mari Garcia

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*My deepest sympathies to the families and loved ones of the passengers and crew on board the missing Malaysian Airlines flight 307. This article is written with the deepest respect and in the spirit of understanding what may have happened.*

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*I*n the early hours of Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2014, Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 left Kuala Lumpur airport at 12:21 am, bound for Beijing.<sup>1</sup> The plane never arrived and is now the subject of an escalating search within an ever-increasing area. The mystery surrounding the disappearance of the aircraft is that after a week, no trace or indication has been found of it or its 239 passengers. Various scenarios have been painted: from terrorism, to mid-air explosion, to engine and instrument malfunctions and pilot interference but to date there is no hard evidence to support these speculations. Information to hand however indicates that investigators are looking into the backgrounds of the pilot and crew members.<sup>2</sup>

*Continued Page 9/..*

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<sup>1</sup> Data from a news report in *The Telegraph* "Malaysia Airlines plane: Timeline" sourced at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/malaysia/10686999/Malaysia-Airlines-plane-crash-timeline.html> [14/3/14]

<sup>2</sup> From a news report in *Daily News* "Crew, passengers now the focus of missing Malaysia Airlines investigation; country's leader stops short of saying flight was hijacked" sourced at <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/world/crew-passengers-focus-missing-malaysia-airlines-investigation-article-1.1722599> [accessed 17/3/14]



**FAASA presents: Saturday 5 July 10-4.30**



**A Workshop with  
internationally acclaimed Australian  
astrologer**

***Ed Tamplin***

**Ed Tamplin** is recognized as one of the world's premier mundane and predictive astrologers. He operates a full time consultancy from his Sydney home base, and is the co-principle of the Sirius Astrology School, co-hosted a number one rating astrological program on Sydney commercial radio, and is a past VP of AANSW and Secretary/President of SARS. He remains dedicated to astrological research, regularly contributing the 'Eye In The Sky' column to the FAA Journal and also weekly updates to his popular website [www.edtamplin.com](http://www.edtamplin.com).



Ed accurately predicted:

- The Global Financial Crisis to the exact week
- The timing of Kevin Rudd's rise to PM, predicted before he was Labor Party leader, plus only one term in office
- A too close to call 2010 Federal election result, eventually going to Australia's first female PM Julia Gillard through protracted negotiation
- The rise of the Muslim Brotherhood and Egyptian Revolution
- The Syrian Crisis
- Timed turning points in Israel and Palestinian relationship etc.

## **The Workshop:**

### **1. The Mandala of Mundane**

Mundane astrologers are pattern finders. Mundane is far more than national charts– it is an art form in itself. It is cycles upon cycles interwoven with history. Wandering through the maze of mundane can be either thoroughly confusing or joyously creative. **The Mandala of Mundane provides perception and perspective in a clear and inspirational astrological outline.**

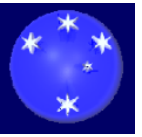
### **2. The Evolution of Belief**

The pillars of our society rest firmly upon what we already believe. This presentation will explain astrologically where has belief come from and where it is going. How belief has changed people and people have changed the world. It also probes the controversial issue of whether thought can physically change matter.

**Saturday July 6, 10 am – 4.30 pm**  
TS Rooms, 310 South Tce Adelaide  
Morning and afternoon tea provided

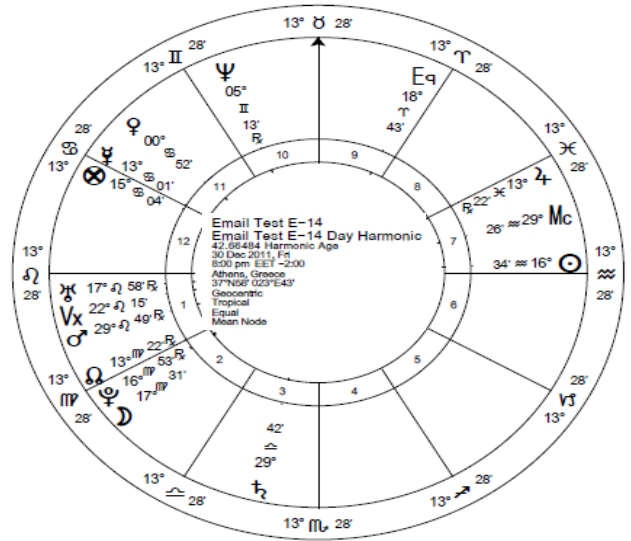
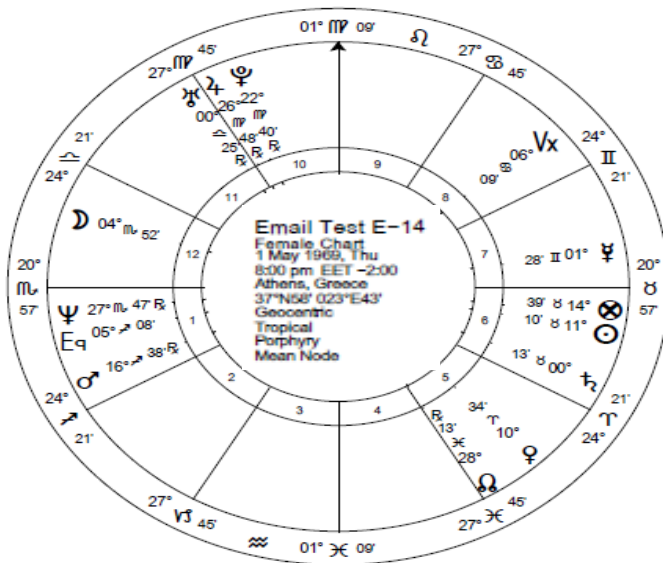
**Earlybird bookings by 6 June:** \$55 members after 6 June: \$65  
\$50 conc. members \$60  
\$70 non-members \$80

For more information, contact Cate Whelan, phone 0407 184474, email [president@faasa.com.au](mailto:president@faasa.com.au)  
[www.faasa.com.au](http://www.faasa.com.au)  
To book, send cheque made out to FAASA Inc to PO Box 7443, Hutt Street Adelaide, 5000, or  
Direct Deposit: FAASA Inc, ANZ, BSB 015-367, Account 499070824



# Dymock's Test

**D**ear Fellow Astrologer,  
The Native of this Email Test E-14 is a woman born on **1 May 1969** at Athens, Greece in 8 pm EET. The Question is what important event happened in her life on **30th December 2011**. Give a single, clear answer. No alternatives are allowed.



Your task is to determine what this Dominant Factor means having regard to the intrinsic nature of the planets concerned, the House position and Rulership.

These monthly Tests are provided free for any astrologer anywhere who wants to increase his/her skills. There are no costs, no registration and no advertising.

This month's solution can be found on page 17.

More material suitable for Tests is needed. Please search your files for any suitable material.

Regards to all.

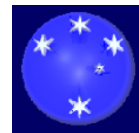
Marguerite

I have attached the Natal Chart and also the Harmonic Age Chart for the **30th December 2011**. The Harmonic Chart is attached for the benefit for those astrologers who do not have a Harmonic Progressions Program in their computer. It is regarded as the quickest and most accurate technique for solving these questions. However, use any astrological method of your choice.

We find that many respondents using the Age Harmonics do not successfully identify the Dominant Factor. This means that they have very little chance of uncovering the event.

In the present instance we are supplying the Dominant Factor which is the Moon conjunct Pluto overshadowing the Sun opposite Uranus.





# Astro Words

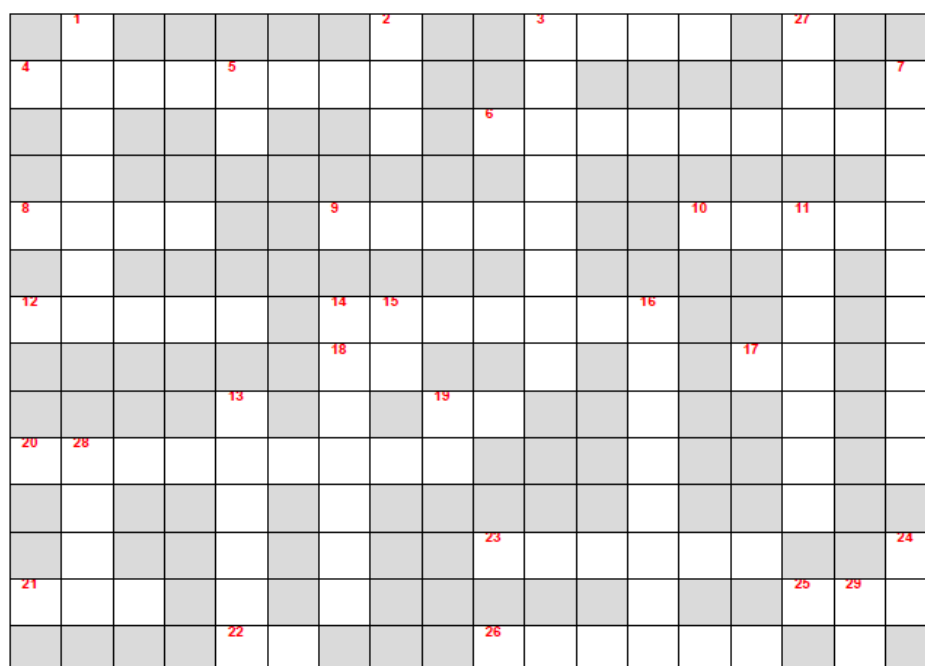
## Astro Words

Test your astrological knowledge!

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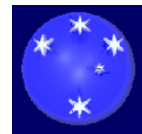


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Across	Down
3 A straight line about which rotation occurs and which, is perpendicular to the direction of rotation.	1 The branch of astrology devoted to the study of world events
4 Minor aspect introduced by Kepler, regarded as favourable and associated with talent and power	2 Allan _____ was known as the father of modern astrology
6 A book or table of planetary positions	3 When on planet is approaching an other
8 Abbreviation right ascension to the mid heaven	5 Abbreviation for Tertiary Progression
9 Surname of the man who was horary astrology's greatest exponent in the 17 <sup>th</sup> Century	7 The science that studies the heavenly bodies.
10 The moons surface could also be called the _____ surface	11 The planet of illusion
12 One of the 36, 10 degree subdivisions of the signs of the zodiac.	13 Sign of the twins
14 Eclipses that return to within 2degrees 30 minutes of the same zodiacal degree	14 The adaptive modality
17 Abbreviation for Sidereal Time	15 Lovable extra terrestrial character
18 The abbreviation of the time at the longitude of Greenwich Observatory in England	16 When two planets occupy the same degree in the sign
19 Opposite the IC	19 The abbreviation for the part of the horoscope that represents aspirations and public image
20 These are said to be _____ aspects: conjunction, sextile, square, trine and opposition the conjunction was said to be corporally conjoined	24 Abbreviation for Standard Time
21 The abbreviation of the standard time measurement commencing at 0 degrees of longitude	27 Gemini's element
22 Opposite the MC	28 In horary a form of essential dignity
23 Expect the unexpected when under its influence	29 Abbreviations for Stationary Direct
25 Local Sidereal Time (abbrev)	
26 Western intersection of the Prime Vertical with the Ecliptic	

Turn to Page 17 for the answers!



## The Mystery of Flight MH370 *(continued from page 5)*

In light of so much mystery, can astrology shed light in some of the facets of Flight 370? The temptation with any such event is to examine the chart of the moment of impact.

Whilst this has its merits, the problem is that it does not tell the whole story, only the 'result' if you like of actions that may have been initiated much earlier. If we want to examine the story of Flight 370 and perhaps be able to distil some semblance of understanding of its fate then we must go back to a chart that exemplifies the moment of 'birth' or initiation.

We will be looking at an event through a *retrospective* lens and we will be applying the same astrological principles but in a *retroactive* manner. That is, we will be judging something that has already happened and which had its beginnings in the past. The basis of our judgement will be made using the traditional techniques as used in electoral astrology. Known as *Katarchai* – from the Greek, meaning inceptions – electoral astrology gives us an insight into the quality of the moment. This technique is usually employed to select an auspicious moment for an enterprise however, we will be doing the reverse and judging a moment and its consequences.

What were the indicators for this flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing? To this end, we will be using the time of departure for flight 370 which was at 12:21 am Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> March<sup>3</sup>. I have used Whole Sign houses for greater clarity.

The first thing that is significant is that the chart has Sagittarius on the Ascendant and the ruler, Jupiter is exalted in Cancer in the 8<sup>th</sup> house. While Jupiter is in good essential dignity we must be concerned as it is in a difficult house. The 8<sup>th</sup> house has connotations of death and crisis and certainly not an auspicious place for the ruler of the Ascendant. Most ancient sources seem to believe that when planets are in

the 8<sup>th</sup> house, they have the effect of being nullified, as if they were literally "killed", or perhaps corrupted or made idle and ineffective.

As Jupiter is the planet that rules the moment of the inception, that is the departure time of flight 307, we would be concerned that although it promises much, it is unable to deliver. Vettius Valens tells us that Jupiter in the 8<sup>th</sup> house is:

*Ineffective, weak and unable to impart his goods.*<sup>4</sup>

Jupiter is also in an opposition to Pluto and squares Uranus, suggesting that there are forces behind the seeming routine of the flight that are unstable at best (Uranus) and destructive at worst (Pluto). The Uranus-Pluto combination has an undercurrent of anarchy or wilful destruction of old forms and with Jupiter joining the configuration, we have a volatile combination.

Next, in order to add more specifics to the judgement of the voyage, we turn to Dorotheus of Sidon, who tells us in the *Carmen Astrologicum* to:

*"... look for the traveler from the Ascendant, and [for] the land which he desires from the seventh, and for the action and for the necessity which he seeks in that journey from the house of government [the tenth], and for the outcome of that matter from the house of the fathers [the fourth]."*<sup>5</sup>

### The Passengers

*"...look for the traveler from the Ascendant..."*<sup>6</sup>

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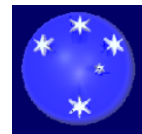
<sup>4</sup> Vettius Valens *The Anthology: Book II Chapter 9* (ed R Hand, trans R Schmidt) Project Hindsight

<sup>5</sup> Dorotheus of Sidon *Carmen Astrologicum*. trans D Pinnigree. Ascella Publications, 1993. Book V, Chapter 21.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.



The Sagittarius Ascendant describes the disparate and foreign nature of the travellers from 15 countries, including China, Malaysia, Australia, Canada, France to name a few. Jupiter as the lord of the Ascendant, exalted and also the triplicity lord and the term lord is also descriptive of the large number of passengers and also the optimism perhaps with which they boarded the flight.

Jupiter is located in the unfortunate 8<sup>th</sup> house and this implies that the passengers are in a way helpless to change anything. Jupiter, which is configured in an applying square to Uranus and opposition Pluto in the T-square, suggests that the passengers are moving toward a time in which they are the unwitting witnesses to an unfolding story, the script of which we are still unsure. Another testimony to this is Jupiter separating from a trine to Neptune, which brings confusion and uncertainty to and about the passengers.

It is interesting to note that two of the passengers boarded the flight with forged passports, a very Neptunian expression. On-going investigations are now being done on all passengers and crew. The cruel reality is that every one of the 239 people on board is both a possible victim and a possible suspect -- until proved otherwise. A telling reflection of the ruler of the Ascendant in the 8<sup>th</sup> house.

The Moon is also the dispositor of the Jupiter in Cancer and lord of the 8<sup>th</sup> house. It is in Gemini in the 7<sup>th</sup> and while it is angular, it is peregrine<sup>7</sup> and in a tight separating square to Neptune adding uncertainty, confusion and mystery.

### The Destination

*"...and [for] the land which he desires*

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<sup>7</sup> A peregrine planet has no level of essential dignity in a particular sign. The Moon in Gemini is not in rulership, or in exaltation, it has no triplicity honours, does not govern any of the terms (or degrees of Gemini) nor does it have any dignity in the Faces (or decans) of Gemini; thus it is peregrine.

*from the seventh..."<sup>8</sup>*

Dorotheus tells us to look at the sign on the 7<sup>th</sup> to see what the destination is like and we find Gemini on the cusp. This tells us that the destination has perhaps commercial connections and is flexible and possibly unstable as Gemini is a mutable sign and mutable signs are considered to be so changeable that they can be unreliable.

The Gemini 7<sup>th</sup> is ruled by Mercury, situated in Aquarius in the cadent 3<sup>rd</sup> house. Mercury is in neutral dignity but it is in an applying square to retrograde Saturn and in an applying trine to a corrupted Mars which is also retrograde, in detriment in Libra and conjunct the North Node. Additionally, Saturn is Mercury's dispositor. Being in a cadent house, a planet is passive and so, Mercury as the significator of the destination is in great difficulty suggesting the destination itself is either difficult or detrimental. We also have Neptune in a tight square to the Ascendant -Descendant and also the peregrine Moon in Gemini sits in the 7<sup>th</sup> adding mystery and confusion and also a weakened planet in an angular house can be dangerous. What this does is add to the picture of the destination of this journey as one that is decidedly insecure, unstable or perilous.

### The Purpose of the Journey

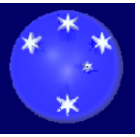
*"....and for the action and for the necessity which he seeks in that journey from the house of government [the tenth]...."<sup>9</sup>*

The 10<sup>th</sup> house and the MC at 0 degrees of Virgo suggest that there is a disparate or unfocused purpose. With the angle at 0 degrees of a sign, there is some difficulty as the action or necessity of the journey which Dorotheus suggests will be indicated by the sign on the 10<sup>th</sup>, are not formed or have no clear 'shape' as in 'degree' with the MC being in 0 degrees. What we do know is that Flight 307 was a routine

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.



The ruler of the 10<sup>th</sup> is cadent Mercury again suggesting that the purpose of the journey has some sinister undercurrents or the purpose has been 'hijacked' or taken over. Mercury is in an applying square to a retrograde Saturn and in an applying trine to a debilitated Mars. It receives aspects from two malefics, which are still destructive and its passivity being in a cadent house, robs it of any efficacy hence the testimony of being overcome by others' purposes.

We have seen from news reports that two of the passengers were asylum seekers who were travelling on forged passports. They were using the journey as a conduit to a better, and more secure life. Who else may have used this voyage for their own purposes remains to be seen

### Recent news reports

*The Outcome of the Voyage*

*"....and for the outcome of that matter from the house of the fathers [the fourth]."<sup>10</sup>*

Finally, Dorotheus suggests we look at the 4<sup>th</sup> house to determine the outcome of the voyage. With Pisces on the 4<sup>th</sup>, and Neptune conjunct the IC we have a very strong testimony as to the outcome of the voyage: mystery, confusion and unverified theories. The ruler of the 4<sup>th</sup> is again the exalted Jupiter in Cancer in the 8<sup>th</sup>, with the debilitating opposition to Pluto and square Uranus suggesting peril as being the outcome of the voyage and indeed this voyage has ended in mystery, uncertainty and confusion!

  
ASTROMUNDI  
... Teaching Astrology ...

## MASTER CLASSES 2014

The First in the Master Class Series of 2014 will be held on **SATURDAY 26<sup>th</sup> April** from **1:30–4:30pm** at the Astro Mundi offices, 310 South Terrace, Adelaide. Please note the office is at the rear of the building. On-line attendance via the Internet is available but places are limited.

Cannot attend a Master Class? Ask about download option with handouts. Cost for all options is \$60.



*When we describe a person, an act or a place as being "out of bounds" we often mean that these are not bound by social, professional or cultural conventions which govern the majority of society. In astrology, the term "out of bounds" refers to a planet's declination – its position along the plane of the ecliptic. What happens when planets stray from the established path of the ecliptic? How do they manifest in the individual's life and what is their expression as a "sign of the times" in mundane astrology? they push the boundaries of acceptability and how do they do this? A Master Class to explore just how these planets operate in a chart.*

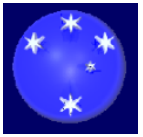
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For details on 'virtual attendance' or to enrol, contact us on **1800 003 517** or email [astromundi@internode.on.net](mailto:astromundi@internode.on.net).  
Payments can be made by Cash, Electronic Transfer, PayPal, VISA, Mastercard, cheque or money order.  
EFT Details: BSB 065 520, Account 1006 7976, Commonwealth Bank. Please advise payment via email and put your name in the space provided by your bank. Check out other Master Class topics at <http://www.astromundi.com/workshops.html>  
or buy previous Master Classes on CD at <http://www.astromundi.com/bookshop.html>



<sup>10</sup> Ibid.





To date, there is still no concrete evidence on the fate of the airliner, its passengers and crew, only speculation and scant information. At the time of writing<sup>11</sup> a news report stated that residents of a remote island in the Maldives had spotted a 'low-flying jumbo jet' matching the description of the missing Malaysia Airlines plane in the hours after it disappeared.<sup>12</sup>

The 4<sup>th</sup> is also an indication of the end of the matter and from all testimonies in the chart which include Jupiter, the ruler of the 4<sup>th</sup> in the 8<sup>th</sup>, Neptune in the 4<sup>th</sup> and together with a besieged Sun<sup>13</sup>, there seems to be very little indication that there will be any definitive evidence as to what actually happened. The location of Neptune in the 4<sup>th</sup> also bears testimony to the plethora of conspiracy theories which seem to be increasing commensurate with the number of days that the mystery continues.

### The Pilot

The Sun is also in the 4<sup>th</sup> house and a colleague<sup>14</sup> informed me that according to Lilly, the Sun is the natural significator of the Captain. The Sun is in the 4<sup>th</sup> house, the lowest point in the chart and it is forming a separating aspect from Neptune, a separating sextile from Pluto and is in an applying trine to Saturn. This testimony paints a picture of a Captain that may have been overcome or undermined and is powerless.

### Prediction

It is difficult to find any strong indication as to where to search should be conducted but by looking at the placement of the ruler of the Ascendant, Jupiter in the 8<sup>th</sup> house, we may see an indication perhaps of the direction the plane

took after it was lost on the radar. The 8<sup>th</sup> house is indicative of a South by West direction and this is one of the possible directions that is currently being searched. Given that this direction opens into a 600,000 square kilometre stretch of ocean, there are grave fears for the safety and well-being of all aboard.

The flight started in the day ruled by Venus<sup>15</sup> and in the hour of Saturn. This brings to prominence the retrograde Saturn in the 12<sup>th</sup> and its aspect to the Sun, significator of the Captain, and its aspect to Mercury, lord of the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup> houses. There is a very strong indication that the truth will be buried (Saturn in the 12<sup>th</sup>, Sun in the 4<sup>th</sup>) and that the resolution or outcome of this tragedy may result in the imposition of more draconian measures on airlines, their staff and the travelling public.

Mari Garcia

19<sup>th</sup> March 2014



**Copyright Mari Garcia 2014.** Mari Garcia is a consulting astrologer who has been involved with astrology since 1990. She has lectured widely both in Australia and the USA and has published articles in Australia and overseas and writes for several local and national publications. She runs a consulting practice in Adelaide and is co-principal of **ASTRO MUNDI**, which offers a four year course in astrology, a Traditional Astrology course as well as special interest workshops and Master Classes. Mari can be contacted on 08 8563 9182 or check out the website at [www.astromundi.com](http://www.astromundi.com). Keep abreast of developments at Astro Mundi on Facebook.

<sup>11</sup> 9:58 am, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

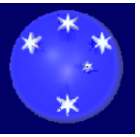
<sup>12</sup> News report "Residents on remote island in Maldives 'saw jet matching missing Malaysia Airlines plane's description", Metro, Tuesday 18 Mar 2014 4:47 pm sourced at <http://metro.co.uk/2014/03/18/flight-mh370-residents-on-remote-island-in-maldives-saw-jet-matching-missing-malaysia-airlines-planes-description-4640688/> [accessed 19/3/2014]

<sup>13</sup> Because the Sun is moving from the conjunction to Neptune and the sextile from Pluto, to the trine to Saturn.

<sup>14</sup> Tienka Atema, astrologer from the Netherlands in an email discussion.

<sup>15</sup> The astrological day starts at sunrise therefore for all intents and purposes it was still Friday, the day ruled by Venus.





# ***A Brief History Of Western Astrology – Part 1***

Ralph William Holden, B.Tech., B.D., Th.L., D.F.Astrol.S.

1988

*P*erhaps curiously, this seems to have become one of the more useful of the essays.

There are a great many people today who are both active members of one of the denominations of the Christian Church, but who are also attracted to the astrological concept. This latter may vary from simple interest or curiosity, to quite deep involvement and technical ability. They see astrology as helpful and useful, just as they find their religious involvement to be helpful and useful in their personal lives. Unhappily they are also aware that almost without exception their religious home will offer no welcome to astrologers.

This is obviously deeply distressing to them.

It is common - for those with religious authority - to pronounce against astrology in terms similar to those used by Fr Concetti and quoted in a previous essay. It implies that the Church condemns the practice of astrology as anti-Christian, foolish, and immoral, and that this has always been its position. Thus those who may be drawn into such an involvement are being warned that in doing so they clearly step outside the historical Christian tradition.

The point of this essay is to say, "That is totally untrue, and is a statement made out of ignorance of the history of one's own faith." The history of western astrology is inextricably linked with the history of the western church, as is the church's history with astrology. The astrologer can call as

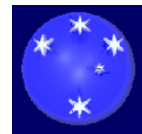
witnesses for his or her defence Popes, Cardinals, Bishops, and Theologians, some of whom have been elevated as Saints of the church. The witnesses for the prosecution on the other hand carry no such weight.

I have therefore tried to say to those troubled in this manner, "Take heart, you stand in great company"

But for those for whom these particular things do not represent an area of personal conflict, I hope that you will still find the essay to be of interest. Astrology has a great history that sweeps through the panoramas of western civilisation. All of us stand at the end of a long and honourable journey. As it has been said, 'If we can see further, it is only because we are standing on the shoulders of giants'.

*"Ancient observers and practitioners had perfected over a long period of time all those basic concepts and processes which underlie astrology today."*

We sometimes tend to forget that astrology is about a lot more than the various techniques designed to manipulate and interpret charts and symbols, but that it is also about people. It is about astrologers, and any kind of history of astrology - no matter how abbreviated - is really a story about those people whose attitudes and aspirations and actions and follies have brought us to that place where we are today.



It is a story about a journey. A journey that was for a long while difficult and daunting, and which few had the inclination or the dedication to undertake. It was a journey that, at the beginning at least, offered the travellers little reward; like those who may commit themselves to travel through a desert and for whom only the conviction that the end to be reached is of sufficient value, vindicates the difficulties encountered.

I therefore would like to think just for a very short time, about some of those people who have been especially responsible for bringing us to that particular place where 20th century astrologers in the western world now find themselves. Those who committed themselves to journey through this desert, and at the end of whose pathway we ourselves stand today.

In this regard it is probably good for us - as in a great many other human activities - sometimes to remind ourselves that we do in fact stand at the end of a long process. We often have a tendency to fore-shorten history and to ignore the middle bits. To jump straight from the time

*"The history of western astrology is inextricably linked with the history of the western church, as is the church's history with astrology today."*

of Claudius Ptolemy (in the 2nd century AD) to that of Alan Leo at the beginning of our own, as if the two had talked to each other over their back fence. A great many very important and very interesting things happened in those 1,800 years, and while it will obviously not be possible to condense almost two millennia of history into a short essay, I hope that at least something of value will be achieved and perhaps another perspective briefly opened up.

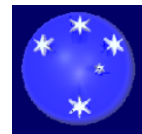
I also have a belief that the story of western astrology is often itself its own best defence against those who would criticise its practice as some strange, immoral, irreligious, or unnatural intrusion into our modern well-ordered society. There are of course no doubt some grounds for

reasonable and serious criticisms either of astrology or some of its practitioners, but that is another matter. A good, long, clean track record must always be a matter of merit, and should demand some serious consideration of the subject in question.

I would like to begin our journey about the beginning of the Christian era. This is not because of any religious perspective (although as we shall discover, it is in fact impossible to separate the history of western astrology from the life of the Church) but rather because this also represents a kind of gateway between ancient and modern astrology. By the commencement of the Christian era all the essential frameworks of astrology had been constructed and put to use: the intellectual zodiac itself, and the interpretive meaning of planets, aspects, signs, and houses.

Ancient observers and practitioners had perfected over a long period of time all those basic concepts and processes which underlie astrology today. Modern astrology can be viewed as a variety of attempts to refine and develop these structures, and one may reasonably argue that it was from this time that the peculiar character that is recognisably "western" was given to it, and which distinguishes it from other kinds of approaches that have taken place in other world cultures.

The Greeks overcame the Persian empire in the 4th century BC, and were in turn overwhelmed by the Romans about the year 60 BC. The Greeks had absorbed eagerly the astrological knowledge of the Chaldean empire over which they ruled, and the Romans themselves no less enthusiastically and quickly embraced this new wisdom from their Greek vassals. In this way the Chaldean astrological tradition entered the world of the Roman empire, where especially in the 2nd century AD it was to receive an enormous impetus from the writings of Ptolemy. And it is from this empire - for most practical purposes - that our present western culture has sprung.



This new wisdom immediately attracted a great following and had a significant influence upon those who moved in the upper levels of Roman society. Thus (for example) Cato forbade the overseer of his estates to consult “Chaldeans” (the then common term for astrologers) when making decisions that affected the management of his property, and the poet Juvenal cautioned his readers against consorting with a lady “who is always casting upon her ephemerides, who is so good an astrologer that she has ceased to consult and is already beginning to be consulted”. Had astrology not already established itself as a significant influence in society, there would have been no need to issue such cautions.

In 33 AD the emperor Augustus expelled all astrologers from Rome, through fear that they could provide his political opponents with unacceptable advantages. He himself was committed to the effectiveness of astrology, and had his birth sign (Capricorn) placed upon the coins which were struck during his reign. The edict itself appears to have had little effect, as astrology flourished openly in the metropolis. Pliny the Elder dealt with medical astrology in his *Natural History*, and the poets Horace and Manilius both eulogised it in verse.

*“Augustine argued that astrology was a delusion, and that when astrological predictions did in fact come to pass, this was “by chance and not by cunning”*

Claudius Ptolemy was born in Egypt in the year 100 AD, and lived most of his life at Alexandria. By the time of his death in 178 AD he had earned the title “The Divine Ptolemy”. His two greatest writings were the *Almagest* and the *Tetrabiblos*. The first consisted of a great astronomical treatise of thirteen books, which remained the mathematical basis of all astronomical calculation until the 17th century. The *Tetrabiblos* (or The Mathematical Treatise in Four Books) was a summation of astrological

knowledge to that time, augmented by his own mathematical genius and great learning.

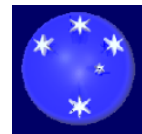
Its four parts outlined in great detail the casting of the horoscope, its interpretation, and techniques for prediction; not only for individuals but also with regard to the whole range of mundane issues that could be placed before an astrologer for consideration. Its influence was immense, and probably no other single writing has been of such importance in the history of astrology.

One branch of the new Christian faith at this time - known as Gnosticism - had itself an elaborate philosophical system which combined a Pythagorean understanding of the universe with astrological techniques to provide the believer with the required knowledge (or gnosis) to enter the heavenly spheres. More orthodox Christian views also espoused astrology. A writing called the *Clementine Recognitions* of the 3rd century AD held that the patriarch Abraham was an accomplished astrologer. In the next century Bishop Synesius of Ptolemais was an open supporter of astrology.

In the 4th century Christianity had two major rivals. One was a Persian cult called Mithraism and the other the newly arrived Asian faith of Manicheism. Both were permeated with astrological and symbolic traditions. Manicheism proved to be surprisingly long lived, and did not finally die out until the 12th century.

A devotee of Manicheism was a young man named Augustine. In 387 AD he was converted to Christianity and eventually became one of its most influential thinkers and theologians. Augustine developed a theology which was committed to the concept of human free will, and both because of this and because of his rejection of his old faith, he developed a trenchant opposition to astrological practices.

In Book Seven of his *Confessions* he developed the famous argument against astrology called the “Time Twins” problem. He quoted the example of the child of an estate’s master being



born at precisely the same time as the child of a slave. One child lived (as he said) “in the sunnier paths of the world”, while the other continued in his “mean position”. Since the two persons would have possessed the same horoscope and yet their lives obviously differed so markedly, Augustine argued that astrology was a delusion, and that when astrological predictions did in fact come to pass, this was “by chance and not by cunning”.

In his later writings however he admitted that it was indeed possible for an astrologer to predict some future event. However this was evidence of the devil himself working through the astrologer’s art, and not a demonstration of the effectiveness of the techniques themselves.

### Dymock’s Test – Solution E-14

Email Test E-14 is the woman’s house was totally burnt down. Nobody was hurt, except the dog who died and her husband who suffered mild injuries. All their belongings however were lost.

In the Age Harmonic Chart above the Dominant Feature is Pluto (the Destroyer, ruling the 4th House) conjunct the Moon.

Out of 14 respondents no one found the correct answer.

It was a difficult Test to pin down and thank you to those astrologers that sent the answer in.

The new email Test will be posted on 1st April with the answer posted on the 15th April to all Astrologers who attempted the Test.

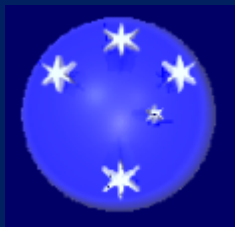
Augustine’s influence upon the early Church (which itself totally dominated the whole of society) was immense, and once he had pronounced against astrology there were few so daring or foolhardy as to speak for it. Nevertheless astrology itself was never formally proscribed by the Church and there were - here and there - a few able and honest scholars who sought to keep its knowledge alive in Europe.

*To be continued next month ...*



### Astro Words - Answers

<b>Answers</b>	
<b>Don't look yet!</b>	
Across	Down
4 Quintile	1 Mundane
6 Ephemeris	2 Leo
8 RAMC	3 Applying
9 Lilly	5 TP
10 Lunar	7 Astronomy
12 Decan	11 Neptune
17 ST	13 Gemini
18 GMT	14 Mutable
20 Ptolemaic	15 ET
21 UT	16 conjunct
22 IC	19 MC
23 Uranus	24 ST
25 LST	27 Air
26 Vertex	28 term
	29 SD



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