



Southern Star

Member Newsletter

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Gemini Edition 2014

Musings from the President's corner

By the time you read this I shall be in Italy absorbing culture until it runs out my pores! I am particularly looking forward to visiting Siena, as, having been brought up Catholic, St Catherine of Siena was my 'patron saint', and I loved the stories about her visions and other mystical experiences.

In the light of our current knowledge, we can work out that Catherine was anorexic and possibly schizophrenic. However, allowing her the magic of the understanding of the times, she was an amazing woman. In those patriarchal, brutal times – she lived in the 14th Century – she was an ambassador between warring Italian states, and it was she who led the delegation which brought the Pope back from Avignon to Rome. Her saintliness was widely known and greatly respected, and this enabled her to have great influence, despite her female sex.

We are sad to hear of the passing of Jenny Molnar, formerly a keen member of FAASA, who rarely missed a meeting. Many of you will remember her with great fondness. Jenny died last week in NSW. Vale, Jenny, and may you rest in peace

When the Pope returned to Rome, he bade her to move there as well, and she died there, probably of starvation, at the age of 33. An interesting age, astrologically and historically!

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What's On

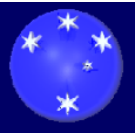
7 June, Saturday - **Allied Arts**

5 July, Saturday 10–4.30pm
Ed Tamplin, WORKSHOP

Sat 2nd August - Cate Whelan,
Life After 50

Sat 6th September – Martha
Adams, **Tarot and Astrology**

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Musings from the President continued ...

So Siena is calling me, along with other wonderful places in Italy. Our history in Australia is either ancient or relatively recent. I am looking forward to experiencing Roman and Italian culture, as well as beautiful countryside and fantastic food!

Our last meeting was a well-attended talk by Victorian astrologer Sara Gilbert, and she gave us an interesting look at natal charts containing unusual aspect patterns – in particular, the Grand Cross, the Star of David and the Mystic Rectangle.

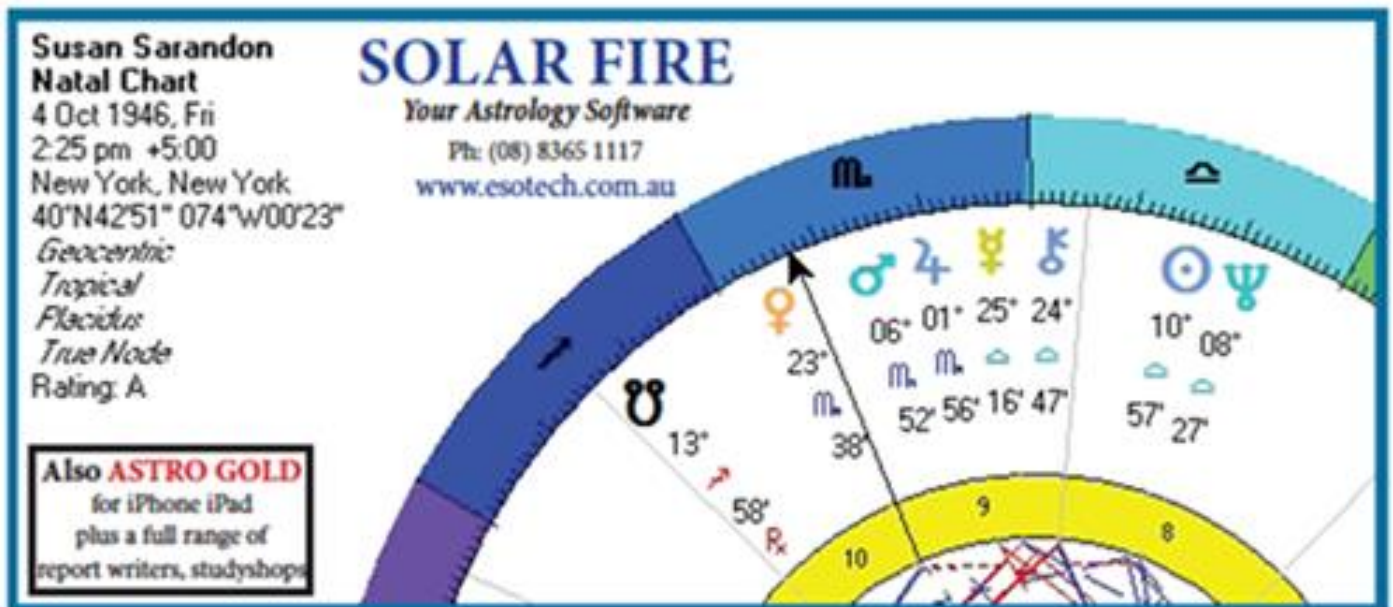
Our June meeting will be held in the UPSTAIRS room. Alice Portman will re-visit some of her predictions from the February meeting. Then

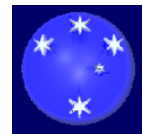
we have talks from two astrologers who also practise other esoteric arts – Numerology, and Australian Bush Flower healing. I'm sure it will be a most fascinating afternoon!

Don't forget our July Workshop with the wonderful Ed Tamplin. Early-bird bookings close at the June meeting, or make sure your cheque or bank transfer is received by Friday 6th June. The workshop begins at 10 am and includes plenty of refreshments as well as a hearty soup for lunch. And of course, the amazing wisdom of Ed Tamplin! I hope to see you there.

May love and laughter light your days

Cate





Next Meeting

A LOOK AT **ALLIED ARTS**



Kris Svendsen: Numerology

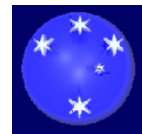
Explore the numbers in your birthdate that describe a thumbnail of personality and your potential life path; your personal year cycle; and check the correlation with planetary significance in your birth chart.



Anne Hamilton: Australian Bush Flower Remedies

The power of these essences is astounding. The main purpose is to help people to get in touch with their higher selves and to experience more clarity and quality in their life.

Alice Portman will also revisit some of her predictions from February



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.

\$8 Members, \$6 Concession Members and non-members \$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 7 June, 2 pm - Upstairs!

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



Sat 5 July, 10—4.30pm

Ed Tamplin, WORKSHOP

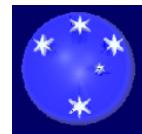
In this workshop, Ed will examine the planetary cycles that have led to current world events, and then go on to share his research on the Astrology of Belief and Behaviour. More details shortly!

Sat 2nd August – 2pm - Cate Whelan, **Life After 50**

Sat 6th September – 2pm - Martha Adams, **Tarot and Astrology**

Sat 11th October, AGM - Vivien Lowe **The Nuclear Industry**

Sat 1st November – 2pm - Joy Usher, **The Magic of Antiscia**



The Grand Cross: a Crucible for Change

By Mari Garcia

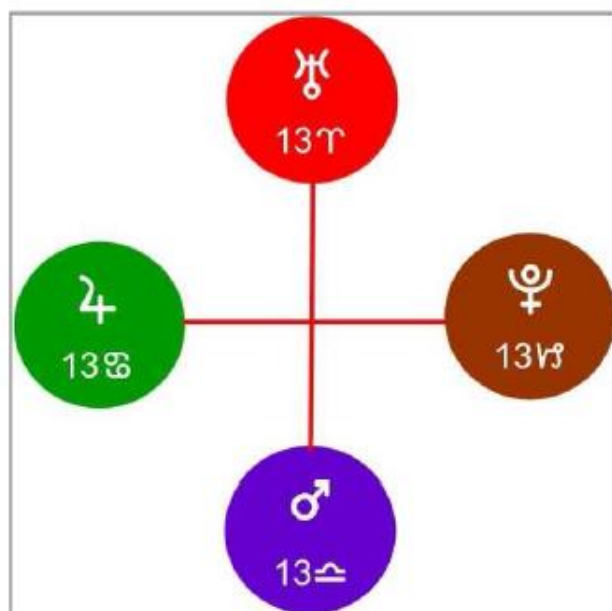
The Grand Cardinal Cross which has been slowly perfecting over the past few months, started with the fourth of seven Uranus-Pluto squares in November 2013, and then in December 2013 Jupiter, Pluto, Uranus and Mars came to within an 8 degree orb of each other. The background to this Cardinal Cross starts with the Uranus-Pluto square: its energy is about the destruction of old forms and attitudes. At some level there is anarchy or wilful destruction. The Oxford defines anarchy as:

"a state of society without government or law, lawlessness, disruption, turmoil, a lack of obedience to an authority; insubordination, confusion and disorder, chaos, disruption, turbulence; license; disorganization, disintegration"

The word derives from the Greek anarkhos, from an- 'without' + arkhos 'chief, ruler'. What we have then is a time that is without leadership or comes about as a lack of leadership. The force of Uranus Pluto is often felt as a sledgehammer or a cyclone, whose power crushes and sweeps aside masses of people, and involving individuals who, by choice or circumstance, are called to rise to the challenge of destiny or go through the wringer on the collective's behalf.

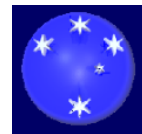
The contrast to this upheaval is resistance which most will adopt in the face of the overwhelming force that is the joined action of Uranus and Pluto – someone termed it a structure-buster. Together they can precipitate massive leaps in one fell swoop but often it can then take decades

to assimilate the outcomes. Uranus and Pluto do not automatically signify forward change. Often holes are blown in walls and bombs explode leaving us to respond to the acute options presented. One sector of society might take one path, and another sector might take another.



Uranus and Pluto have their own characteristic styles of creating resistance and entrenching conservatism. They can push people up against their greatest fears, exacerbating resistance to change by threatening insecurity, disaster or destruction.

The tension of the square is now being manifest as first Mars and then Jupiter joined the party so that the four planets – Uranus, Pluto, Mars and Jupiter will all be stationed at exactly 13 degrees of the Cardinal signs and becomes exact 23rd – 24th April 2014.



What can this potent configuration in the proactive Cardinal signs mean and how could we see it manifest in the world around us? As we have seen, the basis of the configuration is the Uranus- Pluto square suggesting that the roots of much that we will see has its origins forty years ago with the Uranus-Pluto conjunction of the mid-1960's. This signature was manifest in the upheavals and anti-establishment movements but also in the nascent activities of the peace and The environmental causes. It also set the foundations for the Middle East conflict and the tensions between the oil producing countries and first world nations such as the USA and Great Britain and Europe.

Uranus' resistances include the diversion of social energies. We have seen how populations have pushed for change in the past and how this momentum has been hijacked for other purposes. Putting together the nature of the square with the nature of the Uranus-Pluto energy we can say the following: this is a period where we will all be challenged to take action of some kind; a crumbling of old structures, and ruthless action to consolidate ideals. Massive waves of destruction and change will collide with entrenched resistance and conservatism on every side of the political, cultural and philosophical divide.

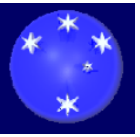
There are several other cycles which form part of this Cardinal Cross. One of them is the Jupiter-Pluto cycle which has a period of 12-14 years and which is at the opposition: it has a flavour of forward rushes of energy and an 'over the top' expression. There is also the overcoming resistance or inertia by rampant progress, breakout and invasion. It also has an overwhelming energy which may be experienced as a breaching of taboos or other types of limitations.

The other cycle is Jupiter-Uranus which has a period of 13-14 years and this is the waxing square and has the flavour of taking risky chances, changes of strategy, and making forward leaps. It suggests a certain movement forward which is full of innovation, youthful expression or agitation. There is also a certain flavour of breaking rules.

These three cycles all have some things in common which include breakdowns or overcoming resistance, change, and a sense of pushing things forward. The crucial element in all of this is Mars which performs the role of trigger-puller. As Mars moves into range and hits 13 degrees it triggers off all these energies and what we will possibly see is that the seeming impasse of certain issues or situations which will suddenly either find some resolution or break through the inertia.

If we consider the current matters which are on the world's agenda and which have been the subject of international concern or interest but which have in some way have either been delayed, hampered or obstructed:

Afghan Presidential Elections – held on 5th April it was widely hailed as a success, as there was little violence in the country's main cities. Over time, though, it's become clear there was widespread election-day violence in the countryside as well as numerous reports of fraud. Some members of the Afghan media have even admitted they downplayed problems to project the image of a triumphant election and failure by the Taliban to disrupt it. *The Cardinal Cross may be the catalyst that brings out the real results of this election especially what it will mean for the Afghan people. It will be pivotal one for Afghanistan, which has been in a state of war since American troops invaded in October 2001 in an attempt to oust the Taliban.*



MASTER CLASSES 2014

The Third in the Master Class Series of 2014 will be held on **SATURDAY 21st June** 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.

Planets East or West of the Sun: Does it Make a Difference?



As this is Master Class is set at the Solstice, it is a good idea to take some time to examine the relationship the other planets have to the Sun, according to where they are sitting on the Ecliptic. Whether a planet rises before or after the Sun was once considered to be of great significance, and thought to have great effect on how that planet performed in the chart.

Using examples, this Master Class looks at the difference between a planet being to the east of the Sun, known as oriental, or to the west of the Sun, called occidental.

For details on 'virtual attendance' or to enrol, contact us on **1800 003 517** or email 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



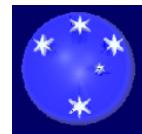
<http://www.astromundi.com/workshops.html>

or buy previous Master Classes on CD at <http://www.astromundi.com/bookshop.html>

Syrian Conflict - Syria's turmoil began with protests against President Bashar al-Assad's regime in March 2011 and a year and a half later, the International Red Cross formally declared the conflict a civil war. The international community has also stepped in and the human cost climbs as the fighting rages. The death toll now exceeds 100,000 and millions have fled their homes, seeking sanctuary either in neighbouring countries or elsewhere in their troubled country. The Obama administration has been wary of providing weapons to Syrian rebels, fearing they might see US-supplied arms fall into the hands of extremist groups. Opposition forces in Syria are bitterly divided. At times, they have killed each other. Some rebel groups are linked with al-Qaeda. *The situation in Syria has been a tug-of-war between rebel groups and government troops and the impact of the Cardinal Cross could see this impasse*

broken but the danger is how this will impact on the already traumatised citizenry. There is also the possibility that the conflict breaks borders and sparks spot fires in neighbouring countries.

Egypt - Months of demonstrations, clashes and bloodshed have left the country shaken and divided as a result of Mr Morsi falling out with key institutions and sectors of society, and was seen by many Egyptians as doing little to tackle economic and social problems. Egypt became polarised between his Islamist supporters and his opponents, who include leftists, liberals and secularists. *I think Egypt is part of the Middle East contagion which spread like wildfire during the 'Arab Spring' in 2011 and the issues which underpinned that are still rampant and the Cardinal Cross should fire up and swing the pendulum. The suggestion is that this may come as a surge and perhaps unleash a*



backlash which unseats Morsi. The result may be a descent into civil war and together with Syria, serve as a catalyst to an increased destabilisation of the Middle East.

Anniversary of the beginning of First World War

War – This year marks the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War One, which saw the debut of new strategies and weapons, from trench fighting and poison gas attacks to tank and air battles. It resulted in military and civilian deaths on a scale humanity had never experienced before - an estimated 16 million were killed and more than 21 million wounded. World War I collapsed empires, sowed the seeds of new ones and was short-sightedly described by some as “the war to end all wars.” *The impact of World War I was probably the true beginning of the 20th century and I believe that one of the crucial issues is the division between eastern and western Europe. The European ‘fault line’ i.e. the imaginary dividing line lies at approximately 15E longitude and the Cardinal Cross falls close to that degree. It will be interesting to see what issues which have lain simmering make their appearance again. This may be experienced as economic or financial concerns especially as the Cardinal Cross falls between two eclipses [15th April & 29th April]. The European economic crisis is far from over and the human cost of the crisis focuses on Greece, Cyprus, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Romania and Spain. In all of these countries, there is a deepening inequality with growing numbers suffering from poverty and social exclusion. Berlin, capital of Germany and economic powerhouse of Europe will probably be in the limelight as it was on its insistence that the EU take strong steps on debt reduction in these countries. A question of ‘haves’ and ‘have nots’ will possibly be the catalyst for change and/or unrest especially centred on EU and IMF policies.*

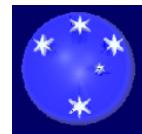
25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall -

A quarter of a century ago, citizens in East and West Germany cheered the toppling of the Berlin Wall, a potent symbol of cold war conflict that ran like a giant incision splitting the city on ideological, political and financial premises.

Berlin is again in the picture with its position on the fault line and there are many who feel that the post-unification Germany is still a country of two populations. Germany is also the economic giant of Europe and wields some impressive influence in the EU however it will also be looking at the rise of Russia and the Crimea situation as this has echoes of the USSR’s strong arm tactics in creating the Eastern European bloc of countries and its physical manifestation in the Berlin Wall.

In summary, this Cardinal Cross will be the litmus test of the policies that have underpinned modern political movements. Post World War II, the UN has been a major player in many of the world’s trouble spots and the UN Security Council has provided a forum for nations to make claims and counter-claims. However, this is being undermined as Russia holds the Chair position and is unlikely to sanction its own moves towards ‘protecting’ ethnic Russians from supposed oppression. This is a very similar argument used by Germany in justifying its attack on Serbia during World War I and Russia’s counter-claims in protecting the Serbians against German aggression, Hitler’s claims to the Sudetenland and Alsace-Lorraine leading up to World War II, China’s occupation of Tibet in the 1950’s and Israel’s claims on the West bank.

The UK and the USA will also have to manage the overwhelming waves of change that are crashing on their political and economic shores. The impact of the GFC continues and the economic climate in the US has not had the



significant improvement that the Government would have liked despite the stimulus packages. Additionally, the mid-term Senate elections will be a hard fought one with the conservative forces looking to establish a greater stronghold in Congress.

The UK will have to deal with the Scottish vote for independence as well as challenges to the role of the monarchy. The EU will also figure in many of the issues especially the perceived influence Brussels has on the UK economy generally and agriculture and immigration particularly. Both the legal and illegal wave of EU foreign workers and refugees continues to create resentment and anger amongst Britons demanding changes to existing EU treaties.

Other impacts of the Cardinal Cross will intensify the pulse of the times which is already heated and intense and we will see some major shifts met by equally fierce opposition. As it is occurring in cardinal signs, the expectation is that the energy will be proactive, but also

ruthless on both sides of the equation. On the personal level, this will certainly mean that those with planets at 13 degrees of the cardinal signs will personify the energy in their lives, pushing them to take risks, act on, or move to initiate matters in their lives. Perhaps the most important thing to remember

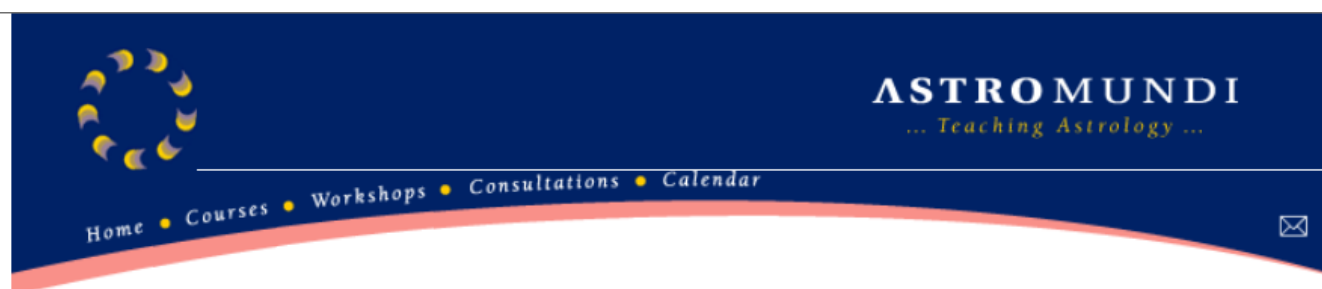
is that the action we take now is not just an immediate reaction but rather has had its roots in our lives for a few years. It's impact will be felt for many years to come.

Mari Garcia

19 April 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 as well as special interest workshops. Mari can be contacted on 08 8562 8358 or check out the website at www.astromundi.com*

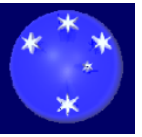


Workshops

Astro Mundi hosts workshops, Master Classes, retreats and seminars featuring its principals, Joy Usher and Mari Garcia as well as of some of today's respected astrologers, scholars and practitioners.

In 2014, we again offer a varied programme and we hope you can join us for one or more of these events.

ALL WELCOME



A Brief History Of Western Astrology – Part 3

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

1988

By the 15th century debate about the appropriateness of astrology had ceased entirely. For both Church and State it had become the accepted basis of western society and thought, and for the next two hundred years it totally dominated every aspect of life. From parish priest to Pope, none questioned the efficacy of astrological techniques. Pope Leo X prided himself that during his pontificate art and astrology especially flourished. His successor Pope Paul III refused to hold a consistory with his cardinals until the date and time had been chosen by his astrologer.

The names of many of the astrologers of this time are still familiar today, which suggests something of the awe with which they must have been held in their own time. Johannes Muller (using the name Regiomontanus) was professor of astrology at Vienna. Michael Nostradamus was astrologer to Catherine de Medici. Some time ago in a local supermarket I came across a paperback copy of Paracelsus' book *Natural Philosophy*. Jerome Cardan was held to be the greatest astrologer of his age. Cornelius Agrippa was employed in 1520 by the Queen Mother of France to be her personal astrologer, and his considerable correspondence with the great scholars of his day is still extant

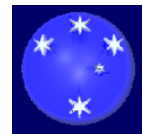
In England there were two royal astrologers during the last years of the House of Tudor. The first was Nicholas Kratzer, who was astrologer

to King Henry VIII. However the most famous was the court astrologer to Elizabeth I, John Dee.

Dee was invited to calculate the horoscope of Mary Tudor when she became queen, and later performed a similar service for Elizabeth. At her request, he chose her coronation date of 15th January 1559. Dee's own diaries record the many informal visits of Elizabeth to his house in Mortlake, and their conversations about mathematics and astrology. Unhappily Dee also dabbled in other less acceptable studies, and his victimisation by his unscrupulous assistant Kelly makes sad reading.

There are two other important names in the 16th century. The first is Nicholas Copernicus, who revived the Pythagorean view that the sun was fixed and that the earth and other planets revolved about it. This was really a mathematical rather than an astronomical concept, as Copernicus was searching for a simpler system for calculating planetary positions than the very complicated one of Ptolemy which was still in use after sixteen hundred years. However Copernicus' writings were not published until after his death in 1543 for fear of the Church's reaction.

Tycho Brahe was the most accurate observational astronomer since Hipparchus in the 2nd century BC. His tables of the movement of Mars were to become the basis of Johannes Kepler's later work.



Brahe was a quite extra-ordinary person. He had lost his nose in a duel when twenty years old, and there after wore a gold replacement. He rejected the Copernican view of a sun centred system, and was a fine astrologer. He wrote that “astrology is not a delusive science when kept within the bounds and not abused by ignorant people”.

Johannes Kepler was born in Weil der Stadt, Germany, on 27th December 1571 at 4.37 am, as he recorded in the calculations for his own horoscope, after “a pregnancy lasting 224 days 9 hours and 53 minutes”. When he died in 1630 his contributions to astronomical knowledge probably exceeded that of any single person in history. He is remembered today chiefly for his Three Laws of Planetary Motion, formulated between 1602 and 1619.

Today’s folk-lore tends to portray Kepler as the first of the great modern scientists, brushing away the darkness of the ages which had preceded him. He certainly did not see his work in that way himself. His great goal in life - reflected in his major work *Harmonicis Mundi* - was to construct a grand harmony of all things, divine, celestial, and terrestrial. His mathematical theories were some of the tools for this process; a process in which astrology also played a key role.

Galileo Galilei was in one sense more important than Kepler; not because of his contributions to knowledge so much as that he became the unwitting catalyst to a point of view which had a profound effect upon the western world. He was born seven years before Kepler and died twelve years after. Galilei in many ways got caught up in a series of events which were not of his making, and certainly not of his choosing.

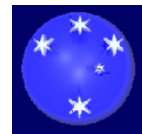
In 1604 he published a book on the Law of Free Fall. In this he was able to treat a falling body in mathematical isolation from its surroundings, which properly places him at the beginning of that line of scientific theory and practice which seeks to separate the part from the whole in order to study and explore it. However it was the publication of his observations through his telescope of the lunar surface, of sun spots, and of the Jovian moons which aroused the anxiety of the Church.

By 1611 his friend Cardinal Bellarmine was becoming increasingly concerned about the implications to scriptural authority of these discoveries. In 1616 Galilei clashed with the Jesuits whom were staunchly Aristotelian and upheld a geocentric universe.

In 1621 Kepler published his *Handbook of Copernican Astronomy* which the Vatican promptly banned. However the next year Urban VIII was elected Pope. He was a liberal man, and thus there was hope that attitudes might soften. He was also a practising astrologer, who amused himself by predicting the date of the deaths of his own cardinals. When one aging cardinal returned the compliment by hiring an astrologer to predict the Pope’s own death, Urban failed to see the joke. He issued a Bull forbidding the astrological practice of predicting the deaths of popes, princes, and members of their families. Cardinals were not apparently included.

Galilei, incidentally, was also himself a profession astrologer who was employed by the Grand Duke of Tuscany.

Galilei published his *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems* in 1632, which argued strongly for a helio centred system. For a variety of reasons - not the least being that Kelper on



whose work Galilei's arguments were based was a Protestant - Galilei was immediately summoned to Rome and told to abjure his works. The rest is pretty well known I suspect.

Probably the true successor to Kepler was Isaac Newton. In his work *Principia* published in 1687 his statement of the Gravitational Laws provided the physical dynamics for Kepler's mathematical propositions. But also like Kepler, Newton sought to find the great unifying principles of natural experience. He wrote extensively on philosophy and religion, and while there is no direct evidence that he was involved in the practice of astrology, he did have an extensive correspondence with John Flamsteed. Flamsteed was the first Astronomer Royal, and also a competent astrologer. He erected the electional chart for laying the foundation stone of the Greenwich Observatory, so it is highly probable that Newton would have discussed astrology with his good friend.

Never-the-less it was Newton's Gravitational Laws which appeared to provide a rationale for the neglect of astrology. These laws seemed to demonstrate that the direct physical influence through gravitational forces upon the earth by any planet would be so minimal that their effect upon any individual would not be measurable. Astrology could therefore be spurned as an unscientific foolishness.

However I think that we would be wrong to believe that astrology declined in the western world because there had been discovered physical laws which apparently demonstrated its incorrectness. Rather, western Christian society had changed its mind about astrology and cast about to find a justification for this new point of view.

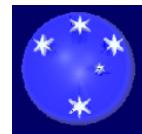
Western religion was breaking up into the partisan bickerings of the Protestant revolution, and western society was re-aligning itself into the many isolated and separate states which finally defined the borders of present day Europe.

Astrology offered a philosophy of life which was built upon concepts of unity and coherence and purpose. This was not what western society wanted to hear. What it wanted was a philosophy that could justify division, separation, and self interest. The philosophy of deductive science offered just this.

This can be seen no more clearly than in the manner in which we still treat the writings of those two men whom we uphold as the fathers of western science: Johannes Kepler and Isaac Newton. We exult and praise their mathematical and scientific insights, but totally ignore all that they wrote about that great and harmonious framework which they believed their work enlightened, and which they saw as the ultimate goal and crown of their labours.

Of course astrology did not die over night in western society. Jean Baptiste Morin was astrologer to Cardinal Richelieu in the 17th century. At Padua Placidus de Tito was professor of mathematics, and devised that house system which is still favoured today by many astrologers. In 1666 William Lilly in England was summoned before parliament because of the accuracy of his predictions concerning the Great Plague in 1665 and then the Great Fire of London in the following year. Presumably this was because that while one cannot generally start a plague, one may well light a fire.

In England the bell tolling end of astrology was probably sounded by Jonathan Swift's satirical



attack upon an astrological almanac publisher named John Partridge.

Using the pen-name Isaac Bickerstaff, Swift wrote a pamphlet entitled *Predictions for the Year 1708* in which he predicted Partridge's death. After the appointed day for this event had passed (and John Partridge was still in good health) Swift wrote another pamphlet *An Account of the Death of Mr. Partridge, Almanack Maker, Upon the 29th Instant, in a Letter from a Revenue Officer to a Person of Honour*. Partridge's life became intolerable, and his name was even removed from the roll of the Stationers' Hall. The death of astrology came not at the hands of science but of satire.

Astrology simply fell out of fashion. A few almanac writers plied a tiny trade and their works were purchased largely by poorer agricultural workers, but for the next one hundred and fifty years there were few people of any intellectual standing who gave it even a passing glance.

The first signs of renewed life came in the 1850's when R.J. Morrison (using the name Zadkiel) published an almanac, re-issued some of the writings of William Lilly, and adapted the nautical ephemerides for the use of astrologers wishing to cast an horoscope.

In 1875 the incredible Madame Blavatsky launched her Theosophical Society in New York. Her two books - *Isis Unveiled* and *The Secret Doctrine* - not only drew extensively upon eastern religious ideas, but also relied quite heavily upon astrological concepts.

This had two effects upon the study of astrology. Firstly the new cult provided it with a social acceptance which had been lacking for almost two centuries. Occultism, eastern mysticism,

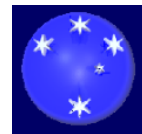
and the exciting and esoteric ethos of the Theosophical Society had a strong appeal to a large number of people who had discovered the emptiness of living in a society which lacked a great philosophical framework by which to interpret its experiences. With the patronage of Madame Blavatsky and the Theosophical Society, astrology could be seen as one part of an intellectually exciting new age.

Secondly, through her links with eastern thought Madame Blavatsky was able to solve what was then considered to be a great intellectual problem confronting astrology.

The planet Uranus had been discovered in 1781, thereby destroying the ancient seven fold structure of astrology, with its seven heavenly bodies determining human destiny. In 1846 yet another planet - Neptune - was identified. These discoveries appeared to throw into confusion the whole astrological tradition.

Madame Blavatsky pointed out that Indian astrology in fact postulated no less than twelve planets, thus so far from being dismayed by these new discoveries, astrologers should on the contrary be delighted with these new tools at their disposal. The visible planets had governed the ancient world, but for a new age it was appropriate that new ones should be revealed.

However Madame Blavatsky - and her successor Annie Besant - were far too busy with the running of their Society to be concerned about the development of astrology. They needed an official astrologer, and William Frederick Allen was more than happy to fulfil this role. Writing under the name of Alan Leo, his works are still popular today. Thus it was that under the impetus of Alan Leo and his less well known contemporary Walter Gorn-Old (who called



himself Sepherial) astrology was reborn in the 20th century in western society.

That it re-emerged not as the proud successor of the highest culmination of western intellectual endeavour, but as the foster child of eastern mysticism and occult interest, has of course had a profound effect upon the way that its rebirth has been accepted and viewed by certain sections of our society today. Certainly for many parts of the Church it has once more been condemned (as it was some fourteen hundred years ago) by its perceived associations and origins rather than by any serious consideration of its content.

But that is another story. And since those who have contributed to astrology's regrowth since the work of Alan Leo and Sepherial really belong to a time too recent to be decently called history; it is probably appropriate at this point to draw our journey to a close.

We have glimpsed some who were giants in their own generation, and whose names even today are still given respect. They may indeed at times have walked a solitary pathway through the desert, but what mighty travellers they were.



Southern Star

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Submissions: All articles and advertisements are to be submitted in word format (preferred) to the Editor via email by the 12th day of each month.

Disclaimer: The Editor reserves the right to edit or refuse submissions to the newsletter. The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Federation of Australian Astrologers or the Southern Star Editor

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