

Transit

THE ASTROLOGER'S NEWSLETTER

January 2004

Welcome to the January issue of *Transit*. I'm sad to say that this is the final time I shall be editing *Transit*. Pressure of work has meant that I can no longer devote the time needed to produce each issue. I'd like to take the opportunity to express my thanks to all of you who have contributed articles over the last couple of years and hope that many of you will continue to do so. Also thank you to those who have written to me privately with your comments and ideas. I was particularly delighted to receive five thank you notes within two hours of the last issue of *Transit* going online!

I'd especially like to thank Jenni Dean Harte for writing for *Transit* for six years without a break, and hope that we shall see her work again soon; David Meadows for reliably sending in his data section, always well in advance of deadline; Deborah Houlding, Claire Chandler and Garry Phillipson for dropping everything in order to respond to a request for copy NOW on several occasions and Russ Chandler, who has stoically put up with my bi-monthly *Transit* panics for the last couple of years and dealt with all matters that require a computer brain. At the time of writing I don't know who the new editor will be, but I'm sure that you will join me in welcoming them warmly.

Those of you who like to look ahead may already be aware about Venus crossing the face of the Sun on June 8, 2004. Transits of Venus across the disk of the Sun are amongst the rarest of planetary alignments. Only six have occurred since the invention of the telescope (1631, 1639, 1761, 1769, 1874 and 1882). You can find out more about the astronomy of this at <http://sunearth.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse/transit/venus0412.html%20>, Nasa's website.

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of Kt Boehrer, The Declination Lady. Kt died on 3 January at 8:30 am in Seattle, US after a period of ill health. (*Note: we originally quoted 4 January as the date of death. Ed.*) She was born 25 September 1923 at 8:27:14 in Waco, Texas. Kt began to study astrology from about three years of age and never stopped. She was qualified as a medical technologist and was also a student of Ivy Goldstein Jacobson for twenty five years. A practicing astrologer who devoted 18 hours a day to her astrology practice for 25 years, her work was abruptly terminated while she took time off to deal with cancer. In seeking more certainty from her astrology, Kt began to work with declination, establishing the concept of out of bounds planets - those beyond the ecliptic by declination. This led to her book, *Declination: The Other Dimension*, being published in 1994. She was also the author of *Life Numbers*, 1988, a focus on Cabalistic Numerology.

Kt was well known for her contributions on a number of astrology lists and will be sorely missed by astrologers the world over. Her daughter, Suzi Seely, has set up a hotmail account for anyone who knew Kt and would like to offer their condolences to her family or share their memories of Kt at declinationkid@hotmail.com. Suzi is also planning to set up a memorial website in the near future.

I hope that you enjoy reading this issue and look forward to reading *Transit* alongside you in the future.

The Beagle has Landed by Chris Mitchell

2003 was the year that Mars hit the headlines.

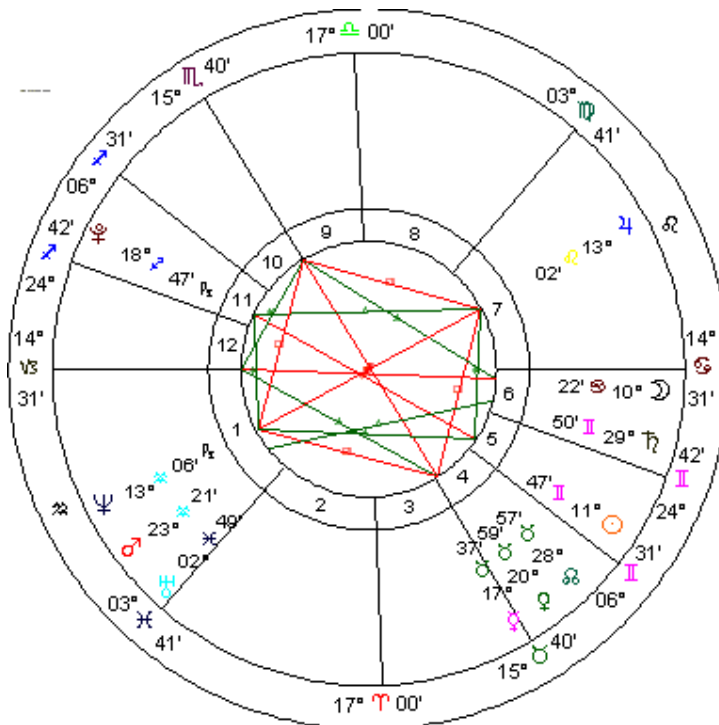
The red planet dominated our skies from September onwards as it made its closest approach to Earth in almost 60,000 years, and scientists took advantage of this fact to launch a total of three probes all with the same mission - to see if there is life on Mars.

The first probe - called Mars Express - was launched by the European Space Agency (ESA) and carried the Beagle 2 probe developed by flamboyant Bristolian scientist Colin Pillinger, and built on a shoe-string budget. This probe landed on Christmas Day, but sadly has at the time of writing (6 January 2004) failed to send back any signals. There is still a final chance, but hopes are fading fast.

NASA launched two probes - Mars Spirit, which landed on 4 January 2004, and Mars Opportunity, due to land later in January. Mars Spirit has so far been very successful, and has already sent its first pictures back to Earth.

Looking at the launch charts, the charts of both the NASA probes are quite spectacular - and one can only assume that NASA employ better astrologers than ESA!

Beagle 2 / Mars Express



Launched: 2 June 2003,
23:45:28 Local time
17:45:28 GMT). Location:
Baikonur Cosmodrome,
Kazakhstan (47N50, 66E03).
(chart left)

June 2003 had that troublesome Jupiter/Neptune opposition, which can represent false hopes - which sadly seems to be the case for Beagle 2. Not only that, but Chiron is closely conjunct the Ascendant. Mars is going to be a key player in this chart, obviously - and he's square to Venus, which doesn't bode well. On the plus side, at least Mars is trine to Saturn - a handy placement for a scientific mission - and

Jupiter is trine to Pluto, which would be highly relevant were we to discover life on Mars, an event that would truly transform our scientific understanding and finally answer the question that is as old as humanity itself: "are we alone?"

Landed: 25 December 2003, 02:54 GMT. Location: Mars. Sun: 2Cap53.

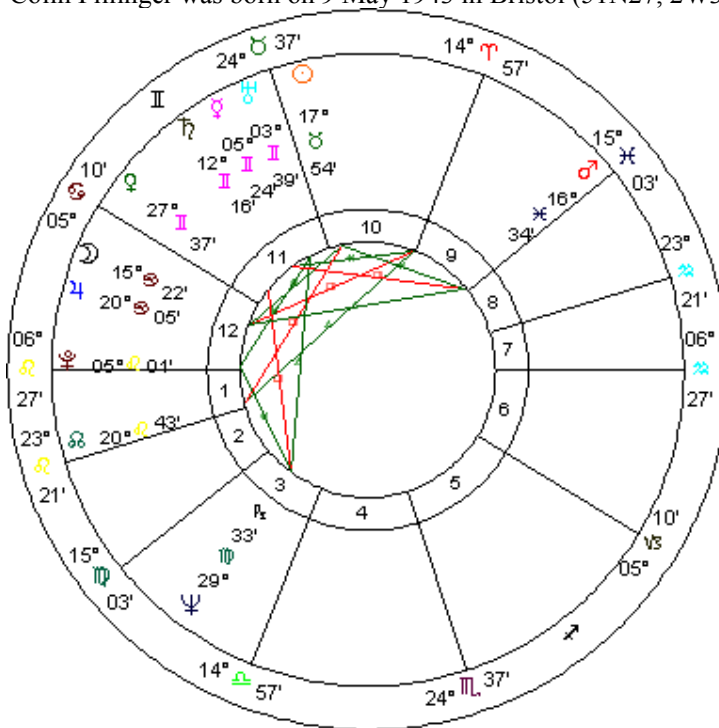
Looking at the geocentric chart, we have very few hopeful aspects. Mars is forming a T-square with Saturn and the Sun, and Jupiter has moved away from that hopeful trine to Pluto and is now squaring it instead. Saturn is opposing Mercury and the Sun. The only positive feature is Mars making a sextile to Venus.

However, Beagle 2 isn't on Earth - it's on Mars; so let's take a look at a Mars-centred chart:

Earth: 5Lib02 Mercury: 8Sco47 Venus: 16Sag45 Jupiter: 21Vir31 Saturn: 17Can37 Uranus: 28Aqu02 Neptune: 9Aqu52 Pluto: 18Sag24

This at least offers some ray of hope - Earth, Beagle's home, is trining Neptune, so maybe the idealism of the venture wasn't entirely unfounded. The Sun is closely trining Saturn, a signature of a successful scientific mission. Even shifting the focus from Earth to Mars doesn't get rid of that troublesome Jupiter/Pluto square which may mean that the hoped for scientific revolution heralded by finding life on Mars won't be easy on this particular mission, and the Mercury square to Neptune can frustrate the dream of successful communication - but whether Beagle finds life on Mars or not, this mission has been a success in many respects. We'll have to wait and see if Beagle 2 delivers the goods, but whatever happens it appears that the government are prepared to consider a Beagle 3. It has put Britain on the map in terms of space exploration, and Colin Pillinger's ability to create a probe on a ludicrously small budget, and successfully send it to another planet is an achievement well worth applauding.

Colin Pillinger was born on 9 May 1943 in Bristol (51N27, 2W36) (noon chart) but we don't



have a birth time. He has a Mercury/Uranus conjunction (it seems quite a few scientists do), Mars trine Jupiter, and probably a Moon/Mars conjunction too unless he was born very early in the day. On the day that Beagle 2 landed, he had transiting Mars trining his Pluto, transiting Uranus trining his Venus, transiting Mars making a sextile to his Uranus/Mercury conjunction and transiting Jupiter opposite Mars. Not a bad chart to have on the day - and although the charts for Beagle's launch and landing are both quite troublesome by themselves, this mission has nevertheless made

Colin Pillinger a household name, and whatever the outcome will certainly be a big boost to his career.

Colin Pillinger has a reputation for being someone who can't be bothered with bureaucracy and just rolls up his shirt sleeves and gets on with the job. An official at ESA when

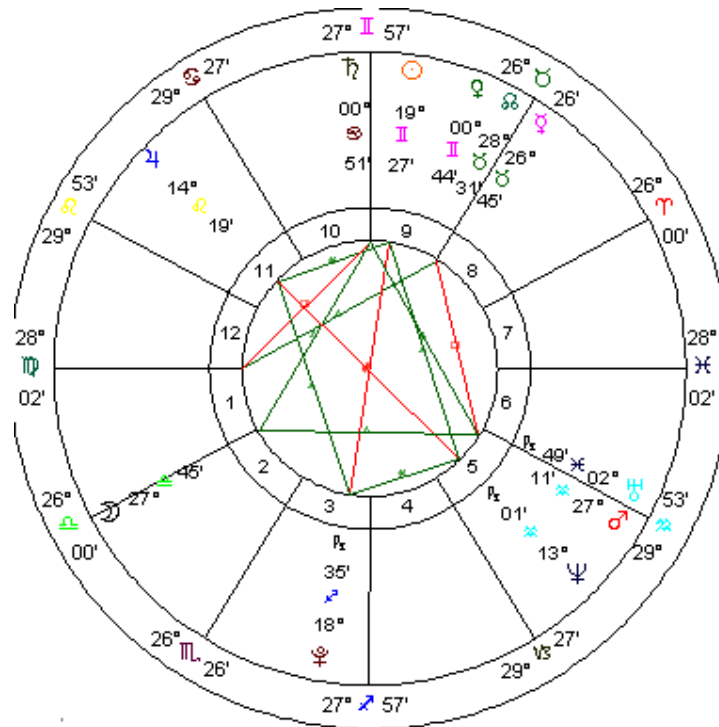
interviewed said, rather tongue-in-cheek, "Colin is not a reasonable man. If he was a reasonable man, he would never have undertaken the project in the first place!". His determination to see the project through shows up not only in his chart, but in the fixed stars too: looking at parans to Mars, he has Betelgeuse rising as Mars is culminating, which Bernadette Brady describes as "The courage to undertake large and painstaking projects", Acumen culminating as Mars is rising ("Motivated to act even in the face of hardship or negative social opinion"), Sirius setting with Mars on the nadir ("Dedication which leads to brilliance; very strong focus") and Zosmar on the nadir as Mars is culminating ("To work in impossible, or extremely difficult, circumstances") - all of which sum up Colin Pillinger perfectly!

(Fixed star interpretations are from the Starlight program, www.zyntara.com)

Mars Spirit

Launched: 10 June 2003 13:58:47 EDT (17:58:47 GMT).
Location: Cape Canaveral, Florida (28N24, 80W36).

In contrast to the troubled chart of Beagle 2 / Mars Express's launch, this chart has a magnificent Grand Trine. Saturn is on the MC, trining a Mars/Uranus conjunction, trining the Moon, and the Ascendant is making a trine to the Venus/Mercury conjunction. Of course, the sometimes deceptive Jupiter/Neptune opposition is still there as it was for Beagle's launch chart, together with the Jupiter trine to Pluto, and Mars does square the Venus/Mercury conjunction - but still not a bad looking chart.



Landed: 4 Jan 2004 04:35 GMT. Location: Mars. Sun: 13Cap09.

Like the Beagle landing chart, we still have the troublesome Mars-Saturn-Sun T-square, and Jupiter square to Pluto. However, take a look at the Mars-centred chart:

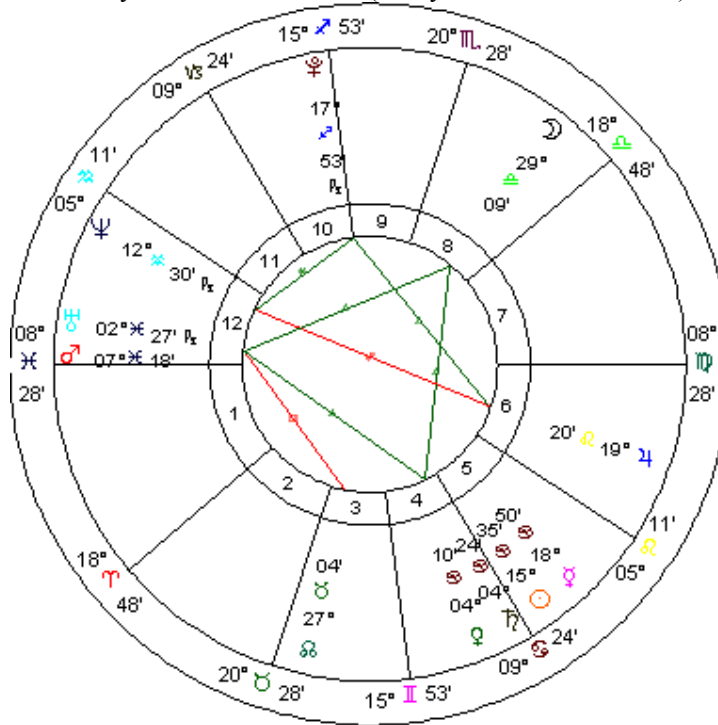
Earth: 11Lib06 Sun: 22Sco46 Mercury: 9Sco51 Venus: 20Sag58 Jupiter: 23Vir01
Saturn: 17Can34 Uranus: 28Aqu03 Neptune: 9Aqu57 Pluto: 18Sag41

Like the Beagle landing chart, we have Earth trining Neptune, and Saturn trining the Sun (though a wider trine this time). However, this time Saturn also trines Mercury, which bodes far better for getting communication back from the probe - and no-one can deny that the initial pictures back have been a great success.

Mars Opportunity

Mars Opportunity is the second of the Mars probes launched by NASA, a month after Mars Spirit. It is scheduled to land on Mars on 24 January.

Launch: 7 July 2003 23:18:25 EDT (8 July 2003 03:18:25 GMT). Location: Cape Canaveral, Florida (28N24, 80W36).



Well - what a chart! Another Grand Trine, and what's more - Mars is just one degree away from the Ascendant, while Pluto is on the MC. Like the earlier launch, Mars is still conjunct Uranus, and trining a very close Venus/Saturn conjunction, trining the Moon. There's not a single square in sight - although one possibly worrying aspect is the Void of Course Moon at 29Lib10.

Expected Landing: 25 January 2004 05:05 GMT. Location: Mars. Sun: 4Aqu33.

The Mars-centred chart looks like this:

Earth: 24Lib10 Sun: 4Sag12 Mercury: 29Sco29 Venus: 23Sag30 Jupiter: 25Vir57 Saturn: 17Can12 Uranus: 28Aqu12 Neptune: 10Aqu12 Pluto: 19Sag18

This time we have Earth trining Uranus, and Jupiter trining Mercury, but here the fly in the ointment is Saturn squaring Earth, Jupiter squaring Venus and Uranus squaring Mercury - the latter being a particular worrying aspect considering the whole purpose of the mission is about communication!

So will the actual landing live up to the promise of the launch chart? We'll find out very soon!

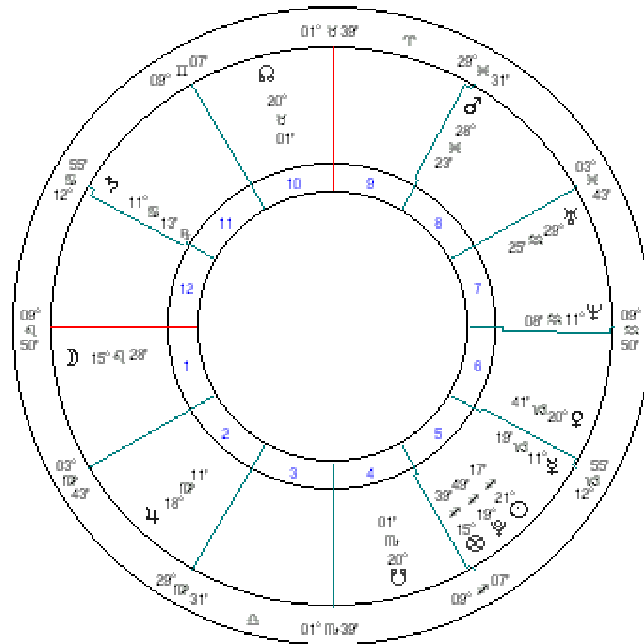
Saddam Capture by Deborah Houlding

Saddam captured: 13 Dec 2003 8:30 pm Local Time Adwar, Iraq (a few miles from Tikrit 34 N 36 / 43 E 42)

After a lengthy period of evasion, ex-Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was finally captured by allied troops on 13th December, 2003. The image of the once powerful leader cowering in a

dirty hole in the ground has been parodied around the world as a telling reflection on the current status of a man who wielded terrifying supremacy and power for decades.

The event chart set for the moment of capture was certainly descriptive of Saddam's downcast position as he was taken into custody, and clear in its indications of 'perfection' for the allies. After many disappointing near-misses and false leads, the allies appeared to have the ideal blend of reliable information and good fortune in a course of action whose astrological timing couldn't have been elected with better promise of success.



Leo rises so, as the initiators of the action, the allies are signified by the Sun, the mythological exposor of secrets and revealer of mysteries. Located in the fortunate 5th house, its conjunction with Pluto describes determination and applied-will to pursue objectives against all resistance. The Moon signifies the action, the will of the people, and the flow of events. It rises in the ascendant showing support and favour for the allies, and is moving away from the opposition of Neptune on the descendant,

describing blighted attempts to pin down the elusive enemy in the past. The Moon then applies directly to the trine of the Pluto-Sun conjunction, located in the house known as 'good fortune' to the ancients, dispoised by Jupiter, which falls neatly on the trine of Venus. Indications of good fortune and lucky breaks don't come much clearer than that and one imagines that with the 5th house ruling *pleasure, delight and merriment* (Christian Astrology, p.53) a few cups were raised in celebration later that day.

As the fugitive enemy Saddam is signified by Saturn, ruler of the 7th house. Retrograde and in detriment in the 12th house (captured, restrained and banished persons), Saturn is afflicted by the recent opposition of Mercury in the turned 12th. A friend turned informant against him? The capture was the result of "a combination of human intelligence tips, exceptional intelligence analytical efforts and detainee interrogations" according to the allied forces' report. Saturn is void of course apart from the inconjunct aspect to Neptune and the 7th house cusp, bringing him personal disappointment and disillusionment. It is dispoised by the Moon which applies to the Sun suggesting that those whose favours were being employed at his hideout were involved in supplying intelligence reports to the allies.

Saturn, when it lacks dignity, describes dirty, dusty, impoverished conditions and a fall from honour and standing. In its sign of detriment it indicates low status, 'down and outs' and the lower regions of society. The places that it rules include those that are dark, damp, dirty, cold or subject to decay and rot. These include remote, desolate, uninhabited places and landscape features that decline into the earth such as mines, wells, caves, or 'holes'.

Denoted by Saturn in this event chart, Saddam acts as an archetypal portrayal of Lilly's Significations of Saturn (Christian Astrology, p.57). It is not without relevance that the degree of Saturn in this chart catches the midheaven of the chart drawn for the moment his

monument was toppled in Baghdad on April 9th. Although taken as a symbolic moment for the collapse of his power, that chart still described him as exalted and powerful in public consciousness. Here Saturn has shown the true collapse - the image of Saddam looking dirty, old, dishevelled and disheartened, along with captions of his lowly retreat, will surely be committed to lasting memory as a final testimony upon his fall from grace.

But will the capture of Saddam be the end of his legacy of international strife? Unfortunately Mars on the cusp of the 9th house suggests that the arrest and any subsequent trial could prove to be a focus for more conflict amongst the international community. Saturn remains retrograde until March 2004 and returns to the opposition of this event chart Mercury in late May, when we might expect any damage from unsavoury international secrets to reveal its full potential. Whilst Mercury rules Saddam's 9th house of legal matters, Mars stands in opposition promising more controversy and division. Since Mercury rules Saddam's turned 8th house, the prospect of a judicial death sentence seems very likely.

Saddam monument toppled: 9 April 2003 10:48 am EDT (+4hrs) Baghdad Iraq

Funding Sought for Astrological Film by Adel Ather

I'm looking to develop a film that promotes the ideas of Eastern Spirituality, particularly Astrology. The film is going to be titled the "Astrological Voyager". While the film is an entertaining drama, it's meant to help instigate and promote the ideas of Eastern Astrology.

Currently, the film is in a pre-production stage, with the financing for the project being raised. The film will be filmed in Toronto, Ontario, Canada during mid 2004. My other body of work includes developing Action Martial Art films - which will also be an integral part of the film.

My reason for writing this is in order for the film to be realised - it needs financing. I have applied to other film funding institutions for the project, but the assistance of any will help.

I'm trying to raise a fund amongst the Astrological community to help donate to the project. Any amount is appreciated in the realization of the film; as it does not require a massive budget comparatively (to other films) to be realised. This includes donations from up to \$50 to \$1000. And any donations can be written off on your taxes as a 'charity' - giving your organisation an opportunity for a tax break. My latest film had been developed on a very low budget yet maintained professional quality.

In addition I'm looking for interested sponsors from astrological associations. The funding assistance could include advertising of their association on the DVD copy of the film. In addition speakers from that particular association could be filmed to speak about Astrology. This could be added to the additional features of the DVD.

While the DVD market is one of the avenues for the film to be distributed, it will also be played at film festivals. A 15 min short version of the film (The original will be 93 minutes) will also be created for Internet Distribution. This is to entice viewers to acquire the full version.

To interested affiliate partners of the project, a full script and treatment is available for discussion.

Collectively we can raise the true awareness of Astrology and bring it back into our social respectability beyond the awareness of "Sun sign horoscopes". Many do not understand our beloved art, and we owe it to ourselves to present its beauty to others. Unfortunately in today's intellectually lazy society where we want fast answers, the 'surface level' medias catch people's attention. This is one reason for Sun Sign newspaper popularity, as it is easily digestible and understandable. Therefore a dramatic film will help to spark interest to others whom have a vague understanding of the art - and in the right direction.

If you are interested in partnering with the project please contact me at adelather@yahoo.com

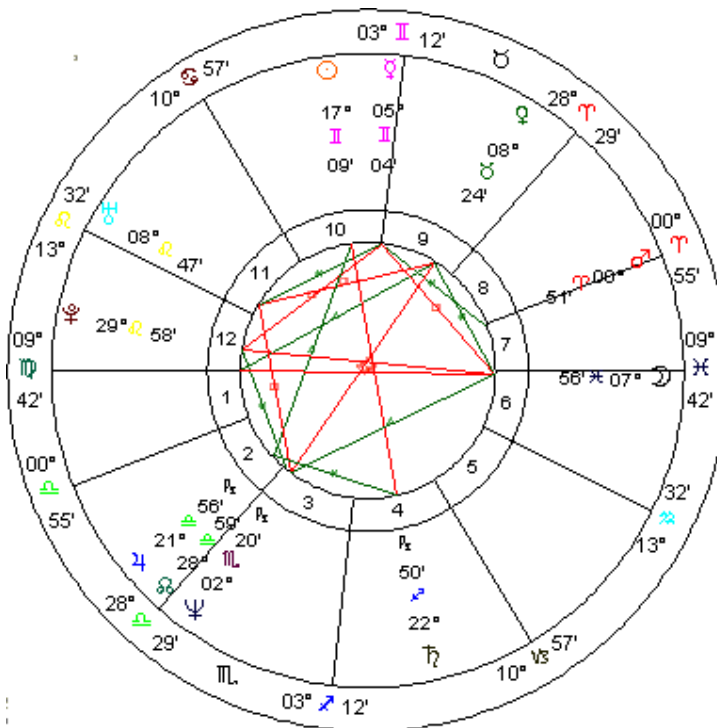
TYPHON FILM PRODUCTIONS WEBSITE http://www.geocities.com/typhon_vision

SYNOPSIS OF THE ASTROLOGICAL VOYAGER

The journey of Apollo - a counselling Astrologer. Upon meditation one day, Apollo is whisked off into a dream world that is a creation of his own mind. Within the dream world, he meets other Astrological Symbols and gods which represent his own inner stability and unity. Combined with Fast Paced Martial Arts action and comedy, the "Astrological Voyager" provides for an entertaining film. Apollo tries to bring peace to the differing gods, resolving their inherent tension amongst each other.

The Butler, the Princess and the Book by Isabelle Ghaneh

Editors note: Since this article was first published it has come to our attention that the data that Isabelle has used for Paul Burrell may be unreliable. Whilst the data quoted by Isabelle has been commonly accepted in astrological circles for some time, in his book "A Royal Duty" Burrell states that he was born on "a summer's evening" in Chesterfield on 6 June 1958.



Paul Burrell, born June 8, 1958 time unknown, in Grossmere, England, (noon chart) was born a talkative, inquisitive Gemini with his Sun at 17 degrees of Gemini and his Mercury at 5 degrees of Gemini. Princess Diana was born July 1, 1961, 7:45 pm, Sandringham, England with Sagittarius rising at 18 degrees. (Diana's chart appears in the November issue of *Transit in Diana, Saint or Sinner* by Judith Levy).

They say opposites attract but in this case Diana was not Paul's opposite but his

twin. A sign which is the polar opposite of one's own is not its opposite in the sense a psychologist would mean it. Taurus/Scorpio natives have much more in common than Taurus/Gemini for instance or Taurus/Aries. Geminians and Sagittarians are on the same wavelength in many ways. And Paul's Sun was directly placed on Diana's descendant; her 7th house of partners and open enemies, meaning the link between them was profound indeed.

To say they understood one other is putting it mildly. Paul has his Moon in Pisces, (the exact degree cannot be ascertained without the time), the Moon was just beginning its trek through Pisces the day he was born, so Pisces it is, no matter Paul's time of birth. A Pisces Moon person filters feelings through water, much the way an Aquarius or Libra Moon filters feelings through the intellect. Gemini is an air sign and Paul would have a struggle between his ego, his inner sense of self, being very thought minded and his feelings being all caught up in the murkiness of Pisces, which is watery, emotional and very empathetic. He would allow his heart to rule his head, hence his outbursts at the princes and the Spencer family; they are heartfelt.

His Mercury being Gemini means that he blurts out the first thing he thinks and his emotions being Piscean means that he is overwhelmed with feelings. Not a good match for a talk show guest at times; although the witty Gemini would love the ability to be before the cameras and speak to call in viewers, since Gemini also rules communication.

Now, Paul's Saturn, the great taskmaster of the sky, is at 22 degrees of Sagittarius opposite his Sun and also conjunct Diana's Ascendant. Another profound link between them; explaining the duty, loyalty and yes sometimes burden he felt in taking care of her, and he did strongly feel he was taking care of her. That is very important to know. He does believe he is keeping her memory alive with his book, he does believe he and he alone understands her and that he and he alone must persevere in his duties to her, even if it means thrashing out verbally at who or what he considers her enemies.

Paul's Venus at 8 Taurus, which is in her 4th house, and conjunct the cusp of Diana's 5th house of romance, children and enjoyment shows his love of beautiful things and the things Diana gave to him he treasured. Having them put on public display, as the items he allegedly stole from her according to the royal family would have cut him very deeply. In addition this close connection shows he was half in love with her in a brother/sister way most openly, but also in a somewhat fantasy, romantic way. He also loved her children, so them not coming forward when he was facing a prison sentence for what he didn't do and for taking things Diana had given to him did hurt him as badly as he said it did. He has a great emotional involvement with both Diana and her sons. Paul's Venus is also directly opposite Diana's Neptune at 8 degrees in Scorpio, reinforcing his fantasy image of her as a kind of goddess here on earth and his deep emotional connection to her.

Paul's Mars is at 0 degrees of Aries, the Aries Point Degree. Now, Mars in Aries makes one always up and running for a fight even if there isn't a fight coming on. So Paul may be quick to channel his emotions into an angry stance of "I have only just begun to fight" whether he needs to or not. He may have a tendency to want to fight to express his feelings, even feelings that are subconscious or beneath the surface. An Aries Point Degree is a very powerful placement. The Aries Point is the beginning of the zodiac and as such anything that aspects it is something that must be noticed and attention called to. It also can mean being noticed on a worldwide scale.

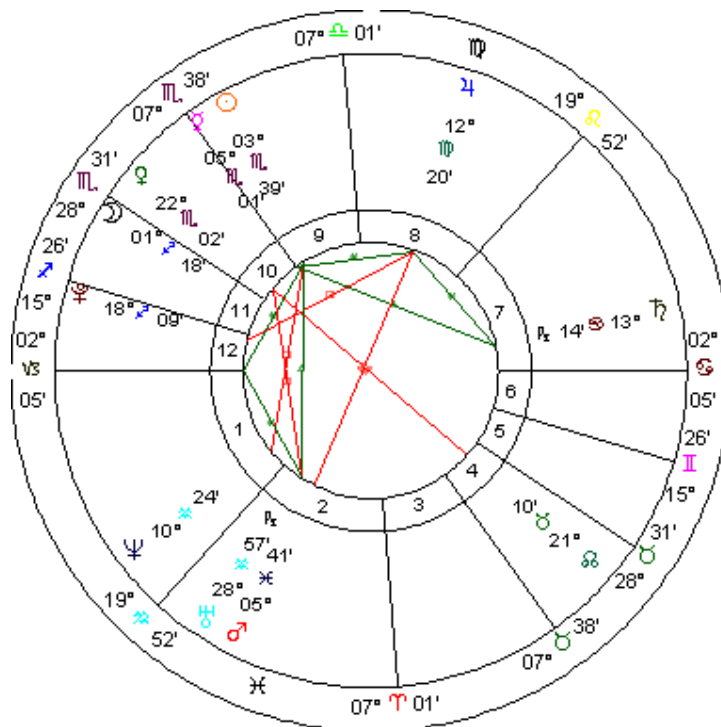
Paul has another 0 degree in his chart, his north node, the karmic aspect, which shows what karma we have coming to us of good as opposed to the south node, its direct opposite, showing the bad karma if you will. For a less esoteric belief system, it simply means where you can see good coming to you in the natal chart and where you can see not so good coming to you. For Paul this aspect is at 0 Scorpio and south node is at 0 Taurus. South node at 0

Taurus expresses itself as loving and wanting beautiful things, and wanting to live in luxurious surroundings. Now you may ask how is it possible to have a downside to wanting beautiful things and living in a beautiful environment? Well, that need is coupled with what he may decide to do to get them for himself, and, with 0 Scorpio as his good fortune placement, he may have felt anything he did to get them was okay. He also may have felt it was his good fortune to be in that environment and then discovered all the palace intrigue once he got there, i.e. all the secrets he had to keep.

In all honesty, for a Gemini Sun and Mercury keeping secrets is a very hard thing, they are almost bursting with news and need to tell someone, much as the little girl in the Grimm's fairytale had to dig a hole to tell her secrets to. Scorpio is the sign of secrecy and intrigue par none.

Paul may have allowed his need for things to come before all else. That is how a north/south node works, the north node uses our strength and the south node uses our weakness. This may have happened to Paul even without his knowing it. It is what caused him to get in trouble and come before the public at large and stand the risk of imprisonment. Did he take too much, did Diana give him too much? Who can say?

Paul's Chiron, the wounded healer, at 22 Aquarius is conjunct Diana's Moon at 25 Aquarius and her own south node. Diana as a Cancer Sun was powerfully influenced by the Moon since the Moon rules Cancer. Paul felt a great need to heal Diana and her emotions, which as we know could many times be expressed negatively; the suicide attempts, the bulimia, the depressions. He may have felt almost as a nursemaid at times. Needing to cure her was a big part of their relationship whether he knew it consciously or not. Diana's south node at 28 degrees of Leo was conjunct the fixed star Regulus, the Persian star of royalty and conjunct Paul's Pluto of 29 degrees. He saw her as did most of his generation, since Pluto is a generational planet, as true royalty, a real to the manor born kind of girl, especially considering his and most people's humble origins. She really was a princess in a fairy tale to Paul, and to many of the public at large. In Diana's natal chart her south node is one of the most elevated points in the chart, and we surely know now how her royal ambitions turned out for her, certainly not the fairy tale she imagined it to be.

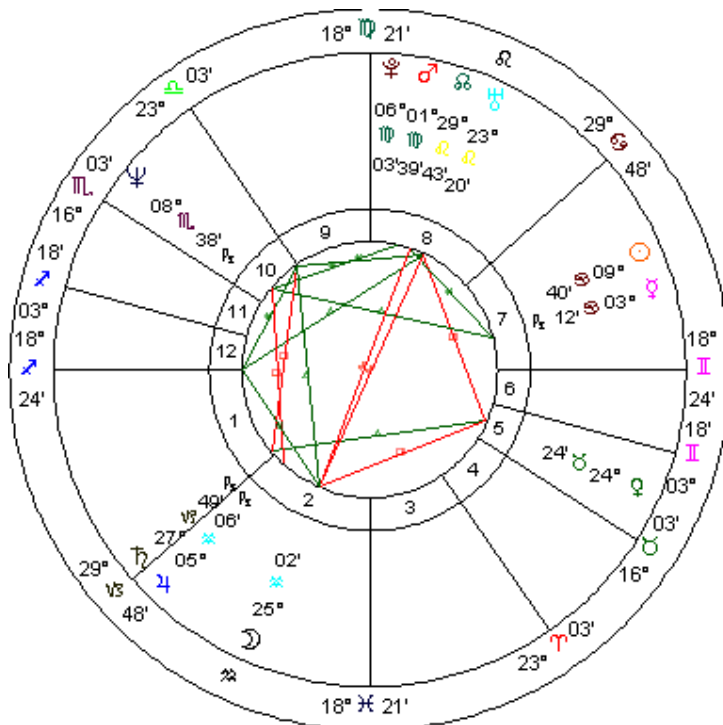


Now, without going through all the trial information which was over and done with in November 2002, let's look at the book publication date of October 27, 2003. (noon chart) The Sun was in Scorpio at 3 degrees conjunct Paul's north node. Again we see the karma of the situation, or again for those who want it plainly, this was really good fortune coming to Paul in more ways than monetarily although that is certainly part of it. Again the downside of the north node is the south node and Paul may, and I say may, have allowed his longing

for the nice things in life to overcome his reasoning or to at least play a part in his decision to write the book, no matter what he says. Certainly it does show a close connection to his inner desire to right all wrongs, pay back the person or persons he thinks betrayed him, say what he needs to say to the public at large, spill a few secrets and get some money too. Again its not money in and of itself Paul cares about, it is what it can buy him, the luxurious things of life he so longs for and has an affinity for.

Mercury in the book chart is at 4 degrees of Scorpio inconjunct Paul's Mercury. An inconjunct aspect shows discordance and tension and being at odds with each other. Paul's version of events or Paul's way of getting out the truth may not jive with what the book actually says. In other words his message may not be received by the reading public as he intends it to be. He may be surprised to discover that in the days and weeks to come. This book is seen as again dealing with palace intrigue and pettiness and secrets and all that. Paul may think "whew I'm opening up a window and letting some fresh air in here". He may find others don't see it that way, especially the reading public.

Mars is at 5 Pisces in the publishing chart which aspects Diana's Mars by opposition and her Pluto by opposition and may conjoin Paul's Moon in Pisces. Again Diana's Pluto at 6 degrees in Virgo is a generational degree, so Paul will find his book is opposite many people's natal Pluto in Virgo in the early degrees. This is a transiting degree going on now for many of the people born in the time around Diana and it is captured forever in the book chart. Transiting Pluto is at 18 degrees of Sagittarius and it is directly on Diana's Rising sign and directly opposite Paul's Sun. This is a very telling degree and aspect. It links Paul and Diana and the book irrevocably. Pluto opposite the Sun in Paul's chart is the culmination of the past several years of catastrophic trouble he experienced with his trial and possible imprisonment and vilification by the public, and it is on Diana's Ascendant, bringing her again full force to the attention of the mass population. Pluto again is the planet of uncovering what needs to be uncovered, it is the planet of change, sometimes great change and it shows us for who we are from the depths of ourselves. It is the phoenix bird rising from the ashes. It is also a planet ruling nuclear power and when Pluto transits a potent part of our charts we can feel its transformational power in ways we may not anticipate or even desire. Pluto is big, cosmically big and when it conjuncts a Sun, Moon or Ascendant it leaves a lasting trace that we cannot deny.



Transiting Uranus at 28 degrees of Aquarius is conjunct Diana's natal Moon, again bringing all kinds of revelations and changes to her image, and to the way she is perceived by people. Uranus is the earthquake aspect, exactly conjunct Diana's south node, so how she would really feel about Paul's book is debatable. It's interesting to note that Diana's Moon was conjunct the United States Moon and hence we can see her enormous popularity with the American public. She really struck

an emotional chord with them. Uranus, which is transiting the American Moon by conjunction, is conjunct Diana's Moon and her south node natively. How well Paul's book will go over in America is again debatable.

Now for just a quick look at Prince William's chart. Prince William was born on July 21, 1982 at 9:03 p.m. in London, England. The Prince's Mercury at 8 degrees of Gemini is exactly conjunct Paul Burrells' Mercury. This should make a lasting tie between them and it may be why Prince William is so eager to take up Paul's challenge of speaking to him face to face. Like Paul, Prince William with Mercury in Gemini has a real need to communicate verbally his thoughts and feelings, and Prince William has many deep feelings as an emotional Cancer like his mother Diana. Prince William's Jupiter is at 0 degrees of Scorpio and it conjoins his Midheaven, the 10th house of our career and how other people see us by 2 degrees. It is also retrograde. That may portend future implications for how he will eventually be perceived by the public once he reaches the crown and how he himself feels about being king. But that is another story, a long way off. For now we can again see the ties between Paul and Prince William with his Jupiter again going backwards (since that is what retrograde means) conjunct Paul's north node. Initially at least the prince looked at Paul as a very positive member of his mothers' and his own extended family. Again that is where the hurt and betrayal come from in this saga.

Paul's Neptune, again a generational planet, is at 2 degrees Scorpio and conjunct the prince's midheaven. Looking at the book chart, we can determine that with the Sun, Moon, Mercury and Venus all in Scorpio this is certainly a Scorpionic event. All the best and worst of Scorpio traits would be emphasised in the book chart. Secrecy, passion, intrigue and betrayal are all there, along with the extremes the sign is noted for, people will either love or hate this book, no in between.

Jupiter is the planet which rules publishing and it is in Virgo the sign of the writer. That bodes well for the books success. Jupiter is also trine Chiron, in Capricorn now at 13 degrees. Chiron is itself opposite Saturn which is retrograde at 13 degrees. Healing is coming from this book one way or another, but it may be hard won.

The north node in the book chart is at 20 degrees of Taurus and as such it is opposite Venus at 21 degrees of Scorpio and inconjunct Pluto in Sagittarius at 18 degrees, although the south node is conjunct Venus and semisextile Pluto in Sagittarius. Paul may get the money he wants as Venus is the money planet, but it may not bring him what he desires. Mercury at 4 degrees of Scorpio is square Neptune at 10 degrees of Aquarius and this will manifest itself as a lot of confusion regarding the purpose of the book and what it is trying to say. Mercury is trine Mars and that may well be the best aspect in this chart; communication and anger are being brought out more positively than in a fistfight say or constantly sniping at someone or bottling it all up inside waiting for it to explode. I think the support and understanding of this book will be less than Paul Burrell anticipates and the monetary gains will be less than he expects, in terms of what it actually brings to him, but this was an event Paul needed to do and see to completion.

Data Section by David Fisher

Predestination versus Free Will by Nick Kollestrom

This spring sees the 400 anniversary of Galileo being summoned by the Inquisition and charged with astral fatalism, on the grounds that his chart-readings were too deterministic; e.g., he would tell clients when they were going to die. Galileo was then a maths lecturer at the University of Padua, where he would lecture the medical students on how to erect decumbriture charts. The severe charge which the Holy Office of Venice came out with on 22nd April was 'to have reasoned that the stars and planets necessitate.' The Church wasn't against astrology as such, but it was heavily against fatalistic predictions of this kind. The charge was never pursued as the Church didn't want to stir up trouble with the University. The whole affair was deeply forgotten until 1992 when a Dominican friar discovered the whole thing in dusty archives.

There were two other charges which the Holy Office made against Galileo in April 1604, and these were neglecting to go to Church and having rows with his mother. A special issue of *Culture and Cosmos* will be coming out, timed for this 400-year anniversary, giving everything you wanted to know about this event and just how much Galileo was immersed in astrology.

More information about *Culture and Cosmos* can be found here

<http://www.cultureandcosmos.com/>

Faculty Events 2004 by Peta High

Spring Term Events

Saturdays: January 24th, February 21st, March 6th, March 20th. 10am-5pm

Faculty Diploma Module 5 *About Time: Progressions and Directions*, Tutors: Jacqueline Knapp-Tupholme and Sue Farebrother

Saturdays: January 24th, February 21st, March 6th, March 20th 10am-5pm

Techniques 2: Synastry and Electional Astrology: Tutor: Peta High

Other Faculty Dates For Your Diary

SUMMER SCHOOL

August 13th - 20th 2004. Brasenose College, Oxford. Tutors include: Nick Champion, Darby Costello, Liz Greene, Mike Harding, Rob Hand, Robin Heath, Joyce Hoen, Melanie Reinhart - plus many popular Faculty Tutors.

Diploma Module 9 - *Mundane Astrology* and Diploma Module 7 will be taught at Summer School will be taught at Summer School. Other schools; *Back to Basics*, Forecasting, *Astrology as Magic*.

SUMMER TERM

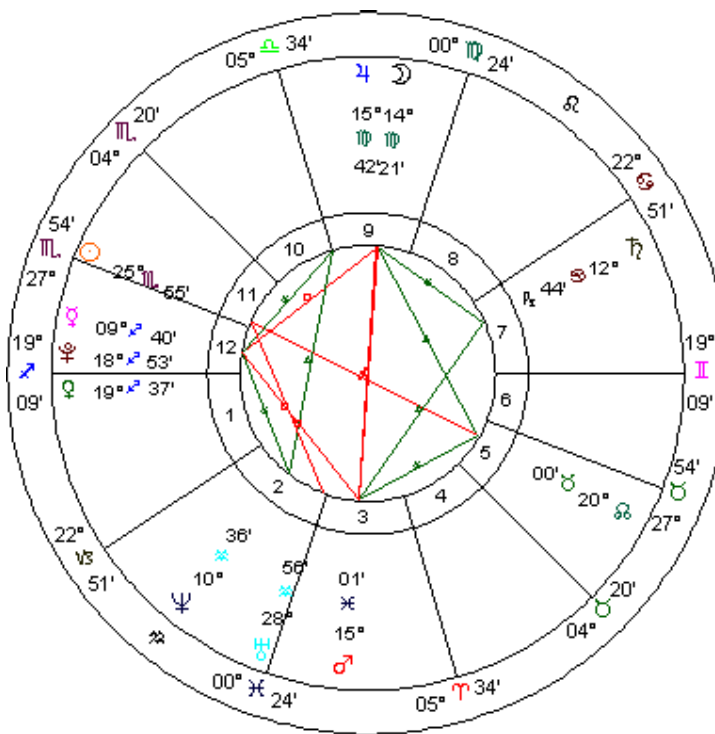
Wednesday April 28th- June 30th 7-9pm Diploma Module 6 Tutors: Kim Farley and Sue Farebrother

Saturdays: May 1st, May 15th, June 12th, June 26th. 10am- 5pm Diploma Module 11
Advanced Interpretation and Astro-Consultancy, Tutor: Jacqueline Knapp-Tupholme

The Faculty website can be reached at <http://www.astrology.org.uk/>

Michael Jackson and the Astrology of Time by Isabelle Ghaneh

Astrology is based on timing. The question of time is at the core of its existence. When something occurs, an inauguration, a start of a company, a move-in date for a new home, or the birth of a child, there is a specific time at which this event takes place. The astrology for that person, place or thing evolves from the time of that event. It is its signature. In a child's birth, the natal chart is born along with that child's first breath. An event chart is a chart set up for the time of an event; for its beginning or birth. It is in effect the birth chart for that undertaking or enterprise. As such, it can be progressed, have a solar return, and transits may be applied as time goes on.



Michael Jackson's (August 29, 1958; 11:43 pm; Gary, IN – chart left) Neverland Ranch, Santa Barbara, California, was raided by a team of investigators armed with a search warrant and an arrest warrant at approximately 8:30 am on November 18, 2003. (Chart right)

Looking at the event chart that was born at the time of the raid, a very interesting pattern is immediately apparent. The first thing that hits my eye is Pluto at 18 degrees of Sagittarius directly on the ascendant. Next I notice that Venus is conjunct both of them at 19 degrees of Sagittarius.

Pluto on the ascendant of a chart is power personified. Pluto is the mythological ruler of the underworld, the keeper of dark secrets. In astrology Pluto is in charge of atomic power. Symbolically as the natural ruler of Scorpio, Pluto is the phoenix bird rising from the ashes of his own self destruction. Pluto placed directly on an angle of the chart i.e, the first, fourth, seventh or tenth houses, is a force to be reckoned with. Coupled with Venus, the planet of love, lust and desire, the emotions can be so intense they reach the breaking point.

I look further along and I see the Moon is at the top on the chart in the ninth house at 14 degrees of Virgo. It is conjunct Jupiter and opposite Mars at 15 degrees of Pisces in the third house. I then decide to compare Michael's birth chart to the event chart I have just done for the time of the raid. This is called synastry and it involves the comparison of two, or possibly more charts with each other, to see how the energies blend together and the impact they have on one another.

In Michael Jackson's birth chart I see that his Moon is at 17 degrees of Pisces. In the chart comparison, Michael's Moon is conjunct Mars and opposite to the Moon in tightly orbited aspects. These aspects tell a story in itself. With a Mars/Moon/Jupiter interaction at cross purposes to itself, the qualities apparent are anger, rage and aggression, along with an overwhelming sense of emotional distress. The signs involved in this aspect, Pisces and Virgo, further emphasize the heightened emotions felt by the native of the chart in question. Pisces stands for watery, diffused emotion while Virgo can be very obsessive in its' thinking and actions. Could this mean that Michael Jackson's feelings and thought processes are something he cannot really get a handle on, since he is so bound to his obsessions, even if he doesn't want to be?

One last thing pops out at me in studying these two charts. Saturn, the universal karma teacher and dues payer, is at 19 degrees of Sagittarius in Michael's birth chart. That is directly conjunct the event chart's ascendant with its Pluto/Venus conjunction. Saturn is where we are limited in expression, unable to show our feelings freely, and as such it is the planet of repression. Repressing one's feelings and instincts, especially if they are of a nature we are ashamed of, is not going to make them go away. It will only cause them to erupt again and again. The more we stuff them down, the more they pop up. Facing them, and getting the help needed in dealing with them, including therapy if it is called for, is the only way to deal with the issue.

In astrology, as in life, the aspects, planets and signs all tell a story, and it is a very old story, one that is based on the human condition. That is why the words still ring true and can be counted on to tell the tale, 4000 years after the first Magi in the middle east began to decipher their codes.

Submissions

All contributions to Transit are welcome. We will publish information about groups, societies and course as well as more general news about astrology and your opinions. If at all possible please submit your contribution by email to transit@astrologicalassociation.com

Alternatively contributions may be sent through the post to Astrological Association, Unit 168, Lee Valley Technopark, Tottenham Hale London N17 9LN, preferably on disc as an ASCII or Text only file. Illustrations are appreciated where possible. If sent electronically these should be in jpg format. Otherwise please make your contribution as clear and neat as you can.

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The deadline for contributions to the March 2004 issue is 20th February 2004. Genuinely urgent or newsworthy items may be submitted for publication at a later date.