

Conjunction

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When something grows it increases in size, gets larger, higher, wider and develops in a specific way or direction. You will readily understand what “growth” means, but how do you relate it to yourself? I’m assuming that most people reading this will be adults, and will already have attained the limits of their own physical growth. But where and how does their psychological growth fit into the picture?

As students past and present, and members of API (UK), you will know that personal and spiritual growth is an important feature of the Huber Method and approach. When you begin to study your own natal chart and gain one dazzling insight after another, into yourself and what really makes you tick on a deep psychological level, there is no turning back. Once this threshold has been crossed, the only way is forward, onward and upward! Growth is part of the natural process of coming forth, of becoming who and what you truly are.

The green aspects in the natal chart are related to growth. The mercurial semi-sextile motivates us to busily gather snippets of information from the world around us, together with facts, details and commonly held opinions. Learning is more immediate, short term and swift. The saturnian quincunx sets us off on a much longer, steadier quest as we search for meaning and seek out answers and understanding via our own experiences. Charts with a high ratio of green aspects indicate a life motivation to learn, doubt, think, ponder and sometimes be downright indecisive as well! Newcomers to astrological psychology, when asked to associate descriptive words with the colours of red, green and blue we use for the aspects, unfailingly connect “green” with “growth”. Like the fronds of a fern, we can gently unfold and begin to come forth when we are willing to consciously engage with our own growth and cooperate with this process of unfolding.

Psychosynthesis is one of the foundation stones of

GROWTH

Principal's Notes by Joyce Hopewell



FERN EFFECT by Maylis Curie <http://maylisphotography.my-expressions.com>

astrological psychology. Both approaches encourage personal and spiritual growth and are concerned with the holistic, unified individual. Bruno Huber trained and worked alongside Roberto Assagioli, and during this time the Huber Method, with its holistic approach of looking at the whole chart and the whole person, evolved. Bruno Huber writes “Psychosynthesis is fundamentally holistic, and that is why Assagioli gave his concept this name.....he thought ‘synthetically’; he did not want to ‘dissect’ people into separate parts but to unify them”. The same applies to the API approach when working with our own chart and the charts of others.

George Eliot said “The strongest principle of growth lies in human choice.” Choosing engages the energy and drive of the Sun and the personal will; growth demands this of us and the reward is to become more fully who we really are.



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WANTED...

Applications are invited for the post of Face-to-Face and Workshop Coordinator

Having completed five years service, Jane Brooks will be standing down as our Workshop Coordinator in the autumn of 2008. This interesting and rewarding job has therefore become available. It would be a good idea for the new Coordinator to be available to liaise with Jane over the spring and summer and be ready to take over for the 2009 Workshop Programme.

The main tasks involve creating and sending out the programme of Face-to-Face modules and general workshops. The programme information is provided by the workshop facilitators, your job will be to present and distribute it. You will also be responsible for taking Face-to-Face bookings and answering the occasional query. You will use email to provide general information and send out instructions to participants. There is currently no responsibility for arranging venues for Face to Face, or administrating the other workshops, as the workshop facilitators have that responsibility.

The post would suit someone with word processing/DTP experience who is fairly well organised. It can be as creative a job as you make it with respect to the Programme. You could simply use the current template each year and update the information or give the documentation your own personal touch. It is an important and indeed vital role in the running of API (UK) – workshop programmes form an important part of the organization.

Please feel free to ring Jane on 0161 221 2224 for more information.

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CAN YOU WRITE FOR CONJUNCTION?

All contributions welcome and student work very welcome indeed. I would love to hear from you. Please email or phone me, Sara Inkster, Conjunction Editor. (Please note NEW EMAIL ADDRESS in left column).

PSYCHOSYNTHESIS: An Integral Part of Huber Astrology

by Jeremy Cooper

So there you are, lying in your bath one evening with your rubber duck, when suddenly the thought comes into your mind: “There must be more to life than this”. And then, as you watch the bubbles floating into the air, you relax and ponder on this and ask of yourself the age-old questions: “Who am I?”, “What is my purpose here?”, “What do I really desire?” “How can I be happy?”

And then perhaps you think “Well, by studying and applying astrology, Huber Astrology through API (UK) of course – quite simply the best – I will find the answers to these questions”.



Well, this is not so. Or, only partly true. For astrology is a thought system and it therefore shows us “who we think we are”. And then we identify with that appearance and develop a relationship with it, believing that it is real.

“This is not the truth” is a mantra we have all heard in relation to Huber astrology. One way to discover “The Truth” is to search out all that interferes with it. Astrology shows us what interferes with our recognition of the “Truth” and can also show us ways in which we can move forward. Astrology can show core aspects of our personality, which do not come from our true Self. Astrology can take us to the door, but not beyond and into a direct knowing of who we truly are – that is to Self-Realization.

To go beyond this we need other techniques. Psychosynthesis is just one such technique and one that is absolutely relevant to Huber astrology. For, as Will Parfitt states in his book *Psychosynthesis The Elements and Beyond* “The essential aim of Psychosynthesis is to help people discover their true spiritual nature, then to effectively utilize this discovery in everyday life”. Or, from Buddhist philosophy: “To take our life here on earth and convert it into a spiritual pathway”.

Discovering our true spiritual nature, who we truly are, our inner essence, requires us to look inwards towards the aspect patterns and to the centre of the chart – looking inwards into the area of Oneness, integration and “causation”. For the general flow of the mind is the opposite direction, outwards to the houses, and out into an elemental world of appearances, a

world of separation, individuality, duality and disintegration. A personal world of “effect”.

Roberto Assagioli in the preface to his book *The Act of Will* states that although man has acquired an impressive degree of power over nature, his knowledge of and control over his inner being is very limited. He suggests that in order to narrow and close this gap the remedy is to be sought in two directions: “the simplification of his outer life” and “the development of his inner powers”. Closing the gap in order to become whole – and happy!

When going inwards to develop our inner powers words mean little. Words are used as guides on which we eventually don’t depend. In developing inner powers we seek direct experience of truth alone. Foremost of our inner powers is our will and as Assagioli says, “its unrealised potency”... “its training and use constitute the foundation of all endeavours”. Individuality and identification with the ego is really a weakness, and the person so doing has to acquire power from outside in order to overcome feeling vulnerable and afraid. At the transpersonal level, a person who opens inwards to the Truth opens to all real power that is not dependent on external circumstances. For real power is within Love, and Love’s power lies in love’s oneness.

In identifying with our inner powers and utilizing that in everyday life, we open ourselves to receiving gifts, or transpersonal qualities; gifts that are given away into the outside world. Real power is a transpersonal quality.

Going outwards we endeavour to simplify our lives. But do we have to get rid of the duck or is it all in our minds? And remember you can change your mind about yourself and the world at any time. And as we continue to ponder on the question “Who am I?”, we perhaps come to realize that our chosen pathway of enquiry lies in both studying and experiencing Huber astrology and Psychosynthesis.

Meanwhile, enjoy your bath!

As words in books can be only guides at the transpersonal level, attending in-house workshops run by API(UK) or external recommended courses, is essential to experiencing Psychosynthesis techniques.

Jeremy Cooper is a tutor with API(UK)

ESSENTIAL READING

Will Parfitt, *Psychosynthesis, The Elements and Beyond*, 2006, PS Avalon
(available from API (UK) Bookshop)

RECOMMENDED READING

Piero Ferrucci, *What We May Be*

Roberto Assagioli, *Psychosynthesis, A Manual of Techniques*

Roberto Assagioli, *The Act of Will*

Roberto Assagioli, *Transpersonal Development: Dimension Beyond Psychosynthesis*

Bruno Huber, *Astrological Psychology in Conjunction Digest Volume 1*, available from API (UK) Bookshop

Bruno & Louise Huber et al, *Astrology 1: Life and Meaning*, HopeWell, 2008 (available from API (UK) Bookshop)

MAGGIE'S MUSINGS

by Maggie Jeffery, Student Rep

PULSILLANIMITY. Now there's a word to check out! It means the opposite of "Magnanimity" and I was reading a book by Matthew Fox, "Creation Spirituality" in which he discusses extravagance and the virtues of using our gifts to the full and not hiding our light beneath a bushel.

It got me thinking about how the Birth Chart highlights those features that, maybe, try to protect us by acting small, as well as revealing how we can tackle this by refocusing on the strengths we need to draw on. The chart can be a guide to changing these old patterns and going forward.

My own take on this, is that if we follow our heart and move towards that which attracts us and draws us like a magnet then inevitably we must expand our energy. At the end of the day, it's fear that constrains us – fear of failure perhaps or fear

of rejection, fear of the unknown, Saturn again!

So, what's your passion? What could you simply not live without? Mine is books and ideas and networking and sharing and debating which feeds me and keeps me bouncy and thriving! Our North Node beckons if we only can get beyond our comfort zone...

I hope you're enjoying the course, as a recent student myself I know it can be a lonely business studying alone.

So don't forget I'm always happy to hear from you!

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New and Forthcoming Publications

by Barry Hopewell

The first fruits of the Agnes Shellens bequest (see last issue of Conjunction) are now appearing in the form of the following publications, translated by Heather Ross, from *Astrolog*, the bi-monthly publication of API (Switzerland).

The book *Astrolog I: Life and Meaning*, published in December 2007, contains a selection of articles by Bruno and Louise Huber and a variety of other authors, many professionals in other disciplines. We have aimed to select articles that stretch the boundaries of astrological psychology, amplify current material in the English language, or give more practical examples. The articles are grouped into four categories: *Astrological Psychology*, *Life and Meaning*, *Age*

Progression, Growth and Transformation. See the review on page 16 by Kathy Rogers.

It is intended to publish a second volume in late 2008 on the theme of *Family, Relationships and Health*.

The booklet *The History of Astrology*, containing articles by Bruno Huber, was published earlier in 2007. See the review below by Helen Lambert.

A further booklet should appear in early 2008 containing a long article by Michael Huber on *New Levels of Meaning in the Aspect Structure*. Further publications are also in the pipeline. Keep an eye on the website and online bookshop for availability!

THE HISTORY OF ASTROLOGY by Bruno Huber

Review by Helen Lambert

When I offered to review this new publication for Conjunction it was in part because I thought it would "be good for me", force me to read up on an area I keep meaning to delve into more but somehow don't make time for. I was a bit worried it would be some hefty tome that would require quantities of caffeine to keep me awake. How wrong I was – 14 sides of A4 and that includes pictures!

This publication pulls together three articles first published in *Astrolog* between 1991 and 1997. The first looks at how astrology has developed and the uses people have put it to, from what Bruno refers to as the Magic-Mantic Phase through to the Humanistic Phase. The second is a really useful Timetable which sets out the various key developments in chronological order from the establishing of the equinoxes and solstices around 3,200 BC through to the world-wide astrology boom of the 1980s, pulling together developments in different parts

of the world at the same time. The third article explores the very beginnings of astrology as we know it which happened when the Sumerians (a matriarchal culture) "took the crucial cognitive step that consisted of discovering the five planets Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Venus and Mercury and measuring and describing their progress through the zodiac".

The booklet is a very accessible, concise overview of the history of astrology which serves both as a handy reference (especially the table of developments and dates) and also as a starting point for those who would like to explore the history of astrology in more depth but are not quite sure where to start. Every astrologer should have a copy on their bookshelf!

The History of Astrology by Bruno Huber is available from the API (UK) Bookshop, £5

QUESTIONING ASTROLOGY

by Sarah Varcas

The 'purpose' of astrology is an interesting issue, with many sides to be considered, not least the question of whether astrology has an inherent purpose, or whether it has only the purpose attributed to it by the individual. To maintain that it has inherent purpose implies the existence of a higher intelligence that has created astrology to meet a need. At Mass recently, our parish priest maintained that an interest in astrology indicates a lack of faith in God. My view, on the other hand, is that astrology is a gift from God through which he/she speaks to us.

Even people who profess no interest in astrology often display what almost amounts to a morbid curiosity about it. Whilst, in one breath they may decry it, pronouncing it to be ridiculous superstition accepted only by the weak-minded who are looking for reassurance, they always seem to have questions about it, as if seeking some way in to exploring it without falling into the cess-pool of the 'weak-minded' they so despise! I think this phenomena points to the 'purpose' of astrology as I see it: Astrology is there to remind us that we are part of a huge and infinite whole, channelling universal energies into the material world, and working out these energies as we live our lives on earth. Astrology acknowledges that we are, all of us, painted in the heavens, and the heavens are imprinted within us. We have a tendency to forget this, of course, believing ourselves to be independent beings, living our lives often in isolation from any notion of a larger whole. We ridicule those who see a bigger plan, marvelling at their immaturity and inability to manage the 'adult' world, only to find ourselves peeking through the window into their world when we hope they're not looking, and seeing a reflection of something greater that calls us, regardless of our bombastic denial of such an experience. And thus astrology has already fulfilled the first part of its purpose: to remind us who we really are and where we fit in.

Such a reminder is not the end of the game, but only the beginning, for in it we see the infinite possibilities in the universe, and begin to recognise the lack of largesse within our own existence. We want to know more. At this level, our questions are all too often future-oriented: When will I meet the man of my dreams/get that perfect job/buy my first house/get out of this marriage/have a baby etc. etc. We want certainty upon which we can rely. Something to hold onto that tells us there is hope, and we can get to where we think we're going if we'll just hang in there. When astrology is used for this purpose, it can become an unreliable science. What one configuration means for one person may mean something very different to another. Concrete predictions can sink us when they're off target, and astrology is, once again, decried for being nonsensical and the refuge of the desperate and immature.

To go beyond this level of understanding requires deeper thought and a commitment to look at life with more honesty and openness. We are no longer passive subjects for whom life unfolds without our intervention. We become agents within the universe, with our own unique part to play and our own unique lessons to learn. As we begin to open up to the possibilities of a life that encompasses universal energies

flowing through us, we must also open up to the responsibility that places at our feet: responsibility to act with integrity, to uncover our own truths and to do the work required to develop our inner life and reflect that development in the outer world. As this process takes place, the question becomes not 'When will I meet the man of my dreams', but 'How do I manage and relate to intimacy in my life. What lessons do I have to learn?', it changes from 'When will I get my dream job?', to 'What is my life purpose and how do I fulfil it?'

Thus astrology reveals its deeper purpose: to provide a means by which we can come to know our essential selves, beneath all the layers that we build, one upon another, from the moment of our birth. Within the birth chart we find the most exquisite and poetic representation of the individual before us, and a map of their consciousness. Astrology shows us our strengths and weaknesses, imbalances and potential, and, most importantly, the ways in which we can address the challenges that come to us in life, in such a way as to use them for personal and spiritual development, releasing the transcendent energies that reside within us for the good of the whole, rather than to sustain and solidify the personal ego, which invariably grows at great cost to our spirit.

I choose to study astrology because it is, by far, the most direct route to inner knowing and self-awareness that I've encountered. What may take years of therapy to uncover lies right before us in the birth chart, and whilst addressing such issues still takes time and often hard work on the part of the individual, the chart indicators are there to act as a compass when times are hard and direction is lacking. Hence my belief that it is, indeed, a gift from God, a spiritual roadmap. The more I learn about astrology, the more I come to understand the energies that have played out in my own life over the years, and the lessons that have faced and challenged me. In developing this understanding, I have experienced an increase in my faith that life only presents us with that for which we are prepared, whether we believe it or not at the time! Likewise, I can apply this understanding to the lives of those around me, knowing that my role is not to rescue or protect people from their own challenges, but to offer support and empathy in such a way that they can begin to explore and penetrate their life-lessons and connect with the transpersonal as it struggles to find expression within their own lives. I look forward to using astrology to do this, as I know few tools that point so directly to the potential unity within the individual, whilst simultaneously mapping out the inner-conflicts and challenges that guard against the manifestation of this unity.

All of which leaves the issue of answers, and whether astrology holds any. Can I say 'maybe', depending upon the question! It seems to me that astrology answers questions that serve our spiritual development: Questions of motivation, conflicts, blind-spots, strengths and weaknesses. The answers may not be straightforward, or without contradictions themselves, but answers can be found. However, astrology cannot satisfactorily answer questions born of the ego: when will I make loads of money or find that dream job? It is only when we can find the higher expression of these questions that

we can begin to truly taste the fruits of astrology's wisdom. So what are my questions?

I largely turn to astrology with questions about how best to conduct myself in given situations, what energies are present as strengths for me, and what do I need to do to release them. What is the highest truth for me at this moment, and what actions and behaviours on my part have hindered the expression of the transpersonal in my life. I come with questions about patterns and cycles, recurring issues that I fail to resolve and recurring scenarios that, to all intents and purposes, appear to come at me from without, but which, invariably, find their seeds within me, somewhere. Whilst I may not always like the answers I receive, I always respect them, and engaging consciously with them has always brought me insight and deeper understanding in the end.



Sarah lives in West Kirby on the Wirral with her husband, step-son and two cats. She runs *Heartland of Love Ministry* web site and has just finished writing a book of the same name. She enjoys gardening, cooking, being close to nature and is a loyal X Files fan! She is studying for the Diploma in Astrology.

ASTROLOGY I: FACE TO FACE

by *Fi Szabo*

I was very excited to be joining fellow students and tutors in Cumbria this year for the Astrology One Face to Face workshop. Having been a student with the UK Huber School for a few years here was my first opportunity to check in with participants, get learning and ground some of the material that had so far been largely limited to my notebook and computer screen.

Here we were at the Fellside Centre, in my imagination I held a picture of a concrete clad conference centre with the usual fluorescent lighting and polyamide carpeting; how wrong I was, instead hidden away along a cobbled lane was a very old, traditional stone building that was once a beautiful school.

The first person I met was Jane who told me she was about to complete her Diploma and was here for a top-up experience on all things Huber. Jane was also our culinary host for the weekend and she was busy organising a very sizeable amount of food; clearly we were going to be eating as well as learning over the next few days.

On Day One we found places within a cosy circle, met our tutors Elly and Jeremy, and had a chance to share our personal motivations and experiences on what had brought us to the Huber school. There was much to consider; what do we believe? And does it matter what we do? The very stuff of existential questioning through the ages was pondered. It was thought provoking material from the outset.

The first day I found myself creaking a little and was conscious of dropping my own everyday concerns that had tailed me here, I really had no idea what we would be

encountering and so reminded myself to stay open to receive what was to come.

We worked through a lively mix of Huber astrology; a look at counselling models and some Psychosynthesis. On the way we shared our revelations and insights with group discussion and were provided with opportunities to work together using our own charts. We acted out our charts using the 'cords' experiential exercise. I now find myself discussing astrological ideas with much greater physical emphasis as though I am recreating how powerful it is to have a spatial and three dimensional sense of planetary aspects in the chart and how this enables us absorb ideas through all our senses by not confining it to our Mercurial heads, but opening our hearts as well.

By Saturday evening we had a new guest as Richard Llewellyn joined us that evening. His arrival was well timed and we later shared a very rich, hands on discovery of our sub-personalities through visualisation as well as a humorous opportunity to create masks.

Sunday was a very humbling day, with a needed exploration of sharing our charts within the group. In turn we were given space to ruminate and unravel our personal complexities and invite feedback in return.

I came away with a reassuring sense that I had made some progress as a student and gained a tangible sense of grasping the bigger picture and how Huber Astrology works, and the best part: I met some lovely gifted astrologers.

Fi, a Diploma Student, lives on the West Sussex Coast in England.

GOOD NEWS FROM TAIWAN *by Sonia Chen*

Hello Everyone! This is Sonia, from Taiwan. Since I moved back to Taiwan in August 2004, I have been teaching at the university as a part-time lecturer in English and music. Last July was a milestone for me when I returned to Nottingham to receive my PhD degree in music at the University's annual graduation ceremony. This year comes another milestone in my life—because I am getting married! The big day is set for Saturday, January 19th, 2008.

Some of you might be wondering why this date is still 'this year'—the reason is that in the lunar calendar the Chinese New Year started on February 18th this year and is going to end on February 6th 2008.

According to the wedding traditions in Taiwan, the groom's family has to propose the marriage to the bride's family through a matchmaker (usually the one who introduces the bride and the groom at the first place). On the day of marriage proposal, the groom's parents is given the bride's and her family's birth data (including birth year, month, day and time—all written down on a piece of red paper) so they can ask someone professional in Chinese astrology (**Eight Characters**¹) to look through the dates in the Chinese Lunar Calendar. Taking into account the birth data from both families the astrologer can propose a potentially good date for engagement and another for the wedding. After both families agree on the dates, they move on to a series of wedding preparations.

As more and more couples in Taiwan no longer follow the traditions of engagement and wedding, some of the wedding to-dos are simplified. However, there are usually three important days to prepare for: Engagement, Wedding (traditionally a banquet for the groom's side of family and friends), and Bride's first visit to her family house after getting married (in the form of banquet). Some people even celebrate these three days in a row by feasting. To make it simpler, my parents decided to make the wedding day a joint celebration for both sides of families.

On the engagement day, there are a set of traditional procedures to go through before the engagement is official. The bride's and the groom's families will exchange engagement gifts (including wedding cakes in boxes, see below)—all in 6 or 12 (the lucky numbers) and the marriage couple will exchange and put on their wedding rings. On the wedding day, the groom will be coming to the bride's home in a formal wedding car (decorated by things with lucky meanings and symbols) to pick her up for the wedding banquet. Relatives and friends are invited to the venue and will be there, waiting to see the couple

and join the celebration. After the banquet, the bride has to stay in the new home and she usually gets to visit her family next day or on a prior agreed day (the latter usually in a form of banquet for the bride's side). Finally, the couple will go on honeymoon (whenever they are available to do so).

This may sound complicated and very different from what happens in a western tradition, especially that the groom's parents have to pay for the wedding, which is completely opposite to the tradition in the UK or the US. Bobby and I are very lucky to have his parents who are supporting most of the expense of our wedding and our new home. The house is going to be finished next month and we will be furnishing the house before the wedding day. Bobby's mum is very careful with the date of moving into house and it is very likely that we will get a date sometime after the Chinese New Year from a professional in **Feng shui**² to move in to the house properly.

On July 27th, Bobby and I had our wedding photos taken by a professional wedding studio in Taipei even though we are both from Chiayi (a small city in the middle part of western Taiwan). It is worth mentioning that the wedding photo package in Taiwan is very famous (for good quality and money's worth) throughout the Asian part of the world. Our wedding photos have been posted on the website when the album was out in late August:

<http://www.wretch.cc/album/album.php?id=bobbyhou&book=13>



Sonia & Bobby's Wedding Photo (27/07/2007)

So, Bobby and I are very happy to share our good news with you all and even happier to share our engagement day with Joyce and Barry Hopewell, as they are celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary this year!

I wish everyone from API (UK) a very happy New Year!! Take good care.

With love,
Sonia ☺

1. 'Eight Characters' is one school of Chinese astrology, very popular in Taiwan. It is based on five elements (wood, fire, earth, metal, and water) and lunar calendar; commonly applied to dates selection, child naming, couple matching, fortune telling, and such. Its name comes from the way a person's birth date and time can show one's personality and fate in eight Chinese characters (as a natal chart).

2. Feng shui is the ancient Chinese practice of placement and arrangement of space to achieve harmony with the environment. It is literally translated as 'wind water'.



FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT

A Woman of Contradictions *by Kathy Rogers*

I have always been fascinated by the way people ‘speak’ their charts, whether they have any knowledge of astrology or not. So when I’m reading a biography, I’m very interested in what people have said as well as general descriptions of their character and life.

Unfortunately, many biographies only give the date and place of birth and not the birth time. In this situation a number of approaches can be taken to drawing up a natal chart. The most common is to use a chart drawn for noon for the date and place of birth. This is not an accurate chart (unless the subject was indeed born at noon) and so its interpretation will be limited. The Ascendant sign, all the house cusps and the house positions are unknown. So, for example, the chart direction, hemisphere and quadrant emphasis, positions of planets on the house energy curve and any interceptions (which may not be interceptions if the birth time were known) cannot be taken into account.

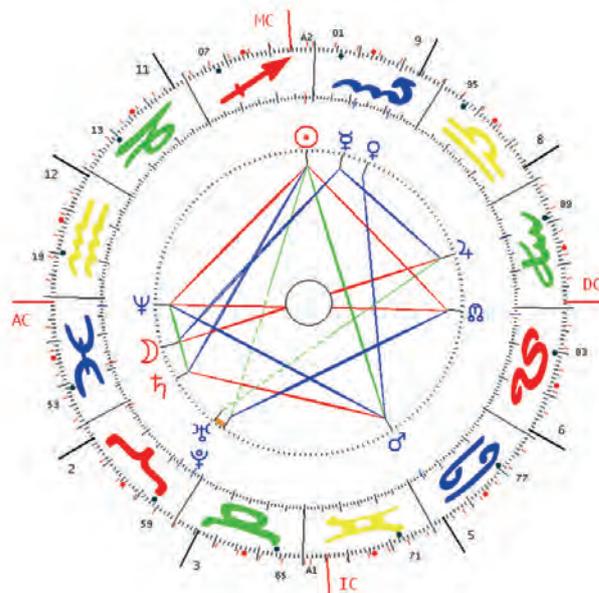
What can be examined are the positions of planets in signs and also aspect patterns. There is one caveat to this in that the mean daily motion of the Moon is 13° 12’. Therefore the Moon moves rapidly enough to make and break a number of aspects over the course of a day and caution should be exercised around aspect patterns involving the Moon.

Without a known birth time, I’ve drawn up Frances Hodgson Burnett’s chart for noon.

Frances Hodgson Burnett was a prolific writer. She wrote over 50 books, mainly for adults, together with at least 13 plays and numerous stories and articles for magazines. She was considered one of the leading American writers of the 1870s and 1880s, alongside the likes of Henry James. Yet today she is best remembered for her children’s books: *The Secret Garden*, *Little Lord Fauntleroy* and *The Little Princess*.

One of Frances’s favourite themes was the reversal of fortune. Born into a well-to-do middle class family in Manchester, following the death of her father a few months before her fourth birthday, the family’s finances declined – her mother emigrated with the children to America, when Frances was 15, to live near to Frances’s uncle. This uncle was unable to offer the family much support and, living in poverty, Frances turned to her writing to provide a small income. Her writing career flourished and she eventually became a very rich woman. She survived two broken marriages and had two sons, one of whom died aged 16. However, despite being outwardly successful, a friend of Presidents and admired by Gladstone, she didn’t achieve the contentment she craved.

Although much of Frances’s writing is considered too sentimental for today’s readers, she has Mercury in Scorpio and, when talking about how she acquired material for her books, she described herself as a “species of ghou” – “I take a slice off somebody almost every day. I wonder if it is quite fair”. Her characters sometimes had a Scorpionic quality: “there is a dead man in it [the story] who is the most living creature I ever made”. However, in describing the writing process itself she also reveals this Scorpionic motif: “...after working and going through agonies untold, and raving and



24/11/1849, Manchester, England
Birth time unknown AC 28CP43

tearing and hating myself and every word I ever wrote, I have suddenly walked out into a cool place and begun to soar, and have soared and soared until I don’t think I shall ever return to earth again” (the transformation from serpent to eagle).

In Frances’s chart her Mars is in Cancer and the *New York Tribune* described her as “an industrious and domestic person”. Her home was her place of work and the *Boston Herald*, commenting on her ‘den’ in the 1880s, says: “everywhere there is something suggestive in the way of relic or souvenir”, with every chair having “character and history”. Her home wasn’t only for herself, however, and the nurturing side of Cancer is reflected when Frances says “my house is a nice one. It is a sort of tired brain hospital where patients can move from one pile of cushions to another and there is nothing irritating in the atmosphere”. The link to her family was strong and when her writing took her to Washington, away from her wider family, “Frances could feel a part of herself disappearing”.

However, in addition to her family interests, Frances was very much an individualist. Perhaps reflecting the placement of the Sun in Sagittarius and Saturn in Aries, she pursued her own interests and career despite contemporary society’s expectations that women remain within the home occupied solely with domestic interests. Her Sagittarian Sun is also reflected in her advocacy of one moral standard for both women and men, of tolerance and of justice. She also demonstrated a Sagittarian restlessness, making thirty-three Atlantic crossings in her lifetime.

However, with her Sagittarian Sun square Neptune and with the Moon in Pisces (the Moon does not change sign during the course of her birth date), she had a certain naivety. Frances said that if the way to hell was paved with good intentions then she had decorated the streets “in the most intricate patterns”. She enjoyed the role of Fairy Godmother

or Lady Of The Manor yet her benevolence was not always successfully applied and she never learned from her mistakes. Repeatedly some well-meant interference led to trouble.

Her Virgoan Jupiter may have encouraged this wish to be of service to others but it also had uses in her writing. An analysis of some of the enduring attractions of *The Secret Garden* suggests Frances was always good at detail. She knew children liked it. "It is not enough to mention they have tea, she once said, you must specify the muffins". With Jupiter in Virgo and Mars in Cancer she was also a keen gardener: "...you could learn the elements of pruning roses from 'The Secret Garden', and...the attraction of the book is its exactly accurate descriptions of real gardening".

One of the dominant aspect patterns in Frances's chart is the Telescope or Microscope involving the Sun, Mars, Saturn and Neptune. Without an accurate birth time its orientation cannot be determined: if the quincunx faces upwards it is a telescope looking into the distance; downwards and it is a microscope looking at what is close at hand. It is tempting to hypothesise that Frances has a microscope in her natal chart because of her meticulous observation of her immediate surroundings: "There are always two ways of looking at a thing, frequently there are six or seven; but two ways of looking at a London fog are quite enough. When it is thick and yellow in the streets and stings a man's throat and lungs as he breathes it, an awakening in the early morning is either an unearthly and gruesome, or a mysteriously enclosing, secluding, and comfortable thing" (in *The Dawn Of A Tomorrow*).

With the planets involved in this Telescope/Microscope, if Saturn is her material security, it's probably no accident that Frances left the men in her life to manage her finances. However this aspect pattern was probably also of great assistance in her writing. The semi-sextile would enable Frances to conscientiously observe about the world around her whilst the quincunx would enable her to be aware of interconnections, giving her a grasp of both the detail and the big picture. Add the creativity of the Sun and Neptune to the motivation of Mars and Saturn to put this inspiration into tangible form, and she could be a formidable talent. Tennyson is reported to have opined that a passage from one of her books was "the finest piece of English he had ever seen" and Gladstone was known to admire her writing.

Frances also had an efficiency triangle (Sun, Neptune and North Node) together with a dominant learning triangle (Sun, Pluto, North Node). Both involve the Sun and in one of her novels she said: "if you wish to – to acquire anything, you must read conscientiously – and with a purpose". The Sun is the at the apex of the efficiency triangle and she is described by her biographer as a "pen-driving machine", only stopping writing when she was ill. The Telescope/Microscope mentioned earlier is a quadrangular figure and so is concerned with security, and it's interesting that Frances felt compelled to write to make money – the more she earned, the more she felt she needed.

Frances was a woman of contradictions. Her attitude to mothering perhaps reflects the influence of Moon and Saturn in the adjacent signs of Pisces and Aries. "She found her own image of goodness, which occurs a number of times in different books, of the young mother in the nursery with her baby on her knee, a peculiarly testing one. The idea of it was delightful but the reality not attractive for very long unless

there was someone gazing in from outside that nursery door admiring and appreciating the image". Despite Frances saying on several occasions that "the one perfect thing in my life was the childhood of my boys", many things took her away from her children including her theatrical interests, her socialising and her travelling.



Photograph by Herbert Rose Barraud

In conclusion, people didn't know what to make of Frances. Her chart contains the contradictions inherent in oppositions, pulling her different ways; in planets lying in adjacent signs which often have very different viewpoints (think of the incisive, penetrating nature of Scorpio, versus the big picture, worldwide grasp of Sagittarius) and in the concentration of her planets in two elements that perhaps don't always work well together – she has four planets and the North Node in fire, five planets in water.

"There are those who call Mrs Burnett plain and those who call her beautiful. Some have found her cold, and an indifferent talker, while others have left her presence in a state of wild enthusiasm over her vivacity and brilliancy ... she is as one happens to find her – gay, amusing, fascinating or reserved, distraught, even haughty as the case may be".

Reference:

Thwaite, A. (1974) *Waiting For The Party: the life of Frances Hodgson Burnett*. Secker & Warburg

Kathy Rogers is an API (UK) tutor.

THE ZERO POINT OF THE HOROSCOPE: The Pisces Aries Border

by Louise Huber

Many years of observation have shown that a certain place in the zodiac has something special about it – the border area between Pisces and Aries, corresponding to the AC in the house system. The zodiac starts and finishes at 0° Aries, and the AC is the start of life. Life begins in a kind of darkness. Out of the nothing a person emerges and begins their life's journey.

We could easily imagine that at the Pisces/Aries cusp, there is a *seam* where the two ends of the circle meet. With a little imagination, it can be seen as a gap through which life can enter and exit. The soul descends from its spiritual realm to the human realm through this gap, like a gateway to incarnation. It is the place where a new cycle of manifestation begins, and at the end it goes back through this gap to the spiritual realm. There is a mysterious contact between life and death here.

Opening to Transcendence

From another point of view, this *zero point* of the zodiac corresponds to an opening to the transcendent, a gap extending from 29° Pisces to 0° Aries. Here there is a *zero sphere*, a *cosmic fissure*, linking us to cosmic influences and transcendental worlds.

Sun at the Zero Point

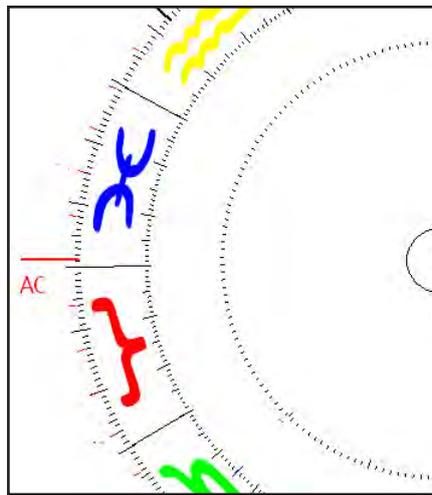
In research studies and consultations, we have noticed that people with Sun at the *zero point* are often unable to react directly to the realities of life. Vital Sun energy appears not to get through, as if not completely incarnated, or as if were hanging halfway through the gap. Reactions to normal situations are often delayed or postponed; they either react rashly or at the wrong time. We know such people who often react at the wrong time and say the wrong thing, or want something at the most inconvenient moment or share personal opinions with no relevance to the actual situation. Others always arrive late and have forgotten something important. It is as if there is no close contact with reality; the consciousness seems to hover above the ground.

Artistic Talent

We know of others with Moon and Venus in this gap who have special artistic abilities. They bring something of the transcendence of other spheres into their paintings or music. One paints enchantingly tender angel figures of fascinating beauty, which are not kitsch but reveal something of the vibration of spiritual spheres.

Age Point at the Zero Point

The AP of many API students has already passed through the *zero point*. We have already received interesting reports, assembled in the book translated as *Astrology and the Spiritual Path*. We quote:



The zodiac ends in Pisces, and begins in Aries. At this juncture, the circle is closed: alpha and omega, death and rebirth mysteriously meet. As AP enters Aries... you usually feel a strange connection with transcendental realms. Consciously or unconsciously, you will be touched by something that may appear strange and yet somehow familiar – an experience of subtle energies acting on you through this *gap*. Some people are strongly affected, others not at all, depending on their spiritual receptivity. Many feel troubled and do not know what is wrong, especially if they are trapped in the material world and know nothing of their self's real home. There can be death and rebirth processes and

profound transformation crises. Some feel helplessly at the mercy of some power. Others wait consciously for connection with spiritual worlds, open themselves up to subtle healing forces through prayer, meditation, spiritual withdrawal or search for mystical knowledge of God.

Many whose AP has crossed this point report a *pull*, a longing to return to the spiritual home. This often brings an inner conversion, a change in life motivation, a decisive climacteric. In any case, a new cycle begins with the entrance into Aries, for which you should be well prepared.

This extract is from one of several articles that have just been published in English for the first time. You will find it in Part 3 of *Astrolog I: Life and Meaning*² which is reviewed on page 16 of this issue of *Conjunction*.

Footnotes

1. *Astrology and the Spiritual Path: The Spiritual Significance of Age Progression*, Bruno and Louise Huber, published by Weiser
2. *Astrolog I: Life and Meaning*, Bruno & Louise Huber et al, published by HopeWell

Both books available from the API (UK) bookshop

Visit the API (UK) website at www.api-uk.org

OUR LEGACY: An indication of our inner motivation?

The Cheshire Huber Group, reported by Kathy Rogers

The aspect structure in the birth chart represents our unconscious motivation. The Huber's describe this, the second level in the chart after the central circle, as "...the deepest level in man and barely, if at all, accessible to the unaware, even though the whole life is governed by this motivating life energy"¹.

As astrologers we are in a privileged position. The chart provides us with a key to unlock our understanding of the energies that propel us through life.

In 'The Cosmic Egg Timer'² the aspect structure is described as offering "valuable information about what makes us 'tick', what really drives us".

Through the birth chart we can start to bring these unconscious driving forces into our conscious awareness, enabling us to lead lives that are more attuned to our inner purpose.

When we look at the aspect structure, one of the keys to understanding it is to understand the repeating trinity of cardinal, fixed and mutable energies – cardinal (red and linear aspects) provoking us to break new ground and achieve new and heady heights in our lives; fixed (blue aspects and quadrilateral patterns) maintaining the status quo and building something tangible; and mutable (green aspects and dynamic patterns) restlessly seeking to learn and to relate to other people.

However, it can be hard to get a handle on exactly how this works in our lives. Self-development experts sometimes help people to get in touch with their inner drives by asking you to consider that you are attending your own funeral. What you would want to hear said in your own eulogy?

"What would you like each of these speakers to say about you and your life? What kind of husband, wife, father or mother would you like their words to reflect? What kind of son or daughter or cousin? What kind of friend? What kind of working associate? What character would you like them to have seen in you? What contributions, what achievements would you want them to remember? Look carefully at the people around you (at your imagined funeral). What difference would you like to have made in their lives?" • (Covey)³

Of course, the next question is about whether you are living your life in a way that will deliver the legacy you seek to leave behind.

Adrian Gilpin⁴ (not writing from an astrological perspective) suggests there are three types of legacy. Now, the mention of 3 always sparks my interest. You can see the three legacies matched to the quadruplicities in the box below.

GILPIN'S THREE LEGACY TYPES

- Helping the community *achieve* something, *correct* a corrupt system or *support* a worthy cause i.e. go out and *do something* in order to make a difference (CARDINAL).
- Creating an *empire*, a *business*, accumulating **property** i.e. leaving something *tangible* behind (FIXED).
- Being the best *mother, father, sister, brother, or friend* you can be i.e. relating to others in the best possible way you can (MUTABLE).

We tried this out at the last meeting of the Cheshire Study Group (see page 14 for details) and the theory does hold – the way you wish to be remembered and therefore what you wish to achieve in your life generally relates to your deep inner motivation as shown by the aspect structure, although other dominant chart features will have their influence e.g. a strong stellium.

However, we found that we did have to get in touch with **why** things were important to us e.g. writing a book could, for one person, mean leaving a tangible product behind (fixed) but, to another, be about transmitting ideas into the future (mutable); or having a family could be about being a loving role model for others (mutable) or leaving behind us children who are carrying our genes forward to the next generation (fixed).

Have a go and see what you think

Footnotes

- 1 Aspect Pattern Astrology by Bruno and Louise Huber, published by HopeWell, available from the API (UK) bookshop, price £18
- 2 The Cosmic Egg Timer by Joyce Hopewell and Richard Llewellyn, published by HopeWell, available from the API (UK) bookshop, price £18
- 3 The 7 Habits Of Highly Effective People, Stephen Covey
- 4 Unstoppable by Adrian Gilpin

MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

Please note that in the interests of the environment and economy, we now send out general notices of meetings etc. by email. If you have changed address or email and want to continue to receive notices, copies of Conjunction and other printed material it is really important that the change of your address and email address is sent to Elly at api.enquiries@btoopenworld.com

DON'T FORGET...
Members of API (UK) get 10% discount on all books from the API (UK) bookshop.

COUNSELLING: Some Reflections

The Cardinal, Fixed & Mutable stages *by Jane Brooks*

In the last issue of Conjunction Jane Brooks introduced some reflections on Astrology and Counselling. She now looks at the Cardinal, Fixed and Mutable stages which may be encountered in a counselling situation.

Someone coming for a counselling session will be at a certain level of understanding and will see their problem from a particular standpoint. They will be of a particular temperament and general life motivation. Everyone tends to have their own perspective on life and its problems. Some people will be confused and upset, they may be angry, or feel helpless or see themselves as a victim and so on.

The counsellor needs to find out 'where the person is' at that time. Astrologically the client will show traits of cardinal, fixed or mutable quadruplicities. Someone in a **fixed mode** will feel helpless and out of control. They may feel unable to move and the victim of fate. They will also feel stuck and unable/unwilling to move forward – and if this is the case it would be worth considering the 'pay offs' for that person from staying in the 'stuck' place; as unpleasant as it might be to be stuck, it may be more challenging and fearful to move on. The counsellor needs to let the client do most of the talking and just be there for the client without judgement or any attempt to analyse or interpret things. The client should feel safe and able to express the emotions being held inside and it may take a long time.

People will have either an internal locus of control i.e. feel they are ultimately in charge, or an external locus of control. The latter will make them feel ineffective and helpless, as if their life is not their own. They will tend to give up their power to a job, parents, spouse, society etc.

With an internal locus, the fixed person will see things through. They can learn to accept themselves or a situation and become aware of the best approach to take. With an external locus, they will do nothing, put up blocks and take a stubborn stance against transformation. They will fear losing control.

A client showing mutable tendencies will be more aware of their situation and the part they play in life's problems. They may be looking for change and questioning their past

conditioning. They may be asking themselves 'how have I got to this position?' or 'why is this happening to me again and again?' The person is seeking more self-awareness. Such clients need to feel safe and be allowed to reflect and examine their motivations and how they fit into the world. The dialogue between counsellor and client is more equally divided than with the 'fixed' client. There needs to be a trusting relationship between client and counsellor and plenty of discussion. At the mutable stage the ideas can be aired and shared and the counsellor acts as a sounding board to bounce them off

The mutable client with an internal locus will realise that they have to change and not the problem. The solution is beyond action and acceptance but rather through a change in consciousness. The problem will be seen in a new light where it can be clarified or even transformed into an opportunity. A personal breakthrough may be made.

With an external locus, the mutable client will often move around in circles or sit on the fence i.e. be indecisive. There is non-commitment as their situation triggers unconscious fears and emotions. They tend to blame others for their problems and make excuses for not being able to change.

Clients in the cardinal phase are ready to take control of their lives. They want to take responsibility for themselves. They may be looking for guidance as to how, when and where to take charge of their lives. They believe they can do it and are very aware people. They are not controlled by fate and have energy to take risks and explore and experiment. The counsellor may need specialised skills to help the client see a new avenue or life perspective to follow.

A cardinal client with an internal locus will take responsibility for decisions and actions and also understand the deeper need for the change. They do not run away. With an external locus the person may rush to do something without stopping to look more deeply as to whether it is the right thing. They want to escape the situation and the urge to act is paramount. They need help to explore the emotions.

Once the counsellor has ascertained the client's attitude and starting point, they can guide the client appropriately and reflect the needs of the client.

Jane Brooks is our Webmaster and Workshop co-ordinator.

STUDENT NETWORKING

The following students would be happy to hear from you:

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HERCULES' LABOURS:

by Phoebe Wyss

Review by Richard Llewellyn

In essence this is a journey around the houses of the birth chart with Saturn, relating each house to our own evolutionary path through life, and putting this in the context of the twelve mythological labours of Hercules and his own learning experiences. Having said that, I found this book written in a very entertaining way, containing a wealth of psychological ideas relating to each of the houses.

Phoebe Wyss has been involved with astrology for 25 years and her interests are psychological and transpersonal rather than traditional. So there is much in the book which those astrologers working with the Hubers' approach will find very familiar, such as the concept of Age Progression and the idea of working with archetypal energies when interpreting the meaning of the houses and Signs. The idea of relating the Labours of Hercules to the astrological birth chart is not new¹ but Ms Wyss has written in a way that readers will find very accessible and with a wealth of modern insights into the psychological meanings of the houses.

In following Saturn's journey around the twelve houses, each is explored in depth, interpreting each task and learning experience in the context of the archetypal energy of the Sign and planet with which each house is associated. The restrictions Saturn can impose on us are really projections of our own fears and negativity, which can inhibit us from achieving autonomy and realising our full potential in life. In Huber astrology we talk about the two 'faces' of Saturn, the restrictions of the opposition, and the deep learning process of the quincunx aspect. So, in this book, we are reminded of how Saturn can bring about difficult situations which appear

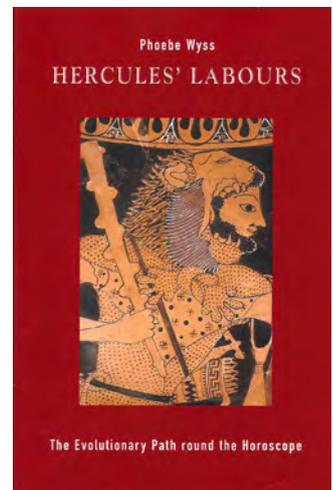
to disrupt our life, but importantly how these very situations are opportunities to break through our own barriers and free ourselves from our self-imposed restrictions. And which are, as Ms Wyss says, 'preventing us from taking our seat on Mount Olympus and realising our true nature as a god amongst gods'.

I would certainly recommend this book to any astrologer, student or qualified, who wants to expand their understanding of the deeper meanings of the houses, and the ways in which Saturn can affect our lives. In Huber wisdom we associate Saturn both with the blocking effects of the opposition aspect, as well as with the deep inner learning of the quincunx aspect - and that is what this book is really all about.

Footnote

1. *The Labours of Hercules: An Astrological Interpretation* by Alice Bailey, Lucius Publishing Company.

Hercules Labours, The Evolutionary Path Round the Horoscope by Phoebe Wyss is published by Tree Tongue. Phoebe's website is at www.astrophoebe.com



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Look out for Conjunction Extra, the online edition of Conjunction containing extra material for MEMBERS ONLY. It will shortly be on the members only area of the website. Please email your membership number to Jane Brooks (jane@api-uk.org) to obtain the password to access Conjunction Extra and the Members Only Bookshop and Photo Album. As a member of API you get 10% off all orders from the Bookshop. Non-members can also buy books, tapes and CDs from the Bookshop on the new website, but without the discount.

WORKSHOPS 2008

For 2008, Astrology I will be presented as three separate one-day workshops. Full details and descriptions of these workshops will be included in our 2008 Workshop Programme, which will be sent to members and will be available on the website.

24 February, LIFE ON EARTH – The Houses we Inhabit With Maria Maw in Marple, Stockport, Cheshire. Contact Maria on 07949 965842/01625 434368 mariamaw@onetel.com

20 April, MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL – The Chart as a Reflector. With Maria Maw in Marple, Stockport, Cheshire. Contact: Maria – see above

17 May, IN YOUR ELEMENT? A Commonsense Approach to Elements and Signs. With Kathy Rogers and Helen Lambert, in Bramall, Stockport, Cheshire Contact: Kathy on 0161 439 1216

14 June, FACE TO FACE: ASTROLOGY I, WORKSHOP 1 – The Hidden Core With Kathy Rogers and Helen Lambert, in Bramall, Stockport, Cheshire Contact: Kathy – see above

20 July, FACE TO FACE: ASTROLOGY I, WORKSHOP 2 The Planets and Their Psychological Drives. With Maria Maw in Marple, Stockport, Cheshire. Contact Maria – see above

2 August, FACE TO FACE: ASTROLOGY I, WORKSHOP 3 The House Level – Meeting the World With Joyce Hopewell in Knutsford, Cheshire. Contact Joyce on 01565 633829

11 October, AN INTRODUCTION TO HUBER ASTROLOGY With Jeremy Cooper and Maggie Jeffery, in Thornbury, Gloucestershire. Contact Maggie on 01454 413535

11 October, ASPECT PATTERNS IN THE NATAL AND HOUSE CHARTS - A Case of Us And Them?

Kathy Rogers and Helen Lambert, in Bramhall – Contact Kathy see above

Bookings for Face to Face modules should be made through Jane Brooks our Workshop Coordinator. Other workshops should be booked directly with the tutors. Further workshops will be announced later in the year, please look on the website for more information: www.api-uk.org

CONGRATULATIONS...

To the following students who have successfully completed their studies:

Foundation Course “B”:

Angela Brice – with Credit
Sarah Steele
Shay Ring Giarusso (*Monaco*)

API (UK) Diploma in Astrology:

Jane Brooks
Barbara Byatt

API (UK) Diploma in Astrological Counselling

Andy Duncan
Maggie Jeffery
Jane Ritson
Kathy Rogers – with Credit
Birger Tornes (*Norway*) – with Credit

STUDY GROUPS

THE CHESHIRE STUDY GROUP

A study group for the Cheshire and Manchester area. Meetings are held on or around the Full Moon every month, except during the Christmas/New Year period. The group meets between 7.30 and 10pm at members' houses on a rota. We welcome all Huber astrologers and students and anyone else interested in the way Astrological Psychology works. We usually try to include a Full Moon Meditation. For more information please contact Jane Brooks: 0161 221 2224 or email: jane@api-uk.org

LONDON ASTROLOGY GROUP

The London Astrology Group meets regularly in Battersea, London, SW11. Meetings last two-and-a-half hours. For further information and the dates for 2008 meetings please contact Sue Lewis on 07946 600304 or email: suelewis7@tiscali.co.uk

JOYCE HOPEWELL'S BLOG

POLITICIANS, SPORTSPEOPLE, POP STARS, FILM STARS AND MORE...

If you visit www.joycehopewell.blogspot.com you will see a number of chart interpretations.

If you would you like to suggest a chart for Joyce to look at, using the Huber Method she would be happy to hear from you. She can't promise to look at every chart suggested because she needs be interested in the person too, in order to be inspired to write about them! Joyce's email address is on page 2.

GO AWAY BIG MONSTERS:

How Astrology Makes Me a Better Parent

by Kathy Crabb MA

Our two-year-old son, Rohan, has always had a hard time getting to sleep. Most nights it takes an hour for him to find a breath that is steady enough for dreamland. It's often another half-hour before we can tiptoe out of his bedroom and quietly shut the door, our own breaths tight and thin in hopes of not waking him.

During this 90-minute toss-and-turning jag, Rohan sometimes whispers under his breath – a light, lilting babble like a little brook with its volume down low. Or, alternately, a sweet, innocent version of the disconcerting jungle whispers in the American TV drama *Lost* just before something creepy happens. In any case, I've never been able to decipher what he says when he's whispering just before sleep.

Until last night, when I distinctly heard him command: "Go away, big monsters."

My first response was a little internal maternal heartbreak – first, that this dear, sweet child felt he had to deal with the monsters on his own; and second, that he was even seeing/hearing/imagining monsters to begin with.

My second response was the thought, "I'm the big, strong, wise adult here. I have to do something smart. And helpful. And now." And then: "Dammit." And then: "Now."

I don't know whether it's built into the DNA of parenthood or into the sociological knee-jerk response structure of our society, but my initial impulse was to tell Rohan, "There's no such thing as monsters." But I didn't.

I didn't because I try to mind three values in every action I take, both in life in general and as a parent. The first value is truth; the second is compassion. And although we might believe in the objective truth of the statement "There's no such thing as monsters," there is a deeper truth that Rohan needed validated in that moment: that he was, in fact, experiencing monsters. Infinitely more than scientific explanations, he needed me to be compassionate – literally, to "feel with" him in that state, in his fear of monsters.

I see the birth chart as a collection of archetypes arranged in a way that describes the native's particular experience of life. An archetype is essentially a universal experience: a relationship, role or situation that is a basic part of everyone's psychological makeup. There are archetypes of mother, father, child, saviour, god, goddess, addict, shadow, trickster, despot. And many more. Including monster.

Archetypes often show up in our dreams or imaginings or artwork as literal pictures or symbols. Those archetypes that we're having trouble with in life may show up as frightening pictures, like venomous snakes or axe murderers or big monsters.

The monster in a dream may be an emotion that the child (or the adult) is having trouble processing: frustration about potty training, sadness about a dog who has died, the perils of separation anxiety. It could be a secret he's keeping: abuse, illness, something "bad" he's done that he doesn't want to admit. It could be a situation he doesn't know how

to handle: An overly-demanding teacher, a new brother or sister, a move to a different home. It could be the bigness of growing up, of leaving babyhood behind and all that that means.

Symbols demand that we respond, at least initially, in their own language. This is especially true when the person visited by the symbol is a child. Children live and breathe metaphor, and the logic-based response of "There's no such thing as monsters, you don't have to be afraid" takes them out of that reality and plunges them into one that makes as little sense to them as monsters and magic make to us wise old adults.

And maybe when we read astrological charts, we would do well to linger in the images a little longer, to help the client envision Pluto and ask what it wants; to make friends with Saturn, share a drink together and relish its wisdom; to speak kindly to the needy Moon and listen carefully for the response. We don't always know in which planets lurk monsters, waiting in the closet to visit our clients' dreams or relationships or habits. Maybe none of them; maybe all. But we can facilitate that knowledge. Maybe some monsters are friendly, though they appear menacing. Maybe some are scared themselves. Maybe some just feel lost and are trying to make their way back home. It doesn't hurt to ask.

But there is also the readiness of the client to consider, and this is the third value I try to mind as I approach someone's feeling-state. It is actually a sub-set of compassion – but an important one. This child I was confronted with last night, who in turn was confronting monsters, is only two years old. He is not yet ready to understand explanations about archetypes, symbols and metaphors. He is not ready for a discussion of his feelings beyond telling me what they are: "Scared", "Sad", "Happy".

So we just got a little more familiar with the monsters. We talked about what the monsters looked like (hairy, with eyes and teeth), how many there were (ten) and where they gathered (*definitely* in Rohan's room, *definitely not* in Mama and Daddy's room). But when I asked, he wasn't yet ready to consider what they wanted. He just knew he needed them to go away.

So I marched out to the kitchen, dug around in some cupboards and finally located the Monster Spray I keep on hand for just such occasions. I returned to the bedroom and announced myself to the monsters, shouting, "Go away, monsters! You're not welcome

here! You leave Rohan alone!" I circled the room's periphery, spraying walls, corners and furniture so no monsters could enter that night, so Rohan felt safe.

And within literally – and I do mean literally – ten seconds, he was fast asleep.

I know the monsters will be back. But when they come, Rohan and I will be ready – because my astrology training has helped me think metaphorically, archetypally, symbolically. I'll be able to use those skills to help this child envision himself as a hero when it comes time to really fight those monsters.

Read more by Diploma Student Kathy at <http://depthastrology.blogspot.com/>



ASTROLOG 1: LIFE AND MEANING

by Bruno & Louise Huber et al

Review by Kathy Rogers

When did a book last promise to explain the answer to Life, the Universe, and Everything? On that occasion the answer was 42¹ which left most of us none the wiser. This book is very different. Its 300 pages contain tutorial items and deeply philosophical essays which make it an invaluable resource for the student and the proficient astrologer alike.

The core teachings of Bruno and Louise Huber are familiar to most of us through the eight key texts that form a 'must read' for newcomers to the Huber approach and an essential reference library for practitioners. However these teachings are not a static doctrine but are the foundation for a dynamic, evolving and, above all, living form of modern astrology.

AstroLog 1: Life and Meaning is the first in a planned series of books. It gives English-language readers access to over 20 of the most thought-provoking and influential articles published in AstroLog, the German-language magazine that has documented this continuing development for more than a quarter of a century. The translation has been due to a generous bequest by Agnes Shellens, whose enthusiasm for the Huber's work led her to translate much of their writing for the first time for an English-speaking audience.

The book is divided into four parts that take the reader through developments in *Astrological Psychology*, into the existential arena of *Life and Meaning*, on a journey in *Age Progression* and then to the core dynamic of *Growth and Transformation*. This is therefore a book that allows a straight read through or one you can dip into time and time again, each time emerging with more insights and greater wisdom.

AstroLog 1: Life and Meaning contains an extraordinary wealth of material. I'd like to share just a few of the thoughts I had as I read. The first chapter is entitled simply *Astrological Psychology* by Bruno Huber. This is the most concise yet comprehensive description of the Huber method that I've read and I've annotated its 3½ sides as an essential read for anyone interested in Astrological Psychology. However, it's within *Psychosynthesis and Astrology* that Bruno says "...it is the insight that something could be better that initiates the search for meaning...setting in motion chain reactions in the consciousness that cannot be stopped". This search for meaning can bring us to astrology and

Bruno comments that our conscious observation of ourselves may sometimes lead to a wish that we'd never got involved in astrology "...in order to become completely 'normal' again". It's too late for most of us, but this remarkable chapter explores how we can draw on concepts from psychosynthesis to enhance our astrological practice.

There are a number of articles on the transpersonal planets and, in particular, Pluto. As many astrologers hypothesise about the possible changes that Pluto's ingress into Capricorn may bring, it's timely to read two chapters about Pluto's status as a planet. As Harald Zittlau comments, the correlation between the movements of the classical planets and events on earth have been meticulously observed for centuries yet, due to its much later discovery, mankind has consciously observed less than half an orbit of Pluto.

This book contains something for everyone. There are chapters that stimulate deep thinking, including one where Louise Huber reminds us to laugh – "...laughing is a healing energy because it stops us taking ourselves so seriously, no longer seeing everything in terms of our EGO and reacting negatively to every failure". In addition,

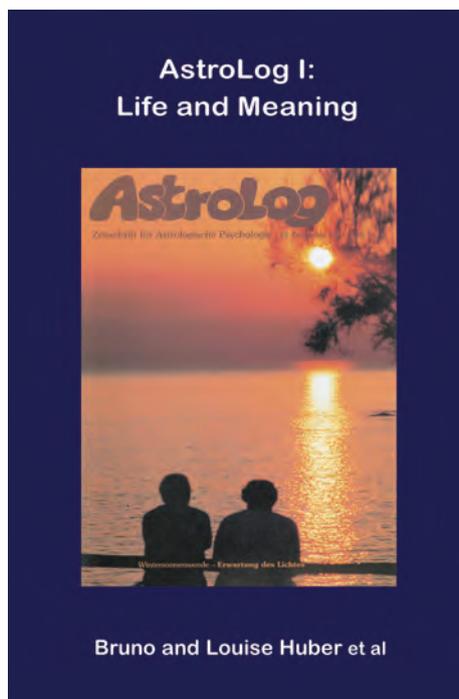
some chapters explore basic concepts in a way that will make you relook at your own chart and re-evaluate it. As an example, try looking at *Moon Node – Ascendant* by Ruth Schmidhauser.

This book would make a wonderful addition to any bookshelf. It has been translated, edited and published with care. The commitment of the team of people who have brought us *AstroLog 1: Life and Meaning* has given us a volume you will want to return to; to read for research, for growth and to promote personal reflection; and a book that offers you a way to come back to your daily life with a new perspective and the knowledge your reading has been time well spent.

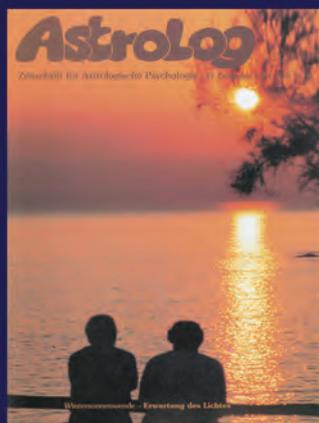
Footnote

1 As explored in *The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy* series written by Douglas Adams

Astrolog 1: Life and Meaning, Bruno & Louise Huber et al, ISBN: 0-9547680-7-8, Paperback 328pp, is available from the API (UK) bookshop, price £16



AstroLog 1: Life and Meaning



Bruno and Louise Huber et al

Please note:

The views expressed in *Conjunction* are those of the authors
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