

MEDIEVAL AND WESTERN PREDICTIVE ASTROLOGY MATERIALS

The following is a synopsis of works on Western Predictive Astrology published for the Academy of Predictive Astrology.

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Abu Ma'shar: Prince of Astrologers

FEATURE

Ma'shar was a Persian astrologer (8th – 9th century) who had a profound effect on astrology in Western Europe.

This paper gives an overview of his work and indicates the influences that were brought to bear on Ma'shar and how they passed through his work and came to influence the West at a time when astrology was reaching its zenith. He was the greatest astrologer of his day and it is essential for the modern practitioner of Predictive astrology to be familiar with his work.

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Alkindi On the Stellar Rays

BOOK

This book is a translation of a major work by the renowned astrologer-magician Alkindi.

On the Stellar Rays gives a clear exposition of a doctrine of magic, written at a time when magic was both accepted and practised. As such, it provides a reliable reference point for the study of magic and related subjects.

The translation will appeal to those interested in magic, astrology, physics, and psychology. According to Alkindi, these are all interwoven. More than this, anyone interested in the development of science in the West and the philosophy of science in general will find this work of particular importance, as will those concerned with the great debate of religion versus science.

This is the only translation available in English

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Angels

FEATURE

The Angel is known to a great many but understood by few. Yet, it lies at the root of spiritual understanding and of all major religions. In our modern Age, most of us have become divorced from a proper understanding of angelic forces and how to recognize and attune to them. We thus, generally have to rely on the interpretations of others when considering them.

This paper draws upon the four great and ancient reservoirs of theological, philosophical, astrological, and magical texts. In doing so, it examines how Pagans, Christians and Jews have approached the existence of the Angelic presence on Earth. Exercises are then given so that each of us may find a direct experience of our own Guardian angel. If you are a skeptic in these matters you could do no better than to attempt to gain a first hand knowledge of this subject rather than to rely on secondary intellectual or academic reservations.

Astrologically, the significance of the Angel is simply put in a paraphrase attributed to the philosopher Porphyry originating from Iamblichus "*He is happy who having learned the scheme of his nativity (natal horoscope), and knowing his Guardian*

angel, becomes liberated from Fate." The power of these words, echo, unchanged from deepest antiquity to us here today. Their significance will be immediately apparent to the astrologer and layperson alike. This is a subject worthy of careful attention and proper regard.

TEXTS CITED IN THE MAIN BODY OF THE STUDY:

- Periphyseon sive de divisione naturae ,Opera Omnia*, John Scotus Eriugena, ed. Migne in *Patrologiae cursus completus series latina*
- The Celestial Hierarchies* , Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite, in *The Complete Works*, New York, 1987
- Elements of Theology* , Proclus, ed. Dodds, Oxford, 1963
- On the Mysteries of the Egyptians, Chaldaean and Assyrians*, Iamblichus, translated by Thomas Taylor, Prometheus Trust, Frome, 1999
- De occulta philosophia* in *Opera*, Henry Cornelius Agrippa, New York, 1970
- Biblia Vulgata*
The Holy Bible King James Version
- Liber nativitatum* , Abraham ibn Ezra, Venice, 1507
- Picatrix Latinus* , Pingree ed. London 1986

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Arabic Astrology

FEATURE

This paper discusses the practical and theoretical features that distinguish Arabic astrology from Greek astrology and how they both differ from Western astrology. The significance of the continuity from Greek to Arabic, to Medieval (Western) worlds and hence to for the modern-day Predictive astrologer is addressed.

The major practitioners of Arabic astrology are identified and their dependence upon the works of Dorotheus, Hermes and Ptolemy are investigated. This is done within the broader picture of the state of learning in the West (at the beginning of the Dark Ages), the effect of the rise of Islam and the significance of assimilation of Greek science (including astrology) the East. In doing so this

paper demonstrates the central role that Hermeticism played in shaping astrological practice and doctrine that we still use today.

The impact of the writings of Ptolemy on Arabic astrology is analysed. A list of the astrological techniques Ptolemy omitted from his *Tetrabiblos* is given. This throws the difference between Arabic and Greek astrology in sharp relief and goes some way towards explaining how the divergence in techniques emerged.

Dorotheus's lesser-known *Carmen Astrologicum* is also examined in detail. It is compared with the Medieval work of Guido Bonatti (the *Liber astronomiae*) and with Firmicus Maternus's *Mathesis*. The latter being a Latin work (circa 330 AD) which exerted such a strong influence upon Medieval astrology and contains a core of understanding essential to the modern practice of Predictive Astrology in the West and East today.

In dealing with the leading Arabic and Jewish astrologers, Masha`allah, Abu `Ali Al-Khayyat and Abu Ma`shar special attention is paid to their use of triplicity rulers in chart delineation, their use of the *Almutem* (ruler of the horoscope), and predictive techniques, including the highly skilled longevity techniques.

Abu `Ali Al-Khayyat's and Abu Ma`shar's debt to Masha`allah is discussed and attention is given on the time periods Abu Ma`shar gives in his *Kitab al-Ulufas* presented by David Pingree in his *The Thousands of Abu Ma`shar*.

The paper concludes with a list of the major features of Arabic astrological practice.

PRINCIPLE TEXTS CITED IN THE MAIN BODY OF THE STUDY

Martianus Capella and the Seven Liberal Arts,

Ancient Astrology in Theory and Practice: The Mathesis of Firmicus Maternus, Bram, Jean Rhys

Picatrix The Latin Version

Asclepius, in *Hermetica,* translated by Brian Copenhaver

Muqaddimah, Ibn Khaldun, translated by Franz Rosenthal

The Astrological History of Masha`allah, Kennedy and Pingree

The Book of Instruction in the Elements of the Art of Astrology, Al-Biruni, translated by R. Ramsay Wright

The Judgements of Nativities, Abu-`Ali al-Khayyat, translated by James H. Holden,

Ptolemy's Tetrabiblos, translated by J.M. Ashmand

Tetrabiblos, Ptolemy, translated by Robbins

Almagest, Ptolemy, translated by R. C. Taliaferro

Carmen Astrologicum, Dorotheus, translated by Pingree

Liber astronomiae, Bonatti, Basel 1550

Science Awakening, Van der Waerden
Greek Horoscopes, Neugebauer, O. and Hoesen
Albumasar in Sadan
The Thousands of Abu Ma`shar, Pingree,
The Five Books of M. Manilius, London, 1697
Hermetica, Copenhagen, Brian
Epitome totius astrologiae, Norimberg, 1548 John of Spain (Johannes Hispalensis)
Christian Astrology, Lilly, William
Clavis Astrologiae Elimata, Coley, Henry, 2nd ed.
Isagoge Alcabitius, Paris, 1521
al-Madkhal fi Sina`at Ahkam al-Nujum, Kusyar ibn Labban ibn Basahari al-Jili,
translated by M. Yano
New and Complete Outline of the Occult Sciences, Ebenezer Sibly, 1790 & 1791

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Astrology and Wisdom

FEATURE

Today the pursuit of wisdom as the prime objective of astrology has been largely abandoned. In its stead psychological analysis and introspection have come to predominate in the Western democracies. For the majority this has destroyed astrology as a predictive Art and so dissolved its central aim, the attainment of wisdom for the practitioner and for the client.

This paper discusses the need for realignment and how to go about it.

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Astrology in the United States of America Prior to 1870

FEATURE

The origins and history of astrology in the United States prior to the Civil War are even more obscure than those of ancient astrology. Nevertheless, these origins are of importance as they provide the foundation upon which the later 19th century revival of astrology in the United States and the 20th century creation of “New Age” or Aberration Astrology developed.

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Avicbron and the Fountain of Life

FEATURE

Today many scientists use Copernican heliocentric astronomy (that the Earth revolves around the Sun) as a repudiation of astrology. This places astrologers in the position of having to justify their pre-Copernican application of astronomy. It is a debate that has been raging for many centuries and drives to the root of the difficulty that many scientists and academics have in understanding astrology.

This paper examines the work and life of one of the greatest mind to address this very matter.

It demonstrates by examination of Avicbron's **Yanbu-`al-Chayyah** (the **Fons vitae** (in Latin) or the **Fountain of Life**) that not only is the modern scientific viewpoint naive but that its approach to astrology is seriously flawed.

Essentially, the problem is that astrology draws upon *sapientia* (wisdom) that still lies outside most current scientific understanding (*sciencia* (Latin) or *ilm* (Arabic)). The irony being that one of those who realised this was Copernicus himself, (an astrologer as well as an astronomer) whose theorem scientists are so ready to enlist in support of their position.

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Blending of Astrology and Medicine

FEATURE

Astrological calculation was regarded as essential in determining the appropriate time to commence or change treatment and planetary movements were regarded as strongly influencing the patient's prognosis.

This paper is one of a series of medical papers considering these issues.

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Bonatti and Cardan: Considerations and Aphorisms

BOOK

For three hundred years, this book provided for the English-speaking world the only access to a legacy left by two of the world's greatest astrologers.

The *Considerations* of Bonatti (13th century) provide a wealth of knowledge for the predictive astrologer – in matters of horary, electional, and natal judgment. Their scope are very wide ranging from fixed stars, the void-of-course moon, declensions, retrograde motions, how to deal with late degree (post 29°) positions, to eclipses, planetary combustions, nodes and much more, making it a highly valuable work.

The *Aphorisms* of Cardan (16th century) cover a wide variety of subjects from general advice to specific direction concerning nativities, elections, revolutions (including solar and lunar returns), disease, eclipses and comets, weather, earthquakes, war, husbandry and more.

The major Western predictive astrologers consider this book is essential reading.

This book is the **most complete and comprehensive** edition yet produced. As well as text it also includes the famous Lilly, Cardan, Bonatti engraving which has not been reproduced in any modern form since 1676. Additionally, it has facsimile copy of the original William Lilly (17th century) epistle.

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Bonatti on the Arabic Parts

BOOK

The ancient doctrine of the Arabic Parts gives the astrologer a profound insight into the inner workings of a horoscope - whether it be natal, mundane, horary or electional. They deal with all areas of life -including war, wisdom, commodity speculation, profession, marriage, children, partnerships, death and spirituality.

This work is now the seminal work on the Parts and draws upon the original *tractatus* of Guido Bonatti, the leading astrologer of his Age.

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Bonatti On War

BOOK

Guido Bonatti was as a successful military astrologer. Testimony of this is found in the independent *Annals of Forli* (modern Italy). Forli was a city that he used astrology in the defence of, against the superior forces of the French king and Pope Martin IV. It was considered an astounding victory.

This work is a translation of his method. It offers a rich vein to the present-day astrologer who may use Bonatti's techniques to examine modern warfare. Indeed, some modern practitioners have taken the broader principle of warfare as being competition and successfully applied the same techniques to sporting competitions.

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The Guardian Angel and Astrology

FEATURE

The Guardian Angel accompanies each of us from birth.

This paper discusses the nature of this Angel and examines two different viewpoints – that of the psychologist and that of the Predictive astrologer. The latter delineates the natal figure and draws upon esoteric and sacred doctrine. In doing so astrologers can demonstrate that the modern view – that we are *essentially* formed by nurture and the environment – is wrong. On the contrary, the spiritual forces inherent at our birth are of fundamental importance throughout our lives and these forces are closely tied to our Guardian Angel.

"This belief in guardian angels can be traced throughout all antiquity; pagans like Menander and Plutarch and Neoplatonists, like Plotinus, held it. It was also the belief of the Babylonians and Assyrians, as their monuments testify, for a figure of a guardian angel now in the British Museum once decorated an Assyrian palace, and might well serve for a modern representation; while Nabopolassar, father of Nebuchadnezzar the Great, says: `He (the Assyrian god Marduk) sent a tutelary deity (cherub) of grace to go at my side; in everything that I did, he made my work to succeed."

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The Hermetic Tradition

FEATURE

The Hermetic tradition is some 2300 years old. It is centred on the writings of the **Corpus hermeticum** and has had a profound effect on astrology and Western thought.

This paper starts with the tradition's Hellenistic origins and the fusion of the Greek god Hermes with the Egyptian god Thoth. It traces the tradition from Hellenistic Alexandria, to Syria and Baghdad, then Spain, Sicily and France, Renaissance Italy and finally to the present day. As intellectuals in each of these places encountered this extraordinary tradition, there was a marked

development of scientific thought, which has largely shaped the world of the 21st century.

Special attention is given to the leading names in Hermeticism. These include Iamblichus, Firmicus Maternus, Martianus Capella, Abu Ma`shar, Jabir ibn Hayyan, Al-Fargani, al-Battani, Thibet ben Qurrah, al-Idrisi, Surhawardi, Michael Scot, Guido Bonatti, Roger Bacon, Marsilio Ficino, Pico della Mirandola, Giordano Bruno and Athenasius Kircher. The importance of Freemasonry as a latter day repository of Hermetic symbolism and extant public examples of Hermetic iconography are touched upon. Also, the Hermetic chain of adepts according to Ibn Sab (13th century) is presented. A list that antedates Ficino's 15th century "Golden Chain" of *Prisci Theologi*.

PRINCIPLE TEXTS CITED IN THE MAIN BODY OF THE STUDY

Hermetica, translated by Copenhaver,
Hermetica, translated by Scott
The Divine Pymander, translated by Everard,
On the Mysteries of the Egyptians, Chaldaeans and Assyrians translated by Taylor,
Picatrix The Latin Version, ed. Pingree
De vita coelitus comparanda, Marsilio Ficino, Opera Omnia, Bottega D'Erasmus
De Occulta Philosophia, by H.C. Agrippa
Muqaddimah, Ibn Khaldun, translated by Franz Rosenthal
Origin, progresos y estado actual de toda la literatura, by Juan Andres
The Life of Greece, by Durant
Proclus' Commentary on the First Book of Euclid's Elements
On the Nature of the Gods, Cicero
Martianus Capella and the Seven Liberal Arts: The Wedding of Mercury and Philology
Albumasar in Sadan
Almagest, Ptolemy, translated by Taliaferro
Speculum maius, Vincent of Beauvais,
The Renaissance of the Twelfth Century, Charles Homer Haskins
Geographie, al-Idrisi, translated by Jaubert
Physica et Mystica, Bolos
History of Magic and Experimental Science, Lynn Thorndike
Commentarius in Timaeum Platonis, William of Conches
De philosophia mundi, William of Conches
Liber Hermetis Mercurii Triplicis de VI rerum principiis,
Silverstein in *Archives d'histoire doctrinale et litteraire du Moyen Age*
The Didiscalicon of Hugh of St Victor, Taylor
Theologia christiana, Abelard
Opus Minor, Bacon, Roger
John Colet and the Platonic Tradition Miles, Leland
Oedipus Aegyptiacus, Anasthasius Kircher
Le Origine de tous les Cultes ou Religion Universelle Dupuis
The Origins of Freemasonry Stevenson

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The Hermetica as Science

FEATURE

What is the practical relevance of hermetic writings today?

This paper explores that question. It asks where Hermetica's real value lies. Consideration is given to the connection between the *practical hermetic* texts on alchemy, astrology, and magic and their relation to the *philosophical* hermetic texts. Taken collectively, both suggest the existence of a hermetic *praxis*, which is of utmost importance to Western practitioners of the Occult Arts.

These are ancient documents, which held the interest of the greatest of minds. For example they formed the basis of study of alchemy by Newton and of astrology by Kepler but to name two.

PRINCIPLE TEXTS CITED IN THE MAIN BODY OF THE STUDY

Dr J. Everard, *The Divine Pymander*, London, 1650

Walter Scott, *Hermetica*, London 1968

Brian Copenhaver, *Hermetica*,

Robert Zoller, translation, *Liber Hermetis Trismegisti*,

The Mathesis of Firmicus Maternus

Stavenhagen, *A Testament of Alchemy: being the Revelations of Morienus to Khalid ibn Yazid*

Taylor, Iamblichus, *On the Mysteries of the Egyptians, Chaldaeans and Assyrians*

Picatrix The Latin Version

Garth Fowden, *The Egyptian Hermes*

E. J. Holmyard, *Alchemy*

Plato, *Timaeus*

Dodds, translation, Proclus, *Elements of Theology*

Bible (King James Version), Vulgate

Martinus Rulandus, *A Lexicon of Alchemy*, (1612)

H. C. Agrippa, *De Occulta Philosophia*

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Introduction to Western Predictive Astrology

FEATURE

This is an audio lecture with transcript.

It provides a comprehensive introduction to Western Predictive Astrology, also known as Medieval astrology. Presented by Robert Zoller, who is widely regarded as one of the foremost practitioners and teachers of the Predictive astrology, it lays a blueprint for studies in astrology.

It is in fact the Orientation lecture from the 27-part course from the Diploma in Medieval Astrology (DMA). This is a tutored course where students work closely with Robert Zoller. The course incorporates the most recent research in the field of Predictive astrology and is considered the most in-depth course available.

For further information please email the Registrar of the Academy of Predictive Astrology at dma@new-library.com or visit www.new-library.com/zoller/courses

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Jewish Astrology

FEATURE

Starting with the famous statement “No stars for Israel” this paper survey’s Jewish thought on astrology.

Judaism’s stance on astrology is compared with the far more restrictive stand of the Christians. The reasons for the flourishing of new learning in Jewish communities across Europe is explored as are such things as to why the advanced Islamic science become known to Jews in Christian Spain while the Spanish Christians rejected the same knowledge.

Biblical texts concerned with astral influence are analysed. References are compared with the report in Josephus’s *Bellicum Judaicum* that the twelve loaves of shewbread in the Temple refer to the twelve signs of the zodiac; that the Holy Living Creatures were constellations; that the seven eyes of the Lord, (referred to in the book of the prophet *Zechariah*) are the seven planets and that the twelve jewels in the High Priest’s ephod stood for the twelve tribes of Israel.

Artapanus's opinion that the Patriarch Abraham taught the Egyptians astrology is examined. As is the contention that Moses and Hermes Trismegistus were one and the same. Citations from the *Talmud*, to the effect that astrology was used as a tool of governance by both Moses and Solomon are also explored.

The works of leading Jewish astrologers are examined, such as Messahallah, with an eye to ascertaining the general features of his astrological practice. Especial attention is given to his use of the Saturn Jupiter conjunctions, the *Almutem*, and also Dorotheus's triplicity rulers.

Abraham Ibn Ezra is also studied. His *The Beginning of Wisdom* is analysed. Ibn Ezra's debt to Arabic astrological practices is discussed as well as his Kabbalistic Letter Mysticism.

PRINCIPLE TEXTS CITED IN THE MAIN BODY OF THE STUDY

Encyclopedia Judaica

The Zohar

Bellum Judaicum, Josephus,

The Life and Works of Flavius Josephus, translated by William Whiston.

Liber Messahallae de revolutione annorum mundi, edited by J. Heller Noribergae 1549

Iulii Firmici Materni Astronomicon, Basel 1557

The Judgements of Nativities, Abu `Ali al-Khayyat

Liber Astronomiae, Guido Bonatti, Basel, 1550

The Astrological History of Masha`allah

John Dee on Astronomy, edited and translated by Wayne Shumaker

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Marc Edmund Jones and New Age Astrology in America

FEATURE

This paper examines the contribution of astrologers to the "New Age" movement in the USA and in particular the use of astrology as a springboard for personal spiritual development and psychological growth. In doing so, it examines a key role played by one of the leading proponents of this view, the American Marc Edmund Jones (1888-1980).

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Medical Astrology in Early Western Europe

FEATURE

This paper discusses the state of medical astrology in barbarian Western Europe prior to 500AD. It examines the state of their astronomical learning; their medical lore and their understanding of a correlation between the affairs of heaven and effects on earth.

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Medieval Astrology in the Modern World

FEATURE

This paper examines the continued importance of Western Predictive Astrology in the modern World. It is a primer for those considering the study of the Western Predictive Tradition.

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The Occult Sciences of Astrology, Alchemy, and Magic

FEATURE

There is a persistent call for scientists to accept the tenets of astrology, magic, and alchemy. However, it is becoming increasingly apparent that most scientists are incapable of achieving this. Perhaps more surprisingly though it is now equally apparent that many of those calling for this "recognition" betray an equal state of ignorance.

It is imperative that those studying the Occult Arts understand what the three occult sciences – astrology, magic and alchemy - were in the past and what they have become today. Only with this overview can the real state of Occult Arts, as practised in the mainstream today, be appreciated.

This paper focuses on achieving that understanding and in so doing shows that occult science have never been the abject and ignorant superstition that some today seek to portray them as. Robert Zoller discusses the transmission of occult science into Europe. In particular, he examines the influence of the great astrologer Abu Ma'shar and discusses his *Introductorium Maius (Kitab al-mudkhal al-kabir ila `ilm ahkam an-nujjum)*.

The works of alchemists, such as Geber (Jabir ibn Hayyan), often considered the greatest alchemists of Islam are examined. With especial attention given to alchemical teachings found in Geber's *The Books of the Balances*.

Magic as practised by adepts is also examined. The Medieval magician was a highly educated scientist, competent in both *scientia* (`ilm) and *sapientia* (hikma). Ibn Khaldun's *Muqaddimah* is examined. The central concepts of his examination of the *Kitab al-Ghayah* (known to the West as the *Picatrix*) are explored.

This article is highly recommended.

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Predictive Astronomy

FEATURE

This is an audio lecture with transcript and charts.

It provides a comprehensive introduction to the astronomy that must be understood by the Predictive Astrologer. Presented by Robert Zoller, who is widely regarded as one of the foremost practitioners and teachers of the Predictive astrology.

It forms the second lesson of the 27-part Diploma Course in Medieval Astrology.

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Prediction and the 11th September 2001

FEATURE

This paper examines prediction and in particular those predictions relating to the attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Centre, made twelve months before the events.

The paper gives an overview of the standards necessary for astrological prediction and an indication of the methods used. It **primarily relates to the predictions and considerations before judgment** that specifically stated that an attack would be by Islamic fundamentalists on US soil, that it would be in September 2001 and **which** specifically named bin Laden. **These** predictions were published twelve months before **the events**, in August 2000.

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The Sabaean Astronomy of Thabit ben Qurra

FEATURE

This is a translation of a work on astronomy by the great 9th century hermetic philosopher, astronomer, and mathematician Thabit ben Qurra. It deals with the celestial sphere. Originally written in Arabic, it was translated into Latin, in the 12th century and was reworked by Campanus in the 13th century.

This is the only extant translation in English.

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Sabaeanism : Ancient Astrology

FEATURE

There were a people in the Middle East who were the true inheritors of classical paganism. This ancient people projected myths into the sky in order to ensure that they would always be available and to serve as mnemonic and didactic aids. The excellence of this device is found in the fact that we are looking at “their” same constellations tens of centuries later.

This abridged Academy paper discusses the enduring influence of this people and examines in detail the essential nature of the constellations (both zodiacal and extra-zodiacal) giving practical guidance to the astrologer. It deals with astronomical concepts such as the power of the parans, the acronical and heliacal rising and settings of stars and what this means in practical astrology. Myths are unravelled to reveal their astronomical foundation and parallels.

This highly important study is recommended to all practitioners and students of Predictive astrology and contains material that is not to found elsewhere.

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Slavery and Astrology

FEATURE

This paper is designed to aid the researcher who is investigating the significance of astrological configurations that indicated the state of slavery in ancient times. Today these same configurations are still to be found however; they seldom indicate slavery in its original sense – i.e. the ownership of another human being. Instead, they are indications of that which the state of slavery has always indicated: a state of adversity and lack of personal freedom.

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Development of Astrology in the Nineteenth Century

FEATURE

An examination of astrological literature available during the 19th century. This study focuses on Gardner's *Bibliotheca Astrologica*.

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Tools and Techniques of the Medieval Astrologer

For over twenty years *Tools and Techniques* has been a leading text for the Predictive astrologer. Now extensively revised, enlarged and released as a trilogy, this work is highly recommended to those who wish to learn and practice astrological prediction.

Tools and Techniques teaches the actual techniques used by medieval astrologers when Western astrology was at its height, over 700 years ago. They are practical how-to texts, based on Latin translations, with metaphysical and historical material, which help elucidate obscure and difficult facets of the art of Western Predictive astrology.

The *Tools and Techniques* trilogy is highly recommended to those who wish to grasp the practical application of Western predictive techniques and who wish to explore the metaphysical principles upon which they are founded. This series of three books are considered essential reading for the student of Western Predictive Astrology and are standard texts for those completing both the Foundation Course in Medieval Astrology and the more advanced Diploma Course in Medieval Astrology. They include methods and techniques not found elsewhere and incorporates new research and insights that supersede earlier (pre-2002) editions of the single volume work of the same name.

Book I: On Prenatal Concerns and Calculating the Length of Life **BOOK**

This is the first book in the *Tools and Techniques* trilogy.

The **first section** of *Book One* begins with an investigation of the prenatal factors that an astrologer should consider for the successful birth of a child. It discusses the remarkable technique known as the *Trutine of Hermes*, which is attributed to Hermes Trismegistus (and forms the 51st aphorism of “Ptolemy’s” *Centiloquim*). Essentially, this technique is used for finding the best time for conceiving a child, though in the hands of an experienced predictive astrologer may be used for rectification.

There then follows a translation of the insights of Andalo di Negro of Genoa, who discusses the *trutine* technique. This rare translation is from a 12th century manuscript found in the Vatican and may be compared with the observations of Guido Bonatti (13th century), which are also included in the book.

The **second section** of this book covers in great detail the complex and important matter of longevity. Attention is focused on the four *differentiae* or categories of birth, which must be understood in order to know if an infant will survive and reach adulthood.

The **third section** of the book gives instruction on how to find the Hyleg and the Alcocoden (by which the length of life is known).

It should be emphasised that unlike many other works concerning matters of birth, life and death this is not a book of theory. Modern examples are given with full charts, tables and instruction. Determining the length of life is an important consideration for the predictive astrologer not least because there is no point in making predictions for a time when the native may be dead.

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Tools and Techniques of the Medieval Astrologer

BOOK

Book II: Astrological Prediction by Direction and the Subdivisions of the Signs

This is the second book in the *Tools and Techniques* trilogy.

Book Two deals with advanced predictive techniques and the sub-divisions of the signs:

Prediction using the Terms – a predictive technique for examining specific periods of a person’s life to determine his/her state of well-being.

Prediction using the Firdaria - this predictive technique allows the astrologer to chart the whole course of the native’s life without personal knowledge of the native. In doing so, the astrologer can identify major events and influences that will affect the life of the native.

Prediction using Primary Directions –the most powerful of the predictive techniques, it can be used in both natal and mundane astrology for identifying events of paramount importance.

Sub-division of the Signs – planets are stronger in some parts of a sign than in other parts. Once the basics of astrology have been learnt, these nuances of sign sub-division should be mastered. The second section of this book is devoted to this advanced level of understanding. Both the *Duodecimae* and the *Novenaria* sub-divisions are discussed at length.

Lord of the Circle – this is a technique that combines **profection** with **planetary hours** to identify cyclical patterns that occur in all natal horoscopes. It includes detailed examples and explanation for the calculation of such things as unequal hours.

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Tools and Techniques of the Medieval Astrologer

BOOK

Book III: Horary and Electional Astrology and An Astrological Miscellany

This is the third book in the *Tools and Techniques* trilogy.

Book Three draws upon ancient doctrines, which were imparted to the West by Arab and Jewish astrologers. They themselves having relied on the writings of long dead astrologers: Chaldaeans, Egyptians, Greeks, Indians and Zoroastrians.

Part One deals with **horary** and **electional** astrology. Insight is given as to why a horary or electional chart, may not operate in the manner expected by the modern-day practitioner. It also briefly addresses the use of factors that fortify a planet: *Cazami / Zamini* (the extraordinary fortification of a planet when in the "heart" of the Sun); *Almuguea* of a planet (based on it's relationship, by sign, to the Sun and Moon) , and *Alitifel* (from Alchabitius), which gives refinement to the aspectual relationship between planets.

Finally, this section also explains the *dustoria* or *aym* of a planet (also known today as *haym* or *hayz*). When a planet is in this minor dignity it will more effectively produce that which it ought. It is part of an extremely old form of delineation that dates back to the Babylonians.

Part Two deals with four important topics:

The Combust and Incombust hours of the Sun and Moon (also known as *Albium* and *Albiuth*) – this doctrine, largely unknown in the West, equates to the ancient Chinese work *Book of Changes* (more commonly known as the *I-Ching*). It shows a sophisticated understanding of the Sun-Moon-Earth relationship and as such gives the predictive astrologer, as well as the New Age physicists and psychologist, a better understanding of the application of time to events. It addresses the *Duodena* of the Moon.

The correct use of Planetary Hours – drawing on the work of the astrologer Bethen (as translated into Latin by Abano in the 13th century), this is a concise method for the construction of the hours and for determining what they relate to, good or bad. It also relates them to the elemental nature of the sign rising during a particular planetary hour, and thus allows the astrologer better refinement of delineation in matters such as electional astrology.

A Paraphrase of Ibn Ezra's Instructions for finding the Planetary Ruler of the Whole Chart (also known as the *Almutem* or *Almuten figuris*) – the chart ruler is considered more powerful than all the other planets put together. Its identification is essential to the proper synthesis of the natal chart. This method goes further than allowing distinction between natives, in such things as character or physiognomy, to giving direct and profound insight into the soul.

Ibn Ezra's Eight Rules for Verifying a Natal Chart – these rules allow the astrologer to place a chart into context with things greater than the individual. The rules are founded on the understanding that each person is inextricably tied to a fate that encompasses others – family, group, community, or nation. It is for this reason that natal charts may become sublimated e.g. when the native is on a plane that crashes, when going to war as a member of an army battalion, when caught in an epidemic or famine or mass disaster that affects entire an entire region.

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Use of the Archetype in Prediction

FEATURE

When the astrologer reads the natal figure and commences to judge the mass of symbols, numbers, and lines that indicate the native's physique, health, motivation, personality, and destiny, s/he is at once confronted with a conundrum. For not only must the astrologer discover the individual's motivations and where they will lead in terms of the native's life, but also, s/he has to relate the native to all mankind. Most astrologers can attempt the first but very few can successfully undertake the second and yet a thorough understanding of both is essential to the predictive craft.

This now famous study guides the astrologer through the steps needed to relate the individual to all individuals, indeed to the entire world. In short, the placing of the individual in the Cosmos. In doing so it addresses the dual effect of both the sidereal and the tropical Zodiacs and perhaps more importantly how to distinguish things that never change from those that do.

You can take virtually any human activity and see the difference between the changing and the unchanging Archetypes. For example, if we consider war: at the base of warfare is the survival of the soldier coupled with other unchanging

qualities, such as that the ultimate weapon of the soldier is his/her own life force (i.e. what s/he is). Those who embody Mars/Aries exhibit that aspect of the unchanging Archetype. In contrast to this, we find that weapons of war and armour changes, as do the development of new strategies and devices. The two, that which is unchanging and that which changes, have to be distinguished so that the astrologer can predict with certainty.

This abridged Academy paper includes esoteric doctrine never before published and ends with a discussion of the Ages of the World - commonly recognized as the Age of Pisces, the Age of Aquarius etc.

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Valentine Weigel on Fate and Free Will

FEATURE

Many modern astrologers are confronted with a painful inadequacy when reading a horoscope. They can diagnose problems that the native may confront but too often remain powerless to do anything about those problems.

This raises issues central to Fate and Free Will. This paper discusses these in relation of the works of Weigel, who put a great deal of thought into the matter.

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