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The Uranian

Bringing the stars down to earth

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN DIEGO ASTROLOGICAL SOCIETY

JANUARY MEETING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

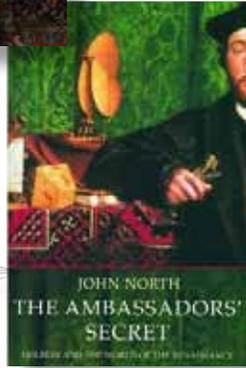
7:30PM

THE FRENCH AMBASSADORS AND THE SECRET HOROSCOPE

—DOUGLAS BARKER—

The year is 1533. King Henry VIII has England as well as the Continent in an uproar over his plans to take over the Church in England and divorce his very Catholic Spanish queen, Catherine of Aragon, who has been unable to provide him with a male heir. (He has already secretly married his latest mistress Anne Boleyn and Henry needs the divorce before her pregnancy shows.) However, the pope has refused to grant an annulment. Jean de Dinteville, the French ambassador, walks a tightrope of diplomacy as he attempts to smooth relations between Henry and François I, the French king. Both England and France are threatened by the increasing power of Charles V, the Holy Roman emperor and king of Spain, but France is also closely allied with the Church in Rome. And the great German Renaissance master, Hans Holbein, residing in London, paints his most outstanding — and enigmatic — work, a double portrait of de Dinteville and his close friend Georges de Selve, the French envoy to the Vatican.

The still-life painting within a painting on the table between the two men is astounding in its accuracy and includes astronomical instruments that seem on close inspection to point to . . . what? To hear the rest of this fascinating story including the meaning of some of the mundane objects as well as the strange objects in the foreground of the painting and to find the horoscope concealed in the painting and what it reveals — you're just going



to have to come to experience this slide-illustrated lecture.

Douglas Barker is an art historian who has taught well over a hundred courses at various colleges, most recently at Northern Arizona University. He has also been a professional astrologer for over twenty-five years and has conducted several tours of art museums in Europe. Additionally, Douglas is SDAS's very own Dan Brown, always showing us in his lectures esoteric meaning hidden in plain sight in many conventional art masterpieces. And, by the way, come prepared to enjoy some outstanding examples of some Renaissance masterpieces. ♃

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FEBRUARY MEETING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

7:30PM

TRANSITS FOR LONG-TERM PLANNING

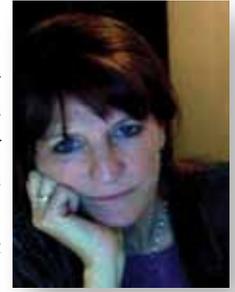
—JULIE BRADEN—

With seven exact Uranus/Pluto squares coming in the next four years, among other major transits, predictions regarding what the next few years will bring will take center stage with many clients we astrologers will be working with. With all of the heavy cardinal activity lately of the outer planets as these powerful forces connect with individual charts we astrologers would be well advised to be sure our tool kits are well stocked and updated to provide cogent guidance regarding what is going to unfold. This is a presentation that underscores why even seasoned astrologers benefit from coming to astrological lectures.

In the February lecture Julie Braden will synthesize two key interpretive techniques: Rob Hand's Saturn quadrant grid (based on Grant Lewi's work), Bernadette Brady's transit grid, and an ephemeris graph. Learning (or being reminded of) these two sharpens the ability to hone in on key trigger points in the chart, what energy is being presented, where/how this energy was originally birthed, where the current action will occur, what can and can't be done with pretty good accuracy as to what the final outcome will be.

Julie began her serious study of astrology in February 1998 with Terry Lamb, and also worked with other accomplished teachers and astrologers. These studies have led her to successful collaborations with private individuals and with the Native American

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LO, A NEW YEAR IS UPON US! AND WHAT A WAY TO BEGIN, WITH ALL THE PLANETS MOVING FORWARD — NARY A RETROGRADE IN THE BUNCH. THOUGH THE RECENT MERCURY RETROGRADE WAS A FORCE TO BE reckoned with. For the first time I found myself having to re-route travel plans on the fly (pun totally intended); my late-night flight out of New Orleans was delayed to a point where I would miss my connection in Denver, which meant spending the night in the New Orleans airport or the Denver airport. Neither of which appealed to me. With some quick thinking (being a Gemini helps) and a decision to figure it out once I got to wherever the flight at the next gate was going, I pretty much lucked out. It happened to be going to LAX, where I then hopped on the last flight leaving for Carlsbad two gates over about 20 minutes after I landed; a whole lot easier getting someone to drive to Carlsbad at midnight to pick you up than LA. Or Denver. Amazing what can happen when you don't have a whole lot of time to mull things over too much.

Which leads me to consider the first Mars retrograde in two years. The very combination of “Mars” and “retrograde” would seem like a total dichotomy: the ultimate oxymoron. I had to do some research. The last Mars retrograde was in December 2009 — about a month after I got laid off from my job of 16 years — nestled inside my natal Pluto-Moon conjunction. Yeah, that would slow things down a bit. I'm still feeling the effects of that one.

More research. “Mars retrograde often requires exploration of the deeper issues underneath the surface of the situation before you can move forward. As a result, progress can some-

times stall or go into hibernation during the retrograde period.” OK, bingo. Can we move on?? Oh wait, it's a retrograde, what was I thinking. “Perhaps you've hit a roadblock or an impasse and you have to figure out the best way around it or through it.” Yes, a mighty roadblock indeed. More like permanent detour.

But wait, there's more!: “You might find yourself having a delayed reaction to something that happened a while ago — perhaps triggered during the two months before the retrograde began (in the pre-retrograde Shadow), or even rooted in other Mars retrograde times in the past.” Really. And here we are again.

This retrograde occurs entirely in Virgo, while Saturn joins in the backward motion next door in Libra, about two weeks later. The one hopeful thing that comes to mind with Mars spending seven months — yes, folk, seven — in Virgo, is perhaps we may see the health of the nation, as it were, get a boost. Call me Pollyanna; something's gotta give. Mars hanging in there for that long should have some effect. I do like this take on it, though:

“This special time in the Mars cycle gives us a chance to discover and explore uncharted territory in ourselves and in our lives. We may not understand that territory or find our way to the other side until after Mars turns direct. But Mars honors our courage, drive, movement, and willingness to try new things.” ☸

— Beannachtaí

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Community setting times for healing ceremonies using astrology. She is now immersed in the Bernadette Brady AstroLogos MP3 Study Shops and with her college studies (where she is a currently an honors student and member of Phi Theta Kappa.) She can be reached at jbraden84@cox.net. ☸



Full Moon
January 9



New Moon
January 23



Full Moon
February 7



New Moon
February 21

Plutonian Bumper Stickers you'll never see:

Honk if you think Pluto is still a planet,
not a dog.

Dwarf me?
Dwarf you!
(poof)

THE BOARD OF SDAS
WISHES
EVERYONE
A HEALTHY,
STELLAR
NEW YEAR!



How to tell what sign the Moon is in — without an ephemeris

ONE NIGHT WE WERE DRIVING SOMEPLACE WITH FRIENDS AND THE FULL MOON WAS CLIMBING UP INTO THE SKY, SHINING MAGNIFICENTLY ABOVE THE HILLTOPS. ONE OF OUR FRIENDS SAID, "I WONDER WHAT SIGN THE MOON IS IN."

"Leo," I quickly replied.

The three other people in the car were impressed. That's because they weren't astrologers. I explained that for an astrologer that was a slam dunk. All I had to know was today's date and for astrologers knowing the date is hand in glove with knowing the sign and degree the Sun is in. I told my friends that the full Moon is always opposite the sign the Sun is in and since it was late January the Sun was in Aquarius so this full Moon was in Leo.

That keyed something in me. Over the next several months I'd see how accurate I could be regarding the Moon's placement starting with its shape in the night sky. Here's what I learned.

You need four things to do this:

(1) Knowledge of what signs oppose and square other signs: Your markers for this will be the new Moon (Sun/Moon conjunction), the first quarter Moon (Sun/Moon opening square) full Moon (Sun/Moon opposition) and third quarter Moon (closing square). Remember that it takes the Moon roughly 2½ days to move through a sign so it takes approximately seven days for the Moon to move from each of those phases to the next.

(2) A clear view of the Moon: This should be obvious

(3) Be able to tell whether the Moon is waxing or waning: This is great at a party because I'm always surprised how few people know this. Here's how you tell. Hold your hands up in front of you, slightly cupped, palms facing each other with your thumb and forefinger of the right hand making the letter C and a backward C with the left. If the Moon looks more like your right hand it's waxing, moving toward a full Moon. If it looks more like the left hand then it's waning, shrinking away from a full Moon preparing for the new Moon. FYI, the Maynard's Pocket Astrologer calendar Moon graphics display the quarter moons this way.

(4) Know what the date is that day: This gives you a point of reference. Let's say you see a nice clean edged waxing quarter Moon (looks like half a pie) in the sky as you will see on New Year's Eve, December 31. You know that you're already 9-10 days/degrees into Capricorn, so if you're on the ball you mentally calculate that the recent new Moon was also in Capricorn, in an early degree. This quarter Moon will be square Capricorn which would be the sign of Aries. (Hmmm. Aries Moon on New Year's Eve — maybe my decision to stay home is a prudent one.) However, note that if either the new or full Moon is in very late degrees of a sign, the following square of the quarter Moon will probably be

out of mode. For instance, if the new Moon is in very late degrees Capricorn, the waxing quarter Moon will probably be in Taurus.

Let's try one that isn't right on the quarter Moon, like January 13, the next SDAS meeting. The Moon will have her graceful curved back to the left forming a backward C so you know she is waning, shrinking from a full Moon to new Moon. On this night it will be fatter than a crescent Moon but not quite as filled in as a quarter Moon. You know that she will journey through the signs following the full Moon which would have been in Cancer (opposite Capricorn) Leo, Virgo, and Libra, the sign the waning quarter Moon will occur in. Now you are allowed some wiggle room but only a little. Since the fatness of the Moon indicates she is a little more than half way between the new and quarter Moon you guesstimate and say it is probably just leaving Virgo and entering Libra. And you would be right. That's pretty good for not looking at an ephemeris.

Practice. You'll get to where the quarter Moons are a snap and you'll be amazed at how accurate you become at judging the correct signs for those "in between" Moons. I'll be interested to hear how you do when we meet at the January meeting. ☺



announcements

ADMISSION TO REGULAR MEETINGS is \$7 for members and first-time guests, \$5 for Seniors, and \$12 for non-members.

SDAS MEMBERSHIP DUES are yearly at a rate of \$25 single/\$35 dual for two people at the same address, and include a one-year subscription to *The Uranian*. Dues can be paid at meetings or mailed to SDAS, 1010 University Avenue, PMB #1772, San Diego, CA 92103-3395.

SDAS LIBRARY BOOKS are located at the home of our librarian, Joe Simpson. You may reach him at 619-435-1572. Joe also brings a selection of books to the meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE FLOOR at meetings are welcomed (time limit one minute). Please notify the president or the vice president in advance.

astrological events

BECOME FLUENT IN THE LANGUAGE OF ASTROLOGY! Join Simone Butler for an intimate, intermediate class at her Mission Hills home. We'll cover aspects, transits, progressions, and the deeper karmic meaning of a chart. Six-week series, Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 PM, from January 4 to February 7. \$150 paid up front to ensure a committed group. Contact Simone at simone@astroalchemy.com.

*DIRECTIONS TO THE
JOYCE BEERS
COMMUNITY CENTER*

From the North: Take 163 South to University Avenue exit. Turn left, go about 5 blocks to the corner of University and Vermont Street. Turn left on Vermont.

From the South: Take 163 North to the Robinson exit. Turn left, and go just over one block to Vermont and turn left onto Vermont. Continue straight on Vermont Street.

The Joyce Beers Community Center is two blocks off University Avenue, next to the Aladdin restaurant. Ahead, to your left, is the entrance to the free underground parking lot. Please park underground!

We look forward to seeing you!



The San Diego Astrological Society was founded in 1974 as an unincorporated, non-profit association. The purpose of SDAS is to promote the art and science of astrology through education and research, to give the public information to better understand the principles and purposes of astrology, and to cultivate a sense of unity with all astrologers.

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The Uranian is published six times a year by the San Diego Astrological Society and is included in yearly membership. For dues and subscription information, please see "Announcements" on page 3. For membership information, please write to SDAS, 1010 University Avenue PMB #1772, San Diego, California 92103-3395, or email the Membership Director.

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visit: www.sandiegoastrology.com

REMEMBER!

Have your most baffling, perplexing queries answered!
No question too confounding,
no problem too embarrassing!



Ask Marvel Brilliant!

Marvel Brilliant is a second-generation astrologer who has recently retired. After losing a game of cards to the SDAS president, Marv agreed to share his years of wisdom with our chapter members.

Questions may be sent to Marvel.Brilliant@gmail.com.