



# NEWSLETTER

NOW WEEKLY!

With art by Vera!

from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

November 27, 2012

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## AstroAmerica's Membership Drive

I HAVE always been fascinated with how things work, and with how things came to pass. For the past several years I have been applying this talent to astrology, as you have read in this newsletter. Harry Houdini was an escape artist. Can we find that in his natal chart? Yes. Jerry Sandusky was convicted of raping boys. Can we find that? Regrettably, yes, we can. And lots more. *Astrology is literal.* It tells all.

In a larger sense, how, exactly, does astrology actually work? Science says it's impossible, but our personal experiences contradict that. Can we find the hidden formula that will explain astrology, at last?

Well, I have. Or I think I have. I've read lots of explanations and rationalizations for astrology, none of them any good, and it

might be that my personal theory will be inadequate, but if not, if **astrology is the energies of the Earth as influenced by the various planets**, then if I get the chance to promote what I know, my work may live beyond me. Which is what happens when a supercharged mind sets itself a challenge. There is more. There is the 4 x 3 grid, where it came from, and what it means.

Alas, minds such as mine are economic basket cases. Can you help support me in this work?

**D**ECEMBER is our first (annual?) membership drive. Just like your local PBS station.

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**The goal is 200 \$20 supporters.** Presently there are ten. I need 190 more by the end of the year. *Can you help?*

I would much rather sell books, but books no longer sell. As I need to support my family I will hereafter sing for my supper. — Dave

## 2013 MAYNARD CALENDARS

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- Pocket Astrologer
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## ALMANACK

for the week (all times GMT)

27	00:57	☾♂♀	Void
	01:20	♀♂♄	
	20:14	♂♂♀	
28	00:59	☾♄	
	12:03	☉♄♄	
	14:46	☼♄♄♄	Lunar Eclipse
	16:01	♀♄♀	
29	01:05	☾♂♄	Void
	22:33	♀♄♂	
30	13:56	☾♄	
01	06:36	☾♂♀	
	12:02	☾♂♂	
02	06:56	☾♄♀	Void
03	01:58	☾♄	
	01:46	☉♂♄	

Extracted from [AstroAmerica's Daily Ephemeris, 2000-2020](#). [Buy](#).

## ASTRO MED A to Z FROM C.E.O. CARTER'S ENCYCLOPAEDIA

200	<b>Sciatica.</b> A case (female) born at 4:00 pm, January 23, 1876, London (sciatica, lumbago and nervous exhaustion) shows several afflictions, of which Mercury opposite Uranus and Jupiter square Saturn are the most probable indications of sciatica.
180	<b>Sea (Love of).</b> The most important area in this connection seems to be about 6 Scorpio, whilst the opposite area appears to have the contrary tendency, i.e. a love of the land and soil and an antipathy to the sea. Neptune makes people attracted to the sea but not necessarily to be fond of being upon it.
160	<b>Sedateness</b> may probably be ascribed to a blend of Saturn and Libra, with the more active planets (Mercury, Mars and Uranus) not too prominent.
140	<b>Sentimentality</b> is a form of Sensationalism particularly associated with Cancer. It is, however, generally connected with the watery signs and also easily occurs under the sign Leo.
120	— <b>Encyclopaedia of Psychological Astrology</b> , \$18.95. <a href="#">Buy</a> .
100	
80	
60	
40	
20	



## STAR OF THE WEEK

**ANTARES** alpha Scorpii 09 ♂ 56

**Notes:** A binary star, fiery red and emerald green, situated on the body of the Scorpion. From Anti Ares, similar to, or the Rival of Mars. It was one of the four Royal Stars of Persia in 3000 BC, when as the Watcher of the West it marked the Autumnal Equinox. Sometimes called Shiloh and Cor Scorpio, the Scorpion's Heart.

**Influence:** According to Ptolemy it is of the nature of Mars and Jupiter. It causes malevolence, destructiveness, liberality, broad-mindedness, evil presages and danger of fatality, and makes its natives rash, ravenous, headstrong and destructive to themselves by their own obstinacy.

**If rising:** Riches and honour, violence, sickness, benefits seldom last.

**If culminating:** Honour, preferment and good fortune.

**With Sun:** Pretended religion, insincere, honour and riches ending in disgrace and ruin, military preferment, danger of treachery. — from **Fixed Stars**, by Vivian Robson. [Buy](#).

Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson  
1893-1990

## IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

### My Notebook for the Sun

**T**HE house your Sun is in at birth discloses where you shine best, the department your ego requires for self-expression, the best field of endeavor for success. The Sign the Sun is in is the channel that he chooses to work through in that department and it makes a great difference whether that Sign is earth, fire, air or water in the development of your individuality, although we must always remember that they are all equally good and the Sun can shine anywhere.

Whether the Sun is cardinal, fixed or mutable at birth also shows its effect in the individuality the Sun discloses: the first forging ahead on its own, and the second plodding ahead to develop itself — while the third is greatly affected by outside influences, thus able to adapt or adopt whatever is available to his use or purpose under the existing circumstances.

In angular houses (1st, 4th, 7th and 10th), the Sun makes your individuality more apparent to others and brings you into the limelight through your personal appeal; gives you an audience and some form of career having to do with management, association with those having a professional or other title, or with people of distinction. Your family considers you an asset in some special way as an individual; children have a place in your life and marriage brings ease or gain. Whether or not you really possess great gifts of individuality or fitness to office, you will be given higher position and greater appreciation when angular. — [Here and There in Astrology](#), 1961. **Buy.**

## Neil Armstrong

*First man to walk on the Moon. 1930-2012*

**W**E were soaked in the Space Age at the time. When Apollo 11, with Armstrong and Aldrich, actually landed on the Moon on July 21, 1969, the Daily News headline was SO WHAT!

NASA had nine more Moon missions planned. NASA had perfected nuclear-fueled rockets that could have taken men to Mars, but Congress, giddy at the “easy” triumph, cut funding for both. Apollo was curtailed, the nuke rockets abandoned. (The nuclear core superheats hydrogen, giving it much more propulsive power than mere burning would give.) When I was a kid I imagined living on Mars myself.

Now I look up at the Moon in the night sky, so distant, so far away, and I cannot imagine how we ever did it, how we ever got ourselves there. I know we did, and more than once. But at more than forty years ago, it just seems so incredible, so awesome, so unbelievable. We are so much smaller now.

Neil Armstrong was the first of only twelve men to walk on the Moon. Twelve in this case is a fascinating number. Ten manned lunar missions were originally planned (Apollos 11 through 20) which would have put 20 men on the Moon, but missions 18, 19 and 20 were cut, leaving seven missions.

Seven missions would be fourteen men to walk on the Moon, but Apollo 13, as is well-known, was crippled in an explosion and was forced to limp home without ever landing on the Moon.

So quite by accident, perhaps, there were only twelve. They join many other famous dozens: The Dirty Dozen, the twelve knights of the Round Table, Robin Hood's twelve Merrie Men, the twelve disciples, the twelve brothers who became the twelve tribes of Israel, etc. All of which are stand-ins for the twelve signs of the zodiac, which are the fundamental twelve.

Which means we can, if we like, assign a sign of the zodiac to each of the twelve who have walked on the Moon. Armstrong, being the first, would get Aries. Looking at his chart, we find Uranus and the north node both in Aries, but, more telling, is Mars in Gemini in the first house.

**Neil Armstrong was born on August 5, 1930, at 12:31am EST, in Wapakoneta, Ohio.** Ohio, not North Carolina, was the

birth-place of American aviation. Armstrong got his pilot's license at age 15. Which was the year the war ended. There was certain to have been a lot of ex-army and navy pilots about to inspire a young boy.

Armstrong's chart has early Gemini rising, the Moon in late Sagittarius, with the Sun in the middle of Leo. Like many powerful charts, we will find the various individual parts reinforcing each other.

As with Harry Houdini (last week), we again see a Moon-Mars opposition, and, as with Harry, the Moon is in the 8th.

Mars, however, is not in the second, but the first. Note that Gemini falls on the cusps of both the first and second houses, while Sagittarius falls on both the seventh and the 8th. Planets in these two signs may be in one house or the other. In Armstrong's case, the Moon's house is easy: The Moon is exactly one degree from the 8th house cusp. Consider also that the Moon, being sensitive and variable, will tend to avoid exposure on an angle if it possibly can and will gladly retreat to a succedent house.

Mars, on the other hand, is exactly equidistant between first and second house cusps. In this case, the ascendant, being the strongest single point in the entire chart, will easily lay claim. Nevermind that Mars, being a bold and headstrong planet, will always be angular if he can get away with it.

Which gives Armstrong a Moon-Mars opposition that stretches from the 8th house to the first house. This is different from Houdini's Moon-Mars opposition, from 8th to second. In Houdini's case, the opposition forced him to prove his worth, where “worth” is the second house, and “proving” was the opposition itself.

In Armstrong's case, we have a simple dare-devil, a thrill-seeker. Moon in Sagittarius in the 8th, opposite Mars, seeks out extreme (Sagittarius), life-or-death (8th house) experiences, which are intensely emotional (Moon). It does this by means of the opposition to Mars, which, in the first house, constantly brings it events and circumstances which are innately challenging.

The standard textbooks say Moon opposite Mars is a hothead who gets angry easily, but this is not the case when both planets are in mutable signs. In fixed signs, one would

*(continued, page 4)*

This is a serialization of Vivian Robson's masterpiece, *A Student's Text-Book of Astrology*. It is now in print.

Part 121:

## Minor Methods of Directing, *continued*

**PERIODIC DIRECTIONS.** These are directions formed by the planets in their motion through the signs in accordance with their Kabalistic periods of revolution. These periods are said to be as follows:— Sun 19 years, Moon 4 years, Mercury 10 years, Venus 8 years, Mars 15 years, Jupiter 12 years, and Saturn 30 years, and to these might, perhaps, be added Uranus 84 years and Neptune 165 years. In this system of directing each planet is said to pass through the twelve signs once in its period, so that Mars, for example, will take 15 years to come back to its birth position, and will, therefore, move at the rate of 24° a year and 2° a month. A table should be formed showing the place of each planet each year, and directions will be formed by the aspects made by the progressed planets to the radical bodies and among themselves in their passage through the various houses of the birth map.

**PROFESSIONAL DIRECTIONS.** These are of three kinds, Annual, Monthly, and Diurnal, and are, perhaps, more Kabalistic than purely astrological. In annual profectios the Ascendant advances one complete sign in one year, and the other signs are arranged in their normal order round the cusps of the other houses. Thus if the birth Ascendant is Gemini, that for the next year of life will be Cancer, and so on, the birth Ascendant returning every 12th year. The planets remain fixed in their birth positions and judgment is drawn from their passage over or aspects to the angles, the exact time of such aspects being easily determined by proportion. A similar process is also to be applied to the M.C., Sun, Moon and Part of Fortune, each of which advances one sign per year.

Monthly profectios are formed in a similar manner one sign being added for each month, and in the case of Diurnal Profectios one sign is added for every 2 days 8 hours.

—*A Student's Text-Book of Astrology*, 1922.

Price \$25.95. **Buy.**

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## Conception

from *Astrology and Sex*, by Vivian Robson

**F**OR conception to take place the Moon should be in the watery signs Cancer, Scorpio or Pisces, and the ascendant and fifth cusp should be in these signs also. At the same time, however, we are told that if a male child is desired the chief significators, namely the rising sign, the sign on the fifth cusp, and the signs containing the Moon and its dispositor and the rulers of the ascendant and fifth houses should be masculine, while for a female child they should be feminine.

If conception is to occur it is essential that Venus and the Moon be free from affliction and placed as strongly and favorably as possible, for on the strength of Venus depend the woman's functions, and on that of the Moon depend the man's. The sign Cancer on the tenth cusp and the Moon rising in Libra is said to favor conception, the sex of the child being determined by the masculine or feminine nature of the signs containing the chief significators. In general, however, the ascendant and Moon should be strong and free from affliction, and if possible Jupiter should be well-aspected on the cusp of the midheaven, the signs occupied being either masculine or feminine according to whether a boy or a girl is desired. If it is impossible to place Jupiter on the tenth cusp, he should be situated on the cusp of the eleventh house or the fifth in favorable aspect with the cusp of the ascendant, its ruler or the Moon; or alternatively a time should be chosen when the Moon or ruler of the ascendant is on the cusp of the fifth house in good aspect with the cusp of the ascendant.

— *Astrology and Sex*, by Vivian Robson.

**Buy.** See a very similar list in Ben Dykes' translation of *Choices and Inceptions*. To avoid conception, one would of course do the opposite to these instructions, above all, by placing the Moon in an air or fire sign.

— *Dave*.

## Aphorisms concerning children

from *Christian Astrology, Book III*, by William Lilly

☽ and ♀ in the fifth, and the Lord of the Sign or Signs wherein they are free from all manner of impediment, denotes many Children.

♁ being Oriental, in good aspect with the Fortunes, for then he participates of their nature, shows many Children; but if Occidental, and in configuration with the Infortunes, he then argues barrenness.

☽ in the fifth, promises Children, but if ♄ be therein, in the same house, they will prove ill conditioned.

If the Sign of the fifth, Sign wherein the Lord of the fifth is, and Sign ascending be prolific, many Children are promised.

♀ in the ascendant, and ♃ in the seventh, shows Issue, and from them much good to the Parent.

♃ in Δ to ☽ in human or moist Signs, gives Children.

☽ and ♀ with ♃ in an angle, or in aspect from angles, signifies many children.

♀ and ☽ in the fifth house, especially in a fruitful Sign, give much Issue, declares the Children to prove well.

All the Planets in fruitful Signs, gives abundance of Children.

Infortunes in the house of Children, therein unfortunate, if they be a little weak, the Native may have Children; if they be much afflicted, they will not live; if greatly, they argue sterility.

♀ in the first or seventh, in ♂ or ♂ with ♄, or in any commutative Dignity of his, viz. he in her Term, she in his Term; or if ♄ be in ♂, and ♀ in ♀, argue barrenness to Men, abortion to Women, or that the Native shall die presently after he has seen the light. — *Christian Astrology, Book III*, by William Lilly. **Buy.**



hold a grudge. In cardinal signs, one would “do something” to vent. In mutable signs, challenging situations are over as soon as they begin. There is rarely time to get angry. Neil Armstrong was in fact a very placid individual. In 1974 in Houston I once briefly met an astronaut. I have no idea who he was, I have no idea if he ever flew in space. I can only assure you that he was the dullest man I ever met. NASA has never set hotheads into space, and, if it can possibly help it, it never will. (Oops. I forgot. The US manned space program ended in 2010. Russia now has final say on who *we* send to *its* space station.)

In Armstrong’s case, the Moon looks to the Sun for stability. Armstrong has a Sun-Moon trine, with the Sun in stable, serene, noble Leo. I’ve become envious of Sun-Moon trine people. Sun-Moon trines have an intellect that flows smoothly with their emotions. One compliments the other. When they are both in fire signs, the life has a great deal of energy and enthusiasm, both fire qualities. Uranus in Aries makes it a grand trine, but when the lights form two-thirds of a grand trine and when the Sun itself is angular, Sun and Moon can shut out the third fairly well. I mention this as grand trines traditionally make one lazy, which makes one unfortunate, which is why medieval astrologers termed them “evil.” “Evil” does not mean “ax-murderer.” It simply means a no-account ne’er-do-well. Which Neil Armstrong was not.

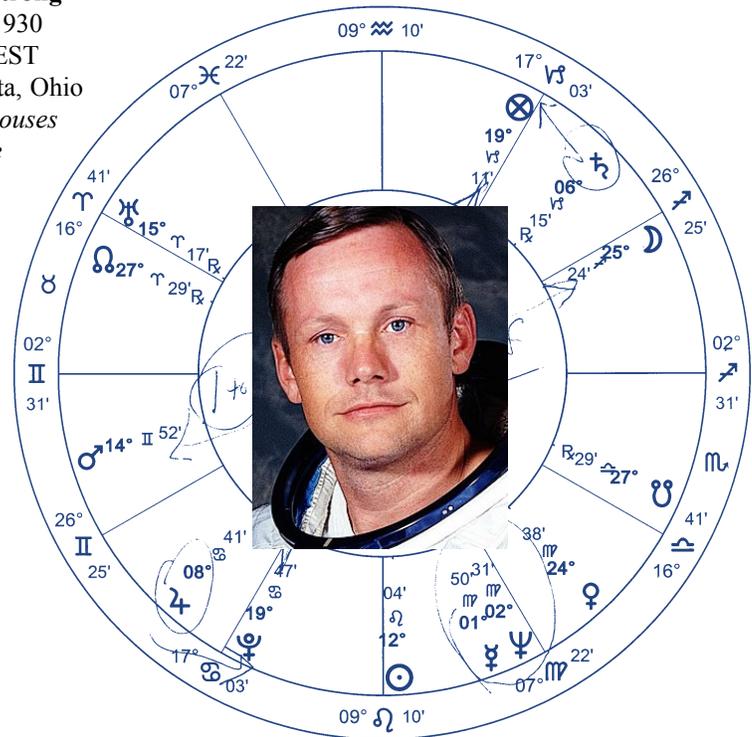
As much as Mars in the 1st, Moon in the 8th makes one a dare-devil, Moon opposite Mars also makes one accident prone. Life constantly brings about dangerous situations, some of which will exceed what is safe. (Which makes me wonder about Evel Knievel. Evel had Moon-Jupiter opposed. I will get to him one of these weeks.) Before he was an astronaut, Armstrong flew combat missions in Korea, where he was shot down. Afterwards, he was a test pilot. Most dare-devil test pilots die at an early age. A pilot needs to make only one mistake, and when you’re flying untested aircraft, engineering mistakes can be fatal, regardless of the skills of the pilot. Most of the streets at Edwards Air Force Base, in southern California, are named in honor of test pilots who died while on the job. Armstrong, along with Chuck Yeager, are two of the very few test pilots who lived to old age.

Moon-Mars opposed gave Armstrong a keen sense of danger and kept him on his toes. Which was complemented by his ascendant and its ruler.

Armstrong’s ascendant is Gemini, which

### Neil Armstrong

August 5 1930  
12:31 am EST  
Wapakoneta, Ohio  
*Placidus houses  
mean node*



I think is the single fastest sign in the zodiac. Mars in Gemini will react instantaneously, the Moon opposite in Sagittarius gives gut-level reactions to danger.

Behind and supporting the ascendant is a superbly placed Mercury, in Virgo. Mercury is exactly square the ascendant. You are thinking, wouldn’t it have been better if Mercury was in trine? Don’t trines work better than squares?

**N**O, not in this case. Squares are forms of stress. When Mercury is involved, the square to the ascendant results in sheer nerves. Not only will Moon-Mars opposed in mutable signs make you jumpy, Mercury in Virgo exactly square to a Gemini ascendant will make you jump even more. Instantaneous reactions. What makes the best fighter aircraft? Surprisingly, stable planes are not desired. The best fighter aircraft are inherently unstable, they are nervous, they are “jumpy,” as they must make quick, sharp maneuvers. Unstable aircraft, flown by unstable men. Welcome to the Air Force!

In Armstrong’s chart, Mercury in Virgo, which knows all the picky details, is qualified by a tight conjunction with Neptune. Which adds a touch of *je ne sais quoi*, literally, an ability to not only react faster than anyone else, but also have all the details fully under his control, *and be right*. Armstrong was chosen to be the commander of the first flight to the Moon because he was the best damn test pilot that NASA had — probably

has ever had — Chuck Yeager having declined the honor of becoming an astronaut.

Our next query is, Why the Moon? Which brings a new set of planets into play.

In Armstrong’s third house we find Pluto.

The third house is the house of local travels. Around town, to work and back, etc. I am going to stretch the definition of “local” to include travel for your employer. In other words, cross-country bus drivers, long haul truckers, railroad engineers, sea captains and airline pilots, all people who routinely travel great distances, are all qualified by their third houses, not their ninths. Ninth house travel is restricted to locations which are exotic and unknown. When I lived in midtown New York (back when midtown was affordable, 30 years ago), I restricted myself to the midtown area. Wall Street was, to me, exotic, even though it was only a subway ride away.

In Armstrong’s chart, Pluto in the 3rd house meant that third house activities would be transformative in some way. With Pluto in Cancer, ruled by the Moon, this transformation would be personal and, Moon in the 8th, intimate in some way. Elsewhere with 3rd house matters, like as not, Neil Armstrong did not get on well with his younger siblings, June and Dean, about which little seems to be known.

So we have established that if Mr. Armstrong should find himself in the transportation business, his travels would be profound and transformative. Look across the chart

and you will find the Part of Fortune (night-time calculation) exactly opposite Pluto, on the 9th house cusp. I have read enough of Vettius Valens to know that the Greeks, or at any rate, Valens, considered the Parts to be of the same nature as a planet, in other words, a real body that has real value. Which might only be because the Greeks did not have any other concept to apply, as I've come to think the Greeks are somewhat over-rated.

The Part of Fortune in the 9th, opposite Pluto in the 3rd, in the chart of a man whose day job involved jet travel as well as space flights in earth orbit, means the ultimate journey will be profound in some manner.

Which brings me to Armstrong's Jupiter-Saturn opposition, from Cancer to Capricorn. The classic definition of the Jupiter-Saturn opposition is bankruptcy. Saturn toils to earn money, Jupiter comes along and blows it on a whim. Or Jupiter gets a windfall but Saturn arrives with old bills to pay. One way or another, there is never any money. Both planets strong by sign (Jupiter is exalted in Cancer, Saturn rules Capricorn), there is no relief. I do not know if this was the case with Mr. Armstrong, but I doubt he left much of an estate behind. This has nothing to do with the house placement of these two giants. They are just this way.

In Armstrong's case, Jupiter and Saturn are not in the 2nd and 8th houses, as they appear to casual inspection, but in the 3rd and 9th, the planets having an affinity with the house cusps that match the signs they are in. In the case of Jupiter, Jupiter propels Pluto, drives it on, making everyday life in transport all the more profound.

Opposite Saturn in the 9th. Saturn, the planet of government, in Capricorn, the sign of government, more-or-less conjunct the Part of Fortune, it would be the government that made Armstrong "lucky" (i.e. gave him his "fortune") by taking him to the ultimate in exotic locales, the Moon itself. Which would, in addition, be a profoundly religious experience, which is another side of the 9th house. Armstrong has said very little about himself, but many other astronauts, as well as many cosmonauts, have remarked upon the transcendental religious nature of space exploration.

Armstrong put his foot on the lunar surface and uttered his famous words on July 21, 1969, at 2:56 am GMT. As his location was not on this planet, we use that of his base, Houston, Texas. Transiting Venus was exactly conjunct his Mars, showing the explorer—Mars—having captured his prize, Venus. Remembering that the Part of Fortune is

based on location, and that the location was not of this earth, note that Venus was exactly opposite the Part of Fortune, and that Venus was in the 4th house of *land*, while Fortuna was in the 10th house of *fame*. Transiting Mars was exactly on Armstrong's 7th house. One would ordinarily expect a 7th house Mars to produce a fight with the wife—and given the enormous tensions surrounding this staggering feat, Mrs. Armstrong might well have been feeling testy, but another way of looking at Mars on the 7th is to remember that transiting Mars is often angular when a woman gives birth. Mars gives her the extra energy to get the job done.

In Armstrong's case, after landing on the Moon the crew was scheduled to have a rest period. Armstrong was far too excited and insisted the Moon walk begin immediately. Which is exactly the sort of impulsive decision a nervous individual would make, especially with transiting Mars exactly on an angle. And so it came to pass.

Note the angles of the (Houston) landing chart are Armstrong's own, only shifted by 90-ish degrees, another way in which the landing was personal to him. Note also the tight Uranus-Jupiter conjunction at exactly 0° Libra, indicating the landing was done for other than egotistical reasons. (The "we came in *peace* for all mankind" stuff.) Pluto exactly conjunct the south node, the triumph would be pyrrhic. No sooner had Armstrong landed ("SO WHAT!", which I find has disappeared) than the program would be cut, and lunar exploration abandoned.

In Armstrong's progressed chart (both charts on the next page), note the progressed ascendant exactly conjunct natal Jupiter, with progressed Mars only a degree further. Cancer makes it personal, Jupiter makes it larger than life, Mars makes it happen. All right on the progressed ascendant itself. Extraordinary.

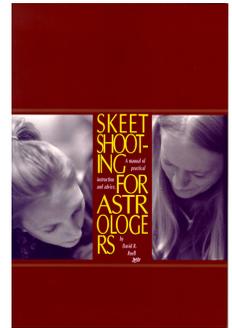
**O**N the day he walked on the Moon, Neil Armstrong was two weeks shy of his 40th birthday. After his historic flight, he announced he would not fly again. He left NASA in 1971. For the rest of his life — which was exactly half over — Neil Armstrong became the ne'er-do-well that was always one of his potentials. Very highly strung charts often do. They exhaust themselves as young men. Armstrong avoided publicity, he avoided the public, he refused to market himself, he actively discouraged others from doing it for him. Like Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay), Neil Armstrong simply disappeared. He died on August 25, 2012, from surgical complications.

*Charts, next page:—*

## READ MY BOOKS

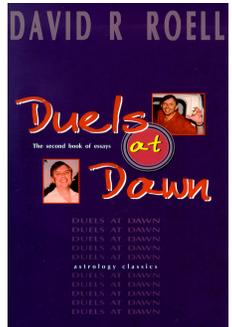
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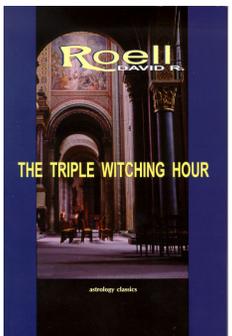
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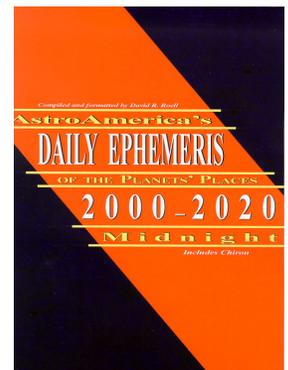
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## USE MY EPHEMERIS

**AstroAmerica's Daily Ephemeris**, 2000-20, also for 2010-20. Daily positions, including declinations, full aspectarian. Midnight.

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## Upcoming:

**Quad Bike Analysis**, the fourth book of great essays: Spring, 2013

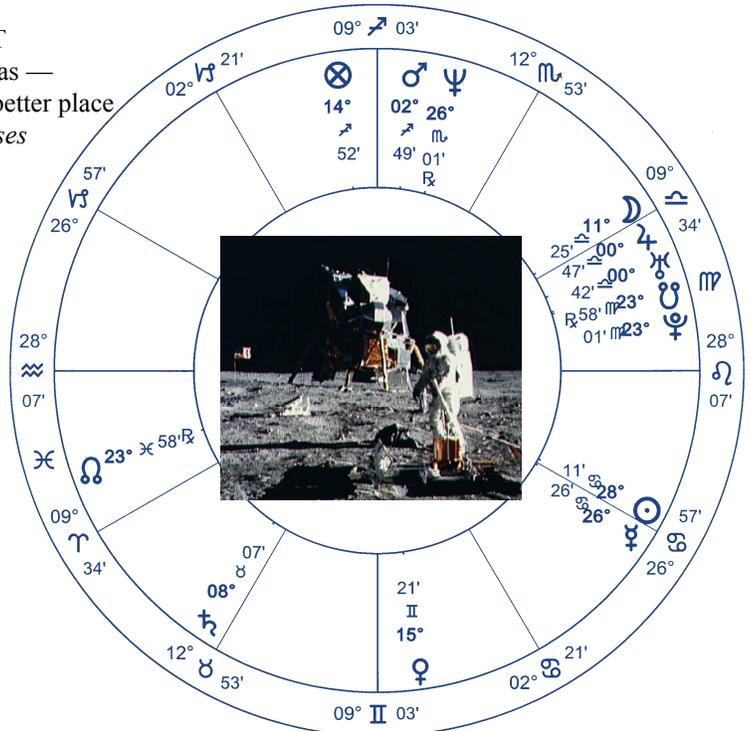
### First Step on the Moon

July 21, 1969

2:56 am GMT

Houston, Texas —  
for lack of a better place

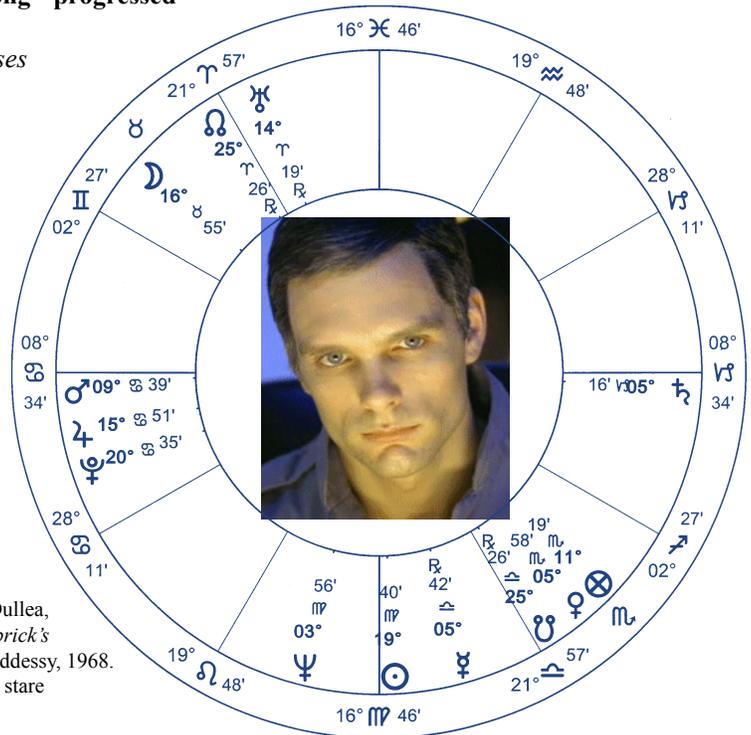
Placidus houses  
mean node



### Neil Armstrong - progressed

July 21, 1969

Placidus houses  
mean node



*pictured: Kier Dullea,  
from Stanley Kubrick's  
2001, A Space Odyssey, 1968.*  
Note same blank stare  
as Armstrong.