



# NEWSLETTER

NOW WEEKLY!

With art by Vera !

from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

February 18, 2014

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## Study warns half of America believes in astrology!

**F**ROM the intrepid Colette, I learn that nearly half of all Americans believe in astrology. This was a story put out this past week by the **National Science Foundation**, but you will be amused to note it was picked up and run by only a handful of papers, among them, **Mother Jones**, the **Daily Mail**, and **UPI**. The two later ran it word-for-word. All three took comments, but amazingly, the Daily Mail and UPI had fewer than 20, while Mother Jones had, at last count, more than 550.

**Fox News** also picked it up and ran it through a round-table discussion. Fox's RedEye division put together a would-be satirical intro, except that **every claim they made about astrology is actually true**, ex-

cept for the mention that we still study Newton's charts, which we do not. Newton, who was primarily an alchemist, kept his astrological practice private. As did Galileo and Kepler and many others.

Highlights of the news story include **Bill Nye's** recent **debate** with a creationist, which had nothing whatever to do with astrology (Creationists hate astrology just as much as the science crowd does), and the fact that 92% of the Chinese hate astrology, which is unsurprising, since western astrology is foreign to them (Chinese astrology is part of **Feng Shui** and is entirely different).

The news story said that **John Besley**, of Michigan State University, wrote one of the chapters of the report. Eagerly I looked him up, to find he is not a scientist, but a professor of ADVERTISING.

Once upon a time science could muster **186 signatures**, Nobel prize winners among them, an effort **astrologers** largely hooted at. Scientists were big scary monsters. Now they are reduced to chasing phantoms and are largely shut out of the world's press. Astrology, in fact, has already won. It is making rapid inroads with academics. In another generation astrology will have replaced what has long passed for "science."

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## ALMANAC K

for the week (all times GMT)

Notes

18	18:00	☉	♋	
19	03:29	☽	♌	♂
	06:00	♀	♌	♀
	07:11	♀	♌	♄
	21:53	☽	♌	♂ Void
20	00:28	☽	♌	☉
	03:33	☽	♌	
	06:25	☽	♌	☉
	11:12	♀	♌	☉
21	22:10	☽	♌	♄ Void
	23:34	☉	♌	♀
22	10:12	☽	♌	
	17:15	♁	♌	00 Last Qtr
23	18:11	☉	♌	♀
24	09:26	☽	♌	♂ Void
	13:51	☽	♌	

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

## ASTRO A to Z MED

**Alcoholism and Drug Taking.** We nearly always find that the Lights are in weak mundane positions and signs, or else they are badly afflicted, especially in or from Fire or Water or both. Fire gives the convivial drunkard, Water the weak or besotted one. The 5th house is nearly always afflicted by Neptune or by planets in watery signs, and Mars is very frequently afflicted by Neptune, in or from Pisces. Certain degrees are commonly involved in afflictions, e.g. 11° of cardinals and 9° and 25° of fixed. Note that good aspects between Neptune and 5th sometimes occur, denoting the pleasure, transient though it is, obtained in this manner. Alcohol is a typical Fire drug and its action is to augment all the fiery activities of our nature, such as conviviality, optimism, animal spirits, self-confidence, and often combativeness. On the other hand, it banishes watery characteristics, such as carefulness, prudence, timidity and shyness. — *More next week.*

—from **Encyclopaedia of Psychological Astrology**, by Charles Carter. [Buy](#).

## Vivian Robson's STAR OF THE WEEK

**SADALMELIK** alpha Aquarii 03 ♋ 57

**Notes:** A pale yellow star situated on the right shoulder of Aquarius. From Al Sa'd al Malik, the Lucky one of the King.

**Influence:** According to Ptolemy it is of the nature of Saturn and Mercury. It causes persecution, lawsuits, extreme and sudden destruction and the death penalty.

**With Sun:** Occult interests, prominence in occultism, gain through companies.

**With Moon:** Prominence in occult matters, success in large companies, favourable for gain. If at the same time a malefic be with Algol, death by royal command either by hanging or decapitation.

**With Mercury:** Occult interest and research, criticized, favourable for friendship, success in large companies, loss through servants.

**With Venus:** Favorable for occult investigations, gain through friends.

**With Mars:** Fame through science.

— from **Fixed Stars**, by Vivian Robson. [Buy](#).



Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson  
1893-1990



## IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

### The Ruler of the Horoscope

**I**F Mercury is the ruling planet because of Gemini or Virgo rising, the native's guide could lead him a merry chase through life, touching both high & low spots & usually in an unstable environment having much to do with relatives, probably because his guide's middle name is Circulation. There is likelihood of being drawn to foster relationships, adoption of someone the guide dictates, and probably a change in the first-chosen vocation or career.

Both 3rd & 6th House matters and people could be important to him, but no: he follows his guide, who lacks continuity, and whatever is out of sight is out of mind. Jupiter ruling his 7th brings him more than one marriage, the first by far the best.

**I**F Taurus or Libra is on the Ascendant Venus is the native's indulgent guide through life, leading him along pleasant paths & in some way making up to him for any lack or loss. He will be taken to an environment affording him protection & affection where there is harmony: some foster relationship is probable; also security (which Taurus will think insufficient), and a legal document either becomes necessary or is readily available to prove a certain position or right as citizen, inheritor or owner. 2nd & 7th House matters are important, and marriage is a major incident. In each case, Mars rules the 7th (Aries or Scorpio there) & is a mate not easily dictated-to nor deterred from his aim.

— **All Over The Earth Astrologically**—Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson, 1963. **Buy.**

## Sepharial

**S**EPHARIAL, who lived from 1864 to 1929, was one of the most famous astrologers of the late 19th / early 20th centuries. He was at one time a rival to **Alan Leo**, a contemporary. He was also, late in her life, a close confidant of **H.P. Blavatsky**, the founder of the **Theosophical Society**. He wrote prolifically, he started various magazines, he was easily the most intelligent, the most erudite in his circle, as well as being an accomplished clairvoyant. This was a man of breathtaking ability.

But he was also foolish, impractical and socially inept. Famous in his own day, he has been largely forgotten.

**Walter Richard Old**, who used the pen name "Sepharial" was one of six children (five brothers and a sister) born in Handsworth, now part of Birmingham. His father died at age four, the family fell on hard times. Some of his brothers became bankers; some – Walter among them – were to be merchants, but Sepharial lacked a head for business.

Instead, he studied and read widely, with an emphasis on practical occultism. An experience with a crystal ball in 1886, when he was 22, changed his life forever. It seems to have been the motivation to push him out in the world. His first book was published the next year, when he also joined the Theosophical Society. He quickly gained the confidence of H.P. Blavatsky herself (she who dubbed him the Astral Tramp from his nighttime wanderings) and was one of twelve select who lived in the same house with her, and who were with her when she died, in 1891, in London.

Walter went on to become the Recording Secretary of the Theosophical Society, before blundering into a scandal in 1894 and resigning. The next year he legally changed his name, to Walter Gornold. It has been speculated that he did so to avoid the taint of the scandal, but before he left TS, he had enlisted Alan Leo as a member. While Sepharial disliked Leo, Leo managed to get the text of what became Leo's own **Dictionary of Astrology** out of him. Which was first published posthumously to Leo by Vivian Robson, in the year of Sepharial's own death, 1929.

The year after that, 1896, he got married and had a total of six children, all but one of whom lived to adulthood.

The magazines he started all failed. He edited magazines, Old Moore's Almanac

among them. He gave lectures, read charts, crystal-gazed for money, and wrote books. He is said to have been the mercenary sort, no doubt a consequence of growing up in dire straits. He became noted for his work with horse racing and stock market speculation.

In addition to many books, Sepharial wrote numerous "arcana," privately circulated monographs that were sold individually at high prices. **John Ballantrae**, formerly of The Universe Bookstore in Brampton, Ontario, Canada, found and published one of them, which I reprinted in the back of a volume I entitled **Sepharial on Money**, a book which also contains **Law of Values** and **The Silver Key**. A few years later Philip Graves, of Sweden, an antiquarian book collector, ran down many more of Sepharial's Arcana and got them published by the Sacred Science institute in Idyllwild, California. I would link to them but they are essentially a bunch of investors with greatly over-priced books. With a few exceptions, anything you find there can be had cheaper elsewhere. So says Dave the Book Guy.

**I**N 1998 **Kim Farnell** wrote a biography on Sepharial, entitled **The Astral Tramp**. She was unfortunately largely unfamiliar with the many disciplines Sepharial attempted and presumably mastered. As an example, I read at ADB that an accident to one of his hands cost him the use of it. I then read Farnell's extract from his book, **Second Sight**, how a beryl crystal was to be held "in the hands, one supporting the other." As to which hand was to do what, Sepharial was silent, presumably to permit the student to work it out for himself. As I have done similar magical work, I knew the hand with the crystal was to be the left and speculated the injury was therefore to the left hand.

The reasoning was this: The right hand thrusts energy from the body. The left hand draws energy into it. Baseball shows this perfectly. One throws right and catches left. Sepharial's method of working with a crystal was a form of psychometry, which is to say, sensing the energies in objects held in the hand. The bones of the wrist block these energies from further entry into the body, though persistent parasites, such as often infest Ouiji boards, can get past them.

As such, a person who reads crystals by means of their hands will eventually come to store a great deal of extraneous energy –

*continued, pg. 4*

This is a serialization of Vivian Robson's **A Student's Text-Book of Astrology**.

**Part 56:**

**Personal Appearance**

*Corporature, continued:—*

2. According to Ptolemy the ruler of the Ascendant without latitude gives thinness, and with latitude stoutness. South latitude increasing the activity & North latitude decreasing it.

3. Sun conjunct Moon makes the native ill-coloured & lean.

(c) **Hair.** The rising sign & the planets aspecting it show the colour of hair.

1. Mars exactly rising or in strong close aspect to the Ascendant gives red hair, while Saturn similarly placed gives black.

2. The mutable signs & especially Gemini & Sagittarius affect the hair most strongly, and Sagittarius or Pisces rising, with Jupiter in houses 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 or 9 often produce premature baldness. The same may happen if Saturn rules the Ascendant & is similarly placed.

3. Mars elevated above and afflicting Venus, especially from Gemini, Sagittarius, or Aquarius causes hair to fall out.

(d) **Eyes.** The colour of the eyes is shown by the rising sign & planets as previously indicated in the general descriptions. To these it may be added that Venus, conjunct or opposed Jupiter frequently gives deep blue or violet eyes.

The Sun rules the right eye of a man & the left eye of a woman, while the Moon rules the left eye of a man & the right eye of a woman. As a rule these bodies will be found afflicted in cases of defective eyesight.

The following are special rules:—

1. Defective sight or sore eyes are caused by afflictions to the Sun or Moon in or from Aries & Libra. The same is caused by Sun opposed Moon in these signs.

2. The Sun in Aquarius badly afflicted by Saturn often causes total blindness.

— **A Student's Text-Book of Astrology**, by Vivian Robson. **Buy.**

**EYES**

from the  
**Enclopaedia of Medical Astrology**  
by H.L. Cornell

**T**HE eyes are under the external rulership of the Aries sign. The Eyes are also ruled by the Sun, Moon, Neptune, Uranus and the Aquarius sign, as Uranus & Aquarius rule the Ether, thru which Light is transmitted. It is recognized that Neptune has some action on the Eyes and Brain.

The Eyes have affinity with the Sun, Moon, Uranus and the Aries & Aquarius signs, and also with the Pleiades, Antares and the Ascelli. (See Eyes under Mercury). In our System of Astrology the 1st House rules & affects the eyes. In the Hindu System the 2nd House rules the Eyes, and afflictions in the 2nd House tend to seriously afflict the eye, or cause blindness.

The Sun is concerned with the structural defects of the eyes, while the Moon rules the Lachrymal Apparatus, its diseases & also errors of Accommodation, defective powers of adaptation, as Hyperopia, Myopia, Presbyopia, etc. The Sun or Moon at birth afflicted by Uranus tends to eye trouble or blindness, and especially if the Sun or Moon be near Nebulous Stars, as the Pleiades, Antares or the Ascelli.

The Sun rules the right eye of a man, and the left eye of a woman. The Moon rules the right eye of a woman and the left eye of a man.

Due to the large mass of material to be arranged and classified and the many subdivisions, many subjects concerning the Eyes are handled elsewhere in the alphabetical arrangement, such as Accommodation, Blindness, Eyeballs, Sight, etc. Also much is said concerning the Eyes under such subjects as Antares, Aquarius, Ascelli, Castor, Ether, Hyades, Light, Moon, Navamsa, Nebulous, Neptune, Pleiades, Pollux, Sight, Sun, Uranus, etc.

**Encyclopaedia of Medical Astrology**, by H.L. Cornell. **Buy.**

**Indications of Pregnancy**

in an horary chart  
from **Horary Astrology**  
by **Derek Appleby**

*The lord of the Ascendant or Moon in aspect to the ruler of the fifth house, or a benefic in the fifth house; in mutual reception or involved in a translation of light; and free from affliction.*

*A dignified Moon in mutual reception with any planet at an angle.*

*The lord of the Ascendant in good aspect with the cusp of the Ascendant from a good house.*

*The Moon in the seventh house in good aspect with the lord of the seventh in the eleventh; or the Moon in the eleventh in good aspect with the lord of the eleventh in the seventh. (11th = partner's children— Dave)*

*The Moon in the tenth house applying to the lord of the Ascendant or lord of the fifth by good aspect, or by bad aspect with mutual reception.*

*Jupiter in the first, fifth, seventh or eleventh house unaspecting by Saturn or Mars, with those malefics slow in motion or retrograde.*

*A fixed sign upon the Ascendant with a benefic in the first house, or the lord of the fifth strong in the first or tenth.*

If none of the above conditions are present, or if barren signs are on the Ascendant or fifth cusps; or if malefic planets are in the first or fifth houses; or afflicting the rulers of the first and fifth and the Moon, the lady is not pregnant.

*Fruitful signs* are: Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces.

*Barren signs* are: Gemini, Leo and Virgo.

To determine how long a subject has been pregnant, isolate the rulers of the Ascendant and the fifth house; and the Moon . . .

— **Horary Astrology**, by Derek Appleby. **Buy.**



astral dirt, if you will – in their left hand and will need to cleanse it to avoid harm. (Preferably after every session.) A spray of rubbing alcohol is effective, as is soaking or washing the hand in a strong brine of salted water. An especially “dirty” hand feels heavy and leaden and “sticky.”

On pgs. 68-9 of Farnell’s **book** I found the answer. In the fall of 1900 an injury to his left hand resulted in blood poisoning which nearly killed him, and thereafter rendered his left hand useless. Sepharial himself believed it to have been an attack, and, in fact, it was. He had presumably used his blue beryl to draw an angry energy into his hand. Where he negligently left it. Which, when the hand was injured, infected his blood and nearly killed him. Astral-based injuries of this sort can be severe.

If you are tempted to mess with this stuff, be sure to keep yourself clean. For the story of his hand, Farnell gives his book **Primary Directions Made Easy** as a reference. Which seems odd, but on pgs. 51-2 is a frank discussion of his chart, injury included.

**T**HOUGH soft-spoken, Sepharial had an argumentative pen and alienated many. As a result he was increasingly shunned as he grew older. Perhaps as a result he turned into a Christian mystic in his last days.

On to his chart, to learn what we can learn. Walter Richard Old, who changed his name to Walter Gornold and who was known as Sepharial, was born on March 20, 1864. His time of birth is a complete and utter muddle.

**AstroDataBank** says,

*Bill Sheeran on ACT, 9/2000, quotes p.27 in the October 1954 issue of American Astrology, "Walter Richard Old was born "at about 1:30am on 3/20/1864. . . ." Data drawn from biography by C.Sherburn in Old Moore's Monthly Messenger, VII:2 (Nov 1913) pp30-33, as quoted in Patrick Curry's 'A Confusion of Prophets', London 1992.*

ADB also says,

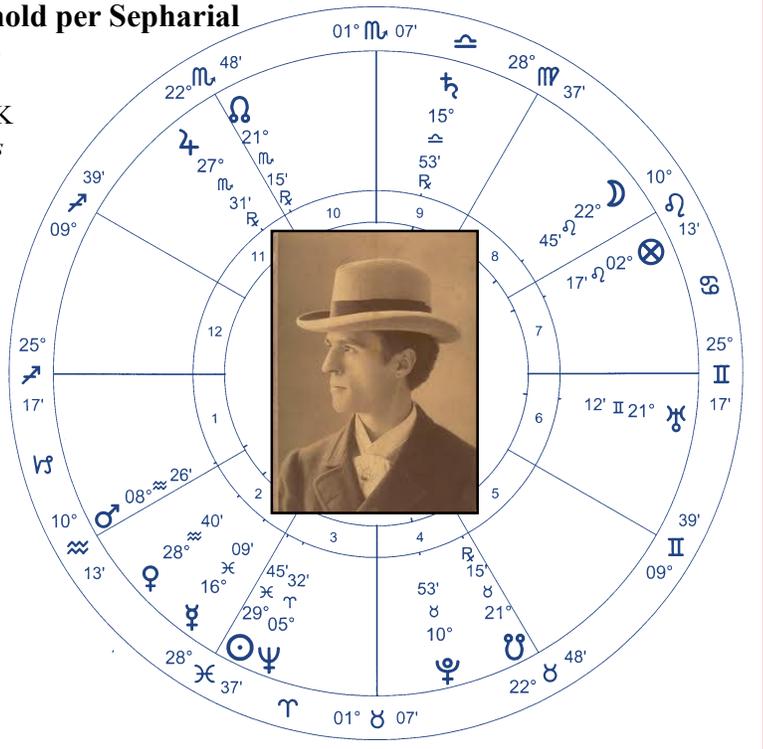
*Old Moore 11/1913 stated that his mother had given 1:30 PM from memory and later realized that it was the time of his brother's birth.*

Farnell, in the text of her **biography**, omits mention of his birth altogether, relegating it to a footnote on pg. 132, where she says,

*Walter was born 20 March 1864 at 1:30 pm, in Handsworth, West Bromwich (now Birmingham). This was later rectified to 2.03 pm by his own astrological methods.*

## Walter Gornold per Sepharial

March 20, 1864  
2:10 am GMT  
Handsworth, UK  
Placidus houses  
Mean node



On the back cover of her book is his natal chart, in a fanciful oval style, set for 2:06:31 **am**.

To this muddle we now have Sepharial’s own time of 2:10 am, from **Primary Directions**.

**S**O why not take Sepharial at his own word? His biographer might have gotten confused.

Our choices are a chart for 2:10-ish am (I rarely bother with great precision) and one set, for, say, 1:30 pm.

The two competing charts are simply read:

At 2:10 am, Sagittarius rises. A seeker. An experimenter. On a quest. Ruling planet Jupiter is found in the 11th, of associations, in Scorpio, retrograde. This indicates a life-long association with friends and associates, on an intense and personal level. Ruler of Jupiter being Mars in Aquarius in the 2nd reinforces these associations, as Aquarius has a strong affinity to the 11th. Mars in Aquarius will have an idealistic approach to getting money, but he will also tend to value his friends highly as well, values being a strong part of the second.

Ruling planet Jupiter rules the Sun, in the last minutes of Pisces, in the third. Sun in Pisces has a weak sense of itself and will seek activity (3rd house) in an effort to define itself. It will also be strengthened by Jupiter, as Jupiter is trine to the Sun. This is literally a man who is defined by his friends.

Sun in mutable Pisces in 3, he dabbles in

everything but masters nothing. He has many, many surprises, as Neptune lurks just beyond, in Aries. Sun-Neptune is not a conjunction per se, as the signs are different. There is instead a belief in things (Sun in Pisces) that never work out (Neptune in Aries). This is not a psychic placement.

For that we must look to the Moon, in Leo in the 8th. This is very psychic but intellectually adrift, as there is no intelligence here. With its opposition to both Venus and Mars (wide), there is a distinct air of self-sacrifice, here as a love-death (Venus-Moon), as my previous investigations of the 2nd-8th polarity points to a willingness to risk life itself for the sake of one’s values. (Harry Houdini, Evil Knievel, Steve Irwin.)

So far as his Theosophical and religious beliefs, Saturn in Libra in the 9th says he will tend to cling to tradition, Saturn being conservative. One notes that Mercury, debilitated in Pisces, wants to be in the house opposite, which would be the 9th, but displaced planets such as this perform poorly.

It is hard to see Sepharial in this.

Now I turn to the 1:30 pm chart.

Leo rises. I have come to associate Leo rising with uniqueness, with individuality, with isolation, and for this reason: Leo represents the king. There can be only one king in any kingdom, which is to say, in any given circle of associates. The Leo risings I have known have borne this out. We never speak of Leo risings as peers, but as objects, as ideals, as those who must be tolerated at best.

The ruling planet for the chart is now the Sun and to our amazement, we find it has slipped into Aries. Which is dynamic and forthright and self-confident and powerful. It now falls into a conjunction with Neptune, which makes it mystical and psychic and deluded.

In the 9th house the two planets have a natural affinity for religion as expressed as mystical (Neptunian) studies. Aries, being a pioneer, will compulsively go from religion to religion. It will also compulsively use Neptunian means of obtaining advanced knowledge. Such as crystal-gazing, automatic writing, dowsing, etc. All areas in which Sepharial was interested.

With Sun in Aries we have now set up a very wide opposition to Saturn, which we find late in the 3rd. Saturn in a good sign in the 3rd makes one study. We did not have this opposition twelve hours before because it was with Neptune, the two planets tending to fight against each other and come to little. Now, in this poorly wrought Sun-Saturn opposition we see Walter's complaint that he works very hard on mundane matters – astrology, for example – only to have people presume that he uses clairvoyant means. Which is his 9th.

**W**E also have the fact that he is maladroit and tends to get the details mangled, such as with his natal chart itself. This is due to the wideness of the Sun-Saturn opposition taking away the pressure to get things right, combined with the presence of Neptune that ignores details altogether.

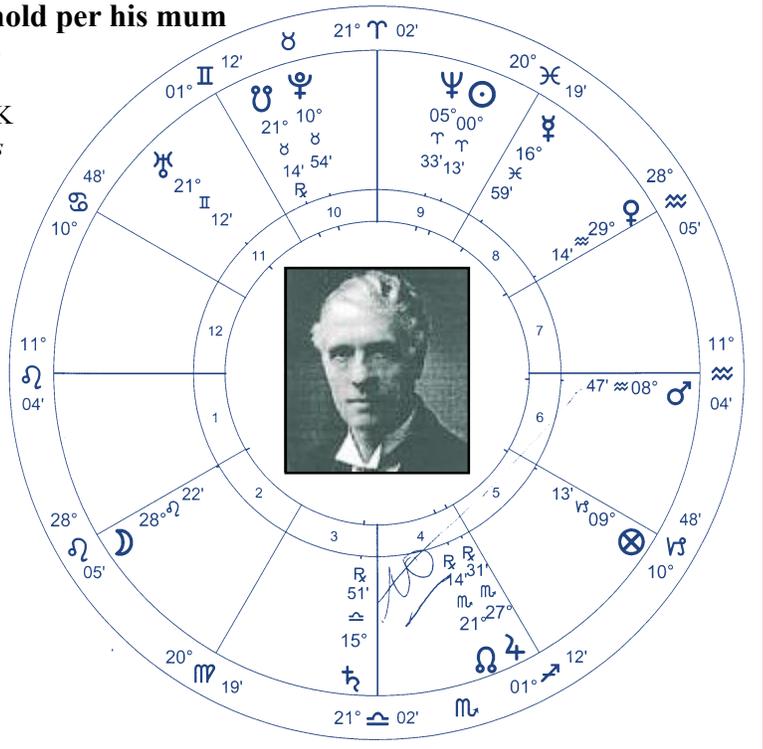
Which brings us to foreign travel. Mercury, which also wants to be in the 9th, will give a taste for foreign lands, but, debilitated, and with the Sun addled by its conjunction to Neptune, the native will not travel very well and might end up staying home. Which in fact Sepharial, after an initial journey to India, did. He thereafter stayed in England.

The very tight Moon-Venus opposition is now reversed as to houses. The Moon is in the 2nd, where it will take slights personally and be both proud and highly insecure financially. Opposite Venus in Aquarius, "the world" (Aquarius) is "out to get" (opposition) him (Moon). He reacts defensively, and he will always rise to the bait. Moon in Leo is bombastic and overblown by nature. All challenges are now life or death.

And there are a lot of them. At 1:30 pm there is three degrees between Mars and the descendant. At 1:12 pm – a minor tweak – Mars will be exactly on the descendant. Which has a sexy, provocative effect upon

## Walter Gornold per his mum

March 20, 1864  
1:30 pm GMT  
Handsworth, UK  
Placidus houses  
Mean node



women, but a combative one with men.

Over at the 5th house, of children, at 1:30 pm we see an early degree of Sagittarius on the cusp. Ruler Jupiter is just behind the cusp, in Scorpio, a fertile sign. Move Mars up to 7 and Jupiter jumps into the 5th. Either way there are a great many children. Note also the position of the north node, in Scorpio as well. It appears Jupiter's retrograde condition delayed the arrival of children into Sepharial's early 30's. It might be that retrograde Jupiter in the sexy sign of Scorpio, on or near the 5th of children, delayed onset of puberty as well. In the mid-19th century, so far as is known, puberty arrived in one's mid to late teens. (Data is murky.) The end of Sepharial's childhood may have come around the age of 20, but this is speculation. Of note, **Cornell** cites Saturn in Scorpio as delaying the onset of puberty. Might a retrograde Jupiter in Scorpio in 5 do the same?

Of the two possibilities, 2:10 am versus 1:30 pm, I am of the opinion the pm chart is the more probable.

Okay, what about those primary directions that "prove" an am birth? Here is Sepharial's own work, from **Primary Directions Made Easy**, pg. 52

Death of Walter's father. Arc of direction 4° 7':

- Ascendant to Uranus, 4° 0'
- Sun to Mars, 4° 28'
- Sun to Neptune, 5° 17'
- Ascendant to Sun, 5° 21'

Death of Walter's mother. Arc of direc-

tion 27° 8':

- Sun to Moon, 27° 8'
  - Sun to Uranus, 27° 14'
  - Midheaven to Venus, 27° 48'
- For the injury to the hand, Sepharial does not give the arc itself, but notes:
- Ascendant to Moon, 36° 37'
  - Ascendant to Jupiter, 36° 47'
  - Ascendant to Mars, 37° 31'

My grasp of primaries is weak, but if 12 hours = 6 months = 30', some of these orbs are not that tight. Note that rectifying the pm chart to put 25 Leo on the ascendant, or 25 Aries on the MC (not hard: 16 minutes, from 1:30 to 1:45 pm) will produce the same results.

**A**S with **Dane Rudhyar** in the **December 31st newsletter**, I again find confusion as to the start of the day, between noon and midnight. With Sepharial I see another individual with Leo rising, Sun in Aries in the 9th.

Looking at the various texts of the period, Sepharial's, Leo's, Carter's, Robson's, I can find no mention of this whatever. Could it be that **W.S. Gilbert**, a librettist, knew time better than astrologers?

There seems to be great resistance from European and English astrologers to accept what should be common sense. That in the centuries up to the 20th there was, in fact, no other way to record times than to start the day at noon. Not midnight. The changeover, if it has actually come, would have either been piecemeal, country by country, or im-

posed by UN treaty, or by the EU, from Brussels or Strasbourg. At some point after, say 1960 at the earliest.

In any case, if the start of the official day has changed, from noon to midnight, it would be a simple thing to track down because, like the changeover from Julian to Gregorian calendars, it would leave marks everywhere.

**I**n fact, America has recently done exactly this. [The US Standard of Live Birth](#), revision 11/2003 (a pdf, click on it), now specifies a 24 hour clock to record birth times. Which replaces the earlier am/pm. For further clarification, see page 20, [here](#) (another pdf). Where “0” is explicitly defined as midnight.

For those of you who think the European day starts at midnight, these are the kinds of documents which will exist and which you should be able to find.

Yes, astrology can and will replace science as the world’s fundamental reference, but not the flabby astrology we have long known. This is but one of many details that must be mastered.