



NEWSLETTER

NOW WEEKLY!

With art by Vera!

from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

June 24, 2014

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Gauquelin, teams and individual athletes

LAST week I studied charts of US football players to see if they would confirm Michel Gauquelin's original findings, that athletes were likely to be 12th/9th house dominant, or, instead, my suspicion they were really 3rd and 6th and that Gauquelin had misread his birth times, mistaking legal for civil time.

I was puzzled when my test confirmed Gauquelin but as I write to deadline and as I was out of time, I had to leave things there.

I have now had time to think things through. Wiki had mentioned that Gauquelin's findings could not be replicated with births after 1950 and while that sounds like Wiki's long-standing misrepresentation of astrology, it is still our job to examine the claim to see if it might be valid.

Immediately I knew of a reason why. Gauquelin's studies were first published in 1955. Athletes tend to peak by age 20, which means his athletes were born no later than 1935. Athletes famous before 1950 tended to be famous as *individuals*. Athletes born after 1950 tended to be *team players*.

Why is this important? Because as I have noted elsewhere, the Aquarian Age began in 1913. Those born prior to 1913 were "Piscean," those born after were "Aquarian."

After the change in 1913, the *existing Piscean population* responded to the *new Aquarian energies*. Only much later, when the last of these people had physically retired, did Aquarian youth suddenly supplant them. We knew these youth as the "Generation Gap" and the year of changeover as 1968.

Pisceans were *individuals*, one way or another, while Aquarians, uniquely, are *collective*. No less than Charles Carter noted this in the 1930's. This especially applied to men, as the Sun is debilitated in Aquarius.

Team sports can be traced as far back as the mid 19th century, but they expanded rapidly after 1920 and expanded further after they had been thoroughly "Aquarianized" in the late 1960's. But are teams Aquarian?

Not quite. Teams have *owners*. Teams have *rules*. Players are *members* of an *organization*. Which is the 12th house of *bureaucracy*. Not the 6th of *individual effort*.

What about the 9th? Team players are required to have *team spirit*, quasi-religious feelings of superiority. That's 9th house.

Which is to say the charts of modern team athletes, properly constructed, will accidentally confirm Gauquelin's erroneous calculations. My hunch says Wimbledon winners, past and present, will not. Tennis is still an individual sport. Which will be for next week.

Avarice is a form of extreme acquisitiveness, which is indicated by a combination of Cancer-Saturn-2nd house influences of an inharmonious nature. The basic principles involved in this are, that the whole earthy triplicity has the biological function of providing pabulum, or sustenance, for the life represented by the fiery element. Thus the earthly signs in all cases follow or support the fiery. This function of earth culminates in Capricorn, the last and topmost of the three, representing the domination and utilizing of physical matter. Now, the watery signs are negative to the fiery, just as water extinguishes fire, and their biological import is the self-preservation instinct, which acts as a brake upon the reckless outrush of Fire. This self-protective instinct is most clearly seen in Cancer (Cardinal-Water), and the Moon. Hence it follows that if the Moon or Cancer is brought into discordant relationship with Saturn or Capricorn, the result is extreme acquisitiveness. *More next week.*
— **Encyclopaedia of Psychological Astrology**, \$18.95. [Buy](#).

ALMANACK

for the week (all times GMT)

24	01:49	☽	♄	♄	Void
	11:06	☽	♁		
	19:55	♀	♁	♀	
25	08:26	♂	♂	♄	
26	11:57	☽	♂	♀	Void
	21:06	☽	♁		
27	08:09	●	♁	♁	New Moon
28	05:17	☽	♁	♄	
29	01:04	☽	♂	♄	Void
	07:23	☉	♁	♄	
	08:44	☽	♁		
	19:31	♀	♁	♄	
30	09:55	♀	♄	♄	

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

Vivian Robson's STAR OF THE WEEK

MENKALINAN beta Aurigæ 0 ♂ 07

Notes: A bright yellow star situated on the right shoulder of Auriga. From Al Mankib dhi'l Inan, the Shoulder of the Rein-holder.

Influence: Of the nature of Mars and Mercury. It causes ruin, disgrace, and frequently violent death.

TEJAT eta Geminorum 3 ♁ 38

Notes: A binary and variable star situated on the left foot of the northern Twin.

Influence: Of the nature of Mercury and Venus. It causes violence, pride, over-confidence and shamelessness.

DIRAH mu Geminorum 5 ♁ 30

Notes: A double star, crocus yellow and blue, in the left foot of the northern Twin. Symbolically called the Abused or Beaten One. —from [Fixed Stars](#), by Vivian Robson. [Buy](#).





IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

My Notebook for Mars

WHERE Saturn may be said to cut DOWN & Uranus to cut THROUGH, Mars is the one who cuts OUT. He is the surgeon or butcher, or the efficiency expert, as the case may be. In any aspect to the Moon at birth they function according to this differentiation, and particularly as regards the matters & people ruled by the houses they occupy. In proceedings involving red tape or observance of formal rules & regulations Saturn reduces the amount, Uranus ignores it (substituting a newer short-cut method of his own devising) but Mars handles it by disposing of it entirely & ending up without it — as in surgery, a more or less violent cutting-out measure. Where we find Mars we always find developments requiring drastic action but always the ability to dispose of them forever. It is his “I can do without it if I must” attitude.

In reading an aspect between natal planets, always name the faster planet first. Thus, Mars may apply to or separate from an aspect of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune & Pluto because he moves faster than they. But being slower than the Moon, Mercury, Venus & the Sun, we always name them first so that they apply to or separate from an aspect to him. By this we recognize that some relationship is either going to develop between them or has already done so.

Where your Mars is at birth shows what is “cut out to be cut out” in your life; the condition, person or thing you will have to do without. — [Here and There in Astrology](#), 1961. [Buy](#)

Another look at the current situation.

MANY believe the US dollar, as an international currency, is dependent upon control of the price of gold. If gold were to increase in price the value of the dollar would fall. If the dollar fell unacceptably, it would no longer be an international currency. Which would severely upset the US economy, by the way.

Which is said to be the reason for the hysterical sales of gold in New York and London over the past two years, in a mad effort to drive the price down by glutting the market. Market watchers say the British had previously done this in the late 1990's. Now as then, the hope is that the present crisis will pass and leave the status quo intact.

Russia, China, Iran, India and numerous other countries have noted recent US belligerence (via Ukraine, the Crimea, Syria, Iraq, the [cavity search](#) of a diplomatic aid, etc.) and are, not surprisingly, taking steps to protect themselves. The immediate response has been to hastily seek a replacement for the dollar as a means of international trade. Why have you not heard of this on the nightly news? Because the US and its vassals, London and the European Union, are still hoping for a happy outcome and have pushed the news off the front pages. If the [BRICS](#) countries succeed, the US economy will disappear in an instant. So will they? More to the point, **will the US let them?**

Which brings our attention back to my newly found chart for the US government, that of **March 4, 1789, at noon**, in New York or Philly: Your choice, and it won't make much difference either place.

I first thought of comparing this chart to the usual solstice and equinox charts, and while those comparisons are useful, I realized that as the US has a deliberately elected chart, we had an astrological reality at least as powerful as any individual natal chart. We could dispense with indirect secondary means and go directly to transits, progressions, solar arcs, solar returns, primaries, even firdaria, if we like.

We could start by asking just how long the New Rome, I mean, the US will last?

For the start of an answer we turn to [Abu 'Ali Al-Khayyat's](#) length of life. In a day chart the hyleg is the Sun, provided it's properly placed and aspected by the ruler of its sign or term, etc. In the US chart the Sun is

in the 10th and Pisces, and is ruled by Jupiter in Cancer, which rules Pisces. Therefore the Sun is hyleg. As Jupiter also rules the Sun's term, Jupiter is also the alcohoden. As Jupiter is in the same sign as the ascendant, it is therefore angular. As it is not conjunct, square or opposed to Mars or Saturn, nor conjunct, trine or sextile to Venus, there are no additions, so it gets maximum years.

And you look at the table and find Jupiter's maximum years to be 79. Which ran out in 1868, a long time ago.

Then you remember a table in [Al Biruni](#) and you are ever so grateful that I put the book together eight years ago. (I frankly could not write these columns without reference to some of the books I publish.) From pg. 43, the greatest years of Jupiter are 427. Which means The United States of America (present Constitution) may endure until the year 2216. Another 202 years.

We now commence with transits to the natal, which is to say, to the sitting government in Washington, D.C., itself:

FOR the past year Jupiter has been in Cancer, which is the US ascendant. Since Mr. [Robert Hand](#) has written a nice book on [transits](#), we will now refer to it. Jupiter in the first, he says, the past year has begun a new 12 year cycle. Such cycles have often been noted in US history. We can, for example, cite the previous 12 years, 2000-2012, as well as 1988-2000, 1976-1988, etc. Mr. Hand says such a Jupiter year is fortunate, but that we should try not to become overbearing. I might add that Jupiter, which is exalted in Cancer, may also suffer from smug self-confidence, which I find true of exalted planets generally.

On July 16, Jupiter leaves Cancer and enters Leo. On Tuesday, July 22, Jupiter will conjunct the US Uranus, at 1 Leo. As it happens, the Sun will reach this same degree two days later, on Thursday, July 24. In his introductory notes Mr. Hand instructs us that “me too” transits by faster moving planets, especially the Sun, Mars and Mercury, can act as triggers for slower planets, such as Jupiter.

Hand describes Jupiter conjunct natal Uranus as a time of surprises and sudden opportunities, a time when one strives for freedom, a time of increased idealism.

Jupiter at this time will be in our second house. To accurately get the time when Jupiter arrives there, you should run the chart in [Koch](#)

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houses, as intermediate Koch cusps are uniquely sensitive to transits (intermediate Placidus cusps are not: they have other uses).

Mr. Hand tells us that Jupiter in the second can be a time of abundance, but he also cautions that Jupiter in 2 can make us a spendthrift and a wastrel. Which, to be frank, has always been my experience of Jupiter in that house.

Here Jupiter has another task as well. Leo rules gold. Jupiter in the sign of gold may tend to inflate its price. As Cancer, not Leo, is on the cusp of the 2nd and as America has long spent beyond its means, we might very well be spending money (gold) we do not actually have. This might be further enhanced by Leo's fiery, and shall we say, bold and reckless enthusiasm.

While the Sun rules gold, you will notice the sign Pisces, where the US Sun is found, is inconjunct to the sign Leo. As inconjuncts (and semi-sextiles) are aspects of *invisibility*, the US has never really paid all that much attention to the gold it actually has, which means that if Jupiter is extravagant in the 2nd, it may catch us by surprise.

Such as the last time Jupiter was in the second house, in 2002, when the US cut taxes and then sailed into a set of wars it could not actually afford, but I digress.

SATURN is now in Scorpio, where it completes a natal grand trine with Jupiter, in Cancer, and Saturn-Sun-Mercury in Pisces. Carter famously said medieval astrologers thought grand trines were evil, in that they make us overconfident and lazy. Which shows how strict they were.

Saturn has recently finished a retrograde square to the US Pluto, at 18 Aquarius. Mr. Hand says this is a frustrating and difficult time. He says the temptation is to resist change and struggle with all your might.

Venus. Saturn first squared the US Venus, at 22 Aquarius, last December. In February-March-April of this year Saturn made a square station just north of it. Mr. Hand describes this transit as tensions and difficulties in relationships, even the possibility that existing relationships might end. Which, presuming American actions in Syria, Ukraine, Iraq and elsewhere were not merely in jest, hints the US has really been frustrated by other nations. You get the sense the US feels as if it has its back to the wall.

Which explains why Russia and China may be putting distance between them and the US. Hand also says this transit may bring creativity to a low point, and if we consider that Venus rules diplomacy, hitting the Russians over the head with the Ukraine might be a crude

US Constitution

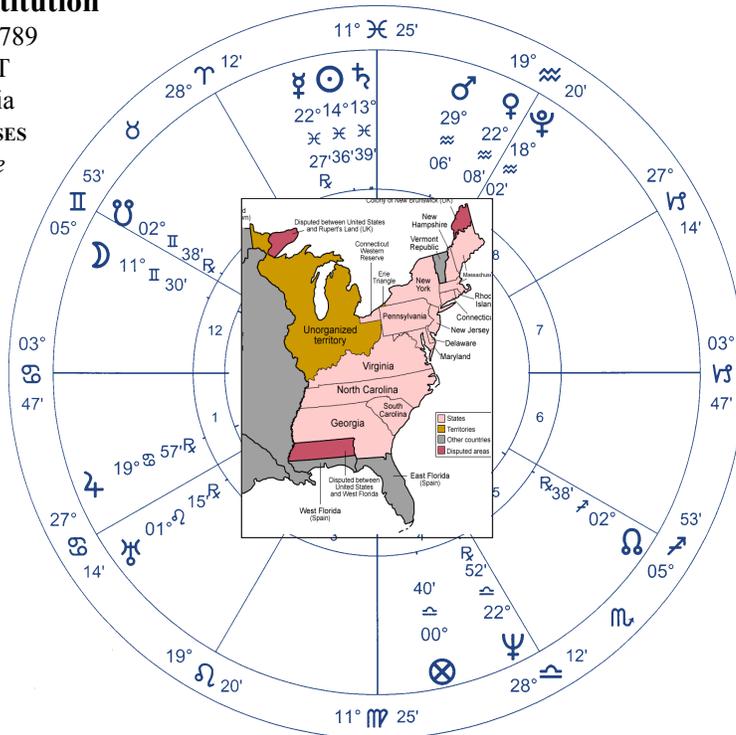
March 4, 1789

Noon, LMT

Philadelphia

KOCH HOUSES

Mean Node



(Saturnian) way of going about business.

This coming Christmas, Saturn will hurriedly square Mars, at 29 Aquarius, before entering Sagittarius. Before it can quite get out of Scorpio, the Sun at 29 Sag on December 21st will give Mars — though not Saturn — a minor kick, which could help in setting off the Saturn to Mars transit. Mr. Hand describes Saturn squaring Mars as intense ego conflicts with others, also accidents and injuries. As Aquarius is an air sign and as the 21st will be a big travel day, I'd check my chart before I left home and if it wasn't peachy-keen, I'd stay out of planes that day, frankly. Saturn attacking Mars in an air sign has a tendency to make things fall to earth.

Saturn will not quite reach the Koch 6th house cusp, of employment, jobs, health, the military, labor, unions, etc., before it turns retrograde just shy of 5 Sag next March. Get set for a battle over Obamacare Christmas, 2015.

URANUS is now at 15 Aries. It will be next March before it squares Jupiter, and two years before it opposes Neptune. Which is too far in the future for me. By house it is in an obscure part of the 10th and unlikely to amount to much. It conjuncted the US Saturn-Sun in 2007.

NEPTUNE is making a station at 7 Pisces, which does not in any way bother the 1789 chart. It passed over the US Mars in late 2011. Mr. Hand describes that as low energy with fits of discouragement. As I recall, the Republicans had formed

a circular firing squad in their efforts to find a presidential candidate. Occupy Wall Street was in the process of being openly suppressed by the government, but no one could do anything about it at the time. Who says this stuff isn't real?

Neptune will conjunct the US mid-heaven, at 11 Pisces, in April 2016. Mr. Hand says we should watch out for confusion and disorientation. He says the better you think you know yourself, the worse it will be. Which says the USA-USA-USA patriots will have a rough time of it, as they may feel betrayed by their government.

As it happens, Neptune will creep up to 12 Pisces before making a station, which makes the summer of 2016, an election year, an ever so unpleasant time. In the fall of 2016 Neptune breaks contact with the mid-heaven and the 10th house and "the problem goes away," to be replaced by Saturn opposing the US Moon, September-October 2016. Mr. Hand says an alienation crisis. I would add conflicts with the military or labor, one or the other having betrayed us.

Neptune returns to the 10th house in February, 2017. Which sounds ever so much like a replay of February, 2009, when the hopes so many had for Obama evaporated. At that time, Uranus was bearing down on the US Mercury, Saturn had just opposed the US Mercury, and Neptune had just passed over the US Venus. February 2009 was a rude awakening. In 2017 there will again be a new president, by the way.

PLUTO is presently at 12 Capricorn. The presumption that Pluto in Capricorn would revamp governments in general and the US government in particular have run aground on the fact that, aside from Jupiter in Cancer, the US chart has no significant placements in Capricorn, not even by square or opposition.

Pluto has been in the 7th house since January, 2010. Mr. Hand says Pluto in the 7th produces profound transformations in personal relationships. On a national level, this means profound changes in international relations. It was one year into Mr. Obama's rule and about that time the Europeans, at any rate, started to give up on the boy wonder. A sentiment which has only grown stronger since. Again, I am writing these notes precisely because the international situation, with the US at the helm, has become so very precarious.

In regards to Pluto in the 7th, Mr. Hand also remarks that *it is important to avoid power struggles with enemies during this time, for they are likely to be extremely nasty and destructive.* Which is to say, wanting to wreck your economy might just be the beginning.

Pluto will oppose the US Jupiter in March of 2017. Which is a long way off. Mr. Hand says this will be a time when the US tries to achieve absolute success, perhaps by ruthless or illegal means. Given it will be an 8th house to 2nd house transit, this may have to do with money or widescale death. Remember the 8th house — and Pluto — can go either way. Remember too that aside from his Sunday morning job of being a nice preacher, Jupiter's daytime job is expansion. He will expand nasty things just as well as nice. Also remember that the 2nd-8th axis concerns life-or-death risks. Now the Greeks:—

FIRDARIA is a 75 year Greek cycle. In a day chart we start with the Sun. Other planets follow, in order of speed: Sun, Venus, Mercury, Moon, Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, North Node, South Node.

(In a night chart we start with the Moon, and again go by speed: Moon, Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Sun, Venus, Mercury, and maybe the North and South Nodes. Interestingly, Al Biruni gives the north node exclusively to the Sun/day sequence, and the south node exclusively to the Moon/night sequence, which makes for a 73 or 72 year period.)

The years each planet rules are as follows:
 Sun - 10
 Venus - 8
 Mercury - 13
 Moon - 9

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THE SALES

There are two. Take your pick:

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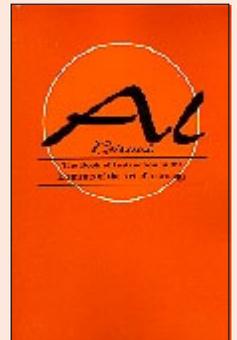
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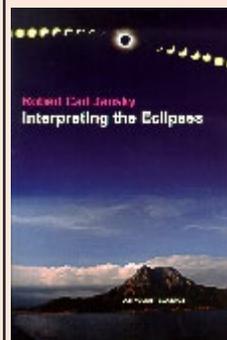


A Text-Book of Long-Range Weather Forecasting – George McCormack. From 1947, this is the ultimate book on weather, from a man who studied the weather for nearly half a century. We found it as hand-typed pages in an old 3-binder. The first publication had been limited to 100 such copies, and had nearly been lost. Not only saved, but completely reset. Predict your weather – weeks, months, *years* in advance! \$19.95

Book of Instruction in the Elements of the Art of Astrology, by Al Biruni. This is a no-nonsense distillation of the best of Arabic/Persian/Greek/Indian astrology, circa 1000 AD. You won't fully appreciate it (I didn't) until you've



nosed into Hellenistic and other areas and then discover much of what you need already here. Also the most comprehensive list of Arabic Parts anywhere, some 150. \$12.95.



Interpreting the Eclipses – Robert Carl Jansky. One of the best books on eclipses. Out of print since the author's death in 1981, we have brought it back. Learn about the Metonic Cycle and the Saros Series, prenats and more. Learn to use Transactional Analysis in your eclipse analysis. With case studies. \$17.95

Saturn - 11
Jupiter - 12
Mars - 7
North Node - 3
South Node - 2.

If you do the math you will find that on March 4, 2014, the US began its fourth complete cycle. The first cycle ran from 1789 to 1863, the second from 1864 to 1938, the third from 1939 to 2013. You will note that 1789, 1864 and 1939 were all significant years in the life of the US, and not only because Hollywood had a good year in '39.

Significant dates in the most recent Firdaria cycle were:

1939 - Sun
1947 - Venus
1957 - Mercury
1970 - Moon
1979 - Saturn
1990 - Jupiter
2002 - Mars

You will immediately be struck by 1957 as the start of the space race, and 1970 as the deadline a president set for getting to the Firdaria that started then.

Vimshottari Dasha is a 120 year cycle. We are currently 105 years into our second full cycle, which began in 1789 with the Moon. I regret I am not strong enough with Vedic astrology to determine where in the cycle we are at the moment.

FOR those who are unhappy I have not been properly respectful and patriotic to the US, I reply that we are past the time for such pleasantries. **Paul Craig Roberts**, a former top Treasury official with the Reagan administration and still, we presume, reasonably well-connected in Washington circles, has repeatedly warned the US is on the verge of starting an unprovoked nuclear war. Which Washington, apparently, believes it can win.

The Saker, who appears to be a private individual with a lot of military know-how (he's giving by far the best blow-by-blow account of the crisis in the Ukraine and, now, in Iraq, that can be found on-line) says, no, Roberts is wrong. The US could not launch a nuclear war, there are too many "old hands" who would stop it. But when asked if US neocons have not had the time to replace stodgy elders with ideological true believers, he has no reply.

Know that Winston Churchill ordered indiscriminate aerial bombing over Iraq in the early 1920's. In 1940, angry that Germany's Luftwaffe was bombing military bases in England, he sent RAF bombers to attack a Berlin residential area. Which en-

raged Hitler, who ordered Goering to target British cities in response. You know the rest.

Know that for the entire war, both Germany and Russia had twin-engine bombers, which is to say, tactical weapons of limited ability that could knock out isolated military positions in a battle theatre. The development and use of fleets of hundreds strategic bombers — the massive four engine B-17's, B-29's and Lancasters, was Churchill's and America's doing. As was the deliberate firebombing of entire German and Japanese cities that resulted. Which were war crimes. Remember the winners write the history books and always in their favor.

As a result, America developed commanders who were bomb-happy. Such as **Curtis LeMay**, whose response to the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 was to bomb Cuba. It also attracted the attention of die-hard Russia-haters, such as the Hungarian **Edward Teller**, who insisted the US develop the H-bomb specifically to target the Soviet Union. When **Robert Oppenheimer** objected, he was labeled a Communist. A few years later Stanley Kubrick parodied the feud in his movie, Dr. Strangelove. Since then fundamentalist Christians are said to have taken over the US Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado. Still feel safe?

WE now consider the impact of a 10th house Saturn, a feature of the March 4, 1789 chart. Astrological sentiment about this is not good. Writing in the 1980's, my good friend **Debbi** said, in **Secrets From a Stargazer's Notebook**:

Sticky wicket, here. We must make a distinction between Saturn in Capricorn, a fine, upstanding, noble position, and Saturn in Capricorn involved with the tenth house, which can make a person *as mean as they come*. [emphasis in original] . . .

But Saturn *in* the tenth house, or Capricorn *on* the tenth house cusp, tells a story too long and twisted for the limits of a paltry paperback. There are many kinds of people with these positions, but they have an observable, often unconscious, mean streak. They'll do anything—I mean anything—to prove that nobody's going to have power over them [US the unique global superpower]. They are dictators.

. . . But they must dominate, even if it means giving up the things or people that mean the most to them. They feel as if it is a life or death struggle.

Debbi tells me she spent a couple of years haunting the D train in Brooklyn, getting first-hand reports. She echoed the findings of other astrologers, to wit:

Alan Leo, in **How to Judge a Nativity**:

Saturn is essentially the planet of fate, and to all who are born with Saturn in the mid-heaven this text may be quoted — 'And Satan took Him up into a high mountain and showed Him all these things.' The elevation of Saturn gives some power, pride, ambition, and persistent desire for material objects and worldly welfare. . . If afflicted, he will rise only to fall again, or will over-reach himself by a lack of proportion or ability to judge the limits to which he can expand.

Sakoian and Acker, **Astrologer's Handbook**: *Those with Saturn in this house must exercise extreme caution concerning principles, or disgrace and heavy karmic debts may be incurred.*

Raphael VI (Robert Cross), in **Mundane Astrology**: *Saturn in the tenth is an evil position, for it denotes disgrace, disasters and many misfortunes and troubles . . .*

I have a personal short-list of only four individuals with a 10th house Saturn, one of them being one of my own brothers, another being the late Mickey Rooney, who at the beginning of his life inspired Mickey Mouse and by the end of his life was shunned. Now consider the fate of these gentlemen, who were given unlimited power:

By the time he left office, Richard Nixon, with his Saturn in the 10th, had inspired protests in Washington so massive that he himself later said he feared for his life. Yet he would neither change his policies nor abandon his position (re-election is voluntary).

By the end of his life, Adolf Hitler, who had a 10th house Saturn, had fled to the safety of an underground bunker. In which, in utter isolation, he was eventually forced to kill himself. Outside the bunker, the great cities of his nation had been firebombed and reduced to ruin, yet still he would neither sue for peace nor flee to personal safety. Instead, he clung to power to the very end. Both he and Nixon left office only when overwhelming force compelled them to do so. Richard Wagner's entire concept of **Gotterdammerung** has a strong 10th house Saturn smell to it.

THE US chart is further enhanced by the conjunction of the Sun with Saturn. The Sun, the life and essence of the native, in the US chart identifies itself with Saturn's desire to carry on until it can go no further, which is the essence of Saturn

in the 10th.

So I must unhappily tell you that if Paul Craig Roberts is wrong with his forecast of nuclear war, *he is wrong only in degree*. The US has become the world's superpower and is now bent on world-war because, given its birth on March 4, 1789, at noon, it has painted itself into a corner and now cannot do — or be — anything else. Perhaps a tradition of wise leadership could have produced a different result, but as I am learning with my studies of the Aquarian Age, some situations can resolve in no other way than the way in which they actually do. Pray that mere economic means, such as a new world currency, can stop the US Saturn.

Meanwhile, the US economy, like that of

Germany in 1945, is finished, and for precisely the same reason: The continued existence of the state has become more important than anything else. So there is no longer any point in pretending. Retail book sales, in my store at least, are dead. I never thought that national/international mail order, of a highly specialized topic, could possibly fail, but it has. Suppliers will soon be at 90 days, I do not know how I will pay them. I would beg my readers for money, book sales, donations, subscriptions, but everywhere I look there are beggars. The few with money are hoarding it. Can you blame them?

Even when firebombed with hundreds of thousands dead, the German and Japanese peoples would not rise up against the gov-

ernments that brought them to such disasters. (The Japanese eventually surrendered to the US after the Soviets had invaded Manchuria, the summer of 1945. They thought, better the US as occupiers than the Russians. The bombs the US dropped had little to do with it, but the US willingness to use them did impress the Russians.) So far as “revolution in the United States,” know that 600,000 dead in the Civil War only resulted in an even more bitter South and an ever more smug North. Not reconciliation. By contrast, the present US economic crisis is too trivial to consider. The gloom coming from the blogs is thick.

A more cheerful newsletter next week.