

# The Atlanta Astrologer



Metropolitan Atlanta Astrological Society

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Astrology: The Manifesto Part 7

## The Incompetence of "Astrologers"

Patrice Guinard, Ph.D., translation Matyas Becvarov'

*Those who are nowadays identified with astrology in the marketplace are the least qualified to speak for it. This precious knowledge has fallen into the pödy hands of buffoons.*

---Dennis Elwell: Cosmic Loom

The practitioner styles himself an astrologer, and the din of mediation corroborates his pretension. The men of the Renaissance were more modest, no doubt because they were in closer relation to things of real import, to people, to passions. The amateur was called an astrophile, the practitioner: astrologian. The cultural and anthropological dimension of astrology was not reduced to the matter of the interpretation of natal charts. How could such men as these, brought up reading Plutarch, have limited themselves to that one aspect?

On the other hand, the Ancients did not entertain the unhealthy modern infatuation with the sensational, which is contrary to the nature of astrology. The world of Castaneda is "extraordinary," as is that of Etienne Guille. Astrology itself is perfectly ordinary. The astrologer so greatest insight are chagrined, not overjoyed, by their knowledge Omar Khayyam is troubled by the dominion of the stars over the affairs of men.

Today, if one leaves aside the mercantile activism of charlatans and the pseudo-astrology of newspaper horoscopes and psychic hotlines, activity in astrology can be identified in three areas: research of astrologers, the progress of which is reflexive, i.e. theoretical and praxis-based and capable of postulating a true conception of reality (and not simply lyric flights of fancy with pretensions to the poetical and the metaphysical); contractual

and applied astrology performed by a practitioner or astrologian (exchange of astrological services, courses, consultations and therapy sessions, done for a charge); and the confidential astrology of the astrophile, either as an amateur or a follower of astrology.

Consultation is only one application of astrological knowledge among many others. The astrologer-consultant maintains the same relationship to astrological research as does the physician or engineer to scientific exploitation. Certainly a familiarity with natal charts is necessary, but it is only a minimal requirement and involves only one of the possible forms of astrological knowledge, i.e. that of horoscopic astrology. The essential this is not to calculate charts, but rather to live astrology, that is to say, to acquire a true astrological vision of reality. It is not simply a matter of speculating on the tendencies of Saturn or Venus in an individual's chart, but rather of transfiguring the ensemble of his mental representations, of using in a global way the astrological operators, not in an isolated or arbitrary way, all the while continuing to think in a dualistic manner. It is a question of acquiring a matrix based

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## THIS MONTH'S EVENT

Thursday, April 15, 2010

7:30 pm



**SPEAKER**

Kathryn Silverton



**TOPIC**

USING ASTROLOGY TO TIME REAL ESTATE  
TRANSACTIONS

**LOCATION**

2054 Harobi Drive, near Northlake Mall,  
just off Lavista, behind the DeKalb County Library

## Letter from the President

Greetings Friends and Members of MAAS,

Well, a lot has been happening so let's get right down to it. Several new visitors graced our doorstep in March, many of whom learned about us through Meetup.com. We hope they enjoyed their visit and will become regular members. A warm welcome goes out to Lidia Nistor who joined last month. We look forward to seeing you at subsequent meetings and I hope you'll introduce yourself to our members.

Last month David Railey gave an entertaining talk on the "Six Signs of the Zodiac." What an interesting take on how the opposite signs really do mirror one another. My only personal disappointment was that David warned us to come prepared to be insulted. I'm afraid he didn't quite live up to that billing but there's always next time! We began our raffle last month and raised \$180. The prize was a free reading by David, and the winner was Coleen Conway. Congratulations to Coleen and I trust David will guide you well. This month we'll be raffling off one of David's books, a fabulous pair of Cosmic Pajamas, plus a surprise contribution to be announced at the meeting. Raffle tickets can be purchased at the meeting for \$10 a piece. We must have a minimum of 5 tickets sold for the raffle to be a go. All proceeds go to MAAS and are therefore tax deductible.

Thank you all for your continued support of MAAS. I look forward to seeing you on April 15th. (Happy Income Tax Day!)

Sincerely,

Kathryn



**April 18**

Mercury Stationary Retrograde at 6:02 am

**April 20**

Sun Enters Taurus at 12:30 am

**April 25**

Venus Enters Gemini at 1:05 am



## LUNATIONS

**April 14**

New Moon in Aries at 8:29 am

**April 28**

Full Moon in Scorpio at 8:19 am

NOTE: From Solar Fire Gold.

## THE EDITOR'S CORNER

Special thanks to Mary Trapp, Kathy Papoutsis, and Kathryn Silvertson for their contributions to this month's newsletter. Make sure they know you appreciate them. Also, please think about how you can contribute to MAAS and your newsletter.

Deadlines for submissions are the first of each month. Submit your entries to the Editor at <maasociety@att.net>.



**HAPPY RETURNS  
TO THIS MONTH'S  
MEMBERS!!!**

## UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Thursday, May 20, 2010

**Speaker**

Panel Discussion

**Topic**

T-Square

## MAAS BULLETIN BOARD



**BUILDING FOR RENT:** With the exception of MAAS meeting nights, workshops, and Sundays our building is available for rent.

The fee is a very reasonable \$60 for members and \$75 for non-members. Please contact Kathryn (770-931-2577) to reserve the building.



**Deepest Sympathies to Our Fellow Member  
and Dear Friend**

Fran Rackow on the recent lost her husband Gary.



### LOGO CONTEST

We're looking for a logo for MAAS to put on our website and other literature, such as our letterhead, business cards, brochures, etc. Please submit your idea to Zane and we'll post them on our site and ask for votes. Deadline is May 31th 2010. Your reward: the honor of having your credit listed on our site for eternity and beyond!



**Place an AD in the Newsletter**

\$5 for 3 lines for 4 issues



### GET READY TO RAFFLE!

Nowadays everyone is looking for a bargain. So here's one for you: Pay \$10 for a raffle ticket and you could be a lucky winner.

*Got Stuff you don't need?* No doubt spring cleaning will result in a find our two. Donate your extras to our raffle. You get to write it off and someone else gets cool stuff for just \$10 per ticket.



We received a thank you note back from Robert Blaschke.



Transit Support Group Resuming...



Del Dorenbosch gave her dues \$ to Atlanta Food Bank



Increase in Dues coming in September.



See all the new improvements on the web site.

### NEED MAAS?



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[www.atlantaastrology.com](http://www.atlantaastrology.com)

## ***Incompetence***

*Continued From Front Page*

comprehension of the real, be it the subject politics or the theatre, gastronomy or philately, following the example of the semiotician Peirce, who interpreted every product of the mind as a sign.

The practitioner, who is often a pragmatist and takes the easy way out and is prompted by curiosity and a thirst for newfangled methods, tries "techniques" of the most disparate nature imaginable, thereby sacrificing the coherence of the totality. He seeks to satisfy the demand of a clientele anxious for comfort, or of a readership seeking sensationalism. The "But it works!" of the empirical process legitimizes every aberration. But it does still work, despite the scanty requirements made in defining adequacy in the interpretation of perceived reality. Moreover, astrological factors are chosen arbitrarily. There results no hypothesis about the possible functioning of astral incidence, nor even an internal logic that could justify the use of these factors from an astrological point of view. The astrologer examines a few charts, and then talks about his "research." He reads a few books and gives a few readings, then talks about his "experience." He does nothing more than use some tools with a view to a specific application of astrology, i.e. the psychological interpretation of natal charts. Some such people come up with new techniques (very often simple modifications of previous ones) in pursuit of the same ends. An imaginary empiricism is the sole guarantor of their ostensible efficacy. All of this has little to do with astrology. It is a form of personal satisfaction, the subjective application of knowledge that lies outside the bounds: a small personal affair. How could such a thing interest universities? In fact, astrology concerns itself essentially with the general and only indirectly with the particular: it is a mode of thought, and a mode of the functioning of thought, logic of perception.

The practitioner is not interested in learning: he believes that he already knows. He believes that his conviction about the existence of a reality to which skeptical minds remain closed excuses him from the effort of research. He does not think it necessary to know anything about his predecessors. He has no real model of astrology, only vague spiritual assumptions that seem to him to harmonize with this slapdash praxis. He forgets that the body of knowledge he

uses arose from a conglomeration of heterogeneous and disparate techniques, dating from specific historical periods, that float today like driftwood in the harbor of one or another sphere of praxis, by reason of the mediated success of a particular author or the skewed translation of an ancient text and not because comparative studies have been undertaken or because reflection on the logic of the totality has been engaged.

There is no such thing as traditional astrology; there are only models from the past, with great differences between them, products of particular cultures, schools of thought, or individual astrologers working in isolation. A conglomeration of these models is assimilated in the minds of some astrologers to represent a supposed tradition, astrologers who are often ignorant of historical reality. If the system of Ptolemy has left a preponderant mark in the astrological culture of Europe, medieval and then modern, it would deserve more than any other system the label "traditional" by virtue of the very special place it occupies within the framework of Hellenistic astrology. If astrology thrashes about impotently in the ghetto to which it was relegated in the Enlightenment, its circumstances are in part due to those who have taken up its banner. Astrologers should engage the terrains of history and epistemology; it is there that they will find their most formidable adversaries, as well as those most worthy of esteem. The first great modern adversary of astrology was not Pico della Mirandola, as one commonly believes, but rather Salmasius (1648).

**To Be Continued...**

**Editor's Note:** *Depending on the space available in next month's issue, the footnotes may not be printed. If they are not, you may request them from me at [maasociety@att.net](mailto:maasociety@att.net).*

