

MA Cultural Astronomy and Astrology
Astrology, History, Spirit and Soul
Week 7: The Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries
Nick Campion

Required Reading: Historiography

Evans, Richard, *In Defence of History*, London: Granta Books 1997, chapter 6.

Geertz, Hildred, 'An Anthropology of Religion and Magic, I', *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, Vol. 6 no 1 (Summer 1975) pp. 71-89.
JSTOR

Laura Andrikopoulos, 'Inscapes: Introducing a New Term to Cultural Astronomy', *Culture and Cosmos*, Vol. 22 no 2, Autumn/Winter 2018, pp. 3-15.
http://www.cultureandcosmos.org/pdfs/22/22-2_andrikopoulos-inscape.pdf

Required Reading: Primary Sources

This week's reading focuses on technical astrology, with one theoretical piece by Kepler.

Culpeper, Nicholas, 1616-1654, *The English physician: or an astrologo-physical discourse of the vulgar herbs of this nation*, London : Peter Cole, 1652, pp. 1-10.
<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/eebo/A35365.0001.001?view=toc>

Culpeper's book is the first major account in English of medieval herbal astrological medicine.

Kepler, Johannes, 'On the More Certain Fundamentals of Astrology', Prague, 1601, trans. Mary Ann Rossi with notes by J. Bruce Brackenbridge, *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*, Vol. 123, No 2, (Apr. 27, 1979), pp. 85-163.
JSTOR

This includes Kepler's major statement of theoretical astrology along with examples of his predictive work.

Lilly, William, *Christian Astrology*, London 1647, facsimile edition, London: Regulus Publishing 1985, new edition, London: Ascella Books.

Chaps 7-17.

We recommend the annotated PDFs (labelled Parts II, III, IV and V, downloadable from:

http://www.skyscript.co.uk/ca_downloads.html

William Lilly's *Christian Astrology* was the first major astrological text in English. These sections give the basic meanings of the houses, planets and zodiac signs as they have come down through medieval astrology. The text consists of lists of attributions. Remember, you are not supposed to be learning these but to gain a sense of the practicalities of astrology.

The rest of Lilly's work provides a guide mainly to the use of astrology for answering questions – what were known at the time as Interrogations, now as horary astrology. The Skyscript site also contains many other downloads. A selection of Lilly's horary charts is at

http://www.skyscript.co.uk/ca_downloads.html

The page also includes Lilly's material on the nature of the houses and planets.

A parallel text to Lilly's focusing exclusively on horary astrology is John Gadbury's *The Doctrine of Horary Questions*, At

<https://krasiancientastrology.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Gadbury-John-The-Doctrine-of-Horary-Questions.pdf>

Required Reading: Secondary Sources

Campion, Nicholas, *A History of Western Astrology*, Vol. 2 (London: Bloomsbury, 2009), chapters 10 and 11.

Campion, Nicholas, 'Harmony, Politics and Utopia in the Cosmology of Jean Bodin and Johannes Kepler', *Culture and Cosmos*, Vol. 25 no. 1 and 2, Spring/Summer and Autumn/Winter 2021, pp. 125-165.

http://www.cultureandcosmos.org/pdfs/25/25_Campion_Bodin_Kepler.pdf

Curth, Louise, 'Astrological Medicine and the Popular Press in Early Modern England', *Culture and Cosmos*, Vol. 9 no 1, Spring/Summer 2005, pp. 73-93.

Dunn, Richard, 'Picturing the practitioner: notes towards an iconography of astrological practice' in Nicholas Campion and Jennifer Zahrt, *Astrology as Art* (Lampeter: Sophia Centre Press, 2017), pp. 141-161.

PDF ON MOODLE

Germana Ernst, 'Astrology and Prophecy in Campanella and Galileo', *Galileo's Astrology*, special issue of *Culture and Cosmos*, Vol. 7 no 1, Spring/Summer 2003, pp. 21-36.

http://www.cultureandcosmos.org/pdfs/7/7-1_ernst_astrology_prophecy.pdf

Graubard, Mark, 'Astrology's Demise and Its Bearing on the Decline and Death of Beliefs', *Osiris*, Vol. 13, (1958), pp. 210-261

JSTOR

Perkins, Maureen, *Visions of the Future: Almanacs, Time, and Cultural Change*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996, chapter 4, 'Almanacs and Prophecy'

OXFORD SCHOLARSHIP ON LINE.