

## **MA Cultural Astronomy and Astrology**

### **History of Astrology**

#### **Week 6**

#### **Astrology in the Renaissance and the Early Modern World: Optional Reading**

**Nick Campion**

There is an extensive literature on astrology in the early modern period and Renaissance. Select only what seems to be relevant for your second essay.

Ridder Patrick, Jane, 'Astrology in Early Modern Scotland ca. 1560-1726', PhD Thesis, University of Edinburgh, 2012.

<https://www.era.lib.ed.ac.uk/bitstream/handle/1842/7981/Ridder-Patrick2012.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Tester, Jim, *History of Western Astrology*, Woodbridge: Boydell Press 1987, pp. 204-227. (Available on Google Books)

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Garin, Eugenio, *Astrology in the Renaissance: The Zodiac of Life*, London, Boston: Routledge, 1976, pp. 56-76. (Available on Google Books)

Holden, James Herschel, *A History of Horoscopic Astrology*, Tempe AZ: American Federation of Astrologers, 1996, PP. 154-162. (Available on Google Books)

#### **Articles**

Brosseder, Claudia, 'The Writing in the Wittenberg Sky: Astrology in Sixteenth-Century Germany', *Journal of the History of Ideas*, Vol. 66, No. 4 (Oct., 2005), pp. 557-576. (Available on JSTOR).

Camden, Carroll, 'Astrology in Shakespeare's Day', *Isis*, April 1933, Vol. 19 no 1, pp. 26-73. (Available on JSTOR).

Clulee, Nicholas H., 'Astrology, Magic, and Optics: Facets of John Dee's Early Natural Philosophy', *Renaissance Quarterly*, Vol. 30, No. 4, Studies in the Renaissance Issue (Winter, 1977), pp. 632-680. (Available on JSTOR).

Compagni, Vittoria Perrone, "Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa von Nettesheim", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Spring 2021 Edition), Edward N.

Zalta (ed.), URL =

<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2021/entries/agrippa-nettesheim/>

Copenhaver Brian P., 'Scholastic Philosophy and Renaissance Magic in the *De vita* of Marsilio Ficino', *Renaissance Quarterly*, Vol. 37, No. 4 (Winter, 1984), pp. 523-554. (Available on JSTOR).

Dempsey, Charles, Reviewed work: *Botticelli's Primavera: A Botanical Interpretation including Astrology, Alchemy and the Medici* by Mirella Levi D'Ancona, *Renaissance Quarterly*, Vol. 37, No. 1 (Spring, 1984), pp. 98-102. (Available on JSTOR).

Espantoso-Foley, Augusta M., 'The Problem of Astrology and Its Use in Ruiz de Alarcon's *El dueño de las estrellas*', *Hispanic Review*, Vol. 32, No. 1 (Jan., 1964), pp. 1-11. (Available on JSTOR).

Farinella, Alessandro G., Carole Preston, 'Giordano Bruno: Neoplatonism and the Wheel of Memory in the "De Umbris Idearum"', *Renaissance Quarterly*, Vol. 55, No. 2 (Summer, 2002), pp. 596-624. (Available on JSTOR).

Halstead, Frank G., 'The Attitude of Tirso de Molina toward Astrology', *Hispanic Review*, Vol. 9, No. 4 (Oct., 1941), pp. 417-439. (Available on JSTOR).

Harkness, Deborah E., 'Shows in the Showstone: A Theater of Alchemy and Apocalypse in the Angel Conversations of John Dee (1527-1608/9)', *Renaissance Quarterly*, Vol. 49, No. 4. (Winter, 1996), pp. 707-737. (Available on JSTOR).

Jevons, F.R., 'Paracelsus's Two-Way Astrology. II. Man's Relation to the Stars', *The British Journal for the History of Science*, Vol. 2, No. 2 (Dec., 1964), pp. 148-155. (Available on JSTOR).

Kaska, Carol, 'Marsilio Ficino: The Letters of Marsilio Ficino', *Renaissance Quarterly*, Vol. 59, No. 3 (Fall 2006), pp. 828-831. (Available on JSTOR).

Moore, Thomas, Chapter 1, 'Marsilio Ficino: Physician of the Soul', *The Planets Within: The Astrological Psychology of Marsilio Ficino*, Great Barrington, MA: Lindisfarne Press, 1990, pp. 29-39, available from Google Books  
<http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=ZUzcxcHMGq0C&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>

Moyer, Ann, 'The Astronomers' Game: Astrology and University Culture in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries', *Early Science and Medicine*, Vol. 4, No. 3 (1999), pp. 228-250. (Available on JSTOR).

Olson, Roberta J. M. Olson, '...And They Saw Stars: Renaissance Representations of Comets and Pretelescopic Astronomy', *Art Journal*, Vol. 44, No. 3, Art and Science: Part II, Physical Sciences (Autumn, 1984), pp. 216-224. (Available on JSTOR).

Pigler, Andrew, 'Astrology and Jerome Bosch', *The Burlington Magazine*, Vol. 92, No. 566 (May, 1950), pp. 132-136. (Available on JSTOR).

Quinlan-McGrath, Mary (2001), 'The Foundation Horoscope(S) for St. Peter's Basilica, Rome, 1506: Choosing a Time, Changing the Storia', *Isis* Vol. 92, no. No. 4: 716-41. (Available on JSTOR).

Rampley, Matthew, 'From Symbol to Allegory: Aby Warburg's Theory of Art', *The Art Bulletin*, Vol. 79, No. 1 (Mar., 1997), pp. 41-55. (Available on JSTOR).

Voss, Angela, Chapters 3 and 4: Ficino and Astrology from PhD thesis: *Magic, Astrology and Music: The Astrological Music Therapy of Marsilio Ficino and his Role as a Renaissance Magus*, City University (1992) pp. 171-230. Available from: <http://www.the9thhouse.org/theses.htm>

Wirls, Stephen H., 'Astrology and Machiavelli', Reviewed work: *The Machiavellian Cosmos* by Anthony J. Parel, *The Review of Politics*, Vol. 56, No. 2 (Spring, 1994), pp. 401-403. (Available on JSTOR).

## Web sites

<http://esotericarchives.com>

Translations of Hermetic and Neoplatonic texts

<http://www.alchemywebsite.com/>

Translations of alchemical material

The Galileo Project

<http://galileo.rice.edu/galileo.html>

### **Books: Print**

If you choose to specialise in the Renaissance, the books you should consider borrowing or purchasing include the following. I have highlighted a few of the most useful.

Allen, Don Cameron, *The Star-Crossed Renaissance: The Quarrel About Astrology And Its Influence in England*: Durham, Carolina: Duke University Press, 1941.

\*This is a key text on debates in Renaissance astrology and highly recommended.

\*Ernst Cassirer was one of the most inspiring writers on Renaissance philosophy. The following three books all represent his views.

Cassirer, Ernst, *The Platonic Renaissance in England*, trans. James P. Pettegrove, Edinburgh 1953.

Cassirer, Ernst, *The Individual and Cosmos in Renaissance Philosophy*, trans. M.Domandi, New York, 1963.

Cassirer, Ernst; Kristeller, Paul, and others, *The Renaissance Philosophy of Man*, Chicago, 1956.

Garin, Eugenio, *Astrology in the Renaissance: The Zodiac of Life*, London, Boston: Routledge, 1976.

\*\*Strongly recommended

Grafton, Anthony, *Cardano's Cosmos: The Worlds and Works of a Renaissance Astrologer*, Cambridge and London: Harvard University Press 1999.

Grant, Edward, *Planets, Stars and Orbs: The Medieval Cosmos 1200-1687*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Greenbaum, Dorian Giesler, Part 1, 'Theory and History of Temperament', in Dorian Gieseler Greenbaum, *Temperament: Astrology's Forgotten Key*, Bournemouth: The Wessex Astrologer, 2005, pp.1-56.

Maxwell Stuart., P.G (ed), *The Occult in Early Modern Europe*, London: MacMillan Press,1999.

An anthology of Renaissance writing, including astrology, magic and alchemy.

Niccoli, Ottavia, *Prophecy and People in Renaissance Italy*, Princeton: Princeton University Press 1990, includes discussion of various types of divination in the Renaissance in addition to astrology.

North John, *The Universal Frame: Historical Essays in Astronomy, Natural Philosophy and Scientific Method*, London: The Hambledon Press 1989.  
(Available on Google Books)

Pumfrey, Stephen, Paolo L. Rossi and Maurice Slawinski, *Science, Culture and Popular Belief in Renaissance Europe*, Manchester: Manchester University Press 1991.

Seznec, Jean, *The Survival of the Pagan Gods: The Mythological Tradition and its Place in Renaissance Humanism and Art*, Princeton: Princeton University Press 1953.

Wind, Edgar, *Pagan Mysteries in the Renaissance*, Oxford: Oxford University Press 1980.

Yates, Frances, *Giordano Bruno and the Hermetic Tradition*, London: Routledge and Kegan Paul 1964.

\*Frances Yates did more than almost any other Renaissance scholar to emphasise the central importance of mystical and magical traditions in Renaissance culture. Her books do not deal with astrology as such but are very relevant to the intellectual context within which it thrived. Suggested texts include:

Yates Frances, *Astraea: The Imperial Theme in the Sixteenth Century*, London, Boston, etc., 1975.

Yates, Frances, *The Occult Philosophy in the Elizabethan Age*, London Boston: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1979

Zambelli, Paola, '*Astrologi hallucinati: Stars and the End of the World in Luther's Time*', Berlin and New York, Walter de Gruyter 1986, includes a major paper on the use of astrology by Philip Melanchthon, one of the major leaders of the Reformation.