

MA Cultural Astronomy and Astrology

History of Astrology

Week 6:

The Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries: Required Reading Nick Campion

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, 1653), pp. 1-10.

You can find this book by going to Early English Books Online (EEBO), accessible via the UWTSD library. Go to "Advanced Search" and then "Database Search", and search for EEBO. Then search for the title – there are a few editions, but you'll see the Peter Cole one on the list. You can click on "Full text – PDF" to download the PDF and either view it on screen, or download it to your PC.

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.

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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 provides a guide mainly to the use of astrology for answering questions – what were known at the time as Interrogations, now as horary astrology. A parallel text to Lilly's focusing exclusively on horary astrology is John Gadbury's *The Doctrine of Horary Questions*, also available on EEBO.

Required Reading: Secondary Sources

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

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

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

OXFORD SCHOLARSHIP ON LINE.

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. 2-36.

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

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

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.

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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