

A Two-Day International Conference at the University of Bristol

Supported by BIRTHA (the Bristol Institute for Research in the Humanities and Arts),
the Centre for Medieval Studies (University of Bristol) and the Alumni Foundation.

10-11 July 2010

Organized by Darrelyn Gunzburg and Liz Greene

Hand-out

Roger Beck

‘Imagery and narrative in an ancient horoscope:

P.Lond. 130 (*Greek Horoscopes* no. 81)’

Excerpt on the Moon (IV.73-95)

And the divine and light-bringing Moon, waxing in crescent, had advanced in Taurus thirteen degrees and a thousandth part of a degree; in the sign of Venus; in her own exaltation; in the terms of Mercury; in a female and solid sign; like gold; mounting the back of Taurus; in the second decan called Aroth; her dodekatemorion was shining on about the same place in Scorpio. [trans. N&VH, slightly modified]

Introductory phrases for the seven planets

1. (a) The Sun, the mightiest and ruler of all, (b) moving from the spring equinox ...
2. (a) The divine and light-bringing Moon, (b) waxing in crescent ...
3. (a) Phaion, the star of Kronos (i.e. Saturn) ...
4. (a) Phaithon, the star of Zeus (i.e. Jupiter), (b) running across his exaltation (i.e. Cancer) ...
5. (a) Pyroeis, the star of Ares (i.e. Mars) ...
6. (a) Phosphoros, the star of Aphrodite (i.e. Venus) ...
7. (a) Stilbon, the star of Hermes (i.e. Mercury) ...

The planets among the constellations (not here the signs!) and fixed stars

1. Sun: shining upon the flank of Aries
2. Moon: mounting the back of Taurus
3. Saturn: descending from the Swallow-Fish
4. Jupiter: two fingers from the more northerly bright star on the back (sc. of Cancer)
5. Mars: (by?) the star in the Cloak called Ganymede, homonymous with the whole constellation, far to the east
6. Venus: at the Southern Fish ... distant two lunar diameters from the bright star in the connecting cords
7. Mercury: (nothing said)

N&VH *Greek Horoscopes* no. 81 (31 March, 81 C.E.)

