

MA Cultural Astronomy and Astrology

Astrology, History, Spirit and Soul

Week 6

Astrology in the Early Modern Period and Renaissance

Required Reading

Nick Campion

Required Reading for all students

Historiography

Evans, Richard, *In Defence of History*, London: Granta Books 1997, Chapter 5.

Gansten, Martin, 'Ars, techne, sastra, 'ilm: What's in a name?', paper delivered at the 2015 Sophia Centre conference on 'Astrology as Art'. (PDF on Moodle)

(published as Gansten, Martin, 'Introduction: Ars, techne, sastra, 'ilm: What's in a name?' in Nicholas Campion and Jennifer Zahrt, *Astrology as Art* (Lampeter: Sophia Centre Press, 2017), pp. 11-18.

Video: Islamic Science and the Making of Renaissance Europe

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2021687760/#:~:text=George%20Saliba%2C%20senior%20distinguished%20visiting%20scholar%20in%20the,European%20Renaissance%20during%20the%2015th%20and%2016th%20centuries.>

Primary Sources

The primary sources this week focus on Marsilio Ficino (1433-99) and Henry Cornelius Agrippa (1486-1535). There are similarities between the two men: Ficino brought Platonism and Hermeticism into European culture, and Agrippa was a keen Platonist. Yet we can draw a distinction: if we can distinguish different kinds of magic then Ficino veers towards Sympathetic Magic, and Agrippa towards Ritual Magic. Ficino's *Three Books on Life* was published in 1489. Agrippa's *Three Books of Occult Philosophy*, was originally published in 1531-3 and became a standard, perhaps *the* standard, textbook in astrological magic. It was translated into English in 1651. The *De Septem Secundeis*, by Johannes Trithemius (1462-1516), also illustrates Neoplatonic influences in astrology and was published in 1508.

Agrippa, Henry Cornelius, *Three Books of Occult Philosophy*, London, 1651.

Book 1, chaps 1-1

<http://www.esotericarchives.com/agrippa/agrippa1.htm>

Book 2 chap 26-44 (xxvi – xliv)

<http://www.esotericarchives.com/agrippa/agrippa2.htm>

Ficino, Marsilio, Selected Writings in Angela Voss (ed). *Marsilio Ficino*, Berkeley: North Atlantic Books, 2006.

Available in part from Google books see pp 25-30 in particular and p59 onwards

<http://books.google.co.uk/books?hl=en&lr=&id=kImfTOtG444C&oi=fnd&pg=PA59&dq=Angela+Voss&ots=aUORy-c2kV&sig=DUkg8B97FMM3etGl6PbmybQMBWs>

Ficino, Marsilio, 'The Book of the Sun (De Sole)', trans. Cornelius Geoffrey, Darby Costello,

Graeme Tobyn, Angela Voss & Vernon Wells, *Sphinx: A Journal for Archetypal Psychology and the Arts*, Vol. 6, 1994, pp. 123-148.

<http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~alfar2/ficino.htm>

Trithemius, Johannes, *De Septem Secundeis* ("Seven Secondary Causes")

<http://www.esotericarchives.com/tritheim/tritem.htm>

Secondary Sources

Campion, Nicholas, *A History of Western Astrology*, Vol. 2 , Chapters 7, 8 and 9.

Voss, Angela 'The Astrology of Marsilio Ficino: Divination or Science?', *Culture and Cosmos*, Vol. 4, no 2, Autumn/Winter 2000, pp. 29-45.

Required Reading if you are writing on the Renaissance

Primary Sources

Deitz, Luc, 'Marsilio Ficino', in Jill Kraye, *Cambridge Translations of Renaissance Philosophical Texts* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012), chapter 3, pp. 29-36. (Available in the University Online Library)

Deitz, Luc, 'Marsilio Ficino', in Jill Kraye, *Cambridge Translations of Renaissance Philosophical Texts* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012), chapter 13, pp. 147-155. (Available in the University Online Library)

- Both the chapters by Deitz contain English translations of sections from the *Platonic Theology* on the soul.

Ficino, Marsilio, *Three Books on Life*, ed. Kaske, Carole C. and Clark, John R., *Ficino, Three Books on Life*, Center for Medieval and Early Renaissance Studies, Binghamton: State University of New York at Binghamton, 1989.

This is Ficino's key work on astrology but is not available as an ebook. You may be able to find a library copy. However, it is available as a paperback from Amazon for £31 or the equivalent in other currencies. While we list it as required, we should clarify that it's essential if you choose to write about Ficino in your second essay.

The Charles Boer translation (Ficino, Marsilio, *The Book of Life*, trans. Charles Boer (Irving, Texas: Spring Publications, 1980)), contains some examples of inaccurate translation, and is also not an ebook, but can be available in addition to the Kaske and Clark translation It can be available on Amazon from £11.00

Secondary Sources

Bullard, Melissa Meriam, 'The Inward Zodiac: A Development in Ficino's Thought on Astrology' *Renaissance Quarterly* Vol. 43, No. 4 (Winter, 1990), pp. 687-708. (Available on JSTOR)

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

Catani, 'The Polemics on Astrology 1489-1524', *Culture and Cosmos*, Vol. 3 no 2, pp 16-30.
http://www.cultureandcosmos.org/pdfs/3-2/3-2_Catani_Polemics_on_Astrology.pdf

Celenza, Christopher S., "Marsilio Ficino", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Winter 2021 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2021/entries/ficino/>

Cleve, Julia, 'Ficino's Approach to Astrology as Reflected in Book VII of his Letters', *Culture and Cosmos*, Vol. 7 no 2, Autumn/Winter 2003, pp. 63-70.
http://www.cultureandcosmos.org/pdfs/7/7-2_Cleeve_Ficino.pdf

Del Soldato, Eva, "Natural Philosophy in the Renaissance", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Fall 2020 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2020/entries/natphil-ren/>

Hoppmann, Jürgen G. H., 'The Lichtenberger Prophecy and Melanchthon's Horoscope for Luther', *Culture and Cosmos*, Vol. 1 no 2, Autumn/Winter 1997, pp. 49-59.
http://www.cultureandcosmos.org/pdfs/1-2/1_2_Hoppmann_Lichtenberger.pdf

Rousseau, Claudia, 'An Astrological Prognostication to Duke Cosimo I de' Medici of Florence', *Culture and Cosmos*, Vol. 3 no 2, Autumn/Winter 1999, pp. 31-59. (PDF on Moodle)

Shamos, Geoffrey. 'Astrology as a Social Framework: The "Children of the Planets" 1400-1600.' In *The Imagined Sky: Cultural Perspectives*, edited by Darrelyn Gunzburg. 114-141. Sheffield: Equinox Publishing, 2016, pp. 114-141. (Available in the University Online Library)

Voss, Angela, 'The Music of the Spheres: Marsilio Ficino and Renaissance *harmonia*', *Culture and Cosmos*, Vol. 2 no 2, Autumn/Winter 1998, pp. 16-38.
http://www.cultureandcosmos.org/pdfs/2-2/Voss_Music_Spheres.pdf