

Guide to Lecture 2: Introduction to Traditional Astrology
Part I—History

A) Pre-Hellenistic Astrology: Babylonians, Egyptians, etc.

- a) Mundane use of omens and planets
- b) Spread of Hellenism

B) Hellenistic Astrology (ca. 2nd/1st Centuries BC—ca. 6th Century AD)

- a) Figures:
 - i) Mythical Figures
 - ii) Dorotheus of Sidon, Claudius Ptolemy, Vettius Valens, Firmicus Maternus
- b) Branches:
 - i) Nativities
 - ii) Elections
 - iii) Mundane (esp. eclipses, comets, weather omens)
 - iv) “Consultation” charts
- c) Two explicit philosophical influences:
 - i) Stoicism
 - ii) Aristotelianism

C) Persian/Indian contributions (ca. 2nd Century AD—8th Century AD)

- a) Horary
- b) Mundane

D) Arabic-Language Astrology (8th Century AD—ca. 1100 AD)

- a) Transition of Persians to Arabs
- b) First generation: Theophilus, Nawbakht, Masha'allah, 'Umar al-Tabari
- c) Notable successors: Abu 'Ali al-Khayyat, Sahl bin Bishr, al-Kindi, Abu Ma'shar, and many others

E) Early Latin Period (ca. 1130s AD—1300 AD)

- a) Translation movement, discovery and recovery of astrology and natural philosophy from the Muslims: John of Spain (John of Seville), Hugo of Santalla, Hermann of Carinthia
- b) Important astrologers/compiler: Michael Scot, Guido Bonatti, Leopold of Austria

F) Renaissance/“Traditional” Period (ca. 1400 AD—1650 AD)

- a) Trends:
 - i) Better mathematics
 - ii) Multiplying house systems
 - iii) Increased use of the weighted mubtazz
 - iv) Neglect/loss/rejection of concepts and techniques
 - v) Search for “pure” Greek astrology
 - vi) Rationalization/scientific reconstruction of astrology
- b) Figures
 - i) Kepler, Galileo, Regiomontanus, Gaurico, Schoener, Cardanus, Junctinus
 - ii) Best-known now:
 - (1) William Lilly (1602-1681)
 - (2) Jean-Baptiste Morin (1583-1656)

G) Decline (ca. 1650 AD—1900 AD)

- a) Heliocentrism, changing scientific vocabulary
- b) Social changes

H) Modern Astrology (1900 AD—Present)

- a) Reinvention/reconceptualization of astrology from Ptolemy, 19th Century spiritual movements, evolution, modern psychology

Logos & Light Lecture Series
© 2009 Benjamin N. Dykes, PhD

- b) Alan Leo, Marc Edmund Jones, Dane Rudhyar
- c) Shifts of emphasis:
 - i) Subjective psychology, Sun signs
 - ii) Evolution, actualizing potential
 - iii) Free will, intuition
 - iv) Modernity and science
 - v) New bodies, points, techniques