



NEWSLETTER

NOW WEEKLY!

With art by Vera !

from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

September 13, 2011

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Introducing:—

Vivian Erwood Robson

This is the 29 year old **Vivian Robson**, as he appeared in the June, 1919 issue of Modern Astrology. Robson was its newly installed editor. He was the successor to the late Alan Leo, who had died unexpectedly in 1917 (the two men never met). By training, Robson was a geologist. By profession, a draftsman. Unhappy with both, the previous year he had signed up for Alan Leo's astrology course, where he made outstanding progress.

The photo was taken by the noted **Alvin Langdon Coburn**, who had taken up a study of metaphysics (with ties to Theosophy, a favorite of Bessie Leo, Robson's employer) a few years before. Regrettably, in 1930 Coburn destroyed his entire life's work. Which means this blurry photo, from an old magazine, may be the only record of Vivian Robson that exists. He was, hands down, the finest astrologer of the 20th century. My thanks to Philip Graves for the picture, from his collection.

ALMANACK

for the week (all times GMT)

			Notes
13	01:46	☾♂♀	Void
	03:59	☾♂☉	
	06:50	☾♂♄	
14	16:26	☾♂♃	
15	01:44	♀♂♃	
	02:40	♀♂♄	
	17:10	☾♂♄	Void
	19:25	☾♂♄	
16	13:14	♀♂♄	
	18:23	♀♂♄	
17	11:06	♀♂♄	
	21:20	☾♂♄	
18	07:09	☾♂♄	Void
	08:06	☾♂♄	
	07:59	♀♂♄	
19	01:07	♀♂♄	
	01:51	♂♂♄	

Extracted & adapted from [AstroAmerica's Daily Ephemeris, 2000-2020](#). Get yours!



STAR OF THE WEEK



COPULA 51 M Canum Venaticorum 25th 17

Notes: The Spiral or Whirlpool Nebula mentioned by Ptolemy as the nebula under the tail of the Great Bear

Influence: It is of the nature of the Moon and Venus and causes blindness, defective eyesight, strong passions, hindrances and disappointments.

LABRUM delta Crateris 26th 51

Notes: Situated in the Cup, and symbolically called the Holy Grail.

Influence: Of the nature of Venus and Mercury. It gives ideality, psychic power, intelligence, honour and riches in disgrace and purifies to salvation.

If rising: Ecclesiastical preferment, or very good fortune.

—from **Fixed Stars**, by Vivian Robson

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Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson
1893-1990

IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

How the Eclipse Registers

THE locality is bound to the ground, so that the farther the place from the equator, the more likely it is to experience surface disasters. Northward, landslides, earthquakes and tidal waves. Southward, heavy rains and floods. The closer to the equator the more seasonal in effect; in the Spring whatever is sprouting and beginning to bud; as well as loss of surface soil by thaws causing run-offs and mudslides, especially damaging to crops. In the Summer, whatever is ripening that may suffer from drought, arid conditions, tornadoes and anything causing desert conditions by loss of surface soil or general erosion. In the Autumn, delayed ripening of crops, and particularly harvesting losses due to farm-worker strikes. In the Winter, late plantings, winter crops, cattle epidemics, and trees damaged by storms and heavy ice.

As listed on the preceding pages, the Signs ruling the different localities tell you which will be affected by an eclipse in such Signs: you then note the seasonal ingress for those places to find where the eclipse falls and whether it makes close or afflictive aspects to planets in houses angular, succedent or cadent and in Signs Cardinal, Fixed or Common.

Places ruled by FIRE Signs (Aries, Leo, Sagittarius) are subject to fiery reactions such as discord at home or with warring nations, major crimes, rampant epidemics involving feverish illnesses, animal losses (Fire Signs representing animals) and arson. — **In the Beginning, Astrology**, 1975

chewing the cud

More *Republican* Mayhem

PETER emailed last week. “What about the retrograde Venus in the Republican chart?” I was gobsmacked. I was thunderstruck. I was slammed to the floor. I was blown to smithereens, and the smithereens blown to tiny bits and then stomped on.

I missed a retrograde Venus? No fair blaming lousy Solar Fire printouts, there is no excuse for not checking the obvious. A retrograde Venus changes the Republican chart in fundamental ways. So let’s have another look at the **Republicans**, and the planets themselves:

First, what are the chances of a chart with both Mars and Venus retrograde? I turned to Neil Michelsen’s **Tables of Planetary Phenomena**. (I have books, I will use them.) On pg. 108, I learn that Venus is retrograde 7.2% of the time, and that Mars is retrograde 9.5%. Multiply those two and they are both retrograde .6850% of the time. That’s 68 hundredths of one percent. In theory, that’s some 250 days *per century*.

Then I got out the ephemerides and counted. As I don’t have a 19th century ephemeris, I checked 1900-2100, a total of 201 years. Here is what I found. Mars and Venus were both retrograde:

- 42 days in 1905
- 26 days in 1918
- 23 days in 1937
- 8 days in 1950
- 4 days in 1969

For an actual count of **103 days for the 20th century**. Barely more than one day a year.

For the 21st century, as follows:

- 10 days in 2037 – a 68 year gap
- 12 days in 2057
- 30 days in 2069
- 2 days in 2076
- 14 days in 2082
- 28 days in 2089
- 1 day in 2095

For a total of **83 days in the 21st century**. Less than one day a year.

So far as 1854 is concerned, Venus went retrograde on February 6th. It went direct on March 21st, a total of 54 days. Mars was retrograde the entire time. For most of that period, the two planets were within a degree or two of exactly opposed. None of the mutual retrogrades of the 20th & 21st century were that severe. In all the other cases, the

two planets’ retrogrades merely overlapped. In 1854, the Martian retrograde ate the Venusian whole.

The normal delineation of Venus/Mars opposed says that if Venus is the stronger, then the native is hypersensitive and prone to abuse. It is the female who cannot stand to be “hit on”, who is fearful of being stalked, who hides from the world.

When Mars is the stronger, we get the abusive male. Super macho, women are his for the taking, their feelings, their beings, of no interest to him. So long as he gets his way.

Critically in these traditional delineations, it is presumed that Mars is retrograde. Except for lunar oppositions, virtually all oppositions have one retrograde planet. It is as if there are two fighters in the ring. One—the direct planet—comes out of his corner swinging. The other—the retrograde one—emerges from the opposite corner, cowering. *Ma! He’s picking on me!* Does victory then go to the direct planet? No. It’s not so simple. When pushed the retrograde planet may well lash out: The cornered animal. I wish I could tell you there were simple mechanical rules for astrology, but there are not. You must look at each individual case.

When both opposing planets are retrograde—which is rare—it is as if the fighters have torn up the rule book. They are both in the ring, but they are there despite themselves. When both cower, victory goes to the better placed, better aspected planet. Since whatever planet that squares one, will square the other, and whatever planet that trines one, will sextile the other, tightness of orb is critical. As well as any planet that conjuncts one and opposes the other.

In the Republican chart, retrograde Venus, being well placed in Pisces, does not want icky Martian interference. Only one degree separate from the Sun, she is still within its warm rays. So far as retrograde Mars is concerned, he has his plans carefully laid. He will do what he wants. He is not responsible for Venus’ serfs or slaves or whatever she is calling them this week. So far as he is concerned, the best defense is a good offense.

As I mentioned last week, the Virgo-Pisces opposition is the main source of power in the Republican chart, and it is a curious sort. Venus has its ideals. It is the chart ruler, **(continued, pg. 4)**

This is a serialization of Vivian Robson's masterpiece, **A Student's Text-Book of Astrology**. It is now in print.

Part 56:

Occupation and Position

Matters ruled by the signs, *continued*:—

GEMINI. Writer, journalist, editor, teacher, schoolmaster, surveyor, astronomer, astrologer, aviator, musician, conductor, or composer, clerk. Often a double occupation. Saturn, common and public work, science, typing, shorthand, book-keeping, cashier. Jupiter, obscure, unprofitable, or unpopular work. Mars, better servant than master, gain by wits, cross examiner, detective. Sun, ballooning, mountaineering, unprofitable scientific work.

CANCER. Occupations in which liquid enters, sailor, publican, wine and spirit merchant, barmaid, caterer, washerwoman, occupations connected with the public. Jupiter, exalted position. Mars, medicine and surgery. Sun, admiral, ship's carpenter.

LEO. Actor, artist, jockey, schoolmaster, manager, coachman, butler. Saturn, secret or government work, obstacles from superiors. Jupiter, government or church dignities, secret service, diplomacy, crime detection. Mars, works to end of life, government work, music, high army position. Venus, help from women of position. Mercury, author, if conjunct Sun jeweller.

VIRGO. Secretary, accountant, stationer, printer, schoolmaster, astrologer, chemist, confectioner, clothes dealer. If rising and Mercury strong good physician but poor salary or bad debts. Bad for legal work. Saturn, difficulties in early life, literary critic, proof reader, journalist, chemist. Jupiter, love of service, magistrate, tutor, guardian, secondhand dealer. Mars, work abroad. Sun, success in police force.

— **A Student's Text-Book of Astrology**, by Vivian Robson.

On Horary, from Christian Astrology

If a Woman ask, whether she may conceive?

MANY times a Woman married, having been long without Children, may inquire, whether she is like to Conceive, yea or no? In this Question you are to consider:

If the Lord of the Ascendant be in the seventh, or the Lord of the fifth in the first, or the Lord of the first in the fifth, or if the Lord of the fifth be in the seventh, or the Lord of the seventh in the fifth, or the ☽ with him, or good Planets in the Ascendant, or with the Lord of the fifth, or in any of the Angles; she may then conceive: but if none of these testimonies concur, and you find barren Signs and ill Planets to be in the former places, she neither is at present conceived, or will hereafter conceive. If good and bad Planets be mixed together, she may perhaps conceive or have children, but they will not live: If ☽, ♀, or ☿ be in the Ascendant or fifth, she may have children; but if ♁ or ♃ be there, she neither is at present, or hardly after will be with Child. When women have been long without children, and propound such a question, see if their Nativity did not originally deny children.

At what time, or how long it may be before she have a Child?

If you find that according to natural causes she may have a Child or Children; and the Querent is desirous to know near what time: See then where thou findest the Lord of the fifth house, *viz.* if in the Ascendant or first house; then judge the first year; if in the second house, the second year; if in the tenth house, the third year; if in the seventh house, the fourth year; if in the fourth house, the fifth year. And herein you must be careful in considering what sign the Lord of the fifth house is in; for the swiftness of a Planet in a moveable sign does somewhat hasten the time; a double bodied Sign does not manifest so soon; fixed Signs prolong the matter. — **Christian Astrology Book 2**, by William Lilly.

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Is This You?

The Pisces - Cancer - Scorpio type

Like the Pisces-Scorpio youth depicted elsewhere, this young man has 19 degrees rising, thus combining three watery decanates. This is an equally subtle combination with mystical possibilities and the power to contact the forces of nature through solitary wanderings. Although the face is a Cancer type, the body possesses the long Scorpio back, narrow hips and shoulders, resembling the other muscular Martian sign, Aries. Thus the wheel of physical manifestation comes back full circle in this Martian merging through decanate influence. The Mars body has a powerful spinal development, as a rule, as well as a strong will. This combination of physical and psychic forces renders an advanced Mars man open to higher influence but capable of becoming immune to crude objective stimuli. [Anrias gives the birth as in January, 1910, which means this is not a self-portrait, as the author/illustrator served with the British Army in World War I. Spinal development relates to *psychic selectivity*. — Dave.] — **Man And the Zodiac**, by David Anrias.



it is backed up—quite powerfully—by the Sun. Neptune and Mercury, both of questionable motives, are in Pisces and along for the ride, but that’s okay. All four planets in idealistic Pisces, in the house of slaves, serfs workers, doctors and even small animals, surely Team Venus can be trusted to take care of us!

But it is precisely because Venus is retrograde that the Republicans are, and have been, unable to deliver on their grand promises.

What, in fact, was the Republican plan to end slavery? Answer: There never was a realistic plan. Not at all.

The most likely plan, simple-headed, muddled, highly dangerous, a plan that was endorsed by Abraham Lincoln himself, was to simply **ship the slaves to some other country**. There to fend for themselves. By 1860, slave repatriation had been on-going for some 40 years. One result is known today as the nation of **Liberia**, which was formally founded in 1847.

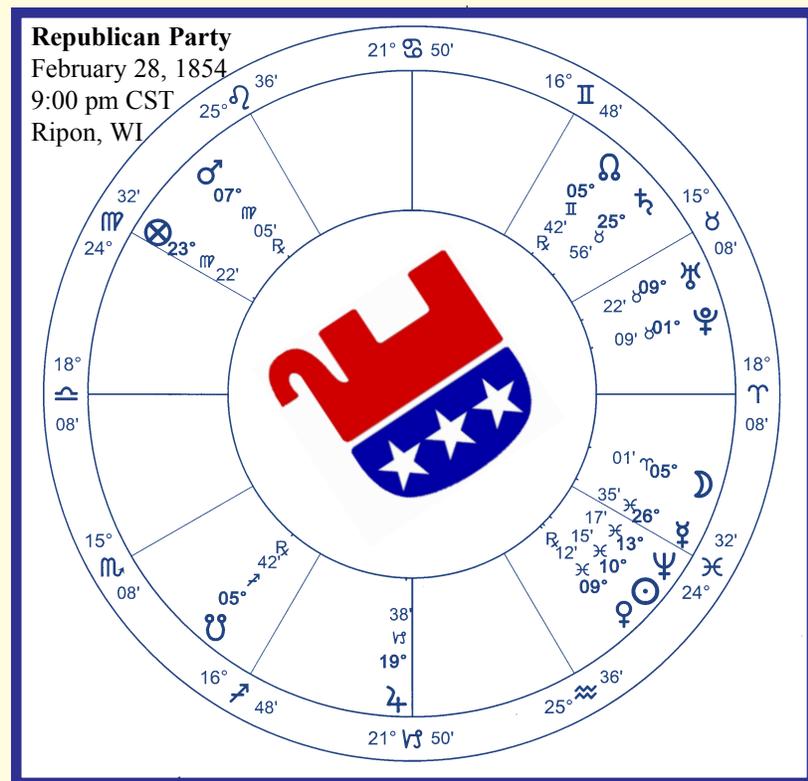
Upon taking power, all the Republicans needed to do was send the army to the South to round up eager slaves. Up to 1863, Lincoln’s actual plan (opposed by all freed slaves) was to strand them in Haiti or Central America. A slam-dunk. Nothing could be more simple. Why do you suppose that immediately upon Lincoln’s election, the Confederate states seceded, even before he was sworn in? Fearful the Yankee army would invade, fearful the slaves would rise up to greet them, why do you suppose the South attacked Fort Sumpter? Southern backs were against the wall. Throw the Yankees out, everything else was negotiable.

In this respect, the Republicans are paternalists gone sideways. They come with impractical plans (retrograde Mars in Virgo) that cannot actually be put into action (opposition to the chart ruler, a retrograde Venus), but which can result in unintended consequences. Such as being forced into a Civil War.

Or shutting down the government in 1994 to make some petty point. Or stopping the Florida recount in 2000. Or holding the nation hostage over a debt ceiling.

Such Republican plans “for the good of all” are imposed on the unwilling serfs/slaves/workers, to the profit of institutions (12th house: corporations are people, too) and their financial backers (Mars trine to Saturn in Taurus in the 8th).

Which Venus, in league with Saturn in Taurus, permits. Elsewhere, Mercury, not very bright in Pisces, is smart enough to know it wants to be on the other side of the chart,



in Virgo, with Mars.

HARDLY anything in astrology is more rare than a political party with both Venus and Mars retrograde. Surely this cannot be human! At first I thought, the Republicans are really ALIENS FROM OUTER SPACE, sent to infest unsuspecting earth creatures!

But then I thought, God sent the Republicans to smite America back into the stone age where it belonged. The Avenging Angels of Amerika, one and all. And, well, they’re just taking their time at it. Nobody ever said that God was in a rush. I can make out a case that he enjoys slow torture.

But, heck, well, no, that weren’t it, either. Lookie here: From a standing start, the Republicans were running the country seven years after they were founded, and went on running it, in a more or less unbroken streak, until the economic system as a whole collapsed in 1929.

Whereupon Franklin Roosevelt rescued us—and them—and after 40 years of licking their wounds, Ronald Reagan brought the Republicans back from the dead. There is no difference between what the Republicans are now, and what they ever were. The nice, kindly, sympathetic Republicans of the 50’s and 60’s, the Republicans I grew up with, were simply a party in disarray.

With this kind of success, we should be honest and admit the Republican Party to be the true face of America. Maybe the shock of self-recognition will encourage us to do

better. Do you see another Franklin Roosevelt in sight?

In his email Peter also remarked that the purpose of the Republican Moon in Aries in the 6th, ruling the 10th of Cancer, was to use its public position (MC) to push workers (6th) around. Which is another excellent observation. Do the Republicans treat us any better than they treated the slaves? Don’t just think of Lincoln’s **Emancipation Proclamation**, as that was the work of one man. Think of the horror of **Reconstruction** and its aftermath. Or the fate of Liberia.

Mark emailed to ask where I get the keywords that I use. While there are two excellent sources for this sort of thing (**J. Lee Lehman** and **Rex Bills**), I never quite got on with either one. In part I am guided by 25 years of study, but when I’m stumped, or unsure or just want a second opinion, I turn to **Sakoian and Acker, Alan Oken, Charles Carter** and **Vivian Robson**. All of which are basic introductions-to-astrology books. There are many **others**. You should have three, if not four, such books in your library, each carefully chosen.

The technique I use can be found in **Morin’s Book 21**, or in Patti Tobin Brittan’s **Planetary Powers**. It was best expressed by **Vivian Robson**, in **A Beginner’s Guide to Practical Astrology**:

Having found the significator of the matter concerned interpret all aspects

to it as things and people affecting it. Suppose Jupiter were chief significator of money and afflicted by Saturn. We should judge that money matters would be hampered by poor conditions, depressing surroundings, ill-health, or whatever Saturn signified in that horoscope. In other words, we should give Jupiter the chief consideration as significator of the matter enquired into, and interpret the action of Saturn in its relation to Jupiter, and not vice-versa. On the other hand if Saturn were the significator we should judge that fits of generosity or extravagance would affect the finances, because Jupiter is expansive in its action, and its afflicting aspect would cause trouble and loss. This general judgment is then refined by taking into account the sign and house occupied by the aspecting planet, and the houses it rules. Thus, suppose with Saturn as significator that Jupiter threw an adverse aspect from the 5th house. Then we should judge that the extravagance would arise from too much indulgence in pleasure, or from gambling, or other matters ruled by the 5th house. This would be modified by the sign containing Jupiter. A water sign would incline more to self-indulgence, a fiery one to gambling, a sign ruled by Venus to expenditure on women, and so on, thus enabling us to enlarge on the judgement obtained from the house position alone. We should next look to see what houses Jupiter ruled. If it ruled the 3rd we should judge expense and extravagance over journeys, relatives and other third house matters, and by blending the influences, that gambling losses (5th) would come through the advice of relatives (3rd) or some other appropriate blending. . . .

This, however, is not the only way the influences would work. . . .

There is method to be used, and it is one which needs considerable practice, but it is well-worth the trouble involved, and the student will himself be amazed to find how accurately the most trifling details may be predicted.

As a word of advice to the beginner I would say — Do not be afraid to let yourself go in this way. You will make many mistakes to start with, but it is the only way to make your Astrology of practical use. There is too great a tendency nowadays to float about in a comfortable haze of so-called esotericism. The first need of Astrology is accuracy and definition, not pseudo-religious speculation, and it is only by concentrating on the practical and scientific side that we can really make Astrology of service, and obtain for it the recognition it deserves. (*Dave's emphasis*)

WANT to comment? I have a blog: **JackRabbit Adventures**. It's rather crude, as I haven't the time to give to it. Minus the fancy formatting and the links, you can find this week's article [here](#).

I WROTE a great deal more this week, chiefly on how slavery really worked, but it was too much of a rant. (You want the real story of slavery? Female slaves were forcibly bred/mass raped on an annual basis, the majority of male slaves castrated at birth. The slave-owner himself did the siring/stud work/raping (pick your term). Such is how field slaves came to be. Because, as is well-known, slaves will not breed. "*Let slavery end with me*" is their bedrock belief. What do you think of **Jefferson**, now? House slaves were the product of the owner's slovenly daughter and an unexpectedly fertile black male. Presumably for every house slave, there was one dead black male. The real story of slavery is still well-hidden.)

Consider also **Rosemary's Baby**, which, metaphorically speaking, is what can come about when both Venus and Mars are retrograde. Just plain creepy.

America is, in sum, an extraordinary country. It has an extraordinary chart, the chart of the founding of the Republican Party. Next year I expect it to sweep the elections and by its misrule further advance its mission of self-destruction through greed. The rest of the world is trying to distance itself from us, by whatever means as come to hand. It is just that bleak.