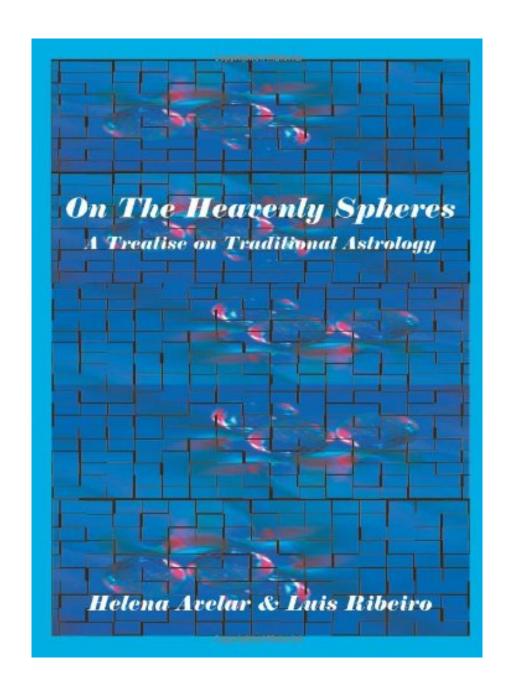


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Thousands of years ago, people first observed a correlation between the heavenly bodies and events on Earth. Out of these early observations and subsequent refinements came what today is known as astrology. For most of these millennia, astrologers used only the seven visible planets: Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. It is out of this tradition that Helena Avelar and Luis Ribeiro have written this extensive book on astrology. The rules and principles here presented apply to all branches of astrology, natal, mundane, horary and elective. Their method is the traditional and time-honored one, and includes, among others, chapters on: The Planets The Zodiac and the Signs The Essential Dignities The Houses The Aspects Chart Dynamics The Condition of the Planets The Fixed Stars The Parts The Power of the Planets Using this traditional method, it is possible not only to thoroughly and completely read the natal chart but to do so with a breadth and depth of meaning not found in the modern methods of astrological interpretation. It avoids cookbook-type methods and centers on the practical understanding of the astrological concepts, presenting the Tradition in present-day language. In addition, more than two hundred fifty illustrations make the traditional principles easy to understand and use in chart interpretation. This practical how-to book is one of a kind, and the one that will teach you the traditional methods and you reach into the past to benefit from the knowledge of the authors and astrologers from ancient Babylonia through the medieval period. It is suitable for both beginners and advanced students, as it provides the indispensable core of astrological knowledge, at the same time allowing more experienced students to organize their knowledge into a coherent system.

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Features

Used Book in Good Condition

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28 of 28 people found the following review helpful.

An essential read for all students of Astrology

By Amazon Customer

First some background. I first got interested in Astrology over 40 years ago but soon gave it up. Two factors were instrumental, the dependency on Jungian psychology and the use of the outer planets as co-rulers for signs. Ten years later I tried again, after the birth of my daughter and despite buying some more text books the same result occurred. The only thing I had to show for it was that I found out my Sun sign was really Libra and not Scorpio as the horoscope columns claimed. Finally 10 years ago I tried again. This time I took

a correspondence course to impose some discipline on my learning and through that course I came across Horary Astrology. I was hooked! That led me on to a desire to learn about traditional techniques and those answered my concerns about the dependence on modern psychology and on the outer planets. If something like this textbook had been around when I first started Astrology there would have been no large gaps in my study.

The authors start from the presumption that Astrology should be stand alone. That is not to say that there is no 'psychology' but that it is a psychology inherent in the traditional basis of Astrology. There is a careful exposition of the philosophy which underlies the traditional approach and the reader is introduced to the four temperaments, choleric, melancholic, sanguine and phlegmatic, terms that are still in common use and concepts which can still be found, albeit dressed up, in psychological profiling scales such as Myers Briggs.

Unlike modern Astrology, only the seven `traditional' planets are used (up to and including Saturn) and each is explained in terms of its fundamental characteristics, nature and temperament. Signs are not expressed in terms of the `Sun sign' characteristics but in terms of element, mode and other traditional characteristics, such commanding or obeying, humane or bestial. The authors explain the use of the Astrological houses and why some houses carry more importance in chart interpretation.

The book looks at characteristics which are no longer used in modern Astrology but have real meaning - such as the essential dignities of triplicity and terms and accidental dignities such as combustion or being oriental/occidental (allowing a more considered assessment of the planet's relationship with the Sun, the giver of life).

As with all introductory texts, the aspects are used but with an emphasis on the traditional major aspects (conjunction,, opposition, trine and sextile). The multiplicity of modern minor aspects is mentioned in one of the appendices, accompanied by an explanation and the reader is left free to incorporate these if desired.

One of the problems of writing such a text is that the tradition extended over two millennia and like all living things, changed. So the techniques mentioned extend from those used in Hellenistic times, such as a greater use of triplicity rulers, and the Lots or Parts through to those used by medieval and Seventeenth Century Astrologers such as William Lilly. Of course not all these techniques were used by all the Astrologers over these two millennia and this is made clear, though perhaps a little more guidance could have been given on where to mix and match. This however is very much a minor criticism.

In well under 300 pages, it is inevitable that some things will be left out or glossed over but that is of the nature of introductory texts as a whole. So whilst I might have preferred to see a thorough natal delineation, of the type provided by William Lilly in his Christian Astrology Book 3, or some introduction to predictive Astrology (the heart of `real' Astrology), I cannot point to anything that could or should be sacrificed, so the result would to greatly extend the length and the cost of the book. Unusually the book also introduces the reader to the mundane and horary branches of Astrology, which are often ignored by introductory texts. The Authors also seem to anticipate that readers will go on to look at some of the traditional texts listed for further study and perhaps feel that what is not developed in this book will be filled in by that additional reading. However this book is so well written that Helena and Luis should seriously consider further volumes on concentrating on mundane, natal and horary Astrology in more depth, plus traditional predictive methods.

Overall, despite the necessary limitations, I cannot recommend this book too highly. For the new student to Astrology, it is an excellent introduction, even if they ultimately decided not to follow a traditional path or even decide to incorporate the modern planets plus the dwarves, asteroids, and other bodies so beloved of modern Astrologers. At least this book will have given them knowledge of the fundamentals and enable them

to make informed judgements in the use of further techniques.

23 of 23 people found the following review helpful.

traditional astrology fully revealed

By old skywriter

Five stars are insufficient to rate this book. I would give it ten. It is so refreshing to read an astrology book that has no wasted words. This book is comprehensive and thorough, concise and to the point in every paragraph, with illustrations to clarify 'what is meant' and 'what is not meant.' If you are at all interested in 'traditional astrology' [and you should be] this is the book you want to begin your study--of 'real astrology.' It is destined to be a classic and will remain in your library 'for keeps.'

It begins with the foundation of astrology, the 'hot and dry and moist and cold' orientation to the tropical zodiac and maintains that orientation throughout. It makes sense not only of the techniques of the ancients but also of their world view, how they saw the essence of the universe and captured that essence in their techniques. It takes you from the Earth-center to beyond the firmament and reveals a forgotten but marvelous rendition of the universe and its meaning to mankind. It is a practical book fully intended as a textbook and reference; it is encyclopedic in its coverage with a very complete table of contents. I have read it cover to cover and intend to start over tomorrow--and over again the following tomorrows. BUY IT!

As a final comment, I would like to say "thank you" to Helena and Luis for writing this wonderful book.

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful.

A thorough introduction

By S. Gustafson

As an introduction to the major themes and lore of traditional astrology, this book is remarkably comprehensive. It covers just about the entire body of lore found in Ptolemy's *Tetrabiblos* and Lilly's *Christian Astrology*, in densely written chapters that waste few words. It covers material that texts on current astrology tend to omit, like the zodiac signs of compass directions, countries, and cities. Old World, cities, mind you: the authors' sources did not mention Manitoba, Chicago, or Rio de Janeiro, so they are omitted.

It begins with a survey of the Ptolemaic universe, an introduction to the theory of the four elements, the hot-cold and moist-dry dualities, and their application both to human personality and to the physical universe. These were the universal physical assumptions of the world of classical astrology, and the entire system makes a great deal more sense when they are presented.

Not sure that it works as a textbook, though. It's a treatise, like Ptolemy's is. Being as crammed with information as it is, reading it is rather like being hit with a fire hose. You'd want to go through this with a teacher who will supply what it lacks as an educational resource: applications, exercises, and examples. It's more of a reference book, but as a reference book it would be better served with a more extensive index.

Fortunately, Lilly is rich in exercise and example, unusually so for a seventeenth century writer. Lilly assumes a fairly extensive background, though. If you are serious about traditional astrology, this book will arm you with the lexicon and concepts you need to proceed.

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