

Charts in the News

with commentary by Elisabeth Grace



Jane Austen, December 16, 1775; 11:45 p.m. LMT; Steventon, England (51°N28', 01°W20'); A: from memory; Isabelle M. Pagan quotes Austen's father by letter for "before midnight."

On November 5, 2019, I received an e-mail from the Jane Austen Society of Philadelphia, inviting me to speak about Austen's horoscope. (See **Chart 1**, following page.) Transiting Jupiter was exactly square Austen's rectified 24° Virgo Ascendant; Venus was opposing her Uranus and conjunct her Ascendant ruler, Mercury. Since Mercury and Uranus are the traditional and modern rulers of astrology, this e-mail could not have been more perfectly timed! In fact, 2019 looked quite promising for expansive recognition, with Jupiter's hard aspects to Austen's Sun, Neptune, Ascendant, and Midheaven. Themes of power and regeneration, with a potential "otherworldly" flair, were suggested by two solar arcs (SA) that are exact in November and December: SA Pluto = Neptune and SA Pluto = Sun.

"Her horoscope is hot!" I said to my contact at the Society, who then proceeded to tell me what an exciting year it was for "Jane-ites," as Austen's fans are known. *Sanditon* — a TV series based on Austen's unfinished novel — was currently airing in the U.K. and would premiere in the U.S. on January 12, 2020 (with transiting Mars conjunct Austen's Mercury). *The Watsons* is another unfinished novel of hers adapted by a modern-day playwright; it transfers to London's West End in 2020. The horoscope lives forever!

In researching my talk, I found a synopsis of Austen's horoscope in Isabelle M. Pagan's book, *From Pioneer to Poet*. In the 1911 first edition, Pagan cites Austen as a fine example of a Libran "literary style ... [with] a capital hand at jotting down the annals of the present day, and can make even trifling details interesting and important."¹ This does fit Austen's Libra Moon and Saturn. We see how her need for structured social decorum in relationships is expressed in her novels, which are set in the world of the British landed gentry and known for exploring "the dependence of women on marriage in the pursuit of favourable social standing and economic security."²

But Austen is a Sagittarius, not a Libra (!) — and in a later edition of Pagan's book, she ac-

knowledged the error.³ How is this confusion over Austen's identity reflected in her horoscope? Look at her Sun-Neptune square, with Neptune exactly on her rectified Ascendant. She has a mythic status among her fans, projecting a perfect domestic ideal. The Jane-ites feel personally connected to Austen, referring to her as "my Jane."

Austen's horoscope has a northern hemisphere emphasis, with most planets below the horizon, including her Sun in the 4th house. This is a person whose default focus is likely the family and home. It may be challenging to rise above tangled roots and be fully seen. This pattern, along with the strong statement of Neptune in exact aspect to the Sun and Ascendant, may reflect why Austen was not publicly identified as the author of her six published novels until after she died.

This got me thinking about another heavy Neptune person ...

Rudy Giuliani, May 28, 1944; 2:30 p.m. EWT; Brooklyn, NY, USA (40°N38', 73°W56'); A: from memory.

Like Austen, Giuliani has Neptune conjunct a Virgo Ascendant, with its potential mythic connection to the masses. (See **Chart 2**, following page.) In the aftermath of 9/11, he could do no wrong as mayor of New York City, projecting the perfect image of strength and empathy. He was "America's Mayor," helping the country to heal. But Neptune is not always what it seems, as recent headlines demonstrate. Giuliani's aura of rose-colored fog now reeks of bewildering scandal, as the feds officially investigate shady financial dealings in Ukraine and other arguably brazen efforts made in his new gig as President Trump's personal attorney.⁴

Unlike Austen, Giuliani has a majority of planets in the southern hemisphere, i.e., above the horizon. This pattern suggests public exposure, as well as exploitation by others. Whereas a northern hemisphere emphasis benefits by rising above its roots, a southern hemisphere emphasis benefits by anchoring itself to one or two associates who have proven themselves worthy of trust. A northern hemisphere can get tangled up in its roots; a southern hemisphere needs some.

The righteous enthusiasm of Austen’s Sagittarius Sun is diffused by its square to Neptune. In contrast, Giuliani’s multitasking Gemini chatterbox Sun is conjunct Uranus. Electric, eccentric, rebellious, intensely brilliant, or wacky — all may apply. We could say the same about Austen’s mindset, as her Mercury in Sagittarius opposes Uranus in Gemini. She is known for outrageous wit, and her first stories were comic ones.⁵

Giuliani’s horoscope is driven by the Moon in Leo, made even more grandiose by its conjunction with Jupiter. He needs to be the life of the party — to fulfill his reigning need for love and adoration. The Moon–Jupiter pairing is squared by Venus in Taurus, a potentially indulgent and excessive pattern. He’s been married and divorced three times. In contrast, Austen’s Libra Moon is constrained by a conjunction with Saturn and provoked by a square from Mars in Capricorn. Austen never married, and there’s hardly a shred of Leo anywhere in her chart — or in her behavior, according to biographers. That’s why Isabelle Pagan determined that Austen must have been born with Virgo rising, not Leo.⁶ Agreed.

Both horoscopes have Mars–Pluto conjunctions, bringing persuasive force to action. Giuliani’s conjunction is in Leo, adding extreme drama and a sense of entitlement to his execution. With transiting Uranus squaring his Mars–Pluto in 2019 and early 2020, headlines are abuzz with reports of reckless and bizarre behavior. Austen’s Mars–Pluto conjunction is in Capricorn, a placement that takes care of business with practicality, discipline, strategy, and achievement. Transiting Jupiter and Saturn will activate her conjunction three times in 2020. A rise in status would not be unexpected. Pluto conjoined her Mars in 2018; it conjoins her Pluto in 2021.

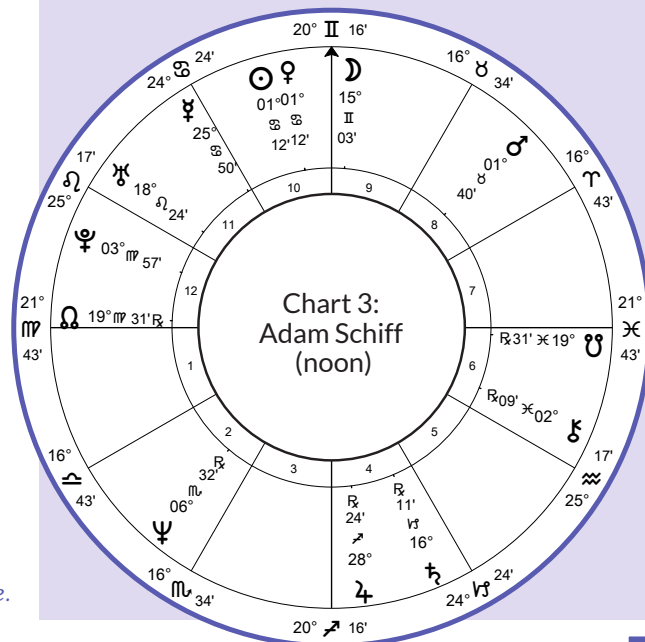
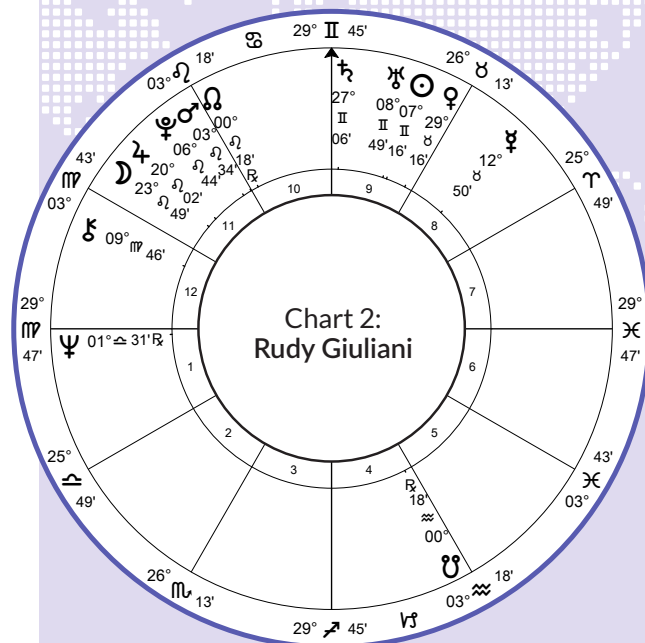
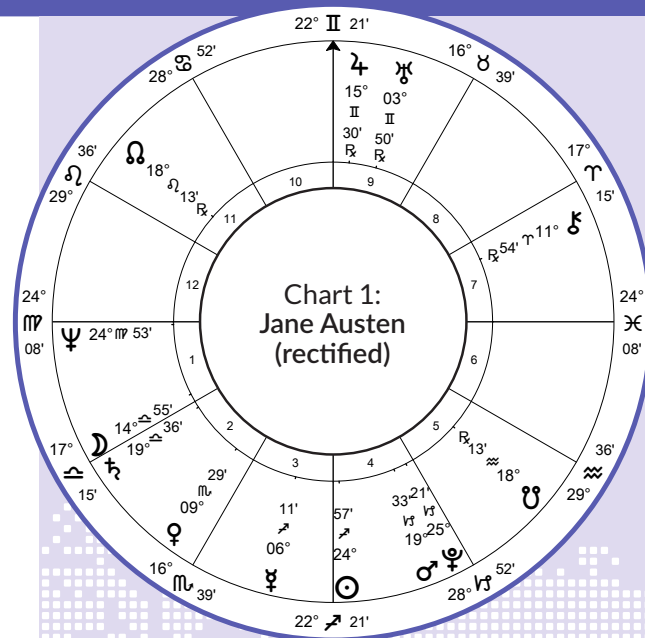
Adam Schiff, June 22, 1960; birth time unknown (noon EDT used); Framingham, MA, USA (42°N16', 71°W25'); Wikipedia & other Internet sources.

The California congressman and chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence was given an even bigger task last fall: to lead the official impeachment inquiry against Donald Trump. For sheer staying power, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi could not have found a better man for the job. Schiff was born to prominence, with the Sun and Venus conjunct in Cancer at the Aries Point (0° cardinal), opposed by a high-functioning Jupiter in late Sagittarius. (See **Chart 3**, below right.) His Jupiter is part of an out-of-sign grand trine involving Pluto in Virgo and Mars in Taurus. Though Mars is in its detriment in Taurus, its upside potential is stubborn persistence, strengthened here by easy connections with Jupiter and Pluto. It should not surprise you to learn that Schiff “has participated in multiple endurance challenges, including triathlons and marathons,”⁷ and ran for office three times before finally winning an election.

What drives Adam Schiff is his Gemini Moon (in that sign all day), which needs to be appreciated for being the smartest kid in the room. Of course, he would co-found a “nerd caucus” to discuss foreign policy with other nerdy colleagues.⁸ His Gemini Moon’s need to deliver information was a liability in his early political career; he had to learn to keep it short and sweet while

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All charts use Placidus houses and the Mean Node.



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campaigning. Meanwhile, his multitasking Gemini Moon inspired him to write two screenplays, neither of which has sold. Thus he is working on a third: a spy story, perhaps reflecting the intrigue of his Mars–Neptune opposition. Adam Schiff is not a quitter — and he has the horoscope to prove it.

Schiff has a Jupiter return and his second Saturn return in 2019, reflecting the expanded powers and gravitas he has received. When Jupiter enters Capricorn in early December, it will oppose his already prominent Sun–Venus conjunction. He is sure to be getting attention and probably for better, not worse. Without a birth time, we can't see upcoming transits to his Ascendant and Midheaven. What we do see in 2020 is transiting Saturn opposing his Mercury, suggesting serious focus in matters of thought and communication.

Manhole fall, September 30, 2019; 2:30 a.m. EDT; New York, NY, USA (40°N38', 74°W00'); news report.

Body found, October 15, 2019; 3:15 a.m. EDT; New York, NY; news report.

“Dead Man Found Under Manhole Cover Had Been There for 2 Weeks” was a gruesome headline in *The New York Times*.⁹ “Surveillance video appeared to show the man stumbling into the open manhole, apparently unnoticed, an official said” was the subhead. Surveillance video, eh? With a time stamp? What would that chart tell us about the man's unfortunate stumble and the discovery of his body two weeks later? Let's find out!

The man is signified by the Sun in Libra in the 3rd house. (See **Chart 4**, at right, inner wheel.) A cadent house is a weak position and reflects why no one saw him stumble. In fact, nearly all the planets in this chart are in cadent or succedent houses and are below the horizon. They are virtually invisible. The sole exception is Uranus — the element of shock and accidents — prominently placed on the Midheaven.

The Sun is in fall when in Libra, so the man's condition is not good. The Sun is square the lunar nodes (“the Bendings” in traditional astrology), another difficult position (it was a 20-foot fall). Even worse, the Sun's next aspect is a square to malefic Saturn, strongly placed in Capricorn. Saturn rules the 6th house here; it also rules mice and “all manner of creeping Creatures

breeding of putrifaction, either in the Earth, Water or Ruines of Houses.”¹⁰ Can you guess what happened?

After its clash with Saturn, the Sun sextiles Jupiter, classical ruler of Pisces, also ruling the 8th house of death. Silver lining: The death was likely easy. Note that Neptune is in the 8th, adding elements of mystery, drugs, alcohol, and possible victimization to the man's demise. The Sun then squares Pluto in the 6th. Pluto refers to breakdown and decay; the 6th refers to the body. Hmmm.

The 28° Libra Moon is void of course at the time, suggesting twists in efforts to move forward in a straight line. The Moon changes condition when it reaches 0° Scorpio — and not for the better, as Scorpio is the sign of the Moon's fall. Thus we deduce that the man will be found in a time factor of two — days or weeks — because the Moon travels two degrees before it changes condition.

And that's what happened. His body was discovered two weeks later, badly decomposed. It took a while for

In the chart for the man's fall into an open manhole, Uranus — the element of shock and accidents — is prominently placed on the Midheaven.

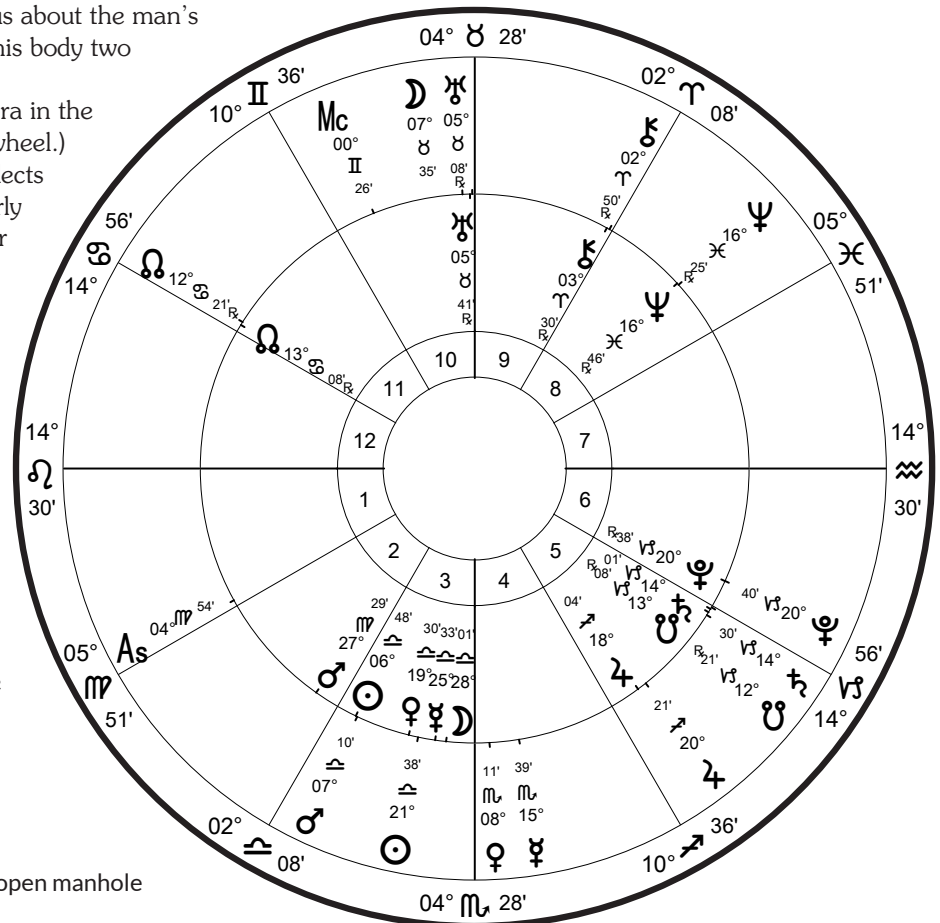


Chart 4: Bi-wheel.

Inner wheel and house cusps: Man falls into open manhole

Outer wheel: Body is discovered

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investigators to locate the video that solved the mystery of his predicament. He was intoxicated when he stumbled — and probably homeless. His identity was determined two days later.¹¹

If you run a double-ringed chart for the time the body was discovered (**Chart 4**, outer wheel), you will note that Mercury is squaring the Ascendant for the chart of the fall. What other connections do you see?

References and Notes

(All URLs were accessed in November 2019.)

1. Isabelle M. Pagan, *From Pioneer to Poet* [London, 1911], The Chaucer Press, 1969, p. 94.
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane_Austen (viewed page last edited on November 9, 2019)
3. Pagan, *op. cit.*, p. 279. Fun fact: Pagan's version of Austen's horoscope has Neptune at 3° Libra and Uranus at 16° Gemini. Actual positions, courtesy of modern-day software, are: Neptune at 24° Virgo and Uranus at 3° Gemini.
4. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/feds-investigating-giuliani-for-financial-dealings-tied-to-ukraine-scandal/ar-BBWPH2Z>
5. <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/814223.Juvenilia>
6. Pagan, *op. cit.*, p. 278. Pagan writes that Austen's birth time was derived from "a letter written by her father, and still extant. Virgo was rising during the two hours before midnight, and her personality, as described by biographers, makes Leo ... very unlikely." Agreed!
7. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_Schiff (viewed page last edited on November 19, 2019)
8. <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/12/24/adam-schiffs-plans-to-obliterate-trumps-red-line>
9. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/15/nyregion/nyc-manhole-body-homeless.html?fbclid=IwAR1D9WC3OjRtvQraLe16LNJ7YiZW0-II9WHgAoxlqBsidcQxKiXMAPYG194>
10. William Lilly, *Christian Astrology* [London, 1647], Regulus, 1985, p. 60.
11. <https://nypost.com/2019/10/17/police-identify-40-year-old-homeless-man-who-died-inside-columbus-circle-manhole/>

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Dignity and Reception

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Secondary Progressions of Queen Elizabeth II, set for the time of the lunar eclipse on January 10, 2020. The Ascendant is progressed by the Naibod method in RA.

Lunar Eclipse, January 10, 2020; 7:21:10 p.m. UT; London, England; AA: eclipse chart from Solar Fire.

References and Notes

(All URLs were accessed in November 2019.)

1. Ptolemy's Table of Dignities is copied from John Frawley's *The Horary Textbook* (Apprentice Books, 2005, p. 47) and used with permission. There are other similar tables in use, but this is the most commonly used table and the one used by William Lilly.
2. Helena Avelar and Luis Ribeiro, *On the Heavenly Spheres: A Treatise on Traditional Astrology*, American Federation of Astrologers, 2010, p. 67.
3. The diagram is from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stars_in_astrology; it shows Ptolemy's model of the solar system and is taken from Peter Apian's *Cosmographia*.
4. The yang or active, outgoing signs are Aries, Gemini, Leo, Libra, Sagittarius, and Aquarius. The yin or passive, receptive signs are Taurus, Cancer, Virgo, Scorpio, Capricorn, and Pisces.
5. Charles Obert, *Using Dignities in Astrology*, Almuten Press, 2018, p. 34.
6. Kevin Burk, *Understanding the Birth Chart*, Llewellyn Publications, 2002, pp. 79–86.
7. The clearest explanation of reception that I have seen is given in Chapter 8 of John Frawley's *Horary Textbook* (see Note 1), pp. 71–83. It's nothing short of magnificent.
8. In general, I use an orb of around 5 to 6 degrees, but this is only a rough guide.
9. <https://www.marieclaire.co.uk/entertainment/people/most-popular-royals-627024>
10. <https://www.townandcountrymag.com/society/tradition/a25644239/royal-family-2019-predictions/>
11. Insights from British astrologer Lora Lisbon.
12. Kathy Allan, *When Worlds Collide: Another Look at the Lunar Nodes*, Pollux Press, 2012.

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