

About Project Hindsight...

A little over a year ago, during the heliocentric conjunction of Uranus and Neptune in Capricorn, Project Hindsight was announced by world-famous astrologer Robert Hand to thunderous applause! And no wonder! What was proposed was the translation into English of our Western astrological heritage—the ENTIRE surviving corpus of ancient, Medieval and Renaissance astrological texts!

Since that time, Project Hindsight has published nine booklets translated from Greek and six translated from Medieval Latin (as well as two from Medieval Catalan!), all with extensive, user-friendly introductions and notes. More translations are in progress, including a special translation of a work from Hebrew, which will be published this summer, and BIG plans for future translations are bubbling merrily away on the back burner. (Is anyone out there perhaps a wee bit interested in what Kepler had to say?)

All of this is the work of Editor-in-Chief Robert Hand and a dedicated team of skilled translators, all of them astrologers. Furthermore, this unique project is entirely funded by monthly Greek and Latin Track subscriptions paid for by individual members of the astrological community, supplemented by the sale of back issues and T-shirts. No grants or fellowships are needed, and no outside assistance of any kind required, thank you very much! Astrologers can indeed be proud: Project Hindsight is being done BY our own, ON our own, FOR our own.

Astrologers can also be proud of the glorious past that is rapidly emerging into light, and confident of an even more glorious future. These translated texts, virtually unread for hundreds of years, are a goldmine of techniques and theoretical insights that have already begun to revolutionize the modern practice of astrology. For Project Hindsight's editors and translators, the value of these works is awesome, simply incalculable.

Robert Hand says, "Ancient Astrology is to Modern Astrology as Modern Astrology is to Sun Sign Astrology." Just think about that! One of the best astrologers in the world, and a partner in one of the major astrological software companies, drawing on all his vast experience in the art, is telling us emphatically that modern astrology, with all its complicated, computer-aided techniques, is severely LIMITED compared with ancient astrology.

The clear implication is that EVERY modern astrologer, from the novice to the seasoned professional, can profit greatly from the rich, subtle wisdom of the ancients. Eventually, the entire community will be enjoying the rewards of 20/20 Hindsight. But why wait? Get involved now!

For more information about Project Hindsight publications, the first fruits of Hindsight, and how YOU can get behind this exciting enterprise, write to Ellen Black, Project Hindsight's General Factotum, at the address below. Or call!

Project Hindsight P.O. Box 002-TMA, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411, Phone: (304) 258-5873.



Behind the Scenes at Project Hindsight

by Ellen Black

Bright and early in the morning, the phone rings and I answer. A gruff voice says, "Hello, c'est moi. Is Schmidt about?" Schmidt usually is, and thus begins another marathon conversation between two of Project Hindsight's three Roberts and founding fathers, editor Robert Hand and Greek translator Robert Schmidt. They often talk for hours, and occasionally have spent literally all day on the phone going over various fine points of translation, only stopping for meal breaks or to go to the bathroom!

Rob Hand calls at civilized hours, but Latin translator Robert Zoller typically calls close to midnight. I am just about to crash after a long day when the phone rings again. There's that familiar New York voice again. "Hello, Ellen, how you doin'?" Bob Zoller here. Is Schmidt around?" Of course! Where else would my fanatical Capricorn husband ever be but in his den with his nose to the grindstone? For him, the night is still young. I go in to tell him Bob Zoller is on the phone. As usual, Bob Schmidt is bouncing up and down in his big arm chair, rejoicing in the nocturnal peace and quiet. There's TIME for lots more good work before morning! But he can afford to stop and indulge his Gemini moon by chatting with fellow translator Bob Zoller for an hour or so. After all, that counts as work, too, since, however far flung the conversation, it all circles relentlessly around the central issues emanating from the core of Project Hindsight.

Here on the scene at Hindquarters, the seat of The Golden Hind Press, Project Hindsight is happening twenty-four hours a day, Bob-Bob-Bobbing along, as Donna Cunningham put it. No matter how busy we are, (and we are always frantically busy, it seems), there is a joyful, festive atmosphere where there is little or no distinction between work and play. In the sacred world, every day is a feast day, and, increasingly, since Project Hindsight began, I wake up feeling like I am living in some kind of sacred space, even if I know I'll be spending the day folding booklets or licking stamps. I am sure it has something to do with the fact that all of us involved in the project have found our true vocation, and are coming into our own, into that proper individual human inheritance that links us with the divine.

It is so different from the dreary world of modern business! Everything that happens seems FITTING, even crazy things!

For example, Kirk Brooks did interviews (now available on tape—call for more information) with the three Bobs, and chose Michelangelo's nude David as a logo for the series. There were a lot of jokes about which Bob it was, and I said, "Kirk, why did you choose a guy named DAVID to represent three guys named ROBERT?" But really, Kirk chose well, because the calm, concentrated purpose evident in the young David, secure in his God-given task, is the perfect statement of the project as a whole.

Michelangelo's David embodies the Renaissance, and a Renaissance in astrology is what Project Hindsight aims to bring about! David means freedom from the tyranny of the Philistine. Philistine is the modern word for a kind of uncouth, debased ignorance, in a word, VULGARITY. Some individual astrologers (and non-astrologers) peddle astrology to the masses in many cheap ways. Modern astrology, try as it may, cannot seem to shake the image of vulgarity. The Greek word for vulgarity, APEIROKALIA, means LACK OF EXPERIENCE IN THINGS BEAUTIFUL. The Renaissance, on the other hand, was characterized by the love of harmony, of a disciplined, focused, deliberate mathematical beauty, and this is what Project Hindsight aims to bring to astrology.

The purpose of Project Hindsight's emphasis on getting at our real "roots" is not mere scholarship or dry antiquarianism, but to set into motion a RADICAL ("all-the-way-down-into-the-roots") rethinking of astrology's first principles. But why are we so intent on doing this? You might say, as many do, "I'm a practicing astrologer. Why do I need to bother with first principles? Just give me the techniques, that's enough." Well, I am not one to dismiss the value of new techniques. For example, Bob Zoller amazes me (and others) with his medieval-style chart readings, and those of you who can attend our upcoming P*H*A*S*E Conclave this summer (call us for more information) will no doubt be equally impressed.

Then, too, I just participated in having my chart read in the classical Greek manner, and in many ways it was the best reading I've ever had. (This in spite of the fact that my chart is heavily influenced by outer planets, and the reading did not use outer planets at all.) It was very specific. I was also impressed by the fact that the method was actually a METHOD, very left-brain oriented. At last, an astrology I can do according to rule! I do not have to be intuitive! It occurred to me, too, that at last we have an astrology which can be taught and learned easily by many more people. A truly democratic astrology! No more seemingly endless reliance on cookbooks! No more helpless feeling of "How am I going to put all this information together?"

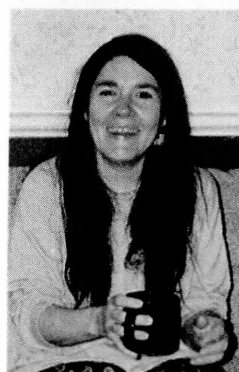
Paulus Alexandrinus, the first author on our Greek track, characterizes Mercury as either "phaulos" or "koinos." Both of these words mean "common," but "phaulos" specifically means "base," that is, common in a bad sense, whereas "koinos" means common in the sense of commonality, community, integrated oneness. Mercury has no choice but to be common in SOME way. So, it seems that we are stuck with the "phaulos" characteristic of much of modern astrology until we replace it with the "koinos" of ancient astrology.

Nevertheless, as much as I appreciate the power of the ancient techniques and their ability to transform astrology and its position in the world, to me, the emphasis on mere technique is also "phaulos"—base, vulgar, glittering fool's gold. What Project Hindsight seeks is the TRUE GOLD, and this will not be found as easily as the marvelous, but perhaps ultimately trifling,

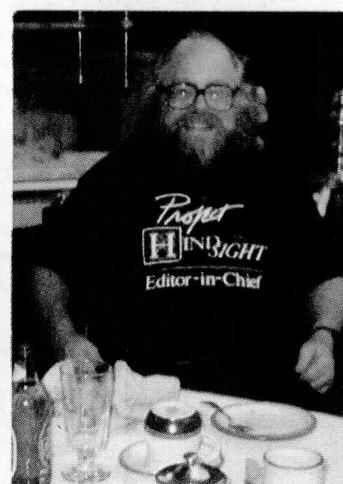
techniques we've unearthed in the past year.

What I mean by the TRUE GOLD can best be shown by the inspirational (and somewhat cautionary) example of our 'sister science,' algebra. In 1550, algebra was in much the same state as astrology is today. It had no university status and was generally regarded as one of the black arts. Merchants appreciated its usefulness, but only the few mathematicians regarded it as "The Great Art." By 1650, however, there had occurred an enormous Cinderella change, and algebra was hailed by all as "The Queen of the Sciences." Shortly afterward, it allied itself with physics and came to dominate our modern world in the form of mathematical physics.

Rags to riches in a bare 100 years! This change was brought about by the radical ("roots") rethinking of first principles occasioned by the discovery of Greek mathematical writings that were far more sophisticated than the contemporary Renaissance writings. One look at these and the best mathematicians dropped EVERYTHING to become armchair archaeologists, going after the true gold. This enterprise was carried off some-

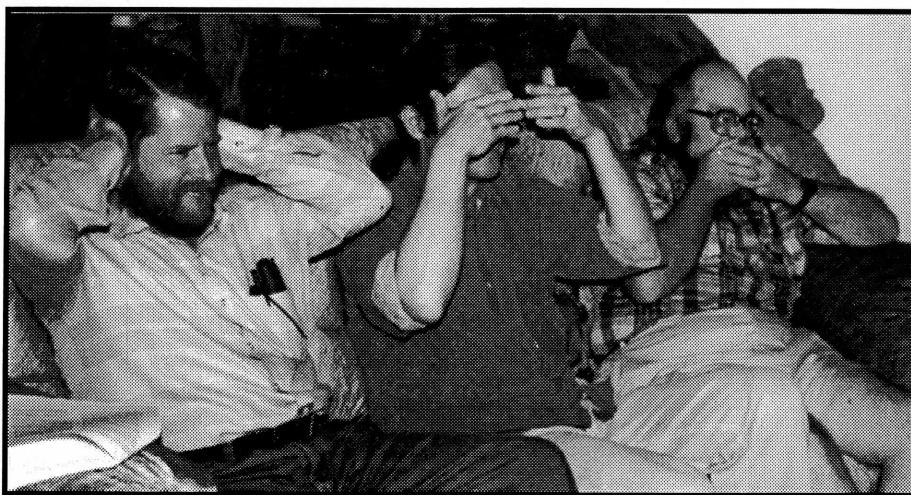


Ellen Black, the author, surrounded by Roberts, wondering what to do with all her spare time.



Editing is a piece of cake!

Hegel said that Truth is a bacchanalian whirl in which no man is not drunken. Project Hindsight must be dipping into that fountain! Certainly, the heady brew of the three Bob's is providing a continual round of intellectual excitement, both for themselves and others. One person told me that before Project Hindsight, he had never seen Rob Hand smile except after a few beers. Now, he positively grins all the time. (Just look at that picture!) The other two Bob's have also found their element in Project Hindsight, and are visibly revelling in it. All this exuberance was captured on videotape at the beginning of the project, and the footage is now being edited. Tentative title is "Three Men and a Baby: Project Hindsight's First Footsteps." It's not just the three founding fathers who are clucking over Project Hindsight. We have a growing number of deliriously happy subscribers who say, "Yes, Sir, that's my baby." Many have said that they always felt something was missing from astrology. For them, too, Project Hindsight is the fulfillment of a cherished dream, full of promise for the future of astrology.



One needs extraordinary ability to communicate in order to translate and interpret these ancient documents. From left, Robert Zoller, Robert Schmidt, Rob Hand.

what in the manner of Indiana Jones and somewhat in the manner of Don Quixote, but the point is that the big gamble paid off.

We think a similar gamble will pay off for the astrological community as well. Project Hindsight is already beginning to pay a wealth of dividends to our subscribers, but this is nothing compared with what could happen in the future. From my position here at the center, I can already see changes happening. People are waking up to feel dissatisfied with the astrology they are practicing, and this is good! On the other hand, they feel proud of simply being astrologers—no more looking elsewhere for respectability and security. ("I'm an astrologer, not a psychologist." How many times have I heard that one?!) It's the beginning of the Renaissance. New faces, new voices are starting to come out of the woodwork. I am amazed by all of the intelligent, interesting people who read

about Project Hindsight somewhere or other, and then call or write Hindquarters.

In the past year I've seen a strengthening of confidence on the part of all involved in this project, from the editor down to the subscribers. Rob is much more confident of his Latin, and the subscribers are actually thinking of learning Greek or dusting off their Latin, so that maybe they can get involved in the translations. I, myself, feel more confident in my ability to accomplish the countless Gemini things I would like to do, and the equally countless Virgo things I feel I must do. In short, no more are we in the mood to wait for THEM (those in academia) to translate and interpret ancient astrological writings for us, because together, in one short year, we've charged in and retaken the astrological field.



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Ellen Black thought her father was silly for subscribing to Sky & Telescope, and even more silly for buying a telescope to look at the stars. She thought Ptolemy was too boring to read when she attended St. John's College, and couldn't understand why doomed soldiers trapped in the siege of Moscow wrote their last words about the eternal stars. When she met a guy at a party and heard he was an astrologer, she said, "You've got to be kidding." The astrologer did her chart and pointed out Kosminski's symbol for her 17° Virgo Sun: An astrologer reading a chart. To contact an experienced learner who is now always ready to have the rug jerked out from under her mind, contact Ellen at Project Hindsight, P.O. Box 002, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411, or call this Gemini stellium at (304) 258-5873. If busy, leave a message on the voice mail.



* Overseas add \$5.00 for postage.

Yep—I got VISION & the rest of the world wears bifocals...

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