Hopeful findings, unduly neglected, on stars and human affairs[1]

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In one of his careful astro-statistical studies Arno Müller & Günter Menzer (1993) reported correlations between infants` deaths in families of German notabilities and Saturn positions at the infants` birth hours. This result went unnoticed. Another neglected result of a well-controlled study is Timm & Köberl's of 1986 on astrologers. These critical authors admitted that their participants' interpretations of horoscopes were better than chance. They deemed this success due to paranormal (psi-) effects. A recent case study on an astrologer`s efficiency at chart interpretation lead me to suspect that here, too, psi might be involved. Emergent phenomena like these should be taken as a challenge for further research.

A talk about hopeful astro-psychological findings might begin with the Gauquelin findings. Quite a few studies confirmed that correlations exist between planetary positions and births of eminent painters, writers, physicians etc. Despite certain errors of which Michel Gauquelin became victim (his character trait hypothesis failed), the bulk of his findings resisted the joint attacks by three scientistic organizations, efforts by self-appointed guardians of science. But since sufficient material has been published on that topic (see also the Tenacious Mars Effect, Ertel & Irvin, 1996), this hopeful cornerstone of astro-psychological discoveries may be skipped here. The present focus is on *neglected* studies.

Before going into these, however, a short comment is due on Geoffrey Dean's recent tackling Gauquelin's grain of gold – as authority Eysenck had called it. Dean, an irrepressible critic of astrology, spent eight years of hard work attempting to transform the Gauquelin gold into ordinary lead (Dean, 2000, 2002). He knew all along that Gauquelin data were genuine, but he was reluctant to concede that an astrologically exploitable claim had attained scientific respectability. He eventually embarked on the idea that correlations between planetary positions and births of eminent professionals were man-made. Parents, he said, notifying duly to registration offices their children's births, tampered with birth hours.

Take as ficticious illustration, say, Dr. Astrand, a French physician as of A.D. 1850. Astrand has just become father. He wants his newborn son, when grown-up, to hold his profession. Dean dares to presuppose that among professionals at that time the *neo-astrological* doctrine was widely known. So Dr. Astrand is deemed to believe that natal Saturn after rise or culmination is auspicious for physicians and that he will therefore look up, in his current almanac, Saturn's actual position.

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If the boy was not born with Saturn in an auspicious sector, Dr. Astrand is deemed to manipulate, by intricate calculations, a temporal association between his son's birth and Saturn in a favorable position. He is prepared to cheat and to eventually report an auspicious, but wrong birth time to the registrar. Hence, in Dean's view, the Saturn effect with physicians is fraud-made. What had been regarded by Eysenck & Nias and all serious researchers as the strongest scientific evidence of possibly astrological relevance, Dean considered it as removed.

After devoting five studies to Dean's claim (Ertel, 2001, 2001/2, 2002, 2002/03, 2003). I concluded what mere common sense might suggest straight away: His claim is on an entirely wrong track. No evidence whatsoever exists that neo-astrological rules were known to anyone before Gauquelin found them. Furthermore, how could Dr. Astrand and his professional colleagues ever come to believe that planets might be turned, by parental misdeeds, to act favorably in their children's future? Finally, Correlation readers know that my scrutiny of Dean's logic and computations, by which his claim seeks credence, are invalid. Dean either ignores or reinterprets in arbitrary ways all counter evidence. I consider his parental tampering study as an instructive example of how methods of research and rhetoric may be ill applied if used to push fancy ideas.

Details of this last act of a long drama about Gauquelin findings must be passed over. Three *neglected* studies are on schedule. First, Müller and Menzer's study on planetary positions at the births of German nobilities. Second, Timm and Köberl's study on horoscope interpretations by astrologers. Third, my own case study of an astrologer with significant, but paradoxical horoscope interpretations.

(1) Arno Müller's study on planetary positions at birth times of European nobilities.

We owe to Arno Müller, Professor of Psychology at University of Saarland, now Emeritus, a series of careful astro-psychological studies. He published five research reports (Astro Research Data, 1991-1994) all focusing, from various angles, the Gauquelin planetary claim. My present account is of Müller's fourth study that he – and co-author Günter Menzer (1986) – devoted to planetary effects on German dynastic nobilities. Up to now, this study has been almost entirely ignored, perhaps because Müller's publications are in German (even though Table and Figure captions are always given in English translation).

Müller subjected birth data of members of German dynasties to planet-birth statistics. He had discovered a valuable data source, a series of six volumes on "L'Allemagne Dynastique", published by the French historians Huberty, Giraud & Magdelaine (1976-1991). This meticulous work provides, by footnotes, place, dates and hours of 1,145 births of nobility offspring of members of 17 German dynasties (Table 1). Müller was aware that nobility does not equal profession. Moreover, nobility is not eminent per se, among those 1,145 births in German dynasties only a small number of barons, dukes, and some kings might have reached a level of eminence comparable to that of Gauquelin professionals. In addition, a nobility's eminence is based on role and heredity in the first place and is thus different from eminence by achievement which served as selection criteria for Gauquelin professionals. Hence, Müller & Menzer's study cannot be regarded as a straightforward complement to Gauquelin research.

Table 1
Müller & Menzer's data base (N = 1,145)

Abb	**Dynasty**	N	N%	Abb	**Dynasty**	N	N%
WI	Wittelsbach	294	25.7	AN	Anhalt	35	3.1
NA	Nassau	206	18.0	BA	Baden	24	2.1
WU	Württemberg	124	10.8	SA	Sachsen	22	1.9
BR	Braunschweig	111	9.7	HE	Hessen	22	1.9
LI	Lippe	85	7.4	RE	Reuss	10	0.9
WA	Waldeck	65	5.7	ot	Other	10	0.9
ME	Mecklenburg	50	4.4	BE	Bentheim	4	0.3
SC	Schwarzburg	46	4.0	BS	Brause	1	0.1
HO	Hohenzollern	35	3.1	BN	Bünau	1	0.1

Nevertheless, this bulk of birth data, directly available without sending out requests to town halls, appeared tempting enough to subject them to an analysis à la Gauquelin. After all, eminence by heredity might also show planet-birth correlations, who knows. An exploratory study might find that out.

Müller`s sample comprised births of five centuries, from the end of the 16th up to the beginning of the 20th century. The distribution of births peaked in the 17th century (Figure 1).

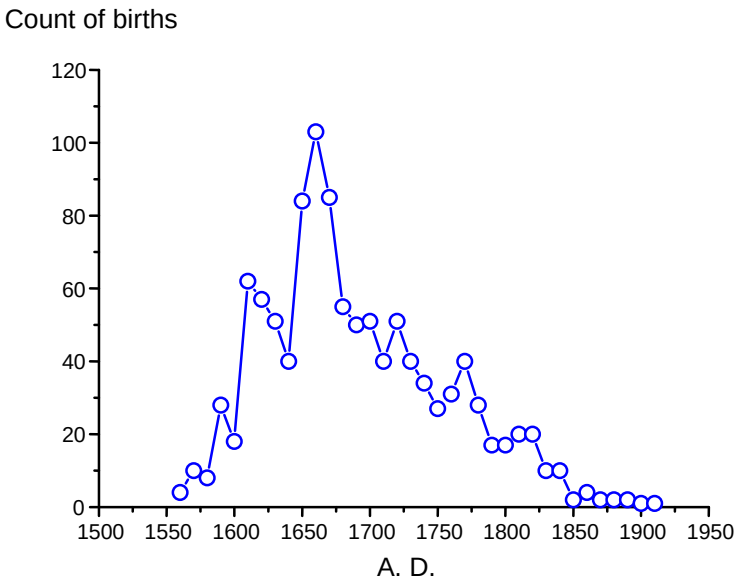

Figure 1
Distribution of the nobilities' births over time axis A. D.

Birth dates of early centuries, however, bear problems. The researcher has to make sure whether the date follows the pre-Gregorian or Gregorian calendar, the latter had been introduced at different time periods in German provinces depending on catholic or protestant denominations of their rulers. Furthermore, winter and summer time corrections varied among regions. Local time and average local time differences had to be considered etc. Müller's way of determining birth date and time give the impression of meticulous care.

The nobilities' birth time distribution peaking at night and dropping gradually in the morning resembles the nycthemeral curves of Francoise Gauquelin's studies (Figure 2). This result is comforting in that it shows that birth times as documented in Müller's data source are sufficiently reliable and thus apt for further use.

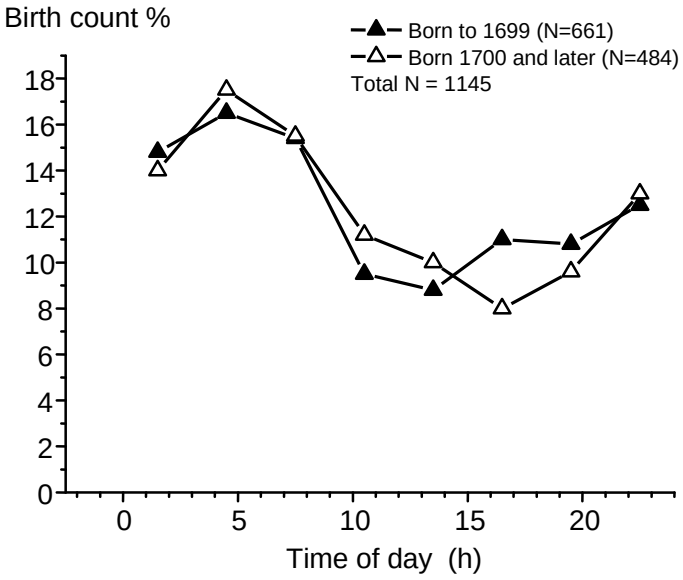

Figure 2 Distribution of the nobilities' births across time of day

Aside from birth data, L'Allemagne Dynastique provides the nobilities' death dates. Müller also listed them. The distribution of years of death (Figure 3) is interesting for two reasons. The longevity of female notabilities surpasses that of male notabilities. This confirms the general result of medical statistics showing that women generally live longer than men, many titles on gender differences regarding life span can be found in the medical literature (http://avsunxsvr.aeiveos.com/ml/sexdiff/).

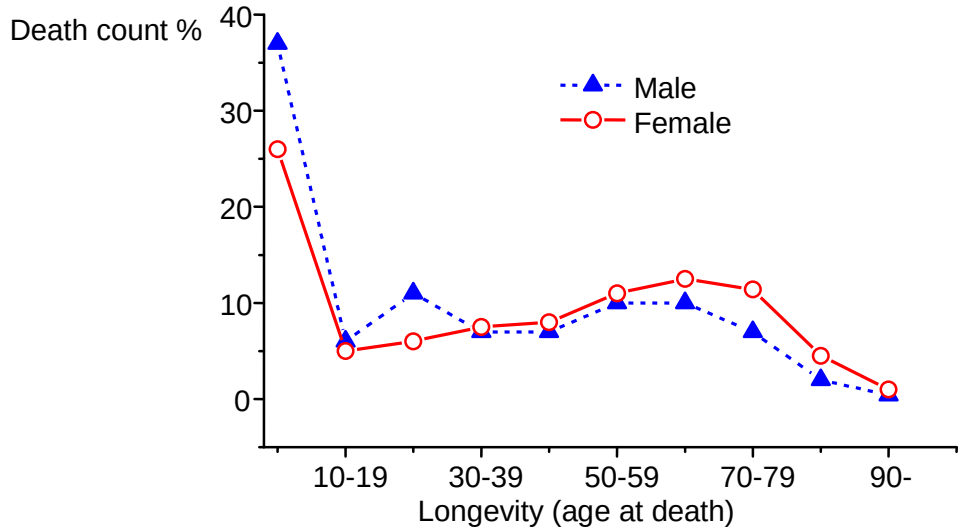

Figure 3 Age at which nobilities died

Another feature of this curve might also have been expected: a large proportion of deaths in childhood. Of course, in past centuries, before the appearance of modern medicine, infant and child mortality must have been higher than it is today. Within the first decade of life death counts are considerably more numerous from birth to 4 years of age than from 5 to 10 years, and within the birth-to-4-years period deaths peak in the very first 3 months. Death occurrences of infants and children in Müller's sample came to play a role for his planetary analyses, as will be shown below.

As an aside, a significant correlation with seasons might be interesting: When Müller compared birth and death counts subdivided by season (spring, summer, autumn, winter) he found an increased mortality for seasons in which persons were born . Nobilities born in spring, for example, have a somewhat larger probability to die in spring, and correspondingly for the other seasons. I found that Müller's significance of this correlation ($p = .01$) is somewhat underrated.

Müller also tested for possible zodiacal effects. The results were negative. Zodiacal birth distributions of MC (Medium Coeli), AS (Ascendant), and the Moon did not deviate from chance, the Sun in the Zodiac deviated slightly, but this might be explained by seasonal habits of human mating behavior.

Müller's main focus was on planetary positions at birth hours. Births were summed for each of 36 sector positions of the Sun and the five Gauquelin planets. The result was again negative. No Gauquelin-type deviation and no other deviation from chance turned up.

Müller went on to subdivide his sample, taking longevity as criterion. He repeated his search for correlations between births and planetary positions for eleven longevity bins. He eventually did find such correlation with Saturn. When children were born who died early, within the first four years of life, Saturn tended to rise or to culminate, the Gauquelin sector percentage (G%) amounted to 28% while only 22% are expected by chance (Figure 4). The difference is very significant by Chi^2 (= 9.25, df = 1, p = .002). A Bonferroni correction supposing five planets as hypothetical candidates for planetary effects would still end up with a significant (p = .01) result.

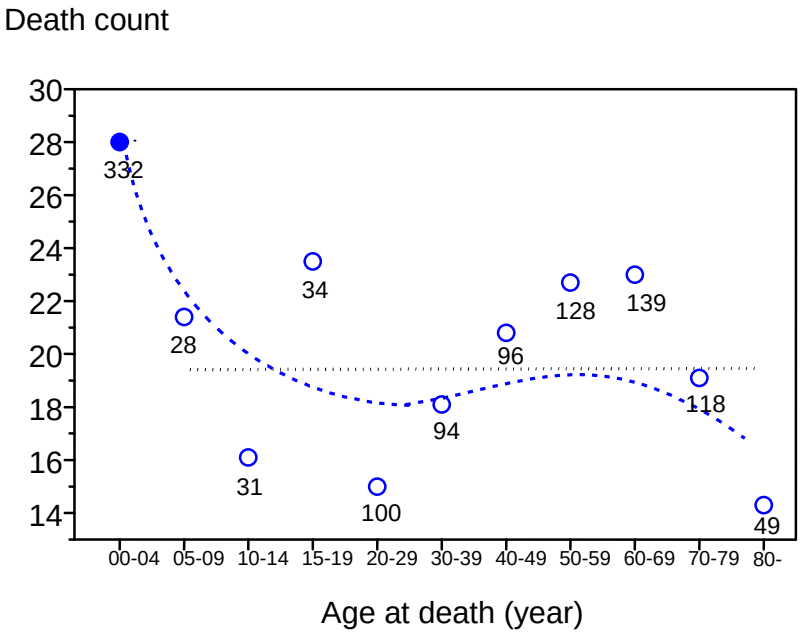

Figure 4 Saturn G% for all longevity sub-samples (four and ten year bins). Numbers represent totals within bins.

Is this result a statistical fluke? This can be tested. If precocious deaths of children are really indicated by natal Saturn G-positions, one should expect, within the *birth-to-4 years* range of longevity, a higher Saturn G percentage for children who died right after birth and less G percentage for those who died later. Müller's breakup of death occurrences for successive periods of *three months* shows that high Saturn G% levels for shortest longevity periods are indeed present and consistent across the first five periods, i.e. up to deaths of about 1 ½ year old children. (Figure 5).

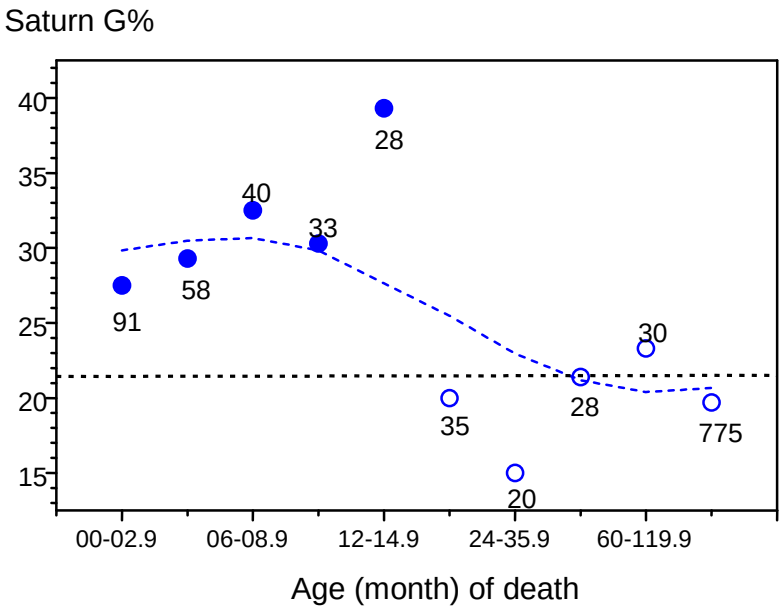

Figure 5

Saturn G% for younger longevity sub-samples (three-months bins)

The subsequent decline is surprisingly sudden which might be due to random fluctuation across very small three-months sub-samples whose size, for longevity bins above 1 ½ years, is only 35, 20, 28, and 30. The sub-samples are far too small to show an ideal step by step decline. Anyway, Saturn G% for the first five longevity bins amounts to 30% on average which level deviates very significantly from only 19.8% Saturn G of the remaining sample ($Chi^2 = 12.7$, df = 1, p = .0004).

What to conclude?

First a note of caution. Even though the results are consistent and probably due to a genuine planetary effect, one should refrain from trumpeting unquestionable proof . Replications are needed, as Müller himself stated.

Second, positive results from replication trials are conceivable considering the paramount fact that Müller's observed deviations of birth counts across 36 sectors of Saturn's daily circle were not located randomly on that scale, they were located exactly in Gauquelin's sensitive zones. The fact that birth count deviations "searched out" these very zones is remarkable on its own and possibly an indication that a new chapter has been opened within the realms of Gauquelin's framework.

Third; the new chapter, if opened, would disprove the long-held assumption that Gauquelin planetary effects are restricted to eminent professionals - which doesn't imply that they are found with ordinary people. Müller's sample consists of nobilities. Yet it might be the case that early childhood deaths in general, irrespective of social class, are associated with Saturn positions at birth hours. As is widely known, cot deaths occurring still today despite considerable parental precautions, are medical enigmas. Perhaps the *Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths* (http://www.sids.org.uk/fsid/) might be made interested to provide the ridiculously small funds necessary to replicate Müller's finding with birth data of , say, 2,000 cot death cases from their files.

Fourth, provided that the Saturn effect for cot deaths can be replicated, astrology might begin playing a public role even in medical mainstream circles. Of course, no-one would be able to explain this correlation, astrologers as little as pediatricians. Nevertheless, astrologers, often in defense against skeptical opponents, might point at this new finding and its deadly implications. Infant deaths, correlated with planets, might give more public relevance to heavenly constellations than Gauquelin's planet-eminence correlations whose occurrences might be ignored as superfluous luxury.

Fifth, given that replications are successful, astrologers, hitherto tending to almost ignore, regarding their own doctrines, Gauquelin's neo-astrological findings, would have to realize, likewise, that his discoveries are worth being taken more seriously as a corrective challenge.

Sixth, why is **Saturn** associated with cot deaths, why not the Moon, Mars, nor Jupiter? One is reminded here of the ancient Greek's mythology featuring Kronos – and Müller didn't miss it. *Kronos, the son of Uranus and Gaia, overpowered his father and castrated him. Kronos married his sister, Rhea, who was a Titan. Kronos and Rhea had many children, among them some of high gods of Olympus like Zeus. But Kronos was afraid that his children might treat him the way he treated his father Uranus, so he was eating his children alive, right after their birth. Eventually he was defeated by Zeus, his son, who freed his bothers and sisters and Kronos was punished for all eternity. Planet Saturn was named after him, Saturn is the Roman Kronos*. Now, is this Kronos-Saturn story about children's deaths occurring soon after

birth merely coincidental with Müller's observation of correlation between the nobility childrens' deaths and Saturn's position at birth hours? Possibly yes, but nobody knows.

A final remark on Geoffrey Dean who has been well aware of Müller's finding. This finding is an obstacle to his parental tampering idea. Parents reporting birth occurences to town halls would never tamper with birth time for some murderous purpose. But Dean, who is hardly ever in want of ad hoc explanations, says: "*Social conditions are the key [to an explanation of Müller's finding]. These people are kings, barons, princesses, countesses, ie rulers who could do as they liked with their family records…. It does not seem improbable that some records might be adjusted to allow an early death to be blamed on Saturn rather than on some family weakness"* (Dean, 2000, p. 40).

In order to explain Gauquelin effects of eminent professionals, Dean claimed that parents fudged birth time *reports* upon which the registrars issued birth documents. Now faced with Müller's Saturn-predicts-death correlation, Dean even claims that parents manipulated birth documents *when they were done.* In his fancy, barons and dukes had free access to town halls. Where is the evidence?

Moreover, why should the nobilities forge birth documents of their children in the first place? Even if they felt that the family might be blamed for a child's early death, how could they ever believe that forging the birth document would make a difference? The public had hardly access to town hall files, so they couldn't find out, even after the nobilities' forgery, what Dean claims they would find, namely that Saturn "was to be blamed" for the child's early death. On the other hand, if the public did have access to the nobilities' birth documents, then barons or dukes, prepared to forge birth documents of their dead children, had to take into account that people might notice that the child's birth hour, after being forged, was actually different from what it was before. Their forgery might have been disclosed. To be brief, Dean's way of dealing with objections is not science-like, it is like science fiction where actual probabilities of life are ignored at will.

(2) Ulrich Timm's analysis of German astrologers' chart interpretations

Another neglected study is that of Ulrich Timm who published, in 1986, with co-author Thomas Köberl, a diploma student under Timm's supervision, the results of an astro-psychological study. That study had some history behind it. It had been conducted, from A.D. 1952 to 1955, by Hans Bender, at that time director of the Institute for Borderline Areas of Psychology and Mental Health, Freiburg, Germany. Bender and his assistants tested 178 German astrologers , they wanted to find out whether the purported ability of astrologers to diagnose psychological characteristics from natal charts had any factual basis. Unfortunately, Bender and associates failed to set up an optimal research design, they were oblivious of pitfalls of statistical research. The data analysis whose results seemed to confirm astrological tenets with excessive degrees of significance was soon criticized for errors, the results of this study had never been properly published.

Three decades had passed until Ulrich Timm, one of the sharpest methodologists and a dreaded critic of research in frontier areas, above all in parapsychology, took this data base up in order to conduct a re-analysis, with Köberl's technical help. He took pains and was eventually able to treat the flawed Bender data in a way that flaws were circumvented or repaired. Timm & Köberl's account of the procedures used and their discussing the logic of proper data treatment, displayed on 18 Journal pages with high degrees of technical complexity cannot be summarized here. My own account of this study restricts itself to

conveying an idea of the tasks that Bender's test participants had to solve and to point at some weaknesses that a proper data analyses should consider.

An astrologer's ability to interpret natal charts with factual information may be tested, in principle, by one of two ways, by free assessment and by matching procedures. Free assessments of personalities consist of more or less unrestricted, but blind interpretations of natal charts. Matching procedures consist of picking for some natal chart the correct interpretation hidden among a number of other conceivable, but wrong interpretations. For matching purposes, multiple choice items provide either comprehensive material (life records) or selected items (psychological statements, character trait or occupation words etc.).

Bender applied both, various free assessment and matching procedures. Timm & Köberl had to exclude free assessments which were difficult to come by. Only matching procedures, however, were conducible to analysis.

Astrologers had been presented seven different matching tasks. Three matching tasks had been constructed for global person descriptions (G-tasks), two matching tasks used trait attributes (T-tasks), and two unusual tasks were added (U-tasks).

G-tasks: Natal charts to be matched with global person descriptions.

G1. The astrologers' task was to find, for one chart, one person description out of five descriptions, only one description was correct (two such tasks were used).

G2. The astrologers' task was to find, for one person description, one chart out of five charts, one chart was correct (eleven such tasks were used).

G3. The astrologers were faced with three person descriptions and three natal charts. Their task was to find out which description belonged to which chart, all charts and descriptions had to be matched (eleven such tasks were used).

T-tasks: Natal charts to be matched with trait attributes

Person attributes were provided by statements such as

- The person shows a balancing, harmonious and cheerful social behaviour.
- A restrained person, keeping distance to other people, but inclined to sudden outbreaks of emotion.
- The person tends to treat other people in a diplomatic, but unscrupulous manner.

T1. The astrologers' task was to find, for one natal chart, one out of five single trait statements, only one statement was correct (nine such tasks were used).

T2. The astrologers' task was to find, for each of three natal charts, six out of 18 trait descriptions. For each chart, six trait descriptions were correct, each trait description described only one chart owner (two such tasks were used).

U-tasks: Unusual tasks, different from free assessment and matching procedures.

U1. Astrologers were presented one natal chart of a person and one biographical date of importance for that person. Their task was to find out which of five possible events occurred on that date: "Business travel – Loss of money – Occupational advancement – Traffic accident - Death of some relative." (One such task was used)".

U2. Astrologers were presented an extensive psychological person description together with a photograph of that person. No chart was provided. Rather the astrologers were asked to guess four features of the person's chart, namely zodiacal positions of the Sun, the Moon, and Ascendant I and II. This way of applying one's astrological knowledge is actually not unusual in everyday life, even non-astrologers with sun-sign knowledge are often tempted to guess, for mere fun, the sun sign of a person whose birth date they do not know (one such task was used).

Bender's list of astrological tasks was ingenious, but his design nevertheless flawed because it did not consider hit rates to be expected by chance. Timm & Köberl raised strong and justified critique. The astrologers' ability to interpret charts cannot be based on observed hits alone, their matchings need to be compared with those of a control group or with simulated random matchings. Whoever remembers Gauquelin's books and talks is probably aware of how much this researcher stressed the importance of properly dealing with expectancies, Gauquelin himself had solved this task in a remarkably clever way.

Without going into further technicalities, another obstacle to proper evaluation of observed hits, neglected by Bender and severely criticized by Timm & Köberl, should be mentioned: In astro-psychological tests, observed hits should be independent from each other. The natal chart of a person might have, say, Leo as sun sign, the person may be fiery, expansive, passionate, generous, caring, flamboyant etc., An astrologer, presented with that Leo chart, will probably interpret the person's personality in terms of these Leo traits. But the sun sign-character fit might be due to mere chance and will remain chance even if 95 of 100 astrologers would rate the chart owner of our fictitious example as more fiery and less calm, as more generous and less canny etc. The result would merely show that the astrologers' interpretations are alike, it would not show that astrology works because those 100 interpretations were correlated (dependent), they were done for only one Leo sun sign and character case whose fit was accidental.

Back to Timm & Köberl who, as said before, managed to draw from Bender's complex data, despite its poor quality, quite useful information. As to be expected, by Timm's proper analysis of the data, Bender's significances, boosted due to unnoticed dependencies among observations, ran dry. Was nothing left? (see Table 2).

Table 2
P-values for six units of astrological tasks, obtained by an original, but illegitimate procedure(column 3) and by two legitimate procedures. (columns 4 – 9).

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
#	Task	N average	P-values Analysis I.	**P-values Analysis II**	s	**P-values Analysis III**	s	**P-values Analysis IIIa**	s
1	G1+U2	56	<.000000001	**.006**	**	**.008**	**		
2	G2	97	.00002	**.79**		**.13**		**.13**	
3	G3	82	.000000001	**.002**	**	**.026**	*	**.026**	*
4	A1	135	<.000000001	**<.2**		**<.2**			
5	A2	111	<.000000001	**.167**		**.083**		**.083**	
6	U1	34	.76	**1.0**		**.70**			
	Total	**178**	<.000000001	**.003**	**	**.001**	**	**.01**	**

* significant
** very significant

Table 2, columns 3, 4, 6, and 8 show P-values for six Bender-task units. (Tasks G1 and U2 were similar and therefore combined): Wrong calculations by original researchers produce excessive values (Analysis I, column 3). Correct calculations may be done in two ways, both are based on legitimate decisions (Analyses II and III, columns 4 and 6). The total significance for legitimate Analyses II and III is P = .003 (bottom row of column 4) and P = .001 (column 6) respectively. Skeptical researchers might object that for tasks 1, 4, 6, and 7 some undetectable dependency might still be present, they might restrict analyses to tasks 2, 3, and 5. But even with such precaution the total effect is still very significant (see column 8, last row).

What to conclude?

Ulrich Timm, sophisticated methodologist in frontier research areas without any particular interest in astrology, yields credence to the claim that, to some small extent, chart interpretations by astrologers contain valid information. Even most skeptical critics would have to concede that, in view of these results, the null-hypothesis should be rejected.

Timm & Köberl discuss four hypothetical explanations.

(1) **Methodical flaws**: Is this result due to flaws of method that went unnoticed? Most probably not, because significant results were obtained with quite different tasks. Flaws would look differently for different tasks. It is quite unlikely that independent flaws all went unnoticed.
(2) **Self-attribution**: Are significant results due to the chart owners' possible astrological knowledge and concomitant self-attributions of traits guided by astrological interpretation rules? (Pawlik & Buse, 1979). This is again quite unlikely, personal descriptions and trait statements used had not been drawn from self assessments. Moreover, the result of task U2 (guessing sun signs of people using trait descriptions) where self-attribution had the best chance to show effects, was insignificant.
(3) **Valid astrology:** Timm & Köberl do not deny that astrological doctrines might have some valid elements. They argue that Gauquelin planetary correlations might not be

the only verifiable effect in this field. However, they deem explanation 4 as more likely:

(4) **Psi:** The astrologers' significant results in this study might be due to paranormal information, i.e., to ESP (extra-sensory perception, telepathy and the like). Hypothesis (4) is suggested in view of three suspicious observations. First, astrologers were successful under psi-conducive conditions (when only one chart was in focus, as with tasks G1 and G3). Astrolgers were not successful or less successful under psi-detrimental conditions (when three or five charts must be considered, as with tasks G2 and A2).

In addition, global person descriptions (G-tasks) tended to lead to more hits than single trait allocations (T-tasks). ESP is more likely to occur under unrestricted conditions.

Finally, Timm and Köberl found that hit rates of some astrologers were very inconsistent, some exceeded others by very high hit rates at one task and very low hit rates at some other task. The authors argue that deviations of hit rates with wrong direction resemble cases of so-called psi-missing. Psi-missing means that deviations from chance take an unwanted direction, very small numbers of hits are obtained instead of large numbers. Psi-missing, an unmistakable psi quirk, seemed to be contained in the data. Of course, psi-hitting prevailed, otherwise no significant overall hit surplus had occurred.

(3) My own case study

My own case study (Ertel, 2004) is intimately related to Timm's preferred explanation of his positive astrological result. In A.D. 2000, MG, a meteorologist contacted me just after his graduation. He told me about his interest in Indian astrology. He had taken respective courses and had begun tentative applications. He was surprised that his chart interpretations appeared to him very successful. But having been trained in scientific methodology and statistics, he was critical and wanted me to test the validity of his astrological performance.

This was not the first challenge for me to test astrological performance. Responding to an earlier request by astrologers, I had developed an appropriate design and selected natal charts of 20 Scottish painters and 20 Scottish politicians. Colin Miles from Edinburgh had provided a large data base. The astrologers had been asked to study the charts and to guess which charts were the painters' and which the politicians'. I handed this material to MG. After some time he called me saying that 16 charts appeared to him rather ambiguous (because of indeterminate ascendants and the like), he suggested to restrict his task to the remaining 24 charts. I agreed. Only one week passed or even less. MG, apparently with baited breath, sent me his list of profession ascriptions. The result: Only 6 of 24 ascriptions were correct, 12 hits were expected by mere chance. MG's hit rate was very significant ($P = .01$), but with wrong direction.

MG was perplexed. His subsequent reasoning was this: A natal chart might indicate a person's hereditary potentials, not successes in later life. Lack of potentials might stimulate people to spend unusual effort to overcome the deficiencies, they might eventually even surpass those with better hereditary outfit. Alfred Adler had called such psychodynamics "overcompensation". On the other hand, people gifted for some field of activity might be

tempted to spend little effort, even though they would also need to spend considerable effort for competition. Anyway, MG wanted to do another test.

I selected 20 painters and 20 politicians from Gauquelin's French data base, MG selected 19 of these 40 cases as for him unambiguous, he assigned the professional labels to these cases and hit 13. This time his hits surpassed expectancy (9.5) by 3.5 cases which is marginally significant by a one-tailed Binomial test (P = .08). The difference between MG's extremely low hit rate in his first test and this remarkable hit surplus in his second test is very significant (P = .004). In other words his hit rates were significantly inconsistent.

The last test that MG conducted was somewhat different, he hoped to be able to differentiate between 20 charts of very eminent writers and 20 charts of ordinary people. Of 23 unambiguous charts of the 40 charts that I gave him, he matched 12 correctly, hit expectancy was 12.5. So MG's third hit rate does not deviate from chance at all. His total performance summed over three tests is *not* noteworthy in terms of *hits*, but in terms of its inconsistency within this test series. His performance output was *heterogeneous,* as one may call this oscillation, and heterogeneity in his case is statistically *significant* (P = .015).

Now, remember that inconsistency of hit rates had been observed by Timm & Köberl. The question therefore arose whether MG might have paranormal ability. MG agreed to do eight runs of a new psi test that I was using routinely with my students, a ball drawing test. For this test, participants draw table tennis balls from an opaque bag, the numbers 1 to 5 are written on them, on each ball one of the five numbers. The participant draws a ball blind, but before drawing the ball, he or she will guess the number that is witten on the ball of the next trial.

The ball drawing test that MG conducted was actually more complicated, details are skipped. Suffice it to say that MG's performance in this test resembled his performance in his astrological matching test. Again his overall hit rate was not conspicuous, but some unintended and inconsistent deviations from chance occurred which led me to conjecture that MG was probably psi-gifted.

What to conclude?

First, Timm & Köberl's tests of astrologers at work and my own case study suggest that the observed significant deviations from chance, not only hit surpluses, but also occasional hit deficits, might be due to paranormal factors.

Second, it is tempting to generalize these findings and to surmise that astrological chart interpretations in general, whenever surprisingly correct, might operate by paranormal influence. Of course, this generalization is tentative and needs to be tested. In my view, it can be and should soon be tested.

Third, if factual links between astrology and parapsychology should be found, astrological doctrines would have to take them into account. Traditional doctrines might be challenged, perhaps even shattered. Such speculation may be left to experts.

Fourth, however, the Gauquelin results with planets and professionals and Müller's results with Saturn and infant deaths cannot fully be reconciled with the paranormal. Only some

features fit. First, consider the fact that planetary configurations might play predictive roles in Gauquelin and Müller contexts. For psi, in principle, ordinary time barriers do not pose problems. Sufficient observations by psi researchers suggest that, occasionally, psi "anticipates" what will happen, e.g. in precognitive dreams.

But difficulties arise with asking whose mind, at the time of a child's birth, might predict or "pre-feel" or "pre-conceive" a child's future professional success or a child's early death? No human mind would have such superhuman power.

Next, the super-human agent, pre-conceiving a child's fate, seems even to be able to adjust the child's delivery to appropriate planetary positions. Parapsychologists might help here again, in principle, by referring to concept PK, psychokinesis, a human mind's power to affect, without ordinary stimulation., physical or physiological processes.

But again, whose mind is here active? If the Gauquelin-Müller phenomena are related to psi at all, it seems that even our current conceptions of the paranormal would tumble down. They would have to give place to a wider understanding of the paranormal, the traditional restriction of psi to minds of individual brains would have to be dismissed. As a matter of fact, a number of parapsychologists seem to already take such route. The global consciousness project conducted by Roger Nelson (http://noosphere.princeton.edu/) might eventually touch the realms of neo-astrological research. A new interdisciplinary connection might arise among as yet unconnected disciplines of anomalistics.

Speculation may be permitted as a momentary respite from research efforts. We cannot but do more research and hope, wait and see.

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