



## The Development of Astrological Psychology

When Someone Makes a Journey...

Forty Years of Exploring Astrology

Bruno Huber

The Development of an Astrologer - 36 years of API

Louise Huber

Bruno and Louise Huber give their individual perspectives on their formative years and influences in the development of astrological psychology and the founding of the Astrological Psychology Institute. These two articles have been translated from 'Astrolog', the German-language magazine of API Switzerland.

# When Someone Makes a Journey...

## *Forty Years of Exploring Astrology*

**Bruno Huber**

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*Translated by Agnes Shellens.*

I was just under seventeen years old when astrology entered my life. It was my contrariness that made me tackle it in the first place, and it never left me alone after that.

Just think of it, in the very years when we are at odds with ourselves, when ideals and reality don't quite seem to match up in this world of ours, when we are wont to argue with fate, just when we have to decide on the direction of our future career. I had a passionate fascination with the starry sky, and therefore opted for astronomy. But in each lecture one of my professors, with great fervour and getting redder and redder in the face, spent considerable time denouncing astrology in the most adversarial fashion. In my opinion this attitude was in direct contrast to the scientific method. And because I became curious as to just what he found so objectionable in astrology, I went and bought myself a book about it.

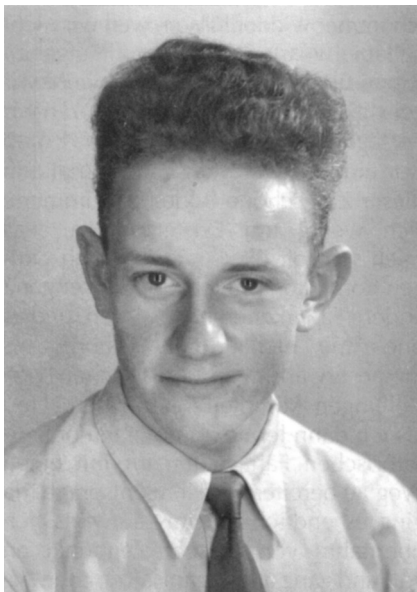
### **How it all started**

I remember very vividly how I went into the bookshop, and, feeling guilty, even heretical, asked for astrological textbooks. I was directed

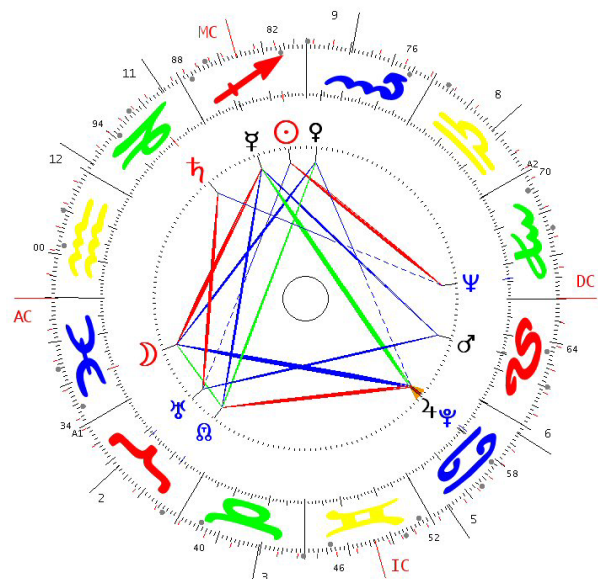
to the top shelf in an obscure area of the shop, called "others", and found there the sum-total of all the literature available on astrology in 1947 in the most prestigious bookshop in Zurich. There were some fifteen small blue booklets of Raphael's ephemeris for individual years and a handful of brochures from some distributors in Germany. These were typed on an old machine, on old paper, with old-style print, and written in such convoluted language that at the time I couldn't make head or tail of it. And there was just one well-produced hard-back copy of a book called *Horoscopy* by one Alfred Fankhauser. I must confess the sight of it intrigued me, and it seemed to be written in a straightforward manner. So I decided there and then to buy Fankhauser's book and study it at leisure.

Obviously this was bound to create conflict within me. It was the typical fight between the left and right hemispheres of the brain, (I have a ME/MO square in my natal chart.) Who was right: the supposedly rational professor of orthodox astronomy or the anthroposophical journalist Frankhauser with his interest in astrology?

It took my psyche two years of laboured



**Bruno 1952**



**Bruno Huber**

29/11/1930 12:55 Zürich/CH

cogitations to come to a decision: I would leave astronomy behind and turn to psychology instead, in the hope that in this way I might gain some fruitful insights into my attempts to get to grips with my fascinating hobby of astrology. For me, from the very beginning those two disciplines ran parallel to each other, and over the years slowly but surely merged into one as a matter of course.

The first few years of my astrological studies were of course quite cumbersome, because during the time of the second world war there was simply no astrological literature to be had anywhere, nor astrological tools. And neither could I find a teacher. Once, after a lecture, I tried to talk to Fankhauser. He said abruptly, “and how long does it take you to calculate and to draw up a chart?” I confessed it took me about two hours, expecting his displeasure. Sure enough, as he was already turning to the next person he just muttered, “wait until you can manage it in twenty minutes, then I’ll talk to you.” Full stop!

### Mercury poisoning

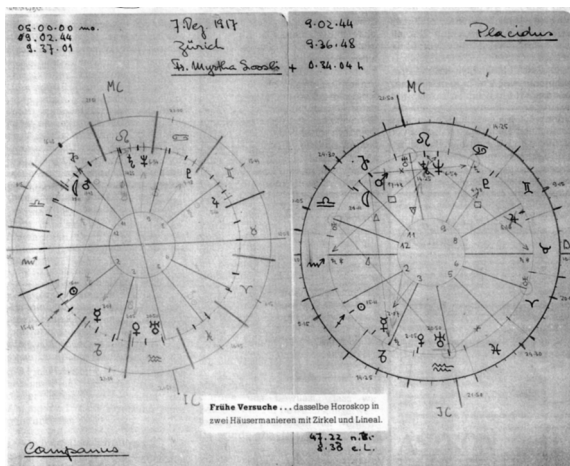
Therefore I had to fathom out most of the techniques painstakingly by myself. Luckily the mathematics side was no problem to me because of my previous studies. Fankhauser only provided Campanus house tables for the latitude of Switzerland, but I managed to calculate the house cusps for the Placidus and Regiomontanus systems for all necessary latitudes. And I was soon rather proud to be able to calculate and to draw all my charts according to these three different house systems.

I took to searching around for astrology books in new and secondhand bookshops, and thus managed to acquire a goodly number of useful books, chiefly of the older variety, which

I devoured with great gusto. The amount of data that a youthful brain can absorb is quite phenomenal. Within the next three years I managed to take in the views of any number of ancient authors, including Ptolemy, Firmicus, Manilus, Alan Leo, and also the first book by Ebertin. (That’s when my Age Point was in opposition to my MC/ME.) This over-indulgence in technical detail soon brought about a drastic case of mental indigestion. I came to realise that all these different methods only served to confuse me thoroughly, and brought with them a welter of seemingly irreconcilable contradictions. In the end I was overcome by fury and despair about all those crazy astrological constructs. And, in a fit of facing up to the intractability of it all, I determined to put an end to it. I consigned all these tantalising books to the nearest dump, and that was that.

In any case this was my time to be called up for military service, which is obligatory in Switzerland, and which rather dampened my enthusiasm for everything astrological. For some two years my left hemisphere gave astrology a rest, but the feeling side of my brain capacity couldn’t fully let go of it, and I couldn’t quite resist the temptation to browse through the several hundred charts that had escaped destruction. These were all charts of people who were known to me personally. Whenever I happened to meet one of them I just couldn’t resist the temptation of looking out their chart and having a quick glance at it. Since I was no longer able to look up the meaning of their sign and house positions in one of my cook books, all that was left to me was to brood moodily over those strange configurations. My attention vacillated from their astrological features to their natural facial features, from their astrological patterns to their behavioral patterns...

Nowadays I realise that something very significant happened within me during that time. I began, at first quite unconsciously, to notice the gestalt within the chart. But I did consciously realise that the visual impact of the charts left much to be desired, as most of them had been dashed down by me in an inordinate intellectual hurry. In those two years I calculated hardly any new horoscopes, but redrew the old ones over and again, in order to produce a clearer visual impact. And all this brooding over the charts laid the foundations for the newly-to-be-developed method of chart interpretation, one based on



Early charts – Placidus and Campanus

reading the aspect figures. This improved technique of pictorial representation highlighted my awareness of the gestalt, but it was to be several more years before the figures yielded their intrinsic meaning.

### **Low Point**

Altogether these two years, between the Balance Point and the Low Point of the fourth house, were the most miserable of my life. My previous bookworm years hadn't just driven me into a blind corner, they had caused me to neglect any personal contact with the outside world, so that I felt intellectually well fed but emotionally starved, old before my years, as I wrote in my diary.

Everything in my life seemed to have come to a full stop. At that time I didn't yet know that the Low Point can feel just like that. But then everything changed. I did what Saggittarians do best when all seems lost: I collected all my money together, packed my bags, including my tent, and left, direction north. In 1952 hitchhiking was still quite unusual, and I had to rely mainly on my own two feet. After three days I'd got no further than Stuttgart. It turned out that this was in fact the end of this particular journey, but the beginning, as well as the continuation, of quite a different one.

My mother, who was the secretary of an international esoteric school, had given me, as I was leaving, a letter to hand to one of her pupils in Stuttgart. It is quite a story to recount just how it came about that I actually hand-delivered this letter to a Mrs. Louise R. Because at the time it seemed to me to be a totally useless activity. In fact it turned out to be the most fruitful one of my whole life. Even as I rang the doorbell I would have preferred to turn tail and go away. But a mere couple of hours later I had no doubt in my mind: this one will be my wife, no one else.

Actually, Louise turned out to be a fanatical vegetarian, and she talked that esoteric gobbledygook which I'd found incomprehensible coming from my mother. But she was an astrologer, and followed with genuine interest all my academic and philosophical musings. And to top it all she was extremely attractive. That was a combination for which I'd looked in women for ages, but up to then had never found it. For me it really was love at first sight. But with Louise, a Taurean, it took a little longer. The next few days and weeks demonstrated to me how easy

it is to learn when we are in love. The more I found out about Louise's esoteric knowledge, the more sensible and convincing it seemed to me, and it explained lots of queries that astrology had raised for me, but which at the time seemed quite inexplicable. Astrology gave us a common language, and the JU/VE cusp point in the ninth house of both of our charts worked like mutual mental reinforcement.

The weeks flew by, and we forgot time and space. In endless discussions which never seemed quite long enough we began to formulate the vision of a glorious future together. We envisioned a nobler man in a nobler world, and realised that we both wanted to contribute actively to increasing the quality of human consciousness. And we both understood that to achieve this aim we'd need psychology, philosophy, the sciences, astrology and esoteric knowledge. We even worked out a model for some kind of adult education establishment. Of course we had no idea just how this vision could possibly be turned into reality. We knew that first of all we'd need money and inspiration.

In the spring of 1953, when the Sun was at 0° Aries, we stood before the registrar to get married, devoid of any practical ideas on how to make our dreams come true. But we were both filled with the unequivocal desire to dedicate our partnership to the service of mankind.

We now know that these visions of the future already contained within themselves the germs of the idea of the Astrological Psychology Institute as it exists today. But it took years to work this out in practical detail.

### **The Wild Fifties**

Looking back on the beginnings of my astrological adventure it is fair to say that not only I but the whole of astrology was in limbo at the time of my marriage to Louise. Actually the whole of Europe seemed to be in a Low Point mood after the second world war, and at first made just tentative attempts to resuscitate itself. In the early fifties we saw the hope of economic recovery, and simultaneously a re-awakening of interest in astrology, but astrology with a difference. 1953 saw the publication of new astrology books and the inauguration of new concepts in astrology. Reinhold Ebertin, for instance, with his publishing and multifarious other activities, spearheaded an astrological reawakening.

These new books, plus the many budding

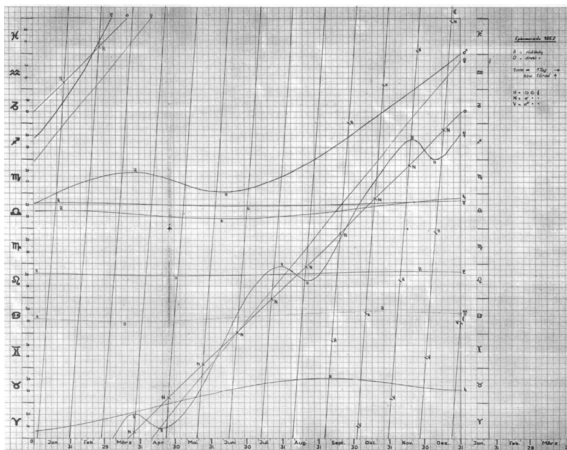


lectures and lecturers, stimulated me to give astrology another try. But at the same time there were two other topics that much enhanced my previous interest in astrological studies. They were psychology, which I was studying and which provided me with a new set of tools, and on the other hand philosophy and esoteric studies, with its comprehensive and all-embracing approach.

### Old Hats

Actually the so-called New Astrology which now became all the rage made me feel quite uneasy. I devoured all available books and attended all possible lectures, and yet, although there seemed to be many new techniques, the whole attitude was “old hat” to me, based on the medieval assumption that if the stars are in such and such a configuration men react in such and such a way. According to my budding knowledge of astrology this was alright within very narrow limits, it was a description of what might happen, but no explanation. More often than not this was an attitude of fatalism and determinism, “It’s all due to the stars, accept your fate, and that’s all there is to it.”

Needless to say, I used this time to embark on my first series of detailed investigations, questioning rules as propounded in cook books and comparing them with actual facts, devising a series of tests for this purpose. The results of these tests almost invariably proved to be either meaningless or downright disastrous. Until I finally realised that the languages of astrology and psychology really didn’t have much in common, as they had different historical backgrounds. They based themselves on different assumptions, grew out of different paradigms, which gave



Graph of planetary positions for 1952, drawn by myself, giving a quick overview for work with transits.

their words different meanings and a different flavour.

### The Esoteric

In the end it was the ancient wisdom which provided me with the most fruitful approach to research into astrology. Esotericists explore the underlying structure and the intent which underpin the outward phenomenal appearance of life. That’s how they hope to gain a glimpse of the pattern and purpose of nature’s ways. This means that from a practical and existential point of view a person’s mere behaviour can be quite insignificant, as it can be conditioned by external influences of the society in which they live. Similar behaviour as seen in a number of different people can in fact be the result of very dissimilar motivation. And as long as we don’t differentiate between an outward action and the underlying motivation we can’t really help people to tackle these underlying issues, only describe them. The best we can hope to do is to reprogramme their behaviour patterns.

In the fifties both Louise and I engaged in an extensive study of the ancient wisdom (Theosophy and Alice Bailey’s Arcane School.) This helped us to gain the ever clearer insight that astrology is in fact based on the esoteric mode of thinking, the esoteric paradigm. The way the chart is constructed already tells that it has a holistic approach to human nature. And the ever new combination and recombination of the symbols involved is nothing if not the building of new models of organisation, systems, which are so varied and variable that they can evoke a veritable multiplicity of character traits and modes of behavior.

### The Time in Zurich

The years from 1953 - 1956, which we now call the Zurich time, the first years we were able to spend together, turned into an adventurous exploration of the mental and spiritual thinking of the time, a tentative attempt to gain an overview of the various disciplines, and an endeavour to sample as many as possible of the various humanistic and transpersonal modes of thinking. Our active participation in lectures and our co-operation with various groups enabled us to forge a lot of personal contacts which proved very fruitful. For instance, we regularly attended the meditation sessions of the Arcane School in Zurich, soon became responsible for technical arrangements

and the library, gave lectures of our own, and in this way met all the leading lights of the School.

In fact we soon formed deep and lasting friendships with them. And the regular group meetings, which met more and more frequently at our place, more often than not turned into night-long discussions about God and the Universe. We dealt with just about everything that came our way. From graphology to phrenology to astrology, from Chinese horoscopes to acupuncture to Zen Buddhism, from a study of Trappist thought to Giordano Bruno's *Eroici Furori*, to Dante's *Inferno* to the Greek concept of catharsis, from Szondi's tests of character and fate, to Spinoza's philosophy, to devout contemplation of *The Verses of Dzyan* of the secret wisdom teachings. We discussed psychological methodologies and spiritual exercises, subjected each other to many tests, both sensible and futile ones, and engaged in an early form of group therapy.

With all this discussing and probing, our mere material existence received short shrift, so of course we were frequently extremely hard up. Every now and then we'd hastily get any sort of job just to keep the wolf from the door, but always for as short a time as possible, so as to be free to concentrate on those aspects of life we deemed important. This of course went very much against the grain of the existing bourgeois ethos.

It was this "Zurich Time" which enabled me to cut myself totally free from the old classical concept of astrology. Instead, since 1955, I did a lot of research into the basic assumptions of astrology, based on the stimulating ideas mentioned above and with the help of carefully chosen psychological tests, I managed to formulate unambiguous meanings of signs, houses, planets and the seven most important aspects. Thus evidently I achieved something which so far had never actually been attempted in astrology. This painstaking research allowed me to postulate a sound basis which in turn made it easier to correlate astrological findings with psychology. And it formed the springboard for the later-to-be-developed methodologies which now are known as specifically as "Huber". They still constitute the groundwork and basic assumptions of our teaching. And most probably they are the main reasons for the success of our School.

The year 1955 was creative not just on the mental and spiritual levels, it also saw the birth of our son Michael-Alexander. My Age Point at



the time had reached the opposition to SA in the 11<sup>th</sup> House, with a square to UR in the second!

The following table is an example of the way in which I painstakingly worked out the intrinsic meaning of astrological concepts.

The Aspects		
Impulse, Encounter	♂	0°
Bondings		
Friction	□	90°
Hardening, Crystallisation		
Resistance, Tension, negative engagement	♁	180°
Harmonious Growth	✳	60°
Perfection, Completion	△	120°
Embryonic	⋈	30°
Hesitant beginnings		
Duality, split motives	⚡	150°
decision crisis		
General		
Red	duality	tense, hard, definitive, apparently unalterable
Blue	unity	relaxed, calm, gentle, mobile, adaptable
Green	plurality	hesitant, seeking, undecided

#### Working Hypothesis for the Aspects 1955

#### Genf - Genève - Ginevra - Geneva

In the summer of 1956 we moved to Geneva. We had been called to Geneva by the Arcane School. They already had headquarters in New York and London, and wanted us to help with establishing a third headquarters, the European Centre, in Geneva. Our life in Zürich seems to have persuaded them that we were capable of

this job. The wages weren't very good, in fact they couldn't even be guaranteed for any length of time. But for us it was more important that we had been offered our dream job, to work for spiritual ideals. After all, we were quite used to rough it a bit for the sake of our ideals. It turned out to be a very important time for us.

Actually, astrology had to take a back seat, especially with regard to research. Instead the formation of an international spiritual school offered a wealth of new and highly interesting contacts. The pupils came from eight different language areas. We made contact with people who worked for one or other branch of UNO, and came from any number of different countries. It made us mentally very adaptive to have access to such an international population, and we became used to conversing in several foreign languages. Added to this was our ever deeper immersion in esoteric philosophy and a variety of meditation techniques. And I only realised later on that, as an apparent side effect, my astrology gained a lot of valid experience, as I was able to draw up the charts of many of these interesting people, and was then able to compare them with their living reality.

There was also another aspect of astrology that caught my imagination and made a considerable impact on me. It was provoked by one of Alice A. Bailey's twenty books, *Esoteric Astrology*. I seldom study a book from beginning to end, but I did it here, with dubious results. It fascinated me so much because it was totally different from any other book I had read so far. Everything I read I translated into drawings and diagrams. That's how I always worked when I found concepts difficult to grasp. But in this case it didn't really give me a lot that I could incorporate into my own studies. Finally I came to the conclusion that I must be lacking in the required thinking apparatus, and put it all to one side, although my self-esteem suffered a bit of a knock through it.

Only some twenty years later I suddenly came across a reference from this book, which I actually remembered and understood only then. A.A.B. stated that the astrology of the future would deal with three charts of the same person, which give great depth to the process of interpretation. One chart would be built around the Moon, one around the Sun, and one around the ascendant. In my time in Geneva this meant nothing to me. But at some time in the seventies it suddenly struck me that the Moon Node Chart, and the House

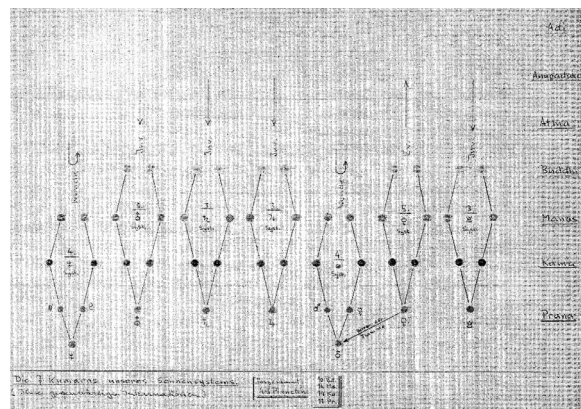
Chart, together with the Natal Chart, the method which I had evolved, fulfilled these conditions precisely, not only in the technical definition but also with A.A.B.'s interpretation that one would represent the past, one the present, and the third the future.

This is the sort of thing that can happen to any explorer and researcher. And it teaches us to be a bit more respectful with that much-prized intellect of ours. Similar occurrences have happened to me frequently over the years in astrology.

### Top-heavy

After about two years of these strenuous, highly spiritual activities in the Centre in Geneva the psychologist within me began to show withdrawal symptoms. Especially the contact with the pupils seemed to get more and more abstract, distant, and sterile. Occasionally it happened that individual pupils concentrated too much on their meditation exercises and started to show psychic problems; when this happened their tutors invariably advised them to become more detached in their attitude. Obviously this was the official policy of the School. Whenever I tried to increase these pupils' psychological awareness and encourage them to face up to their displacement manoeuvres the top administrators invariably tried to block me.

And then, in the early spring of 1958, by way of a release, I was hit by a psychological whirlwind from Florence. Professor Roberto Assagioli, whom we had met in Zürich, invited us to take part in a seminar in August on Psychosynthesis. And of course I wanted to go. I once again developed itchy feet. But we simply didn't have the money for such a long journey, which made



All 49 planets of the solar system, as stipulated by Alice Bailey, on various levels. My own diagram.



me want to go even more. And thus it came about that once again, complete with rucksack and tent, I got on my trusted bike, and, with my own muscle power, covered the 700 kilometres to Arezzo, across the Alps with their 2500 metre high pass, and across the plain of the river Po with its soaring heat. I was still oblivious of the fact that I had yet again reached a Low Point in my chart, on 15th August 1958 (5<sup>th</sup> house), and yet again started a totally new phase of my life. The seminar was supposed to keep me in Italy for a mere three weeks. But it opened the door to the most dramatic experiences of my life, and to its most decisive phase of learning and growth.

### **Spirituality and Reality**

After those two years of concentrated highly spiritual work at the Arcane School Centre in Geneva, the contrast of the physical workout on the bike did me the power of good. True, it was a long hike from Geneva to Florence, relying totally on muscle power. And it was my first visit to Italy, and my first experience of its climate in August. In my ignorance, I suffered extensive sunburn all over my body, which had been protected from the outside world for so long. This brought me back to reality with a jolt, a salutary experience which I still remember vividly.

My destination was Capolona, a small village near Arezzo, about 100 kilometres south of Florence. It was Professor Assagioli's summer residence. The camp for psychosynthesis was scheduled to take place in these extensive grounds. I have to confess that I didn't retain a clear memory of the seminar which had been the purpose of my trip. The lectures and seminars and the experts from all over the globe have shrunk to a mere shadow, like faded holiday snaps. What



**Casentino, planted with olive trees and vines for the past 4000 years.**

evoked a really strong psychic and mental reaction in me was the personality of Roberto Assagioli, his library in which I spent many a happy hour looking for spiritual treasure, the countryside surrounding the manse, and the surrounding area which I explored with my bike.

This special blend of an exceptional personality, a wealth of new ideas and compelling natural scenery evoked in me an almost total breakdown of my then existing world view. I vascillated between emotional troughs in which I questioned the meaning of my very existence, followed by mental and spiritual highs. Visions of the future alternated with *déjà-vu* experiences, and even with flash-backs to previous lives. After a week of this I felt totally confused (after all, I had arrived exactly at the Low Point of the 5<sup>th</sup> house.) There was just one thing I knew for certain: my life in Geneva had lost its meaning for me, but what would I do instead?

But now the function of the Low Point in a fixed house became apparent, we have to accept the fact that we are stuck and can't see a fruitful way forwards. We meet with gentle pointers provided by the reality of the world around us. In this case I had put it in motion myself, quite unconsciously. My searching in the Library had in fact uncovered a considerable number of jottings in Assagioli's own handwriting. They were casually placed in various books and then forgotten. Roberto Assagioli had no idea what wealth of wisdom he had hidden in his books. Occasionally he had tried to retrieve one or other of these notes, but had seldom been successful. And therefore he was very pleased that I had actually found them. He asked whether I mightn't be willing and able to tidy up his books, and to collect his various writings. He'd gladly pay for my train ticket home to save me some travelling time.

I was very intrigued by the prospect of investigating his writings, and not any too keen to pedal along the highways, and catch more sunburn. So I stayed an extra two weeks. The result of my bookworm activities so impressed Roberto that he suggested I should stay on and help him to write a book for which the Psychosynthesis Research Foundation in America had been asking for some time. The result of these negotiations with the Foundation resulted in both of us, Louise and myself, being offered a stable position as Assistant/ Secretary.



## **Florence**

So in February of 1959 we moved with child and chattel, with the help of railway containers. Here were the headquarters of the “Istituto di Psicopsintesi” and also the winter quarters of the Assagioli. In summer, because of the sweltering heat in Florence, they escaped to Capolona.

And here we began to lead a totally different life. So much happened within the next three years that it will be quite difficult to recount it all in a semblance of order within the restraints of this brief article. The intensive involvement with Roberto's patients; personal friendships with people from all over the globe; learning and practicing the people-friendly (and very successful) therapy called psychosynthesis. Working under the wings of a truly wise person, whose jovial charisma withstood the drag of daily routine and of living and working together. The quite unforeseen possibilities of research into the basic tenets of astrology, which resulted from Roberto's encouragement and support; being immersed in the world of art; the new and the old town of Florence, steeped in culture. And experiencing a Tuscan way of life in an area (Capolona in Casentino) which, for the past 4000 years, has been cultivated with olive trees and vines and where had lived such significant people as for instance Guido di Arezzo, 9th century, who invented the writing of music, Francis of Assisi, who became St. Francis in La Verna, Francesco Petrarca, poet and philosopher, and Piero de la Francesca, painter and art critic, pupil of Masaccio, and, and, and...

In the Institute we had two main tasks.

We were busy with compiling the textbook of psychosynthesis. For this we had to collect the various brochures and essays Assagioli had written over the years on a number of



**The Park in Capolona. Meeting point of the whole world. Here there are four nationalities, Swiss, German, South African and Californian (U.S.A.)**

psychosynthesis themes and methods. We had to collect them, put them in order, edit and modify them, at times translate them from Italian and German into English, at times augment them from taped interviews or transcripts. That was a lot of work, and Louise, I have to admit it and record it here with due thanks, did the lion's share of it.

On the other hand a task arose from Roberto's clinical work. It evolved quite naturally, without our having been told to do so. At the time we called it aftercare, follow-on therapy. Assagioli's clients came from all five continents, for therapy sessions lasting from 3 to 5 weeks. He gave them a daily consultation of about 50 minutes. The rest of the day they spent in our vicinity. They didn't rightly know what to do with their time, and were brim full of problems. So we turned into parent-confessors and occupational therapists. Quite often Louise had to cook for them, and occasionally they even slept at our house, especially in Capolona. Sometimes the house was so full that of necessity we had to develop a form of group therapy – something which at the time was quite unknown in therapeutic circles. All this was for us a process of concentrated schooling in psychotherapy. We learned a tremendous lot, and discovered new ways of conducting therapy, which we were then able to discuss and share with Roberto. This in turn enriched his budding book.

For instance, by pure chance, as we say so nicely, I discovered the importance of colour, together with a client, a portrait painter who experienced a crisis of creativity. Whenever, in individual or group therapy, the theme of “father” came to the fore, he just blocked and clammed up. So, in sheer desperation, one evening I suggested to him that we should communicate in colours and not in words. (I myself had just started painting at that time.) We worked together for many an enjoyable hour, and days later it became apparent that his blockage had vanished, once and for all. Today he is a well-known abstract painter.

## **Dialogue**

Thus our days were well filled with these activities. And in the evenings I was more and more occupied with basic research into astrology. It was Roberto Assagioli who encouraged me in this, in fact he almost ordered me to do it. Because his own attempts to make sense of astrology had come a cropper, because he found that most astrological literature was full of contradictions

and psychologically superficial, and, as he was wont to say, catastrophically inappropriate and helplessly antiquated.

I had told Roberto about my research during the Zurich time and about my basic definitions. He thought they were a lot more useful than anything else he'd come across in astrological literature. And he could give me sensible tips for further work. From a psychological point of view he felt that all people had the same basic abilities, based on their common humanity. But each individual was given a slightly different combination of these possibilities, and in different proportions, which explained our individuality. He saw our basic potential in the planets, and thought that here the relevant definitions could be very useful. But what was lacking in his opinion were reliable and unambiguous rules for interpretation, so that we could select the individually appropriate statements for a chart. Which means that for each planet we should be able to determine its effective strength within a chart. But both Assagioli's and my own attempts to work this out with the existing rules came to nothing, as the classical rules for the strengths and weaknesses of a planet simply did not coincide with the actual case histories of the individuals concerned.

## Research

These discussions formed in me the concept for my as yet most comprehensive examination – of the house systems. Here and there in astrological literature I'd found attempts to tackle this problem which I had found to be quite hopeful. These were statements suggesting that planets near the cusp of a house were stronger in their effect than in other positions. But how near was near? Different authors quoted different orbs. Some said the effect was only noticeable when planets were placed after the cusp, others stated that planets before the cusp were just as strong. I deduced from this that the house cusp definitely was the strongest possible position. And consequently I began to look for the weakest area in each house.

At that time I hadn't yet made up my mind which house system was the best available, and I always worked with the three different methods, Campanus, Placidus and Koch, and had to conduct all the work three times over. Roberto granted me access to the archives of the institute where I found a great number of case histories which were liberally annotated. I selected those

people whose exact time of birth I was able to obtain and whom I could interview personally to check on the results. The project took me all of two years, but yielded three-fold results, much beyond my expectations.

First of all I developed the principle of the House Horoscope in an attempt to measure precisely the position of the planets at the cusps. I didn't realise its therapeutic meaning until some fifteen years later, with the help of my son Michael.

Then I found a (today well-known) curve which demonstrates the extent of strength available to a planet within the houses. It looks like a sine curve which is asymmetrical and revolves around the Low Point, positioned at the place of the golden mean.

And thirdly I found the only house system suitable for depth psychology and psychosynthesis work, because only the Koch House system corresponded correctly with my measurements and resulted in the above-mentioned unambiguous curve.

## Co-incidence

The above insights were the result of systematic, long-winded and laborious research, but the next insight resulted by chance, from the apparently coincidental clumping of a special condition. When I worked on the concept of the Age Point I really formed the impression that Fate wanted to demonstrate a specific point to me. For suddenly, in the summer of 1961, our therapy work presented us with fifteen similar cases within the space of a few weeks.

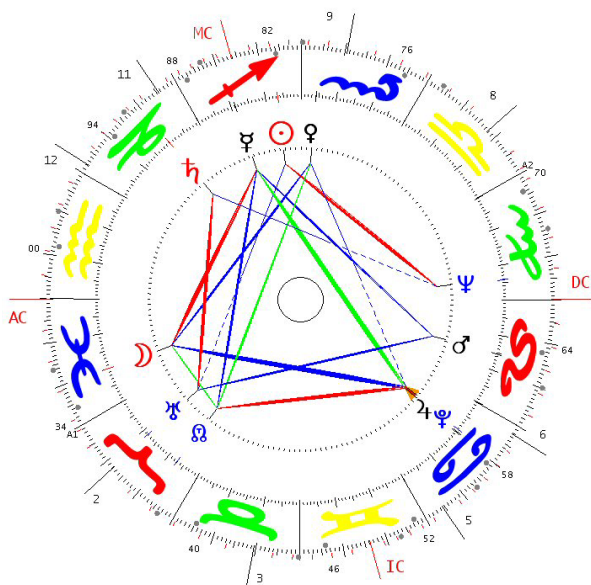
Job related nervous crises, stomach ulcers, giving up the job altogether (the word drop-out wasn't yet known at that time) or very simply a deep dissatisfaction with the job, or failing at work and being helpless, etc. All troubles related to work. Where would astrologers look in the chart? Obviously in the first instance to the 6<sup>th</sup> house, or perhaps the 10<sup>th</sup>. Some had planets in those positions, but with most of them there was nothing much to see. And then I suddenly realised a strange factor common to almost all of them. Most of them were at the beginning of their mid thirties, and most of them had a cusp of a sign in their 6<sup>th</sup> house. At 30 we reckon to be in the middle of our life span. Did the facts point to an involvement with Time? I began to count, with figures between 60 and 100, to find out a hypothetical average life span.

Finally I found out that, if I divided the space between house cusp 6 and house cusp 7 into 72 years, then the end of the sign in the various charts invariably fell in the year which corresponded to the actual age of the native. Eureka, there was a clock ticking away in the 6<sup>th</sup> house. Then I tried other cases, and other houses corresponding to other themes – and found out that each house had a similar life clock. That was the birth of the small age point. And then came a compelling conclusion: As above, so below, as in part, so in the whole. I applied the 72 years idea to the whole of the chart. And then it just demanded a bit more hard work to ascertain that the big Age Point actually worked.

These are moments in the life of an astrologer which almost take the breath away...

### Venus poisoning

Whilst I was in Florence I developed a passionate love affair which was impossible to dislodge, and which had strange side effects on my career in astrology. I knew that I contained contradictory traits of the scientist and the artist. No doubt this can be traced back to the double figure in my chart. I have two big triangles built on the base of my trine between the first house Pisces Moon and the JU/PL conjunction at the Low Point of the 5<sup>th</sup> house (the very constellation which brought me to Florence – see above.) Mercury at the MC forms a strong learning triangle whilst VE at the cusp of the 9<sup>th</sup> house forms a somewhat weaker grand trine on the same base .



**Bruno Huber**

29/11/1930 12:55 Zürich/CH

Therefore I work mainly via the intellect (Mercury) but can't avoid the occasional artistic bout (Venus) whenever outward stimuli become sufficiently potent. Here in Florence, the capital of the Renaissance movement, it was bound to happen. In the time in Zürich I had a go at becoming a photographer. But this time a group of American painters (Fulbright sets) who called on us quite regularly released in me an urge to paint which I just couldn't resist. And so, after the first few tentative steps, and with all my other manifold activities, I began to paint abstracts, like a man possessed.

Only a few years later did my Mercury, the researcher, make me realise that I produced a painting at each full moon and each new moon, precisely, and at no other time. And what's more, the pictures invariably dealt with the quality of the sign concerned. This caused a lot of pride for my artistic self, and in due course I agreed that an esoteric friend of mine organise an exhibition of my work in London. And people pounced upon the pictures and wanted to buy them. But I simply couldn't bring myself to part with them, so I increased the price tenfold – and that was that.

By now I have only a small number left of this first-year series, because I just gave the pictures away with a glad heart to a friend or even a patient, if they particularly liked them. What a pity, says my Mercury, because the complete series would be of considerable interest from an astrological and even a scientific point of view.

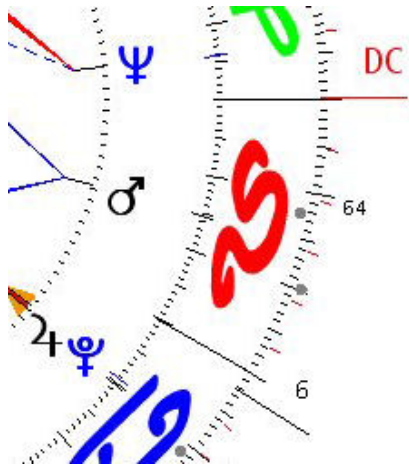


Two artists in the convent "La Verna".  
On the right is my friend Jim, to whom I owe the discovery of speaking with colours.



## Vocation ?

At New Year time in 1962 we returned to Switzerland. Roberto Assagioli's *Textbook for Psychosynthesis* was completed and our contract with the Psychosynthesis Institute of the U.S.A. came to an end. My Age Point was by now in the 6<sup>th</sup> house and had already entered the intercepted sign of Leo. Now what? That was the big question.



Both Louise and I felt totally confused, as we didn't rightly know just what we wanted to do. On the one hand we had to cope with the stark reality of having to earn our daily bread, on the other hand we were still filled with the noble ideal of improving the lot of mankind. Added to this was the tantalising fact that I was really spoilt for choice. I had learned a great deal during the past few years, and could have earned a living as an astrological or psychological counsellor, or perhaps as artist? Or should I go back to photography or the cinema? Or... Or... I was torn in all directions.

The conflict of the 6<sup>th</sup> house attacked me from all directions. We had been called to Geneva. We had been called to Florence. Now I had to find my own calling, that much I could see clearly. But how could I cope with a surfeit of abilities and possibilities which were very different from each other, not to say contradictory! Somehow I had to manage to bring them all under one hat, but this would have to be a huge field of interests, that didn't really exist in this world of ours. And we also had to consider the social conditions of the time, and the actual jobs which might be available to me. But in the beginning I was most reluctant to abandon my hope of finding a job that would engage all my varied abilities.

That's how it came about that for the span of the next six years I tried everything and anything

that I could possibly do, and some things that I really couldn't do. These were the darkest years of my life, at least from the point of view of being successful and fulfilled, but at the same time the most fruitful and enlightening ones. I studied and worked very hard during this time, but my material success was minimal, I just learned over and over again to realise which jobs were not suitable for me.

## The Neck of the Bottle

If only at that time I'd already understood the meaning of the Age Point in the 6<sup>th</sup> house I might have saved myself a lot of trial and error. But then perhaps I mightn't have learned such a lot about my own chart, and astrology in general. As for instance about intercepted signs, (Leo in my own chart), or about my Mars in this intercepted sign. He dashed about wildly in a fierce attempt to achieve. Or about my Neptune in the following sign (Virgo) who tried to haul me already into his house, right across the intercepted Leo, by enticing me with his humanitarian ideals.

Over and above those personal examples I learned in these years a great number of little rules of interpretation, as I came to call them, chiefly by means of the many friends, relatives and acquaintances who kept on coming to me with their problems and whose charts I studied. They told me the story of their lives, and asked for my advice. Needless to say hardly any of them ever actually paid for our "invaluable services" (Louise and I had to take turns doing odd jobs to keep body and soul together) but our reward for this work came later and a different form.

Through this "selfless" work of ours an increasing number of people became convinced of the quality and usefulness of such a serious pursuit of astrology. In the end this had far-reaching consequences. I had learned with a



**With friends in London**



**Reporter and photographer with the boy scouts in the mountains.**

vengeance that I couldn't earn a decent living through psychology, that nobody wanted to buy my drawings and pictures, that photography and filming were too one-sided for me and that general jobbing required the acquisition of a wealth of subsidiary knowledge, such as pharmacology, the theory of music and how to build musical instruments, the history of art and culture generally. During all this time a group of people had collected around us who only wanted one thing from us: that we'd teach them the type of astrology which we practiced ourselves.

But the penny didn't drop until after 1967, when the A.P. had crossed Neptune. Yes, this would be our niche in the market place (6<sup>th</sup> house theme), to become teachers of astrology.

At first of course I angrily rejected the very idea, it seemed far too narrow a field, a mere splinter out of my wealth of gifts. But then I suddenly realised that this was the bottleneck that had to be negotiated in the 6<sup>th</sup> house. Finally the decision to become teachers of astrology turned out to be the only financially viable venture, and it also proved to be the greatest endeavour I'd ever undertaken. And I can still say this with all my heart: I'd found my dream calling.

### **The Astrology Scene**

On our return to Zürich in 1962, we once more got in touch with the astrological scene within the German speaking area. During our stay in Florence we neither saw nor heard anything astrological of the slightest bit of interest to us, except of course Italian newspaper astrology, and also adverts by so-called astrologers, and soothsayers and magicians who extolled their prowess.

But even Switzerland couldn't really boast of an astrological scene. There were hardly any astrological books to be found, and those few that existed were hidden away in the farthest corners of the shops, a very small number of shops. One available book was a series written by Thomas Ring, called *Astrologische Menschenkunde*, i.e. the study of man from an astrological point of view, and also a series of five volumes called *Astrologica* published by Metz. It contained the Kundig ephemeris, which dominated the market for ephemerides for a long time. A book called *KdG* was available (Combination of the Constellations), and slowly more and more of his books. And the publishers Baumgartner continued to produce essays and manuscripts in somewhat haphazard fashion which were a confusing collection of old and ancient methods of interpretation. There were just a few small groups of interested astrologers, but the groups were small, only locally known, and hard to find. Altogether there was no real corporate astrological body in Switzerland, and the only one in Germany was the K.A.A. (Cosmological Academy of Aalen) run by the Ebertin Dynasty. It warranted serious consideration because it attracted all sorts of interesting personages and they arranged regular and remarkable seminars. There were two other groups, both started after the war, which just about managed to exist, with sparse membership and few activities. They were the DAV (Company of German Astrologers), which didn't manage to attract new members and whose membership grew older and staler. The other group was the Company of Cosmobiologists, which suffered a lot of infighting and thereby lost Hans Genuit, one of its founder members, and with him its impact and initiative. There was another group in North Germany whose news occasionally reached us in Switzerland, called the Hamburg School, and in the inter-war years



**With Louise at a gathering in Aalen.  
At far left is Mrs. von Ungern-Sternberg.**

its founder Witte had written a book called *Regelwerk* (Book of Rules) which I came across by accident one day in an antique shop. Members of this group could be found at the congress in Aalen.

It was quite characteristic of this time, the sixties, that the various groups existed in isolation and disagreed on the best methods to use. Here is a typical example. One day, in the early sixties, Dr. Water Koch was scheduled to give a lecture on his birthplace House System. Obviously I found this interesting as I was actually using this very method, and I knew Dr. Koch to be a learned author. So I looked forward to gaining a few interesting insights concerning the underlying mathematics of the system, and maybe an account of the development of his ideas. So Louise and I went to his lecture full of joyful anticipation. For the first quarter of an hour Koch expounded the basics of his theory in rather convoluted language. But then the barracking started, one heckler accused him of plagiarism, and that so upset Dr. Koch that he forgot what he had planned to say and spent the next hour and a half in a confused attempt to defend himself, and was continually interrupted by ill-tempered and ill-mannered listeners. As a result we gained no information worth having. And finally we just left, very disappointed.

There were just a few exceptions to this dismal picture, for instance the rare seminars given by Thomas Ring. Mercifully, in contrast to his written work, his lectures were given in simple language and easy to follow. For me, his expositions and chart interpretations were the only fruitful and genuinely informative happenings of the astrological scene of that time.

### “Sir”

And so, towards the end of 1967, I started to compile a syllabus for teaching astrology. I certainly didn't find it easy, as there was no previous work to lean on. Any manuals I had so far seen seemed to me to be too dry, too head oriented, and too technological. After all, we were dealing with living material, with a science that revolved around living human beings. I had been told by a number of people of the difficulty they had learning astrology from books. They invariably didn't get very far and didn't enjoy it, as the books all emphasised the mathematics, the technicalities of setting up a chart, ad nauseam, whilst the interpretation was too abstract and

academic. The word “incomprehensible” was mentioned over and over again.

That's why I began, deliberately and systematically, to record my astrological know-how with the help of graphs and diagrams. A few tables listing meanings were unavoidable, and also a few calculation tables. I broached my first few pupils with a mere 20 pages of teaching material in my hand, and my first few lectures consisted of explaining these pages to them, and illustrating their contents with examples drawn from real life. Then I took the merely symbolic interpretation of a specific detail and pointed it out in a chart with its various ramifications, enlarged on it, and compared it with the living reality of the life of the person concerned.

Louise for her part took on the organisation and administration involved in the work, and bought a very tiny advert in the local paper to inform the public about our intended lecture on astrology and sent invitations to our vast circle of friends and acquaintances. She hired a small hall in a restaurant, and we hoped fervently that a few outsiders might show an interest in astrology and attend the lecture, over and above those who had already told us of their interest in the subject.

We both remember very vividly the fateful events of March 12th 1968. Off we went on our Lambretta, complete with overhead projector, and screen; it was pouring with rain, but we were determined to unleash our own private astrological revolution. And people did turn up, something between 30 and 40 of them, but oddly enough they were all strangers, only one person turned up from the many people who had actually asked us to give the talk.

Evidently the lecture turned out o.k. It was my first public appearance, I can't remember for the life of me just what I actually did say to the audience. But apparently the talk produced the desired affect. When, at the end of the lecture, we announced that we'd start a beginners' course next week, several people signed on there and then. In all twenty people started the course in the following week, we were able to teach them astrology, and we still count some of them amongst our best friends.

A few months later we had to start a parallel second course, that autumn we started a third one in Basle, and within the year teaching astrology was providing us with a decent living.

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# The Development of an Astrologer – 36 years of API

Louise Huber

*First published in 'Astrolog' Issue 139 in 2004.*

*Translated by Heather Ross*

Now that I have reached my 80<sup>th</sup> year, I would like to take a little look back at events around the time when I became interested in astrology. In addition to the journey described later in this article, my interest was first aroused by a phrase in the book "Horoskopie" by Fankhauser, where he talks, among other things, about the "impossibility of salvation for Taurus". I was both fascinated by the expression and angered by its categorical nature. However, it was the reason why I started to study astrology myself, in order to find out whether the statement was true or not. I calmed down later, when I read about Taurus in Alice A. Bailey's book "Esoteric Astrology". She described the "cosmic bull, who prepares the way for the coming avatar with hammer blows", which I much preferred and which inspired me in my later work.

## After the War

In 1946, after the end of the war, many things had changed. In Germany, a world had collapsed; the ideals that had driven many young contemporaries to their deaths were cast aside. We had to find a new life with new meaning and new values. When I came to Stuttgart in 1946, I and my first husband lived strictly according to the teachings of Mazdaznan. I escaped completely into the "spiritual life", in order to overcome the difficult experiences of the latter years of the war (1944 in Berlin and subsequent English imprisonment).

At the time, the spiritual elite of defeated Germany had gathered in Stuttgart. I had the freedom and good fortune to be able to attend lectures by experts in their field nearly every day. I made the most of it; for five years I was exposed to the experiences and knowledge of great thinkers. There was Manfred Keyserling, the son of the famous German philosopher, who provided an unbelievably brilliant introduction to the new philosophical ideas. There was Graf Dürckheim, who had a small circle (to which I belonged), where we could have therapeutic discussions with him. There was Dr. Burger-Karis,



who specialised in art therapy and therapeutic discussions, Dr Hans Endres who provided introductions to the humanities and there was of course also astrology and the Arcane School, with which I was intensively involved during the five years I spent in Stuttgart.

I learned astrology from Elisabeth Richter, who gave private lessons to a small group of us in Stuttgart. My first books were Else Parker from Holland, Brandler-Bracht and Pöllner from Germany, Fankhauser from Switzerland, who brought the theosophical idea of "the treasures of the spirit" into astrology.

## I took to Astrology like a Duck to Water

I was so excited by the possibility of being able to read people's character and destiny from their horoscopes that after just one year's study, I opened my own astrological consultancy in Stuttgart. I wanted to use my knowledge to help as many people as possible and offered my services with this in mind. I advertised in two so-called occult magazines, in *Die Andere Welt* (forerunner of the modern Esotera) and in *Die Weisse Fahne*, the official magazine of the Unity-Bewegung. I had many replies. But everything turned out very

differently than I had imagined.

There were wives and mothers who wanted to know if their husbands, fathers and sons were still alive, if they were in prison and when they would be coming home. There were calls for help from refugee camps from people wanting to know when they would finally find a home. There were questions from war invalids, who wanted to know if they would still be able to find work without a right arm. I was suddenly confronted with the combined miseries of those sad times. Astrology only seemed to be interesting to those who were suffering or desperate.

### **Resignation**

I kept going for three months. I drew up horoscopes and calculated, reflected, researched and wrote texts for the people. I looked for passages in books that were relevant to each person's circumstances, but everything was so miserable, inadequate and oracular. I studied and studied to try to find answers, I calculated Moon and axis directions, I went through all the current transits, I tried new Glahn methods, in order to work out the destiny of these poor people. But nothing satisfactory came of it. Sometimes I had sleepless nights because I did not know how I was going to cope. The more I thought about it, the more I needed to know both my own limits and those of traditional astrology. I had to admit that I could not answer such questions with a good conscience, and I closed my office immediately.

### **Learning Process**

During this time I learned something valuable and very important for my later activities. I discovered that I could help many people much more with just a few comforting and encouraging words, and with compassion and sympathy than with descriptions of star constellations, possible transits or axis directions. And so my interest in psychology and spiritual work began to grow. In 1948 I enrolled in the Arcane School founded by Alice A. Bailey. This is an esoteric correspondence course that I found very challenging on all levels and which kept me busy for the next few years. To begin with, I had trouble following the elevated flights of thought and abstract ideas. However, I had no problem in writing up my monthly lessons and conscientiously doing my daily meditation. Every Arcane School student had an older student as a mentor (they were called secretaries). Mine was Frau Anny Huber-Wuhrmann from Zürich,

with whom I had a lively correspondence covering many spiritual and philosophical issues.

### **Bruno came into my Life**

In 1952, Bruno came on the scene. He was Frau Anny Huber-Wuhrmann's son, and she sent him on a trip to Germany, hoping that her young son – he was then 22 years old – would be lucky enough to find someone to take him under their wing. So one morning at 11 o'clock he was standing outside my door in Stuttgart. I opened the door and was naturally very excited to have a visitor from Switzerland. At the time, it was something quite special, and as the son of my spiritual mentor in the Arcane School, we naturally greatly enjoyed each other's company in our two-bedroomed house. For four weeks, we had an intensive exchange of ideas, which went on almost uninterrupted and for nights on end. We established that astrology – which I had sidelined a little – was a strong link between us, and was both constructive and creative. Bruno's ideas and comments fascinated me, for they were completely different from those that I had hitherto read in books and I already suspected that they contained significant astrological innovations for the New Age.



During the next few years, we were busy with personal matters and had little time for astrology. We were married on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1953 in Zürich, and, shortly after the birth of our son Michael in 1956, we went to Geneva in order to spend three years there helping to set up the Geneva Arcane School centre. These were very difficult times for us, as this type of organisation lacked funds. We lived on donations; from hand to mouth, so to speak. There was no security. However, I was very enthusiastic about my work at the Arcane School; I was able to handle all the correspondence, and again there were descriptive and influential letters on spiritual development,

which gave me a lot of feedback and which helped me to enhance my reputation.

Bruno then came into contact with Roberto Assagioli, who invited us to Florence in 1958 after a short dissociation crisis from the Arcane School. We were to help him to write his book *Psychosynthesis Techniques*. In Florence and Capolona we had enough time to make contacts with interesting people. There were artists from Italy, psychologists from America, people from all over the world who had made pilgrimages to obtain help from Roberto Assagioli. Our task was to take care of these people. A group of intelligent young researchers was formed, with which we then also practiced astrology.

### **Astrological Research**

Roberto Assagioli had a very benevolent attitude toward this venture. We kept him informed about the newest discoveries and findings of our all-night group meetings, and he was very impressed, particularly by the aspect pattern drawings that Bruno was developing at that time. This is how he came to commission Bruno to undertake some fundamental new astrological research, so that this ancient science could finally find a credible place in psychological practice. We not only drew up horoscopes for all participants, but Assagioli made his extensive case file available to us. That was naturally a rich source of information and a productive area for research. He gave Bruno sufficient time for research while I carried on typing up the book on psychosynthesis. Bruno threw himself wholeheartedly into his research work. Bruno had the intelligent group members on his side, as well as Roberto's support. He discovered new things every day and kept the group on their toes with his findings. He motivated them constantly to test out his new discoveries at first hand. We also did the same, and there were critical discussions, doubts, tests, and finally Assagioli was always there, to give us the benefit of his worldly wisdom.

Roberto Assagioli was at the same time our friend, an affectionate father and helper. He resolved mental doubts, insecurities or conflicts on the highest, mental level. For me he was the archetypal wise man, he was unbelievably tolerant, benevolent and highly intelligent. You could never fool him, as he immediately saw through any veil of deception and tore it to shreds. That was his greatest quality. He solved all kinds of problems easily, suddenly they disappeared,

were no longer troublesome or important; they were cleared up by his very presence. This healing influence also made him famous as a therapist. That is why so many people came to him after being failed by other psychologists or psychiatrists. He discovered the cause of their crises in their spiritual development and sorted things out by showing them the laws of the path of spiritual development.

His clarity of mind was invaluable for Bruno's astrological research. He could spot and immediately rectify any potential or hasty wrong conclusions of Bruno's research. This was naturally encouraging for us, and gave us the security to be more and more convinced of our cause. The knowledge that we had found something that would change the entire world of astrology motivated us to put all our energies into it. Assagioli often said that every young person who felt responsible for the world and its development had to construct his own area of responsibility, and that ours was the field of astrological psychology. We only felt ready for this great task after three years of training. With Roberto Assagioli's blessing, we then felt we had the courage – if not the means – to return to Switzerland and begin our risky but creative enterprise.

### **The Founding of the API**

After our return to Switzerland, we founded the Astrological Psychology Institute in Adliswil near Zürich in 1964. At first, I offered written horoscopes and after a little while I was so busy working on them that I was able to give up my part-time job, which had enabled us to keep our heads above water. In those years, I did more than 1,000 written horoscopes. Unlike my first attempt in Stuttgart, I was now able to use the concept of astrological psychology, which gave me the security to know that I was not making a mistake and that I could provide better and better holistic and psychologically-viable readings. Thanks also to the knowledge I had acquired from the Arcane School, my esoteric horoscope readings were particularly well-received both at home and abroad.

In the meantime, Bruno and I had repeated crises, as we did not know exactly what Bruno should be working on. Although we were spiritually at one, we had a very different approach to everyday matters. Bruno was a very creative man, and painted very beautiful pictures



during this period. He did not really care about existential issues, which was very often a strain for me. After a few arguments, I realised that his qualities were very different to mine, and I had no choice but to completely let go of my expectations and mistaken ideas. As I learned to use my organisational abilities to prepare a path that suited him, things finally started to improve for us. From that moment on, I took over responsibility initially for organising Bruno's life, and then for the API Institute.

### **The Courses Start...**

The idea of holding courses came about by chance (or coincidence). A man from whom we had bought a coffee table came to our house and was very interested in astrology, asking Bruno a lot of questions. Bruno started to explain his concept of astrology to him, with great success. The man was fascinated, and wanted to know more and more. The next logical step was for us to organise courses in which Bruno could use his teaching ability. Together we developed a systematic education programme, and on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1968 we began our public activities with an open lecture in "Karl dem Grossen" (an old restaurant in Zürich). It was attended by about 30 people who listened to Bruno's ideas. The presentation of his ideas on astrological psychology was met with great enthusiasm. As a result of this public lecture, about twelve people signed up for our first astrology course. No-one then imagined that this would be the start of a worldwide astrology movement.

We have been constantly busy from that time on. In 36 years, we have never had a moment



to stop, rest or look back; things have always been moving forwards, growing and working towards the future. Again and again we have had to innovate in order to keep going. The creative impetus came mainly from Bruno, and later also from our son Michael. Together they used their indefatigable spirit of research to develop the whole concept of the Huber Method, which has given so much to so many people. However, our pioneering spirit has met with resistance from traditional astrology. Our innovations even made us enemies, which had to be dealt with. This also stimulated our spiritual growth, though. We often had to leave our personal wishes unsatisfied and transcend ourselves, in order to be able to work on our transpersonal mission and remain inwardly open. This motivation gave us much strength and support. In hindsight, we could say that the pioneering days were very good times that we would not have missed for the world.

### **The Growth of API**

1977 was a very eventful year for the API, as it saw the commencement of new activities. In June of that year, we managed to find two guesthouses called Sardi and Mare in Pomonte on the west coast of the island of Elba, where we still hold our Elba holiday courses to this day. The Himmelfahrt (Ascension Day) Seminar also took place for the first time in 1977 in Morschach, Switzerland, and in that year we also started running the Herbst (Autumn) Seminar in Ötz, Tirol. The previous year, we had held all the seminars in Achberg, as we had since they started in 1972.

In 1974, we founded our own publishing company to publish our books. It is now managed by our son Michael. Together with Bruno, I have written 8 text books and 5 teach-yourself booklets, which contain the whole body of the Huber method and which are now available for all API students and interested parties. In 1981 we were able to publish our own magazine *Astrolog*, which has appeared every two months ever since, and has now reached number 139 in 2004. In 1983, we moved into the API House, where we could carry out all our activities under one roof, and in 1984 we bought the Computer Cortex. Until 1991 we were travelling nearly every weekend and held courses in many German cities including Hanover, Hamburg, Berlin, Cologne and Bonn. We were active throughout the year in Munich and Stuttgart and of course in the Swiss cities of Zürich, Basel, Bern, Lucerne,

Winterthur and St. Gallen. In the 1980s and 1990s, we also participated in many conferences in the USA, England, France, Denmark, Brazil, Russia, the Czech Republic and Hungary. Our teaching activities thus expanded into other countries, and we gained international acceptance. In the meantime, the majority of the API textbooks have been translated into 12 languages and more than 350,000 books have been sold worldwide.

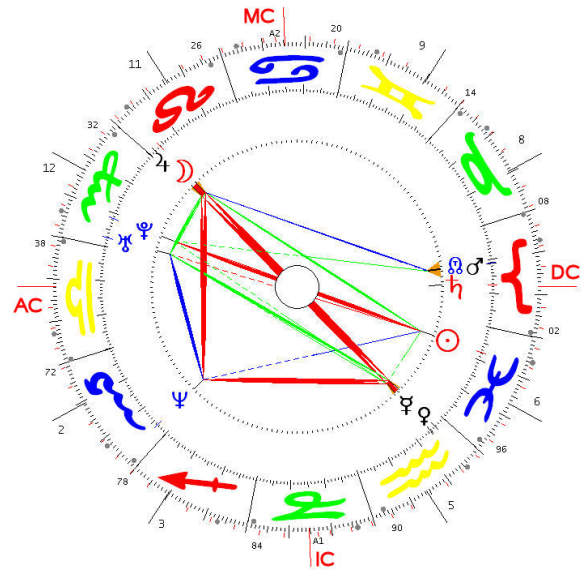
### Changes at API

In 1991 everything suddenly changed, as Bruno had a heart attack and we had to take things more easily. All the travelling had to stop. Our son Michael took over the majority of Bruno's teaching work and threw himself into keeping the API going. During the 1990s, we also added to the API teaching staff, and handed over some of our courses to them. Today we have a teaching staff of about 80 enthusiastic teachers of the Huber method. Because of the organically developed systematic teaching programme, and thanks to Michael's detailed courseware, the course can be taught consistently by all teachers. That is a big advantage in the teaching of the Huber method and makes the future of the API secure.

When Bruno died on 3.11.1999, Michael and I were thrown back on our own resources. Michael was able to seamlessly take over Bruno's creative, counselling and teaching activities, and continue them successfully. Since 2001, we have been working with two long-term colleagues, namely Wolfhard König and Ruth Schmidhauser, whom we added to the Institute's management team, so that the API is now successfully led by a qualified and dedicated team of four.

API students are led on a process of inner change and learn how to transform petty or egotistical goals. We are partly interested in the ongoing creation of a new ethic in astrology, but also with making the psychological and humanitarian aspects of astrology known to a wider public. As such, the demands we make of our students are high. After 36 years of teaching activity, nearly 10,000 students have passed through the API and the Huber school in the UK and Spain, and new ones are always coming. We have therefore had to keep hiring new people, and not stand still, but rather to keep on growing with our new students. This keeps us alive and hopefully young!

Now in 2004, after 36 years we have reached



**API Horoscope**  
**12.03.1968, 20.08 Zürich, Switzerland**

the DC in the API horoscope, and the age point is transiting the unsuspected Saturn. That is a clear message that we should not shirk from the constant stimulation of this human contact, but instead remain open and ready to give of our best. We know from our rules of interpretation that unaspected planets always have a special significance. As Saturn is associated with the promoting of steady, secure relationships, with regard to the You relationship, it indicates that we should not give up on our endeavours, but persist in the face of resistance. After 36 years of uninterrupted activity, we have created a strong, durable structure that provides security. We are grateful for the trust of many long-standing friends who have given and still give us the confidence and strength to continue with our work.

### Acknowledgment

Many people benefit from the results of the research with which Roberto Assagioli aided us, and which Bruno and Michael further developed to create a viable concept of the human being. Today the continued existence of a dedicated API teaching staff is ensured for the future, in particular due to Michael's motivation. He sees his life's work as the preservation of the API and wants to be able to guarantee that it will still be around to celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. He deserves my special thanks, because together we have created a new astrology that is relevant for the New Age. We have therefore come full circle

“like a spiral”, what was started can now flow back and out into the world to bring the hearts and minds of the people together. Astrological psychology has already been an “accessible path to the self” for many people. I hope and wish that it will help many more people, as it has helped me, to come to terms with themselves and to become a whole person.

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