

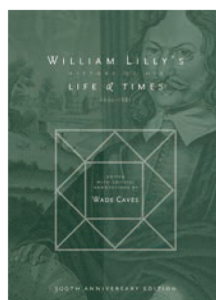
More Plutos
Sue Kientz
Dog Ear Publishing,
\$29.95 (US); UK paperback from £19.42 (Amazon, as of November 2015); Kindle £6.36

Exquisitely timed, the publication of *More Plutos* more-or-less coincided with the space probe *New Horizons*' close encounter with Pluto of last July 2015. Many traditional astrologers tend to flourish their dismissive nosegays at Pluto (and Uranus and Neptune), preferring not to upset the Chaldean order of celestials from Saturn to Moon. But for Sue Kientz, the distant so-called dwarf planet is merely the starting point for the new horizons of the Kuiper Belt of which Pluto is a part. In this vast region of space, a whole new Trans-Neptunian astrology awaits – and *More Plutos* is our guide to the significances of many of what she calls the “Kuiper Planets”.

Eris (just a little smaller than Pluto), Makemake, Haumea, Sedna, Quaoar, Orcus, Varuna, Ixion and many, many more star in this Kuiper galère. Each is accorded a brief history of its discovery and myth before a compendium of celebrity lives and major events serves to illustrate her astro-thesis. Sedna, we learn, represents sadness and suffering (a mixture of Saturn and Neptune): for instance, Stephen Hawking's Sun is square Sedna, and his book *A Brief History of Time* was published when progressed Sun was semi-square progressed Sedna – an indication, Kientz contends, of the “extraordinary patience” required to put words on paper given the disabling nature of his disease. *More Plutos* is so encyclopaedic that it may be taken on trust that Kientz has executed a Herculean task in backing her ideas with examples – non-astrologers can enjoy the many stories told, even if the astrology loses them.

That *More Plutos* is really designed for the professional practitioner there can be no doubt. In addition to her voyage through the Kuiper Belt Objects, she works them into transits, secondary progressions (especially, as with Hawking), horary and more. And she cleverly anticipates many objections. In her chapter ‘Why You Should Bother’ she concedes that many astrologers (except perhaps a few Aquarians) won't want to be cluttering up the horoscope with yet more ‘planets’. She answers this with numerous persuasive examples of how the Kuipers add dimension to astrological insight, using odd-looking but effective aspect graphs stripped of the wheel, houses and signs. Towards the back of the book, fractals (or the ‘branching’ tendency of all life) are examined as a science basis for astrology – but there's no space here to examine that argument.

In this vast opus, Kientz tackles even the most difficult of ideas with a chatty swagger; an indication of supreme confidence in her work and depth of knowledge. *More Plutos* is a major work of astrology which in the years to come will grow in importance as we learn more of the Kuiper Objects. And (rare this in an astrology book) it has the final triumph of an index.

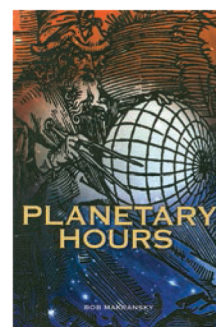


William Lilly's History of his Life & Times 1602-1681
Introduced and annotated by Wade Caves.
Foreword: Philip Graves
Rubedo Press,

£7.87 paperback (Amazon price, as of November 2015)

The library on “England's own Merlin” William Lilly has been enriched by many excellent additions in recent years. This latest is a must-read for any student

and practitioner of serious astrology – horary especially. Though the centrepiece is Lilly's informative and wonderfully indiscreet autobiography, Philip Graves first treats us to the importance of Lilly and his seminal roles as practitioner, teacher and scholar; roles reprised in modern times with the comeback of original English Renaissance astrology, now taught by the likes of Deborah Holding, J. Lee Lehman and Sue Ward. Wade Caves' lengthy introduction sheds light on the methodology of Lilly's chart work in days imperilled by lethal political division. But he also addresses the schism between modern psychological exponents and traditionalists, calling in effect for a fusion of approaches if the goal is interpretive sophistication and not tribal point-scoring. Caves' annotations of Lilly's autobiography are superbly enlightening. When, for instance, Lilly tells us that his almanac *White King's Prophecy* sold 1,800 copies in just three days, followed by reprints, Caves explains: “A sell-through rate this aggressive was very rare, and an early indication of the prominence Lilly would soon reach as England's leading astrologer”. This beautifully produced book is dense in detail yet elegantly direct in style, making it a pleasure to read in every sense.



Planetary Hours
Bob Makransky
The Wessex Astrologer, £11 paperback

Bob Makransky's new book ably taps the rising vogue for traditional

astrology, though eschewing the fatalism often assigned to so-called ‘magical’ ancient approaches. He describes *Planetary Hours* (PH) as the “astrology of luck” and a method of finding empowering life moments for the proper exercise of freewill – to be yourself and