

## The Stars and Stripes -

### The USA Presidential Inaugurations and the Complex Sky

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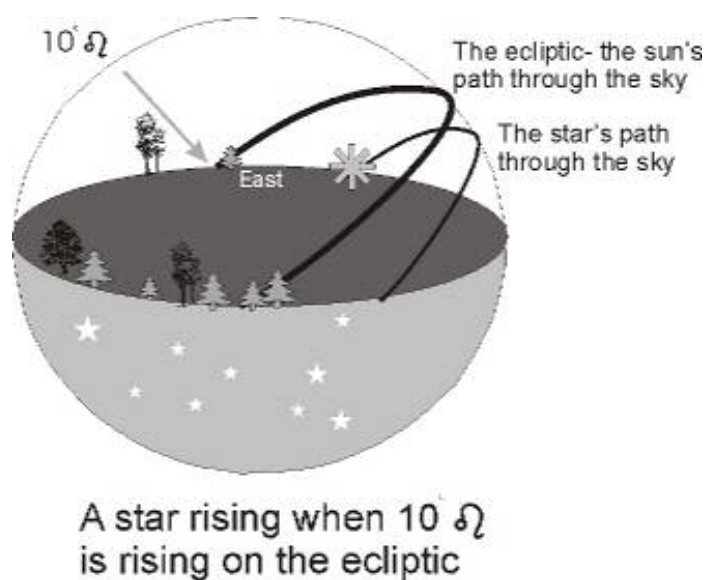
Places and calendar dates have a relationship. We raise monuments at these places and hold ceremonies at these monuments on the calendar dates of the events enshrined in that time and place – the anniversary. Two such times and places for the USA are the events of 9/11 in New York City and Pearl Harbour in the Pacific. For Australians, one of these is the cold and windswept cliffs of Gallipoli. For the British it is, the Lord Nelson commemoration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar later this year (2005) at Gibraltar. Culturally we acknowledge time's relationships to certain places.

But as astrologers our knowledge of this relationship is generally retrospective. Our astrology is better suited to looking at what has happened, rather than providing a tool which we can use to explore the potential of a place to produce an event, to explore the inherent quality of a location. Granted we do have the technique of Astro Carto Graphy but this method views the earth as a neutral canvas, blank and empty, waiting for a planet line to impregnate it. Yet the earth is not a neutral canvas. Places and regions have an inherent quality and some of this quality, I believe, comes from a location's relationship with the sky, the whole sky.

If we focus solely on the planets and their movement along the ecliptic, then we tend to forget what is meant by the word *fixed* when referring to the stars. The earth rotates on its axis and every day the whole sky, stars, planets, ecliptic, sun and moon appear to rise and set. Yet unlike the planets, the stars are, for all observations and purposes, fixed in their place in the dome of the sky and therefore, since the dome of the sky appears to rotate, they will, for any given place, always rise in the same place on the horizon, set on the same place on the horizon, and culminate at the same degree of elevation above the horizon. They do

not wander around the sky, changing their times and positions of rising, setting and culmination like the planets. They are fixed. To change this we must either wait a hundred years for precession to move these positions by roughly a degree or, and this is the important point, change our location.

Given the fixity of the stars for a particular location, a star will always rise (or set, culminate or be on the IC) when a certain degree of the ecliptic is rising (or set, culminate or be on the IC). The star may be further around to the north or south of the ecliptic but when it (the star) touches the horizon, we can look to see what degree of the ecliptic is also touching the horizon. This degree of the ecliptic may not be occupied by a transiting planet or luminary, nevertheless a given degree of the zodiac will be tied to a group or a single star for that particular latitude.



*Figure 1-* Ignoring precession, for any given location, a star will always rise with the same degree of the ecliptic and at the same place on the horizon. As transiting planets or the luminaries move into the 10<sup>th</sup> degree of Leo, then when that planet rises it and the star will be in a paran relationship.

For example, the star Sirius the brightest star in the sky (the Dog Star, known to the Egyptians as The Scorcher) will always co-rise with  $10^0$  Leo for the latitude of New York, NY but for Tokyo, Japan it co-rises with  $5^0$  Leo. So for New York every year the sun co-rises with Sirius on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August (when the sun is at  $10^0$  Leo), but for Tokyo this date is around the 27<sup>th</sup> July (when the sun is at  $5^0$  Leo). Further south down in Sydney, Australia, Sirius co-rises when  $14^0$  Gemini is rising and this corresponds to the 4<sup>th</sup> June (when the sun is at  $14^0$  Gemini). These cities have a relationship of star and sun on different dates and these dates are a reflection of the latitude of the city<sup>1</sup>.

So fixed stars are fixed and this fixity gives us an important tool which enables us to examine the quality and potential of a particular latitude for the unfolding of certain types of events. Specific bands of latitude on the globe are coupled with specific fixed star combinations. Therefore the different bands of latitude are not the same. Some latitudes will have combinations of difficult stars where they will move onto the angles (rising, setting culmination or on the IC) at the same time. Other latitude bands may have a combination of stars which are more productive or successful. A single band of latitude may contain both where certain ecliptical degree combinations align with difficult stars while other ecliptical degree combinations align with easier stars. Every line of latitude on the earth is rich with its own stories, history, qualities and potentials and these have been seriously neglected by astrologers.

Accordingly a given band of latitude has key degree positions on the ecliptic. If transiting outer planets move into these degree positions, then a nexus is formed between stars, planets and the earth for that particular latitude and time and so events tend to unfold. Such patterns can be seen if one examines historical events which are sorted by latitude. If they also involve the transiting sun in paran to a star, then they will also occur around the same calendar date. Consider the following events:

The San Francisco earthquake of 1906 happened on 18<sup>th</sup> April at latitude 37N36

The Oklahoma City Bombing of 1995 happened on 19<sup>th</sup> April at latitude 35N29

The assassination of Abraham Lincoln in Washington, DC, in 1865 happened on 15<sup>th</sup> April at latitude 38N54

These events occurred in mid-April, for a latitude band around 36<sup>0</sup> north, which is the period in which Sirius rises when the sun is culminating<sup>2</sup>. Every year the sun and Sirius are tied together in mid-April at this latitude. Now there are many years where no events occur but this combination speaks of a potential, a potent potential between place and calendar. When the outer planets form a difficult pattern and at the same time occupy one or more of these key degree positions for this latitude, then the stage is set for memorable events to occur. See *figure 2*.

The San Francisco earthquake occurred in this “charged time” when a tight Uranus-Neptune opposition was in paran with Alhena, the heel of the twin Pollux. In mundane work this star is known as *a ground shaker*.

The Oklahoma City Bombing occurred in this “charged time” when Uranus-Neptune conjunction was in paran with Altair the Eagle meaning in mundane terms:

*Ungrounded, ill planned or fanatical actions<sup>3</sup>*

The assassination of Abraham Lincoln occurred in this “charged time” when transiting Pluto had moved into a key zodiacal position so that it was in paran with Algol at this latitude :

*Assassination, to kill one's enemies*



*Figure 2-* For this latitude band in mid-April when the Sun culminates ( $24^{\circ}$  -  $25^{\circ}$  Aries),  $6^{\circ}$  -  $7^{\circ}$  Leo are rising. This is also the degree at which Sirius will rise every day for this latitude. In mid-April therefore the sun and Sirius are in paran for the cities in this latitude band.

Place and time have relationships. When those relationships involve the sun, as in these three examples, then place also has a relationship to a calendar date. For latitudes of around  $36^{\circ}$  north, the time of mid-April is a potentially difficult time and if other factors become involved via the movement of the outer planets, then events can unfold<sup>4</sup>.

These types of dates are littered through history, for example the Great Fire of London erupted on September 2, 1666, and the London Blitz of WWII began on September 7, 1940. At both of these times London was nearly destroyed. Is this a coincidence? No. From an astrological point of view, London in early September every year is governed by a star called Alpherat, the heart of the Serpent<sup>5</sup>. Some years there is a coming together of difficult planetary patterns just at the right degrees of the ecliptic at the right time of the year. For the Great Fire of London it was a Saturn-Neptune conjunction; for the London Blitz Saturn and Neptune, were not in aspect to each other but by a strange quirk of the mathematics of that latitude, they both formed parans to the same stars as for the Great Fire.

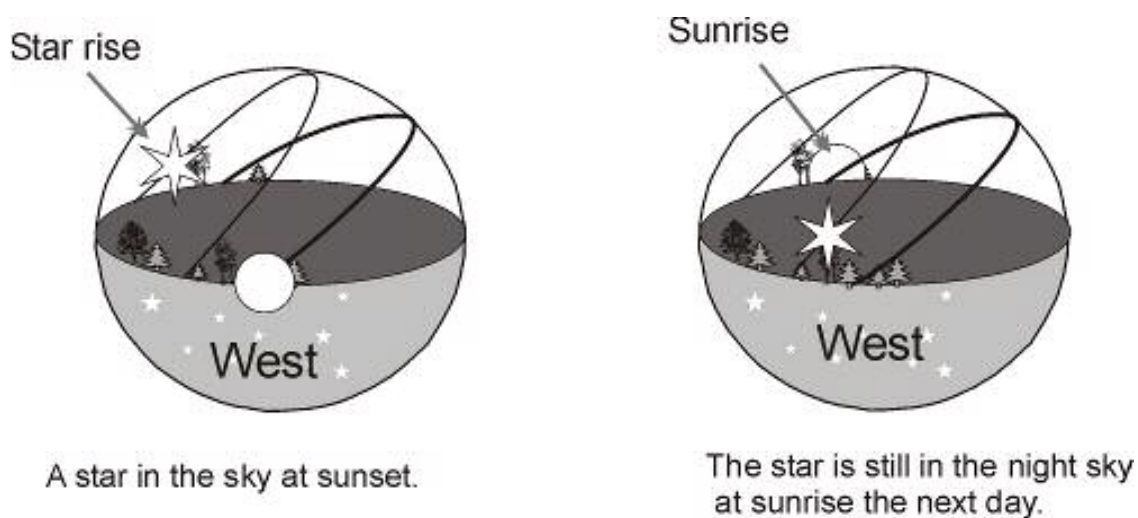
Place and time do have a quality and one of the ways we can explore this potential is to examine the possible unions of stars and planets for a location.

### **Star Phases – the dance of stars**

This fixity produces more than just stars that rise with the sun. It also produces a type of ballet, an annual dance of stars over a particular location which few astrologers appreciate or even understand. Over your city or town there is a precise calendar pattern to a given star's annual rhythm. Stars have their own individual path through the sky. For some stars this pathway can be shorter than the path that the sun takes (*see figure 1*) and these stars will disappear from view at a set calendar date. Even if you watch the night sky from dusk to the next dawn you will not see that star. However, at the same calendar date later in the year once again the star will rise, just before the sun. Now if you watch the star over the next few days and weeks it will appear to rise earlier and earlier until one night it will set just before sunset and then not be visible again until at the same calendar date next year when you will again see it rising just before the sunrise.

Such a star is thought to be born again when seen in the predawn light, for it was considered by the Egyptians that the star had travelled into the realm of the Underworld, died, and was now born again. This star was called by Claudius Ptolemy<sup>6</sup> the Heliacal Rising Star<sup>7</sup>.

Nevertheless if you really are star watching, you would also notice that there was another group of stars. These stars have a pathway through the sky which can at times be longer than the path of the sun. These stars will set in the west at some time during the night. Each night the star will set at a time which was closer and closer to dawn until one night the star will not set at all. Instead it remains in the sky the whole night and the sun will rise *before* the star is seen to set. (*see figure 3*)



*Figure 3* – Some stars can, at fixed times of the year, be seen in the east at sunset and still be visible in the night sky the following dawn. Such a star does touch the horizon and is therefore said to have lost touch with the mortal earth and joined the realm of the immortal deities which are the circumpolar stars.

Such a star will “lose touch” with the earth on the same calendar date from one year to the next for that location. This star was deemed to be a deity who was visiting the realm of the immortals, those beings who never died because they never set, The pole star Polaris is the most obvious example of an immortal star. When this star returned from this realm and was seen to set again just before the dawn it was understood to be rejoining life on earth and Ptolemy called this star the Heliacal Setting Star<sup>8</sup>.

### **Stars govern a period of time**

When a star returned from its journey from the Underworld or returned from its annual visit to the Immortals, it was believed to govern that time and that place until the next star took over and returned to once again touch the earth. Two millennia ago the calendar was measured by these star risings and settings. Such a star calendar was called a *parapegma*. The *parapegma* was originally a peg board or stone in which markers or pegs were moved to measure the days of the year as different stars rose or set before the dawn<sup>9</sup>.

Once a star governs a period of time the nature of that star will dictate the quality of the period of time until the next star takes over. Thus any given location has an annual rhythm

with, set times of the year being governed by set stars that hand over their governorship on the same dates each year. This is the potential of a place, the rhythm of a city. For the city of Washington, DC, the parapegma for the first four months of any year of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century looks like this<sup>10</sup>:

Date of change of Governorship	Heliacal Rising Star –	Heliacal Setting Star	The quality of the governorship
January 2	Acumen		Scandal and Rumors
January 4		Mirfak	A time of action
January 16		Capella	Independently minded
January 23		Pollux	A painful truth coming to light
January 25		Castor	New ideas, new knowledge
February 9	Rukbat		A time of steadiness, a time of no change
February 17	Deneb Algedi		A time of the establishment and the law
February 19		Regulus	A noble, righteous act that inspires the nation
March 31		Zosma	The small person, or underdog, takes centre stage
April 5		Denebola	Clashes with the Establishment
April 9	Fomalhaut		Idealism, illusion, and even deception, abound
April 29		Vindemiatrix	A time of gathering people or ideas together

*Figure 4* – A partial parapegma for Washington, DC (and other cities at this latitude). Each period has two governing stars which hold their influence until the next star in their column takes over. Note the pattern here for Washington under the Heliacal Rising stars – Scandal and rumors for all of January, then a shift to the focus of law and order which holds sway from mid-February till early April where a period of illusion is encountered. This calendar is affected by precession but this movement is only one day in seventy two years.

Every latitude band has such an annual calendar and every one will be different. Now we can think about a relationship between calendar and place in terms of the stars. Some periods of the year will be blessed with joyful or creative stars which provide a background of potency. For a given city or place some days will be naturally happy, while other days will hold sadness. Some days will contain the potential for tragedy while others the potential for invention, good news, success, political embarrassment, human interest news stories, corporate greed, petty crime, school announcements and so on. The list is endless. Sometimes this will occur over a period of only a few days; other times it can be a few



weeks as a star holds sway over a particular city until the next star returns from the Underworld or from its journey with the Immortals.

Nor are all years the same. As each star takes over its period of governorship, the parans of the planets and stars current for that period come into effect, in the same way that people of the same sun sign are not all the same. As each person has the rest of their chart which alters the expression or unfolding nature of the sun sign, so stars will have governorship (a better word than rulership in this instance) of a particular place and date. However the quality of this governorship will vary from one year to the next via the other star and planet parans happening at that time.

### **The First Tuesday in November**

As a people we tend to organise events to fall on set calendar dates and set places. In Melbourne, Australia the first Tuesday in November is devoted to a horse race called the Melbourne Cup. By a good chance rather than design at that latitude at that time of the year the sun rises with Procyon, a bright star linked with glamour and glitter<sup>11</sup>. In mundane work, Starlight simply says of this combination:

*A time of sporting success or short-lived, ephemeral glories*

This is the perfect background for the nature of this event and is, I feel, one of the astrological reasons for its growth from a small provincial race starting in 1861 to one of the major racing events of the sporting world. But what would happen if the Melbourne racing authorities to another month? In effect they would be placing the event and all of its importance into another type of time, a time charged with different stars, different potentials, which may or may not be supportive of the horse race.

In the USA, however, in every fourth year the first Tuesday in November is a race of a different nature. It is Election Day. On that date, for the latitude of Washington, DC, the governing stars are Spica and Alpheratz. Spica, the Wheat sheaf of Virgo, symbolises

making the most of an opportunity, or a choice and Alpheratz in Pegasus, the flying horse, is concerned with making changes, asking us to take action, to not be restricted<sup>12</sup>.

This is a good combination for a political election. This is the potency of that time of the year for that latitude. All elections are different from each other and depend, according to astrology, on the position of the planets and how those planets relate to other stars on any particular election day. Nevertheless the background energy is in rapport with the intentions and actions of the population. Any changes to this date, just like in the example of the Melbourne Cup, could have serious long-term consequences, for according to astrology, it would open the door to different energies and flood this important event with energies that may not be so supportive.

Yet a key date in US political events has been changed; firstly in its location and secondly in its calendar date. When George Washington became the first US president, he was inaugurated<sup>13</sup> on April 30, 1789, in Wall Street, New York City. After that inauguration the event was moved to Philadelphia, PA and the date was changed to March 4. It was then moved to Washington for the 1801 inauguration of Thomas Jefferson. Having settled on that place in 1933, the date was changed from March 4<sup>th</sup> to January 20<sup>th</sup> for the second inauguration of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

1789	April 30 – George Washington	New York, NY
1793	March 4 – George Washington	Philadelphia, PA
1801	March 4 – Thomas Jefferson	Washington, DC
1937	January 20 – Franklin D. Roosevelt	Washington, DC

*Figure 5* – A summary of the changes to the inauguration dates and places for the US presidents. The president listed in the table is the first president to be inaugurated on that calendar date.

So the important event of the inauguration of the presidents of the USA has been placed into different places and different dates. Like a seed it has been planted into different types of soil, time of different quality. What were and are these qualities and have these changes been of service or disservice to the presidency?

First let us consider the inauguration of George Washington in 1789.

*Note: The following meanings are from the delineations that I researched for the software Starlight. Starlight is also designed to take the date of an event and search back in time to find the dawn where a star was returning to the earth – either becoming the newly-crowned Heliacal Rising star or Heliacal Setting star. Such a time is thought to give the astrological flavor to the unfolding days for that place until the next star takes over as Heliacal Rising or Setting star.*

**April 30<sup>th</sup> 1789 – New York, NY** and for the next fifty years the governing star took over its position on April 29<sup>th</sup> and these were the themes of that time:

**THE ANNUAL THEMES THAT REOCCUR FOR THIS LATITUDE EVERY YEAR IN THIS ERA**

**Heliacal Rising Star**

Fomalhaut - Rising before Sunrise -

*Idealism, illusion and even deception abound*

**Heliacal Setting Star**

Vindemiatrix - Setting before Sunrise -

*A time of gathering people or ideas together*

**Sun** - The stars in paran with the Sun on this day

Setting when Mirach is Setting

*The promotion of peace, or order, in a territory*

Rising when Altair is Culminating

*Bold or daring actions by a group or a person, military matters*

Rising when Vindemiatrix is Setting

*People gather together, an event that unites*

These are fairly self-explanatory. Here we see that the ritual of the first presidency planted in a rich, supportive soil. The act of creating a republic and a president was a noble idea, an idea full of dreams held together by ideals which united people, a bold venture, a pathway to peace, the victory of self-government after the military matters of the American War of

Independence. This was a good day and a good place for George Washington to stand on a balcony on Wall Street and take the oath of office. It gives the fledgling nation the best chance to grow into its dreams. And grow it did.

For the second inauguration both the date and the place were changed. George Washington's second inauguration was on March 4, in Philadelphia.

**March 4,1793 - Philadelphia, PA** and for the next fifty years approximately the governing star took over its position on the February 16th and these were the themes of that time:

**THE ANNUAL THEMES THAT REOCCUR FOR THIS LATITUDE EVERY YEAR IN THIS ERA**

**Heliacal Rising Star**

Deneb Algedi - Rising before Sunrise -  
*A time of the Establishment and the law*

**Heliacal Setting Star**

Regulus – Setting before Sunrise -  
*A noble, righteous act that inspires the nation*

**Sun - The stars in paran with the Sun on this day**

Setting when Sualocin is Setting  
*The talented long-shot takes centre stage*

Culminating when Rukbat is Setting  
*A leader stands steady, or a leader is seen to be stubborn*

Rising when Regulus is Setting  
*To engage in a noble, or military, endeavor*

As can be seen from the quality of this date for Philadelphia, the shift of the inauguration put the presidency, with all its new dreams of nationhood, on a more solid footing. Gone is the idealism of the April 30<sup>th</sup> New York inauguration and now in its place we have the energy of Deneb Algedi, the tail of the goat of Capricorn. This is the mark of law and order, the establishment acting in a ritual which is about nobility, an act that inspires a nation (Regulus the heart of the Lion and one of the royal stars of Persia). Present also is a

statement concerning the new concept of a republic which elects its leader bases on their ability, rather than anointing the heir to the throne (Sualocin in paran with the sun). The inauguration in Philadelphia was a good move.

However, things were still changing. At about noon on Saturday November 1, 1800, the second president of the United States, John Adams, arrived in Washington City and went immediately to the new "President's House." The house, later known as the White House, was unfinished with only half the thirty six rooms plastered and only one stair case completed.

Just a few months after Adams moved into the White House, Thomas Jefferson became the third president of the United States. His inauguration on March 4, 1801, ended twelve years of Federalist rule and some feared that the legitimate empowerment of this rival political party, the Jeffersonian Republicans, would tear the country apart, perhaps even bring it to another revolution. So this inauguration was held in the new seat of power, Washington DC. This was only a small shift of latitude with Philadelphia being sited at 39N59 and Washington, DC at 38N49, so the stars are quite similar and as for Philadelphia, they talk of law and order.

**March 4, 1801 - Washington, DC** and for the next hundred years the governing star took its position on the February 17<sup>th</sup> and these were the themes of that time:

THE ANNUAL THEMES THAT REOCCUR FOR THIS LATITUDE EVERY YEAR IN THIS ERA

**Heliacal Rising Star**

Deneb Algedi - Rising before Sunrise -  
*A time of the Establishment and the law*

**Heliacal Setting Star**

Regulus - Setting before Sunrise -  
*A noble, righteous act that inspires the nation*

**Sun - The stars in paran with the Sun on this day**

Setting when Alphecca  
*Strength and leadership found through hardship*  
Rising when Regulus  
*To engage in a noble, or military, endeavor*  
Rising when Mirach  
*The promotion of peace, or order, in a territory*

The only change is the star Sualocin which has been replaced by Alphecca, the alpha star of the Northern Crown. The Greeks called this constellation the Wreath and the star is linked to the action of being offered a crown. Now the candidate who will be offered the crown is a hard working respected leader, skill alone is not enough. Once again different types of presidents are reflected in the different charts for each inauguration but all of them were planted in this quality of time which promoted the growth of a noble, strong country.

**Lincoln's Inauguration - a March 4 type**

Let us consider a few inauguration charts which were embedded into time-place quality.

The chart for Abraham Lincoln's first inauguration, I have set to noon<sup>14</sup> on March 4, 1861 in Washington, DC:

### Abraham Lincoln - inauguration

Natal Chart  
 4 Mar 1861 NS  
 12:00 LMT +5:08:09  
 Washington, DC  
 38° N 53 42' 07" W 02° 12'  
 Geocentric  
 Tropical  
 Placidus  
 Mean Node

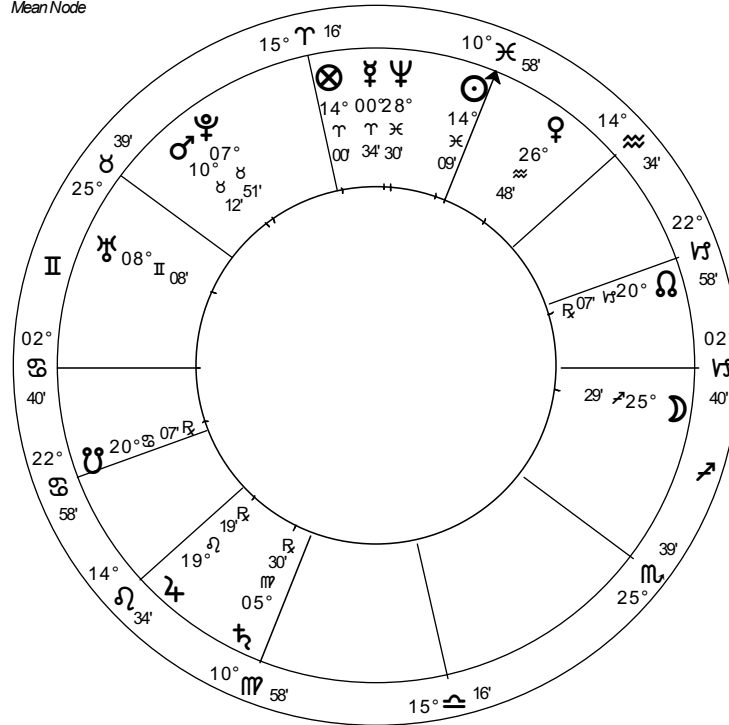


Chart 1 – The first Inauguration of Abraham Lincoln. March 4, 1861 at 12 noon LMT (estimated time) in Washington, DC 38N53 77W02.

One of the features of this chart is the Mars-Pluto conjunction.

Given that we already understand the *quality* of this time and place, we can expect that this stellar quality will enhance certain planetary combinations in the chart that are of a similar nature while reduce the potency of other planetary combination which are not of its nature.

The quality of this time and place already contains the theme of leadership in the face of hardship, as well as the themes of military activity which enabling us to highlight the Mars-Pluto in his inauguration chart and say that there will be military endeavors of great hardship. Indeed it was Lincoln who took the Union into the Civil War, the most bloody of

conflicts. Indeed the Civil War began April, 12 1861, within five weeks of his inauguration. One can then look at the actual Mars and star links (parans) for the period of the day of his inauguration and see not only the bloodshed but also the potential for the Union victory:

**Mars** - of the inauguration chart

On Nadir when Facies is Rising

*Matters of endurance or great hardship*

Setting when Sualocin is On Nadir

*Assuming mastery of the territory, to take the upper hand*

This is the key: to look for support for a particular theme at *both* levels of the astrology, on the ecliptic – that is in the horoscope - as well as in the sky, using the full dome of the celestial sphere. This point bears repeating - one should look for an issue firstly in the horoscope and then look for its nature or expression being reflected in the stellar background.

### **The Change of Inauguration Date**

In order to allow enough time for officials to gather elections results after election day as well as for candidates to make the long journey in the winter months to the north of the country, the United States had enshrined in its constitution that the inauguration would be held on March 4, unless that was a Sunday and then it was held on the March 5. However, with improvements in communication as well as travel, the lengthy time until the transition of power now seemed unnecessary and in 1933, with the passage of the Twentieth Amendment, the constitution was changed to move the date to January 20, unless that was a Sunday and then it was moved to January 21.

Hence with the second inauguration of Franklin D Roosevelt (his second of four), the seeds of nationhood and presidency were to be planted into a different type of soil. A different time and therefore a different quality was being used as the foundation for the presidency.



**January 20, 1937 - Washington, DC** and for the next two or three decades the governing star took its position on the January 15th and these were the themes of that time:

**THE ANNUAL THEMES THAT REOCCUR FOR THIS LATITUDE EVERY YEAR IN THIS ERA**

**Heliacal Rising Star**

Acumen - Rising before Sunrise -

*Scandal and rumors*

**Heliacal Setting Star**

Capella - Setting before Sunrise -

*A period which favors the independently-minded*

**Sun - The stars in paran with the Sun on this day**

Setting when Schedar is Culminating -

*The people, or an exalted woman, act with dignity*

Rising when Algol is On Nadir -

*A person who destroys through passion*

On Nadir when Alpheratz is Setting -

*To take independent action*

Culminating when Altair is Culminating -

*Bold or daring actions by a group or a person, military matters*

Rising when Menkar is On Nadir -

*A time of extremes of action, or weather*

This is a vastly different theme to the March 4 date. Gone is the nobility, the honor, the action that inspires a nation. Not all presidents will be hounded by scandal and rumors and not all presidents will be driven to the extremes of the nuclear attack on Japan (symbolized by the joining of the two stars Algol and Menkar with the sun) but this is the soil in which the ritual of the inauguration was now planted. This is the potential into which the US presidents and thus US history are embedded from 1933 onwards.

**A few inaugurations of the January 20 type**

To date Richard Nixon has been the only president to resign in office. The second inauguration of Richard Nixon on January 20, 1973, is the following chart:

**Richard Milhous Nixon - 2nd inauguration**

**Natal Chart**  
 20 Jan 1973  
 12:00 EST +5:00  
 Washington, DC  
 38° N 53' 42" 077° W 02' 12"  
 Geocentric  
 Tropical  
 Placidus  
 Mean Node

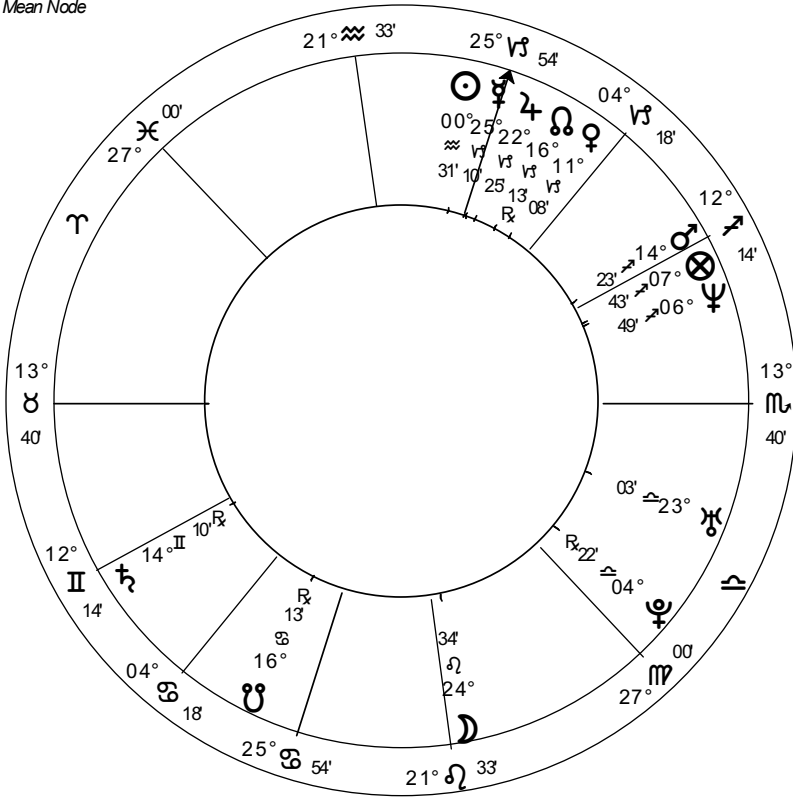


Chart 2 – Richard Nixon’s 2<sup>nd</sup> inauguration. January 20, 1973 Noon EST (estimated time) Washington, DC. 38N53 77W02.

This chart contains a strong Mercury, as well as a partile Mars Saturn opposition with a wide separating conjunction between Neptune and Mars.

### **Mercury and Scandal**

The background star theme already contains the potential for scandal or rumors with Acumen (one of the stings of the Scorpion) being the Heliacal Rising Star governing that time period.

Into this star theme is an inauguration chart which has a strong Mercury in Capricorn (common to many inauguration charts for this period of the year). This particular Mercury is tightly conjunct the MC and its ruler, Saturn, happens to be in Mercury's sign of Gemini. Additionally Mercury forms a square to Uranus and a conjunction to Jupiter. Thus Mercury is emphasized in this chart. There are many ways such a strong Mercury could be delineated. We could say that there small ideas or information keeps expanding and growing (Mercury conjunct Jupiter) with totally unexpected outcomes (the square to Uranus) which have difficult or even fatal results (bringing in the nature of the Saturn-Mars opposition). However, when we consider the background star potential, then we begin to understand that, combined with the Acumen, this could open the doorway to scandals and rumors.

The unfolding story of the strong Mercury in the inauguration horoscope has a tendency therefore to flow into the Mercurial themes of rumor and scandal present in the background star themes. There is a match, a *sympatico* between horoscope and stars.

Additionally Mars is being emphasized in the chart by it opposition with Saturn (and the possible wide separating conjunction to Neptune)

Mars parans for this period:

Setting when **Murzim** is On Nadir

*Alarming news, news of events that causes anger and demands action*

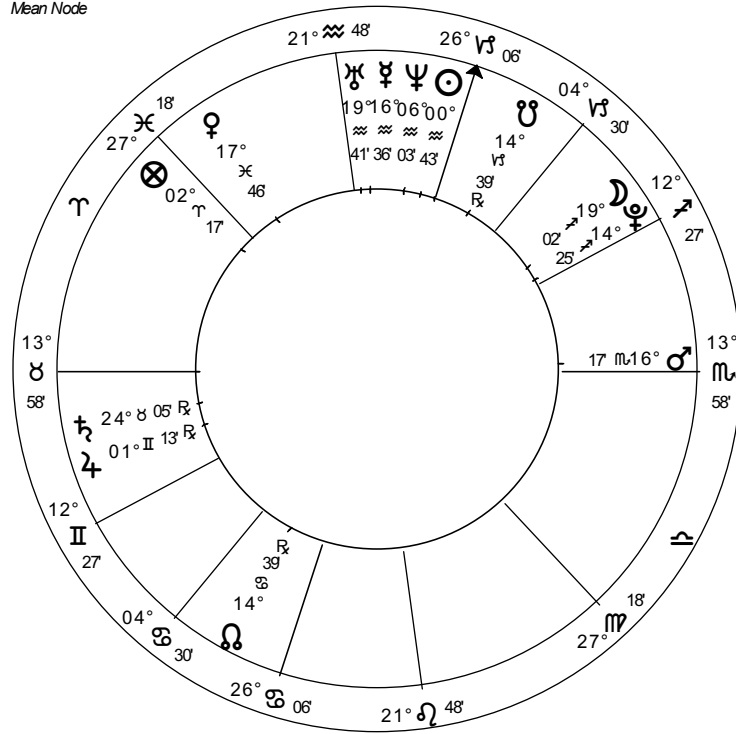
Culminating when **Betelgeuse** is Setting

*The establishment uses a heavy hand*

Granted these parans could be referring to a separate event but given that Nixon was already embroiled in Watergate (it started to unfold in the election year of 1972), then the stars linked with the horoscope of the inauguration are indicating that these rumors, or some other rumors, will only grow stronger. These rumors of course lead to Nixon's resignation. There are other factors here with Nixon's inauguration chart and the stars but let us move on to the current president.

George W. Bush has had two inaugurations. The first inauguration was January 20, 2001 in Washington, DC.

**George W. Bush - inauguration**  
**Natal Chart**  
 20 Jan 2001  
 12:00 EST +5:00  
 Washington, DC  
 38° N 53' 42" 077° W 02' 12"  
 Geocentric  
 Tropical  
 Placidus  
 Mean Node



**Chart 3** – George W. Bush's first inauguration. January 20, 2001 Noon EST (estimated time) Washington, DC. 38N53 77W02.

George W. Bush was elected with a minority of the popular vote and the potential for scandal, rumors and the muttering of corruption was a rich legacy from the elections. Yet the chart contains a Mercury-Uranus conjunction squaring both Mars and Saturn. With Jupiter not involved and Mercury not tight to the MC plus the Moon-Pluto conjunction the rumor potential is reduced. Instead we see in this horoscope a sudden and unexpected event or piece of news which can talk of hardship or even war. This could be economic, military or social hardship. We still have the annual star theme linked to this date and place, which for Bush's first inauguration was:

### **Heliacal Rising Star**

**Acumen** - Rising before Sunrise  
*Scandal and rumors*

### **Heliacal Setting Star**

**Capella** - Setting before Sunrise  
*A period which favors the independently minded*

**Sun** - The stars in paran with the Sun on this day  
Rising when **Algol** is On Nadir  
*A person who destroys through passion*  
Culminating when **Al Rescha** is Rising  
*A person who unites or polarises*  
On Nadir when **Alpheratz** is Setting  
*To take independent action*

When considering the quality of this time into which the inauguration chart is embedded we would bias our interpretation more towards the difficult Algol with the sun and its passion and destruction, rather than the rumors or scandal which was the focus with Nixon's chart. Keep in mind that we are looking for themes being repeated in both the sky and the chart and if we see these similar themes, these are the ones on which we can focus. In Bush's first inauguration chart we have the themes of sudden upset and new hardships, so these are the themes which we seek in the stars. If they are there as well, then that is a strong indication of the nature of the unfolding events.

We can expand this information by looking at the star parans to the planets involved in the particular combination. For Bush's first inauguration the follow star planet parans were also in effect:

**Uranus** with **Alphard** (The heart of the Serpent)

*Outrage in the community because of threats to families*

**Mars** with **Zuben Elgenubi** (One of the claws of the Scorpion)

*People helping people*

**Mercury** with

**Alkes** (The Cup) - *Important news that will be remembered by many*

**Antares** (The Heart of the Scorpion) - *Anxiety and worry*

For **Saturn** there are several stars but one that stands out is:

with **Pollux** (one of the twins of Gemini) -

*People's lives altered by a disaster, or the actions of an aggressive group*

Given this additional information, the sudden news item is more likely going to be a disaster affecting innocent people and/or families than a presidential scandal, as was the case for Nixon. Within eight months of this inauguration the events of 9/11 unfolded in New York City.

This marriage between sky and chart reveals a focus to the planetary patterns in the chart and enable us to gain clearer insights into the possible potential of the inauguration charts.

### **The 2005 Inauguration**

The current inauguration chart is George W Bush's 2<sup>nd</sup> inauguration on January 20<sup>th</sup> 2005.

In this chart we have Saturn in detriment conjunct the IC. Once again like Abraham Lincoln there is a Mars-Pluto conjunction. Additionally there is a Jupiter square Mercury-Venus, while the other major aspect is the Moon squaring Uranus.

### George W Bush's 2nd inauguration

Natal Chart  
 20 Jan 2005  
 12:00 EST +5:00  
 Washington, DC  
 38°N 53' 42" 077°W 02' 12"  
 Geocentric  
 Tropical  
 Placidus  
 Mean Node

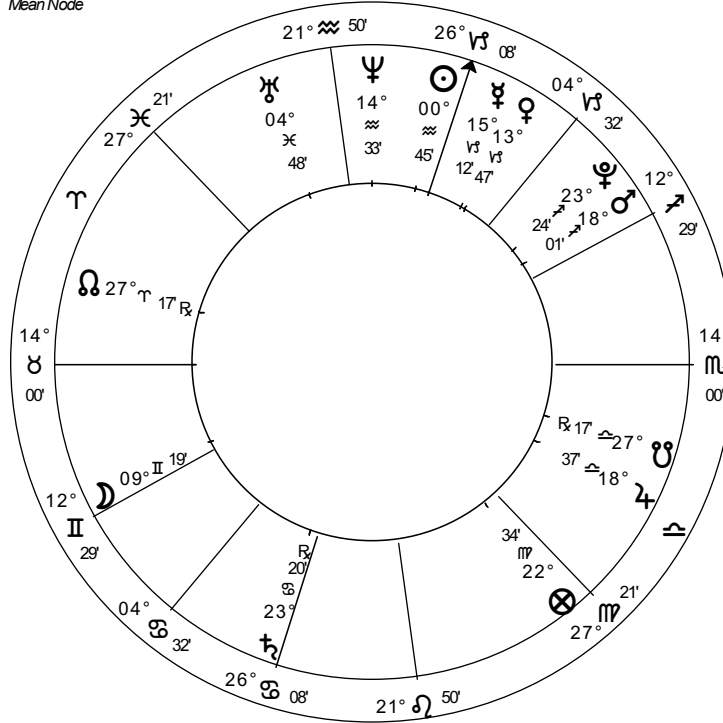


Chart 4 – George W. Bush's second inauguration. January 20, 2005. Noon EST (estimated time)  
 Washington, DC. 38N53 77W02.

Before considering this chart let us examine the stellar themes that are also present. We already have the difficult themes inherent for this time and this place produced by the Heliocal Rising and Setting stars and the parans to the sun but we can also consider the themes which are unique for this event. The following is the full printout from Starlight of star parans, apart from the solar annual themes already discussed.

The rest of the stellar themes for January 20, 2005 Washington, DC – Stellar period commencing January 16.

#### THE BACKGROUND THEMES WHICH CAN BE ACTIVE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS

**Uranus** - Public opinion, Public expectations  
 On Nadir when Ras Algethi is Rising  
*A sudden upset in the political balance of power*

#### THE ACUTE THEMES THAT ARE ACTIVE JUST FOR THIS TIME PERIOD

**Moon** - The Emotions of the People  
 when Spica is culminating - *The hope that new technologies, or a new plan, will save the day*  
 when Murzim is Rising - *Emotional speeches, emotion-charged announcements*

**Mercury** - Business and the Media  
 Hamal is On Nadir - *Jolting news, the truth unveiled*  
 when Sirius is Culminating  
*- A publication, or the words of a person, have far-reaching repercussions*

**Venus** - The Social Conventions  
 when Alhena is On Nadir - *Social reform issues*  
 when Denebola is Setting - *Society's ideas or standards ruffled*  
 when Al Rescha is On Nadir - *Recognizing what lies underneath a social issue*  
 when Vega is Culminating - *A celebration of the arts, a charismatic person takes centre stage*  
 when Facies is Culminating - *A ruthless approach to social problems, or savage artistic comment*  
 when Thuban is Culminating - *Protecting society's values and culture, even at the expense of other groups*

**Mars** - The Events of the Day  
 when Acumen is Setting - *To act against social opinion*  
 when Aculeus is Setting - *The hardships endured by people*  
 when Ankaa is Rising - *Seeing the previously unknown potential of a group or person*

**Jupiter** - The Type of Action which is Favored by this Period of Time  
 when Diadem is Culminating - *By helping others, old problems can be solved*  
 when Mirach is Culminating - *Greed and excesses*  
 when El Nath is Setting - *Aggressive actions or people rule the day*

**Saturn** - The Law and Civic Order  
 when Ankaa is Culminating - *Strong leadership comes out of chaos*

Are these horoscopic themes supported or altered by the stellar themes? Not all of these stellar themes will come to pass, just like not all the possible expressions of the inauguration chart will come to pass. This is one of the dilemmas of astrology: what to emphasise and



what to ignore? This is easy in retrospect but harder in the art of prediction. However, by looking at the horoscope and then looking at the stars for supporting or similar themes, we can focus our delineation of the inauguration chart.

### **Mars Pluto Theme**

The star parans indicate that the Mars-Pluto of the inauguration chart is not as violent as it was for Lincoln's first inauguration as it seems to be focused more on the themes of social opinion coming from hardships suffered by a particular group. So instead of a bloody conflict such as the Civil War of Lincoln's era, we are more likely to see angry social uprisings or a particular angry group within the community. This possible civil unrest will be fuelled by a heavy-handed or even aggressive action taken by those in power.

Additionally the star themes are indicating that from this turbulence a leader emerges.

### **Jupiter Mercury and Venus themes**

This planetary pattern is focused into the expression of an orator, a leader who can talk on social issues. This person could be from the political arena or they may be a spokes-Person from a grass-roots cause. The shadow side of the Jupiter-Venus combination is that of greed or over-indulgence, gross waste or neglect and this is also reflected in the stellar themes with Jupiter in paran with Mirach, the potentially artistic but also self-obsessed or over-indulgent star in Andromeda. So corporate greed or personal greed, or waste and excess may well be one of the unfolding issues of the next four years.

### **The Moon Uranus theme**

Moon-Uranus in any chart can talk of turbulence and upsets but here we see that this is also supported by the stellar themes. Both the full dome of the sky plus the horoscope are producing the same message: political upheaval.

It is possible with the angry community indicated by the Mars-Pluto that there will be a remarkable speech made by someone of the people who represents a disadvantaged group? Will this speech or action begin a landslide of change? Time will tell.

### **Future Inaugurations**

If the US continues to inaugurate its presidents on January, 20 in Washington, then it is not until the inauguration of Tuesday, January 20, 2037, that a new stellar background theme emerges. This inauguration still contains the same Heliacal Rising and Setting stars of Acumen and Capella and the sun still forms a paran to the difficult Algol. But gone is the theme of the independent, free-agent style president. The parans are:

#### **Sun - The stars in paran with the Sun on this day**

Rising when **Algol** is On Nadir

*A person who destroys through passion*

On Nadir when **Alphecca** is Rising

*Strength and leadership found through hardship*

Culminating when **Zuben Elgenubi** is Setting

*A time of salvation, a leader is sacrificed*

Interestingly a star returns that was first present for the inauguration in Washington of Thomas Jefferson on March 4, 1801. This star is Alphecca and it represent the Wreath, to be handed a crown. Linked with this is a socially-aware and humanitarian star, Zuben Elgenubi. Accordingly this will herald a new era of US presidency, one with less emphasis on the glory or power of the individual and more on the needs of the people. This theme will stay with the presidency, with variations, until the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **In Conclusion**

For most readers the concepts that I have expressed in this article may be quite foreign, different to the astrology to which they have become accustomed. Yet by combing both the sky with the chart, by using the full dome of the heaven with the horoscope we find that there is a great deal more information at the astrologer's finger-tips. Now without doubt this type of astrology is more complex, and harder for the astrologer to glance at and give quick judgement. Indeed it is for the very reason of its complexity that the Greeks abandoned the

starry sky and concentrated on the planets and the ecliptic. For them this was based in necessity. But we live in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and astrologers now sit with their hands on a computer keyboard, not an armillary sphere and therefore, unlike the Greeks, we can quickly and accurately reproduce the full dome of the sky for any time and place. We now have the tools which enable us to work with the whole sky. If astrology is to reflect life, then like life it will be complex. Surely now it is only the naïve or very-new to astrology who believe that a simple aspect or midpoint can explain or even be used to predict a complex forth coming event.

The sky, all of the sky, is a vital and key principal to our craft and we should not run from it or try to reduce it down to a neat simple line. Rather we need to allow it to have its full complexity, its full grandeur, its full voice. The parans and phases of the fixed stars provide us with a tool to gain a greater understanding of the unique relationship between the sky, the earth and time. This unique relationship gives us the nature of the quality of times that flow across the different cities and locations on the globe. By accepting the complex sky we not only gain an empowerment of our ability to delineate charts. We also gain a technique which starts to inform us about the quality of a location itself.

Notes:

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<sup>1</sup> Brady, Bernadette.(1998). *Brady's Book of Fixed Stars*. York Beach Maine, USA: Weisers. pp 82.

<sup>2</sup> The Civil War commenced on April, 12, 1861 in Charleston, South Carolina. This is another mid-April date for the US but it is at a latitude of 32<sup>0</sup>N47' which falls outside of the range given in the example. However, Sirius was also forming a paran with the sun on that day for this latitude.

<sup>3</sup> Taken from the mundane star and planet meanings given in Starlight software (www.zyntara.com)

<sup>4</sup> All non-polar latitudes will have annual dates where the sun is in paran to Sirius. This example is simply showing one of the background stellar influences for this latitude which history has shown to be sensitive to being amplified by other planetary and star events happening at the same time.

<sup>5</sup> Allen, Richard Hinckley.(1963) *Star Names, Their Lore and Meanings*. New York, USA: Dover Publications. pp 249.

<sup>6</sup> Ptomley, Claudius. (1993) *The Phases of the Fixed Stars*. Translator R. Hand. Berkley Springs, WV:Golden Hind Press.

<sup>7</sup> For a more detailed explanation of Star Phases see Brady, 1998; Evans, 1998.

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<sup>8</sup> For a more detailed explanation of Star Phases see Brady, 1998; Evans, 1998

<sup>9</sup> Evans, James. (1998). *The History and Practice of Ancient Astronomy*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. pp 200.

<sup>10</sup> The meanings of these star periods have been taken from Starlight.

<sup>11</sup> Brady (1998) pp89.

<sup>12</sup> Brady (1998) pp 51, 271.

<sup>13</sup> Inauguration is defined in this article as the organised ceremony of the president elect taking the oath of office. This is different to a swearing-in which occurs upon the death of the incumbent president and is held as soon as possible at the location of the vice-president, or next in succession to the presidency.

<sup>14</sup> The U.S. Constitution states that the term of the President expires at noon on the day of the inauguration. Therefore, I have set all the inaugurations charts to this time. Additionally any debate about the exact time of the beginning of a new president's term is not relevant for fixed star work as parans only require a date and place.