

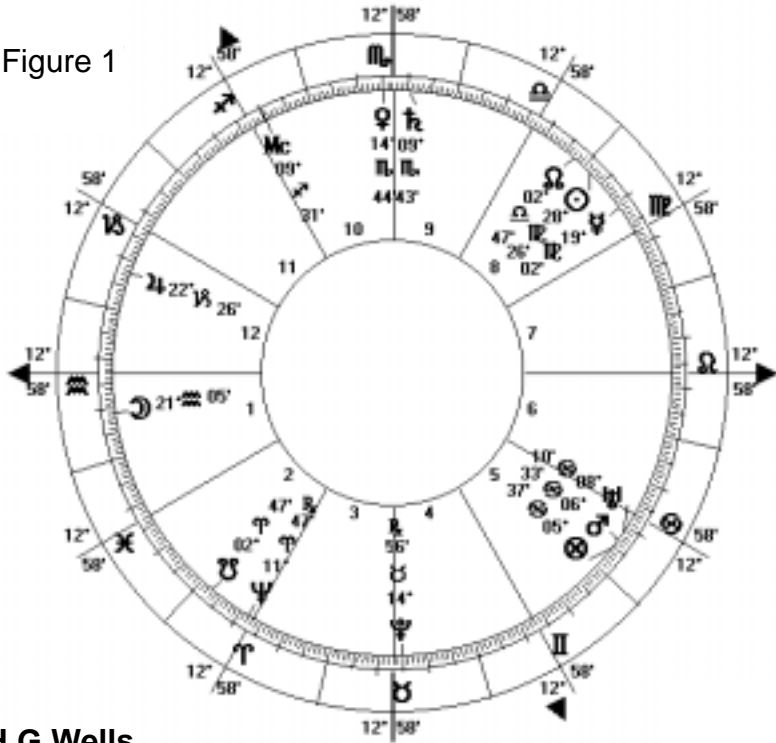
H G Wells' Kidney

In 1887 the young H G Wells, in the days before his success as a writer, moved to Wales to join the teaching staff of a school, Holt Academy. One of his duties was to supervise the pupils' games periods, and it was during a football match on the afternoon of August 30 of the same year that he was tackled heavily by a boy who apparently held a grudge against him. The result was damage to one of Wells' kidneys. Later that day he began passing blood with his urine, and for a week or more he was confined to bed and suffered considerable pain. There was no long-term damage, but one consequence of the incident was that, on medical advice, and much to his satisfaction, he was advised to leave the school.^{1,2}

If we examine the planetary positions for 30 August 1887, we discover that Venus was coming to its station at 6.14 Libra, almost exactly square to Wells' natal Mars at 6.33 Cancer (see figure 1). This is what we might call text-book clarity: it involves a 'difficult' square aspect, Venus and Libra are traditionally related to the kidneys, and Mars has a connection with blows or, more generally, with physical violence. To this we can add that the aspect is very close, and Venus is at its station, which means the aspect remains in close orb for a long period of time. An excellent fit, but can it be replicated?

Consider a second example involving injury to a bodily organ. One cold Boxing Day in 1995 a 7-year-old boy went sledging with his family. On one downhill run he lost control of the sledge and careered into a tree. It was the sort of accident that befalls many boys, usually without serious consequences. But in this case the result was a damaged liver, which continued to deteriorate over a number of years until only about a quarter of it remained functional. He spent eight months in hospital and underwent a number of operations until it came to the point, five years after the accident, that he faced death without a liver transplant. Happily a donor organ became available and he underwent an operation, although there were complications and a second transplant was required. This

Figure 1



H G Wells

Born: 21 September 1866, 16.30 GMT, Bromley

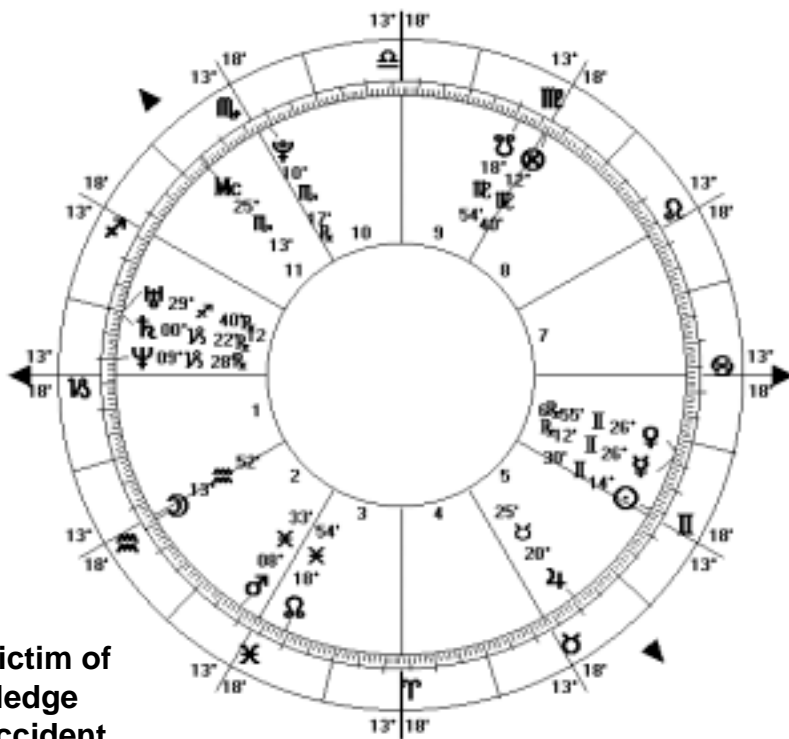
proved successful and within a few months of the operation the boy was fit and well enough to be winning junior golf tournaments.

Just as traditional astrology relates Venus to the kidneys, so Jupiter is said to correspond to the liver. If we look at the transits and progressions to the boy's natal chart (figure 2) on the day of the accident we observe that transiting Mars made a very close aspect to natal Jupiter, although it is an 'easy' trine. Transiting Sun conjoined the midpoint of the natal Saturn-Neptune conjunction, while transiting Moon was within a degree of natal Mars. In other words, astrology does describe the incident quite well and quite simply, although perhaps not in such a striking way as in the case of Wells.

A third case, again taken from a newspaper report, involves a teenage boy who fell over on some rocky ground and damaged one of his kidneys, which as a result had to be removed. If we investigate the transits to the boy's chart at the time of the accident we find that Saturn opposes the Sun, Jupiter trines the close natal Pluto/Venus conjunction in Scorpio, (a natal combination, some might argue, suggestive of some sort of loss involving the Venus function), while Moon closely conjoins natal Mars at the time of incident (about 8pm), an identical transit to the case of the sledding accident.

The significance of the Saturn transit is perhaps not immediately

Figure 2



**Victim of
sledge
accident**

Born: 4 June 1988, (23.50 BST) 22.50 GMT, Edinburgh

obvious, although we can speculate that in the course of time it will become more apparent. We don't know, but it is possible the accident has limited the boy's opportunities for the future. While it is quite possible to live a normal life with one kidney, less-than-perfect health counts as a bar to certain lines of work. The natal chart is strongly Sagittarian, so Saturn here could also be bringing some much needed down-to-earth reality to an over-exuberant nature, (which might have been the cause of the fall in the first instance).

Again this is speculative. I know no more about the boy's life than the brief facts published in a newspaper report. I speculate to remind that astrology can put a larger perspective of incidents like this and we can move beyond the correspondences of the sort favoured by more traditional astrology, Venus = kidney, Mars = blow. We also note a transit involving Saturn in the case of the boy involved in the sledge accident and it is plain enough that his future has been shaped significantly by his unfortunate early-life experience of surgery and confinement in hospital. In effect it has robbed him of a good portion of his childhood. Indeed, the natal set-up, with three planets in the 12th house, a strong Saturn side (Capricorn rising, Saturn in Capricorn) and Neptune conjunct the ascendant underlines this and also accords with traditional thinking. (Indeed, it is a case where houses – a 6/12 emphasis by equal division – seem to provide good information.)

In the case of Wells, if we look at the bigger picture, we can see that the accident was in fact liberating rather than restricting. When we are on the wrong path we sometimes get these digs in the ribs from Fate (quite literally in Wells' case). Wells was not destined to teach in some backwater school but would achieve a more encompassing realisation of the self, as a writer and public figure. However, this bigger picture does not seem to be mirrored in the transits and progressions of the time. The planets told a story of the immediate event.

The correspondences of signs and planets with parts of the body originated in older times and came about largely as the result of deductive thought based upon the hermetic principle of 'as above, so below.' Up until about the eighteenth century, they were integral in medicine and the fact that astrology was used in medicine for so long suggests the system

must be of some worth at least. I have been able to collect (from newspaper reports and public records) the accurately timed charts of 18 individuals who suffer chronic or acute ill-health through their kidneys (this data will be available in a work to be published in late 2008).

In this sample there are a high percentage of Venus/Mars conjunctions. At a ten degree orb one would expect to find, on average, just one conjunction of these two planets in a sample this size. In fact there are six. It is not a large sample, but then again clinical studies in orthodox medicine are often based on samples about this size, or even smaller. There is not any emphasis upon the sixth house, which we might have expected given that we are dealing with people for whom health is a major, if not overwhelming, life issue. Nor is there an emphasis on Virgo, although Gemini (the other Mercury sign) figures to a greater extent.

In nine cases there is a date for an operation (usually involving the transplant of a donated kidney) and in seven of these we find telling transits and progressions. In three cases, for example, the aspects involve Jupiter: transiting Sun opposite Jupiter; progressed Moon opposite Jupiter and transiting Jupiter opposite Sun. This might not seem immediately appropriate, but as I note in *Jupiter & Mercury, an A to Z*, a common manifestation of Jupiter transits is 'liberation'. Defective kidneys nearly always mean being hooked up to a dialysis machine four hours a day two or three days a week. A new organ breaks that dependency. For a kidney patient, a donor organ is freedom. In one case at the time of the operation, progressed Moon closely conjuncts the MC and exactly trines Mars, which seems a good mirror of the fact that it was the boy's mother who donated one of her kidneys.

So, we do find astrology 'working' but, again, not in a straightforward 'correspondence' way that we saw in Wells' case. In other words, it is 'truthful', but not predictable in a consistent way.

References

1. H G Wells, *Experiment in Autobiography*, Gollancz, 1934
2. N & J Mackenzie, *H.G. Wells: A Biography*, Simon and Schuster, 1973.

Data sources: Chart 1 from Wells' mother's diary; chart 2 taken from birth certificate