

WHERE IS MY SIGN AND WILL IT COME HOME?

by Fern Mercier

The painted wooden sign that hangs outside my house is a reproduction of *Astrologia*. She is one of a set of 50 cards called the Tarocchi of Mantegna dating from about 1470 Italy. I have used her as my logo since the early 1990s because she represents my love of both Astrology and Tarot. She has been on a shingle swinging in the Grey Lynn breeze for a couple of years now, graffitied twice, and stolen once.

Much to my dismay, she was purloined away on the night of the 2nd October 2003.

It would have been a bit of a mission for the robbers, as she was fastened securely on a post that was high above the pavement. More than one person must have removed her. My dog, my neighbours and myself had slept through the fiendish machinations the thieves had put themselves through to take her.

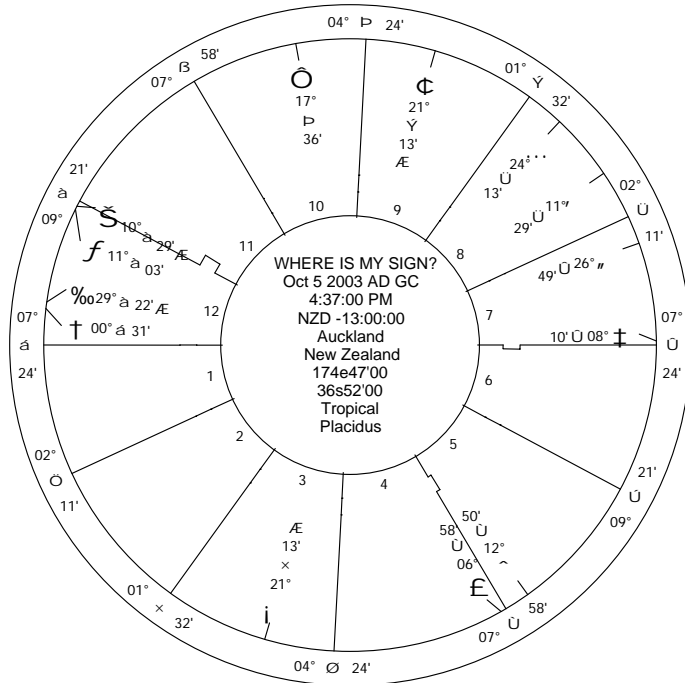
I asked Hamish and Angela at Astrology House - "Where is my sign and will it come home?" and Hamish promptly drew up the chart.

Pisces Ascendant makes Jupiter its ruler the querent's significator. I am a Sagittarian, a professional Astrologer and Tarot Reader and Sagittarius is the sign on the Midheaven. Jupiter is angular residing in the 7th House making me a captive of the thief.

My possession, the sign, is governed by Aries 2nd House whose ruler is Mars. Mars in Pisces sits in the cadent 12th House of misfortune, which would normally indicate my possession is far off from me and may never be recovered. However, Mars is coming into a conjunction with the Ascendant and is in an applying opposition with Jupiter (me). Although the opposition is not a good aspect, at least there's contact, suggesting the sign might come back to me, albeit slightly the worse for wear.

Mercury in Virgo in its rulership is strong in the 7th House, which represents the thief (possibly a mischievous young person). Venus in Libra is a beautiful symbol of Astrologia herself and unfortunately resides in the 8th House - firmly in the thief's possession. However in Libra a cardinal sign, it may move fast.





The Moon represents both myself the querent, as well as the sign - my lost possession. Moon in Aquarius is in the unfortunate 12th House, symbol of my distress. The last aspect it made was a conjunction with Neptune which suggested to me that the thieves may have possibly been under the influence of drugs or drink when they took the sign, or had hidden/mixed motives for taking it.

An application from the Moon to the Sun is an argument for recovery and here the Moon is applying to the Sun by trine. The Sun in Libra is debilitated and in the 8th House which is the thief's 12th House.

The Moon is also applying to Venus the natural ruler of the gorgeous Astrologia. A good 'sign' I felt, and certainly both Angela and Hamish thought it possible my shingle might come back although it might be damaged in some way.

On the morning of 29th October, I discovered to my amazement that Astrologia had come home. There she was, swinging on her post in the early morning sunlight. Not only had she been returned in the night, she had been lovingly hung on her hooks as if she had never left! Yes, the paintwork was a little battered, but really in good nick, given the trauma of leaving home.

I can't find in the chart why it took 27 days, but then I hadn't asked *when* – only would she come home. The question in horary frames the answer. I am a new apprentice to the art of horary and I am sure there are many avenues in this chart that I have left unexplored. If you discover any essentials to add, I would love to hear from you!

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Based in Auckland, Fern has been practising Astrology and Tarot since the 1970s. She works as a consultant, writer and columnist and has been teaching both subjects since 1990. She has been an active member of both the Astrological Society of NZ as well as the Astrological Foundation Inc. Fern can be contacted on 09 361-3292 or visit her website www.tarot.net.nz