

PALLAS

Goddess of Wisdom, Statecraft

by Frances McEvoy

Pallas, second largest of the asteroids, was discovered in March 1802, in the sign Virgo, one week after a lunar eclipse in that sign. The new asteroid was almost the same distance from the Sun as Ceres, only slightly smaller, and with the same 23 year orbit, but with greater eccentricity, and it's orbit is inclined at more than 34 degrees to the ecliptic. After 60 years, Pallas returns to nearly the same degree of the zodiac on the same day of the year, but within that larger cycle of 60 years it has a repeating cycle of 14-9-14-14-9-14-9 years. On April 3, 1985 Pallas was in Aries conjunct Sun, Mercury and Venus and lying in a straight line with the Earth, with Pallas just slightly south in declination. Other years when Pallas was in Aries at the beginning of April were 1971, 1962, 1948, 1939, 1925, 1911, 1902 and 1888. This cycle repeats exactly after 60 years.

Pallas Athena was the Greek Goddess of Wisdom, and handicrafts, and protectress of the city, and her dwelling place was the acropolis. She sprang from Zeus' head fully grown, and considered herself as having only one parent. She resisted the amorous advances of men and had no consort or child. Motivated by her own priorities, she was essentially an urban, civilized goddess, noted for her strategies and practical solutions to problems. The asteroid Pallas is prominent in the charts of women who achieve in politics, business, literature and the theatre, Maureen Reagan, daughter of the President, fits the archetype of the "father's daughter". She was born with Pallas in Scorpio, right on her Ascendant, opposite Uranus in Taurus on her Descendant. She is protective of her father much as the goddess Athena was the defender of Zeus.

Feminist writer Simone de Beauvoir had Pallas on her Midheaven at 29 degrees Virgo, opposite her Moon and Mars in the last degree of Pisces. She earned a degree in philosophy from the Sorbonne at age 21, and with Jean Paul Sartre, her lifelong lover, she led the Existentialist movement of young intellectuals in Paris after World War II. Beauvoir was a true daughter of Pallas Athena.

Poetess Edna St. Vincent Millay had Pallas conjunct her Pisces Sun elevated in the tenth house, and was a political activist as well as writer. She was the heroine of the Greenwich Village intellectuals during the 1920s and a free spirit.

Helen Gurley Brown, editor of Cosmopolitan Magazine, has Pallas conjunct Jupiter in Libra on her Midheaven, trine her Mercury in Aquarius. She wrote a self-improvement guide for single women called "Sex and the Single Girl", which was a best seller.

Poetess Emily Dickinson had Pallas conjunct her Sun and Mercury in Sagittarius, at the nadir of her chart. She lived her entire life within her family home, but has been called the greatest woman poet of the English language.

Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, had Pallas in Capricorn in the Midheaven along with Sun, Moon, Uranus, Neptune and Ceres. Barton distributed supplies to soldiers during the Civil War, and organized a bureau of records to aid in the search for missing men. She was author of the amendment to the constitution of the Red Cross which provided for the distribution of relief in war time as well as famines, floods, earthquakes, cyclones and pestilence.

Actress Katharine Hepburn was born with Pallas conjunct Vesta in Capricorn, along with Venus and Uranus. Her reported "late morning" birth would put these planets all on the Ascendant. She had a twenty year relationship with Spencer Tracy, whom she called a "man among men".

Gloria Swanson and Bette Davis, legendary film stars, both had Pallas retrograde on their Midheavens at birth. Davis has won ten Oscar nominations and the American Film Institute's Life Achievement award, and at age 77 is still a star. She has said that the theatre was the one lasting and durable relationship of her life. Swanson founded her own production company and remained a legend until her death last year.

Writer George Sand was born with Pallas rising in Pisces as the point of a Yod with Uranus and Venus. Her first novel attacked marriage and established her at once as a "new woman"—an image she embellished by wearing men's trousers, short jacket and top hat. She resembled a man in voice and manner, and the candor of her opinions, but she had large, black eyes "like those you find in mystics". Her lovers included Chopin, Liszt and de Musset, and her flamboyance and political causes, her free spirit, made her a legend in her own time. Alfred de Bigny once wrote to Sand: "O woman who makes yourself man, you are lost." George Sand's salon was the literary center of Paris, and one admirer wrote of her knowledge as "knowledge that would seam our brow and turn our hair grey". Sand also had Ceres in the first house in Aries, square her Sun

and opposite Uranus, and she had a strong maternal instinct, and tended to mother her lovers. She was a true daughter of Pallas, however, and armored herself in men's garb in order to compete in their world.

Aviatress Amelia Earhart was born with Pallas rising in early Taurus, and was the first woman to win a pilot's license, as well as the first woman to fly across the United States and back. "Women must try to do things men have tried", she wrote. A social worker, feminist and writer, Earhart took great interest in the development of commercial aviation. She disappeared in the Pacific ocean while flying around the world. Pallas was unusually strong in her chart, being exactly on the Ascendant and square both her Leo Sun and her lunar nodes.

Novelist and non-Christian moralist George Eliot was born with Pallas stationary, turning retrograde, in her ninth house, inconjunct Mercury in Sagittarius. Keen observation and moral concern mark her writing, and she was fluent in French, Italian, Latin and German. A friend described her as having a "large unprejudiced mind". She lived openly with George Henry Lewes for 25 years, though he was never able to obtain a divorce. Their Sunday afternoon salons became a brilliant feature of Victorian literary life. Her novels developed the method of psychological analysis which distinguishes modern fiction.

First lady Betty Ford was born with Pallas stationary in Sagittarius in her fourth house, and was noted for her candor in discussing her family. Pallas was trine her Aries Sun and Juno.

Senator Margaret Chase Smith had Pallas stationary turning direct in her first house in Aries, in a Grand Trine with her Sagittarian Sun and Mars and her Moon in Leo. Smith succeeded her husband in congress, after his death, but went on to be the first woman elected to the Senate in her own right. She gained public recognition when she took a stand against the anti-communist activities of Senator Joseph McCarthy. She was the first woman ever placed in nomination for president at a major party convention.

Feminine activist Emmaline Pankhurst had Pallas stationary just past her Midheaven in Sagittarius. Pankhurst founded the Women's Franchise League and worked to gain women's rights, including the vote.

Actress Lucille Ball has Pallas conjunct Saturn and Mars in Taurus in her Tenth house, and is a successful businesswoman. She sold her corporation to Gulf and Western for \$17 million, having bought our former husband Desi

Arnaz in 1962 for \$2.5 million.

Television anchorwoman Barbara Walters was born with Pallas on her Libra ascendant, square Pluto on her Midheaven, opposite Uranus on her descendant, square Saturn at the nadir and inconjunct her Pisces Moon. She began as a cohost, in Libra fashion, and when Saturn reached her Midheaven Pluto, she signed a five-year \$5 million contract.

Actress Joan Fontaine was born with Sun conjunct Pallas in Libra on her ascendant, and personified the Pallas look: cool, confident, clean-cut, crisp and elegant. In 1943 she was voted the least cooperative actress of the year. She won acclaim for her roles in "Jane Eyre" and "Rebecca".

Pallas women need fathers and husbands who will encourage them in careers of their own. They also need successful fathers whom they can admire and use as role models, and they seldom are close to their mothers unless those mothers are professional or academic women. Pallas women are socially aware, often gifted in the arts as well as intellectually, and have a head for business. They are often competitive with other women. Joan Fontaine was competitive with her sister Olivia de Havilland and had few close women friends. Maureen Reagan had two successful parents to serve as role models, but is very much her father's daughter, and always quick to defend him against feminist criticism.

Pallas women are drawn to men of intellect or political ambition, and often marry more than once, since they will not tolerate a marriage that does not give them support for their own ambitions. Many of these women, as in the case of Eliot, de Beauvoir and Hepburn, choose commitments outside marriage to men who share their interests and work. They admire masculine, rather than feminine qualities, and enjoy the companionship and confidence of men. Completely rational, these women seldom lose either their heads or their hearts, and prefer intellectual relationships rather than those based on emotional and sexual intimacy. Most often they are drawn to politics, law, business or the literary worlds. Athena's bird was the wise owl, and her special gift to Athens was the olive tree. (The above is a reprint from the Astrologers' Newsletter)

