

IS MARS PASSIONATE?

Trait Adjectives from the Gauquelin Data

Nick Kollerstrom

Half a century ago, the Gauquelins in Paris with a team of helpers set about extracting “keyword” traits from short biographies of eminent people. Michel’s last article on the subject was published in the NCGR Journal. Quoting from it:

“In 1967 I suggested that the real correlation is not between planet and career but between planet and personality.... For example sports champions tend to be **energetic** and **brave**, and it could be these traits that are linked to Mars.”

He added the bold words, which I here aim to demonstrate:

This method demonstrates that the planetary link with traits is far stronger than the link with profession.

They had collected and published their famous sets of birth data, of professional persons, and now they extracted character-traits from four professions: sportsmen, writers, actors and scientists. The four volumes of their results are quite hard to find, and I only gained access to three of them because the librarian of the UK’s Astrological Association had finished scanning them in. I obtained one of them *The Mars Temperament and sports Champions* (Series C, volume 2) from a Paris bookshop, and she’s hoping I will send it over to her, so she can scan it in. These are not bestsellers; they don’t even come up on Amazon.

Overall, the Gauquelin endeavour became discredited, after the attacks of the sceptics following Michel’s suicide in 1992, but also because the wise German psychologist Suitbert Ertel, who had a lot to do with supporting and defending the Gauquelin endeavour, expressed scepticism over the CTH, Character-Trait Hypothesis, as it was called. Geoffrey (‘Dr No’) Dean alluded to “. . . this likely non-existent link between planets and traits.” I here aim to show that these views are mistaken.

Michel’s ex-wife Françoise agreed with him, writing in her journal a few years after his death, that:

“. . . the inborn character of these famous people is more tightly correlated to their birth planets than their professional success.”

On this view, character-traits could be investigated apart from the profession. The ‘raw data’ that was then used is now becoming available for investigators; you can call it up onto your computer screen. They listed sets of birth data for each character-trait, and we can group these together from the four professions. Thus, John Addey wrote:

“. . . the word ENERGETIC was attributed to 187 different people (94 champions, 34 scientists, 42 actors, 17 writers).”

He has here added up how many times that trait was scored in the four volumes. Using the traits presently available, we can determine which trait belongs to which planet.

A difference between this trait-data and that for the professional groups is that *all four of the cadent houses are involved*. The great Gauquelin debates of the last century involved just two Key sectors -- after rise and culmination, in the daily-observed motion of a planet. In his final, posthumous work, the great British astro-philosopher John Addey stated that, the character-trait data showed:

“. . . no longer any tendency for there to be stronger peaks after the rise and culmination; all four angles are more or less equal in strength.”

The Placidus house system is almost the same as the “Gauquelin sectors.” The Key sectors here are houses 3, 6, 9 and 12, the so-called “cadent” houses. Here is a quote from Françoise Gauquelin:

“Each time statistically significant results showed up, they were maximal in those so-called ‘cadent houses.’ Present day traditionalists are shocked by these statistical results in Cadent instead of Angular houses.”

For convenience I have limited the number of traits to five per planet. It takes a while, to list all the names given for each trait in the four different ‘C’ volumes, then search for their birth-data in the ‘A’ volumes, then cross-check that with the CURA data, which is up online.

The traits selected were:

Moon: Imaginative, fantasy, dreamer, tranquil, pure.

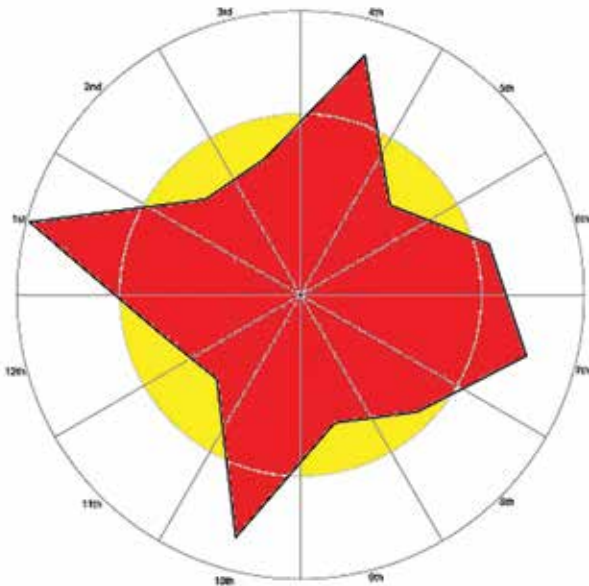
Mars: Courageous, active, energetic, combative, dynamic.

Jupiter: Authority, jovial, director, organizer, pride.

Saturn: Solitary, deep severe cold, and silent.

The two main sources here were Michel's 1989 NCGR article - his last statement on the subject - and John Addey's unfinished, posthumous book (1996). The traits for Mars give huge 75% excess in the Key Sectors compared to the other eight. Not Michel himself, nor or anyone in the 20th-century debates, realised that the effect was as large as this. I suggest that only John Addey realised that the effect here was of equal strength in all four sectors; it was what he called a 'fourth harmonic' pattern.

MARS, for 789 traits: active, energetic, courageous, dynamic, combative



I scored some more traits, trying to look for Venus (which we'll come to later) and these included "passionate" and "ardent". Neither of these featured in Michel's NCGR list or in Addey's opus, as martial traits, however Francoise, in her book on the subject, did give "ardent" - but not "passionate". They both scored in quite large numbers, 230 for 'ardent' and 221 for "passionate," which is enough to plot each trait separately: "ardent" scores twice as strong as "passionate," for Mars.

If French is the Language of Love, then maybe we need to attend carefully to nuances of difference between these words. Is "ardent" more fiery while "passionate" is more fluid and watery? The latter only scores twenty-five per cent more in the cadent houses while the former shows a more than fifty percent excess. This may confirm what

Francoise wrote in her book, with "passionate" being only "weakly" Mars. We now have six strong Mars keywords. Putting them in order of how frequently they scored:

Courageous, ardent, active, energetic, combative, dynamic

What a wonderful expression of the fiery energy and dynamism of Mars! Overall these six, counted in 887 charts, gave a massive 75% excess in the cadent houses.

Check this yourself, by trying out different keyword-combinations: upload the keyword data sets, onto a spread sheet, then import them into a suitable astro-research program such as Jigsaw or Sirius. It is important to appreciate that, in the great debates that went on in the last century on this topic, people were *not* able to do this, i.e. inspect the data on their own computer - as we can now.

For the first time, since Time began, we are able to calibrate objectively which traits apply to what planet.

By way of comparison, if iron is the metal that belongs to Mars, its two common ores are pyrite and hematite. The former derives from *pyr* fire and the latter from *haem*, blood: blood and fire! There is nothing subtle about Mars-symbolism.

Moon

Moving on to the Moon, I had initially included "reflective" in my list of lunar traits. Surely Selene's sphere is reflective? After all, as John Addey remarked:

How often we find, in the lunar spectra, words which are used of the Moon itself (*pure, chaste, clear, silent, secret, lucid, brilliant, cold, light, abundant or fertile*) or which are used in relation to watery surfaces (*tranquil, reflective*) or which refer to the image-forming capacity so often attributed to the moon, to water and to silver (*imaginative, fancy*).

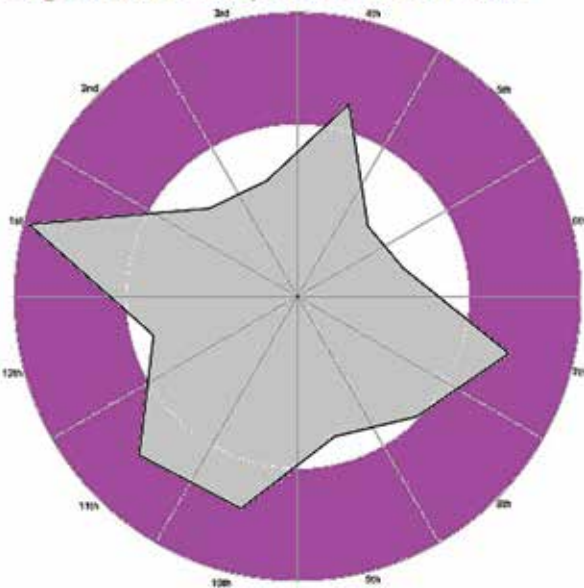
But I then noticed that none of the sources (Addey, the Gauquelins) cited this trait. The initial six lunar traits gave an excess of 60% which seemed pretty good - but then deleting "reflective," the excess went right up to 79%. That's even bigger than the effect for Mars. So, the Moon is not reflective, or at least not in terms of its character-traits.

It would seem that the angle of Selene's Sphere in the sky at birth, has a lot to do with people seeing these traits in the native: *imaginative, fantasy, dreamer, tranquil, pure*

These lunar traits appear a lot more in writers than the other professions. The table shows the number of citations for each group of traits.

Profession	Lunar	Martial	Jupiter	Saturnine	Total
Writers (2027)	154	116	87	130	487
Scientists (1094)	41	182	125	99	447
Actors (1409)	81	175	141	89	487
Sports (2089)	61	316	81	39	497
Totals	337	789	434	357	1917

The MOON, and 413 traits: *Pure, tranquil, imaginative, fantasy, dreamer, reflective*



Does this *explain why* poets and imaginative writers tended to be born with the moon in Key Sectors? That was the biggest effect that Michel found, in terms of his eminent professionals.

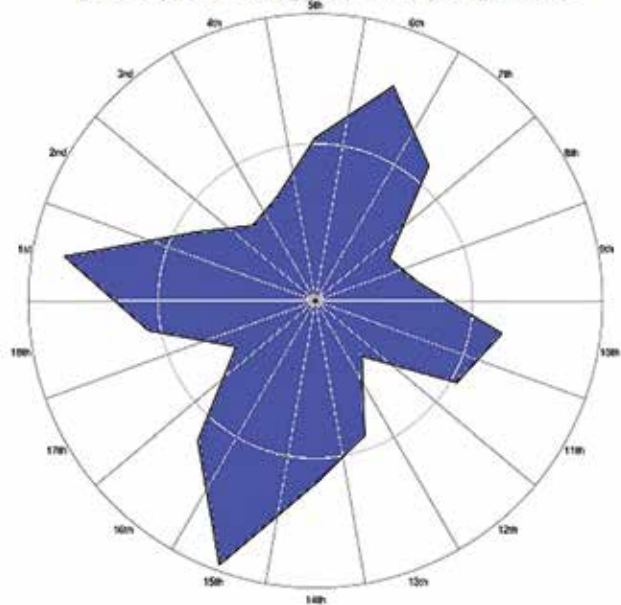
If one plot these lunar traits by the Mars-day, it gives quite deficit, of 15% less in the four sectors, i.e. it is a kind of "anti-Mars" character.

Jupiter

The Jupiter-traits express *pride and joy* but also, and this may seem odd, *authority*. Think Thor or Zeus, in terms of archetypes. People I consulted were doubtful about including *authority, director, organizer* - what do you think?

Michel often used an eighteen-fold division of the diurnal circle and Jupiter is here shown as such. We'd prefer a 16-fold division, to examine fourfold structure, but that is not at present available.

JUPITER for 434 traits: *joyful, proud, authority, director, organizer*

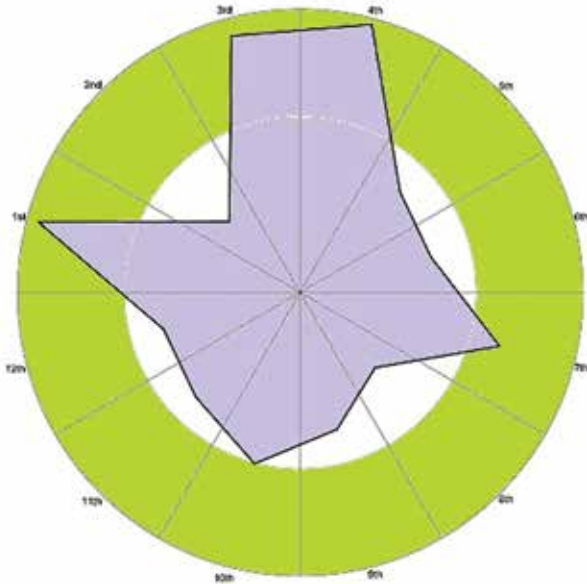


The main keywords *joyful, proud* and *authority* were found in 282 of the biographies, the natal charts of which scored *86% more for Jupiter in the cadent houses*, than the others. Whereas, the keywords *organizer* and *director* (found in 152 biographies) taken together only showed a 41% excess i.e. only half as much. Other traits that could be worth evaluating here are, in order of how frequently they scored: *verve, personality, popular, smiling, and ambitious*. The French *joyeux* translates as Jolly, joyful and merry. The first two of these adjectives derive from the Latin *Jove* as in jovial. Does the daily motion of Jupiter across the sky produce these traits in a biography?

Saturn

Saturn has the rather gloomy traits: *Solitary, deep, severe, cold and silent.*

SATURN, and 358 traits: solitary, deep, severe, cold, silent



Its distribution looks odd and have we maybe not got the right keywords? They score more than fifty per cent excess in cadent houses. Other rather dismal keywords for Saturn found by the Gauquelins and Addey are: *Conscientious, distant, likes family, methodical, melancholic, modest, noble, prudent, precise, reserved, reflective, self-controlled (maitre de soi), serious, taciturn, timid, wise.* Maybe we need to try harder here, for the planet of challenge, responsibility and the structure of life.

Venus, the Evening Star

The Gauquelins never found anything for Venus: not for professions, nor for character-traits: it just never showed up. The key here could be is the difference between the Morning Star (Lucifer) and evening star (Hesperus). One is oriental, the other occidental, to use the old words. The Evening Star was more associated with Aphrodite and the Morning Star with Nike the goddess of victory. Are the “sweet and lovely” Venus-traits more linked to the Evening star? Are Morning Star attributes more strident and “butch”?

To separate these one subtracts the solar and Venus longitudes: for the evening star, Venus’ longitude has to be greater than that of the Sun. We select out those born under the Evening Star and that means halving the numbers.

For the traits I chose:

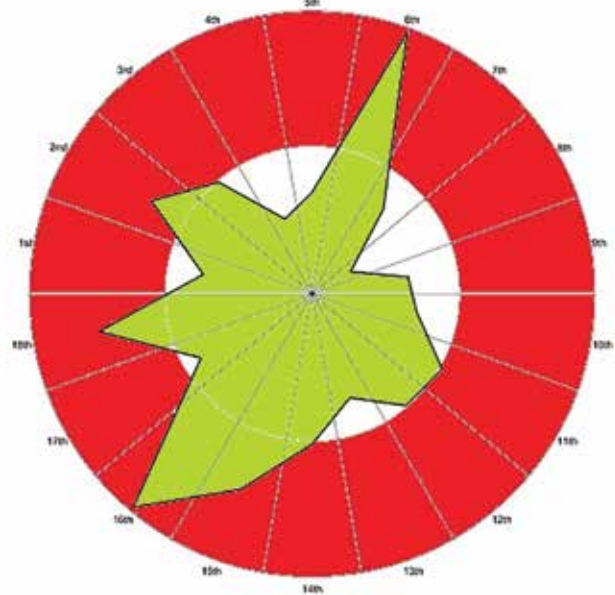
Charming, loved (aimé), elegant, graceful and seductive 264 were for the Evening Star (out of 566 total). These came from MG’s list in the NCGR journal of 1989, except

for graceful/gracious, which I added. They generated a 32% excess in the four sectors. That’s a lot less than for the other planets, but it’s a start. Unsure what to make of this, I selected another group:

Ardent, gentle, passionate, amitié, amiable, amoureux

These formed a bigger group, of which 400 were Evening Star. But, they only showed a 23% excess in the cadent houses - quite a bit less. Checking the traits one at a time, I found that removing “doux” (gentle) pushed the score up, to the same level as the earlier group.

VENUS as Evening Star, 599 traits: ardent, passionate, charming etc.



So, Venus isn’t gentle! (Think, thorns on the rose).

This graph is trying to tell us something! It is fourfold, though we can’t properly see this on the 18-fold dial (18 = 3x3x2) A 16-fold division of the diurnal circle, viz. 8 sectors above the horizon and 8 below, would help to read this data properly.

Here are our Venus-traits, with the total counts for each: *Ardent (230), passionate (221), amitié (friendly) (168), charming (111), aimable (101), aimé (loved) (62), elegant (54), gracious (graceful) (50), seductive (36), amoureux (34).*

These total 1212, of which 599 are for the Evening Star. Not surprisingly, these traits are most commonly found for actors, appearing in over one-third of their bios, whereas they are uncommon for sportsmen, featuring in less than 10% of their bios.

Epilogue

In 1979 and 1990, some guests arrived at Neil Michelson's ACS (*Astro-computing Services*) in San Diego: the two Gauquelins and John Addey. Michelson had a maths degree from Harvard and Addey was the great Pythagorean theorist, author of *Harmonics in Astrology*. O to have been a fly on the wall at those meetings! Surely this was the big moment of 20th century astro-research? But alas no record survives of what they did, or not concerning the character-trait work which here concerns us. It was stored on magnetic discs and whatever happened to them they did not make the transition into the 21st century. Tom Shanks did the computer work, but no one seems to be able to find a copy of his report. This article has aimed to continue that work, from where he left off.

John Addey recalled:

“In March 1979, Neil Michelson very kindly and generously invited me to San Diego as his guest and placed at my disposal his computer, which had been fully programmed with all the Gauquelin's data. In this way, with the help of Tom Shanks at the controls, I was able to repeat with much greater accuracy and with a larger set of character-trait words (enlarging the vocabulary from the top 87 words to the top 199) the work I had done in the previous two or three years.”

Let's hope that in the next few years we can re-input those one or two hundred keywords, maybe into one of David Cochrane's smart astro-programs. Psychology students will surely want to select different keywords and planets, to inspect and discuss these timeless archetypes.

Endnotes:

¹ Ertel, S., “Scrutinising G's character trait hypothesis once again.” 1991. *Correlation*. 10(2) 3-19. ‘Why the character-trait hypothesis still fails’. 1993. *Correlation*, and 12 (1) 2-9.

² Dean et al., *Tests of Astrology*, p.89.

³ FG, *Astro-Psychological Problems*, March '92 ‘MG In Memoriam’ p.5.

⁴ JM Addey, *A New Study of Astrology*, 1996, p.118.

⁵ See eg., www.correlationjournal.com/research.php.

⁶ Addey, *A New Study of Astrology*, 1996, p.125.

⁷ FG, APP September 1992 p. 21.

⁸ Search for “Gauquelin” and “CURA” and scroll down the different professional groups.

⁹ FG, *Psychology of the Planets* 1982 p.44.

¹⁰ Search for “Correlation journal astrology”, then go to Research, and scroll down to section 9. Character Traits. Upload where it says “complete data-set.” There are two and a half thousand lines of birth data here, grouped by character traits, including the twenty here analysed. To view the data, right-click on it, then ‘save as’ into a text file, then open up that file into a spread sheet program, eg. Excel or Libre Office.

¹¹ Addey, *Ibid*, p.167.

¹² The Table represents 826 people, each having several character-traits.

¹³ See section 8 of www.correlationjournal.com/research.php.

¹⁴ MG says he obtained these from checking individual charts, ie he was just guessing.

¹⁵ Tom Shanks, *Cosmecology Bulletin*, 1980, 2(2) 81-86

¹⁶ Addey, ‘Harmonic Phase and Personal Characteristics – Part II’ *The Astrol Jnl.*, Winter 1979-80, pp.7-13, 8.

¹⁷ The source-data here used can be downloaded from section 9 of www.correlationjournal.com/research.php.

Biography:

Nick Kollerstrom, PhD is a science historian who was affiliated to University College London for fifteen years. He promoted the Green Party while living in Guildford Surrey, for twelve years. For thirty-five years he has produced England's moon-gardening calendar. He recently obtained a grant from the Urania Trust for making the Gauquelin work and data more available for home computers.

See www.astrozero.co.uk/astroscience/koll2indx.htm