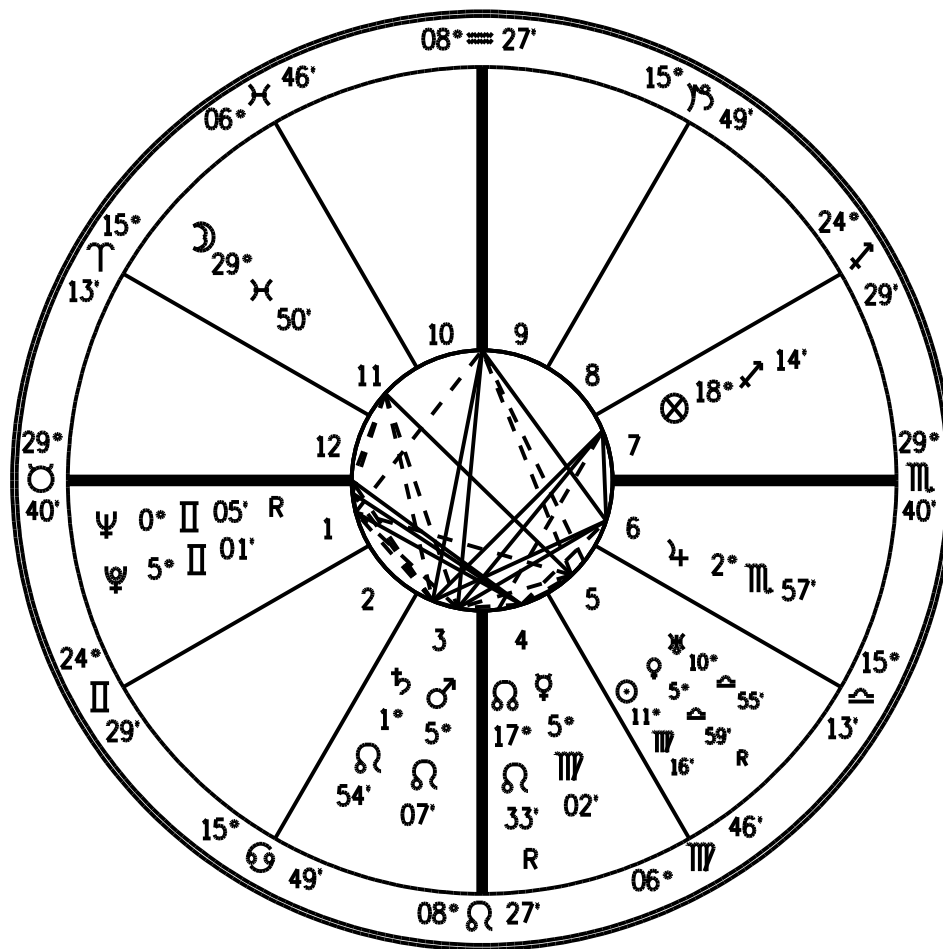


# ELSIE WHEELER

by Alice Kashuba



9/3/1887 @ 9:45 CST in Norris City, IL. 37°N58'52" 88°W19'45"

We know very little about Elsie Wheeler, the psychic, whom Marc Edmund Jones worked with to bring forth the Sabian Symbols. We know that she was crippled with arthritis and may have been in a wheelchair. But she was an independent person who supported herself by making dolls. While she gave psychic readings she did not feel fulfilled responding to the ordinary questions of love, money, and health. She wanted “do something of enduring worth”<sup>1</sup>. Elsie enrolled in Marc Edmund Jones’ classes and in 1925 Marc took her to Balboa Park in San Diego to bring forth the Sabian Symbols.

The Sabian Symbol for the Ascendant is *A peacock parading on the terrace of an old castle*. The image speaks of fulfillment, accomplishment, splendor, tradition, opulence. Neptune, *A glass bottom boat reveals undersea riches*, conjunct the ASC speaks of the richness of spiritual resources to which she had access. Rudhyar says the peacock is the bird consecrated to Venus.<sup>2</sup> Venus is the ruler of the chart and is found in Libra @ 5° 59' R. The Sabian symbol is *A man*

*watches his ideals taking a concrete form before his inner vision.*

While it would be easy to see a relationship between Elsie the psychic and Marc the astrologer/philosopher/ spiritualist the symbol might better be seen reflecting the interplay of her yin and yang energies. Mars is *The old fashioned conservative woman confronted by an up to date girl* and is in the 3rd house of communication. Elsie wanted to do something for humanity at large and use her gifts for something more than answering personal questions for people. The sextile is opportunity and, according to Michael Munkasey<sup>3</sup>, this aspect is ruled by Venus.

Alan Epstein says that the sextile deals with one's ideals, attitudes and aspirations. One needs to become objective and develop a sense of community by seeing the commonality between one's self and others. This requires effort, and a willingness to grow along with the experience. The negative side of the sextile is the desire to desist from activities and a dependence on others.<sup>4</sup> Elsie chose to follow the path of independence in spite of her physical condition.

Mercury, *A merry go round*, is semisextile to both Mars and Venus. The circular motion of the merry go round can be endless with the music repeating itself over and over; or it can provide the opportunity to reach out for the gold ring if one simply puts forth the effort. The ruler of the semisextile aspect is Pluto<sup>5</sup> lord of the underworld. Mercury appears in the 4th house the place of beginnings and endings and of the collective unconscious where traditions are stored. The challenge of the 4th house is often to break away from family and old ways of operating and do something new and innovative. Working with Marc Edmund Jones, Elsie was able to participate in creating the Sabian symbols.

The Sun and The Moon are the two lights in the sky whose influence outshines everything else. Rudhyar tells us that The Moon reflects the changes in the relationship between the Sun and the Moon. The relationship is based on the Sun as the inspiriter or inspirer of the individual as it works through the Moon. It is about yang energy infusing the yin energy. The female gives form to the inspiration. The mind is the intermediary between spirit and the physical realm. The Moon mediates the Sun's rays to the earth. The lunar cycle is about planting a seed 3 days before the New Moon - then watching it grow until it blossoms at the Full Moon. The Full Moon represents the realization of the integration of Sun/Moon or Yang/Yin energies. The first half of the cycle is about crisis in action - taking action on goals without much inner contemplation. The second half of the cycle is about crisis in consciousness - consciously expressing or setting in motion activities that will result in seed which will sprout in the next cycle.<sup>6</sup> The Full Moon is a period of commitment based upon conscious realization of actions taken in the first half of the cycle.

Elsie Wheeler's Sun and Moon lie 198°34' apart. The Moon at 29° Pisces 50' is full. The Sun is at 11° Virgo 16' *The Bride with Her Veil Snatched Away*. There is a line in Emerson's essay on "Experience" - "The Universe is the Bride of the Soul"<sup>7</sup>. If one is willing to devote a lifetime to a person, philosophy, or belief, a doorway to the universe could be experienced. In this symbol Jones refers to the eagerness with which Elsie approached her task. "The alacrity with which she moved to assist in developing the Sabian degrees was not unlike a bride's eagerness"<sup>8</sup> Paul Newman puts it this way "If we look at the symbol it reminds us of the delicate power play that

takes place between sexual opposites. The Bride (the Universe) needs the Bridegroom (the soul) to manifest her potential, as much as the Bridegroom (the soul) yearns for union with the bride (the divine). “

Elsie's Moon is at 29° Pisces 50' - *The Great Stone Face* - the visual image of an ideal. A seed is a concrete piece of matter that holds the potential for many forms - plant, animal, man. This symbol lies at the completion of the zodiacal cycle leading to creation of a new force in the universe. There is "... an insatiable desire to be of real worth, and there is in consequence a genuine cooperation with the utter self-giving shown by the sun's symbolization, or the bride with her veil snatched away."<sup>9</sup>

Earlier we saw how Elsie's Mars and Venus energies worked together. Here we see a reinforcement of this energy pattern in her chart. The Decanate of the Sun is Capricorn and the Dwad of is Virgo placing emphasis on the ideals of details, organization, structure, and security - the role of the yang energy inspiring the mind to create (Sun in the 5th house) a new set of symbols. The Moon sign is Pisces. Its Decanate is Scorpio and, the Dwad is Aquarius. Although Aquarius is an air sign we see him as the water bearer receiving the life giving fluid which he pours out to nourish the growth of an idea that will benefit many people (Moon in the 11th house) . The Sun and Moon represent the fulfillment of her life when she was able to realize the real purpose in life as she consciously opened herself up to the universe to receive the information for the creation of the symbols.

We do not know the exact date of the formation of the symbols, but the year was 1925. If we look at Elsie's progressed lunation, we find it moving from third quarter to balsamic. The last quarter phase began for her on September 22, 1923. The Sabian symbol for the Moon was *The germ grows into knowledge and life* (17 Cancer). The Sabian Symbol for the Sun was *The retired sea captain* (17 Libra). It is during the last quarter phase that she is able to manifest her crisis in consciousness and give birth to the symbols.

Pluto is the outermost planet that we know of in relation to our solar system. Most everyone is familiar with Pluto, the god of the underworld. Almost everyone has felt his energy as it crossed an angle, or formed a major aspect in the astrological chart. It's very upsetting and in some cases, traumatic. We do not know how Elsie responded on a personal level to the Pluto energy in her chart. As one can see Pluto is close to the Ascendant and forms aspects with the MC/IC axis and 5 planets as well as a minor aspect with Jupiter. One could say that her Pluto 'kept her down' physically. As a result she was able to focus that energy to be independent and committed to her dream. If one looks at these aspects from the perspective of the power of transformation, it begins to become clear that Elsie was able to use the power to tap into the information which produced the Sabian Symbols.

Pluto lies close to the Ascendant. The Sabian symbol for Pluto is *Workmen Drilling for Oil*. Going to the depths to find a meaningful legacy for her life was Elsie's goal. "Positively it is a degree of capacity to drive the self:..."<sup>10</sup>

Pluto square to Mercury. This is the closest aspect to Pluto and is *A Merry-Go-Round* which can represent the 'fearless plunge' into the enjoyment of 'life', or the 'endless repetition' of life's

experiences. Elsie's remained true to her desire.

Pluto sextiles Mars. *The Old Fashioned 'Conservative' Woman Confronted by the Up-to-Date Girl* and

Pluto trine Venus. *A Man Watches His Ideals Taking a Concrete from Before His Inner Vision.*

We have already seen how Elsie combined these energies. Now we see how she used the intense power of Pluto to balance these two energies. She is able to use personal power to work with Marc Edmund Jones to create a new set of symbols, thus 'updating' older set of symbols.

Pluto trine Saturn. *Several children are having holiday together; an epidemic of the mumps has given them new, not unpleasant fellowship.* "This is a symbol of the constructive result of the inconveniences of life, in giving men fresh realization of the various communities of interest open to them. Positively it is a degree of self sensitiveness;... TENSION." It took a lot of discipline and a strong sense of responsibility for Elsie to be independent, in spite of her physical handicap, and focus her energies towards her goal.

Pluto conjunct Neptune. *A Glass Bottom Boat Reveals Under-Sea Wonders.* Pluto as mentioned above is the God of the Underworld which is often associated with unpleasant and fearful sights. But if one descends to the depths of the oceans or the underground caves, many wondrous sights are revealed. Elsie saw many wonderful symbols through the veil of Neptune.

Pluto quinquex Jupiter. *A House Raising Party In A Small Village.* "...the desire of men at heart to share all experience. Positively it is a degree of interchange of effort;...ALLIANCE." The willingness to align herself with Marc Edmund Jones was the work which produced the symbols. They met in a small park in the middle of San Diego.

Pluto sextile the IC. *Glass Blowers Shape Beautiful Vases with Their Controlled Breathing.* Behind this IC is the power of Mars, the discipline of Saturn, the energy of the 3rd house, and Pluto in Gemini which rules the lungs, necessary for sustaining life and speaking. She took advantage of the opportunity to verbalize the symbols, so that Marc could write them down.

Pluto trine the MC. *A Flag Turns Into An Eagle.* The symbols represented by a flag have become a means by which many people are inspired to soar like an eagle and connect with a higher vision of energies and events in their lives. It is where one manifests one's gifts and purpose in the public eye.

## ENDNOTES

1. Rudhyar, D. An Astrological Mandala pg 389. Random House, NY, 1973
2. Ibid, pg 88.
3. Munkasey, M. Lecture on Keywords given at SFNCGR meeting, January 31, 1997.
4. Epstein, Alan. Understanding Aspects: The Sextile. Trines Publishing, Reno NV, 1997.
5. Munkasey, M. Lecture on Keywords given at SFNCGR meeting, January 31, 1997.
6. Rudhyar, D. The Lunation Cycle. Aurora Press, Santa FE NM, 1967.
7. Emerson, RW. Essays: First Series. John B. Alden Publisher, NY, 1886.

8.Jones, ME. The Sabian Symbols in Astrology pg. 54. Aurora Press, Santa FE NM 1953.

9.Ibid, pg 56.

10.Quotes from the section on Pluto are from Jones, ME Lecture -Lessons, 1931.