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Astrological profiles

***A Multitude of Lives* contains 234 astrological profiles, ranging from about 100 to 800 words. The individuals included are listed below by category**

Accidents

Gavin Clifford
Alan Norton
Chris Yeaman

Actors

Jack Buchanan
Robert Carlyle
Sean Connery
Deborah Kerr
Ewan McGregor
Daniela Nardini

Artists

Richard Demarco
Charles Rennie Mackintosh
Eduardo Paolozzi
James Pryde
Jack Vettriano

Aviators

Arthur Brown
James Mollison

Crime (criminals)

Robert Black
Ian Brady
Patrick Carragher
John Cronin
Robert Eadie
Nat Fraser
Sheila Garvie
Gordon Hamilton
Archibald Hall
Patrick Higgins
Jesse King
Matthew Lygate
Lucille McLauchlan
Luke Mitchell
Robert Mone
Angus Sinclair
George Storrier
Peter Tobin
Howard Wilson

Crime (victims)

Kriss Donald
Christine Eadie

Steven Flannigan
Arlene Fraser
Max Garvie
Alistair Grimason
John Higgins
William Higgins
Patrick Meehan
Helen Scott
Henry Stanley
Frances Storrier
Ann Whittle
Alan Wilson

Diplomats

Thomas Carmichael
Robert Heatlie
Robert Lockhart
Reginald Wingate

Education

Alexander Lindsay
A S Neill
John Roxburgh
William Spens

Explorers/adventurers

Chay Blyth
Henry Bowers
Isabel Hutchison
Dougal Haston
Joseph Thomson

Industry/business/entrepreneurs

William Bain
Duncan Bannatyne
James Caird
Thomas Callender
John Cargill
David Colville
John Craig
Maurice Denny
Alexander Fleck
Hugh Fraser
William Fraser
Ann Gloag
George Johnston
Alan MacDiarmid
Robert McColl
Harry McGowan

Michelle Mone
Archibald Newall
Charles Oliver
Robert Pringle
Brian Souter
D C Thomson
Andrew Weir

Journalists

William Archer
John Junor
Gerald Vallance

Law

James Clyde
Thomas Cooper
James Keith

Medical (conditions)

Olivia Giles
Kelly Smith

Medical (practitioners)

William Jameson
John Kerr
R D Laing
William Lane
James Learmonth
Robert Philip
David Wilkie

Military

Robert Burnett
Hugh Dowding
Douglas Haig
William Ironside
Arthur Tedder

Miscellaneous

Charles Addis
Harry Benson
William Burrell
Helen Duncan
Bill Gibb
Clara Greig
Grata Greig
Jane Greig
Jenny Greig

James Laing
Blair McNeill
Michael McGarrity
Willa Muir
Gordon Reid
Tom Sutherland

Music

Nicola Benedetti
David Byrne
Edwyn Collins
Lonnie Donegan
Liz Fraser
Evelyn Glennie
Harry Lauder
Annie Lennox
Shelagh McDonald
Stu Sutcliffe
Midge Ure

Politics

William Anderson
John Anderson
Tony Blair
Thomas Bell
Gordon Brown
George Buchanan
Dennis Canavan
Walter Elliot
Andrew Fisher
Peter Fraser
William Gallacher
Richard Haldane
Keir Hardie
Arthur Henderson
Charles Kennedy
Jennie Lee
James Maxton
Ramsay MacDonald
Thomas Shiels
David Steel

Political activists/reformers

Janet Chance
James Connolly

Helen Crawford
Mick McGahey
Mary MacArthur
John MacLean
Sheila McKechnie
Hugh Robertson
Marie Stopes

Religion

William Barclay
James Denny
George Duncan
Jack Glass
Jane Haining
George Kerr
Isabella Kerr
Cosmo Lang
Margaret Sinclair
Thomas Winning
Roderick Wright

Science/engineering

John Logie Baird
Alexander Fleming
David Henderson
James Irvine
Robert Leiper
William Leishman
Archibald Page
James Swinburne
Charles Wilson

Scholars

John Beazley
William Craigie
Walter Crum
William Ker
John Laird
Wallace Lindsay
Andrew Pattison

Sport

Alain Baxter
Jim Baxter
Matt Busby

Jim Clark
David Coulthard
Drew Docherty
Alex Ferguson
Dario Franchitti
Gavin Hamilton
Stephen Hendry
Chris Hoy
Ally MacLeod
Colin Montgomerie
James Murray
Nancy Riach
Bill Shankly
Cameron Sharp
Jock Stein
Jackie Stewart
Bobby Thomson
John Thomson
Jock Wallace
John White

Television

Isobel Barnett
Jeremy Isaacs
Bill McLaren
Sheena McDonald
Leslie Mitchell
Gordon Ramsay
John Reith

Writers

James Barrie
John Buchan
Arthur Conan Doyle
Lewis Grassie Gibbon
Kenneth Grahame
Hugh MacDiarmid
Alistair MacLean
Gavin Maxwell
Naomi Mitchison
Edwin Muir
Stuart Paterson
William Soutar
Muriel Spark
Alex Trocchi

Alistair MacLean, writer

Born: 21 April 1922, (12.00 BST) 11.00 GMT, Glasgow 55N53/4w15 (birth certificate)

Most critics agree that MacLean was not a great writer, but was a great storyteller. His books have sold tens of millions of copies and have been translated into blockbuster films (*The Guns of Navarone*, *Where Eagles Dare*, *Ice Station Zebra* and *When Eight Bells Toll*, for example).

As with fellow Scot Muriel Spark (qv), what ignited his career was winning a short story competition (6 March 1954). But what laid the foundation for his first best-selling work, *HMS Ulysses*, was his experience in the Royal Navy in the Second World War, sailing in the Arctic convoys. He began writing this in September 1954 (progressed Moon conjunct natal Mercury) and was published the following year (advance sales of 140,000). For much of his war service (in Singapore as well as Russia) Pluto was transiting back and forth over his ascendant, which suggests a time when innocence was lost and he experienced life at its rawest level.

Many people who work in ordinary jobs dream of giving them up to become a writer. MacLean did the reverse. At some point in 1963 he stopped writing to take up a regular job. He wanted to be a businessman, owning and running a chain of hotels, and as a first step purchased the famous Jamaica Inn on Bodmin Moor. One astrological indicator of this was progressed Venus conjunct Pluto, as the change was to do with how he made his money. MacLean didn't like writing. It was a chore. He would rattle off a book in five weeks and then want little more to do with it. His change of tack seems to be rooted in the need for a more authentic way of life, something less abstract, more hands-on, than sitting in front of a typewriter for seven hours a day. He

wanted a more "honest" way of earning a living. With strong Neptune it seems he felt guilty about making so much money so easily. It also contributed to the fact that he was a poor businessman. He trusted people he shouldn't have done and was cheated. Even with his writing it seems he did not get the best deals for himself. In 1969, as Saturn transited his Sun, and progressed Mercury was stationary, he gave up his business aspirations to return to full-time writing.

Biography paints him as a quiet man, reserved and reticent. He could be mulish (refusing, for example, to attend the launch of his first book unless the date was changed to accommodate his 9-5 job). Film producer Carl Foreman found him: "a rather small man, quiet, reserved, modest, his charm and erudition hidden ... behind an almost impenetrable Glasgow accent. Later I learned that his shy exterior belied unbounded courage and tenacity."

He had simple tastes and could be generous, sometimes giving away large sums to help people realise their dreams. On 13 October 1972 he entered into a dreadful second marriage that gave him little and cost him a significant amount of his fortune. He was generally self-deprecating, but when he was drunk some Leo braggadocio emerged. He drank heavily as he aged and this likely contributed to an early death, on 2 February 1987.

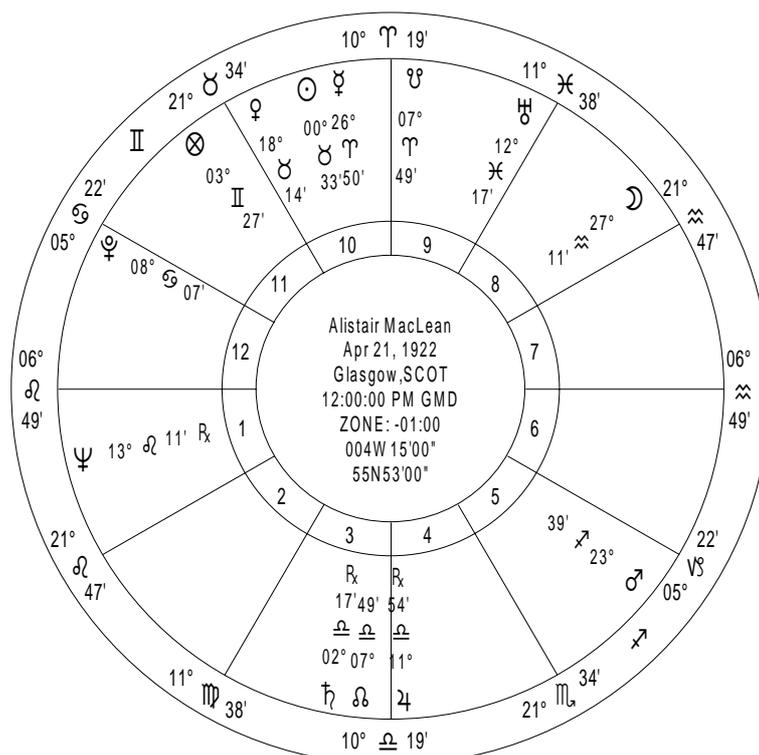
Hell bent on self-destruction, always trying to do himself down.

Intensely private person, shunning a limelight which would have revealed him as an enigmatic figure.

Highly intelligent, creative, amusing, reserved, stubborn.

Source

Jack Webster, *Alistair MacLean, a Biography of a Master Storyteller*, Chappmans, 1991



Jack Vettriano, painter

Born: (Jack Hoggan) 17 November 1951, 09.30 GMT, St Andrews 56n20/2w48 (birth certificate)

In the last decade or so the self-tutored artist Jack Vettriano has enjoyed a rapid rise to fame and fortune. *The Singing Butler* is probably his most recognised work. It was completed sometime in early 1992 and submitted to that year's Royal Scottish Academy summer exhibition (where it was rejected). He nevertheless managed to sell it for £3000. But on 19 April 2004 it sold again at auction for a record £744,800. In the first part of 1992, when the work was conceived and produced, we note a progressed new Moon in Vettriano's natal chart, along with a change of direction of progressed Mercury (retrograde-direct). Transiting Pluto was also stationed close to his natal Sun.

We also notice significant transits and progressions at a time Vettriano singles out as a critical moment of his life, when he was given a set of paints on his 22nd birthday (he had only done pencil sketching up to that time). From this time onward he began seriously to teach himself to paint. Progressed Mercury is again stationary, transiting Saturn conjuncts the Moon, transiting Neptune is close to the ascendant while transiting Pluto conjoins natal Venus. When a sale of his works on 30 August 2007 raised £1 million we note transiting Jupiter conjunct the ascendant.

A perusal of the reference below, which contains reproductions of the bulk of the artist's work, is something of a revelation because it shows that paintings such as *The Singing Butler* are not representative of his oeuvre. Rather than a romantic, enigmatic, 1930s railway-poster style, we find a much more sombre mood, and one which seems to me a good reflection of his Scorpio Sun. The work is often sexual in nature. It is of couples, not so much engaged in sex, but caught in a web of tension anticipating it, and wanting it. They are individuals looking to escape their

existential loneliness through sex. He depicts erotic, kinky, seductive sex, and sex as power. In *A Kind of Loving* we have a man embracing two female mannequins. The artist writes of this: "Here is a man so involved in his own world that he doesn't have time for his relationships."

The more nostalgic, romanticised, "beach" paintings nevertheless form a significant strand of Vettriano's work, and I think we see a ready reflection of this in other parts of his chart: Neptune on the MC, and a T-square of Moon-Venus-Jupiter. Taurus and Libra are probably the most nostalgic signs, though Pisces has a vein of it too. The Moon relates to nostalgia, but more usually through its exaltation in Taurus. The past impresses itself on Cancer (the Moon sign in this chart), but the urge in this sign is generally to escape or outgrow the past, rather than to fondly recall it.

Certainly critics have remarked that a dichotomy in his character between a hopeful and romantic side, and a greater part that is rather cynical and bleak is reflected in his work.

... cool sharp world of edgy romance and sexual tension. He has the ability to make you feel nostalgic for things you never actually experienced in the first place. (Sir Tim Rice, cited in reference below.)

I seem to have spent my life wistfully looking back. I live more for yesterday than I do for tomorrow. (Vettriano)

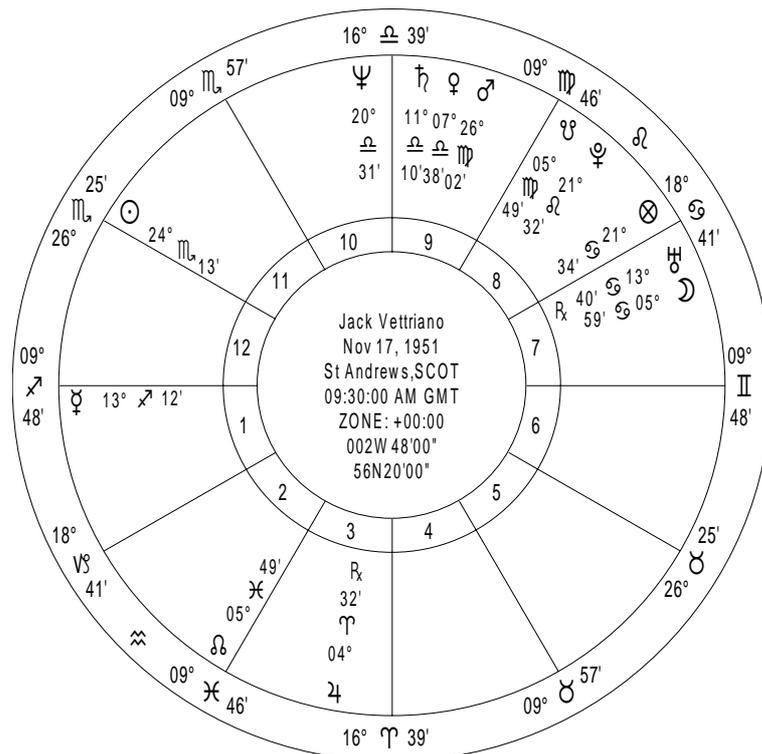
His lifelong obsession with women, particularly women who like to dress provocatively.

Pathologically private.

My paintings are about things I have done and things I wish I could do. They are about a bunch of sad, unhappy people who are driven by lust. [Vettriano]

Source:

Anthony Quinn, *Jack Vettriano*, Pavilion, 2006



R D Laing, psychiatrist, cultural icon

Born: 7 October 1927, 17.15 GMT, Glasgow 55n53/4w15 (birth certificate)

Ronald David Laing changed society's attitudes to madness. He made the treatment of it more humane, just as another Libra Sun, A S Neill (qv), helped make schools more humane. This is the specific way in which Librans can be counted as rebels: they question, and sometimes cause to change, our attitudes and values, what we hold to be 'right' and good. Laing also had a strong Aquarian side (Moon in the sign, and Uranus conjunct the ascendant) which fits the conventional wisdom regarding rebels. More usually Aquarius concurs with differentness within a peer group, often a profession. Laing was trained as a conventional psychiatrist, but rather than tear down, he was more concerned to improve and be an agent of change.

Laing's focus in his theories of madness and therapy is again a reflection of his Libran Sun. Libra symbolises the family in that it represents a sort of half-way house between the individual and society where one learns to interact and learns also that one's actions affect other people, just as theirs affect you. It's a context in which thee and me come to be balanced. If there is imbalance an individual can be crippled by his or her family upbringing and mental illness *might* be the result.

But equally, families can be supportive and Laing utilised family-type communities for therapeutic purposes. Libra is about recognising the real self, not the one society has dictated (through the family) that you be, but at the same time it is about mutuality. Laing uses the analogy of an orchestra (he was a talented musician himself). If one instrumentalist is playing out of tune the piece is ruined. They might not know they are out of tune, and even if told might not accept that they are. But if they continue to turn up and play then, for the greater good, they have to be removed, if necessary by force.

Even those who don't go along with Laing's ideas agree that his great strength was an ability to connect with profoundly disturbed people. Instead of filling them with chemicals and drugs, or locking them in a padded cell, he would treat them as an equal and as a friend (which ran against the grain of conventional psychiatry) and was sometimes successful in establishing therapeutic dialogue.

Laing's ascendant is at 29.33 Pisces. A minute or so of clock time moves it into Aries. Descriptions of his character point to the latter, for despite in some ways being a man of love, he could be abrasive, sarcastic, forceful, provocative, challenging, dominating, blunt, unkind and bullying (although Mars conjunct his natal Sun could account for that). We can detect Pisces in his nature also (his compassion for the outcasts of society) but a Pisces Jupiter conjunct the ascendant might also provide this. It's a difficult one to call. But certainly the strong Jupiter is suggestive of the guru status he acquired, while the strong Uranus and Aquarius suggest the wide audience he reached, and his appeal to the counter-culture of the late sixties. The appreciation of his books lies well beyond the psychiatric profession, and have been translated into many languages.

From October 1951 until September 1953 he was conscripted into the Army Medical Corps, where he witnessed many of the barbaric practices of the psychiatry of the day. Saturn was transiting natal Sun and Mars for much

of this period. Significantly too, progressed Mercury changed direction in 1951, direct to retrograde. There was another change of station in 1971, where once more he found himself in a situation where his attitudes were reformulated. In March 1971 he took a year out in India during which, as he put it "I lost my motivation and beliefs." Transiting Jupiter was conjunct Saturn and then the MC for much of the year.

A peculiar and sometimes annoying aspect of Ronnie's personality was his obvious need to be the centre of attention. If someone else took centre stage, even in a relatively informal situation, Ronnie would, at some stage, 'let them have it'.¹

He wanted above all to be recognised as a world intellect, fully educated in a wide range of fields.¹

He was painfully sensitive, and had an empathy with the bewildered and downtrodden ... But Ronnie's distinguishing feature was his heartfelt desire to do something about what he perceived to be the injustices of the world.¹

His reputation for being eccentric, unpredictable and often difficult to deal with.²

Extremely expressive way of speaking. He always makes his points with passion, and while he speaks, a rich gamut of emotion plays itself out in his face and body language.²

He was himself a deeply loving man, if often rough, and one who fought his way continually back to moral principles.³

Sources

1. Adrian Laing, *R D Laing*, Peter Owen, 1994
2. Fritjof Capra, *Uncommon Wisdom*, Rider
3. Francis Huxley, 'The Liberating Shaman of Kingsley Hall', *The Guardian*, 25 August 1989

Helen Duncan, celebrated medium and "witch"

Born: (Victoria Helen MacFarlane) 25 November 1897, 03.00 GMT, Callander 56n15/4w14 (birth certificate)

Helen Duncan held public séances and professed to contact the spirits of the dead. At one meeting in Portsmouth, about the beginning of December 1941, the spirit of a sailor came to her; his hatband revealed the name of his ship, HMS *Barham*. It had been torpedoed in the Mediterranean on 25 November 1941, going down with the loss of 868 lives. On the day following the séance one of those present phoned the Admiralty to seek confirmation of the sinking. The men at the ministry were puzzled and alarmed, for news of the disaster had not been released, and would not be, for reasons of security and morale, until mid-January

Come 1944, with D-Day being planned, the authorities were becoming particularly twitchy, and it was believed that mediums – of whom there were many, doing good business promising to put grieving relatives in touch with those lost in action – represented a security threat. It appears they wanted to make an example of someone, and that happened to be Duncan. There was a police raid on one of her meetings in January 1944. She was tried on 22 March 1944 under a witchcraft act of 1735. The jury chose not to believe the 45

witnesses put forward by the defence claiming Duncan had indeed put them in touch with spirits of the dead, and found her guilty.

She was sentenced to nine months in prison. The act was repealed not long after this event, and Duncan has the distinction of being one of the last to be found guilty of witchcraft.

Source

Malcolm Gaskill, *Hellish Nell, Last of Britain's Witches*, Fourth Estate, 2001

Sir Fred Goodwin, disgraced banker

Born: 17 August 1958, (07.45 BST) 06.45 GMT, Paisley 55n50/4w26 (birth certificate)

Fred Goodwin has been identified as a key figure in the global financial catastrophe that broke in September 2008. Under his leadership the Royal Bank of Scotland grew (largely through acquisitions) to become one of the biggest in the world. However, it proved to be an empire built on sand. There is a lot of Earth in his chart and he was noted for his painstaking diligence over deals.

However, it was the reckless Leo gambler that eventually prevailed. He was a man single-minded in his purpose yet also arrogant and autocratic. His world collapsed as transiting Neptune opposed his Sun. Jupiter crossing Sun, ascendant and then Moon corresponded to the peak of success (and his knighthood) while Saturn transiting on or about his ascendant in the period December 2007 to September 2008 also indicates his downfall.

