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## Translations of Kepler's Astrological Writings

### Part I, Section 1.3. Kepler's Delineations of his Family's Astrology

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#### Translated and annotated by Dorian Greenbaum<sup>1</sup>

*Here we find Kepler's comparisons of his, his wife's, his son's and his step-daughter's birthcharts. It consists of two tables: the first lists the planetary and angle positions of each of the four family members, classified into cardinal, fixed and mutable signs; it is followed by a commentary. The second table compares similar aspects in the charts under discussion, also with commentary. Finally, Kepler speculates on a conception chart, almost certainly for his son Heinrich, again with commentary.*

*The text is particularly interesting because it gives insight into the way that Kepler went about interpreting a chart, and into the way he compares charts (the modern astrological term for this is 'synastry'). Unfortunately, since it was clearly written only for Kepler's use, it is quite terse and difficult to decipher. However, there are parallels between this text and a series of letters Kepler wrote to Michael Mästlin, in which Kepler compares his own and his son Heinrich's charts, as well as Mästlin's and his son August's charts (see **Part I.1.4** in this volume). No date of composition is given; it may have been written around the time of Heinrich's birth in early 1598 or, alternatively, after the death of Barbara Kepler in 1611 (see p. 61, 'Son's mother is going to die').*

*Taken from Gesammelte Werke 21, 2.2, pp. 41-45. Note: because of the table format, I have left the astrological glyphs as they appear, without*

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<sup>1</sup> I am grateful for the advice of Stephan Heilen, Cornelia Linde and Charles Burnett in preparing this translation. Any errors which remain are, of course, my own. I also thank Peter Nockolds for his examination of the folia *in situ*.

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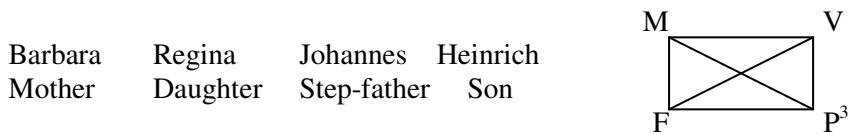
writing them out. In the commentaries to the tables, I have written out the names, with the glyph used shown in square brackets.

[GW 21,2.2, p. 41]

**Horoscope comparison of Barbara Kepler, Step-daughter Regina Ehem, Johannes Kepler and son Heinrich Kepler<sup>2</sup>**

[Pulkovo XXI, 429r]

**A Wonderful Birth Connection (*Mira cognatio*)**



Connection in the Tropical Signs

a	f	z	v	Section No.
	☉ 4.4 Mother   4.20 Mother	♃ <sup>4</sup> 4.0 Son	♃ 2.0 Son L 4.20 Mother Either ♃ 3.26 Mother	1
[GW 21, 2.2, p. 42]		♂ 8.58 Father	♀ 7.42 v Father	2
	♃ 14.33 Dau.		☉ 15.7 Father Or ♃ 16.15 Mother <sup>5</sup> r 18.20 Father	3
	Asc.: 20 Dau.	γ 21.56 Dau.	VII 20 Dau.	4
VII 26		Either Asc.: 26	Or	5

<sup>2</sup> GW editor's title.

<sup>3</sup> M = Mother (*mater*), V = Step-father (*vitricus*), F = Son (*filius*) and P = Step-daughter (*privigna*).

<sup>4</sup> Wrongly transcribed in the published GW 21, 2.2, p. 41 as γ .

<sup>5</sup> In his other diagram of Barbara Kepler's birthchart (no. 59 in GW 21, 2.2), Kepler gives the Moon's position as 15v. A modern calculation program (Solar Fire Gold) yields the closest date as 16 June 1573 at about 10 a.m.

Son		Son		
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[Pulkovo XXI, 429v] Connection in the Common Signs<sup>6</sup>

s	g	x	b	Section No.
Or VII 3 Son Or	L0.43 Dau. L2.37 Father  MC 3 Son	Asc.: 3 Son	L0.43 Dau. L2.37 Father  IC 3 Son	6
		♃ 14.12 Father	☉ 13.30 Son	7
	r 19.37 Dau.			8
y 24.48 Mother	MC: 22 Father <sup>7</sup>	♃ 21.30 Mother	IC 22 Father <sup>7</sup> ♀ 22.58 Son	9

Connection in the Bicorporeal Signs<sup>8</sup>

II	h	c	n	Section No.
	♂ 2.46 Dau.			10
♃ 4.54 Father y 5.54 Son MC 6 Mother		IC 6 Mother		11
	L8.10 Son Asc.: 11 Mother		L8.10 Son VII 11 Mother	12
			y 18.40 Father	13
♀ 21.30 Mother r 24.25 Mother Asc.: 24.40 Father ♂ 24.46 Son	♀ 23.24 Dau.	VII 24.40 Father		14
♂ 28.18 Mother	☉ 28.20 Dau.		MC 28.20	15

<sup>6</sup> These are normally called 'fixed'.

<sup>7</sup> I think this is another transcription error: MC for Johannes should be 22° Aquarius, not Leo (and, therefore, 'IC' in this row should be 'MC').

<sup>8</sup> I.e., mutable. Sometimes called 'common'.

‡ 28.26 Dau.	And IC Dau.		Dau. r 28.3 Son	
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[**GW 21, 2.2., p. 42 (bottom)**] Then I say ‘connection’ (*cognatio*), when the planets or places are joined within a space of 3 degrees, because there is a natural division of the zodiac into 120 [3-degree portions]. By which reasoning 15 sections (*loca*) result.<sup>9</sup> But for section 2,<sup>10</sup> there is no [connection between the charts], since [it contains] only [positions] for the (male) parent, just as also in section 4, since [it contains] only the daughter’s [positions], and section 5, since [it contains] only the son’s. And 8, only the daughter’s; and 10, only the daughter’s; and 13, only the father’s.

[**GW 21, 2.2., p. 43**] Therefore sections 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14 and 15 remain. Though we can make this allowance in the case of the 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> [sections],<sup>11</sup> [*Pulkovo XXI, 430r*] that they relate to sections 9, 11 and 14.<sup>12</sup> But if we want to act astrologically, and give an 8-degree orb on both sides, we will have very few (*paucissimas*) [connections].<sup>13</sup> For 14, 15, 1 and 2 will be the same [section]; 3, 4 and 5 another; 6 a third; 7, 8 and 9 a fourth; 10, 11, 12 a fifth; but to avoid giving an opportunity for misrepresentation, let’s leave the boundaries and angles as written above. Nevertheless let us keep in mind and marvel that the most frequent concentration (*congregatio*) of them all occurs before and after the summer solstice point, to which the remaining 3 cardinal points must be related. Therefore the most trivial (*vilissima*) connection of them all, and

<sup>9</sup> In the table, the fifteen sections are arranged so that positions within a three-degree arc are listed together in one section. (The neuter plural form of *locum* means ‘places connected with each other’ [C. T. Lewis and C. Short, *A Latin Dictionary* (Oxford, 1879, repr. 1996), p. 1074, s.v. *locus*].)

<sup>10</sup> In this paragraph, the section numbers 2, 4, 5, 8 and 10 were written in the margin.

<sup>11</sup> ‘8, 10, 13’ written in the margin.

<sup>12</sup> That is, the degrees mentioned in that section are so close to the degrees in the next that they do make a connection.

<sup>13</sup> *Paucissimas* needs a feminine antecedent, and *cognatio* is the only feminine one available. Possibly it should read ‘paucissima’ and thereby go with ‘loca’ (sections).

almost accidental, is the 4<sup>th</sup>.<sup>14</sup> [*I.e. Sections 7, 8 and 9 as described above.*] It is plausible for such [connections] to be able to happen among any persons: [*First possible relationship*] Between step-father and step-daughter alone. Accordingly there is not even a connection<sup>15</sup> in any way, because [it is] remote and uncertain. [*Second possible relationship*] The next [connection] [*sc. cognatio*] is that of siblings from one mother and two fathers; such would be the case if [sections] 4 and 5 were assessed as one. But here, they come together in no [section] alone,<sup>16</sup> unless either father or mother, or both, accompany (*concurrat*). [*Third possible relationship*] Third in sequence is that of the mother with step-daughter alone. For the father is dead, and so is not considered here; yet there is no such connection.<sup>17</sup> Now two almost equal degrees of relationship [*gradus*] follow after; [*Fourth possible relationship*] and fourth is that of the mother with son alone. Such [a connection] is [found] in [sections] 1 and 12.<sup>18</sup> Note that for the mother, 4 Cancer [f ] is very strong; therefore if she gives birth, she will scarcely be able to give birth without something being there.<sup>19</sup> [*Fifth possible relationship*] The fifth [degree of relationship is] of father with son. Section 7<sup>20</sup> is such a one. [*Sixth possible relationship*] Sixth and last of the simple relationships<sup>21</sup> is that of spouses alone; such a thing is rare, because in [the section] where they come together, they produce [offspring]. Here there is no such [connection]. Now the most common degree of relationship from the threefold ones [*Seventh possible relationship*] is of spouses and step-daughter, where step-father and step-daughter come together naturally in

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<sup>14</sup> '4' written in the margin.

<sup>15</sup> I.e., a blood relationship (in fact this is the primary meaning of *cognatio*).

<sup>16</sup> I.e., they do not appear together in the same section.

<sup>17</sup> I.e., the mother and daughter do not appear alone as a duo in any section, unless someone else is also with them.

<sup>18</sup> '1. 12' written in the margin.

<sup>19</sup> Barbara Kepler's Sun and North Node are at 4° Cancer; therefore Kepler suggests that for a birth to take place, that degree must occur in the chart of the child born to her.

<sup>20</sup> '7' written in the margin.

<sup>21</sup> I.e., those between just two people.

the mother,<sup>22</sup> who is the only [possible] third [person]. Such [an example] is section 3<sup>23</sup> and no others. This is the seventh degree of relationship.

[*Pulkovo XXI, 430v*] [*Eighth possible relationship*] The eighth degree of relationship, which is the second of the threefold ones, is almost a counterpart to this: of the father, son, daughter, where step-father and step-daughter join in the son; such is the 6<sup>th</sup><sup>24</sup> [section]. [*Ninth possible relationship*] The ninth follows, and the third of the threefold ones, of mother with son and daughter. For the connection is so wide [*laxa est*] because she had two husbands; such [a connection] is [represented in section] 15.<sup>25</sup> [*Tenth possible relationship*] The tenth and last of the threefold [relationships] is a natural one, namely of the son with both parents, such as in sections 9 and 11.<sup>26</sup> [*Eleventh possible relationship*] The eleventh, and only fourfold one, is of all 4 among themselves where, however, the fact that the daughter joins this group occurs naturally – 1), because of the mother [and her relationship] between herself and the father; and 2) because of the brother [and his relationship] between himself and the father, although this feature ultimately leads back to the mother.<sup>27</sup> For he has from the same mother what makes him similar to his father, such as [seen in section] 14.<sup>28</sup> Therefore sections 15, 14, 11 and 9 are the most outstanding of all. [I shall take] the mutual cross-comparison (*transradiatio mutua*)<sup>29</sup> of the charts only up to this point.

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<sup>22</sup> I.e., positions in the step-father's and step-daughter's charts coalesce around positions in the mother's chart, since she is the one who connects them to each other. In this case, the mother's Moon is at 16° f , and planets for her daughter and (second) husband come within three degrees of that position.

<sup>23</sup> '3' written in the margin.

<sup>24</sup> '6' written in the margin.

<sup>25</sup> '15' written in the margin.

<sup>26</sup> '9. 11' written in the margin.

<sup>27</sup> That is, the mother is the catalyst for the relationships between the parties involved.

<sup>28</sup> '14' written in the margin.

<sup>29</sup> I have not found *transradiatio* in any dictionary; but the phrase could also mean something like the 'mutual radiating of aspect rays' among the four charts. Functionally, Kepler has compared the charts by noting the degrees in each chart

Now follows the similarity of aspects.

Mother and father.

1	Just as the Sun has separated from a $\square$ $\sigma$ by 6 deg. in the father's chart,	so the Sun has separated from a $\sigma$ $\sigma$ by 6 deg. in the mother's.
2	Just as the father's $y$ has surpassed the $F$ to $\text{th}$ by 5 degr.,	so the m<other's> $y$ has surpassed the $S$ to $\text{th}$ by 3 degr.
3	F<ather's> $\text{f}$ before $\square\sigma$ by 1 degr.	M<other's> $\text{f}$ before $\sigma\odot$ by 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ degr.
4	F<ather's> $\text{f}$ before the $\odot$ by 2 degr.	M<other's> $\text{f}$ before the $\odot$ by 12 degr.
5	F<ather's> $\text{f}$ $\odot$ in the 7 <sup>th</sup> angle.	M<other's> $\text{f}$ $\odot$ in the 10 <sup>th</sup> angle.

[GW 21, 2.2, p. 44] [Pulkovo XXI, 431r] Mother and daughter

M<other's> $\text{D}$ before $Fy$ by 8 deg.	D<aughter's> $\text{D}$ before $\square y$ by 8 deg.
M<other's> $\text{f}$ before $\odot$ by 12 deg.	D<aughter's> $\text{f}$ before $\odot$ by 5 deg.
M<other's> $\sigma$ before $\odot$ by 6 deg.	D<aughter's> $\sigma$ before $\odot$ by 25 deg.

Mother and son

M<other's> $\text{f}$ before $\sigma\sigma$ by 6 deg.	Son's $\text{f}$ before $F\sigma$ by 2 deg.
M<other's> $r$ before $\sigma\sigma$ by 3 deg.	Son's $r$ past $\square\sigma$ by 3 deg.
M<other's> $y$ past $S\text{th}$ by 3 deg.	Son's $y$ past $F\sigma$ by 2 deg.
M<other's> $\text{f}$ in the angle of the 10 <sup>th</sup> [house] [sc. <i>domus</i> ]	Son's $r$ in the angle of the 4 <sup>th</sup> [house] [sc. <i>domus</i> ]

In the margin: 'A fine exchange. The son's  $\sigma$  in the [degree of the] mother's  $r$ , the son's  $r$  in  $\square$  to the mother's  $\sigma$  precisely.'

Daughter and Son

D<aughter's> $\odot$ in $\square\text{th}$ .	Son's $\text{D}$ in $\square\text{th}$ .
D<aughter's> $r$ before $\text{f}$ by 34 deg.	Son's $r$ past $\text{f}$ by 35 deg.

which make hard aspects (conjunction, opposition, square), within 3 degrees, to positions in another chart.



D<aughter's> ☉ in IC.	Son's ☉ in IC.
D<aughter's> father dead.	Son's mother is going to die
D<aughter's> Leripes	Son. Apella

## Father and Son

F<ather's> ♀ behind F♃ by 5 deg.	Son's ♀ behind F♃ by 2 deg.
F<ather's> ☿ before ☐♄ by 1 deg.	Son's ☿ before F♄ by 2 deg.
F<ather's> ♀ has surpassed ♀ by 20 deg.	Son's ♀ <sup>30</sup> has surpassed ♀ by 19 deg.
F<ather's> ☽ before S☉ by 40 deg.	Son's ☽ before ♀☉ by 41 deg.
F<ather's> ♀ before ☉ by 8 deg.	Son's ♀ behind ☉ by 10 deg.
F<ather's> ♀ in angle VII.	Son's ♀ in angle IV.
F<ather's> ♃♄ below [horizon].	Son's ♃♄ above [horizon].
	Son's MC in G♃♀
F<ather's> ☉ in G♃♀	Son's ☉ behind F♃♀
F<ather's> ☽ before F♄ by 4 deg.	Son's ☽ behind S♄ by 7 deg.
F<ather's> ☽ in F♄ (evil)	Son's ☽ in ☐♃ (evil).
F<ather's> ☽ is southern [latitude], still before ♀ by G	Son's ☽ is southern [latitude], still before ♀ by G

*[Pulkovo XXI, 431v]* Some Other Things

When the daughter was born to the mother, her [the mother's] asc[endant] by direction had come to a square with Mercury [☿], and there also was [her daughter's] Mercury [☿], that is at 23° Virgo [h]. When her son was born, her asc[endant] had come to a square with Mars [♄], and there also was her son's square to Mars [♄] at 25° Virgo [h]. In her daughter's birth, [transiting] Saturn [♄] succeeded to the place of the mother's Mars [♄], a bad (planet) in [the place] of a bad [planet]. In her son's birth, [transiting] Mars [♄] entered into the place of her Mars [♄], a bad [planet] in [the place] of a bad [planet]. Likewise for the father [in his son's birth], [transiting] Saturn [♄] [came] almost into the place of his Mars [♄], in like manner a bad [planet] in [the place] of a bad [planet].

<sup>30</sup> The transcription in *GW*, 21, 2.2, p. 44, has the Jupiter glyph here, but it must be Mars. Jupiter cannot surpass itself by 'conjunction'!

**[GW 21, 2.2, p. 45]**

In the calculation of the conception chart<sup>31</sup>

☉ 8 s Asc<endant> [of birth]: 3x will be the ☐ of the conception  
 ☽ 1 z asc<endant>  
 ♄ 15 h 8x will be the S of the conception ☉  
 ♃ 19 s Asc<endant> of conception: 4 b will be the ☐ of the natal  
 ♀ 18 n asc<endant>  
 ♁ 15 a 14 b will be the natal ☉  
 ♁ 14 a  
 ♁ 23 n  
 Asc<endant> between 4 and 14 b  
 MC between 1 and 6 c

Perhaps, then, where the [conception] Sun was, in its opposite place is the [natal] asc<endant>. Where the [conception] asc<endant> was, in its place is the Sun [☉]. That cannot always happen. The [birth] Moon, however, in a place squared from its conception one [*ab initio*], or so that [the birth] Saturn [♄] will have come to about the place of the [conception] ☽.<sup>32</sup> Thus Jupiter [moved to] the place of the MC, but the MC in the square of Jupiter's [♃] place. There is, however, again a Jupiter-Saturn trine [♃ ♄], Jupiter [♃] past [i.e. separating] by 4 degrees. And the Sun was before [i.e. applying to] the trine with Saturn [♄] by 7 degrees, before Jupiter [♃] by 11. Now [in the birth chart] it is trine Saturn [♄] by 9, past the trine with Jupiter [♃] by 7, Mars [♂] in a squared place,<sup>33</sup> but before his birth [*ante eum*] certainly natural time seems to behave in such a way that the Sun and Moon come to their squares, the Sun to the square preceding, the Moon to the one following

<sup>31</sup> Kepler does not supply a name for this conception chart, but I believe it is for Heinrich's conception, based on the comparison with birth positions.

<sup>32</sup> The conception Moon at 1° Libra is square the birth Moon at 2° Capricorn. The birth Saturn is 4° Libra.

<sup>33</sup> Mars in Pisces in the conception vs. Mars in Gemini in the birth.

64 Part I. Kepler as Practising Astrologer 1. Personal

[*Pulkovo XXI, 432r*] and perhaps the ascendant to its preceding square  
[□].

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