

CULTURE AND COSMOS

Editor Nick Campion

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Editorial

The copy date on this issue of *Culture and Cosmos* is Autumn/Winter 2003. Due to changes in the production schedule occasioned by Vol. 7 no 1, the special issue on Galileo, it is actually published in May 2004.

Bath Spa University College

World's first Professor of Cultural Astronomy and Astrology

The Sophia Centre at Bath Spa University College is proud to announce that Michael York has been appointed the world's first Professor of Cultural Astronomy and Astrology. Professor York, who heads the Centre for Cultural Astronomy and Astrology, is a distinguished scholar of modern religious movements and the New Age. His books include *The Divine and the Assurian*, *Pagan Theology* and *A Historical Dictionary of the New Age*. The Sophia Centre was set up with support from the Sophia Project and represents the return of astrology as a subject for critical study to mainstream university. Professor York's appointment indicates the importance which Bath Spa University College attaches to this development.

First five MA students graduate

The first ever MA degrees in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology will be granted in July 2004 when the first five Sophia Centre students will graduate. These are Jane Amanda, James Brockbank, Bernard Eccles David Rowan and Wendy Stacey. Papers by Eccles and Brockbank are published in this issue.

PhD students accepted

Garry Phillipson and Glenford Bishop have now been accepted as the Sophia Centre's first two PhD students. Phillipson's title is 'A Context for Heresy: Locating Astrology in Contemporary Western Thought'. Bishop's title is 'Astronomical Correspondences in the English Folk Play: an astronomical, mythological and psychoanalytic re-appraisal of the problem of origins'.

Astrology and the Academy papers

The papers from the Sophia Centre's conference on Astrology and the Academy on 13-14 June 2003 have now been published by Cinnabar Books, PO Box 1071, Bristol BS991HE, UK (Cinnabar@caol.demon.co.uk), ISBN 1-898485-07-0, price £19.99, edited by Nicholas Campion, Patrick Curry and Michael York. The collection includes the keynote talks by Liz Greene and Professor Ronald Hutton. The contents include From Allegory to Anagoge: The Question of Symbolic Perception in a Literal World (Angela Voss), Astral Magic: The Acceptable Face of Paganism (Ronald Hutton), 'Aspects' of Deity (Prudence Jones), Astrology and Science: Two Worldviews Searching for a Synthesis (Jesus Navarro), Astrology and Science – A New Millennium (Maarit Laurento), Astrology at Work in Social Science Research (Pat Harris), The Academy as an Archetypal Group Dynamic (Liz Greene), Verity and the Question of Primary and Secondary Scholarship in Astrology (Geoffrey Cornelius), Psychological Aspects of Astrology's Return to the Academy (Jean Hinson Lall), Astrology, the Academy and the Early Modern English Newspaper (Anna Marie Roos), The Lure of Egypt, or How to Sound Like a Reliable Source (Joanna Komorowska), Marco Polo and the Chinese Zodiac (Derek Walters), Astrology and Brazilian Culture: A Personal Perspective (Ruth Cintra), Astrology as a Language Game (Mike Harding), and The Importance of Comets for the Cause of Astrology: the Case of Pierre Bayle in the Years 1680-1705 (Jacques Halbronn).

Nick Campion