

PLANETS, PERSONALITY AND ORDINARY PEOPLE†

by

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ABSTRACT

The hypothesis that ordinary (ie. unexceptional) people should show a planetary effect in personality similar to that shown by famous people was tested by three studies involving, respectively, vocational interest (300 subjects), planetary psychology self-reports (846 subjects), and scores on the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (561 subjects). Only the last showed (marginally) significant results: Mars correlated in the expected direction with E+ and P+, and the Moon with L+. Results for the other planets, and for N+, were either inconsistent or not significant.

The deficiencies of some existing personality questionnaires are discussed and alternate approaches are suggested. The best approach seems to be the same as for famous people, namely the generation of biographical data followed by the character-traits method.

KEYWORDS: *Astrology, Gauquelin, diurnal distribution, methodology, planetary traits, personality tests, vocational interest, EPQ*

INTRODUCTION

We urgently need to test whether the planetary factors of personality discovered in successful people can also be found in ordinary people. And I am very often asked: "You are a psychologist, why did you not use the tools of modern personality investigation, such as questionnaires, for investigating the relationships between planets and character traits?" In fact over the past years we have carried out three experiments using questionnaires which address the problem of ordinary people. In this article I describe these attempts, the results I obtained, and the further research they suggest to me.

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The First Experiment

Twenty years ago, we devised a questionnaire of vocational interests, similar to the well-known Strong questionnaire^{1,4}, but considerably shorter and adapted to our observations. It was based upon the results we found for Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and the Moon at the birth of successful professionals⁵, and consisted of twenty items representing various human interests. This questionnaire was published in 1966⁶. Each item consisted of four professional activities, and the subject had to circle the one he would prefer to practice. Each of the interests is considered to be linked with either Mars, Jupiter, Saturn or the Moon. For example:

- sales representative (Jupiter)	engraver (Saturn)	gardener (Moon)	professional athlete (Mars)
- chemist (Saturn)	poet (Moon)	surgeon (Mars)	actor (Jupiter)
- to meet friends (Moon)	to collect stamps (Saturn)	be a parade organiser (Jupiter)	to drive a sports car (Mars)

(Of course, the name of the planet did not appear in the questionnaire).

The questionnaire was completed by 300 subjects, mostly male, during the psychological studies made by myself at the Société Française de Psychotechnique, Paris, in the years 1960-1961 (details of the procedure can be found in our 1966 article). The precise times of birth of the 300 subjects were obtained from the official records of their birth place. Then the positions, in the 12 sectors of diurnal movement, were calculated for Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and the Moon.

The hypothesis was that subjects born with a planet rising or culminating in sectors 1 or 4 would choose the corresponding interest more frequently than the average for the total sample. As Table I shows, the hypothesis was not supported by the results.