

Islands of Order¹ – Uranus Aspects in Space Exploration Charts

The charts for the [discovery of Uranus in 1781](#) and the first balloon flights in 1783 were closely linked - Uranus was prominent in these charts, making close aspects with key planets. Neptune's presence in these charts was also very strong which was appropriate since, even though it was not discovered until 1846, it has since come to symbolise the very gases which filled these primitive forms of air transport.



The first powered flight at Kitty Hawk Beach lasted twelve seconds

Further balloon flights followed the events of the late eighteenth century and during the next hundred years early aeroplanes were developed although these, like the balloons, did not have a power source. It was not until 17th. December 1903 that the first sustained power flight was achieved when Orville Wright flew over a beach at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

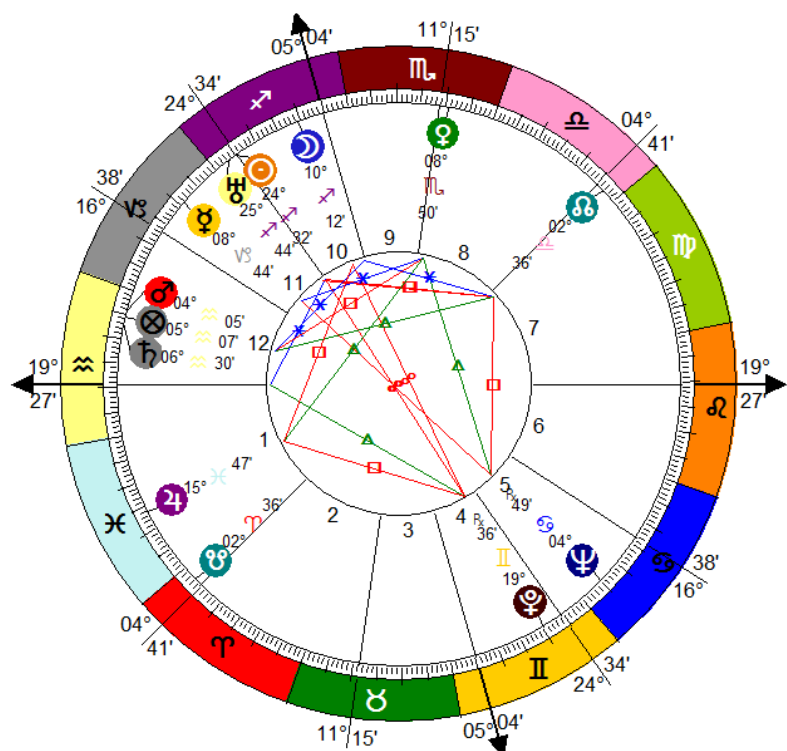
The flight only lasted twelve seconds and purists might argue that this hardly qualifies as a flight.

However, since the event has so firmly entered publicly consciousness it is a chart which needs to be included and considered.

The Sun and Uranus are now conjunct and just over a degree apart at 24°/25° Sagittarius - exactly opposite the position of Uranus when it was discovered on 13th. March 1781.

Although we might not normally pay much attention to progressions of the more distant planets - since their slow motion means it takes a long time for anything of note to happen - the gap of 120 years between the discovery of Uranus and the Kitty Hawk flight does allow for some significant movement.

In that time Uranus progresses from 24°27' Gemini to 0°06' Cancer and, even though Cancer may be a water sign rather than an



First Powered Flight

10.35 a.m. EST, 17 December 1903

Kitty Hawk Beach, North Carolina USA, 75W42, 36N05²

air sign, the recent change of sign by progression of Uranus seems to show a new stage in the journey of flight.

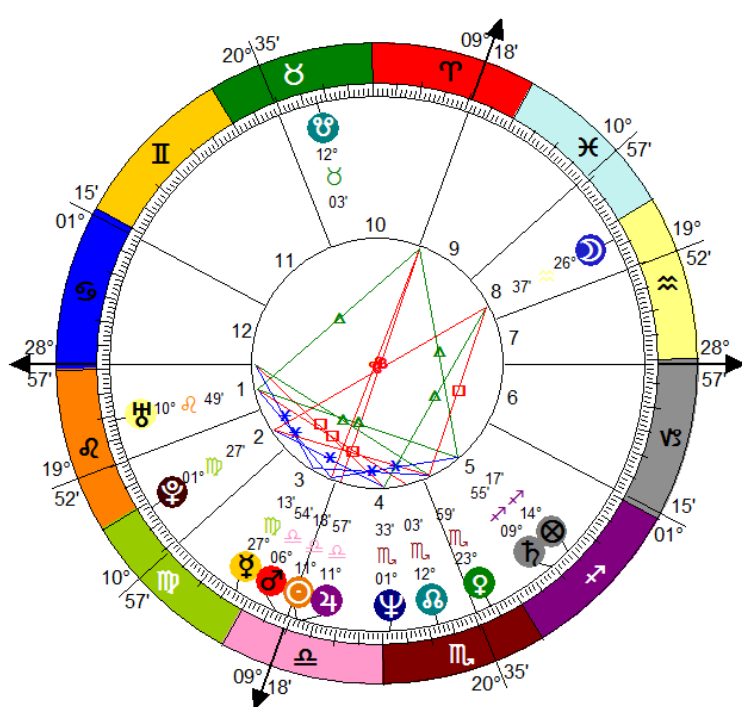
It is a nice ornamentation that when Uranus progresses to a water sign the first sustained air flight occurs shortly afterwards over a beach next to the ocean.

The North Node at 2°36' Libra points to the future as shown in some of the charts discussed below.

Note also the Mars-Saturn conjunction in Aquarius. We sometimes think of these planets, when conjoined, as being either a destructive combination or forming an impenetrable barrier to progress but it is a conjunction which can also mean the pay-off for hard work. The same aspect, in Sagittarius, was present when Uranus was discovered.

Looking at the Astro*Carto*Graphy one cannot but smile at the fact that when the Kitty Hawk flight took place the Moon was exactly on the Descendant over Bath, UK, from where Uranus had been discovered in 1781. The infantile, Moon, stage in humanity's journey in the air is now complete and the Moon sets where the ruler of air travel, Uranus, was discovered.

Although the Kitty Hawk flight is important it can be argued that it is only an extension of what was first achieved by balloon in 1783 and that the next real breakthrough comes in 1957 when the first object was launched into space, breaking through the earth's atmosphere rather than in 1903 when the Kitty Hawk remained within it.



Sputnik 1 Launch
7.28 p.m. UT, 4 October 1957
Baikonur Cosmodrome, USSR, 45N55, 063E20³

and Buzz Aldrin walked on the Moon just under twelve years later – a full Jupiter cycle.

Space travel is of a totally different order from travel within the earth's atmosphere and the early space flights mirror the early flights in balloons – the first flight was an unmanned object which was followed by a flight with an animal on board a month later. Another three and a half years would elapse before a human being finally flew in space.

The first artificial object launched into space – Sputnik 1 - may have been small (just 58 cm in diameter) but the implications were huge, leading to the space race between the USA and the Soviet Union as a result of which Neil Armstrong

The chart for the launch of Sputnik shows a partile conjunction of the Sun and Jupiter at 11° of Libra conjunct the IC of the chart. It is almost as though they are about to be blasted upwards by Uranus in Leo in the first house which is 0°29' from an exact sextile with the Sun and 1°08' from an exact sextile with Jupiter.



Hungarian postage stamp showing Laika, the first animal to orbit earth.

11° Libra is also very significant as it is the degree occupied by Neptune during the last months of 1783 when the first manned balloon flights were made and is opposite the degree of 11° Aries - the position of Mercury when Uranus was discovered and of Mars when the first animals were flown in a hot air balloon.

The first living creature was launched into space a month later - a dog named Laika - on

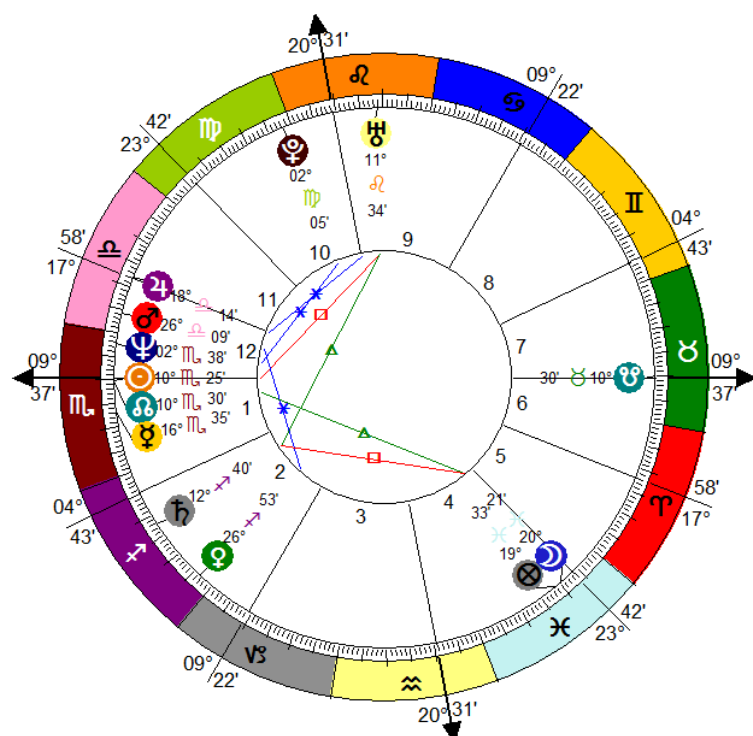
Sputnik 2 although the poor animal died within a few hours of the launch, probably due to overheating.

In the month between the launches of Sputnik 1 and Sputnik 2 the Sun had travelled from the eleventh degree of Libra to the eleventh degree of Scorpio and was now exactly conjoined to the North Node while Uranus was just over one degree away from a square to both of them.

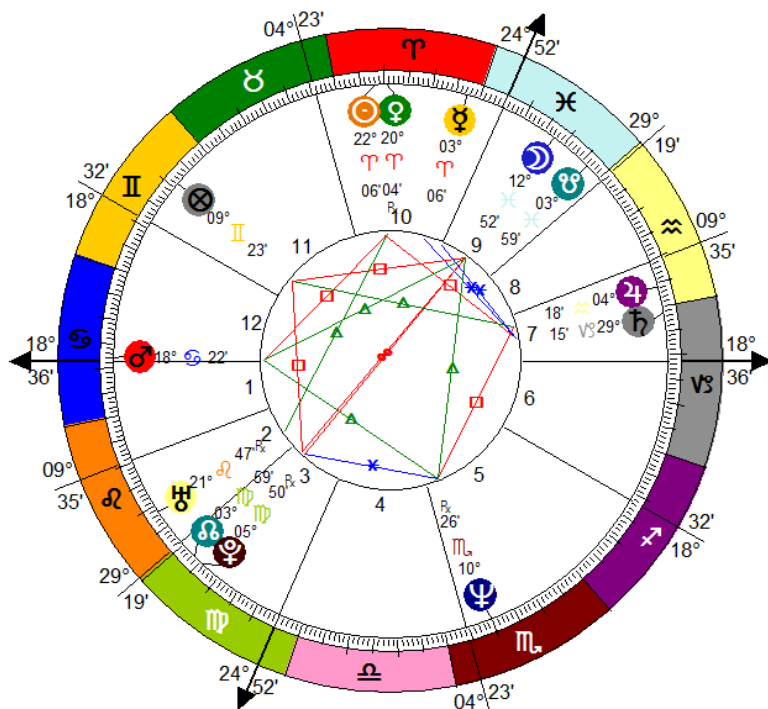
The conjunction of the Sun and North Node in this chart occurs on the ascendant at 10° Scorpio – another highly important area of the zodiac in the “Uranus family of charts.”

In my article on the [discovery of Uranus](#) I used an ascendant of 11°43' for the chart of the discovery of Uranus and suggested that the actual ascendant was likely to be no more than a couple of degrees either side of this.

The Space Program moved to a new level with the launch of Vostok 1 on 12 April 1961 – flown by Yuri Gagarin - this was the first time a human being had travelled in space.



Sputnik 2 Launch
2.30 a.m. UT, 3 November 1957
Baikonur Cosmodrome USSR, 45N55, 063E20⁴



Vostok 1 Launch – Yuri Gagarin becomes the first man in space
6.07 a.m. UT, 12 April 1961,
Baikonur Cosmodrome, 45N55, 063E20⁵

Uranus remains in Leo but has now moved to 21° 47' where it is just 0°19' away from an exact trine with the Sun. The presence of major Sun-Uranus aspects is remarkable for its dominance in charts for the breakthrough in travel through the skies - even the first hydrogen balloon flight had a significant minor (inconjunct) aspect which was only 1°44' away from exact.

Mars stamps its presence on the chart by being conjunct the ascendant and naturally signifying the fiery rocket ascending through the skies.

It forms a looser square with the Sun and a trine with the moon. The late Pisces MC

recalls the ascendant of the first manned balloon flight on 21 November 1783 while Jupiter at 4° Aquarius on 12 April 1961 is just five degrees away from its position in that same chart.

The first man to travel in a hot air balloon, Pilatre de Roziers, became the first casualty of ballooning when he died in a balloon crash two years later. In a curious echo, the first man in space, Yuri Gagarin, died in an air crash in 1968, seven years after his breakthrough journey.

After the unmanned flight, the space dog and the first man in space came the first woman in space, (although by that stage the Americans were also sending up rockets).

Valentina Tereshkova flew in Vostok 6 on 16th. June 1963 when Uranus was 0°14' away from a perfect square with Mercury.

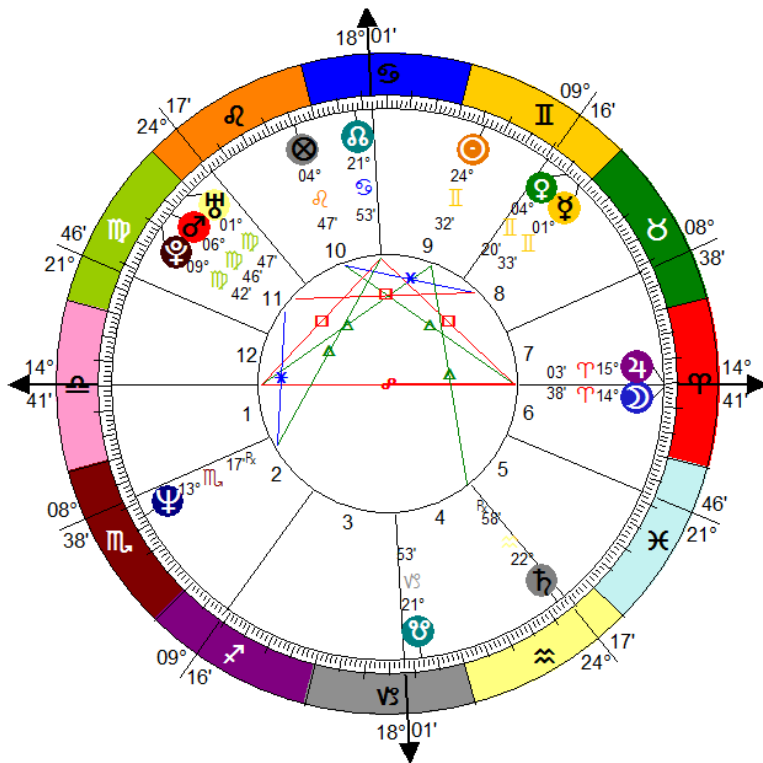
The sun, meanwhile, is at 24°32' Gemini a mere 0°5' away from the position of Uranus when it was discovered.

The Moon as a general signifier of women is very strongly placed exactly conjunct the descendant and Jupiter, which seems to indicate the expansion of the female role in space travel. The ascendant of 18° Cancer in the chart for the first manned flight has now moved to the MC as the first woman travels in space



A model of Vostok 1 in which Yuri Gagarin became the first man to fly in space.

while Venus (an appropriately feminine) ruler of the Libran ascendant sits on the brink of the ninth house of long journeys.



Vostok 6 Launch - Valentina Tereschkova becomes the first woman in space
9.29 a.m. UT, 16 June 1963
Baikonur Cosmodrome, USSR, 45N55, 063E20⁶

And so to the Moon landings. We can consider these as a group which started with the launch of Apollo 8 - the first rocket to fly in the Moon's orbit - on 21 December 1968 just ten days after an exact conjunction of Jupiter and Uranus – and culminated the moment Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon on 20th. July 1969 (21st. July in the UK).

These flights all took place against the background of a triple conjunction between Jupiter and Uranus in early Libra - a period which also marked the first flights of supersonic aeroplanes - the Tupalev 144 on 31 December 1968 and Concorde on 2 March 1969.

Supersonic speeds were achieved during the first half of 1969 although the initial flights

of these aeroplanes did not break the sound barrier. The chart for the first flight of Concorde not only has the Jupiter Uranus conjunction mentioned above but Mars makes an exact sextile to both of them from Sagittarius.

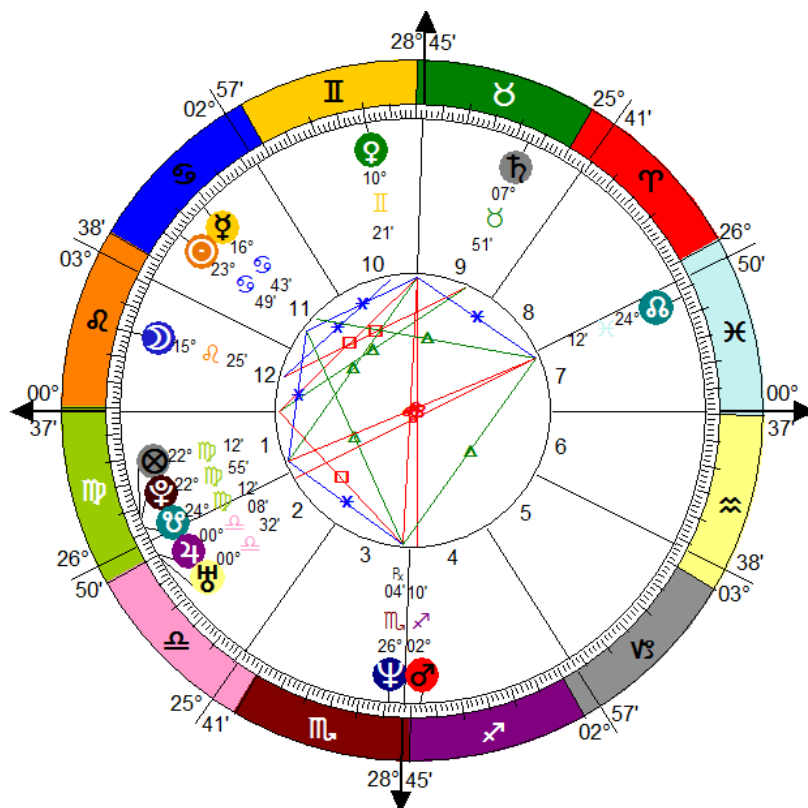
As Thunderclap Newman appropriately sang there was indeed "Something in the Air" - a song which topped the UK charts for three weeks in July 1969. "We've got to get together sooner or later, because the revolution's here" the song continues with its Aquarian/Uranian theme taking us back to the discovery of Uranus in a period of political upheaval which found its echo in May 1968 when students rioted in the streets of Paris - the same city in which so many of the early balloon flights took place.

The launch of Apollo XI with Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins aboard, finds Uranus at 0°32' Libra and Jupiter at 0°08' Libra – just 0°24' apart.

This is the last of the three Jupiter/Uranus conjunctions of 1968/9.



Buzz Aldrin walking on the Moon during the first landing in July 1969



Apollo XI Launch
9.32 EDT (+4), 16 July 1969
Meritt Island, Florida USA. 28N21,080W42⁷

In the Apollo XI launch chart the rocket is signified by the ascendant and the Moon. 0°37' Virgo rises - appropriate for the beginning of a journey – and is just over one degree away from the fixed star Regulus.

Although the Moon is peregrine and in the twelfth house it is not weakened in any other way and is in mutual reception by sign rulership with the sun. Appropriately, it is also just a couple of days past a new moon which echoes the beginning of a venture indicated by the early degrees on the ascendant.

By the time Neil Armstrong

sets foot on the Moon⁸, Uranus and Jupiter are just 0°4' apart and the Moon is at 11°25' Libra conjoining the degree of the Sun/Jupiter conjunction in the Sputnik 1 launch chart and opposite Mercury in the Discovery of Uranus chart.

There are, of course, no topocentric charts for the activities on the moon since they are not taking place on earth.

The tendency of Uranus to make very tight aspects with other key planets in the charts for specific events is not confined to the initial flights by balloon, aeroplane and rocket discussed so far in these two articles. What might be considered the most dramatic event of the Second World War shows how dominant Uranus can be when something new is done involving air transport.

At the moment the first atomic bomb was dropped Uranus stood exactly on the Midheaven and just one degree away from an exact square to the ascendant - the thunderbolt literally drops from the skies. Meanwhile the devastating consequences are shown by the exact (bar 0°13') conjunction of the Moon (the population) and Saturn, detrimented in Cancer, the traditional ruler of death.

The conjunction of the Moon and Saturn occurs at 18 degrees of Cancer – the degree on the ascendant when Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space and on the MC when Valentina Tereschkova became the first woman in space. In retrospect the linking of these three

charts with the same degree so important in each of them seems in some way to sum up the human condition and the capacity of humanity to use freewill in order to be creative or destructive.

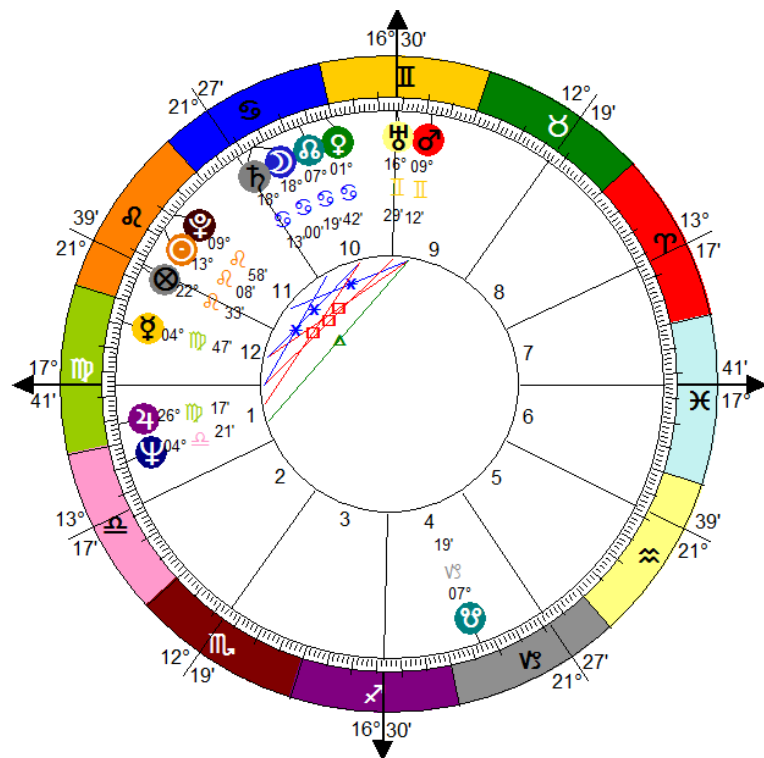
Table 1 is an extension of the table in my previous article which now includes the charts discussed in this article. The dominant aspects in the charts for the events of the 1780s were the aspects between Uranus and Mercury and the T-Square involving Saturn, Uranus and Neptune in cardinal signs. In the modern charts the recurring motif is the aspects between Uranus and the Sun.

Reviewing all these charts there are – besides 18° Cancer mentioned above – some other degrees which recur and can be seen In Table 2.

11° Libra links the developments of the 1780s and the first balloon flights with the Moon landings nearly two hundred years later but probably the most important area of the zodiac is the range from 10°-14° Scorpio – the table shows the numerous occasions on which this degree is highlighted in the various charts.

Over a period of two hundred years from the discovery of the planet, Uranus (which eventually took on the role of the planet to rule the skies through its mythological Greek name) to the moment when man set foot on the Moon for the first time the major points in the journey of air and space travel are marked by charts in which Uranus figures prominently and which refer back and forth to each other as if forming some sort of astrological family tree.

The aspects of Uranus recorded in these charts are all one or other of the major Ptolemaic “big five” – conjunction, square, sextile, trine or opposition - and all within two degrees of the exact aspect with many of them being much closer than that.



First Atomic Bomb
8.15 a.m. JST (-9), 6 August 1945
Hiroshima, Japan, 34N24, 132E27⁹

Table 1

Close Planetary Aspects of Uranus in Charts for its Discovery, and First Flights by Balloons, Aeroplanes and Rockets								
Date	Event							
13/3/1781	Discovery of Uranus	24°27' 		23°45' 	23°25' 			
4/6/1783	First unmanned Flight	6°06' 	7°31' 				6°11' 	7°31' 
19/9/1783	"3 Animal" Flight	11°32' 			11°42' 			
13/10/1783	First Manned Flight – Tethered	11°53' 	12°38' 					10°21' 
21/11/1783	First manned Untethered	11°23' 	12°11' 				9°53' 	10°21' 
1/12/1783	First hydrogen balloon (manned)	11°04' 					10°55' 	11°54' 
17/12/1901	Kitty Hawk – first powered air flight	25°24' 		24°32' 				
4/10/1957	Sputnik 1 – first unmanned rocket	10°49' 		11°18' 		11°57' 		
3/11/1957	Sputnik 2- first animal in space	11°34' 		10°25' 				
12/4/1961	Vostok 1 – first man in space	21°47' 		22°06' 				
16/6/1963	Vostok 6 – first woman in space	01°47' 	01°33' 					
16/7/1969	Apollo X1 – launch of first manned flight to land on moon	00°32' 				00°08' 		

Table 2

Key Degrees in the charts for the Discovery of Uranus in Charts for First Flights by Balloon, Powered Aeroplane and Rocket						
Date	Event	11° 	24° 	18° 	11° 	10° 
15/11/1738	Herschel born		♂ 20°09'			♀ 13°48'
13/3/1781	Discovery of Uranus	♀ 11°45'	♂ 24°27'			AS 11°43' ♂ 14°59'
4/6/1783	First unmanned Flight			♀ 19°48'		
19/9/1783	"3 Animal" Flight	♂ 11°42'			♀ 9°28'	
13/10/1783	First Manned Flight – Tethered				♀ 10°21'	♀ 12°38'
21/11/1783	First manned Untethered				♀ 11°39'	♀ 12°11'
1/12/1783	First hydrogen balloon (manned)				♀ 11°54'	
15/6/1785	Pilatres de Roziers Crash		☉ 24°28'		♀ 11°50'	☉ 12°49'
17/12/1901	Kitty Hawk – first powered air flight					
06/08/1945	First Atom Bomb			♂ 18°00' ♂ 18°13'		
4/10/1957	Sputnik 1 – first unmanned rocket	MC 9°18'			☉ 11°18' ♀ 11°57'	♂ 12°03'
3/11/1957	Sputnik 2- first animal in space					AS 9°37' ☉ 10°25' ♂ 10°30'
12/4/1961	Vostok 1 – first man in space			♂ 18°22' AS 18°36'		♀ 10°26'
16/6/1963	Vostok 6 – first woman in space		☉ 24°32'	MC 18°01'	AS 14°41'	♀ 13°17'
16/7/1969	Apollo X1 – launch of first manned flight to land on moon			♀ 16°43'		
21/7/1969	Sputnik 1 – first unmanned rocket				♂ 11°25'	

There are other charts in related fields which also bear the hallmark of Uranus including the audacious Dam Busters raid of 1943 when the aircraft flew at an altitude of 60 feet and dropped bombs which bounced over water as well before embedding themselves at the foot of German dams where they exploded causing widespread flood damage in the Ruhr valley.¹⁰

Other scientific breakthroughs such as the construction of the Periodic Table of Elements by Dimitri Mendeleev¹¹ after key information appeared to him in a dream and the final (and sudden) resolution of Fermat's Last Theorem by Andrew Wiles in 1994¹² after it had perplexed mathematicians for more than 350 years both occurred while Uranus was in tight aspect to other key planets.

And while we don't have a time (or chart) for the exact moment Newton saw the apple drop we do know that the principle which underlies all of these events - the effect of gravity - was discovered in the summer of 1665¹³ - when Jupiter and Uranus were in close conjunction in Aquarius.

What are we to make of all this? Is it, as the cynic might suggest, nothing more than coincidence or is it simply in the nature of humanity to seek some sort of order in an apparently random universe? Both these points of view have their supporters but, having observed astrology's imprint in so many charts over the last thirty years (and particularly charts for events), I can only look in wonder at the symbolic world echoing the physical world as I study these charts.

Uranus has always been of particular interest to me as the modern ruler of my Aquarian ascendant and even more so when squared my natal Uranus as I wrote this article. As I pondered the questions of freewill and Divine Intervention for the umpteenth time I realised I had been slow in seeing the synchronistic message put in front of my eyes or, rather, ears.

A couple of weeks before writing this passage I joined a choir and found myself delighted by the music to which I had (rather belatedly in life) been introduced - Haydn's *Creation*. The words of the passage we were singing that morning were from Psalm 19 "The Heavens are telling the glory of God, the wonder of His work displays the firmament" and the personal nature of message was signified by the moon being exactly conjunct my Ascendant as we sung the first note.¹⁴

What clearer message could there be for this contemplative astrologer?

This article was first published in *The Astrological Journal* of March/April 2017.

References

1. "In an ocean of ashes, islands of order. Patterns making themselves out of nothing. I can't show you how deep it goes.....pretty nice, eh?" p. 64, *Arcadia*, by Tom Stoppard, Samuel French 1993
2. www.astro.com – Rodden rating B
3. www.astro.com – Rodden rating AA
4. www.astro.com – Rodden rating AA

5. www.astro.com – Rodden rating AA
6. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vostok_6
7. www.astro.com – Rodden rating A
8. Eagle, the lunar spacecraft which detached from Apollo XI, landed on the Moon at 8.18 p.m. UTC, 20 July 1969 and Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the Moon at 2.56 a.m. on 21 July 1969 – see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apollo_11
9. www.astro.com – Rodden rating A
10. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/history/britain-at-war/10061005/Hour-by-hour-how-the-Dambusters-raid-unfolded.html> - retrieved 30 November 2016.
11. See the article on the web site of the Royal Society of Chemistry - <http://www.rsc.org/education/teachers/resources/periodictable/pre16/develop/mendeleev.htm> Mendeleev's breakthrough in formulating the Periodic Table of Elements came as the result of a dream on 17 February 1869 when Uranus and Jupiter were exactly square to each other at 13° Cancer and Aries respectively.
12. Fermat's Last Theorem had confounded mathematicians for more than 350 years but was solved by Andrew Wiles on 19 September 1994 when Mercury in Libra and Uranus in Capricorn were less than one degree away from an exact square – see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiles's_proof_of_Fermat's_Last_Theorem.
13. pp 27-8 *Newton*, Peter Ackroyd, Chatto & Windus, 2006
14. Shortly after noon, 8 November 2016, London.

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