

Gansten's Critique: Impact of Revised Rectification on Washington's Primary Directions

April 6, 2023

Introduction

In *Primary Directions: Astrology's Old Master Technique* (2009), Martin Gansten criticized the non-standard assumptions behind some primary directions published in *A Rectification Manual: The American Presidency* (2007). He also doubted the veracity of my statement that primary directions are capable of timing an event within 24 hours. In response, I prepared a detailed discussion of event matches to all possible Jupiter – ASC and Jupiter – MC primary directions for Washington, including those with non-standard assumptions. On the ability of primary directions to time precise event matches, I concluded that 41% timed events to within 3 days or less; 66% to within 1 week or less; 79% to within 2 weeks or less; and 97% to within 1 month or less.

In preparing the 4th revised edition of *A Rectification Manual* during 2021-2023, I revisited Washington's rectification with the benefit of an enhanced chronology drawn from Ron Chernow's landmark biography on Washington (2010). In doing so, I altered the proposed rectified Ascendant from 9AQ01'14" to 9AQ36'49" which has the effect of changing computed primary directions from 3 to 6 months. This change was motivated by several factors including: (1) advancing the Ascendant Distributor changeover to Saturn/Taurus to occur before his fatal throat infection and (2) better solar arc directions for the Conway Cabal troop revolt (Moon-MC) and victory at Yorktown and the subsequent British Treaty (Jupiter-MC).

If I concede a point to Gansten, it is that for multi-month and/or multi-year events, it can be difficult to pick out 2 or 3 specific event matches which track the start and end of a primary direction sequence as I have proposed. The rectification challenge is to find a sufficient number of event matches to primary direction sequences that rectification can withstand error in a few individual event attributions but not the totality of multiple directions, both primary and solar arc, computed by a variety of latitude options (zero, full latitude, Bianchini) and by both direct and converse motion. In addition to the primary direction sequence, linkage of similar events timed by both solar arc and primary directions as well as directing signifiers through the bounds are other techniques which can be used to compute the elusive to-the-second rectification.

In this brief update, I present revised event matches to six Jupiter-MC primary directions. They pick up the identical thematic events cited in my October 6, 2009 paper but with a slightly different set of events.

Please compare the original paper to what follows.

https://regulus-astrology.com/pdf/Review_of_Primary_Directions_-_Astrologys_Old_Master_Technique_6_Oct_2009.pdf

Dr. H

Delineation Update (2023)

Delineation – retrograde planets. ARM 1st-3rd editions reflected the standard traditional approach taken towards retrograde planets: that retrogradation is a debility because it interferes in the quality of event produced by the planet. Often matters must be repeated to manifest the planet’s effect. I also cited Ibn Ezra’s characterization of retrograde planets as ‘rebellious and defiant.’

Since that time, my research has shown that retrograde planets function like they are placed in the opposite sign. For Washington, Jupiter/Libra-rx functions like Jupiter/Aries.

Accordingly,

Updated Summary delineation for Jupiter/Libra-rx: Friends which are wealthy, sociable, *militant*; interested in legal and religious matters; driven by a desire to maintain upper class status through consumption of luxury goods. Some friends serve as emissaries in foreign lands and increase good fortune (and land grants) through access to the King’s treasury. *An overzealous nature leads friends and alliances to discard egalitarian methods in favor of military aggression to meet these same objectives: wealth, land grants, and political alliances.*

Direction Event Match Update (2023)

I. MC → Jupiter

						ARM 1 st ed 2007	ARM 4 th ed 2023
						ASC 9AQ01’14”	ASC 9AQ36’49”
1	REG	D	Saturn/Scorpio	P	MC d. → Jupiter (I=JU)	16-Sep-1768	8-Jan-1769
4	REG	D	Saturn/Scorpio	P	MC d. → Jupiter	7-Dec-1769	2-Apr-1770
7	PT	D	Saturn/Scorpio	P	MC d. → Jupiter (I=JU)	2-Nov-1771	29-Feb-1772
9	PT	D	Saturn/Scorpio	P	MC d. → Jupiter	11-Nov-1772	11-Mar-1773
23	PT	D	Mercury/Libra	P	Jupiter (I=JU) c. → MC	2-Dec-1779	9-May-1780
25	PT	D	Mercury/Libra	P	Jupiter c. → MC	12-Jul-1780	18-Dec-1780

(1) and (4) Following passage of the Townshend Revenue Act on 29-Jun-1767 which levied new import duties on tea, glass, paper, lead, etc.; Washington converted from a rich, disaffected planter into a rabid militant against British policies during **Winter 1768/1769** (Chernow 2010, 144). Timing of Washington’s radicalization is a delineation match to the **8-Jan-1769** direction. After the Virginia House of Burgesses was dissolved following their failed effort to have the import duties removed, the Townshend Revenue Act was repealed on **12-Apr-1770**, ten days following the 2-Apr-1770 direction. Concurrent actions included lobbying Virginia Governor Botetourt for land grants to honor Britain’s commitment of 200,000 acres of bounty lands promised by Dinwiddie to veterans of the 1754 Fort Necessity campaign.

(7) and (9) Biographer Chernow lists no major life events in early 1772, characterizing the three year period following repeal of the Townshend Act on 12-Apr-1770 as relatively normal. During **March 1773**, Washington supported the decision made by former House of Burgesses’ members to form a Committee of Correspondence to harmonize defensive measures with other colonies. Chernow reports at the same time Washington also lobbied Lord Dunmore for another 5,000

acres in the Ohio Country under the royal proclamation of 1763 designed to reward veterans of the French and Indian War. Both are event matches to the **11-Mar-1773** direction.

(23) and (25) The prior set of suggested event matches tied Jupiter to Washington's French alliance with the return to France of Charles Hector, Comte d'Estaing in **early December 1779** after failing to achieve victories in Newport (1778) and Savannah (1779). Also the arrival of General Rochambeau on **10-Jul-1780** at Newport. For the revised sequence, Rochambeau's departure from Brest for the colonies on **2-May-1780** is suggested for the first direction. I find no exact event match to the second direction, but the marriage of Alexander Hamilton to Elizabeth Schuyler on **14-Dec-1780** is notable only because Hamilton reappears in the same set of directions computed by solar arc directions.

15-Oct-1781. csa MC conj Jupiter.

30-Nov-1782. dsa Jupiter conj MC.

LOCK Hamilton's men led charge against Cornwallis with minimal losses, **14-Oct-1781**.

Cornwallis signed articles of surrender, **19-Oct-1781**.

LOCK Preliminary Peace Treaty signed in Paris, **30-Nov-1782**.

Washington did not learn of the Treaty of Paris until February 1783.

The victorious French military alliance is the consistent theme which links the 1780 primary directions and the 1781/1782 pair of solar arc directions. This linkage is a good example of the proposition I made in ARM 1st edition on the relationship between solar arcs and primary directions (ARM 1st edition, Chapter 8 Directions). Because of the low odds that the same MC-Jupiter direction timed Rochambeau's departure from Brest for the colonies (primary direction) and Rochambeau's support for Washington's victory at Yorktown (solar arc direction), this set of event matches greatly increases the odds of a correct rectification.

Reference

Chernow, Ron. *Washington: A Life*. New York: The Penguin Press, 2010.