

1923 - The First Transneptunian Planet Cupido A One Hundred Years Anniversary

A review by Michael Feist

When Alfred Witte presented his findings and idea of modern astrology in relevant astrological journals, the response was divided.

Readers had to have basic astrological-astronomical knowledge to understand Witte's conclusions, and it was also helpful if readers had an understanding of mathematics. However, not all readers had these prerequisites. In addition, the writing style was kept technically short, and the re-evaluation of astrological findings also made it difficult to accept what was written.

The result was that readers could hardly follow the content of the writing, and only those with an astrological research interest became aware of the articles. Alfred Witte and other well-known contemporaries at that time were occupied with old astrological writings, and anyone familiar with the Tetrabiblos of Claudius Ptolemy (c. 150) would have been able to recognise clear parallels to Alfred Witte's method. While other astrologers only used parts of the old knowledge for their own research, such as equal houses, or sensitive points (arabic parts, lots), Alfred Witte summarised the old knowledge into a coherent body of thought.

The result of a mathematical equation is symmetrical - and thus symmetry is the common basis of various astrological techniques. The problem was that Alfred Witte did not formulate these thoughts as an astrological system. This was undoubtedly because Witte was rooted in traditional astrology and only wanted to improve this astrological knowledge. Witte did not actually want to propagate a new astrology.

A better access to the new way of thinking was found by people who got to know Alfred Witte personally in Siegrün's Kepler Circle. There Alfred Witte gave regular lectures from 1919 onwards, which were followed with great interest. Witte's presentations were instructive and clearly more comprehensible than his articles.

Thus, Alfred Witte was in the public perception just an astrological author with a special view. Then came an event that changed everything, for in July 1923 - one hundred years ago - Alfred Witte published an article that received wide attention even abroad:

"The first transneptunian planet Cupido?", Alfred Witte, July 1923, Astrologische Rundschau.

If Alfred Witte's articles had previously been perceived only as special technical information of a new way of looking at things, this article changed many things. By that time, astronomers had been unsuccessful for many decades in their search for the still unknown planet "Pluto", as LeVerrier (†1877) called it. The astronomer Urbain LeVerrier had previously used mathematical-astronomical calculations to determine the orbit of the unknown planet Neptune, which led to its discovery in 1846. After that, he suspected another planet and the astronomical world began a decades-long search. Then in 1923, however, came the astrologer Witte, who published the orbit of a new planet using

mathematical-astrological methods. The world turned upside down. Had an astrologer found the solution?

The discovery of a still unknown planet was expected not only by astronomers but also by astrologers. Witte therefore asked himself whether astrological methods could be used to discover a planet, because if astrological theory is correct, then astrologers should be able to determine the position of a still unknown planet in a horoscope.

From now on, the interest in Alfred Witte and especially his new planet was tremendous. In addition to Cupido, Witte announced the existence of other transneptunian planets. Unfortunately, this interest also led to transneptunians being equated with Alfred Witte's method. If you, dear readers, have held this idea up until now, you have been 'abused' by this notion, since Witte's method is independent of the transneptunians. A quotation should make this clear:

[The transneptunians] "... are a part of the research programme of the so-called Hamburg school of astrology founded by Witte, which mainly interprets the horoscope according to structures.

Structures are understood to be many equal half-sums, sums, differences or sensitive points. These structures are made up of many individual planetary pictures. These and their temporal triggers give the effective experiences. - This must be said here because there is often the erroneous opinion that Hamburger Schule is the work with transneptunians; this [opinion] is fundamentally wrong and a fatal error."

Ludwig Rudolph, Transneptun Ephemeris, p. 2, Witte-Verlag, 1972.

It has often been shown in the past decades that even without hypothetical planets, the methods of the Hamburg School work excellently. But I would like to admit that I would not want to do without Alfred Witte's four transneptunians. The work is made much easier with them.

Cupido, published by Alfred Witte a century ago, is probably one of the best-studied hypothetical planets. If you don't know Cupido yet, it is recommended that you give it a try. In this year 2023, Cupido is located between 5° - 6°21' Capricorn. Cupido represents family, marriage, society, conviviality, community endeavours, corporations, as well as the arts.



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Michael Feist is the grandson of [Ludwig Rudolph](#), the publisher and collaborator of [Alfred Witte](#), and nephew of [Udo Rudolph](#). When Ludwig Rudolph died in 1982, his widow Emma and his son Udo Michaels became his personal astrological teachers. During his computer science studies, he started his own publishing house with a focus on software and support for astrologers on technical issues.

From the 1990s, Feist published the magazine *Hamburger Hefte*, which had been in publication since December 1960.

In 2005 he became the third generation owner of the Witte-Verlag publishing house founded by Ludwig Rudolph in 1927. Since then, his publishing house "Edition Astrologic", founded in 1988, has only appeared in the field of software development. He sells the self-programmed astrology program "AstrologicPC", which contains the working methods of the [Hamburg school](#).

Feist's main interest is the study, documentation and archiving of the historical development of Witte's method of the "Hamburg School" (Uranian System of Astrology). In 2007 he became one of the founders of the "International Uranian Fellowship" ([IUF](#)). In this regard, he owns the copyrights and exploitation rights for the most important primary literature. His extensive pool of original materials goes back to the early days of the Hamburg School. Therefore he is considered globally as the archivist, mentor, and "custodian" of Uranian Astrology .