

The Progressed Moon in Declination by Karen Christino

Although the Sun's declination is always consistent with its longitude — 0° Aries and 0° Libra are always 0° in declination — the other planetary bodies behave in a different manner. This is especially true of the Moon. As a satellite of the Earth and not the Sun, its apparent orbit is much more complex; thus its declination cycle often differs considerably from that in longitude.

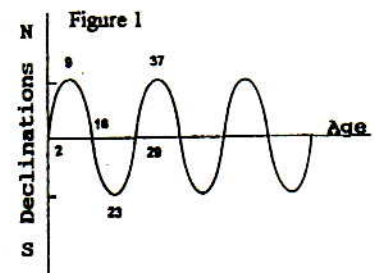
The progressed Moon through the signs of the zodiac is often used as a basis for prediction. The transiting Moon returns to the same place in the zodiac every 27 $\frac{1}{3}$ days or so, beginning a new progressed cycle every 27-28 years. The lunation cycle phases from new to full and back again in about 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ days, making the progressed lunation cycle about 29-30 years long.

Yet there is even more variation in the Moon's cycle in declination. It moves from 0° to maximum north, maximum south and back again in about 28 days. But the length of this cycle can be as short as 24 or as long as 30 days or symbolic years. In addition, the Moon will stay within bounds, inside the limits of the ecliptic (approximately 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° north and south of the celestial equator) for an average of nine years. Then for the next 10 years or so the Moon will go out-of-bounds (OOB) — beyond 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° north or south — for about two days every 10-14 days. Kt Boehrer has related the Moon out of bounds in natal charts to alienation from the mother and even some degree of mental, emotional or physical abuse.¹

The astrologer John Hansen had an out of bounds Moon in his birth chart and became interested in astrology when the Moon again progressed out of bounds. He studied the Moon's progressions in declination, and identified an earnings cycle. Hansen felt that when the progressed Moon headed north in declination, the native was more likely to earn; when it tended

Figure 1: Patricia

Pl	Geo. Long.	Antiscia	Decl
☉	5° 01' 09"	24° 17' 59"	+ 2° 00'
☽	14° 48' 10"	15° 12'	- 5° 09'
☿	12° 11'	17° 49'	- 6° 36'
☿	11° 50'	18° 10'	- 8° 19'
☿	24° 09'	5° 11' 51"	-14° 36'
☿	2° 33' 37"	27° 23'	-23° 00'
☿	17° 33' 34"	12° 26'	-21° 49'
☿	17° 19' 19"	12° 04' 1"	+16° 21'
☿	8° 11' 37"	21° 23'	-12° 39'
☿	4° 10' 10"	25° 50'	+21° 45'
☿	24° 17' 40"	5° 20'	+ 2° 07'
As	12° 06'	17° 54'	+22° 54'
Mc	21° 07'	8° 53'	- 3° 31'
☿	29° 57'	0° 10' 3"	- 6° 05'

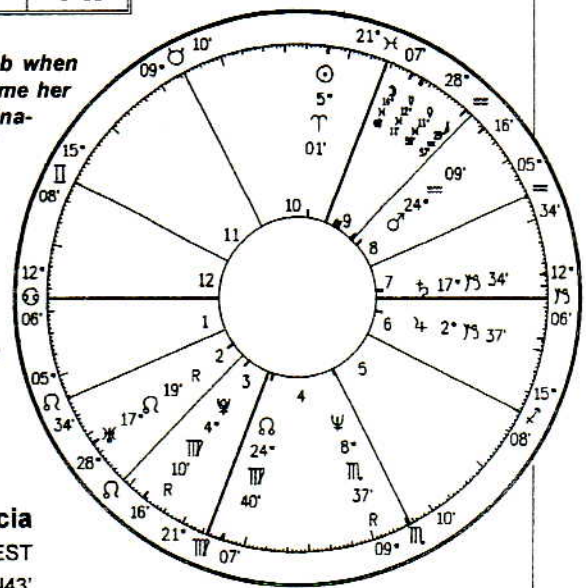


Patricia got a summer job when she was 18, around the time her Moon's progressed declination crossed the equator and turned south. She completed college at 22, but couldn't find a job right away, and worked temporary jobs for about a year.

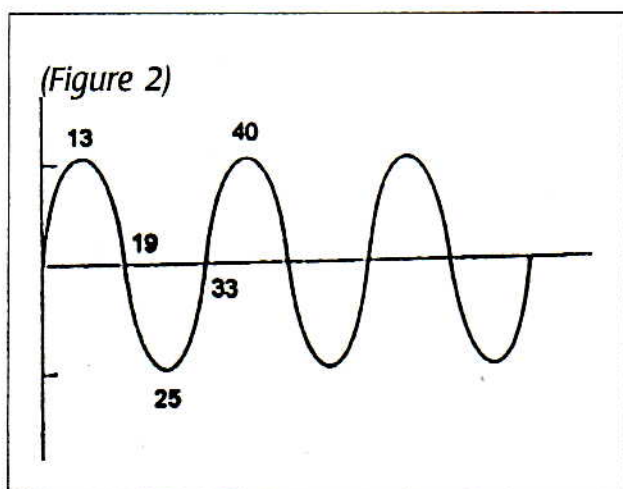
Moon reached maximum declination at age 23, and she has been employed ever since.

Patricia

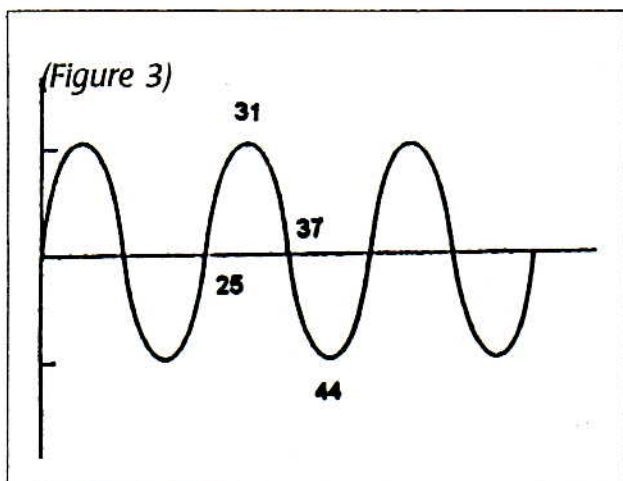
March 25, 1960 11:10 AM EST
73°W47' 40°N43'



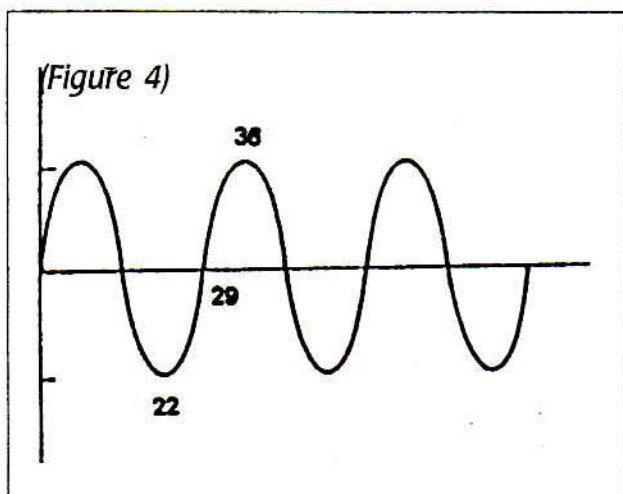
(Figure 2)



(Figure 3)



(Figure 4)



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ed south, earning became more difficult. Hansen cited the example of a young man going to school near the top part of his cycle. He was offered a tremendous business opportunity, but turned it down in order to complete his education. By the time he graduated, his progressed Moon had passed maximum north and was tending south. He found a job, but several years later was not making nearly as much as the fellow who had taken the position he was originally offered. The latter had already made an immense fortune and was presumably on the upswing!

Al H. Morrison often lectured on this topic, and elaborated on the interpretation: On the up-sweep, the individual is optimistic and thinks well of himself and is encouraged and is taught the work ethic: the idea that to be useful you have to be making things which can be sold. And employment tends to be fortunate and is easily got. So we get out of school and think we're going to go make our fortune, but we're on the down cycle. In the down cycle, people get cheated of their wages, underpaid, subject to discrimination. If they get a raise it only partly compensates for the rising inflation. Their self-esteem suffers all the way down. And this is universal for everybody, and it's a long haul, these 14 years of it, and so we finally get here at the bottom, miserable! Quite miserable. Don't think well enough of ourselves and so we hinder ourselves in the upward climb by hanging onto these habits from the long march.

And here the astrology can help the client. If you can show the client that he's at or near the bottom of the cycle, on his way up, the encouragement that comes from this simple astronomic fact is worth all the tea in China. It may make the difference in getting this thing organized right for the upswing. The thing to do on the down slope is to let a wealthy mate support you while you do some non-employment thing: you keep house, raise children, study something, get a research grant.²

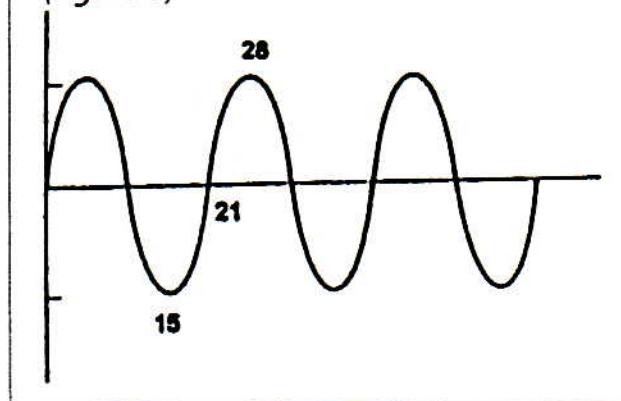
To construct a graph of the Moon's declination cycle, we use day-per-year progressions. The top to bottom axis of the graph represents the Moon's declination in degrees; left to right are symbolic years. Let's look at an example: Patricia was born on March 25, 1960. (I'm not going to be too particular about mathematical

accuracy here; we're just trying to get a general idea of how this cycle works.) If we turn to the declination section of the ephemeris, we'll see that on her birthday the Moon was at $7^{\circ}S50'$ at midnight³. This and all successive points are plotted on the graph (see Figure 1), and one can immediately see how the Moon moves through its cycle. It crosses the equator (0°) at age two, reaches maximum north declination at age 9, then heads south and crosses the equator at age 16, and so on.

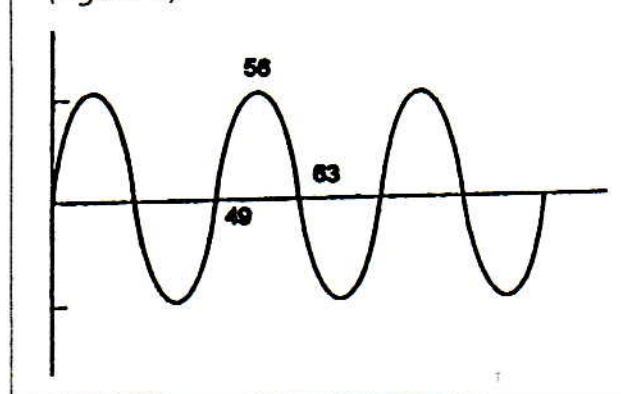
The Moon does describe our sense of security, what makes us feel comfortable, and so should have much to do with how we go about attaining security throughout our lifetimes, and whether financial security is a concern at a particular point in time. The down sweep tends to be a better time to hold onto a secure position, to be self-employed, or to do creative or free-lance work, when earnings are not as steady and regular. On the upsweep, when the Moon climbs from maximum south to maximum north once again, one should find money more easily, and be generally free from financial difficulties. People tend to take initiative regarding work during this phase. Important financial developments consistently occur when the Moon is near maximum north or south and also when it crosses the equator. We'll also see that the cycle is not simply limited to earnings: turning points can coincide with major family or domestic changes as well. The orb of aspect is a year or two from these turning points in the declination cycle.

Patricia (Figure 1) got a summer job when she was 18, around the time her Moon's progressed declination crossed the equator and turned south. She completed college at age 22, but couldn't find a job right away, and worked temporary jobs for about a year. This is an interesting case, as we see that the Moon reaches maximum south declination at the age of 23! Patricia was exactly in tune with her declination cycle, and she has worked full-time ever since. She had a substantial increase in pay at 35, near the top of her curve, and bought a home at 37. Although she has quite a secure position and will probably be able to hold onto her job for the down slope, we can see that her expenses increased and she assumed debt through this major purchase as she headed into her down slope.

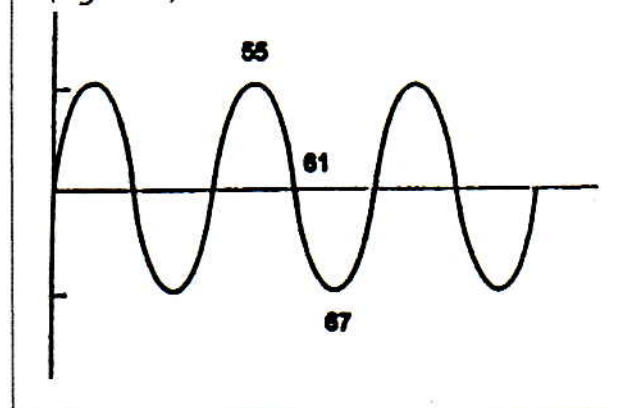
(Figure 5)



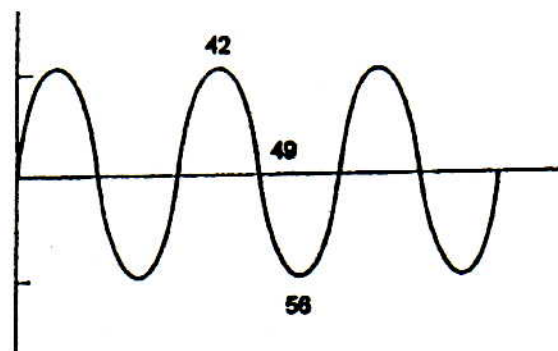
(Figure 6)



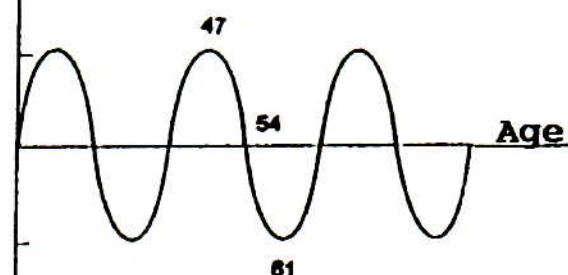
(Figure 7)



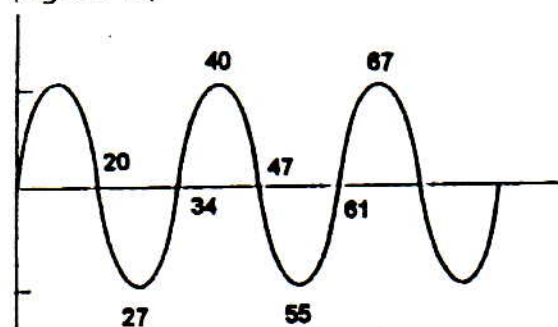
(Figure 8)



(Figure 9)



(Figure 10)



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Of course we cannot tell how great the earnings will be! But we'd do well to consider the natal placement of the Moon in the birth chart, too. Patricia's Moon is angular, sextile an angular Saturn. This suggests a need for security, and she has worked consistently since she completed school. Patricia's declination cycle just happens to coincide with her chronological age: the upswing began right at a time when it was likely she'd begin working. Yet some examples aren't as straightforward, and the cycle can start at any point. Ron, for example, was born with the Moon high in southerly declination (Figure 2). He certainly wouldn't be working at the age of 6, when his progressed Moon crossed the equator!

He did, however, begin working part-time at around the age of 15, and this is not too far from the peak of his cycle. By the time Ron was in high school, he worked regularly after school. During college, he worked on weekends, and some summers he held down two jobs. He got a well-paying full-time position as a computer programmer right out of college at the age of 22, which is close to the bottom curve. Even though he earned while still on the downward curve, we can see that he was employed in temporary or part-time positions during much of the down sweep, and had a few full-time jobs after college as he approached maximum south.

The earnings cycle began its upward sweep for Ron at about age 25. It is certainly true that he consistently increased his income since that time, has been engaged primarily in full-time employment, and began his own business.

Once again, it's important to consider the rest of the native's chart. Ron has Cancer on the second house cusp, and his Moon is placed in Capricorn in the ninth. Here we have a strong desire to earn, with a consistent need for financial security, which was evidenced at an early age. The Moon's closest aspect is a trine to Jupiter in Virgo in the fifth house: Ron simply loves to work and take on more responsibility, thus adding to his over-all income potential. Perhaps he will feel secure enough to concentrate on his own business, purchase a home or start a family when the progressed Moon begins its downward sweep.

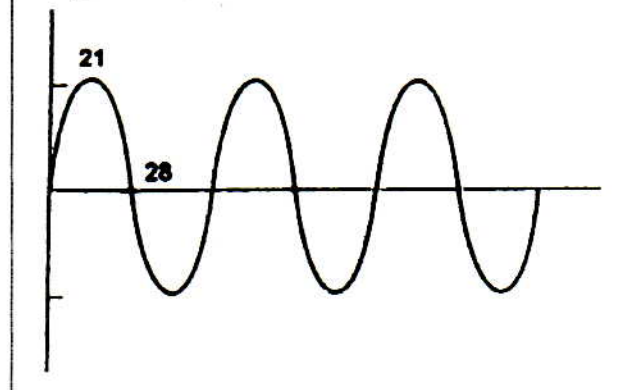
Figure 3 is the earnings cycle for a fiction writer. His natal Moon is closely square Uranus and opposed to Neptune, so he doesn't have the strong need for financial security shown in our first two example charts. He graduated from college at the age of 21, and worked part-time for a few years while he concentrated on his writing. From the age of 25-28, after his progressed Moon crossed the equator on the upward curve, he took a full-time job. This was the only time the writer has been engaged in full-time employment. He attended graduate school from ages 28-31, and married at the age of 30, near the top of his curve. He's held a part-time job from 31 till the present (age 41) while pursuing his writing. While he might currently be approaching the same dollar amount he earned while on the upsweep, inflation has devalued it and his rent has increased.

Figure 4 is the cycle for a systems analyst. He got a much better job at a higher rate of pay as well as a large office at age 29, when the Moon's upward swing crossed the equator. At that time, he also ended a long-term live-in relationship that wasn't moving forward. The new lunation cycle and Saturn return both occurred at this time for him as well. The analyst has Sun square Saturn in his birth chart; without the progressed Moon's cycle in declination, we'd know he'd be in for some big changes at age 29. But since we also know he's on the up slope, it's clearer that his career would surge ahead rather than stall.

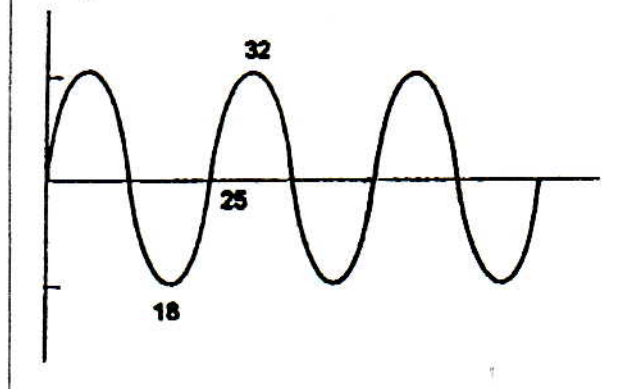
Figure 5 is an administrative assistant who worked since she graduated from high school on the up slope. She held several jobs and slowly increased her earnings while she attended college part-time. At the age of 27, nearing her peak, she accepted an excellent position: more money, security and many benefits such as tuition reimbursement, profit-sharing, life, medical and dental insurance. She'll probably be able to hold onto this secure position for her down slope, as it seems to be rather common for working people to find excellent situations near the top.

The peak can represent a time of good earning potential, but also a period of domestic change. I have several examples in my files of men who got divorced and set up new homes at their peaks. Figure 6's wife left him when he

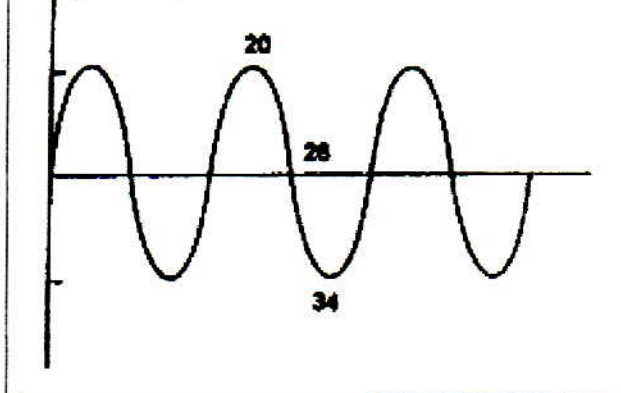
(Figure 11)



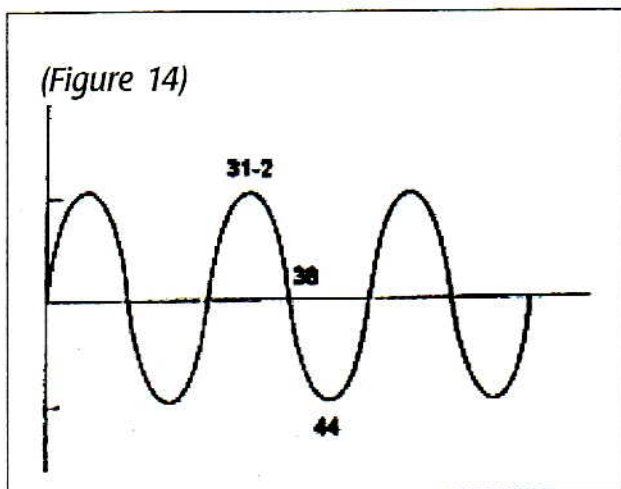
(Figure 12)



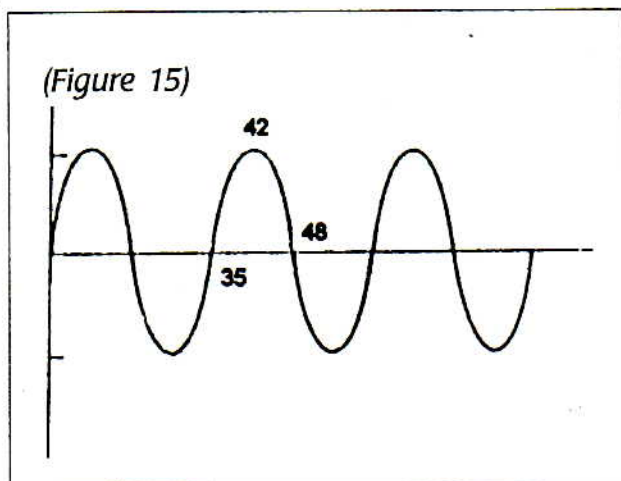
(Figure 13)



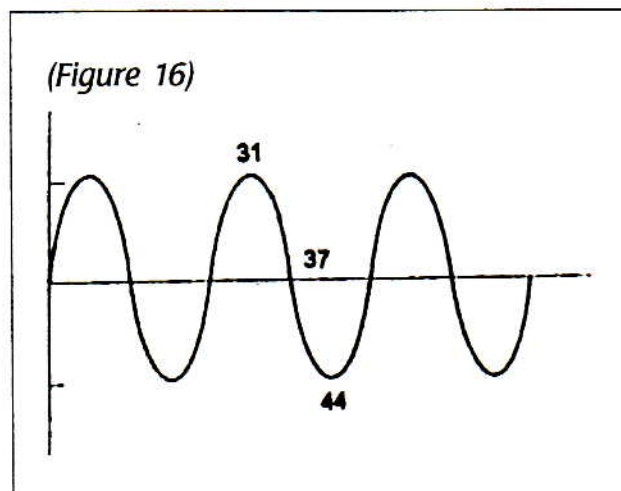
(Figure 14)



(Figure 15)



(Figure 16)



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was 55. He met a new woman the next year and bought a home with her at age 57 — all during his peak. While he has a very well-paying and secure position, he will now have alimony payments and two households to support on the down slope.

Figure 7 moved to a new apartment at age 56, after his wife found he had been seeing another woman. His divorce was final at age 57, when he also bought a new home. This man continued the downward trend by selling his business at 58. He plans on staying with the firm till age 62, shortly after his Moon crosses the equator, when he'll retire or do consulting work.

While Figure 7's experience coincides with his age, Figure 8 is a younger man who is also dissolving his assets on the down slope. The earnings cycle is more important than the person's age! Figure 8 retired on disability at age 49, on his down slope and when the Moon crossed the equator. At 50, he sold a house he'd been renting out, began building a country home and planned to sell his own residence. This should be completed at around the age of 51.

While people don't necessarily lose their jobs, there can be unfortunate circumstances on the down slope as well, which will be detailed in the natal chart. Figure 9 is a switchboard operator who had few skills and little job security. Electronic advances did away with her position, and she was laid off at age 53, on the down slope and near 0°. She remained on unemployment for the better part of a year, but at age 55 finally found a new position — one which demands physical labor, pays the minimum wage and forces her to work over 50 hours a week in order to make ends meet.

Figure 10 got married and had her first child at age 21, right after her Moon crossed the equator on the down slope. From ages 28-37, with the Moon tending north, the family lived abroad. Even though their income was not outstanding, the American dollar bought much overseas and they enjoyed quite a high standard of living. Interestingly, this woman has Jupiter in Scorpio in her second house, pointing toward partnership income, and her first up slope coincided with the time her husband was earning. Soon, however, the marriage showed signs of strain and the woman was divorced, living alone and back

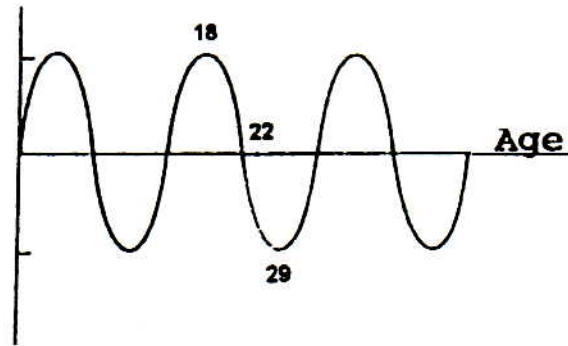
at school by age 42 — completing these major life changes shortly after the peak of her cycle. She had a regular job with steady salary for much of the subsequent down slope, but did not enjoy the same standard of living as before, and had more expenses created by her new husband. At 55, at the bottom of her cycle, she moved and was divorced a second time shortly thereafter. Her mother died when the woman was 57, indicating an important change in her sense of security. Yet she was now on the up slope once again, inherited part of her mother's estate at age 58, and invested it. Although she was fired from a job at 61, when the Moon was at 0°, we must bear in mind her Jupiter in Scorpio in the second: she earns best through other means than simple earnings. With a roommate her expenses are now quite low, she's earned through stock market investments, and expects social security and a pension soon.

Couples' cycles can interact in any way. My husband and I have both been on the down slope together for many years, but we hope to share the bounty when we're tending up together! *Figure 11* is a woman who worked from 18-23 while her husband attended school — we can see this was during the peak of her cycle. She had her first child at age 23. Her husband, three years older (*Figure 12*), completed his education and got a regular job at the same time (his age 26). His progressed Moon had just crossed the equator on the up slope as hers moved down, so they handed-off earnings and were able to benefit from each other's high-earning times.

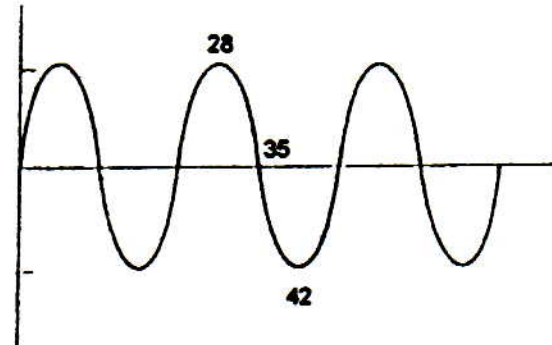
The Moon relates to domestic affairs and I found that many women left work to start families on the down slope. While there can be no rules in astrology, this pattern seems very consistent. *Figure 13* got pregnant and married at 26, with the Moon at 0° on her down slope. *Figure 14* had her children born at ages 33 and 35, on her down slope. While she returned to work, it was at a reduced schedule. Her boss cut her time to one day a week when she was 37, and she was laid off at age 38. I suspect she'll be able to spend even more time with her family now.

Figure 15 was married at 40 and had her first child at 41, just as she reached the peak in her

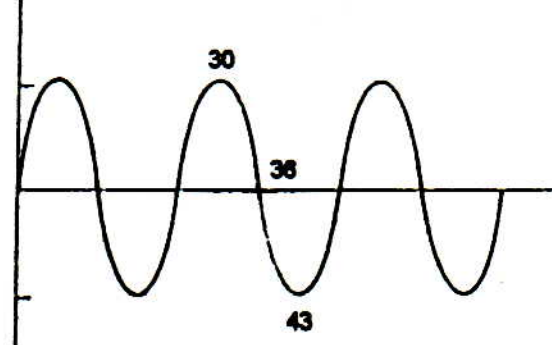
(Figure 17)



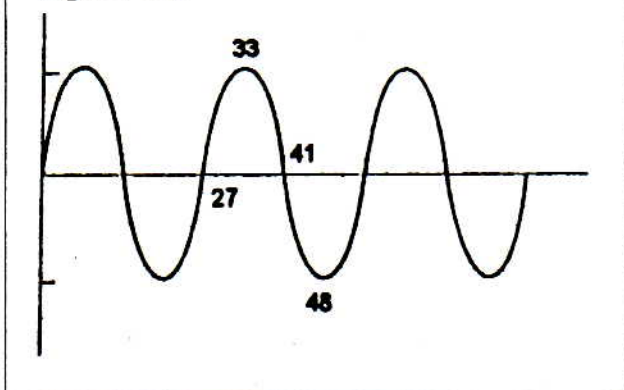
(Figure 18)



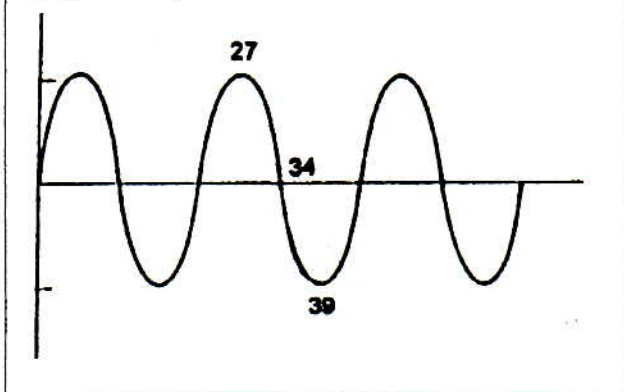
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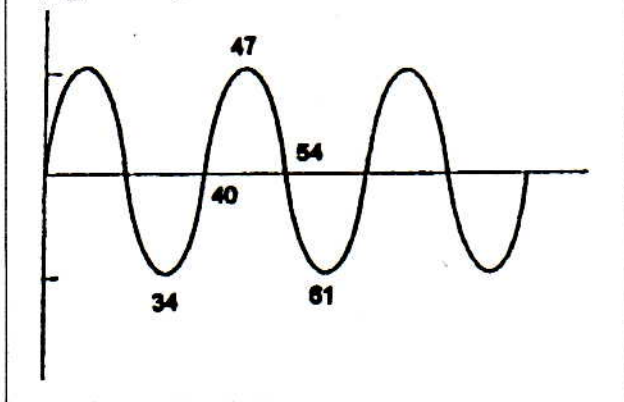
(Figure 20)



(Figure 21)



(Figure 22)



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declination cycle. She and her husband moved into a new home at the same time, but she did return to work for several months in order to pay off some bills. Note that this is just as she's crossing over the top! She plans on spending all her time staying home with the baby before she turns 42.

Figure 16 is a Catholic nun who left her order to get married at the age of 38. This is the last contact I had with her, but she had planned on starting a family right away. Figure 17 had her first child at 18 and chose to return to work at 30, coinciding rather accurately with her entire downward slope. Figure 18 had children and stayed at home with her family from ages 30-36, again on the down slope. She was then thinking of returning to work. Since she was still on the down slope, I advised her not to rush things, to take classes or begin with temporary, free-lance or part-time work.

Women often have questions about when to start a family or return to work, and I now primarily use the progressed Moon's cycle in declination in order to answer these questions. In men's charts, the correlation is not nearly as strong concerning children. Perhaps this is because women respond more strongly to the Moon; the progressed Moon could represent a biological or hormonal cycle. Figure 19 is a highly paid consultant. She was not married but chose to adopt a child at age 39. Although not her natural child, this was still on the down slope. While her work schedule remained uninterrupted, she incurred more expenses with the baby, hired a nanny, and changed her home life completely. This woman's natal Moon is OOB in declination, and she now has an unusual domestic situation.

Let's consider a woman in a similar circumstance, but one in which no child was involved. This example shows someone leaving work to care for a family member, but near the bottom of her cycle and not on the down slope. Figure 20 landed a secure job at 29, which she held through her peak and down slope. At 47, near the bottom of her cycle, her mother died, her sister was disabled and in a nursing home, and her father had a stroke. She was forced to return home to care for her dad and could find no work, actually stating that she "suffered almost total financial ruin" at the bottom of her cycle!

She was able to find small jobs from age 49-52, on the upturn again. While she considered herself in debt, her father had bought her a home which greatly increased her assets.

Like the top, the bottom or southernmost part of the progressed declination cycle is extremely significant. *Figure 20* had major domestic and family changes at this time. *Figure 21* worked two part-time jobs while going to college beginning at age 34 (remember: the declination cycle is more important than chronological age!). At 38, near the bottom of her cycle, she had large expenses due to a family member's legal problems. Yet at 39, as the progressed Moon began to turn north, she completed her degree and retained an excellent full-time position. *Figure 22* joined a large firm at age 33, right near his bottom point; he has remained there for over 30 years.

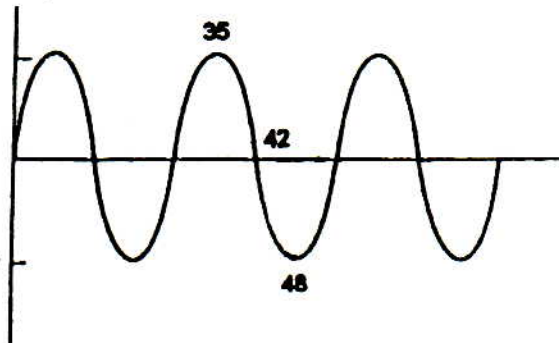
The OOB Moon in natal charts does represent unusual circumstances; I've often found this placement to coincide with afflictions in longitude. For these people, when the Moon again progresses OOB, it is likely to bring about even greater than usual life changes. Yet one can also be born with the Moon within the ecliptic limits and have it progress OOB. These times, too, are apt to be quite significant.

Figure 23 had a professional specialty, but was primarily supported by her husband for many years. However at the age of 47, she suddenly landed the job of her dreams and began earning more than her husband! As her Moon had progressed OOB at its bottom peak, these were extraordinary life changes.

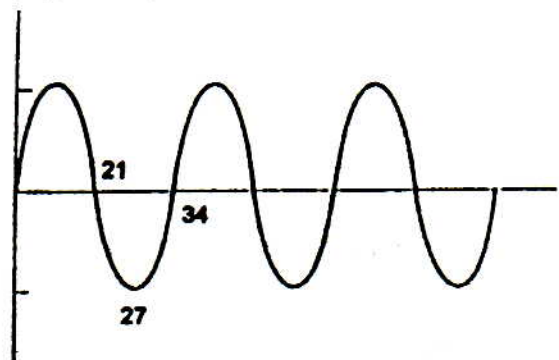
Figure 24 is a similar example. A young man, who had some capital, began investing and made over \$2 million by age 28, near his bottom. Of course this type of change does also imply great domestic and family developments which can take much adjustment. While not all people will earn such great amounts, it is instructive to see the extreme impact of the Moon progressing OOB in these two examples.

The progressed Moon's cycle in declination is an essential astrological cycle which deserves more study. It is simple, easy to use, and adds information which the natal chart does not provide.

(Figure 23)



(Figure 24)



Perhaps its greatest value is in prediction, as it can help us anticipate our own life trends as well as those of clients who need advice. ...

NOTES

1. Boehrer, Kt, *Declination, the Other Dimension*, Fortunata Press, El Paso, Texas, 1994.
2. This excerpt is transcribed from a taped lecture Morrison gave to the Irish Astrological Association in 1981. My thanks to Maurice McCann and the IAA for making it available.
3. The popular *American Ephemeris* does not contain listings of declination. *Raphael's* and *The Rosicrucian Ephemeris*, as well as most computer programs, do. Check them out before you buy!