

Kepler dates Christ's birth

Johannes Kepler has been described as "a mixture of scholar and quack" who mixed liberal doses of astrology with his astronomy. As imperial mathematician and astronomer royal, he was observing the stars in Prague shortly before Christmas on Dec. 17, 1603.

That night, Saturn and Jupiter had a rendezvous in space with the constellation of Pisces. They moved so close together that they appeared to be one large brilliant star.

This started Kepler thinking. He suddenly remembered something he had read by the rabbinic writer Abbarabai referring to the prophecies of Jewish astrologers that a Messiah would appear when there was a conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter in the constellation of Pisces.

Could he be observing the same star of Bethlehem that the wise men had followed to find the Christ child?

He checked his calculations again and again. Astronomical and astrological tables seemed to agree that there was a threefold conjunction within the space of a year in 6 or 7 B.C.

HIS DISCOVERY was widely published at the time. But because of his "unscientific" feelings toward the occult and the realm of mathematics, various scholars showed little interest in his theory and rejected it without investigation.

Not until recently, however, have serious scholars taken an interest. Now, in our own day, modern scientists agree that, as stated by the Evangelical Bible, the conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter in the constellation of Pisces did in fact occur in 6 B.C. and Kepler had already discovered this fact three times. Mathematical calculations further established that the threefold conjunction was particularly visible in the Mediterranean area.

On May 29, was the first of two hours of an interesting day. The second conjunction took place on Oct. 3.

On Dec. 17, for the third time that year, the two planets moved together, the time in the 16th century of Pisces. At the end of January in the year 6 B.C. the planet Jupiter moved out of Pisces into Aries.

We have seen the star in the east and the wise men (Matt. 2). Modern scholars interpret the original Greek text



Witch Watch

by GUNDELLA

En te anulo!" not as "the east," but as the first rays of dawn. That would correspond exactly with the astronomical facts.

JUPITER WAS thought of by all nations as a lucky star and a royal star. According to ancient Jewish tradition, Saturn was supposed to protect Israel.

The Bible tells us: "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king..." (Matt. 2:1). We know from numerous contemporary sources that Herod was designated king of Judaea by the Romans in 40 B.C. and his reign ended with his death in 4 B.C.

Therefore, Jesus must have been born before 4 B.C. The brilliant star in St. Matthew's gospel points to the year 7 B.C.

Johannes Kepler seems not to have been so wrong after all in his combination of astrological and astronomical studies.

NOTE: You may write Gundella at Box 431 Garden City 48133. For a personal reply, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

MSU will show how to trim your heat bills

If you're concerned about heat loss from your house affecting your heating bill, the Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service can provide free information.

MSU Extension agricultural engineers James Bond and Leslie Mack have developed a computer program which analyzes factors in your home which affect heating costs. The computer approximates costs and savings resulting from improvements such as insulation or putting new caulking on windows.

Here's how the program works: Obtain a weather proofing houses computer data sheet from the local county extension office. The data sheet is a checklist to guide you in inspecting your house. The checklist takes into account the condition of window sashes, number of windows and doors in the house. In some instances will be used condition of weatherstripping around doors to determine insulation in the attic, etc.

After you've completed the information sheet, send it to Markler Bond, Agricultural Engineering Department, Michigan State University, East Lansing 48824.

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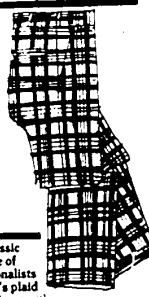
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