

An Introduction to This Issue's Theme

Babs Kirby

I am delighted to be bringing to you a selection of articles on astrology for this special edition of *Self & Society*. I hope we will manage to convey something of what astrology is and is not, and to provide a context within which to understand its significance. Apart from Laura Ribbons, all the authors are tutors and council members of The Faculty of Astrological Studies, and have worked together as colleagues over a considerable time. We are all in private practice, lecture widely, and run workshops.

Lindsay Radermacher is President of the Faculty. She is a tutor for the classes in London, an astrological counsellor in private practice, and a tutor and supervisor on the counselling course.

Michael Harding is an astrological consultant and chairs the Association of Professional Astrologers. He is on the committee of the Society for Existential Analysis, and a tutor for both the Faculty and the School of Psychotherapy and Counselling at Regent's College. With Charles Harvey he has written *Working with Astrology*, published by Arkana.

Christine Valentine is tutor for the Faculty's classes in Bath, and has a private practice as a psychotherapist and consultant astrologer. Her book, *Images of the Psyche*, is published by Element.

Laura Ribbons studied astrology at the Centre for Psychological Astrology, where she gained her certificate three years ago. She is trained as a transpersonal psychology counsellor, holds second degree Reiki, and practises in London and Italy.

Anne Whitaker has been an adult education teacher, a counsellor and psychotherapist, and has been a practising astrologer since 1983. She is also the Faculty of Astrological Studies representative for the Strathclyde Region.

Finally I, **Babs Kirby**, am Vice President of the Faculty, Director of its Counselling Courses, and Press Officer for The Association of Professional Astrologers. I am a tutor for the Faculty's classes in London, a tutor and supervisor on the counselling courses and have a private psychotherapy practice. I have a book, co-written with Janey Stubbs, *Interpreting Solar and Lunar Returns: A Psychological Approach*, published by Element.

All of the articles in this overview touch on some of the broad ideas held by astrologers who are working with clients, and explain something of the world view an astrologer may hold. This is a daunting task to accomplish in so few words, but I hope we will inspire you to want to explore further.