The Ship of the Argonauts

Argo Navis

July 8th to July 17th and September 22nd to 28th

from

The Lost Zodiac

by Catherine Tennant
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We all have a zodiac sign, but we also have another sign beyond the zodiac as well. To the ancient founders of astrology, all the stars and constellations in the heavens were both magical and powerful. They paid great attention to them, and, unlike most of us today, they also knew where, and when, to find them in the sky.

To find your ancient star-sign glittering above you in the heavens, and identify your personal guiding star, is to re-enter a lost and timeless world.

July 8th to July 17th

If you were born between these dates, you are governed by Canopus, the main star in the Ship, The Argo, which sails along the Milky Way, and is named after the pilot who steered the Greek fleet home from the Trojan wars. It is still used in spacecraft navigation.

Canopus was also worshipped in the Arabian deserts as the source of the colour in jewels, under the name Suhail, which means all that is bright, glorious and beautiful, on account of its 'blue, diamond whiteness'. The word 'suhail' is still used by desert nomads to describe a handsome person. It is said to confer piety, immunity from disease, and the power to change evil to good.

September 22nd to September 28th
If you were born between these dates, you are ruled by Markeb, which lies in the Ship's sail. It is seen as a fortunate and expansive star which brings profit from journeys and wide-ranging knowledge.

Both stars were once believed to protect those born under them from water.

**Precious stone:** Sapphire  **Plant:** Oak
Discovering the Twenty Two Lost Star Signs

As an astrologer, I sometimes looked for reasons for traits of character which did not seem to be explained exclusively by what the birth chart tells us. For me, the discovery of the importance of the stars and constellations lying beyond the zodiac band turned out to be the missing link.

They do not undermine conventional astrology, but to add a lost dimension to it.

The Earliest Astrologers and The Sacred, Living Sphere

We have grown so used to seeing the planets and the zodiac, alone, as powerful that it can come as a surprise to find that for the early practitioners of astrology, the whole celestial sphere, from pole to pole, was filled with starry gods and supernatural beings who influenced the life of man. For them, all the stars had power over our lives. They worshipped them, wove myths around them and built their temples in alignment with them.

For the ancient Greeks, therefore, who inherited this vision of a living sphere, and who gave many of the constellations the names and forms which they still have today, it seemed quite natural to believe that Orion and The Crown of the North Wind, Perseus, the glittering hero, and the Lyre of Orpheus, the legendary musician, among others, influenced our destiny, just like the narrow zodiac band of stars which forms the pathway of the sun and moon and planets, with which we are familiar.

These twenty two lost star signs reconnect us to the ancient vision of a sacred, living cosmos, and to the great celestial sphere around us.

Your Sign Beyond the Zodiac Linked to your Sun Sign

These star signs are the ancient constellations which lie to the North and South of the zodiac band of stars, and were used in conjunction with it.

The brightest and most powerful star, or constellation of stars, which falls nearest to the sun by longitude on your birthday is 'conjunct' your sun.

This constellation was considered to be your 'sign beyond the zodiac'.

Why Were They Forgotten?

So why did these important star signs, which embody so many of the great myths and symbols of our culture, vanish from the scene?

In the second century AD the great astronomer, Ptolemy, tried to simplify astrology by excluding the constellations to the North and South of the zodiac band. However, even he could not deny their astrological significance, and described the influence of their individual stars. In 'L'Astrologie Grecque' (1899), Bouche-Leclerq, the leading authority on the history of astrology, quotes Ptolemy as saying that he will 'leave to one side as impracticable the ancient method, which took account of
all, or nearly all, the stars'.

But 'the exclusion of the constellations beyond the zodiac is so artificial that it could not be maintained, even by Ptolemy ... all stellar mythology cries out against the privileged position of the zodiac'. Adds Bouche-Leclerq.

The Age of Aquarius, ruled by Uranus, the Personification of the Starry Sphere

They are also highly relevant to the times we live in.

Thanks to the moving equinoxes, we are now entering the new Aquarian Age, which will be ruled by Uranus, the planet named after the ancient Greek sky god who personifies the starry sphere and is the ruler of Aquarius.

To look beyond the zodiac, and beyond the 'village' of our solar system, as astronomers are now doing, towards deep space - the domain of Uranus - is, symbolically, in keeping with the coming age. One of astrology's most important tenets is that the discovery of a new planet heralds an important shift in human consciousness. The discovery of Pluto, in 1930, for instance, which was named after the Roman god of the underworld, and which rules the depths of the unconscious mind, coincided with the rise to popularity of psychoanalysis. The reintroduction of these 'Uranian' signs beyond the zodiac, therefore, and our renewed awareness, when we find our personal star sign in the sky, of our links with the galaxies of stars around us, can be seen to coincide with our entry into the Aquarian Age.

Our Myth and Personal Quest

From my research as an astrologer, it is remarkable how accurate, and how literal, these ancient star signs can be.

Born under the sign of Andromeda, the princess chained to a rock as a sacrifice for her country, for instance, are Houdini, Queen Elizabeth II and Sylvia Pankhurst, the leader of the suffragettes who fought for the emancipation of women.

These ancient signs are rich, dynamic symbols, and can describe the myths behind our lives and the 'Journey of the Soul of Man'. Perseus, for example, by cutting off the gorgon's head, conquers and comes to terms with neglected instinct and emotion, which the gorgon represents. The winged horse of inspiration, Pegasus, learns to distinguish between truth and illusion, in the form of the Chimaera. Andromeda, the chained princess, discovers freedom, and the Swan its human form. Ophiuchus wrestles with the Serpent and transforms its poison into medicine. For the River of Night, which wells up from paradise, life is a journey back towards the sea, where all separate sense of self is lost, and Orpheus overcomes the sovereigns of the underworld with the music of his lyre.

Each one has its own personal quest and compliments our birth chart and our Sun sign.
The Roman Astrologer, Manilius

I knew of the importance many astrologers give to the fixed stars, but my first real encounter with the actual signs beyond the zodiac took place over twenty years ago, when I read the 'Astronomica' of Manilius, the great Roman astrologer and astronomer. Much of the 5th book of his 'Astronomica' is dedicated to their meaning: 'The child of the Lyre will sing beguiling songs at the banquet, his voice adding mellowness to the wine and holding the night in thrall...and, left to himself, he will ever burst into song which can charm no ears but his own...When the Dog Star rises over the rim of the sea...it will fashion unbridled spirits and impetuous hearts...the child of the Crown will cultivate a garden budding with bright flowers, and slopes grey with olives...his heart is set upon elegance, fashion, and the art of adornment, upon gracious living and the pleasures of the hour...', and so on, at great length, for all the extra-zodiacal signs.

What Modern Psychology Has to Add

Beautiful as his descriptions are, our understanding of the myths, and of what they can tell us about the soul of man, has changed and grown, of course, since Roman times. What, I wondered, could modern psychology tell us about the meaning of these age-old stories set amongst the stars, and so about ourselves?

With the help of psychology, which I had studied for many years, and of the modern school of astrology, which uses myth and symbol to give the zodiac and the planets a new and deeper dimension, I began to see what it could mean to be born under these ancient signs. I then applied this to famous people, both alive and dead, and to my family, friends and clients.

The results were startling. And, as I continued, an image slowly grew and crystallised of the kind of person each one represented, and of the life-issues they were most concerned with. As with the zodiac signs, each one had its own preoccupations, its own problems and its own outlook on the world.

But the rediscovered signs are different as they tell us more about where our life is leading and describe our inner quest.

The Fixed Stars and Constellations in Astrology

To find out which constellation rules you, all you need to know is your birthday - not the time of day, the place or year. The brightest and most powerful star, or group of stars which falls nearest to the sun by longitude on your birthday is 'conjunct' your sun, and so rules you.
Jason and the Argonauts

The story of Jason and the fifty Argonauts, and their quest for the Golden Fleece, is one of the most famous of the old Greek legends. 'Never before or since,' according to one ancient writer, 'was so gallant a ship's company gathered together', as the heroes who set sail in the Argo, probably sometime in the thirteenth century BC. Many of them had been brought up, like Jason, by the Wise Centaur, Chiron, (another of the 'Lost Zodiac' signs) who taught them all 'to shoot, to sing, to tell the truth', in his cave among the chestnut forests of Mount Pelion. He also taught them medicine, science, music, and, to Jason, he taught navigation by the stars.

The Golden Fleece

Jason, who had been sent to bring back the Golden Fleece from distant Colchis - modern Georgia - by his wicked uncle, who had usurped his kingdom, summoned his childhood friends to help him. The ship was built by the carpenter, Argus, and Athene, the grey-eyed goddess of reason, placed in its beam, to guide them, a piece of 'speaking oak' from Dodona, the oldest oracle in Greece, where the rustling leaves of the great, sacred oaks gave prophecies. Amongst the fifty Argonauts were Orpheus, the legendary musician; Lynceus, who had superhuman sight; Caeneus, who had once been a woman; Zetes and Calais, the sons of the North Wind; Castor and Polydeuces (or Pollux), the Heavenly Twins of Gemini, Mopsus, who had second sight and could understand the language of the birds, Hercules, the strongest man the world has ever known and his beautiful friend, Hylas. Jason himself has been described as fatally handsome - like the star, Suhail or Canopus.

Their Adventures

On the way to distant Colchis they had many battles and adventures. In Lemnos, for instance, they slept with all the women, who had murdered their husbands for accusing them of smelling. In Samothrace, they were initiated into the mysteries of the underworld, and in the Bosphorus they danced, fully armed, and clashed their shields to placate Asia's great earth goddess. They saved Phineas, who had been cursed for prophesying the future too well, from the dreadful Harpies, and navigated ice-floes in the Black Sea, where Apollo, god of prophecy and music, appeared to them in a blaze of glory; finally, having fought off great flocks of migrating birds with brazen plumes, they arrived in Colchis.

The Witch, Medea

There, Medea, the king's daughter, whose name means 'cunning' and 'knowing', fell in love with the handsome Jason. Her father, understandably had no desire to part with the legendary Fleece, and set Jason a number of apparently impossible tasks, but luckily for Jason, Medea was a witch and a devotee of Hecate, the goddess of the underworld. With Medea's help Jason was triumphant. The
first task he was set by the king of Colchis was to yoke two bronze-hooved, fire-breathing bulls and plough a field with them: anointed with the blood-red juice of the dangerous Caucasian crocus, which Medea gave him, he miraculously succeeded. He then had to sow the field with dragons' teeth, which sprouted from the earth as warriors, fully armed and fighting, which he also overcame. But Medea's father still refused to give up the Fleece, and so, by night, Jason and Medea crept into the sacred grove, where it hung from a tree, guarded by a watchful dragon. With sprigs of Juniper and incantations, Medea lulled the monstrous being to sleep, and they fled back to the waiting ship carrying the glimmering trophy.

To save themselves, they cruelly tricked and killed Medea's brother - a crime, according to the speaking piece of oak, for which they must be purified by the powerful witch, Circe, who was Medea's aunt. Even Circe, who thought nothing of turning men to swine, was horrified, but reluctantly absolved them. Even so, Jason was not destined to become king in his uncle's place, and so, at last, they ended up in distant Corinth. There, they made their home and had two children, but, after ten years marriage, Jason betrayed Medea and took up with Glauce, the daughter of the powerful king of Corinth. Medea, in revenge, sent the new bride a poisoned wedding dress, which engulfed her in a supernatural fire that could never be extinguished. Having murdered her rival, she then cut the throats of her own two children, and whirled out of Corinth in a chariot drawn by dragons, belonging to her grandfather, the sun.

Jason lingered on in Corinth, dreaming of his glorious and adventurous past, until, one day, while he sat beneath the shade of the great ship which had carried all the heroes, he was killed by the speaking piece of oak, which fell on him from the rotten bows.
The Star Sign

The Ship is the most gifted - and versatile - sign in the heavens. 'Never before or since, was so gallant a ship's company gathered together', and, like the crew of the Argo, who between them had so many talents, those born under its glimmering southern stars can turn their hand, quite literally, to anything, if they choose to do so.

They are natural leaders, and, like Argus, who built the ship, they can be inspired craftsmen. Like Orpheus, they are often artists and musicians. They have sharp insight and a powerful intuition, and, like Caeneus, who had once been a woman, they can understand, and relate to, the outlook of the other sex. They are often also natural athletes, like the Heavenly Twins, and, to cap it all, they usually have great charm, good looks, and a healthy constitution.

They can have anything, or anyone, they want, but, of course, there has to be a down side. Where most heroes know what dragons they are up against, those born under the Great Ship have to overcome their own laziness and ambition, an insidious combination, just as dangerous as any dragon. They set their sights high, but, because life has been so generous to them, they are not used to making an effort, and they quite easily give up. They can, in short, be spoilt, and often fall back on their persuasive charms to get their way, instead of using their great talents in a life-enhancing and creative manner.

They may be the nicest people, and they often are, but if they are not careful, and always choose the soft option, lapsing into subterfuge and cunning, like Medea, they can slowly lose their sense of right and wrong.

The hardest thing, then, for those born under the Great Ship, for whom life seems so easy, is to keep their hands firmly on the rudder and navigate their chosen course, without relying too much on charm, or on other people. If they can overcome these failings, they are also less likely to fall prey to the Medea type in life. Medea, the 'cunning' and 'knowing', can usually see them coming from afar, and will use their weakness to gain power over them.

Although Jason is not evil, he can be naive and easily led astray - especially when he has set his sights on the Golden Fleece, which still remains a symbol for the almost unobtainable in life.

But they have another option, which can transform their lives. The Ship's crew may be a reflection of their many gifts and talents, and Medea of their weaker and more devious side, but the piece of 'speaking oak', which was built into the beam, represents the voice of their true inner self.

Everyone is tempted to ignore it at times, because it does not always point out the easiest way, but for those born under the Great Ship, who seem to have so much else they can rely on, this temptation is far greater. If, however, they can learn to listen to the still, small voice, instead of to Medea, and steer the course which it dictates across the sea of life, they can survive the wildest storms unscathed. A lot may be asked of them, but, then, they have more gifts and advantages than
those born under most other signs, and are more than capable of rising to the challenge.

Once they have set the Ship on its true course, things start falling into place, as though by magic, and new avenues open, both in their relationships with other people, and in their careers. Then they attract people who like them for themselves, instead of for their looks and charm, and who, instead of using them, like Medea, will respect their freedom and help them to make the most of their creative powers. And, as we have seen, they can succeed at anything they turn their hand to, if they try.

At every stage of life's journey, they can also count on their close friends, as they are always popular and their sense of comradeship - and loyalty - is unrivalled. Until they transcend the Medea phase in their more personal relationships, however, they can feel more at home with friendship - which always means so much to them - than with love and romance, where happiness often comes only later. Their ideal relationship is usually based on comradeship - and freedom. They are, after all, the great adventurers and explorers, and, if they are to get the best from life, they need the freedom to explore, to experience and to enjoy as many facets of existence as they can.

Born under The Ship of the Argonauts


The Ship of the Argonauts and the Traditional Zodiac

The Ship of the Argonauts and Cancer

July 8th to July 17th

The Great Ship and Cancer, the crab that lives on the shore of the ocean, are both watery signs and have a strong affiliation with the sea. The influence of the Ship helps the shy and sensitive Crab to be more out-going, and makes these Cancerians far less home-loving and more adventurous than others.

The Ship of the Argonauts and Libra

September 22nd to September 28th

Those born under the Ship who are also influenced by Libra are less emotional than those born under Cancer, although one-to-one relationships, and friendships, play a large part in their lives.
Their quest is also more likely to be on the intellectual level.

★

Relationships with Other 'Lost Zodiac' Signs

We are often linked to one another through the myths which rule our lives and through our inner quests for wholeness. Our myth may resonate with that of another person's because it describes a similar journey of discovery.

Sometimes, our 'story' may be part of the same mythic pattern, or cycle of stories, as another person's. Our story represents another act in the same drama. Or we play one part, and they another in the same timeless, archetypal saga. These are the people with whom we have most in common, but we also often hit it off, of course, with those whose outlook compliments our own, just because it is so different, and therefore fills in the missing places in our own psychology, and vice versa.

Unlike the links between the signs of the traditional zodiac, there are no hard and fast rules about who is on the same wavelength as we are, nor about how the common mythic themes will manifest in our individual lives. Each instance is unique, as we are.

Below, are listed the 'Lost Zodiac' signs which you are most linked with and in tune with. Their star sign dates are given at the end of your report.

The Ship of the Argonauts with The Lyre of Orpheus

They share a love of art and music, and are staunch allies to one another, often through many years. Orpheus also brings out the Ship's romantic and ambitious nature, as both are seeking some form of perfection which is valuable just because it is not easily attainable. Orpheus's vision of beauty can be of great help to the Ship when it begins to steer off course.

The Ship of the Argonauts with The River of Night

Apart from both being water signs, these two share a sense of adventure, a need for freedom, and often a common goal. Although those born under the Ship are often more flamboyant, the River's quiet persistence can make them more determined to arrive at their shared goal. They can offer this determination to the Ship, which, in turn, can help the River to overcome its periods of stagnation.

The Ship of the Argonauts with The Wise Centaur

Those born beneath Chiron, the Wise Centaur who brought up Jason, and taught him the art of navigation by the stars, often play the role of guide and mentor to those born under the Ship. The Centaur's instinctive grasp of values, such as truth and honesty, can be of great help to the Ship when it encounters stormy waters or is led into temptation of some kind. For the Centaur, the natives of the Ship, who are such quick learners, are a pleasure to be with, bringing spontaneity and
fun into their lives.

The Ship of the Argonauts also has a bond with all the other watery signs: The Swan, The Sea Serpent and The Dolphin.
## The Lost Zodiac Star Sign Dates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sign</th>
<th>Stars</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 29th to January 13th</td>
<td>The Lyre of Orpheus</td>
<td>Vega</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 14th to January 28th</td>
<td>The Eagle</td>
<td>Altair</td>
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<td>January 29th to February 8th</td>
<td>The Dolphin</td>
<td>Rotanev and Sualocin</td>
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<td>February 9th to February 29th</td>
<td>The Swan</td>
<td>Sadir</td>
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<td>March 1st to March 12th</td>
<td>The River of Night</td>
<td>Achernar</td>
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<td>March 13th to April 1st</td>
<td>Pegasus</td>
<td>Markab, Scheat and Algenib</td>
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<td>April 2nd to April 9th</td>
<td>Andromeda</td>
<td>Alpheratz</td>
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<td>The River of Night</td>
<td>Acamar</td>
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<td>Mirach and Alamach</td>
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<td>Rana and Zanrak</td>
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<td>The Crown of the North Wind</td>
<td>Dubhhe and Merak</td>
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<td>Alphard</td>
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<td>Phekda, Megrez, Alioth and Mizar</td>
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<td>Alhague</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 24th to December 28th</td>
<td>The Serpent</td>
<td>Grumium and Etanin</td>
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Your Lost Sign Beyond the Zodiac is adapted from the 'Lost Zodiac' by Catherine Tennant, published by Chatto & Windus, September 1995. A boxed set, containing a book describing the twenty two 'lost' signs of western astrology, the maps, and twenty two locating cards, which show the ancient image and the pattern of the stars of each star-sign constellation.

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