In your study of astrology over the years you’ve probably been presented with conflicting explanations of the Dignities known as Terms, more accurately known as Bounds. What exactly are Terms? How are they related to Bounds? How are they used - and do they have any practical application in today’s astrological world?

In Part II of this article I’ll examine some examples of famous partnerships, illustrating along the way just how Bound dignities might perhaps be utilized. For this article and in my astrological study, I use the Terms According to the Egyptians, as defined by Project Hindsight (See figure 1).

Robert Hand has said he prefers the word Bounds as it is more accurate in its description, so for the purposes of this discussion, I’ll use Bounds, as I defer to Hand’s judgment in this matter.

First, let’s review briefly the subject of Bounds. Bounds are a particular kind of planetary essential dignity, although Bounds differ from the other dignities (domicile, exaltation and trigon) in that they are irregular in length, and only utilize the five classical planets Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn, leaving out the Sun and Moon (See figure 1). Finding the Bound ruler of a particular astrological point is relatively easy, although not quite as easy as determining Domicile, Exaltation or Trigon rulers. For instance, suppose you were looking for the Bound ruler of an astrological planet or point at 19 degrees Pisces 55 minutes. Referring to the table in Figure 1, you find the line for Pisces, and run across to the right until you find the numerical range that includes 19 degrees Pisces 0 minutes 01 seconds and runs until 28 degrees Pisces. Between these two values is Mars, so Mars is the Bound ruler of our point at 19 Pisces 55.

Bound rulers offer deeper perceptions of and understandings into planetary positions and other astrological points. They describe the actual manifestation or experience of that point on our material plane of existence (as contrasted with a more spiritual experience as described by the Trigon rulers). So, by comparing and synthesizing the inter-relationships of any astrological point or planet, its Trigon ruler and its Bound ruler by aspect, sign, house and even humanistic phase one can gain a deeper, layered understanding of how that point expresses in a chart.

Taking this a step further, it follows that comparing Bound rulers synastrically can show a couple’s compatibility as it involves life experience. This wouldn’t necessarily show sexual or platonic attraction, but would perhaps reveal fundamental compatibility between people.

For instance, if one’s Bound ruler of the Light of the Day (the Sun by day, the Moon by night) is in Leo and their partner’s is in Pisces, you could begin to explore a possible fundamental disconnect in life experience that could contribute to disharmony in the relationship.

The Leo person would enjoy life to the fullest, garnering as much attention as possible from others along the way. This one would enjoy being in the spotlight, at least to some degree or in some way even if their Sun or Moon were in a more retiring sign.

On the other hand, the partner with a Piscean Light of the Day Bound ruler would much prefer a lifestyle that

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**Figure 1 - Terms According to the Egyptians**

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was much more private, retiring and quiet in nature. This is not to say that a relationship is precluded, but it certainly would give you as an astrologer subtle shadings and clues into understanding the deeper ramifications of the relationship.

Even with Bound rulers that relate synastrically in a harmonious aspect, but relate natally in different modes to natal Trigon rulers (see figure 2), the relationship could suffer stresses.

Take for instance a relationship where each person has a Bound ruler in Virgo - which would indicate a shared similar experience of life. Yet, one person’s Bound ruler is trine their Trigon ruler, making for a relatively happy person satisfied with their life, but the other person’s Bound ruler is disjunct their Trigon ruler, indicating one who is not so happy. Despite shared expectations from life, one is happier, the other not so much. This could lead to different scenarios, perhaps where the unhappy person lives vicariously through their happier partner, or perhaps is a psychic energy drain on the more satisfied partner. Issues of co-dependency could crop up, etc.

House positions, planetary natures and even phasal comparisons certainly would offer more material to further complete the picture.

For examples, let’s look at some famous relationships. For this article I’ve chosen at random Marie and Pierre Curie, the 19th century scientists who contributed so much to the field of radiology; John Lennon and Yoko Ono, the partnership that had such an impact on the Beatles, the Sixties and Lennon’s solo career; Al and Tipper Gore, who of course lived in the White House during the Clinton years; and two of Marilyn Monroe’s marriages - to Joe DiMaggio and Arthur Miller. This technique is still in the speculative stage, and more study and research is needed into real-life partnerships of all kinds to determine its validity.

Marie and Pierre Curie were scientific pioneers in the fields of radiology and chemistry who were awarded Nobel prizes for their work. In fact, Marie was the first woman to be awarded a Nobel Prize of any kind. Marie was a workaholic with an amazing memory, who had to struggle against sexism and xenophobia in her education and in her career. Her Light of the Day is the Sun at 14 Scorpio 35, with the Bound ruler Mercury at 6 Sagittarius 38 in detriment. Her experience of family deaths (a sister and her mother) at an early age is reflected in part by the Sun’s Trigon ruler Venus in Scorpio in detriment. Furthermore, Venus is hemmed in by the malefic secondary Trigon ruler Mars and a Scorpio Saturn in its own Bounds. (Jupiter in Aquarius offers little relief, squaring the Scorpio stellium from an inferior position.) The Sun’s Bound ruler Mercury is of no help, being disjunct the Scorpio stellium, debilitated in Sagittarius and in the 12th house of sorrow and suffering. Marie also encountered sexism in her efforts to enter higher education and xenophobia in her later years (being of Polish descent, but living in France) which is revealed by the prejudicial Saturn, and also the weakened 12th house Sagittarius Mercury.
Pierre Curie worked in the fields of physics, electromagnetism and radiology, as well as the emerging field of nuclear energy. His Light of the Day, the Moon at 1 Scorpio 55 in the 9th house (scientific research) has her Bound ruler Mars at 13 Gemini 39 in the 4th house, serving as the Moon’s Trigon ruler as well. Mars’ natural malefic qualities are muted considerably by being in sect and by conjuncting the benefic Jupiter. One could infer that his expectations from life were exactly what he experienced, as his Bound ruler and Trigon ruler are the same planet Mars. He worked in tandem (Mars in Gemini) with both his brother and his wife Marie in his various scientific discoveries, which among other things brought to life the hidden world (4th house) of radiation and radioactivity.

Marie’s Bound ruler in her 12th house Sagittarius and Pierre’s Bound ruler in his 4th house Gemini are in an opposition aspect by sign, reflecting the successful, yet hardworking partnership they enjoyed until Pierre’s death. Despite enjoying scientific success on his own, Pierre’s greatest renown came in tandem with Marie’s. Having met while teaching higher education (the Gemini/Sagittarius axis), Marie and Pierre seemed to have the highest regard for each other. According to Helena Pycior of the University of Wisconsin who wrote about the Curies, Pierre specifically interceded on Marie’s behalf when the 1903 Nobel Prize Committee excluded her from consideration (Marie’s 12th house) in the field of physics. Marie reciprocated after Pierre’s tragic death through her determination in keeping the memory of his achievements alive and continuing his legacy.

After meeting a musician by the name of John Lennon (who was playing in a little-known band called the Beatles), Yoko Ono came to profoundly influence him and his life direction. Lennon, along with Ono, became much more politically active, working and singing for the ideal of world peace. Despite (or perhaps because of) a year-and-a-half period of marital rockiness in the mid-Seventies, Lennon came to appreciate and deeply value their relationship and their life together.

Born just after sunset, Lennon is of the nocturnal Sect, so his 3 Aquarius 33 Moon is the Light of the Day. His Moon’s Bound ruler is therefore Mercury at 8 Scorpio 33 in his eighth house. A reading of his Sun in Libra shows his need for relationship in his life and work - most prominently displayed through

[Diagram of Pierre Curie’s natal chart]

[Diagram of John Lennon’s natal chart]
his partnership with Paul McCartney, and through his marriage and devotion to Yoko Ono. But Lennon is of the Lunar sect, so it is his Moon that takes prominence in his chart. And the Moon’s Bound Ruler is Mercury in Scorpio in the eighth, disjunct his Sun. Mercury is the planet of ideas, words and thoughts - and Lennon delighted in playing with the lyrics of the songs he wrote, both with McCartney and the Beatles and in his solo work. Deeper than that though, Mercury’s position in the eighth house brings the element of transformation and change to the picture - and for better or worse Lennon helped contribute to tremendous social change through his music. The eighth house is where we learn to let go... and with Mercury Lennon explored the idea of letting go of mental attachments through his lyrics - his most famous song *Imagine* is a case in point. The eighth house is a deep, emotional experience - and Lennon’s effect on the world was no different. With the Moon’s Trigon ruler also being Mercury it seems that Lennon’s ideal in life was accomplished through his actual experience. He was born to use his words to urge the world to let go of obsolete social views, to grow and transform conventional ideas into new values and philosophies.

Ono, like Lennon, is of the nocturnal sect of the Moon - and being at 11 Sagittarius 8, her Moon’s Bound ruler is Jupiter at 20 Virgo 42 in her twelfth house. Jupiter is also her Moon’s Trigon ruler. Like Lennon, she is destined to enjoy a coinciding between her life ideal and actual experience - although the placement in her twelfth house suggests a hidden role. Furthermore, with Jupiter in detriment, Ono is likely to be misunderstood in her efforts, becoming a lightning-rod for controversy. Planets in detriment and fall I feel present complex expressions, demanding a subtle and carefully considered interpretation. This is because the planet’s essential nature opposes the sign’s innate mode of expression. Jupiter paints with a broad brush, while Virgo prefers concentrating on details, so Ono is constantly misunderstood, especially when she doesn’t think clearly about what she’s saying or doing. Ono’s penchant for working from behind the scenes just exacerbated the public’s misunderstanding of her efforts.

Lennon’s Scorpio Mercury is of course sextile Ono’s Virgo Jupiter, suggesting the close friendship and relationship that tied the two together, even through the rough patches. John’s Scorpio Mercury reflects his deep devotion and penetrating wit, while Yoko’s twelfth house Jupiter in Virgo shows her deep spirituality, need for seclusion and endurance of sacrifice. Together, the Lennon/Ono pairing of Mercury and Jupiter Bound rulers describes very well their efforts to teach world peace.

Another dynamic, electric and exciting couple, Al and Tipper Gore are one of this country’s leading political couples.

Al of course was Vice-President during the Clinton administration, and ran for president in 2000. Some political observers feel that, after laying low during the 2004 election, Mr. Gore is currently positioning himself for another run at the Presidency in 2008 - with global warming as his central issue.

Tipper has put in her time as the supportive political wife, but made headlines herself during her campaign against explicit lyrics in popular music - especially music targeted at American youth.

Al is a diurnal Sect native, so his Sun’s Bound ruler is a strong Venus at 26 Taurus 1. However, his Sun is also very strong at 10 Aries 55, being not only Exalted ruler, but Trigon ruler as well. Unfortunately, the Taurus Venus is inconjunct the Aries Sun, and there is no extenuating special relationship that might link the two signs. As a result, I’m not entirely convinced that Mr. Gore will ever achieve his heart’s desire - if his heart’s desire is to be President. This is not to discount his successful career as a politician - having served as both Senator and Vice-President. I’m not certain that he’ll be successful if he
reaches for the top prize, the Presidency.

At first glance, it appears that his wife Tipper, will endure the same blockage. She is of the Moon Sect, so her Bound ruler is Mars at 20 Libra 6, with the Trigon ruler being Mercury at 3 Virgo 39. While it’s true that Libra and Virgo are inconjunct, and therefore not in aspect Hellenistically, they do have a special connection because of their common ascension times - therefore they are seen as Equally Rising.

More outgoing than her husband, Mrs. Gore has been successful in her efforts at requiring entertainment industry warning labels on popular media - music in particular. Her desire for proper and acceptable popular music (or in lieu thereof, warnings about explicitness) fits quite nicely with Virgo’s need for propriety and decency, as well as Libra’s stated desire for decorum and politeness.

When you look at the Bound rulers of this couple, you find Al’s Venus in Taurus matched with Tipper’s Mars in Libra. The Venus/Mars matchup suggests a strong male/female attraction between the two - while the sign matchup of Taurus and Libra, despite being quincunx, are considered Like Engirding by the Hellenistic astrologers - in other words, being Domicile ruled by the same planet, in this case Venus. They are of like mind, even if Al expresses the more introverted Taurean Venus, with Tipper showing the extroverted Libran Venus.

They share common fundamental goals in their life and relationship, despite personal style differences. Al is a Democrat with liberal values, while Tipper is more Christian and conservative - she earned the enmity of the more liberal elements of the music world through her afore-mentioned efforts against explicit lyrics. Despite these surface differences though, the Gores have maintained a strong and vibrant relationship for 36 years - which is a lifetime in today’s celebrity world.

For a final example, let’s look at a couple of star-crossed relationships - the marriage between Joe DiMaggio and Marilyn Monroe (which lasted for only 1 year) and Marilyn’s subsequent marriage to Arthur Miller (which lasted for 4 years).

Joe DiMaggio, the great Yankee Clipper, had already achieved his place in history, specifically baseball history, by the time he married Marilyn Monroe in 1954. His 2 Sagittarius 42 Sun finds its Bound ruler (as well as Domicile ruler) Jupiter at 15 Aquarius 58. The Sun also serves as Trigon ruler. Such an intimate connection between these two planets perhaps helps to account for his great talent and
success in his chosen sport.

On the other side of the marital equation, Marilyn’s Light of the Day Sun is at 10 Gemini 27, with the Bound ruler also being Jupiter - and like Joe her Jupiter is in Aquarius, at 26 Aquarius 50.

Although not in conjunction by orb, it is in conjunction Hellenistically by platick aspect, or Whole Sign aspect. This suggests a similar subjective experience and/or expectation of life that the two shared - an expectation that contained a Sagittarian idealism at its core. While being a social sign, Sagittarius is still fiercely independent and self-reliant. Its mutability is often caught vacillating between the need for freedom and breathing room, and its moral responsibility to the social order in which it finds itself.

DiMaggio walked a fine line in this regard - performing what he felt were his responsibilities to baseball to the utmost of his talent and ability, while fiercely guarding his personal life and values.

Marilyn, as we all know, had a tougher time of it. She sometimes felt torn apart personally, caught between her image as a movie star, and her desire to be taken seriously for her acting.

While she shared a Bound ruler in Jupiter with DiMaggio, her Trigon ruler was her Saturn at 21 Scorpio 26. Scorpio of course is a deeper, more mysterious and sexual type of energy, and this was indicative of Marilyn Monroe, if not during her life, certainly posthumously.

Jupiter is an expansive motivation, while Saturn of course is a constrictive motivation. People caught between Jupiter and Saturn often feel pushed and pulled in opposing directions, and the square sign energies involved of Aquarius and Scorpio certainly added to the tension.

Joe and Marilyn were certainly magnetically attracted to each other, especially in the beginning, but the mismatch soon became very apparent. In his book Joe & Marilyn, Roger Kahn states “What drove them apart was an ordinary inability to live together compatibly and the failure of each to understand and meet the needs of the other.”

It seems in this relationship, that what provoked the mismatch was not the Bound rulers (both Jupiter in Aquarius) but their Trigon rulers - Joe’s Sun in Sagittarius being inconjunct Marilyn’s Saturn in Scorpio. Their Light of the Day life ideals did not mesh and could not harmonize. “DiMaggio thought he was marrying the most gorgeous housewife in America” while “Marilyn actually thought life with Joe was boring.”
It's obvious that Joe’s Sun leapt to an expectation and/or conclusion that wasn’t warranted by the facts (even by 1954 when they got married, Marilyn’s fame was international in scope). And it’s equally obvious that Marilyn’s Saturn was dismayed by Joe’s pedestrian (in her estimation) personality. Scorpio needs to feel something above all else - even if it’s feeling bad. Being bored or feeling nothing is the worst thing for Scorpio.

Still, their shared Bound ruler in Jupiter in Aquarius made its influence known through Joe DiMaggio’s absolute and unwavering loyalty and devotion to Marilyn and her image, even after the marriage ended, and especially after her death. He steadfastly refused to discuss Marilyn or his marriage to her in the media - and for many years provided flowers for her grave on a weekly basis.

Marilyn’s marriage to Arthur Miller lasted a bit longer, for four years, from 1956 to 1961. Astrologically, the setup was the flip side to her relationship with DiMaggio.

Arthur Miller is of the nocturnal Sect, with his Moon at 16 Aquarius 25. His Moon’s Bound ruler is Jupiter (once again!) at 19 Pisces 57, and the Trigon ruler Mercury at 3 Scorpio 58. Like DiMaggio, Arthur Miller was eminently successful and notable in his own right, alluded to in part by his Bound Piscean Jupiter trining his Trigon Scorpio Mercury.

And while his Trigon ruler in Scorpio matched (at least by sign) Marilyn’s Trigon Saturn in Scorpio, his Bound ruler in Pisces inconjuncted her Bound ruler in Aquarius, even though both Bound rulers were Jupiter. This indicates that although there was a shared life expectation of passion and deep feeling, their actual experience of life was perhaps different.

Miller idealized Monroe in a typically Piscean manner, and early in the marriage began to grow disillusioned when he found she was only human. The marriage went downhill from then on, with Marilyn conducting at least one brief affair, and by the time of their divorce, they were living separately and barely speaking. Marilyn commented, “Mr. Miller is a wonderful man and a great writer, but it didn’t work out that we should be husband and wife.”

In conclusion, it is my opinion that Bound rulers (and Trigon rulers as well) serve a much more important role than simply supplying rulership points in horary astrology, as practiced by our medieval ancestors.

The Hellenistic astrologers did not practice horary astrology, primarily focusing on mundane and natal astrology. So it follows that Bound and Trigon rulers were understood and interpreted in light of these two approaches.

In fact, Robert Schmidt and others are demonstrating through Project Hindsight the complex interrelationship between the four different rulerships for any given point in a horoscope. It is this complex relationship between a point in the chart and its rulers (or lords) that contributes to and reveals the deeper underlying and inner meanings and expression of that point.

Specifically, the Bound ruler reveals the actual material experience of an astrological point on this plane of existence. The Trigon ruler shows the ideal experience of that point, and the relationship between the two rulers shows the tension and duality between the theory of an astrological point and its actual experience.

The rulerships for the Light of the Day in a natal chart is of paramount importance in understanding a native’s expectation and experience of his or her life - and when two charts are involved synastrically, the very foundations of the relationship between the natives begin to become apparent.

The above examples only briefly examined sign, planetary and aspect relationships, but additional
information can be uncovered by comparing house positions, and even phase relationships.

Footnotes:

1 From a lecture he gave at ISAR 2005 in Chicago.

2 All birth data are from the following sources: AstroDataBank, CyberKhaldea (http://www.khaldea.com/chartgallery.shtml), Io software and German Astrology Database (http://217.160.138.166/DAV_Datenbank/MASTER.HTM). Data is rated AA.

3 The Rulership Book; Rex Bills; 1971

4 Although not shown in the chart, Pierre Curie’s Uranus was in Gemini in the 4th house, along with his Mars and Jupiter. Uranus rules atomic radiation according to The Rulership Book; Rex Bills; 1971.

5 Hellenistic astrologers considered the opposition aspect to be more problematic than the square - but recognized the cooperative and complemental nature of the aspect. Disjunct and quincunx aspects were thought to be the most undesirable of planetary relationships - literally there was no aspect present because the planets involved could not see (i.e. aspect) each other.

6 From “Two in a Shed: History and Memory of the Curies as a Nobel Prize-winning Couple”; http://www.yale.edu/opa/v32.n12/story9.html

7 One is reminded of their extended kiss on Saturday Night Live in December of 2002, which spoofed an earlier public display of affection at the 2000 Democratic National Convention.

8 If you use Ptolemy’s Table of Bound Rulerships, Tipper’s Bound ruler is Jupiter at 19 Sagittarius 7, with Al’s staying the same - Venus at 26 Taurus 01. There is also a quincunx here - Sagittarius to Taurus, but unlike the Egyptian/Alexandrian/Hellenistic Bounds of Taurus/Libra, there is no special relationship between Sagittarius and Taurus, and the quincunx relationship would certainly suggest an unstable life experience foundation for the Gores’ relationship.

9 Frank Zappa is said to have termed her a “cultural terrorist”.