Introducing Guido Bonatti (1210-1290)
Guido Bonatti (1210-1290)

Thirteenth century Italian military astrologer. He served the communal governments of Florence, Siena, and Forlì. Bonatti’s astrological reputation was written up in Dante's *Divine Comedy*, where he is depicted as residing in hell, with his head reversed in punishment for looking at the future.

Guido Bonatti - Solar System, *De Astronomia Libri*
Sources

Bonatti wrote the *Liber Astronomiae*, which was an encyclopaedia work covering all known areas of astrology. The astrology of Europe was undergoing a revolution of change due to the introduction of Islamic, Arabic, Jewish, and Persian astrology bought to Europe by scholars in the late-twelfth century. In this regard his work documents this transition and also, as he speaks of his sources, it reveals the Islamic authors being carried into the west.

His work on military astrology makes up part of his 'Tractatus Sextus'. This was translated by Robert Zoller and printed in the Astrological Lodge’s Quarterly in 4 parts in the 1990s.

More recently:
Bonatti lists two types of conflict

The first was where two armies or opposing sides encountered each other on a field of battle – this is a Field Battle.

The second was where a castle was being besieged – where one army was at a disadvantage as it tried to take a fortified castle.

Today such battles can be seen when either there is a contest on a level playing field or when one player holds a distinct advantage and the attacker has to win in order to claim victory with a ‘draw’ meaning a loss to one side.
Field Battles
‘And suppose he wanted to start some battle, or go with the army against someone... give the 1st house to him and its Lord, and see from what planet the Moon separates, and give it likewise to him. And you will give the 7th, and its Lord, and the planet to whom the Moon is then joined, to the adversary.’ p.485

‘The 1st signifies the one beginning the battle because the first thing which comes in war is the one beginning it.’ p.504

‘Look to the 7th house for the enemy’ p.506

Thus for Bonatti the 1st house ruler belonged to the instigator of the battle or conflict PLUS the last aspect of the Moon, and the 7th ruler and the planet with the next aspect of the moon is the enemy or the one being attacked.

Bonatti, Guido. Book of Astronomy. Translated by Benjamin N. Dykes. Golden Valley, Minnesota:
Field Battles in Sport

This is always a battle between two planets – 1st vs 7th house lords. The astrologer thus needs to decide what constitutes the beginning of the conflict and who is the challenger.

Sports: The Home Team normally receives the Away Team and the game is played on the Home Team’s field. In this case then it is clear that the Away Team is the challenger.

Tournaments: In a match or a tournament the question can be more difficult. All teams or players are not on their home ‘turf’. The astrologer then has to decide who is the player with the most to lose, the favourite or the one defending their title. That person or team will be the ‘home’ team.
Forth Coming World Cup – Russia 2018 – First round matches, 7th house team (receiver of the challenge) in bold.

Russia vs Saudi Arabia  14 June 2018, 16:00 at the Luzhniki Stadium, Moscow – Russia 72% chance of win

Egypt vs Uruguay  15 June 2018, 13:00 at the Central Stadium, Yekaterinburg – Egypt 17%, Draw 27% Uruguay 56%

Morocco vs Iran  15 June 2018, 16:00 at Krestovsky Stadium, Saint Petersburg – Morocco 42%, Draw 31%, Iran 27%

Portugal vs Spain  15 June 2018, 19:00 at Fisht Olympic Stadium, Sochi - – Portugal 22%, Draw 27%, Spain 51%

France vs Australia  15 June 2018, 11:00 at Kazan Arena, Kazan - France 79% chance of win.

Argentina vs Iceland  15 June 2018, 14:00 at Otkrytiye Arena, Moscow  - Argentina 72%, Draw 20% Iceland 8%
Bonatti wrote: ‘You ought to know that the superior planets, that is Saturn, Jupiter and Mars, are stronger in combat and battles than the inferiors, namely the Sun, Venus, Mercury and the Moon.’  

The Planetary Battles

- **Saturn**, ruling Capricorn and Aquarius will only ever be in conflict with the **Sun** Leo, or the **Moon** Cancer. *Planning and control vs emotions and favouritism.*

- **Mars** ruling Aries and Scorpio will only ever be in conflict with **Venus** as the ruler of Libra and Taurus. *Strength and power vs elegance and brilliance.*

- **Jupiter** ruling Pisces and Sagittarius will only ever be in conflict with **Mercury** being the ruler of Virgo and Gemini. *Inspiration and belief in victory vs speed and quick thinking.*
Games of Halves or Quarters

Some sports, like tennis, are played as a continuum, as they only have short breaks. However, many team sports are played in halves or even quarters. Every break and then recommencement requires a new chart; however, superior planets rule one side of the zodiac, while inferior planets rule the other side.

Thus if a team starts by being ruled by a superior planet, it will generally maintain that planet or another superior planet for the whole match.

The interesting games are when this switches eg: Venus switching at half time to Mars for a 1st house team.
Bonatti’s Major Points in Field Battles

1. The ruler of the 1\textsuperscript{st} house is the challenger.
2. The ruler of the 7\textsuperscript{th} house is the receiver of the challenge.
3. Judge the strength of each ruler via:
   1. Its zodiacal condition.
   2. Its house position.
   3. Its applying Ptolemaic aspect.
   4. Whether it is retrograde or direct.
   5. Superior planets are always stronger than inferior planets.
4. The planet receiving the last Ptolemaic aspect from the Moon also belongs to the 1\textsuperscript{st} House. Judge its strength and condition.
5. The planet receiving the next Ptolemaic aspect from the Moon also belongs to the 7\textsuperscript{th} House. Judge its strength and condition.
6. The ruler which is the strongest of the above points will win the contest.

Sounds simple - but it is knowing how to make that judgement of strength which is the key!
Bonatti’s Major Points in Field Battles

- Judge the strength of each ruler via:
  - Its zodiacal condition.
  - Its house position.
  - Its apply Ptolemaic aspect.
  - Whether it is retrograde or direct.
  - Superior planets are always stronger than inferior planets.
  - Aspects of the Moon.

This 6th century mosaic pavement is in a synagogue.
Beit Alpha, Israel.
Essential Dignities – an overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planet</th>
<th>Rulership</th>
<th>Exaltation</th>
<th>Detriment</th>
<th>Fall</th>
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Key:

**Rulership:** The King in his kingdom  
**Exaltation:** The honoured guest  
**Triplicity:** To be in a relative’s house  
**Term:** To be amongst one’s allies and supporters  
**Face:** To be prepared but in an alien environment

Tip: Beware a Jupiter in rulership – over confident.
Bonatti’s Major Points in Field Battles

- Judge the strength of each ruler via:
  - Its zodiacal condition.
  - **Its house position.**
  - Its apply Ptolemaic aspect.
  - Whether it is retrograde or direct.
  - Superior planets are always stronger than inferior planets.
  - Aspects of the Moon.

This 6th century mosaic pavement is in a synagogue. Beit Alpha, Israel.
Strength of a Planet via its house

1. Judge the strength of each ruler via:
   1. Its zodiacal condition
   2. Its house position
   3. Its applying Ptolemaic aspect
   4. Whether it is retrograde or direct
   5. Superior planets are always stronger than inferior planets
   6. The aspects of the Moon. The last aspected planet helps the challenger and the next helps the defender of the challenge

House Position: A planet gains strength by being in an angular house and is weakened by being in a cadent house. The succedent house neither strengthens nor weakens.

Exception: If the ruler of the 1st is in the 7th or vice versa, then that planet is greatly weakened, for the lord of the 1st is in the place of its enemy – captured!
Bonatti’s Major Points in Field Battles

- Judge the strength of each ruler via:
  - Its zodiacal condition.
  - Its house position.
  - **Its apply Ptolemaic aspect.**
  - Whether it is retrograde or direct.
  - Superior planets are always stronger than inferior planets.
  - Aspects of the Moon.
**Strength of a Planet via its applying aspect**

**Aspect:** What is the next Ptolemaic aspect and is this to a planet that helps the ruler? - These aspects are: Opposition, Trine, Square, Sextile or Conjunction.

Is there reception to the ruler?

**Reception:** When the ruler of a sign forms an aspect to a planet in that sign, then the first planet must give to the second planet. eg: Mars in Aquarius forming an aspect to Saturn, Saturn then must give to Mars. This can get complicated, eg, Mars in Libra ruling a team forming an aspect to Venus. Venus - which rules the other team - must give to Mars!
Bonatti’s Major Points in Field Battles

- Judge the strength of each ruler via:
  - Its zodiacal condition.
  - Its house position.
  - Its apply Ptolemaic aspect.
  - **Whether it is retrograde or direct.**
  - Superior planets are always stronger than inferior planets.
  - Aspects of the Moon.

This 6th century mosaic pavement is in a synagogue. Beit Alpha, Israel.
Strength of a Planet via its direction

**Direction:** A retrograde planet is meant to be weaker than a direct planet. This is important for long conflicts but not so for short encounters. Stationary planets can be like wild cards – odd things happen in the match.

**Luminaries** – these cannot be retrograde or direct. Also I have found no support for the Moon being affected as a ruler by its phase. A dark Moon seems just as strong as a full moon etc.
Trying it out.....

Take a forthcoming sporting event or contest and look at the chart/s.

Make sure that you do not have too much emotional involvement with the outcome so you can be unbiased.

The World Cup is about to start in Russia.
Russia vs Saudi Arabia  14 June 2018, 16:00 at the Luzhniki Stadium, Moscow – Russia 72% chance of win

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Argentina vs Iceland  15 June 2018, 14:00 at Otkrytiye Arena, Moscow - Argentina 72%, Draw 20% Iceland 8%
Russia is the 7th house = Venus

Venus in Leo in the 9th but via the NN relating to the MC

Its next apply Ptolemaic aspect is:
Conjunct North Node

Moon - next aspect to Mercury.

Saudi Arabia = 1st house Mars
Mars in Aquarius in the 3rd house but conjunct the IC.

Its next apply aspect is square to Jupiter, which is rules.

Moon – last aspect sextile Uranus 7th house.

Although Saudi Arabia is given only a small chance to win the chart favours them – they may fight this game out to an unexpected draw!

The second half will start around 1 hour later and Scorpio will still be rising.
Spain is the favourite thus is the 7th house = Mercury

Mercury in Cancer in the 7th - angular

Its next apply Ptolemaic aspect is: Opp. Saturn in rulership and it is direct.

Moon – next aspect opp Pluto

Portugal = 1st house Jupiter

Jupiter is in Scorpio and retrograde in the 11th house.

Its next apply aspect is a trine to Neptune, which it rules.

Moon – last aspect trine Neptune.

The second half will start around 1 hour later and Sag will still be rising.

Spain is favourite and also favoured by the chart.
Summary of Field Battles

1. The ruler of the 1\textsuperscript{st} house is the challenger: The Away Team or the non-favourite.
2. The ruler of the 7\textsuperscript{th} house is the receiver of the challenge: The Home Team or the favourite.

3. Judge the strength of each ruler via:
   1. Its zodiacal condition, its house position, its applying Ptolemaic aspect, and whether it is retrograde or direct.
   2. Superior planets are always stronger than inferior planets.
4. The challenger also gets the planet which received the last Ptolemaic aspect from the Moon.
5. The defender also gains the planet which received the next Ptolemaic aspect from the Moon.

The ruler, which is the strongest of the above points, is favoured to win the contest.

Uses

Any sporting activity on an equal footing.

Any law case which is on an equal footing.

Any team conflict, friendly or other.

Any time you go ‘into battle’ for a point or an issue.

Any time of negotiation – contracts or agreements where you have one position and the other person has another.
Important Point with sports charts and betting:

- Think in odds or probabilities.
- If the chart strongly favours a team then give it some odds – scale your findings into odds. (this takes a bit of research within your sport).
- You may work out that a team has a 1-1 chance of winning, but the odds offered are 2-1.
- Thus if you decide to make a wager then always bet with the odds in your favour.
Castle Besiegement

Times when a draw means you lose!
Castle Besiegement

• This is a different type of battle defined by the strengths of the two parties where a nil result, a draw, is a loss for one but a win for the other.

• In Bonatti’s time this type of battle was an assault on a castle. If the attacking army could not take the castle then it was, in effect, a draw, with the attacker leaving the battle with no gain and thus the castle wins. This is, therefore, any engagement where the holder of the trophy or title has an intrinsic advantage over the challenger. They must be beaten in order to lose the trophy.

• In everyday life this is any contest where one person is trying to gain something that belongs to another, or entering into a negotiation where the other party holds all the power.
Bonatti wrote in discussing horary:

‘Whence if a question was made to you about some besieged city or castle, or one that is blockaded, as to whether it will be captured after the blockade or not, look at the 1st house [for the attacker] and the 4th house (which signifies the besieged city or castle).’

He then goes into a discussion about the potential of the 10th house to represent the castle. He concludes, however, that by the use of derived houses, the 4th house is the home of the enemy and thus represents the castle being besieged.

Bonatti wrote,

‘Whence if you were to find the Lord of the 1st strong and fortunate, or you were to find him joined to the Lord of the 4th (or with the Moon) in the 1st, or in the 10th or even in the 11th, or in another place which is not unfortunate (as the 12th, 8th or 6th are), indeed so that the Lord of the 1st receives the Lord of the 4th, or even if the Moon receives him (even if she is not received by him), it signifies the taking of the city, and its capture. Likewise if the Lord of the 4th were with the malefics, impeded, it signifies its capture; or if there were malefics in the 4th without one of the benefics or its praiseworthy aspect, it signifies its capture. You may say the same if the Tail of the Dragon were there, because it signifies loss and evacuation.’

The strength of a position is judged in the following way:

1. The ruler of the 1\textsuperscript{st} house is the challenger.
2. The ruler of the 4\textsuperscript{th} house is the \textit{castle itself}.
3. Superior planets are always stronger than inferior planets.
4. Consider the condition of the Moon to look for a nil result.
5. Judge the strength of the 1\textsuperscript{st} house and 4\textsuperscript{th} house ruler by:
   1. Its zodiacal condition.
   2. Whether it is retrograde or direct.
6. The Ptolemaic aspects – Does it aspect the Moon, or the other ruler?
7. The house position of the Lords of the 1\textsuperscript{st} and 4\textsuperscript{th} house.
8. The planets contained in the 1\textsuperscript{st} or 4\textsuperscript{th} house.

Different to field battles because there is more emphases on houses and the aspects of the Moon and the two rulers.
Consider the condition of the Moon to look for a nil result.

- Is the Moon in detriment or fall?
- Is the Moon applying to a malefic? (This is debatable.)
- Is the Moon combust – close to the Sun?
- Is the Moon apply or separating from a conjunction or the South Node?
- Is the Moon’s ruler combust?
- Is the Moon’s ruler applying or separating from a conjunction or the South Node?
- Is the ruler retrograde?

Any of the above implies that little will come from the situation – thus either a victory for the castle or, if the contest permits, a draw.

Tip: It is worth paying attention to the Moon for any sporting event that can easily result in a draw – soccer for example. Although soccer is a field battle, a weakened Moon can imply little results from the match (although a draw is worth points), while a Moon in the degree of the Node is a wild card!
$1^\text{st}$ House Lord’s relationship to the $4^\text{th}$.

As with field battles, judge the strength of the planet using the essential dignities but also paying attention to:

- If the Lord of the $1^\text{st}$ has any form of dignity in the degree of the castle ($4^\text{th}$ house cusp), then this greatly aids the challenger.

- If the Lord of the $1^\text{st}$ also rules the $4^\text{th}$, then the conflict is decided beforehand.
The strength of a planet is judge by

1. The ruler of the 1\textsuperscript{st} house is the challenger.
2. The ruler of the 4\textsuperscript{th} house is the castle itself.
3. Superior planets are always stronger than inferior planets.
4. Consider the condition of the Moon to look for a nil result.
5. Judge the strength of the 1\textsuperscript{st} house and 4\textsuperscript{th} house ruler by:
   1. Its zodiacal condition.
   2. Whether it is retrograde or direct.
6. The Ptolemaic aspects – to its ruler, or the Moon, or the other ruler.
7. The house position of the Lords of the 1\textsuperscript{st} and 4\textsuperscript{th} house.
8. The planets contained in the 1\textsuperscript{st} or 4\textsuperscript{th} house.
Aspects of the ruler of the 1\textsuperscript{st} or 4\textsuperscript{th} house to the angles

- If the Lord of the 1\textsuperscript{st} house is in aspect to either the Ascendant or the IC, then the challenger is greatly aided.

- If the Lord of the 4\textsuperscript{th} house is in an aspect to either the Ascendant or the MC, then the holder of the castle is greatly aided.

This rule shows you the power of an aspect to the angles
The Planets in the 1\textsuperscript{st} or 4\textsuperscript{th} houses

- If there are any benefices in the 4\textsuperscript{th} house this aids the castle – Jupiter, Moon, North Node or Venus.

- If there are any malefics in the 4\textsuperscript{th} house this weakens the castle – Saturn, Mars and the South Node.
The Power of the Houses

Bonatti wrote,

‘Whence if you were to find the Lord of the 1\textsuperscript{st} strong and fortunate, or you were to find him joined to the Lord of the 4\textsuperscript{th} (or with the Moon) in the 1\textsuperscript{st}, or in the 10\textsuperscript{th} or even in the 11\textsuperscript{th}, or in another place which is not unfortunate (as the 12\textsuperscript{th}, 8\textsuperscript{th} or 6\textsuperscript{th} are), indeed so that the Lord of the 1\textsuperscript{st} receives the Lord of the 4\textsuperscript{th}, or even if the Moon receives him (even if she is not received by him), it signifies the taking of the city, and its capture. Likewise if the Lord of the 4\textsuperscript{th} were with the malefics, impeded, it signifies its capture; or if there were malefics in the 4\textsuperscript{th} without one of the benefics or its praiseworthy aspect, it signifies its capture. You may say the same if the Tail of the Dragon were there, because it signifies loss and evacuation.’
The quest to take the White House 2016/17
Won the nomination at 18:39

This is when she began her quest to take the White House
Clinton was the 1\textsuperscript{st} house (Saturn) and the White House is the 4\textsuperscript{th} house (Venus).
Saturn has NO dignity in the degree of the IC – terms of Mercury, Face of Venus.

The Attacker - Clinton
Saturn in Sag. In 11\textsuperscript{th} and retrograde
Saturn does not aspect the angles
Saturn at 9 Sag has no dignity.
The ruler of Saturn is Jupiter in 8\textsuperscript{th} in determent - Virgo.
The next aspect that Saturn makes is to Neptune.
The Moon’s next aspect is to Jupiter, in determent and in the 8th.

The Castle
The Moon is in the fourth house and in exaltation so the Castle is strong.
The ruler of the castle is the Venus in 7\textsuperscript{th} house its ruler is the Sun also in the 7\textsuperscript{th}, strong.

The next aspect of the Moon is to Venus (which is the castle), with reception (Moon in Venus’ sign).
The castle will resist Clinton’s challenge.
Trump wins the Republican nomination
(Time from a tweet)

20 July 2016, 0:52 am, New York
Trump is the 1st house (Venus) and the White House is the 4th house (the Moon).
The degree of the IC is in the terms of Jupiter and the face of the Moon.

The Attack – Trump
Venus in Leo in the 4th house – in the castle!
Venus squares the Asc/Desc axis. Strong.
Venus at 9 Leo is in its own terms. Strong indicating support from its ‘tribe, its people’.
The ruler of Venus is the Sun on the IC – in the castle.
The next aspect that Venus makes is to Mercury, also in the 4th house.
The Moon’s next aspect is to Venus. Trump’s planets are in the castle.

The Castle
There are three benefics in the 4th house – so the Castle is strong – but all are ‘owned’ by Trump.
The ruler of the castle is the Moon in 10th house and its ruler is Saturn in 7th, strong but also retrograde, weakened.
The next aspect of the Moon is to Venus (which is Trump), no reception.
Summary of Castle Besiegement

1. The ruler of the 1\textsuperscript{st} house is the attacker:
   The non holder of the title.
2. The ruler of the 4\textsuperscript{th} house is the castle:
   The one who holds the title or trophy.

Judge the strength of each ruler via the following:
1. Superior planets are always stronger than inferior planets
2. The planet’s zodiacal condition, its house position, its Ptolemaic aspects, and whether it is retrograde or direct.
3. Consider planets or the south node in either the 1\textsuperscript{st} or 4\textsuperscript{th} houses.
4. Look for the ruler of the 1\textsuperscript{st} having dignity in the degree of the 4\textsuperscript{th} cusp.

If the 1\textsuperscript{st} house ruler is deemed stronger, then it will take the castle.

Uses

Any sporting activity, whether the holder of a title has to be beaten to lose the title.

Any law case where one is going against the normal rulings.

Any engagement with another where they hold all the power.
Battle and Conflict Charts
Old ways with new uses!