



Geoffrey Cornelius with Melanie Reinhart and Darby Costello at the Faculty of Astrological Studies Summer School, 2016

# Remembering Geoffrey Cornelius

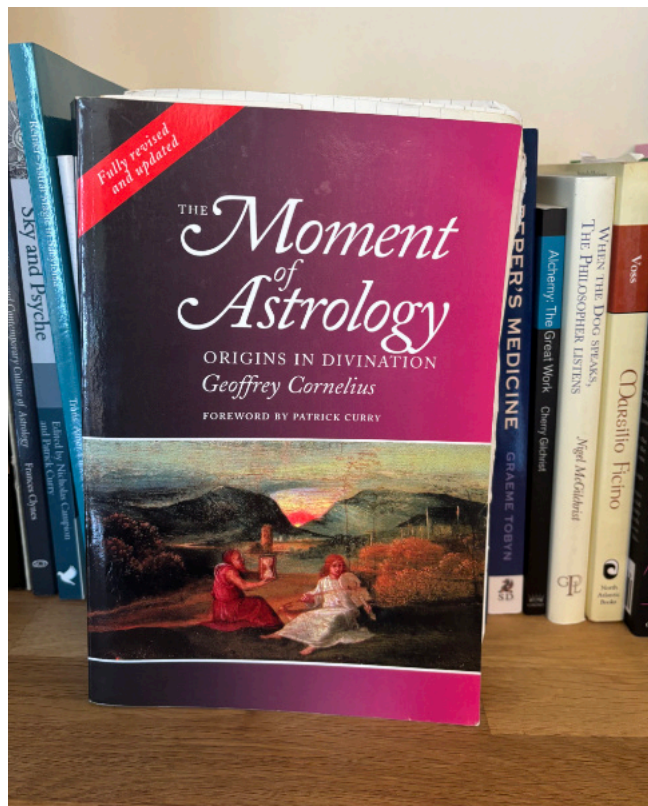
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By **Carole Taylor**

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I first met Geoffrey when I became the Faculty of Astrological Studies' representative on the APAE in 2002. I had read his book, *The Moment of Astrology: Origins in Divination*, and heard him speak, so I already knew him to be one of the most compelling and original voices in our astrological community. I still believe, over 20 years later, that this is one of the most important books ever written on astrology and that all students and practitioners should read it – preferably several times, for its full import is not easily grasped on first encounter.



Published by The Wessex Astrologer, 2003 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)

Geoffrey was full of wisdom – it was impossible for him to speak and not say something profound or thought-provoking. As a teacher, he was both the wise and gentle guide and the artful trickster, able to turn even the most ordinary-seeming conversation into something revelatory. I never did study the Katarche course which he ran for so many years with Maggie Hyde and it's one of my great regrets. I did however take the MA in Myth, Cosmology and the Sacred, which he taught at Canterbury Christ Church University with Angela Voss – followed by a course with him on the philosophy of divination. So I regularly made the pilgrimage from West Sussex to Canterbury, a lucky recipient of years of his inspiring and erudite teaching. Both courses were challenging – but that is because they were true soul work, and both were so jaw-droppingly brilliant, they had a profound impact on the way I think about and practise astrology.

But Geoffrey was also down-to-earth, full of kindness, humanity and generosity of spirit. He was a master of his art and craft, yet entirely humble – deeply and widely knowledgeable, but with not a shred of ego. From a student's point of view, he inspired devotion, not because he courted it but because he radiated such a love of learning and modelled the idea of learning as a spiritual commitment. Angela has often referred to him as 'the great man', not because Geoffrey thought he was great, but because he was naturally and effortlessly great, his erudition flowing from a deep love of his subject – he was, without doubt, one of a small handful of teachers I have had over the years whose teaching has altered the course of my life. I will be forever grateful to Geoffrey, and to Angela, for that MA – like a shooting star of light, it illuminated everything.

At Geoffrey's funeral service on Thursday 19th September, we were reminded of the term he used to describe what he was engaged in: he called it the Work. It was, it seems to me, a shorthand to describe a devotion of the soul, a love of knowledge and a continual and committed quest for spiritual understanding. This is for sure what Geoffrey was engaged in and it stands as an invitation to all of us, to dedicate ourselves to our craft with the fullness of the heart.