Dr. MARIA MONTESSORI,

the Educational Innovator

**by**

**Marguerite dar Boggia**

Educator, medical doctor, reseacher, author, lecturer, innovator, humanist, Maria Montessori's contribution to the education of children is profound and timely. This is her chart. She was born on 8/31/1870 at 1:20 PM in Chiaravalle, Italy1. The time of birth is from Dane Rudhyar.



Her chart can be mined for inferences of her true destiny. Her Sun is in Virgo in the 9th house. It sextiles the Scorpio Moon in the 11th house of organizations, which she later organized and created. The Sun closely squares the Sagittarius ascendant and Gemini descendant. Education is signified by these signs and the rulership of their houses: 9th and 3rd. Antiscion equivalent **Uranus2 sits exactly on her descendant in Gemini**. Undoubtedly her conception of education will not be in the normal mode. Uranus, in a sense, works in tandem with Scorpio. Uranus symbolizes, changes to the status quo. The heavily tenanted 8th house supports the death of old systems, in order to make way for the new. Sun rules the 9th house and Uranus is co-ruler of the 3rd house. Educational systems are intimated to be changed and transformed.

Her father was an accountant in the civil service and her Mother was the great niece of a famous geologist.3 The family moved to Rome when she was five years old.

She entered secondary school with the intent to become an ENGINEER (a strong Uranus, in addition to Uranus conjoining Mars); but upon graduation she was intent on studying medicine. The ruler of her ascendant, Jupiter, sextiles Neptune, the planet of compassion. What better way can she be of service to others than by being a loving doctor. Jupiter is in the 7th house of others, the eighth house rules surgery and a Virgo Sun relates to health. She was in tune with her Inner Self. She will become a doctor.

At that time in Italy, it was unheard of for a woman to study medicine. Her father (Saturn) tried to dissuade her. (Saturn opposition Jupiter, the chart ruler). When the Professor of clinical medicine at the University of Rome tried to discourage her she replied: "I know I shall become a doctor." She was self-willed and determined. The Sun semi-squares Mars and Uranus; Neptune squares it and Saturn quincunxes it. With those aspects, her challenges relating to hostility will just be beginning. Fortunately Pope Leo XIII interceded for her to study medicine when progressed Ascendant conjoined natal Saturn (an authority figure). She then entered the University of Rome at the age of 20.

She did extremely well in all her subjects. Saturn trine Neptune are the rulers of her 3rd house of learning. Two years later she qualified to enter medical school with the Pope's help. In her last two years she studied pediatrics and psychiatry, and worked in the pediatric consulting room, becoming an expert in pediatric medicine.

On July 10, 1896 she graduated from the University of Rome as a doctor of medicine. (Pluto in the 6th house of health sextiles the N. Node of the Moon in the 8th house). She was the first woman to become a doctor in Italy. With that distinction, she became known throughout the country. She was immediately employed in the San Giovanni Hospital attached to the University.

Being famous, she was asked to lecture, which she did all around the world. She lectured on societal responsibility for juvenile delinquency and for special classes for the mentally disabled children. She presented a vision of social progress and political economy rooted in educational measures. She was asked to represent Italy at the International Congress for Women’s Rights in Berlin. In her speech to the Congress she developed a thesis for social reform, arguing that women should be entitled to equal wages with men. Mercury, ruler of her 10th house (career), is in Libra, the sign of equality, the law, and justice. A reporter covering the event asked her how her patients responded to a female doctor. She replied, *“… they know intuitively when someone really cares about them.… It is only the upper classes that have a prejudice against women leading a useful existence.”*

She believed research was important. (Scorpio Moon plus a heavily tenanted 8th house). A year later she volunteered to join a research program at the psychiatric clinic of the University of Rome. As part of her work at the clinic she would visit Rome’s asylums for the insane, seeking patients for treatment at the clinic.

Her involvement with the National League for the Education of Retarded Children led to her appointment as co-director, of a new institution called the Orthophrenic School. The school took children with a broad spectrum of disorders and proved to be a turning point in her life, marking a shift in her professional identity from physician to educator. It was here that she worked alongside Giuseppe Montesano, a fellow doctor who was co-director with her of the Orthophrenic School of Rome. A romance developed and she became pregnant. (Oh dear!) Progressed Mars conjoined natal Venus. The son, named 'Mario', was born on 3/31/1898, when progressed Venus sextiled the Moon. She had a decision to make. If she married, she would be expected to cease working professionally; Instead of getting married, she decided to continue her work and studies. Progressed Venus was trine Pluto in the 6th house of work. She wanted to keep the relationship with her child's father secret, under the condition that neither of them would marry anyone else. When the father of her child fell in love and subsequently married, she was left feeling depressed. (Moon square Venus) She decided to place her son into foster care with a family living in the countryside. She would later be reunited with her son when he was 14. He proved to be a great assistant to her.

In 1900 she was appointed co-director of an orthophrenic school for training teachers in educating mentally disabled children with an attached laboratory classroom. Her success in all her undertakings would be assured. She has Mercury, ruler of the 10th house of career, trine the part of fortune and sextile the Sagittarius ascendant. The school was an immediate success. Some of these children later passed public examinations given to so-called "normal" children. Her method allowed children to develop at their own pace and provided educators with a better understanding of child development. The term "cosmic education" was introduced to describe an approach for children aged from six to twelve years that emphasized the interdependence of all the elements of the natural world. Children worked directly with plants and animals in their natural environments.

In 1904 she took up a post as a lecturer at the Pedagogic School of the University of Rome, which she held until 1908. In one lecture she told her students: ***“The subject of our study is humanity; our purpose is to become teachers. Now, what really makes a teacher is love for the human child; for it is love that transforms the social duty of the educator into the higher consciousness of a* mission*”* .**

During this time she began to consider adapting her methods of educating mentally disabled children to mainstream education. She expanded the range of practical activities such as sweeping and personal care to include a wide variety of exercises for care of the environment and the self, including, hand washing, gymnastics, care of pets, and cooking. She also included large open air sections in the classroom encouraging children to come and go as they please in the room's different areas and lessons.

She was asked to lecture on her methods in many countries, including India. In the United States in the 1920's her book on the Montesorri Method was a second best seller. Although her educational approach was highly popular in the United States, she was not without opposition and controversy. A follower of reformer John Dewey, wrote a dismissive and critical book, which had a broad impact in 1925. (progressed ascendant at 25 Capricorn opposed Mars and Uranus and progressed Midheaven (21 Scorpio) quincunxed Neptune). From then on for forty years, her method of teaching was not popular, until after she died in 1952 at the age of 81.

She held peace conferences from 1932 to 1939 in Geneva, Brussels, Copenhagen, and Utrecht. Her lectures were later published in Italian as *Educazione e Pace*, and in English as *Education and Peace*. In 1949, and again in 1950 and in 1951, she was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, receiving a total of six nominations.

Maria created over 4,000 Montessori classrooms across the world and her books were translated in many different languages for the training of new educators. Her methods are installed in hundreds of public and private schools across the United States.

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*Marguerite dar Boggia* presently serves as Secretary and Membership Chairperson of ISAR (the International Society for Astrological Research). She formerly served as publisher of *Kosmos*, the ISAR Journal and as Secretary and Director of ISAR and UAC, (the United Astrology Congress). She was a co-founder of UAC. Her articles are published in the ISAR journal and in other publications. At this time she offers **FREE** of charge **three pages weekly online** of the Ancient Wisdom Teachings as was known by **Pythagoras.** She can be contacted through her website which she created at the age of 90: [**www.FreePythagorasTeachings.com**](http://www.FreePythagorasTeachings.com)

References:

1August 31, 1870 1:20 PM, Chiaravalle, Italy -01:00 (CET) 13E19; 43N36, time from Dane Rudhyar.

2Antiscion is the singular of antiscia, which means 'opposite shadow'. These points are reflections or shadows of the normal planet points relative to the 0°Cancer and 0° Capricorn tropical solstice axis. Declinations-Antiscia are measurements in degrees of latitude north or south of the celestial equator. Computer software can convert the declination-antiscion2 degrees into degrees of longitude. Antiscia are also called solstice points.

3[A **Biography** of Dr **Maria Montessori** - Montessori Australia](https://montessori.org.au/montessori/biography.htm)