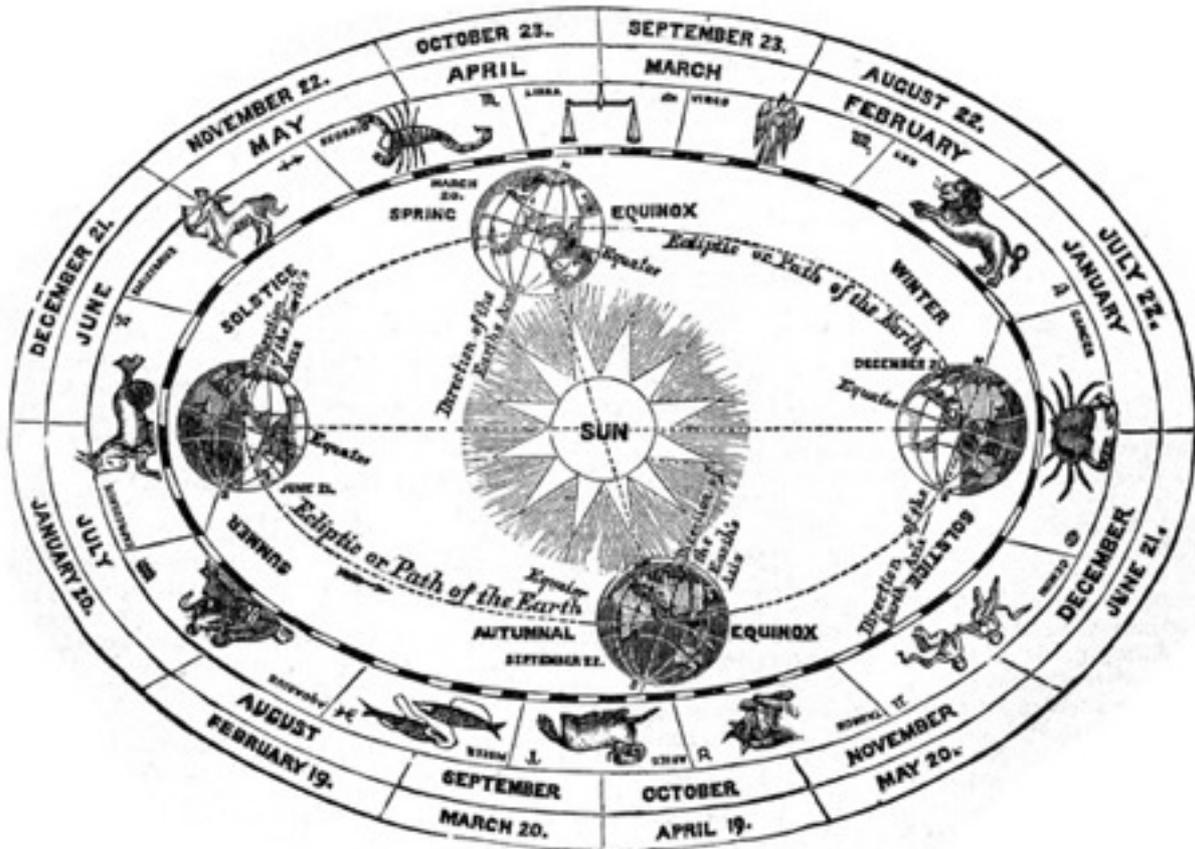

Container Club

First Degree Paper for *The Historia Illius Itineris*

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Container Club

There are many common experiences from childhood that are worth exploring in metaphor even if such scenarios are not considered to be traumatic. It is the shared nature of these experiences that help shape a culture.

Some experiences are so common that they are considered normal. They shape us and they shape our culture. For example, not every population of the world experiences school and the first day of school and enculturation into the education system.

Use the MoM basic protocol to explore the following prototypical experiences.

- Your first day of school.
- Being abandoned.
- Being deliberately left out/excluded of a game/event/party.
- Being the last one picked.
- Having to explain why you weren't invited.
- Not being liked back by someone you really liked.
- Being bullied.
- Being lost as a child.
- Being set up/used.
- Being unfairly blamed for something.
- Being unfairly punished for something.
- Being laughed at/mockered.
- Losing to a bully/someone you don't like anyway.
- Having your trust betrayed.
- Experiencing a parent's anger/rage.
- Experiencing a parent's sorrow/suffering.
- Humiliation at the loss of a body function/physical control.
- Having something stolen and being helpless to do anything about it.
- Death of a loved pet.

All of the previous are largely passive events – i.e. the control lay outside of ourselves. Also explore some of the following 'active' events:

- Picking on another child/sibling
- Betraying someone else's trust.
- Dropping a friend for someone more popular.
- Tormenting or torturing an animal/insect/living thing.
- Knowingly taking for credit for someone else's work.
- Cheating at something.
- Borrowing something and knowingly never bothering to give it back.

Exploratory exercise (i)

Using some of the examples already given, or others not included, produce your own list as a group of events and experiences that are common to all present. If the experience is not shared by everybody, do not include it.

Elicit the metaphors for these experiences. Look for similarities and differences between people. For example, which experiences tend to be more orientated towards container metaphors, and not.

What other taxonomies appear in the metaphors?

What generalisations can be found?

Exploratory exercise (ii)

Produce a list of formative and more positive experiences. Again, the list must be common to everyone present. Repeat the explorations as above.

Exploratory exercise (iii)

Now compare and contrast the findings from the two groups.

Exploratory exercise (iv)

Typically, leaving container metaphors is accomplished by the action of “growing up and growing out” of the container. We task people with “outgrowing” the restrictions of the container.

In this experiment we will not leave the container, but rather we will experiment with growing through time rather than grow through space. So, we stay where we are and at the same size, but instead we *age*.

What do you notice?

What happens?

How does that change things?

Once everyone has experiments with this, compare and contrast experiences, with particular reference to how far you are able to age. If the ageing is thresholded - i.e. you can only age a short time - what form does that thresholding take?