

Journal of the American Society of Professional Graphologists

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Graphological Impressions of Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque

Renata Propper

The Personality of Carl Sanburg

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PART II: DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUES

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PART III: DIAGRAMS OF THE UNCONSCIOUS

The Principle of Configuration

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THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL GRAPHOLOGISTS

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PURPOSE OF THE JOURNAL

1. To present theoretical and research papers in scientific graphology according to traditional academic standards.
2. To create a forum for helping graphology gain a wider academic and professional audience in America.
3. To interface with the international professional graphological community.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Manuscript inquiries should be addressed to Marc Seifer, Editor, Box 32, Kingston, RI 02881. Inquiries concerning subscriptions and memberships should be addressed to Thea Stein Lewinson, 9109 North Branch Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817.

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American Society of Professional Graphologists

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL GRAPHOLOGISTS

This second issue of the *Journal* contains two articles on the use of graphology as a tool in psychobiography. The information contained in the first piece, written by Renata Propper, on the handwritings of artists Picasso and Braque, was utilized by biographer John Richardson, in his book *The Life of Picasso*, published this year by Random House. The second article, co-authored by Alan Levine and Matilda Lerner, on the handwriting of Carl Sanburg, presents, perhaps for the first time in this form, an open dialogue between two graphologists, as they discuss and analyze the handwriting of this great poet. Dr. Levine has also included a psychohistorical exposé on Sanburg's life.

The middle section presents three articles on diagnostic techniques. The first, by New School teacher, Lois Vaisman, with Virginia DiLeo, concerns the numerous complexities involved in analyzing the handwriting of troubled children. The following paper, written by Ms. Vaisman's co-teacher, Patricia Siegel, tackles the ethical dilemma confronting graphologists, as they attempt to delineate various factors found in dishonest individuals. One of the questions Ms. Siegel raises is the enigmatic problem of deciding at what point a person has crossed over the line into the realm of immoral behavior. For instance, if a car salesman tells the buyer he has reached his "rock bottom price" and then lowers it after haggling, has he been dishonest? The last article in this section, written by Thea Stein Lewinson, presents, in encapsulated fashion, the essence of her psychodiagnostic technique for analyzing a handwriting and breaking it down into its rhythmic components of contraction and release. This compendium is a virtual bible for the understanding of this fertile investigative tool.

The last section on *Diagrams of the Unconscious* begins with an article by the Sigmund Freud of graphology, Werner Wolff. When Dan Anthony originally put together his article, he referred extensively to Wolff's masterwork. After discussing the matter, we set out to contact Wolff's publisher, Grune & Stratton, to gain permission to present the enclosed passages. Much to our surprise, the publisher put us in touch with Mrs. Werner Wolff. A spry 90 years old, Mrs. Wolff was kind enough to grant her permission and also present to us a sample of her husband's handwriting, which appears with the article. Mr. Anthony's treatise, on the nine signature protocol discusses such abstract topics as touchpoint analysis, the rationale for obtaining samples of the person's writing with his or her eyes closed, and the importance of the signature as a revealer of personality. The last article, written by Thelma Seifer, with the help of her son Marc Seifer, attempts to integrate the ideas of Wolff and Anthony into a new synthesis for the study of the unconscious of the writer. Mrs. Seifer's contention is that by studying a handwriting with the intuitive right hemisphere, various patterns tend to emerge which often help the graphologist graduate to that next step in the analysis. As we all know, there is a surface or superficial level to many handwriting analyses, and then there is a deeper

realm where the true personality of the writer is revealed. All of these techniques are attempts to peel away the layers so as to gain entrance to this elusive core.

The journal begins with a letter I wrote delineating the benefits of graphology which I read before the Rhode Island Senate hearings last year in response to legislation that had been proposed trying to ban the use of graphology as a tool in personnel selection. At the time of this writing, March, 1991, the Rhode Island state legislature is trying once again to pass this law, and I am testifying in the House. Last year the Senate ignored the bill, and let it die that way. This year, the forces against graphology had introduced three separate bills to the labor and judiciary departments, (with similar bills being proposed in Iowa and Oregon). Had this original tact succeeded, it would have potentially meant that graphologists would have had to testify six separate times.

On March 20, I drove up to the Capitol to, essentially, cover the points raised in the following letter. I had also brought along samples of the handwritings of Albert Einstein, Walt Disney and Saddam Hussein. While waiting my turn to speak, one of the House representatives, Jeremiah Murphy, mentioned that as a former police captain, he had once utilized a graphologist to identify a cadet who penned an unkind note to a lady officer. Mr. Murphy said, "The graphologist did not say, 'I think it might be him, or maybe it was him.' He said, 'It was him.'"

While under employment with the URI Crime Lab, many years ago, I had worked on such a case, and when it came my turn to testify, I inquired if the case took place in 1974, and did it involve a pornographic note. The captain said it did. "You know, I never did meet that graphologist," he remarked, as I declared, "I was that graphologist!"

This kind of legislature, based mostly on ignorance, is not only a threat to graphology, but to all projective tests and to the field of industrial psychology in general. It is imperative that graphologists rally together and continue to write their congressmen to voice their displeasure concerning this regressive state of affairs.

The second short article, written by Czech graphologist, Petr Zivny, presents an overview of some of the present day trends in European graphology. It is followed by a memorium to the medical doctor, Arie Naftali, a beloved Israeli graphologist and former student of Rudolf Pophal. Dr. Naftali's article "Behavior Factors in Handwriting Identification," *Journal of Criminal Law*, 1965, is an important contribution to both graphology and questioned documents. We also note with regret, the death of Nadya Olyanova, who was ninety years old, author of the popular text *Handwriting Tells*.

Marc J. Seifer
Editor

May 3, 1990

The Honorable John Sabatini
State Senator
379 Armistice Blvd.
Pawtucket, RI 02861

Dear Senator Sabatini:

As a resident of the state of Rhode Island for a quarter of a century, and as a professional graphologist, I am urging you to vote "NO" on Bill H-8816: Handwriting as a Condition of Employment. My reasons are as follows:

1. FROM THE CORPORATE POINT OF VIEW. This bill is potentially an infringement upon the rights of corporations to utilize any tool available to them to enable them to hire the best person for the job.

2. INVASION OF PRIVACY. This problem is easily solved if the applicant is notified that their application may be looked at by a handwriting analyst, (e.g., a notice to this effect could be placed conspicuously on the application).

3. POTENTIAL VIOLATION OF RIGHTS. Like any discipline (e.g., medical, psychological, legal), the misuse of this technique is possible. However, if the analyst is incompetent, it is doubtful that he or she will continue to get clients as the analyses will consistently be incorrect. A graphologist should follow a code of ethics, and should not discuss certain variables (e.g., sexual tendencies) with the client, unless the job is in a sensitive field (e.g., day care center). Further, the person doing the hiring should never base their decision solely on one criteria, so that even if an analysis is negative, it probably would not be the only reason why a person was not hired, as the background, resume and personal interview would also be taken into account.

Further, the misuse of graphology in and of itself, is not a legitimate reason to ban its use. As an analogy, there was recently a scandal with a doctor misusing heart pacemakers here in Rhode Island. The doctor was correctly prosecuted. Obviously, there was no discussion of doing away with that highly important medical device.

4. VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE GRAPHOLOGIST. We analysts should be allowed to earn a living in our chosen profession, and this bill blocks us from this right. We are diagnosticians, much like the personnel agent who uses learned tools and common sense to evaluate individuals seeking jobs at various companies. This bill arbitrarily singles out graphology and is discriminatory in this sense.

5. POTENTIAL RAMIFICATIONS. This bill sets a precedent which could threaten other projective measures such as the MMPI, Rorschach and other psychological

and aptitude tests. The bill also threatens the rights of personnel agents and personnel departments to effectively screen employees or job applicants, and the bill is based upon no scientific evidence that any person's rights have ever been violated.

6. **BENEFITS FROM GRAPHOLOGY:** Graphology is a worthwhile investigative tool. It is perhaps the best measure we have for peering into the psychophysiological structure of the human personality.

a. **FIELD OF PSYCHOANALYSIS:** Graphology helps reveal insights into the personality of the writer. It can be used to aid psychotherapists and clients obtain greater insights into the nature of their personalities, and aid researchers to explore organizing principles of the unconscious.

b. **NEUROPHYSIOLOGICAL RESEARCH:** Handwriting is organized, structured and executed by the brain. As a measure of fine motor control, handwriting also reveals neurological organization (e.g., influence of hemispheric dominance, role of cerebral cortex, limbic system and brain stem).

c. **MEDICAL RESEARCH:** Alfred Kanfer, of the Strang Clinic in New York has shown in a series of studies funded by the American Cancer Society that microscopic analysis of the handwriting trail of cancer patients reveals tell tale tremors. The potential for handwriting being used to screen out high risk individuals may prove to be a great benefit to the welfare of people.

d. **PERSONNEL SELECTION:** When used correctly, graphology can be used to help place the right person in the right job and also help point out strengths and weaknesses of the individual in question.

e. **CRIME DETECTION:** The police can make use of a trained graphologist to screen the handwritings of various suspects to provide a personality profile so that the more likely suspects can be targeted. Anonymous notes could also be analyzed to provide the police with a personality profile of the writer.

f. **BIOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH:** Graphology provides a unique investigative tool for performing longitudinal studies and case studies of living or deceased individuals. During the creation of biographies, handwriting analysis may provide the only tool available for ascertaining the personality of secondary individuals when no other data is available other than a sample of handwriting. It can also be used to pinpoint transitional periods (such as times of great stress) in the writing of the person in question.

7. **SCIENTIFIC VALIDITY:** There have been many scientific studies showing the validity of graphology, and I have included a representative bibliography of published articles over the past 100 years which seeks to validate various aspects of handwriting analysis. A number of the authors are medical doctors and well known university professors. In my own case, I have performed two statistically significant studies for medical doctors and academicians at the University of

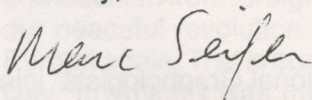
Chicago and also for the University of California at Los Angeles validating handwriting analysis as a viable method of distinguishing psychophysiological differences between individuals.

CONCLUSION

This bill should never have been brought to the floor. I believe that graphology, first of all, has a negligible impact on the corporate world, and its misuse, which has never been established, is unproven, and possibly non-existent. And, even if misuse has occurred, this can not be a reason in and of itself, to ban the use of the technique. The bill arbitrarily singles out graphology when in actuality, *the real issue has to do with the rights of corporations and the ethics involved in using any diagnostic technique*, including reports from personnel agents, the reading of resumes, and so on. Graphology does not discriminate in terms age, sex, race or culture. It is based upon well accepted principles concerning theories of expressive behavior.

I would like this bill stopped. This would be the only state in the union with such a bill. It is poorly conceived, arbitrary, and unnecessarily repressive. I would be happy to meet with members of the Senate Labor Committee or with you to discuss the situation further and/or testify at the appropriate time so that I can further present my case and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Marc J. Seifer, Ph.D.

cc: All members of the Senate Labor Committee

Enclosure: Representative bibliography of validation studies in graphology [from ASPG Issue 1].

IN MEMORY OF DR. ARIE NAFTALI

Dr. Naftali was a remarkable man. His presence is sorely missed. Although he was one of the oldest of our members, he was young in heart and spirit. A vital and agile man, he fought all his life to gain status and respect for scientific graphology.

He studied with one of the greatest graphologists of all times, Rudolf Pophal, physician, neurologist and psychiatrist, who founded the Graphology department at the Hamburg University, and who headed the department for twenty years until his death. Naftali considered him his mentor and leader and used to quote him often.

Dr. Naftali's dream was to see graphology in Israel given the status of academic studies. Unafraid of critics and an "enemy" of charlatans and dilettantes, he fought to enhance the value of scientific graphology by demanding high professional standards and ethics by practicing graphologists. Within the community of graphologists, he played a prominent role and was a leader of great influence.

Our first meetings, years ago, took place in his office and strengthened the social and professional relations among our members, the atmosphere was friendly and informal. Dr. Naftali was always ready to give advice to those who asked and needed it.

Together with his family, we mourn the loss of a dear and valued friend. The milestones he set will continue to guide us.

Hava Ratzon

[Reprinted by permission of the Israeli journal *Graphology*, No. 1.]

We, the Members of the "American Society of Professional Graphologists" join our Israeli colleagues in mourning the death of Dr. Arie Naftali.

He was an active and successful pioneer in the field of handwriting analysis writing a graphological thesis for his medical degree under the renown Dr. Rudolf Pophal over 40 years ago. Dr. Naftali was not only a valuable collaborator, but also a friend and supporter to all of us colleagues who visited Israel. We mourn not only a personal loss, but also an irreplaceable loss for our professional field, and we will miss him at our International Congresses.

Thea Stein Lewinson
President

GERMAN GRAPHOLOGY DAY

October 13, 1990
Munich, Germany

I would like to thank you very much for your invitation, and to greet you warmly, in the name of the Czech Graphological Society.

You all know that Bohemia was not the birth place of graphology. Rather, its beginnings came from [Italy,] France and Germany. However, it is known that the first Bohemian generation of graphologists was numerous and active. Let us remember Dolfina Poppee, Robert Saudek, Otto Fanta and Willy Schoenfeld — naming the most important representatives.

Many of you may have read our first graphological journal *Die Schrift* (later called *Graphologia*). The first number of this journal was published in the German edition in January 1935. It is very interesting to read therein the names of co-workers, top experts from many countries, people like Max Pulver (Switzerland) and Thea Stein Lewinson (U.S.A.). At that time, German was the second language in Prague, and therefore, most of the graphological courses were presented in German. Bohemian graphology was evolving so much so that one could speak about a specific tradition. Unfortunately, the communistic invasion in 1949 presented a great danger for our graphology. The last book in Czech language appeared in 1948, *A Textbook of Scientific Graphology* by Willy Schoenfeld. Still, until 1950, Prof. Dr. Petera lectured about graphology at the Prague University. Later, graphology was proclaimed a remnant of the Bourgeoisie by the official Marxists. The long period of persecution and isolation from foreign countries had begun. I believe one can say that only since our peaceful revolution in November 1989, has Czechoslovakia become part of Europe again. This is borne out by my participation in your first German Graphology Day, to which I was invited as the representative of our Czech Graphological Society.

Please permit me to brief you on our graphology situation today. The Czech Graphological Society was officially founded on June 11th, 1990 with the creation of our new Graphological Institute. Mrs. Filipcova was elected President. We would like to organize courses in graphology. As soon as the need arises, we would also like to publish again our old journal *Die Schrift*. Thus, we could continue in our old tradition. We hope to organize in the future a First Czechoslovak Congress of Graphology as well, meeting with the most important graphologists of all countries. We have already had agreeable contacts with the United States (Mrs. Stein-Lewinson), Israel (Mrs. Ratzon), Belgium (Mrs. Menasse-Cremers), France (Madam Peugeot) and in Canada (Prof. Gile-Maisani). We hope also to establish good contacts with our German colleagues.

For the internal use of our Society, we already translated Mueller-Enskat's text *Graphologieche Diagnostik*. We see as our greatest task the need to write new

books about this scientific subject. For example, I will soon produce a book about the field for Horizont Verlag, the state publishers. This will be the first such publication in the Czech language in 40 years with 60,000 copies to be printed. I hope that a translation into Russian will follow.

Permit me to describe my book briefly. One could translate the title as *Is Graphology a Science?* This will not be a textbook, but rather a study comparing the different graphological schools worldwide. Many photographs of great graphologists from past and present will be presented. I will analyze symbols which are typical for the Czech language, go into details of Czech graphological history and discuss the Russian, Hebrew and Chinese handwritings and their analysis. For the disposition for psychic perceptions, I collaborated with grapho-sensitive Rafael Schermann, and together, we arrived at "Paragraphology."

A large part of the my book will be devoted to Robert Saudek and his handwriting analysis of the first Czech President Tomas Garrigue Masaryk. In addition, I present my handwriting analysis of the student Jan Palach, who, in protest to the communistic regime, set himself afire on the Wenzel Square in Prague. The book will also deal with psychometry and psychodiagnosis. At the conclusion, I will present possibilities for proper use of graphology in society.

This is how I want to inform the general public about graphology. Later, I would like to publish a textbook concerning new findings in world-wide graphological literature. I hope that these books will contribute to better information about graphology. I thank you for your attention.

Dr. Petr Zivny
Prague, Czechoslovakia

NEW EUROPEAN COURSE

At last a course that teaches the principles of graphology according to the European methods, has become available in the United States in English. Put together by Dr. Helmut Ploog, President of the Professional Association of Certified Graphologists/Psychologists of Germany, the course consists of ten cassettes, ten lessons and a textbook "Learning Graphology" by Gabrielle Beauchataud. For further information contact Dr. Ploog, 8011 Munchen-Baldham, Rossinistrasse 9, Germany.