

Journal of the American Society of Professional Graphologists

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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.

MANUSCRIPT INQUIRIES

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American Society of Professional Graphologists

THE SWISS NANNY CASE

Herry O. Teltscher, Ph.D.

ABSTRACT: Through a blind Gestalt analysis, some insightful personality characteristics were revealed in the handwriting of a lady accused of leaving a baby uncared for in a suspicious fire.

About a year ago I was approached by Ms. Joyce Egginton with the request for an analysis of a handwriting specimen, written in German by a young woman. Following her suggestion, I examined the specimen carefully, subsequently rendering my opinion about the personality of the writer, and I went into details to describe particular characteristics of the woman.

When presenting Ms. Egginton with all the data, she was amazed about the accuracy of my findings and she revealed that she had submitted to me a handwriting specimen that was given by Olivia Riner, the Swiss "Au Pair" who was accused in a recent case in which a baby left under her care died in a mysterious fire. After a trial, Ms. Riner was set free. Ms. Egginton, a New York correspondent of *The Observer* of London and a novelist, became interested in the case and wanted to publish the results of her detailed research in a book, asking my permission to incorporate my findings in her book -- to which I agreed.

Frankly, I had forgotten my analysis, when a few days ago I received a book in the mail, entitled *Circle of Fire: Murder and Betrayal in the Swiss Nanny Case* by Joyce Egginton, (William Morrow & Company, Publishers). In her book, she not only credits me (and another psychologist) for helping her to "put the pieces of the puzzle together" but she also publishes my analysis solely based upon the handwriting sample which she gave me.

CIRCLE OF FIRE

Joyce Egginton

Excerpt: Since Olivia declined to be interviewed for the book, some of her recent handwriting was shown to Dr. Herry O. Teltscher, the New York clinical psychologist, psychotherapist, and handwriting examiner with more than fifty years' experience in Europe and the United States.... No information was given to him as to her identity. He was told only that the writer was a twenty-year-old German-speaking woman. These were [some of] his comments: "My overall impression is of her rigid personality, that of a young woman who would find it easiest to work in a prescribed, structured situation. If she is interested in her job

she will do her best to manage. But secretly she rebels against some of the things she has to do. Outwardly she can be very friendly and polite, but what she expresses overtly, and how she really feels may be of a different order. For example, there is much anger which is controlled on the surface.

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Hoi Maya

Wir sind trotzdem
gut zu Hause ange-
kommen.

Nur noch viele
Grüsse aus Leuker-
bad und überarbeite
Dich bloss nicht.

Olivia

50846 Blick vom Torrenthorn
ob Leukerbad und Albinen
Wallis

TR-11 Klopfenstein

Komm mit ins Wallis

Figure 1. Key graphics which led to the analysis below included the left slant, left-tending concave double l's, line 2 and the separation between letters (pressure and isolation from the past); letters that end below the baseline with extreme pressure (anger and depression); the open O in the signature and the general pastosity of the writing (creativity, sensitivity and an impressionable nature).

"Her writing shows many signs of emotional insecurity. She frequently incurs feelings of rejection, and anxieties. It would be important to explore her relationship with her mother in infancy. As a child she may have felt rejected, and those feelings remained. Her writing indicates, furthermore, that she is depressed: It does not appear like a temporary mood, but seems to have existed for some time, particularly since she is outwardly controlled and fearful of articulating anger.

"She is the type of girl who will tell you only as much as she wants to tell. Basically, she keeps things to herself. Even though she is intuitive and possesses a certain amount of creativity, she has remained emotionally immature. Her emotional growth has not kept pace with her intellectual ability."

Still with no knowledge of what writing he was studying, Dr. Teltscher was asked: "Could this young woman's depression be profound?"

"I think it could be quite profound," he replied. "Especially when it is difficult for her to find a way out. Remember what I said about her rigidity."

"How would she try to find a way out? Suppose she was in a situation she couldn't tolerate."

"All of a sudden she is not twenty anymore. She is six. She would try to find an anchor in other people, because once again she has become a dependent child herself."

"What if there was nobody she could depend on?"

"If she had a creative outlet, somewhere she could put her creative energy, that might help her."

"And if that kind of outlet wasn't available to her?"

"If she was completely alone, and there was no one to turn to, I think she might do something desperate. There is this tremendous amount of inner anger."
(pp. 355-356)

BIOGRAPHY: Herry O. Teltscher, Ph.D., psychologist and psychotherapist. Specialties: grapho-diagnosis, questioned documents and court testimony. Fifty years experience in research and practice of graphology. Former lecturer on grapho-diagnosis at the Department of Psychiatry of Wayne University and the Department of Human Services of the state of New Jersey. Member of American Psychological Association, National Register of Health Services Providers in Psychology, New York State Psychological Association, National Association of Document Examiners. Former member of Military Intelligence of the War Department, Washington, D.C.; author of *Handwriting, Revelation of Self*.