

# Review

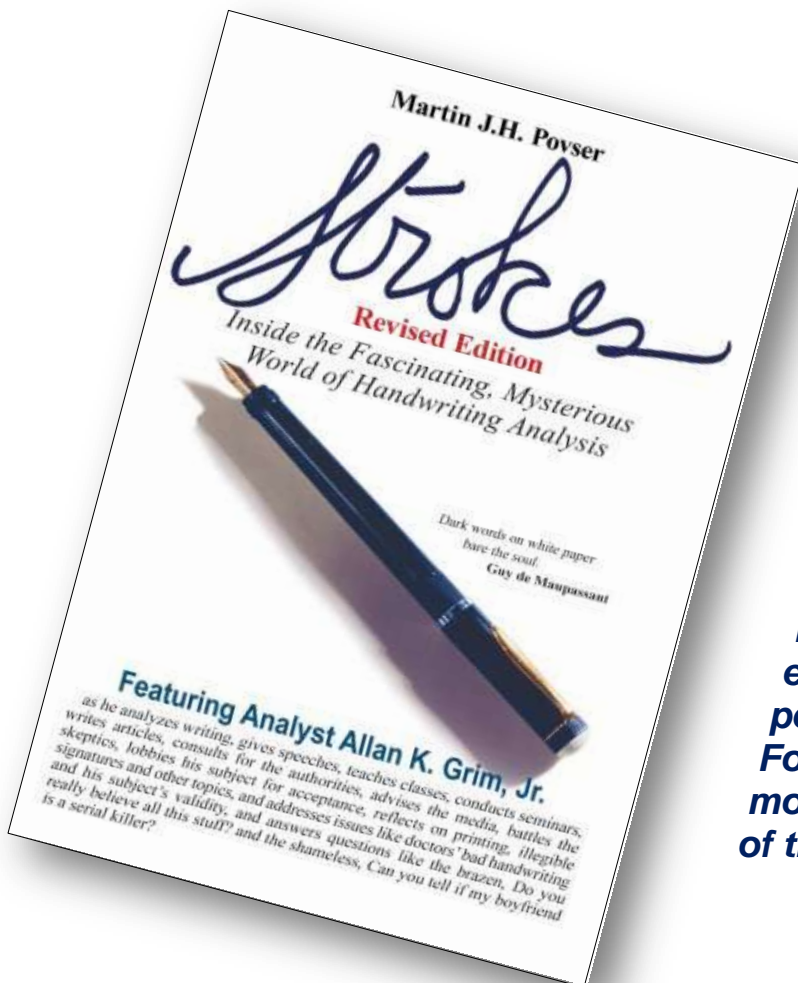
Pennsylvania Handwriting Analysis Forum

December 3, 2016

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## MARTIN POVSER MYSTERY SOLVED!

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*For years people have asked me the source of Martin J.H. Povser, my pen name as author of my book Strokes. I have declined to reveal it. Now, after almost a decade, someone has solved the mystery of the source of this odd name. The clever sleuth made a surprise appearance at the December 3, 2016 Forum. They explained how they found the source. I explained why I chose it as the pen name for my book Strokes. For details on this dramatic moment, go to paragraph No.11 of this Review.*

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Here is a summary of the topics we discussed at the December 3, 2016 Forum. You will note that most of the paragraphs conclude with a question about the topic. If you attended the meeting you should know the answers. If you would like to know the answers, go to my website [GrimHandwritingAnalyst.com](http://GrimHandwritingAnalyst.com) and go down my menu to Pennsylvania Handwriting Analysis Forum. With your cursor over it, a sub-menu of Reviews of Forums for the last few years will appear. It will be the last one at the bottom—Review of December 3, 2016 Forum and click on it. This Review appears again. The Answers are after the Review.

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1. In the *AARP Magazine* for October/November 2016, astrophysicist **Neal deGrasse Tyson celebrates the revival of fountain pens**. He is an author and host of the NG Channel show *Star Talk*. He liked to doodle in class and his focus was calligraphy. He



disdained the limits of ballpoint pens. They couldn't create Gothic lettering well. He tried cheap calligraphic pens and was able to add appropriate flourishes to his words. When he started graduate school in astrophysics, he got a Mont Blanc fountain pen as a gift. He still uses one today for book signings.

***He also does something else unusual as a tribute to the history of handwriting. What does he do?***

2. In the November 18, 2016 *Philadelphia Inquirer* is a **review of a musical play** appearing at the Philadelphia Theater Company **called *FOUND***. It is based on a man named Davy Rothbart, who started rescuing notes from windshields, dumpsters, and elsewhere. He published them in a magazine called *Found*. The story is translated into three slackers who publish *Found* magazine and promote it with live



performances at bars and bookstores. They meet a producer named Becka, whose own note (willing her skull to a friend) is in the magazine. She encourages them to try for TV. The production is a romantic comedy that flashes interesting notes unto a screen. Cast members read them as commentary on the action.

***I read two of the notes. One began, “If you love him, let him go...” What was the rest of this black humor note?***

***The other note was addressed to author Charles Dickens. It began, “You have to make up your mind, Mr. Dickens...” How did it end?***

3. On October 21, 2016 I gave a talk on handwriting analysis to the Tri-County Court Administrators Association in Flemington, New Jersey. This experience slapped me with **lessons on the pitfalls of giving a talk**, especially on handwriting analysis. We analysts can't do a successful talk without proper visuals.

I gave them my list of desired equipment. Of course they couldn't produce an overhead projector because it is obsolete in 2016.

Unfortunately I am also not into Power Point. I brought our Forum's overhead and the focus wheel wouldn't work. But these were not the only issues.

The talk was in a large court room. It had a screen but it was on the side. It was so high up that I couldn't even try to put the overhead in the audience on the side. I was speaking from the judge's bench or in front of it. There was little room for me and the overhead behind the bench. There was a wall to project onto behind the bench, but it was to the side of a large court logo. The wall was not light in color. On the other side of the room were large windows, high up with no curtains or blinds. The room would be bright in this early afternoon.

After all of this, how were the images on the screen? The images on the front wall from the overhead projector were terrible—dim and fuzzy. They had a flip chart, which I had to put down below in front of the bench. If I didn't, the distance to the attendees was too far. Each time I had an illustration I had to walk around the wide bench down to the floor. They had a lectern but because of the deep desk behind the



**Allan Grim at a recent Forum with an overhead projector belonging to the Indian Valley Library. We can do dark too.**

judge's bench, I placed my notes and transparencies on the front barrier of the judges' bench. I had to lean over to see my notes. It was awkward. A mike was available, but I decided not to use it. I thought I could speak loud enough to be heard. But did they really hear me?

The audience sat mostly toward the middle or back. There was very little response of laughter or anything else. Perhaps I was not funny at any time, though I tried, or they were too engrossed to emote. I couldn't read their reactions. At the end I was allowed to talk about my book and to pass it around. One person bought a copy—the host. She was pleasant and tried to accommodate me, but the problems in setting up took an embarrassing while. I asked her how she got interested in handwriting analysis. She said her father had been interested in the topic and that is why she went on the internet to find me and my website. She told me about an experience she had with an analyst years ago, name unknown. She said she was not good and had a bad attitude.

***I included a Q and A after the one hour talk. What was very unusual about the Q and A portion?***

4. **Famed golfer Arnold Palmer** died in September at age 87. Palmer was the King of Golf and propelled it, just as Elvis did for rocknroll, to national



prominence in the late 1950's and early 1960's. He signed a lot of autographs in his lifetime and he was constantly hounded to do them. In view of his plight, I don't know where he got the patience for it because he had beautiful handwriting that was traditional and clear. He even incorporated his signature into his logo along with his trademark colored golf umbrella.

**Not only was his autograph beautiful, especially for a man. He signed it with precision, grace and patience.**

***He also had advice for other golfers about signing their autograph. What was it?***



5. On the October 17, 2016 **Today Show** host Matt Lauer said the *London Daily Mail* newspaper announced this bombshell: A survey showed that **your signature reveals some personality traits**. He declared it as if a new phenomenon. He had each of his four co-hosts write their signature on a full sheet of blank paper. All wrote large and all were unreadable, except his.

***Lauer noted only two personality traits and their revealing strokes from the Mail article. One was a large signature. The other was a flourished signature. What did he say they showed in the writer's personality?***

6. According to *MedicalDaily.com*, **scientists are offering Parkinson's patients hope with a new pen called the ARC Pen**. It was designed to prevent the shakiness that occurs when these patients write or draw. Their hands cramp when attempting to write, which makes their letters extremely small and difficult to read. This creates a condition known as "micrographia."

While writing seems simple to most of us, for Parkinson's patients this task can become bothersome and frustrating. "We heard stories of how frustrating it was for people who were still working, or who wanted to write a card, sign documents, anything that had to do with writing," Lucy Jung, the product designer of the ARC Pen, told Wired UK.



Designed by the company DOPA Solution, the ARC Pen uses high-frequency vibrations to massage the hand and prevent cramping. It also makes it much easier for the pen to roll across the paper. In a trial testing it on 14 people with Parkinson's, scientists found that the ARC Pen boosted writing 86 percent of the time. DOPA Solution notes on its website that the ARC Pen is the first "specifically designed for people with Parkinson's living with Micrographia." It added that "Many people with this motor control difficulty give up the practice of writing or drawing altogether. Dopa Solution's aim is to focus on higher level needs in order to have the greatest impact on people's lives."

7. Barbara DoNato, a Certified Graphoanalyst from Bolton, Massachusetts loves **Zentangle**. Read her words about its amazing benefits.



“I became a certified Zentangle teacher (CZT) in 2013, studying with Zentangle founders Rick Roberts and Maria Thomas, in Providence, RI.

Zentangle is a fun, relaxing and simple method of drawing structured patterns to create elegant works of art. Used by people of all ages, educational levels and artistic inclinations, the Zentangle method is an amazing way to design art, redirect your focus, and tame your tension. This artistic method has been called an art form, a life skill, a tool, a perspective, and an approach to mindfulness.

The Zentangle method was created in 2005 by Maria Thomas, a calligrapher and owner of Pendragon Ink; and Rick Roberts, a man of many talents who has been an IT pro, cab driver, flute maker, and monk. Their trademarked tagline is: "Anything is possible, one stroke at a time," and their CZT classes have attracted thousands of students from across the globe, who are eager to share their new found skills with others.

While completed Zentangle creations appear to be highly complex, they are very simple to create by using predefined patterns called "tangles." We create the tangles by deconstructing patterns into one of four elemental strokes: a straight line, a curved line, a circle, a dot.

***We repeat these strokes in a structured way, which, paradoxically, inspires creativity...."*** (boldness and Italics supplied) ***Why does she say this creativity happens?***



I have taught several Zentangle classes, with students ranging in age from 10-89. Everyone interprets the "tangles" from their own unique perspective....just like handwriting!"



8. From THE WALL STREET JOURNAL on April 4, 2016 is an article about **the benefits of handwriting**. Writer Robert Lee Hotz says that laptops and organizer apps make pen and paper seem antique. Handwriting appears to focus classroom attention and boost learning in

a way that typing notes on a keyboard does not, new studies suggest.

"The written notes capture my thinking better than typing," said educational psychologist Kenneth Kiewra at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, who studies differences in how we take notes and organize information.

**Students who took handwritten notes generally outperformed students who typed their notes via computer,** researchers at Princeton University and the University of California at Los Angeles found.

***In what ways did students outperform those on a computer?***

9. From *Wired Magazine*: 17.04 of March 23, 2009 is an **article about a woman named Jill Price**. Writer Gary Marcus, a cognitive psychologist, was skeptical about one more story of someone with "photographic" memory. **Her special skill is autobiographical memory, not historical memory.** Her events of recall are personal to her life. He had heard of only one documented paper on the subject, which was nearly forty years ago. He got to spend two days with her and concluded that "I've never encountered anyone remotely like Jill Price." For the record, Marcus tells us what she does for a living. He says she is a "hyperkinetic, hyperorganized school administrator."



He tells us that our memory is "a mess." Our recall is human and disorganized. We don't store things in a certain place as a computer does. We do know the source is the brain's pre-frontal cortex and the hippocampus. But how and where memory works there are still haphazard unknown. To find a human being that is more like a computer is extremely unlikely, he believes. We've been around too long on this earth with no prior examples.

After interviewing her at length, Marcus reaches a simpler judgment on her ability. He finds that people like Price do a lot of journaling about their past. When he gently confronts her about it, she admits that she does a lot of it. "This is OCD," she says softly. "I have OCD of my memories." He is sympathetic to her, as he tells her that it

is involuntary. She has obsessive compulsive disorder manifested in her relentless record keeping of past events. Other people have come forward since Jill Price's original article came out. They all have the amazing memory but are also OCD.

Jill Price's story is fascinating, but our interest is more focused. **We wonder what kind of handwriting this kind of person would have.**

***A sample of her handwriting appears in the Answers section after this Review on my website GrimHandwritingAnalyst.com. What did it look like and what did we conclude in general about it?***

- 10.** As we analysts have heard and read about *ad nauseam* for years, **doctors have bad handwriting.** Often the result has led to misread or forged prescriptions and orders. For years many have pushed to take advantage of electronics and make these handwritten items electronic and thus better read. Writer Sharon Otterman reports that **New York has now passed a law requiring prescriptions to become electronic.** In the March 14, 2016, edition of *The New York Times* she wrote that, on March 27, 2016, the way prescriptions are written in New York State will change. Gone will be doctors' prescription pads and famously bad handwriting. In their place: pointing and clicking, as prescriptions are created electronically and zapped straight to pharmacies in all but the most exceptional circumstances.



***Minnesota is the only other state with a similar law. However, it is different in one significant way. What way is that?***

- 11.** Our group had discussed **pangrams** before. They are sentences that have all 26 letters of the alphabet. The most famous is *The quick brown fox jumps over a lazy dog.* Analysts often use them for quick analyses. Anyone can create one. The trick is to make one as **short** as possible. You try to get as close to 26 letters





"PACK MY BOX  
WITH FIVE  
DOZEN  
LIQUOR JUGS"

as possible and still have a sentence that makes some sense. The famous fox-and-dog one has 33 letters, which is a bit long. I put on the screen a list of pangrams from the internet and told the group to look them over. All were just a few letters over 26 but most didn't make sense. I asked the group to read them over and see if any was a good example to use for quickie analyses.

Since my book *Strokes* was published in early 2007, I have told only one person the source of my pen name—Martin J.H. Povser. That occurred in the summer of 2007. At that point I had not decided to keep it a secret. In a casual conversation on vacation with our Grim families, I told the source to my nephew Ryan Grim, a fellow author (*This Is Your Country on Drugs*) and the Washington Bureau chief of *Huffington Post*. Soon after, I decided to keep it a secret indefinitely. I was concerned about my nephew, who is a writer. As you might know, writers must blab to the world what they know about it.

I saw Ryan about a year later and asked him if he still remembered the source of my pen name. He said no. I doubt he told anyone else either. His faulty memory was all I needed to secure my secret. From the start plenty of people have asked me its source. I began telling people that I would disclose the source only on my deathbed. However, I gave those who were curious two clues. I got it from the internet. I also said that it involved handwriting.



I belong to Just Write in Collegeville, a group of aspiring authors that meets once a week at Providence Town Center in Collegeville, Pa. Last summer I was discussing my book *Strokes* with another member of our writer's group. She is not a handwriting analyst. She had read *Strokes* and expressed that was intrigued by its many aspects. She was also writing her own book, a novel in which she decided to make a major character a handwriting analyst. She asked about my pen name. I told her the same information others had gotten. This time, for some unfathomable reason, I also gave her the clue "pangram." (I suppose I was growing weary of hiding the secret and was not getting younger and realized you don't always die in bed.) I had never given that clue to anyone else.

TWO DRIVEN  
JOCKS HELP  
FAX MY BIG  
QUIZ

I didn't think she would do much to try to find it. At one of our meetings I found out I was wrong. She asked me if it came from a long pangram list she found on the internet. She showed me the actual pangram. Shocked, I had to admit that this was it.

She had solved the mystery. I told her that I had shown that list to our Forum in May 2016 on purpose to see if anyone would see it once and for all. I said no one had seen it.



In view of her finding the source, I thought it was time to disclose this information to everyone else. To lessen some of my guilt for having given her the additional clue about pangrams, I decided to post at our next meeting the actual pangram list with it one more time. No one saw the connection. After that September 17 meeting I wanted to make the Big Reveal but wasn't sure when and how to do it. Then the lady who solved the mystery told me she was coming to the next Forum on December 3 to glean some background for her novel. This propelled me into action.

She did appear on December 3. I introduced her but said only that she was a fellow member of the Collegeville writer's group. Since she had appeared, I posted the pangram list for the last time. No one pointed to the special pangram. It was time for disclosure. I went to the list and showed the group the pangram that was the original source for my pen name. I informed the group that someone had solved the mystery and in fact that one person was at the meeting. I introduced Jill Sardella, who is from Jeffersonville, Pa. She explained how she solved the mystery using the clues I had given her and going on the internet. I then explained why I had used that particular pangram.

**a. What is the actual pangram?**

**b. Why had I chosen this pangram?**

**c. Why did I choose to use a pen name in the first place?**

**d. What did I tell the Forum was the name I likely would have chosen for my book *Strokes if I hadn't called it Strokes*?**

Since Jill Sardella has shown a special interest in handwriting analysis, we had her provide a sample of her handwriting and we analyzed it. In honor of her solving the mystery and appearing at the meeting, we asked her to pose for a photo. Since I was there, I knew that Martin J.H. Povser would be there. I thought it would be fitting for Povser and Sardella to appear together for this notable occasion. They consented and here it is.





## *Is there a perfect pangram?*

I told the group I had thought I would never see the perfect pangram. It would need to have all 26 letters and no more. However, the internet is a wondrous font of information. With each visit it surpasses my beliefs on the availability of data you just need to know or images you only hope it displays. I found two 26-letter pangrams that make some sense:

**New job: fix Mr. Gluck's hazy TV, PDQ.**

**Mr. Jock, TV quiz PhD, bags few lynx.**      (*Above is a photo of an actual lynx.*)

They come from the internet site [clagnut.com](http://clagnut.com). On this site are several more, but for me, they don't reach minimal sense. For these two that I believe make some sense, proper names were needed to do it—Gluck and Jock. Yes, Jock is also a non-proper noun in other contexts. It's also a nickname for a man. Their commas, colons, and periods are further detractions. Between the two sentences there are six abbreviations. I am now sure no perfect pangrams exist without these items.

12. Over the many years I have collected newspaper and magazine articles, and other items on handwriting, handwriting analysis, and personality. I have brought some to the Forum and passed them around. This time I showed the group the album of articles from newspapers that featured me and some articles I had written in various periodicals. I quoted from one of my *Morning Call* articles that dealt with the decline of handwriting. I cited the Christmas cards my wife and I send and the fuss we have each year about the return address on



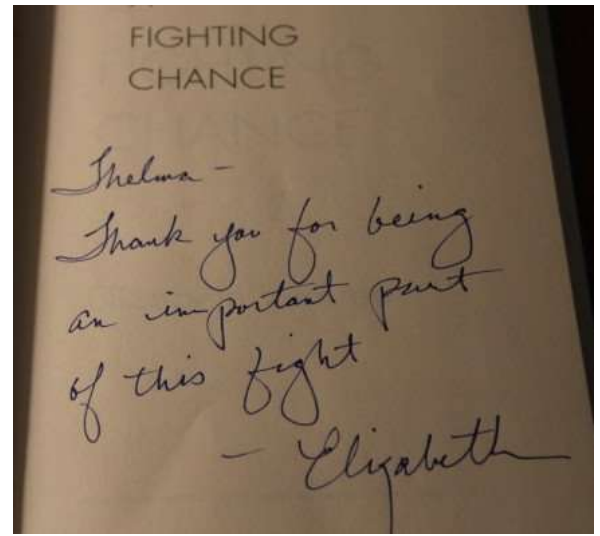
our envelopes. I believe it should be omitted to create anticipation by the receiver until they open up the envelope and the card to see who sent it. My wife is concerned that, without our return address, if the recipient's address is wrong, the card won't get to them.

***How did I tell our group the issue has been resolved between my wife and me?***

13. We have already analyzed the handwriting of all the leading presidential aspirants in 2016. I decided to present a person who could be the Democratic contender in the next election. We reviewed the handwriting of Elizabeth Warren, Democrat Senator from Massachusetts.



***According to our group, what was the most striking aspect of her handwriting, as a public figure?***



14. Cuban dictator **Fidel Castro**, retired from actively repressing his people, and frail for many years, had just died. We took a quick look at his handwriting but only his signature. It is shown below right, year unknown.

15. We also analyzed the handwriting samples brought to the Forum by members Cathy Ebert, Martha Murphy, and Terry Carroll. ●





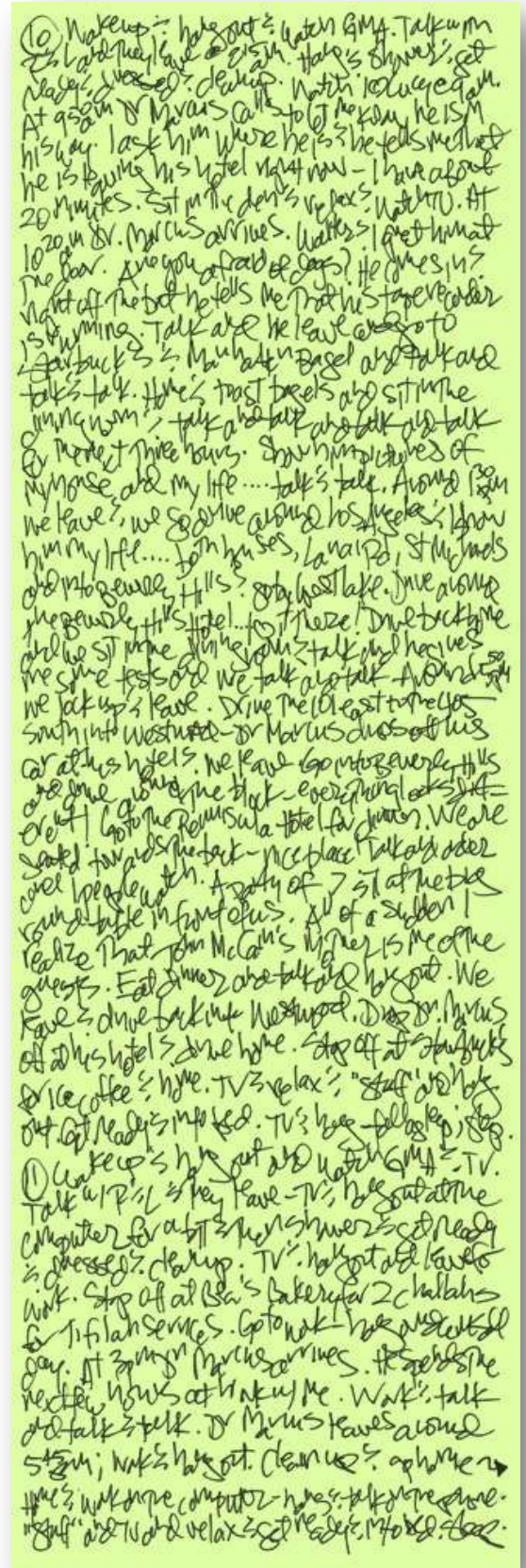
**This is actually a Zentangle drawing that has been colorized. See Review paragraph No. 7 for what Zentangle is all about.**

Answers to Questions  
in Review of  
December 3, 2016  
Pennsylvania Handwriting Analysis Forum

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1. He wrote by candlelight using a quill pen dipped into an inkwell, as medieval monks did. He wanted to “gain a better understanding of what it meant to solve problems of their day.”
2. “If you love him, let him go...If he doesn’t return, hunt him down and kill him.”  
“You have to make up your mind, Mr. Dickens...It was either the best of times or the worst of times.”
3. Not a single question was asked, nor comment made. I have never had a QandA without several questions or comments. A few people did approach me after I was done and discussed some issues face to face. This is also typical.
4. Palmer castigated the other athletes who wouldn’t take the time to write a clear signature. “I don’t know where a player comes off, a young player particularly, that is being asked to give an autograph, and he scribbles something down there that you can’t read,” was a thought he remarked more than once.

5. Matt Lauer said a large signature showed someone who wanted you to notice them. A flourished one showed someone who sought your attention. (He was not wrong but the two are slightly different in meaning. The flourished signature wants you to notice them but he will go out of his way to do it with flair and enthusiasm.
  
6. No question.
  
7. "...It's because we focus on the process, not the outcome. Unlike other forms of art or crafts where the artist has a specific outcome in mind (i.e., painting a landscape, knitting a sweater, etc.), Zentangle art is not restricted by expectations. As Rick and Maria say in *The Book of Zentangle*, "It is our human heritage to create designs, manipulate symbols, and put pen to paper. In a time of accelerating technology, Zentangle offers an accessible comfort of simple, primal, and timeless creativity."
  
8. Compared with those who type their notes, people who write them out in longhand appear to learn better, retain information longer, and more readily grasp new ideas, according to experiments by other researchers who also compared note-taking techniques.
  
9. Jill Price's handwriting, shown here to the right, is very unique, of course. What struck us was how it seems out of control, yet the letters and their strokes seem to have an appealing personal pattern that is under control. With patience you can discern the letters. I thought of the example of the person who strews their bedroom floor with several of their items but somehow knows where each one is and continues to throw them there each time. It's disciplined mayhem.



10. New York is the first state to require that all prescriptions be created electronically **and to back up that mandate with penalties**, including fines and imprisonment, for physicians who fail to comply. Minnesota has a law [requiring electronic prescribing](#) but does not penalize doctors who cling to pen and paper.

11.

a. The actual pangram is—

**Martin J. Hixey povzer quickly began his first word.**

b. I chose it because it was part of a pangram, which we analysts often use for quickie analyses. It has only one repeated letter (r) and has 13 toward the 26 of the alphabet. The J doesn't stand for any word. I made some adjustments. I thought that Hixey povzer was too long and weird a last name. So I broke that up. I thought the z was too exotic and changed it to an s. I deleted Hixey but retained the H as an abbreviation for Hixey as a second middle initial. After all was done, I thought having two middle initials and that odd name Povser, unfamiliar to any specific language, would convey eccentric charm and mystery.



c. You can learn **why I created a pen name** in the first place by going down my website's menu to **My Book Strokes** where you will find a submenu **Who is Martin Povser?** It explains why.

d. The alternative title for *Strokes* was *Quick Brown Foxes Jumping over Lazy Dogs*.

12. My wife pre-addresses the envelopes before handing the cards for me to sign.

(This piece of handwriting trivia is found near the end of an article I wrote for *The Morning Call*. That article is on my website GrimHandwritingAnalyst.com under menu item **My Morning Call Article/Handwritten letter is a vanishing icon and guilty treasure.**)

13. Warren shows signs of shrinking from social connections and needing much space between herself and others. These are found in the wide spacing between the words (keep away), the long, straightish, ending stroke on Elizabeth (caution, don't act with others so fast), the loopless lower-extended z in Elizabeth (the famous "loner stroke", and the short small letters in the middle zone (not keen on everyday matters, usually insecure having to deal with others).

You could even count the large and long lower loops in several words, which reflect a desire to escape from her existence. I would even count the stunted ending strokes that betray a fear of human contact. Yes, the ending on Elizabeth is not stunted but reaches out far to the right. As stated before, it is a kind of stiff- arm toward those who want to approach her. Otherwise her writing seems fairly conventional.

14. No questions

15. No questions