

*This man may have been graphology's greatest advocate in the real world. Yet how many handwriting analysts have ever heard of him? Read his captivating story in summary No. 5 of this Review.*



## Review of March 5, 2016 Pennsylvania Handwriting Analysis Forum

- 1.** I have a **collection of articles** in albums from newspapers, magazines, and the internet about handwriting analysis, handwriting, and personality. I began collecting them in the early

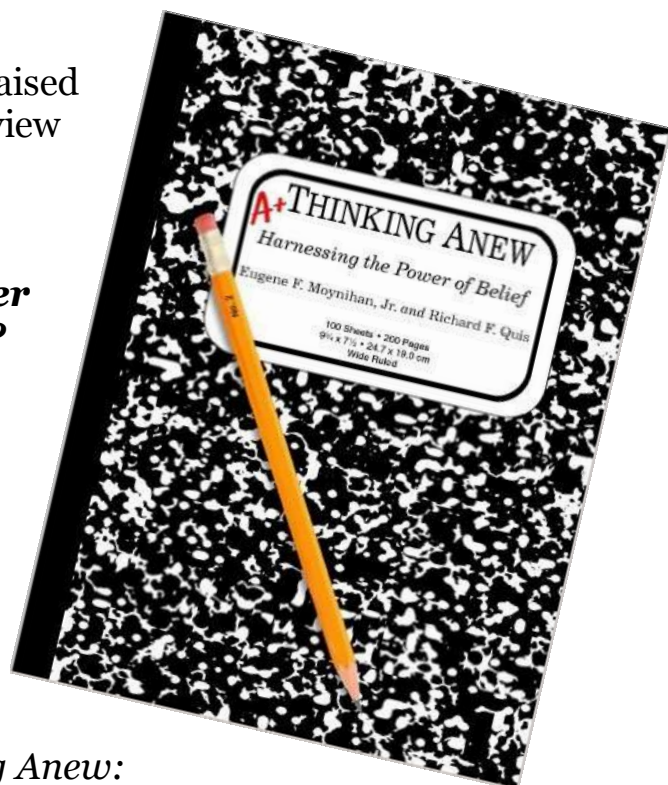


1990's when I applied to the International Graphoanalysis society to take its General Course. I brought them to the Forum and passed them around.

***Which article do I consider the best general interest article I've ever read about handwriting analysis?***

**Note:** All answers to questions raised in each of the summaries of this Review appear after the Review.

***What do I consider the best general interest article I've ever read about handwriting itself?***



2. I also passed around and discussed a small piece from *AARP Magazine* for December 2015/January 2016 on page 19. **It tells us all we need to do to slow down in life.** One way to do it, according to Richard Quis, co-author of *Thinking Anew: Harnessing the Power of Belief*, is by utilizing our handwriting. He urges us to write down our thoughts and feelings in longhand and on paper. He is quoted as saying, “The beauty of writing is that it allows you to capture...” ***What can we capture, according to Quis?***
3. We reviewed an article from the December 27, 2015, issue of *The New York Times Magazine* about **a woman writer named Lee Israel.** It is called “Literary Theft” and was written by Michael Paterniti. Because of what she had done, she wrote her own book about her wicked career. It’s called *Can You Ever Forgive Me?*



**Lee Israel, writer and forger**

*Here is a complete summary of the article. I read this summary at the Forum. Israel's story involves another side of graphology—forgeries. But not the typical kind. It is compelling and revolting.*

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**L**ee Israel was a writer of successful biographies and magazine articles from 1970 to 1990. She was *People Magazine* before it was *People*. Work eventually dried up and she became depressed and alcoholic. She went to the library and read letters of famous people, hoping for inspiration. Then she stole a few and sold them. Personal details and postscripts boosted their value.

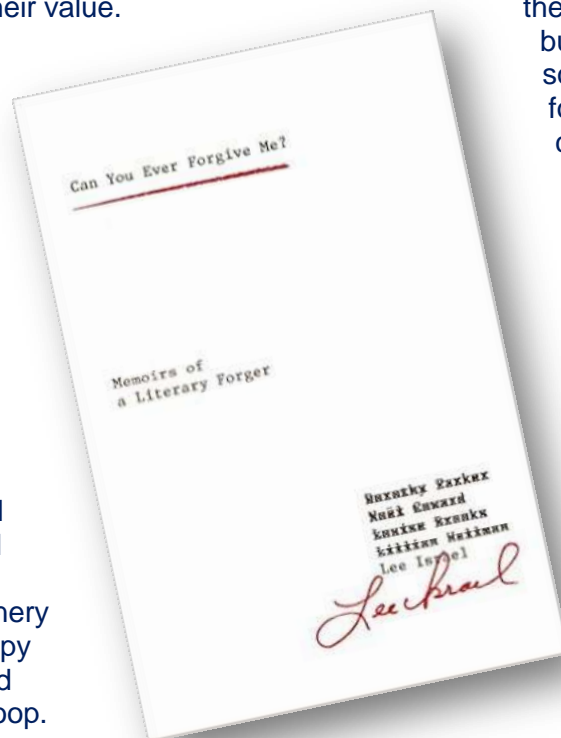
While reading the letters of F. Scott Fitzgerald, she got the idea to go from theft to creativity. She could make the letters more valuable if she wrote them herself. What was said wasn't important, only that someone famous had penned them or typed them. She first copied some from the library and got the apt stationery and typewriter to recopy them. Then she added paragraphs of juicy poop.

Eventually she created about 400 letters, some completely from scratch. Humphrey Bogart, Eugene O'Neill, Noel Coward, Dorothy Parker, Edna Ferber were a few. She told dealers a cousin was the collector. But some of them were less concerned with pedigree than profit. She had an array of old typewriters to make them look real. She forged signatures by holding up copied letters to her TV screen bright with static.

In 1992 she was approached by FBI agents. West Coast dealers had long suspected forgeries. One major clue was that she had Noel Coward discussing his homosexuality. He never publicly discussed it. She was arrested and tried. Her defense was that her actions were part of a "conspiracy of the willing." The dealers would have known they were bogus, and they made money from them. The buyers were the rich seeking social acclaim. So, no harm, no foul. Not good enough. She was convicted of the frauds. She got six months house arrest, five more months of probation, and was banned for life from the libraries.

Despite her shame, she became joyful. She inhabited her literary heroes, finally reaching her niche as a writer. "I was a better writer as a forger," she admitted. Her greatness came in the thievery. It yielded a life full of intrigue, and a legacy where none existed.

Along with her personal life, her fortune and fame got better. Her phone began ringing again. The publishers and agents who had snubbed her now asked her to write her memoir. She did, calling it *Can You Ever Forgive Me?* (Cover shown here above left) It is witty, full of conspiracy and her forgeries, including forged signatures. ●



***Paterniti mentions that Israel added a person's signature at the end of her book. Whose was it?***

***Also, according to Paterniti, what made it more special than all the other signatures described in her book?***

4. We passed around an article from the January 29, 2015, (Allentown) *Morning Call*. It was titled **“More than pretty paper, stationery a style statement.”** The author, Elaine Markoutsas, declares that “Notecard design has grown to become a rarefied luxury item.” She explains: “Stationery has become an accessory, a part of one’s personal statement wardrobe.” It allows everyone another way to show their personal style.

*Elaine Markoutsas, author of the Morning Call article about the benefits of the handwritten note.*



***She declares that a handwritten note on elegant stationery is superior to email in three ways. What are they?***

5. I had just read a 700-page tome called *Kissinger* about the life of statesman **Henry Kissinger**. Despite its length, the book actually ends at 1968, when he joined the Nixon administration. His

author, Niall Ferguson, is an eminent historian. Ending at 1968 would of course be premature. Kissinger had had a distinguished career prior to 1968. But Kissinger was only beginning as Richard Nixon’s National Security Advisor, then Secretary of State. Ferguson is writing a second volume for 1968 on. As I had pointed out at the last meeting, his biographer Ferguson had been quoted in the book

**Niall Ferguson, prominent British historian and Warburg's biographer. In his Warburg book, he included a five-page Appendix about Warburg's devotion to handwriting analysis.**



*The Missing Ink* by Philip Hensher. There Hensher stated that billionaire Sigmund Warburg believed in handwriting analysis. (Go back to my Review of December 5, 2015 Forum for details.) In *Kissinger* Ferguson discusses graphology when Kissinger was a post-WWII CIA analyst in Germany seeking Nazis and engaged in other intelligence work. **Ferguson remarked that Kissinger considered graphology “a legitimate science,”** with Ferguson adding, “though in this he was far from unusual in his generation.

Henry Kissinger

(page 190) That makes one more person of great intellect who is an advocate. Thus, he joins a distinct group of the brightest and wisest people who ever lived. Some of them are Aristotle, Confucius, Shakespeare, Freud, and Binet.



### ***What source does Ferguson cite for Kissinger’s view of graphology?***

When Ferguson informed Warburg of his project to write about his life, Warburg would cooperate only if Ferguson submitted his own handwriting for analysis. The financier wanted to gauge if he was a worthy writer and person to craft the book. Ferguson submitted his handwriting for analysis. Despite his deep skepticism about our subject, he needed Warburg’s input for his biography. The analysis was done and Warburg approved of Ferguson. Much later, Ferguson asked if he could see his own analysis. Warburg allowed him to read it.

### ***What did Ferguson think of his analysis? Did it change his views of graphology in general?***

6. I flashed on the screen five samples of the **signature of Mark Zuckerberg**, the



founder and CEO of Facebook. We analyzed them, but with difficulty. ***What was our biggest problem in trying to analyze them?***



7. We often discuss the **concept of extrovert and introvert**. We reviewed the **quickest way to determine if a writer is one** or the other. The usual indications are in the slant, with a right slant providing

a clue in his emotional foundation. It can reveal his desire to reach out to others. Another is the presence of a solid lower loop, demonstrating that the person is active in their world, seeking to be involved with other people, places, and things. Other indications exist, of course. As I always exhort my colleagues, **seek out all the clues available, including those outside the handwriting itself**.

One frivolous one I pointed out came from a survey. It disclosed how they differ in their travel



fun. Extroverts prefer the shore and flatlands. Introverts prefer woods and the mountains. That is one question you can ask a writer when you are about to analyze their handwriting. It will aid you in deciding if the person is more outgoing or withdrawn emotionally.

I also mentioned a major aspect of ***our faces in conveying if we are an extrovert or an introvert***.

***What part of our face is a good indicator?***

8. We have always used the *Handwriting Analysis Dictionary* of Lorraine Owens, our distinguished colleague from Kansas/Missouri. I have noticed that **she includes several**

**traits and their strokes that are not in the IGAS inventory.** We went through her book and reviewed ten of them. We discussed where they are found in the strokes and whether we agreed with her decisions to give them separate categories or even

The regal and renowned Graphoanalyst Lorraine Owens with Allan Grim at the seminar he presented to the Kansas Chapter of the International Graphoanalysis Society in 2014.



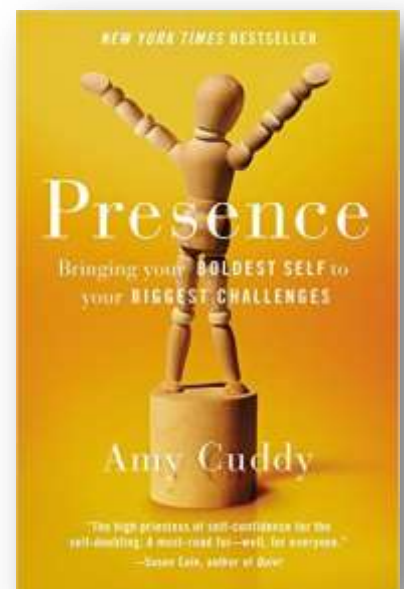
give them status as traits. We also appraised whether we agreed with the trait-stroke link she had determined. We generally concurred with her stroke-trait judgments. Most were evaluated traits, rather than basic traits. Thus, she had combined basic traits to create evaluated traits, which IGAS does and we do too.

***We took issue with Lorraine Owens on a specific stroke and its related trait. Which one was it?***

9. I was about to do a talk on the raging concept of “presence.” I had read the book *Presence* by Ann Cuddy and wanted to discuss its tenets and see if we could find evidence of “presence” in handwriting strokes. However, we didn’t have time for an extended discussion of the topic. We took much time to review the analyses other analysts had done of the handwriting of Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton and comparing them to our analyses. I announced that at our next meeting on May 7 we would consider not only “presence” but include two other pervasive social doctrines.

***What are those other two doctrines?***

***How will we relate them to handwriting analysis?***



10. At our December 5 Forum we had analyzed the handwriting of Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, and some other presidential candidates. At our March 5 Forum we took our written summaries and compared them to the analyses done by three other analysts of note—Elaine Ness, Michelle Dresbold, and Sheila Lowe. The problem with analyses of famous people is that they are not pure and blind. The analysts already have a good idea of the person from their public displays and the media’s oral



Handwriting Analyst Elaine Ness

Pennsylvania graphologist Michelle Dresbold as she appeared on the cover of Pittsburgh Magazine.



and written descriptions and opinions of them. Therefore, the analyses are tainted

from this knowledge. The results tend to be a series of confirmations of established information, slanted by the personal biases of the reports’ preparer. You ask if the same conclusions would have been drawn if the analysts knew nothing about the individual before they did their analyses.

All three of these other analyses can be readily found on the internet. I won’t be reviewing them in general here. Our own analyses are on my website GrimHandwritingAnalyst.com at menu item Pa. Handwriting Analysis Forum where a sub-item will open for Reviews of the Forums for the last few years appear. Click on Review of December 5, 2015 Forum.

Sheila Lowe, distinguished graphologist and President of the American Handwriting Analysis Foundation



We spent the most time with Sheila’s analysis of Hillary. (*We didn’t have her Trump analysis. We spent little time on his analyses by the other two analysts. Trump’s typical writing, beyond his signature, is block printing, which is hard to analyze as it reveals little about him. For our analysis of Trump’s signature, go back to our December 5 Review.*)



Sheila's analysis was much longer than the other two and carries her established credibility. We generally concurred with Sheila's judgments about Hillary. One minor issue we had was her conclusion about "simplified writing." She said this kind of writer is interested in the abstract, theoretical world of ideas and is open to other ideas. We agree that someone with simplified writing is probably bright and a facile thinker, as long as the rhythm is regular and flowing.

***What was our specific problem with her finding on "simplified writing"?***

She also found that Hillary showed strong independence, and didn't want to be hemmed in. She wanted to be an equal partner in decisions. Sheila didn't elaborate on where these are evident in the writing.



*This is the logo for the organization of which Sheila Lowe is currently President. Besides her work as a graphologist looking for personality traits in handwriting, she is also a Questioned Document Examiner (forgeries, etc) and a noted novelist of several works, often with handwriting as part of the plot. [Sheilalowe.com](http://Sheilalowe.com)*

*Our Pennsylvania Handwriting Analysis Forum is affiliated with the American Handwriting Analysis Foundation as a local chapter.*

Several other traits we had found Sheila didn't mention because she is primarily a gestalt analyst. We Graphoanalysts are both gestalt and trait-stroke analysts. That means we look at the broad aspects of writing (gestalt), like the slant, the

three zones, size of letters, rhythm of the writing, etc. But we also look at the individual strokes within letters too (trait-stroke analysis).

We believe this gives a more complete picture of the writer's personality. We also

believe the separate strokes are legitimate aspects of handwriting that reveal personality traits. Many gestalt graphologists question this view and confine their analyses to mostly the larger aspects of handwriting.

***What were some of the strokes and their traits that we found in our analysis that weren't in her analysis?***

11. Teresa Carroll is one of our loyal and veteran Forum members. She gave an update on **Handwriting Instruction in the Schools.**



She informed us that the latest research supports the need for continued handwriting instruction. The “2012 Handwriting Summit in the 21st Century” had developed research-based handwriting standards that school districts could add to the Common Core Standards adopted by most states. She said that ten

states have added a handwriting standard. However, Pennsylvania is NOT one of them.

In an age of increasing digital use, including by schools, **solid research by educators and neuroscientists reveals why schools should include handwriting instruction.**

***According to Caruso, why do these authorities think so?***

***What about older students? Do they gain from handwriting instruction?***



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## Answers to Questions in Review of Pa. Handwriting Analysis Forum

1. The best article on handwriting analysis is the one from the “Today” magazine section of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* from April 16, 1978. It’s called “Is Handwriting Making the Transition from Séance to Science?” and was written by a LaSalle College senior, John Rodden. He has gone on to become a prolific author, including books about George Orwell, Isabel Allende, and Lionel Trilling. The article is lengthy, fair and comprehensive.

As to handwriting itself, the best article is from the August 1999 issue of *National Geographic* entitled “The Power of Writing.” Author Joel Swerdlow traces our spoken words placed on a permanent surface to the Middle East five thousand years ago. The photographs and images are superb. The text is not dry, but is absorbing and informative.

2. “...your creative thoughts.”
3. The signature that Israel included at the end of her book was her own signature. Paterniti said it was significant because he thought it was the “nicest of the lot” of them featured in the book.
4. Emails disappear in a flash; notes remain forever; they get more attention; and they are memorable.



5. His own biography of billionaire Warburg, who himself was a strong advocate of our discipline. I found the book in our local Indian Valley Public Library, where our Forums are held. It’s called *High Financier: The Lives and Time of Siegmund*

*Warburg*. At the end of this book Ferguson has a five-page “Appendix: Graphology.” (At pages 417-421) It is worth reading it in full. Warburg was a Jewish financier in Nazi Germany in the 1930’s. He migrated as a refugee to London, where he became a leader of post-war rehabilitation of Europe’s economies through his bank.

He developed a strong faith in graphology through Swiss analyst and psychologist Theodora Dreifuss. He eventually retained her to analyze the handwriting of virtually all applicants for employment at his bank. Warburg estimated that he disagreed with Dreifuss only about 10%-20% of the time.

Ferguson admits he was doubtful as to graphology’s validity. It was so prominent a part of Warburg’s life that he checked further into it. When Ferguson interviewed some of the ex-Directors of Warburg’s bank, not one shared Ferguson’s skepticism of graphology. What did Ferguson think of Dreifuss’s analysis of his own handwriting? “So accurate was the assessment—not least the discussion of my principal fault—that it did much to dispel my skepticism.”

**Niall Ferguson**



6. Each one was vastly different from the others. We were mostly at a loss to produce a coherent analysis of them all. They were all odd in their own ways, thus yielding a portrait of a unique but strange person. Beyond that, we would need to see the rest of his writing. This experience demonstrates that focusing on a person’s signature can be foolish. It will often lead you to false conclusions about the writer’s makeup. You must have the body of their typical writing and hopefully at least a page of it.
7. It isn’t a fixed feature, such as the size of their nose. It is their mouth and whether they tend to smile. An extrovert will smile more often than an introvert. That aspect is probably the most



expressive, because it is movable, part of our faces. For a doggone good smile, go to the next page.

8. Elaine Owens lists the stroke of pop-up small letters as the trait of Indifference. She excepts the small letter r with a flat top. She considers it as the “desire to use the hands in a creative way.” That seems okay. But the other pop-up letters we would put into the category of an impulse that won’t be denied for the kind of letter where it appears. Thus, it depends on the letter itself or the strokes within it. The writer is committing an act of rebellion and defiance against how he was taught. You could say that about any stroke that disdains the model letter from school. But his oversized letter is in the mundane area where the ordinary small letters appear. This is not a typically creative area compared to, say, the capitals, which are naturally large and ripe for flourishes and other drama.

With pop-up letters (aka “hiccups”) the writer is unfulfilled and stifled and wants to erupt into full expression. Their anxiety and tension needs release. Thus, a person normally calm and passive will sometimes rear up and assert himself. Often the result is an inappropriate act or comment. People will react with shock, wondering “Where did that come from? It’s not like him to be that way.” Sheila Lowe and others have expressed this view of pop-up letters.

9. At our May 7 Forum we will also be discussing “Mindfulness” and “Emotional Intelligence.” We will

**Allan Grim trying to be mindful, or at least look mindful.**



compare them all to each other and determine whether they can each be found in handwriting strokes, and try to identify which of those strokes might reveal them.

10. Many people with simplified writing want only that in their existence. They aren't interested in the intangible realm of theory and macro thinking. They seek to remain with the practical, workable side of life. If the writing showed long and somewhat wide upper loops, we might concur. But Hillary's upper loops are often without loops or modest in their upward thrust and their width.



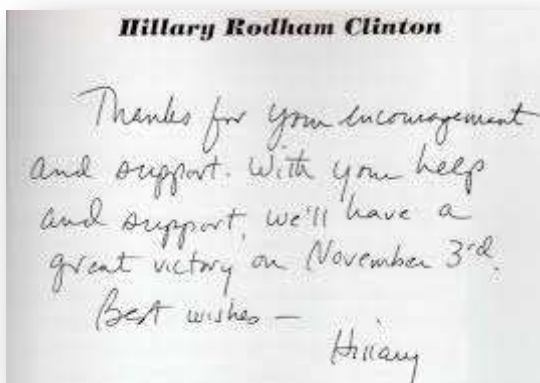
Our lettered paragraphs found these traits within individual strokes as follows:

- d. Intuition
- e. Diplomacy

Sheila did find diplomacy but in the mixture of garlands and threads. Graphoanalysis hasn't waded into garlands for

meaning. We do see softness and curves as reflecting a writer who is compromising and decent—a peacemaker rather than a warmonger. To that extent, diplomacy is shown in her writing. We also mentioned that we as Graphoanalysts found diplomacy in the declining height of her small letters. Not a bad quality for Secretary of State.

We didn't find much indication of threading in our samples. Perhaps Sheila's samples had it. They are not shown with her analysis. Threaded writing, Graphoanalysis



believes, shows superficial thinking. As a stretch, it possibly can be extended to using tact in relationships.

f. Initiative

g. Needs downtime

h. Hypersensitivity

In each trait subsection we identify what strokes reveal these traits. To reiterate, we found these additional traits because we believe they are individual strokes, which can reveal legitimate separate traits of personality. Sheila didn't include these probably because she is a gestaltist. This group of analysts is reluctant to say that these individual strokes can be gleaned for meaning. They believe that graphology needs to progress further to make links between specific strokes and separate personality traits. She will therefore confine her analysis to only the larger aspects of any handwriting, with some several exceptions.

11. Handwriting advances neurological development and augments writing fluency. Writing letters by hand has been shown to help children recognize and remember letters more easily than if typed.

In addition, younger students complete 90% of their assignments by handwriting; older students complete at least 50% of assignments by handwriting. Brain imagery shows neural activity is more advanced in children who practice manuscript

writing versus children who just look at letters. Handwriting plays a large role in visual recognition, and learning of letters.



Yes. Even college students benefit from handwriting. A large study of college students showed that students who took lecture notes by using handwriting had better recall of the material than students who typed their lecture notes. ●

