

## SIX LESSONS by HANS JACOBY – An Introduction by Ruth Rostron

In 1941 Hans Jacoby wrote six graphology lessons for Fred Walker. Jacoby had by this time written several books on graphology and assumed that his pupil was familiar with the two that had been published in English: *Analysis of Handwriting: An Introduction into Scientific Graphology* (1939) and *Self-Knowledge through Handwriting* (1940).

Fred Walker was not a beginner, so these lessons are not basic instruction and do not contain core material relating to the subjects covered, but serve rather as additional chapters to Jacoby's books. They contain a lot of detailed reference material not published elsewhere, which will be of interest to any practising graphologist.

**The lessons** have these headings: Upper zone, Middle zone, Lower zone, Initial letters, Connectedness and Writing angle (slant) and cover the following aspects:

Upper zone	fullness / leanness, left / right tendencies, t bars
Middle zone	left / right tendencies, involved movements, fullness / leanness, claw-like forms, pressure, smeary stroke
Lower zone	upstroke, length, slant, fullness / leanness, pressure, simplification / elaboration
Initial letters	emphasis / under-emphasis through size, width, pressure, starting strokes, flourishes, ascending / descending tendency, letter forms (FOC), slant, underlining / roofing strokes, fullness
Connectedness	first / last letter disconnected, over-connectedness, gaps in words, i-dots / t bars connected, breaks in stroke, split letters
Writing angle	slant of initial / final letters, variations between zones, bent strokes

The condition of the material is poor: the war-time paper is thin and has become brown and dog-eared after more than seventy years. These transcriptions will preserve the contents and enable many more graphologists to benefit from Hans Jacoby's wonderful work.

**Hans Jacoby** (1906 - 1945) was an analytical psychologist closely associated with Carl Jung, and the depth of his psychological understanding shows in his complex explanations of graphological movements, which are quite remarkable for the insight they give. Not only was he knowledgeable in the interrelated fields of psychology and graphology, but he had an intuitive understanding of expressive gestures in handwriting, which he correlated instinctively with body language. His expertise as a handwriting analyst was unique.

Evidently Jacoby was also a gifted and conscientious teacher. Nowadays it is hard to imagine compiling lessons for just for one pupil, but three of these are actually handwritten, three are typed with handwritten illustrations and they range from four to seven pages in length. He also made lengthy comments on the working notes and analyses done by his pupil Fred Walker and wrote thirty-two letters to go with them.

**Fred Walker** (1888 - 1975) was an industrial chemist who lived in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and worked for the Gas Board. Prior to contacting Jacoby he had studied with Jan Meloun, Robert Saudek's Czech assistant, and completed several analyses using Saudek's method, as set out in his *Psychology of Handwriting* (1925). He used the same method for Jacoby, who wrote after his first assignment 'I was very interested in your deductions and observations, and you will be pleased to hear that I was surprised how well you did them! Given some more practice and experience you will do very well indeed.'