

In the winter journal readers were introduced to Gill Green, a piano tuner of some 15 years' experience and a lady who has studied the subject to the extent that she has gained an M.A. in Musicology. As a result of her fascination with piano tuning history, she has collected samples of invoices that cover a couple of centuries and she has provided samples starting at 1841 for this journal. As discussed in the last journal, they all display the crispness of stroke that betokens the writer with sharpness of hearing and aural awareness.

*Crispness throughout - light pressure,
without wobble. Clean writing - rarely
sanded.*

[False join - care, to make it appear tidy]

*Flow, movement, rhythm, harmony
Focused. Precision. Lyricism.*

Memorandum.

FROM **THOMAS FILKIN'S,**
PIANO FORTE & MUSICAL INSTRUMENT WAREHOUSE,
111, PARK ROAD,
Liverpool, *March 4th 1867*

To Mr. *John Evans*

Piano-Fortes, Harmoniums, Musical Boxes, Concertinas &c. Tuned, Repaired, and Lent on Hire.

Dear Sir
I enclose Cheques for £5 - with
Kind regards to self & family
I remain
Yours Respectfully
Thos Filkin

The most fascinating feature that may strike you as the similarity of Gill's writing produced in January 2006, to a particular sample, written by a male piano tuner on 4th March 1867. Gill has a huge file of piano tuning receipts and hadn't examined them particularly closely, so any similarity will be natural, rather than through familiarity with the writings.

Gill's notes above, as we discussed the various samples, were made easily and quickly, typical of her everyday script. The sample below them, from Thomas Filkin, was presumably something he wrote as a receipt to his clients as a matter of daily necessity. The dimension of both scripts is fairly similar, the continuity is also and many letter shapes are too. Noticeable is the upper case 'C', which moves into the lower zone and then continues rightward beneath the subsequent letters of the word. Instinctively both writers use this movement – 139 years apart. Not only that, but the loops are narrow, the middle zone letters have much similarity and though the sample from Gill in this piece of writing is a little more vertical than the writing of Thomas Filkin, her sample in the winter journal is more rightward slanting, very much in accord with Thomas Filkin's sample. Another match is the end 'n' that terminates both signatures and each is made as a very shallow arcade and extended.

Gill has developed her script instinctively and has maintained it almost exactly, according to my samples of her writing obtained over the years.

Thanks to Gill's kind permission to delve into her collection, a selection of piano tuners' scripts are offered for you to note the predominance of this fine, crisp stroke that characterizes the natural style of those with sharp and astute hearing and aural judgment.

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		to Sulphur etc.	Best strings	6 6
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FOR THE SIGNATURE OF MISS JAS. GRAHAM				
<i>With Love</i>				
<i>James Graham</i>				



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1865

&c. &c.

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June 14	Vadani via di	1/2/6	13
	Merquy mobby	1/2/0	11
	Oh fly girl and	3/	1
	3 Not of great deep and	1/2/0	11
	Oh who will s'er		1
	Hardy Morsem and		9
	Notre del civil		1
19	Oh fly with me	3/	1
	2	1/2/0	3
			7

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		Tuning	-	5 -
		Hire of case & portersage	-	12 2
		Packing	-	10 6
		Carriage to rail	-	7 6
Nov	15	Hire of case & carriage to receiving house with carriage prepaid	-	16 6
"	28	Paid carriage of piano to town	-	19 2
"	29	Tuning	-	5 -
		Carriage to above address.	-	6 -
				4 12 10

Arch 22.	To Removing Cottage Pipe from Rothwell	5 0
	" Packing same & use of case	10 0
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	" Carriage per G. N.R.	14
	Settled Aug 27/89	1 17 6

per Hopkinson Bros & Co
A. C. Hanson

A settlement of this ac is respectfully requested at once