

## **SEX & CRIME IN HANDWRITING - BY BRIGITTE APLEGARTH MDIP (BIG)**

*Lecture given to The British Institutes of Graphologists (quarterly meeting) at the Soroptomist Club, London on 13 June 2015*

I thought it might be fun to do a “look and learn” session with other graphologists - and what is more fun in graphology than Sex and Crime? One of the best things about our meetings is that we can hear other people’s views and experiences with practical analysis. It gives us the chance to reinforce and update our separate knowledge base with both students and experienced graphologists.

Whilst giving this presentation to members of the Women’s Institutes and other interested parties, I found that almost everyone has had an experience with handwriting that caused them to analyse the authors psyche. It’s always rewarding to get an interaction with the audience and interesting points arise, even though they’re new to the concept and workings of graphology. I always include a quick analysis break. “I wish I had known about this years ago” and “Staggered” seem to be the most popular retorts, as they start to look over each other’s shoulders at their handwriting. I suppose in a few years’ time they will be saying “Amazing” and “Awesome” - if I’m still around by then!

At first, opinions range from coincidence to scepticism to predictive quality. Although as soon as anyone likens it to a fortune telling tool, I feel compelled to interject, and put them right. Somehow that does not sit easily with me and comparing graphology to astrology only subtracts from its credence.

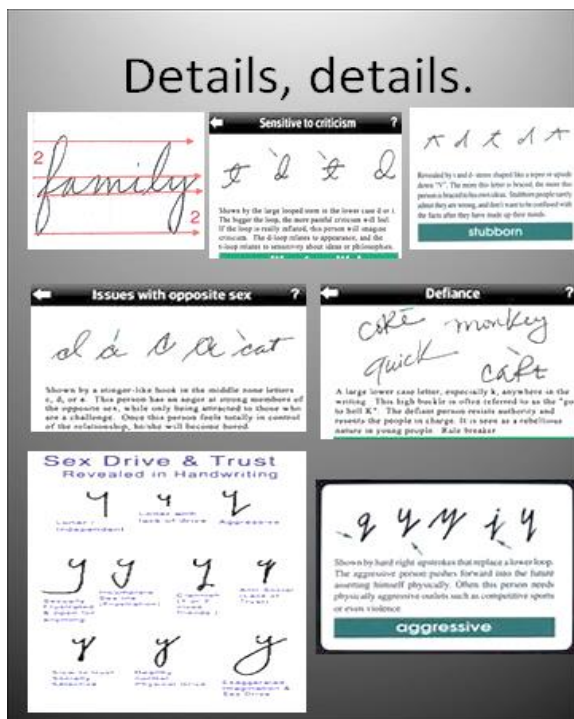
With the massive surge in Forensic Investigation, graphology straddles a middle ground, which is still to be clearly defined by the legal profession. Not everything can be quantified in a scientific way, but we still strive to find a suitable interface.

I have given *S&C in HW* a few times now. It is one of my readymade titles but was chosen before the more obvious and introductory “How Graphology Works”. Although *S&C in HW* core remains the same, audiences are more familiar with the international cases through the media. I tailor to the group, and I feel that people think they know the personality and family background of the perpetrators and victims better and understand their motives and influences. Generally this has worked well, although recently I have added Knox, Sir Spilsbury, Dr Crippen, Savile, and Pistorius to the mix. Hopefully this helps the audience to relate to the social media and cultural influences that might have played a part in the crimes. For some reason the more local the “accused” the more relaxed the audience seems, and often a few laughs have been raised.

If Sherlock had attended our meetings, would he have examined handwriting at the start of an investigation or the end? Would he have struggled with the psychology of the perpetrators handwriting or would he say “that’s the cesspool of humanity”. Would he have made a good graphologist? We will never know.

We just know that what we see as graphologists is truly - Awesome.

Firstly, some of things to look out for ...



... followed by the mad, bad and the ugly....

## JACK THE RIPPER

*This is the best known name given to an unidentified serial killer or killers generally believed to have been active in the largely impoverished areas in and around the Whitechapel district of London in 1888. The name "Jack the Ripper" originated in a letter written by someone claiming to be the murderer that was widely disseminated in the media. The letter is widely believed to have been a hoax, and may have been written by journalists in an attempt to heighten interest in the story and increase their newspaper's circulation.*



\*

See how the page layout, spacing, clarity, mark out the differences between the authors' personalities. The first "red top" was an instant success due to the fake letter which boosted sales. Journalism - old-style. As a result, The Sun Newspaper was born.

## Handwriting Features

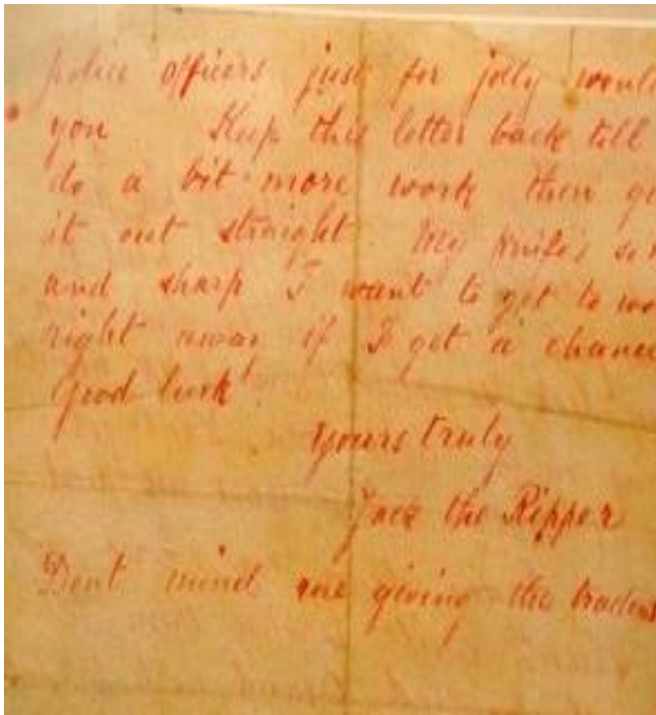
### Overview

- Zones
- Page Layout
- Size
- Slant
- Connections
- PPI
- Signature
- Pressure
- Spacing
- Rhythm
- Smoothness
- Speed
- Tension & Release
- Persona Style

### Details

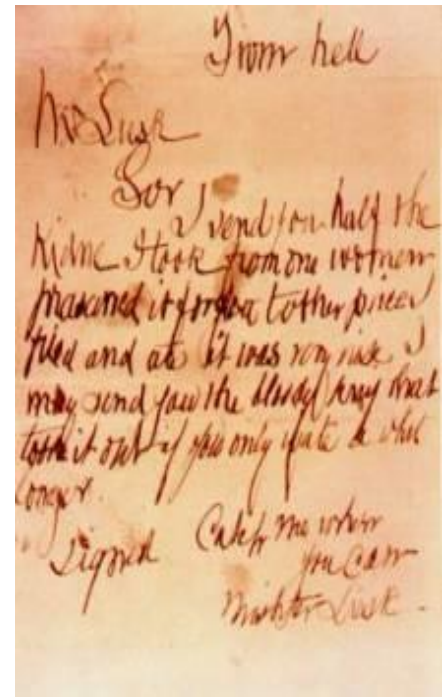
- Starts/Ends
- Left/Right tends
- Changes
- Size of Zones
- Type of strokes
- Pressure changes
- Consistency
- Diacritics
- Punctuations
- Corrections
- Smears, dots etc..
- Tension & Release

\* marks references taken from Wikipedia, correct as of August 2015



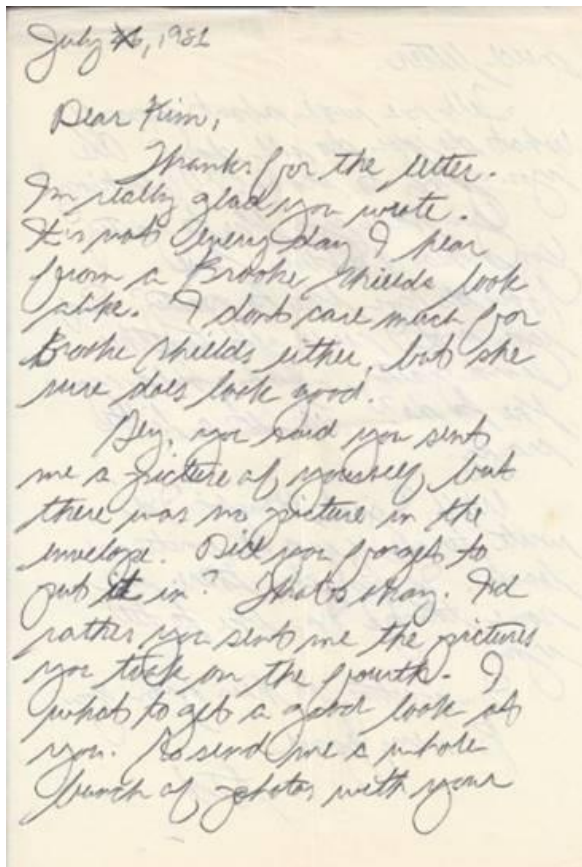
Forensics and forensic graphology was in its infancy. When one letter turned up, it is known that another letter was devised by an employee at newspaper to sell more copies! These two writers had very little in common.

Sample 2.  
Written in blood,  
Pasty  
Stroke,  
crowded  
layout,  
heavy  
blunt,  
down  
strokes,  
misshaped  
letterform,



misspellings = excessive personality, possibly drunk at time of writing, overbearing, clumsy, combustible temper, brutality/lack of gentleness. A twisted outlook.

## TED BUNDY



Theodore Robert Bundy was an American serial killer, kidnapper, rapist, and necrophile who assaulted and

murdered numerous young women and girls during the 1970s and possibly earlier.\*

Resentment starting stroke (seen in some European copy models as normal). Mr Bundy learned to write in the USA - yet this handwriting feature is present on almost every word on the page = obsessional. Strong right slant.

Bubble lower zone. Very organized layout, on left of page. Mingling lines, starting stroke start below line. Narrow letters. Personal pronoun inflated loop in upper part, lower zone intermingles and clashes. Large loops in lower zone, aerated writing = thoughts and visualizations from his subconscious, dominate and influence his day to day actions.

## JOHN WAYNE GACY, JR.



"(March 17, 1942 – May 10, 1994), also known as the "Killer Clown", was a convicted American serial killer and rapist who sexually assaulted and murdered at least 33 teenage boys and young men between 1972 and 1978 in Chicago, Illinois."\*

I think it ridiculous to c  
Everything is written for the  
regards,  
John Wayne Gacy  
sensationalism,  
you mention you found my name in address  
book but didn't say the name of it? You  
said "We were wondering if you could

- Lower Zone and heightened surname **G** = constantly attends to his basic sexual needs, Family name is important – he thinks he is "going somewhere" with his life.
- Left tending lower zone, with his basic needs revert back to past events, which he cannot forget.
- Lead in strokes = resentment. Lower zone is hooked at signature end = can't let go.
- Small middle zone - compensates for inferiority by imagination and physical extension (thought and action)
- Extreme tension, resting dots, flooded ovals = outbursts (possible hypertension)
- Corrections and errors, pasty stroke + degree of sloppiness and clumsy concealment
- Highly connected – once he started a course of action, he is compelled till the end.
- Good line spacing – Organisational and planning skills

## ADOLF HITLER

Strong right slant, Rigid rhythm and down stroke, tight Mid-zone. Descending line endings and signature.

Mein Kampf  
1925  
1926  
1927  
1928  
1929  
1930  
1931  
1932  
1933  
1934  
1935  
1936  
1937  
1938  
1939  
1940  
1941  
1942  
1943  
1944  
1945  
1946  
1947  
1948  
1949  
1950  
1951  
1952  
1953  
1954  
1955  
1956  
1957  
1958  
1959  
1960  
1961  
1962  
1963  
1964  
1965  
1966  
1967  
1968  
1969  
1970  
1971  
1972  
1973  
1974  
1975  
1976  
1977  
1978  
1979  
1980  
1981  
1982  
1983  
1984  
1985  
1986  
1987  
1988  
1989  
1990  
1991  
1992  
1993  
1994  
1995  
1996  
1997  
1998  
1999  
2000  
2001  
2002  
2003  
2004  
2005  
2006  
2007  
2008  
2009  
2010  
2011  
2012  
2013  
2014  
2015  
2016  
2017  
2018  
2019  
2020  
2021  
2022  
2023  
2024  
2025

The foxtail name ending dates back to his youth, but descending line endings appeared and became more extreme as he got older. Need to be adored, capable of charm, inflexible, compensates for feelings of inferiority with actions. Mechanical and unemotional.

Adolf Hitler  
Führer der Deutschen  
Volksgemeinschaft  
1933  
1934  
1935  
1936  
1937  
1938  
1939  
1940  
1941  
1942  
1943  
1944  
1945  
1946  
1947  
1948  
1949  
1950  
1951  
1952  
1953  
1954  
1955  
1956  
1957  
1958  
1959  
1960  
1961  
1962  
1963  
1964  
1965  
1966  
1967  
1968  
1969  
1970  
1971  
1972  
1973  
1974  
1975  
1976  
1977  
1978  
1979  
1980  
1981  
1982  
1983  
1984  
1985  
1986  
1987  
1988  
1989  
1990  
1991  
1992  
1993  
1994  
1995  
1996  
1997  
1998  
1999  
2000  
2001  
2002  
2003  
2004  
2005  
2006  
2007  
2008  
2009  
2010  
2011  
2012  
2013  
2014  
2015  
2016  
2017  
2018  
2019  
2020  
2021  
2022  
2023  
2024  
2025

Grudge-bearer with depression and hysteria.

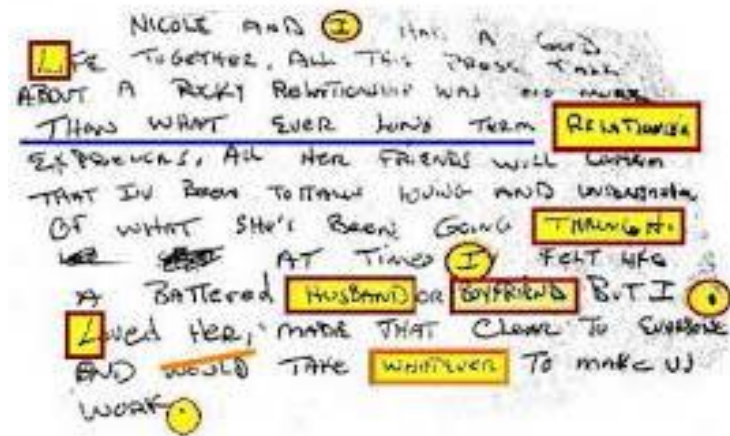


## O.J. SIMPSON



Accused of murdering his wife with whom he'd had a stormy and violent marriage. Currently serving time for another crime. Even after they separated, he continued to bully and control her. The trial was televised. He was found innocent..

The first letter of his name is **O** misshapen = sees the world differently, ego being bent out of shape. 2+3: Attention seeking i- dots. 4: malformed **m** and **n** (relationship issues, 2<sup>nd</sup> hump - no room for the other person). 5: descending underline- negative support of ego. 6: Keeps people at arm's length, extends, never gives up, persistent. Ink-filled ovals. Unstable base line. Explosive temper. Secretive, forthright/demanding, need for attention, slowly made **m** humps: slow witted and clumsy.



Ink filled loops, underunderline = Dominating. **N** drawn out, defensive watch out! A space invader.



## AMANDA MARIE KNOX



(born July 9, 1987) is an American woman who spent almost four years in an Italian prison accused of the 2007 murder of Meredith Kercher, one of the women who shared her apartment, before being definitively acquitted by the Supreme Court of Cassation. Knox had raised the alarm after returning from spending the night with her boyfriend, Raffaele Sollecito. Police initially thought a faked burglary at the apartment indicated a single male known to Kercher, but investigations began to focus on Knox, although she was officially a witness.\*

I wanted to demonstrate how the female bubble writing seems to have been adopted by young women today. Was she a leader or a follower or just someone who let things happens? Did she get out of her depth? The sample shows slow and deliberate handwriting. Evidently feeling low at her predicament (with the falling end of line). Crowded spacing between words, wants to be in the thick of things. Narrow left margin – jumps in without preparation but slowness show caution.

all happened very quickly. I told the police of my doubts but they said not to worry, little by little, I would remember. I tried writing what I could remember for the police, because I've always been better at thinking when I was writing. They gave me time to do this. In this message I wrote about my doubts, my questions, and what I knew to be true. During this time, I was checked out by medics, I had my picture taken as well as more copies of my fingerprints. They took my shoes and my phone. I wanted to go home but they told me to wait and then eventually that I was to be arrested, then I was taken here, to the prison, in the last car of three who arrived Patrick, then Raffaele, and then me to prison.

## DR HAROLD FREDERICK SHIPMAN

**Doctor's statement** 4

Do not use this form for people claiming Statutory Sick Pay

To the doctor We are assuming your patient's eligibility for Incapacity Benefit and other state benefits under the all work test. Please fill in the following statements.

In confidence to Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Sydney Hannah

Main diagnosis (be as precise as possible) Hiatus Hernia

Other diagnoses chronic acute ulcers  
w/l. carcinoma

Doctor's remarks (including comments on the disabling effects of the condition, treatment and progress. Accuracy and detail will avoid requests for completion of a medical report.)

Hiatus hernia on w/l.  
carcinoma on w/l.  
Ulcers has adhered to self  
advent to 2 needed.

To the doctor While the all work test is carried out, we need some evidence that your patient should refrain from their usual occupation. The information you give here will not be part of the all work test. I am issuing the following statement based upon the current guidance to certifying medical practitioners. I examined you today / yesterday and advise you

☐ that you need not refrain from your usual occupation.

☒ that you should refrain from your usual occupation for 13 weeks (period).

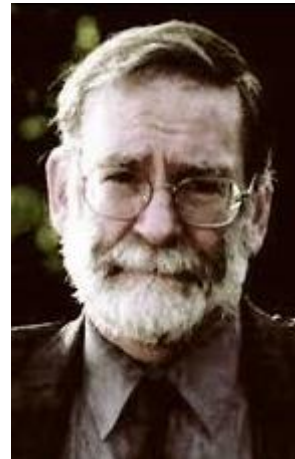
or until \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor's signature [Signature] Date 14.7.95

Stamp

Med 4

DR. H. F. SHIPMAN  
21 MARKET STREET  
HYDE  
CHESHIRE SK14 2AF  
TEL : 0161 367 9777



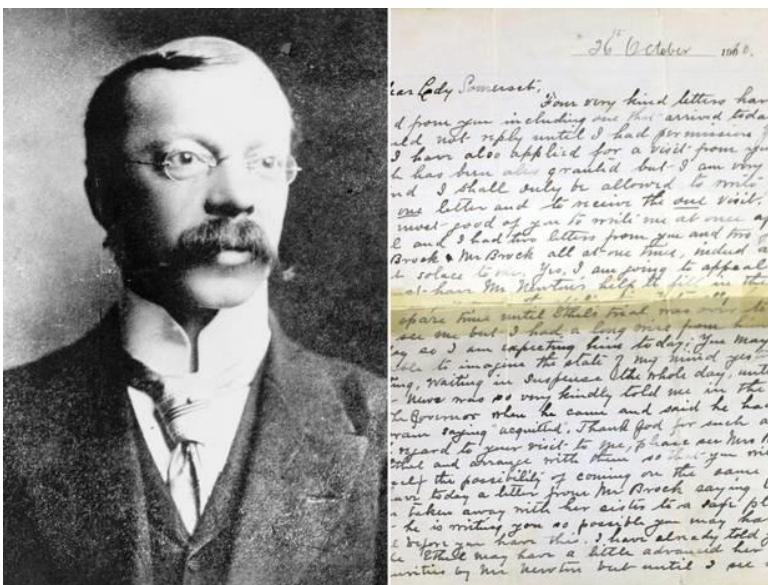
A British doctor and one of the most prolific serial killers in recorded history. On 31 January 2000, a jury found Shipman guilty of 15 murders.\*

Everyone who worked with him thought him such a lovely man. His patient death rate was spotted by the local undertaker. As a youngster, he took care of his terminally ill mother and that prompted him to become a doctor. Early in his career he was known to have a drug habit.

Plenty of curves (kindness and charm), felons' claw lower zone, illegible signature, left tending, thread form.

Charm and perverse twisted logic, hide his true self. Refers to himself for answers. Able to gauge people and tell them what they wanted to hear.

## HAWLEY HARVEY CRIPPEN



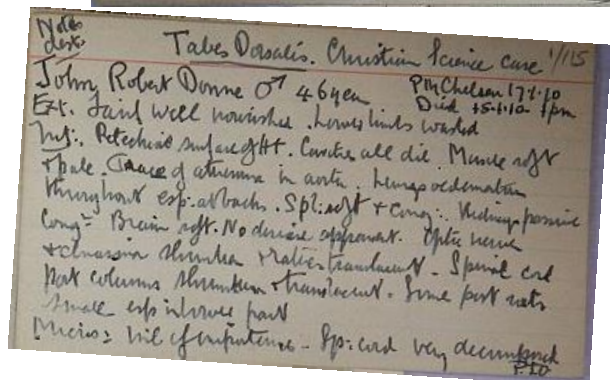
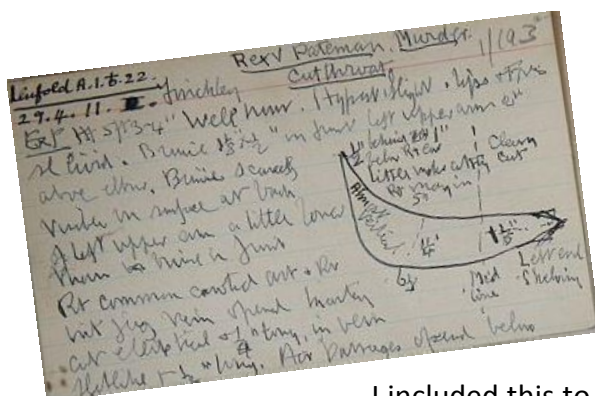
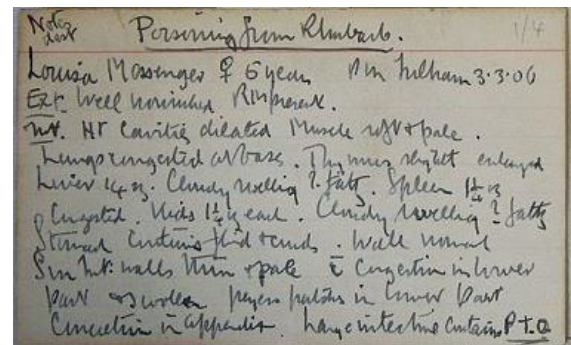
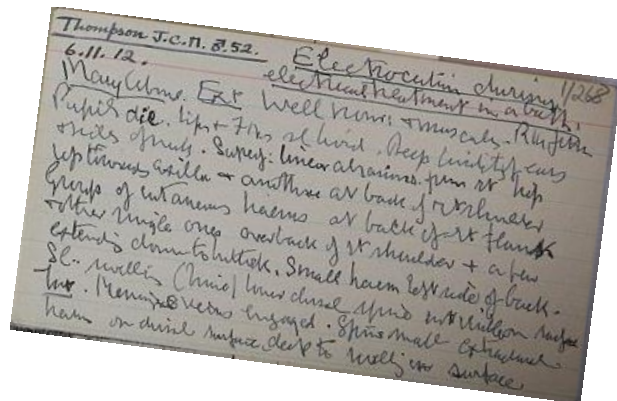
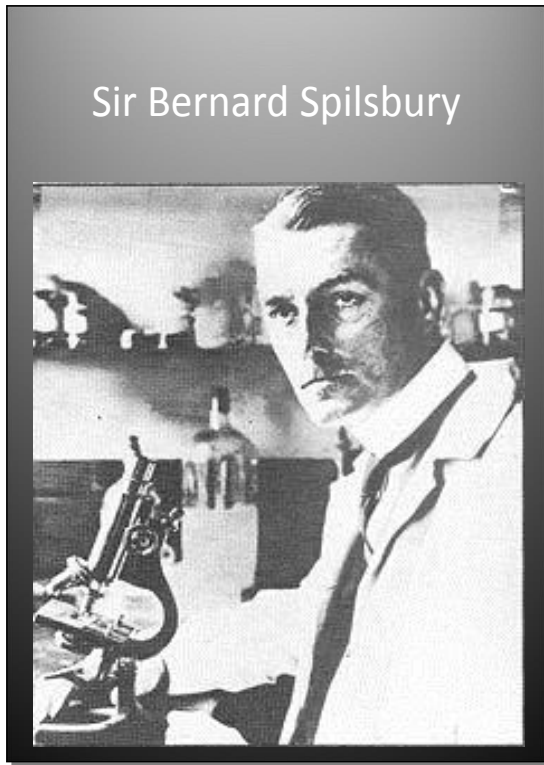
(September 11, 1862 – November 23, 1910), usually known as Dr. Crippen, was an American homeopath, ear and eye specialist and medicine dispenser. He was hanged in Pentonville Prison for the murder of his wife Cora Henrietta Crippen, and was the first criminal to be captured with the aid of wireless telegraphy.

In 2007, DNA evidence questioned the guilt of Crippen by suggesting that the remains discovered in his cellar were, in fact, those of a male person. These conclusions are disputed.\*



**SIR BERNARD HENRY SPILSBURY**

(16 May 1877 – 17 December 1947). A British pathologist. His cases include Hawley Harvey Crippen, the Seddon case and Major Armstrong poisonings, the "Brides in the Bath" murders by George Joseph Smith, Louis Voisin, Jean-Pierre Vaquier, the Crumbles murders, Norman Thorne, Donald Merrett, the Podmore case, the Sidney Harry Fox matricide, Alfred Rouse, Elvira Barney, Tony Mancini and the Vera Page case. He also played a crucial role in the development of Operation Mincemeat, a deception operation during World War II which saved thousands of lives of Allied service personnel.\*



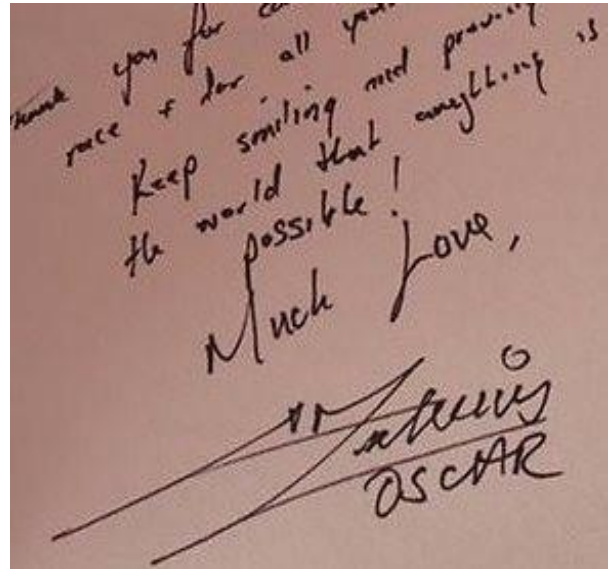
I included this to show how wrong one can be if you just look at the details and not the overall picture. I once sat next to a surgeon at a conference, and scanning his handwriting, I did wonder what he did in his spare time. All the slash and cutting in the handwriting movements that you would see in a convicted murders' handwriting were in his notes! Hopefully his hobby was needlework.

Usually the audience have their own amusing stories about their experiences with Doctors' handwriting.

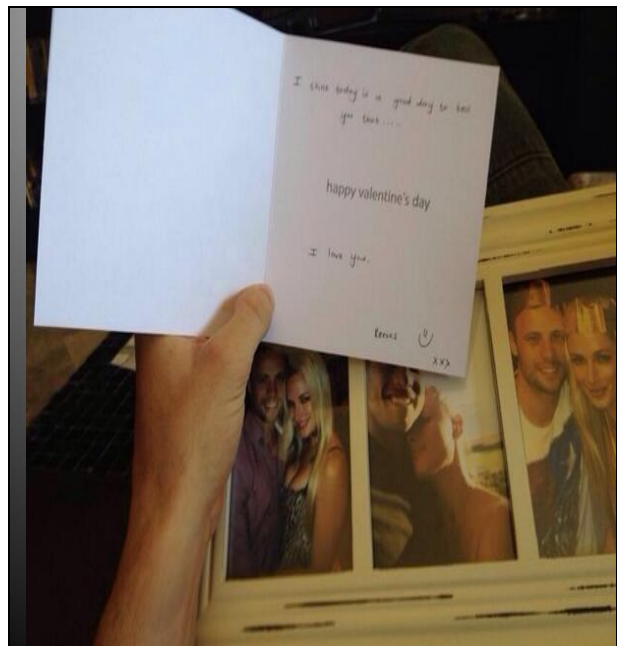
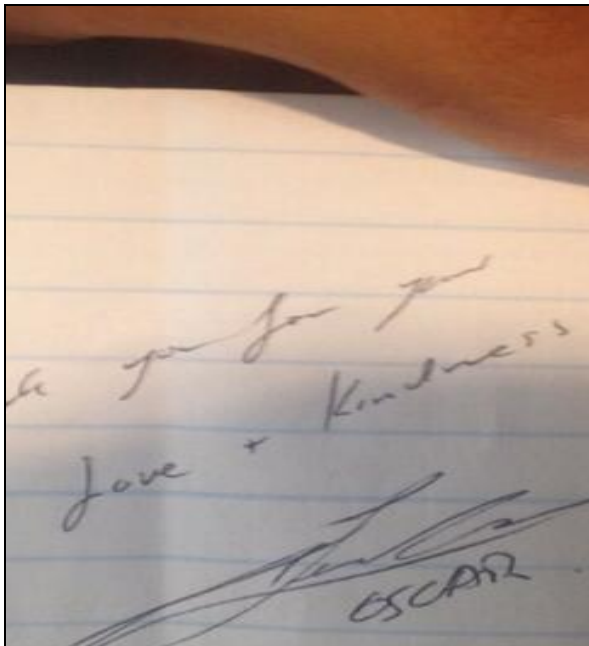
## OSCAR PISTORIUS



At an angle, narrowing margins. Smiley faces and need to be seen and noticed. Motif of legs.



This shows an insight into his personality, when things were going well for him. Visible & dominant features: rising baseline, dominant signature style and size, unusual placement of text. Meagre and small middle zone. Lack of roundness. Interpretation: Demands adoration by showing uncontrollable enthusiasm, actions & hysteria. Presents his performance with a good degree of calculation and planning. Inferiority complex. Below left: middle zone compressed, wide spacing. No "legs" but still underlining. Signed twice.



Above Right: this is the victim's Valentines card to him. Fairly wide word spacing, Personal Pronoun is very small, tension. Name? Unusually noncommittal and inexpressive for a Valentines' card. Simple and unsophisticated. No passion shown in that sample. Maybe the front of the card said it all? Maybe that was the mood she was in when she went to meet him for Valentines' evening. We will never know.



**ROSEMARY PAULINE "ROSE" WEST** is a British serial killer, now an inmate at HMP Low Newton, Braxside, Durham, after being convicted of 10 murders in 1995.



16/8/97.  
Rosemary West,  
G50017, H' Wing  
H.M. Prison  
Old Elvet  
DURHAM,  
DH1 3HU.

Hello Sean,  
Surprise, surprise!! It's  
me! I let you live up on me didn't  
you? SORRY! But the cheerfulness  
didn't last very long! Once the  
news of Jack Straw's decision hit  
home, I'm afraid it landed me

Arcade letter formations. No borders, round and slow speed, with mixed slant. Arcade formation, slow speed, over-punctuation. Mingling lines, with dovetailings. Childish formations. Slow thinker, immaturity, inner conflicts, cunning, careful.

**FREDERICK WEST** was an English serial killer.

Between 1967 and 1987, West – alone and later with his second wife, serial killer Rosemary West – tortured and raped numerous young women.

have you seen my tell her, dad  
blood like to see her I have her dad  
and I love her, but she said no that  
I forgive her for what she said to  
police a bad man

Both Rosemary and Fred West suffered head injuries in the past before adulthood.

## MYRA HINDLEY AND IAN BRADY - TWO PEOPLE WHO HAD SOMETHING IN COMMON



**Myra Hindley:** Upright and passive, strangely joined letter formations, writes under line. Passive-aggressive, unable to relate in a normal way, underhanded methods routinely employed as the norm.



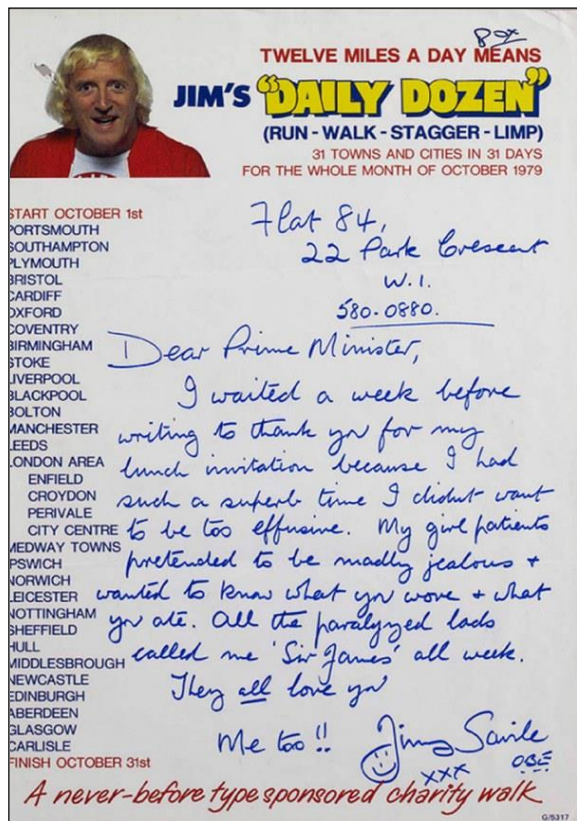
**Ian Brady:** Strong right slant, small mid-zone, slow writing, angle letter connections, squashed ovals.

Goes with the flow, wants approval, inferiority complex, deliberation, un-emotional and unable to relate in normal way. Both have spikey handwriting, meagre mid-zone and lack of curves.

31/5/82  
My dear Audrey,  
In haste, a Ye for June.  
Watch, dressing gown 'sorted!' Also  
cheque received. Many thanks.  
Hope you are well,  
Love as always,  
Myra xxxxx

Ian Stewart-Brady  
ted (not dated) and S.A.E.  
having some difficulty in  
criminal psychology, "The Gate  
US/UK universities and  
table in Amazon and other  
t, how to e-bay.

## SIR JAMES WILSON VINCENT "JIMMY" SAVILE, OBE



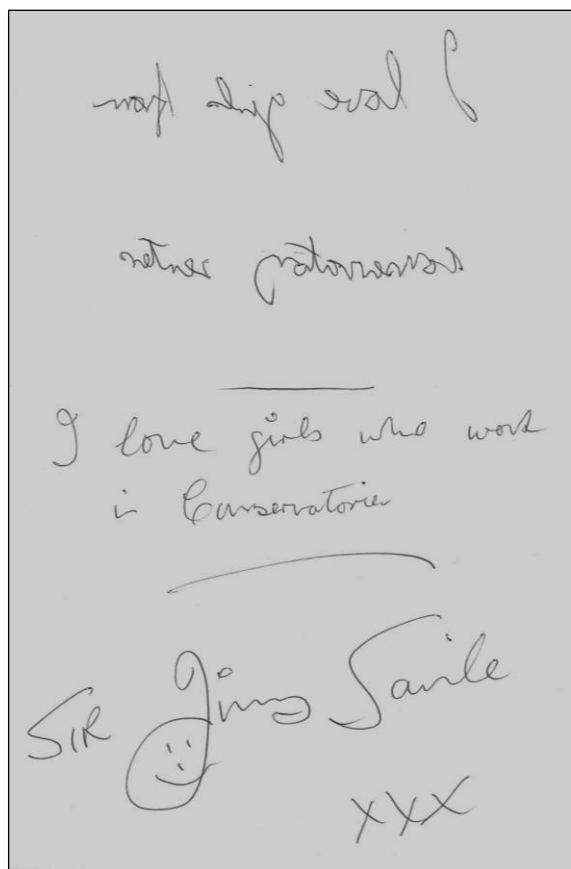
(31 October 1926 – 29 October 2011) was an English DJ, television and radio personality, dance hall manager, and charity fundraiser. He hosted the BBC television show *Jim'll Fix It*, was the first and last presenter of the long-running BBC music chart show *Top of the Pops*, and raised an estimated £40 million for charities. At the time of his death he was widely praised for his personal qualities and as a fund-raiser. After his death, hundreds of allegations of sexual abuse were made against him, leading the police to believe that Savile was a predatory sex offender, and that he may have been one of Britain's most prolific sexual offenders. There had been allegations during his lifetime, but they were dismissed and accusers ignored or disbelieved; Savile took legal action against some accusers

I added JS recently to my S&C in HW lectures, firstly because I met him in 2009 and I could not contemplate talking about it after the allegations; and secondly, because he was never charged. However I remain objective on this issue and let others judge the handwriting possibilities. It is unfortunate that any good he did, is now sullied.

When I explained that I was a graphologist, he was fascinated, but declined to give me a sample. I told him that it would show how clever he was – so he relented. He was then very happy to show his “mirror writing” proving that he likes to challenge himself and flex his cleverness.

He chose the layout of his printed stationery, and then followed the crooked margin. Variable left margin is an indicator of people who chose alternative life styles, and don't stick to convention. They want to do it their way. Note the chaotic left margin, yet the efficient spacing between lines. Smiley faces were not the norm, he wanted to be loved. Sharp-points at top of middle zone + garland/thread = analytical and charming, iron fist in a velvet glove.

Long t-crosses, garland/string style of handwriting. He was motivated to elevate others. Clever. Signature leans opposite direction to text.



Highly connected – diligent and persistent.

After such a gory subject and on a lighter note, I had the pleasure working on 20th Century musicians and their handwriting (requested by the New Musical Express). Drumroll please.....