

A Mystery Brit

Arlyn Imberman Decodes the Handwriting of a Mystery Brit

Handwriting analysis is a controversial subject among autograph experts and forensic document examiners, but nonetheless a tool that may reveal something more about the person holding the pen. This month, Autograph's new columnist, graphologist Arlyn Imberman, was asked to analyze an anonymous handwriting sample in order to see what it may reveal of the person writing. There are certain traits, however, that cannot be definitively determined by handwriting alone. These include age, gender, right- or left-handedness and nationality. The handwriting sample to the right is of a left-handed female from the United Kingdom, who is currently in her 80s (Note: The traits of the person whose handwriting is being analyzed may have changed since the time of this writing). This analysis is the sole opinion of the author.

By Arlyn Imberman

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The upright slant of the letters reveals two of this writer's most important qualities: self-control and discipline. The movement and liquidity of the script illustrate she is capable of flexibility (as long as it does not violate her personal boundaries). There is, however, an unevenness in the middle zone (the letters that rest on the baseline), which is the area that represents the ego or self-concept. The inconsistency and variation of letters indicate a changing sense of self-worth. Compare it to the emphasis on the upper zone, which represents rules and regulations. This writing reveals conflict between the demands of her conscience and a desire for freedom from obligations she undertakes. The writer is caught between a need for spontaneity and the reminder of her responsibilities.

It must be very hard work to have two weddings so close to each other for there is so much to arrange, but you can have a longer rest, I hope, before the next one!

The stroke is firm, which confirms a strong sense of what she should do and what she believes in. The script is smooth, practiced, and somewhat sophisticated. There is careful distance between words and even between letters in the words "and" (third line from the bottom) and "you" (second line from the bottom). The change in the size of the letters, particularly the last three lines of the note, shows a very well masked sense of insecurity and variation of self-concept. She has some, but not all, components of "emotional intelligence." These traits are shown in:

Motivation: The movement of letters to the right of the page, which signifies future goals and objectives.

Social Skill: The interesting writing connections mentioned earlier, which are smooth, rhythmic and quick.

Self-regulation: The uprightness of the letters showing discipline, but little self-awareness, warmth or empathy.

The height of the capital "T's" throughout the letter reflect the writer's sense of self, dignity, and importance. It is very apparent in the t-crosses, which are high off the stem, and show that the writer's reach exceeds her grasp. This is also confirmation of high personal expectations, both of herself and those around her.

There is perseverance and smoothness in the letters on the page. The lines between the words are clear and open showing awareness socially, but not on an emotional level. The writing pattern and use of space shows she negotiates her world well, leaving options when necessary. The uneven space between words, however, shows an uncertainty between herself and others. Therefore, she considers it safer to keep a specific distance between herself and those around her. She experiences an ongoing conflict between her upbringing as a "good girl" and her wish to be a person of authenticity.

The writer would like to believe she has empathy for others, but it really is not a high priority. She does not see the value of nurturing or developing those around her. People with this writing style are detail-oriented with a great need for activity. They are competent in the pursuit of their goals, negotiating their world well. This is an organized, responsible woman who purposely maintains an emotional distance, but is blessed with perseverance, discipline, and fortitude.

Can you guess who it is? The handwriting sample belongs to Queen Elizabeth II.

Handwriting sample courtesy The National Society for Graphology