



Darrellyn Gunzburg

Darrellyn Gunzburg is a professional consulting and teaching astrologer who lives in Bristol, UK. Her publications include *Under Capricorn: An Anthology of Australian Astrology* (editor)(1990), and *Life After Grief: An Astrological Guide to Dealing with Loss* (The Wessex Astrologer, 2004). She is also co-author of *The Visual Astrology Newsletter*. Her current work, *On Reading Charts*, is to be published by The Wessex Astrologer in 2008. Darrellyn holds a BA (Hons) from the Open University, majoring in art history, and is about to begin post-graduate work in art history and astrology. Darrellyn can be reached for consultation work or tutoring at: www.AstroLogos.co.uk



“He does not separate his words—I do not trust him.”

Comment by Roman historian Suetonius Tranquillus (69—122CE)
about Emperor Augustus

Introduction

They used to be all the rage in 700 CE—the flight feather of a large bird, preferably swan. The finest were taken from the left wing, as they curved away from you when you wrote right-handed. Then came the metal dip pen, the fountain pen, and eventually the ballpoint pen. Now not only have word processors given us the ability to change thought and expression at the press of a key, but as email and texting, webcams, internet phone calls and instant messaging become the norm, so we use pen and ink less and less to correspond with others. Yet whilst it is true that the task of handwriting has changed hugely as a public function, we still use handwriting in our daily lives. We handwrite notes to ourselves, often including our private writings and diaries. We handwrite cheques. When we really care about someone, we handwrite letters or cards.

So, while the word-processed letter creates legibility, for ease of documentation or a personal touch nothing beats the five fingers at the end of your arm. You carry them with you everywhere you go, connected to your brain and your heart, your emotions and your intellect. Their output reflects your moods, your thoughts and your ability to converse. In a word, they produce art that is a reflection of YOU, and therefore by correlation they reflect your chart, for we can define a chart as an unfolding narrative of our lives containing major themes and issues with which we wrestle and unpack our whole lives. Your handwriting won't necessarily reflect your entire chart at the one time, for as we are all aware, we work on different parts of our chart at different times, just as you would have observed how your handwriting changes depending upon your age and frame of mind. So, let me introduce you to some people, their handwriting and their charts.

Meet “Suzanne”...

“Suzanne” has printed her birth data with an even hand and with consistent spaces between the words. However, the request for her horoscope is written

in cursive writing with the letters tightly bunched together. The letters are of even height and sit uniformly on a horizontal plane, yet the word “Thankyou”, written as one word, slopes upwards. Nevertheless, the dominant characteristics of this woman’s writing are the backward flicks of the capital “P”, the backward hooks of the “y” and “g”, the hook on the end of the “p” of “horoscope” and the convoluted finial of the “y” of “Thankyou”.

DOB: 6th November 1964.
 Place: Glenelg. South Australia.
 Time: 6:50 am

Please send my horoscope with moon sign. Thankyou.

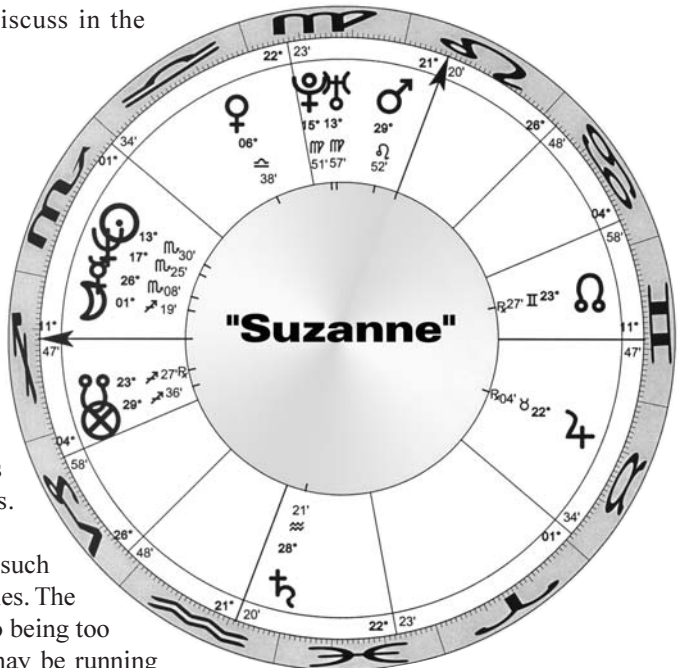
Like dreams, our writing puns. Hooks on letters are where people put their hooks into other people. These hooks sit below the line, hence in the realm of the emotions, and end with a leftward movement, indicating issues from the past holding her back. If they are family issues or neuroses, they more than often reflect that the person has planets or luminaries in the 12th house, planets perhaps concerned with betrayal and deception. Even the hook on the “y” of “Thankyou”, the word itself slanted upwards indicating optimism, moves forward only to be pulled backwards again. Such tight letters pulled in close point towards fearfulness. “Suzanne” is not allowing anyone into her personal space.

This piece of art describes “Suzanne”’s state of mind at the time she requested a consultation. When she writes her birth data, she uses her intellect; when she makes the request, she is fearful and closed. Already “Suzanne” has told me a great deal about herself through her handwriting regarding the issues she unconsciously wants, or needs, to discuss in the astrological session.

Now look at her chart

“Suzanne” was born in 1964 and has a Sagittarian Ascendant. She is seen by others as inspiring and passionate. Her primary drive is to gain power and freedom of action (fire Ascendant), achieved through the ruler, Jupiter in the 6th house in Taurus square to the MC. Yet Jupiter is also part of a fixed grand cross.

As astrologers, we can observe such a chart and note possible difficulties. The grand cross can lay itself open to being too scattered, and thus “Suzanne” may be running



around in circles for other people and not achieve anything of substance for herself. Mars-Saturn can bring in health difficulties such as arthritis and rheumatism, from issues to do with blocked anger. Unaspected Venus in rulership in the 11th house can swing between feeling inadequate in respect of social or relating skills and being socially gregarious. Likewise the unaspected Moon in the 12th house ruling the 8th house can feel emotionally connected and inspired by change or emotionally disconnected and in upheaval.

However, none of those aspects is making the astrological appointment. “Suzanne”’s handwriting tells you it is the Sun-Neptune-Mercury in Scorpio in the 12th house that has put pen to paper. “Suzanne” may find that her family issues of betrayal and deception are too intense and thus may even not be aware them. However, “Suzanne”’s handwriting tells you that they are dominant issues for her.

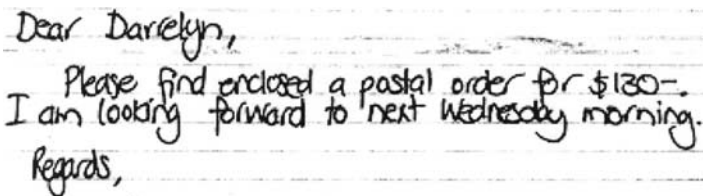
Yet what if she consciously changed the hooks to loops? Would this then become a deliberate signal every time she made those strokes for her not to buy into the family pattern, not to repeat the same issues embedded in her family’s history? Would this not be a tiny change that could ricochet through her entire life? She could then make more informed choices about how she could explore her Sun-Neptune-Mercury, giving voice to the issues through the arts or healing, possibly via some large organisation.

A client’s handwriting thus becomes an immensely valuable tool in alerting you as the consulting astrologer to the Achilles heel that is ready to change once they have become aware of the issues. For “Suzanne”, changing the hooks to loops could help her to become conscious of what she was changing every time she wrote.

Now meet “Cheryl”...

In the handwriting of “Cheryl”, a young woman born in 1971, the letters are pressed tightly together and relatively upright. There is little space between the letters and uneven spaces between the words. The writing

seems fenced in or bound in some way, suggesting Saturn may be an inhibiting factor in her chart, emphasised by the fact that the writing is printed and sits neatly within and on the

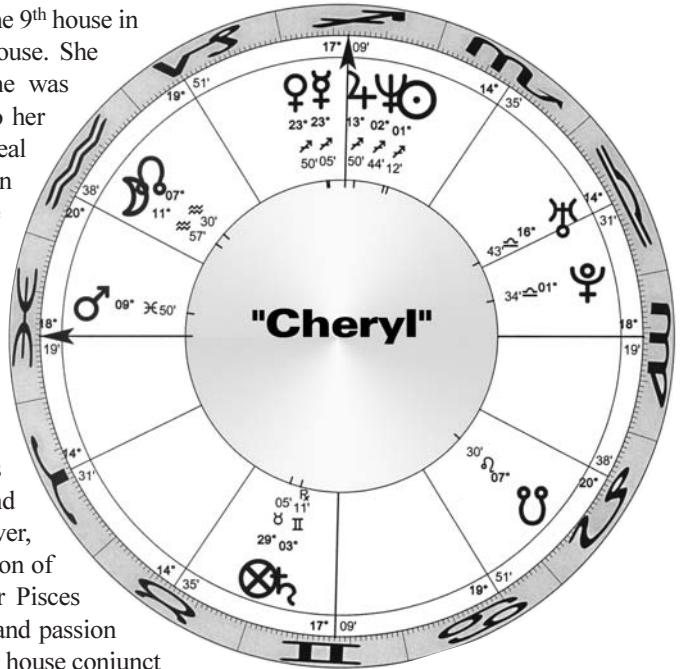


Dear Darielyn,
Please find enclosed a postal order for \$130.
I am looking forward to next Wednesday morning.
Regards,

lines, implying that she “toes the line” in her life. “Cheryl” was forwarding me money for an astrological consultation, so perhaps she wanted to show me that she was responsible and capable (Saturn). Yet the correspondence was written on a piece of student notepaper, lined with a punched hole in the side, so perhaps she also wanted to demonstrate to me that she was a student of life in some way, possibly indicating an emphasised third-house-ninth house axis in her chart.

Look at her chart

“Cheryl” was born in 1971. She has her Sun in Sagittarius, conjunct Neptune in the 9th house in opposition to Saturn in the 3rd house. She came to see me in 1999, as she was turning twenty-eight years old, so her handwriting revealed a good deal regarding her Sun-Saturn opposition, the fear of failure reflected in the tightly held letters. It also reflected her Moon in Aquarius trine Uranus that found emotions so uncomfortable and felt more at ease with ideas and concepts, and the fear of relating with Pluto in the 7th house, causing the letters to bunch up upon each other and not let anyone into her life. However, where were the artistry and intuition of the Sun conjunct Neptune or her Pisces Ascendant? Where were the fire and passion of the Jupiter in rulership in the 9th house conjunct the MC and ruler of the Ascendant, or the Mercury-Venus conjunction in Sagittarius in the 10th house?



With her Saturn return ahead of her and transiting Pluto about to conjoin her MC in 2002, bringing irrevocable change to her social status or career through relationships, there was much to discuss regarding her fear of being swamped by emotion and passion. One way of helping her was to suggest a small change in the strokes of her handwriting, either opening out the letters to let other people into her life or putting loops on her “f”s and “l”s and thus reaching for her dreams. Acting as a visual cue every time she made one of these new strokes allowed her to process and consciously acknowledge some of the changes she wanted



ASTROLOGY & MEDICINE NEWSLETTER



**The Astrology and Medicine Newsletter exists to promote the study of
Medical Astrology**

Current subscription rate is £7:00 for three issues (£9:50 overseas).

**For information contact
Wanda Sellar DMS Astrol. QHP
53 Swan Street, Sible Hedingham, Essex CO9 3HT
Telephone 01787 463459, Email: wanda.sellar@virgin.net**

to bring into her life as the predictive work unfolded. This way, instead of using her Saturn, the singleton which was also the handle of the bucket of planets held within the five signs stretching between Libra and Pisces, as a shield to hide her confusion, she began to redefine herself (Sun-Saturn) as an artist (Sun-Neptune) and a motivated and inspirational teacher (Jupiter conjunct the MC square Mars) with a passion for communication (Venus-Mercury in Sagittarius in the 10th house).

Now meet "Arthur"...

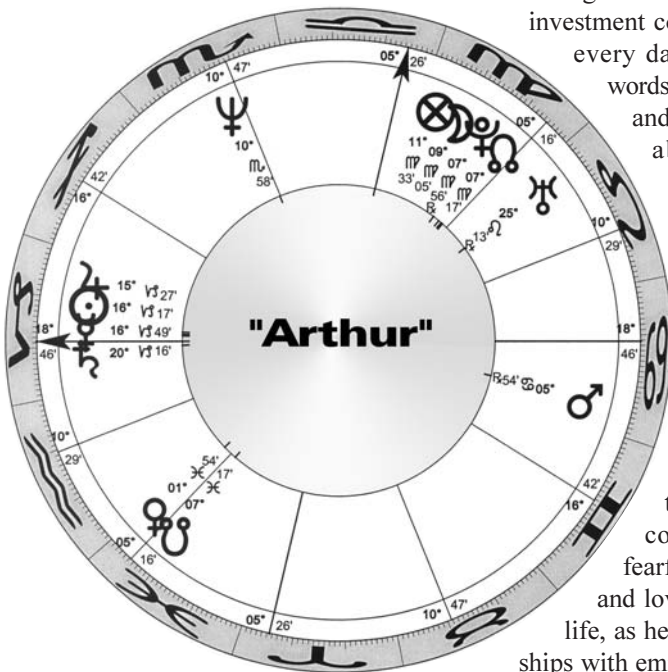
DEAR BARRELYN,
SINCERE THANKS FOR PROVIDING
A CLEARER PICTURE ON MY
 CIRCUMSTANCES. HOPEFULLY I WILL
 BE HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION
 NEXT YEAR, AND BEYOND!
 KIDS REGARDS,

"Arthur"'s use of printed capital letters in his handwriting shows a tight control of his world. The letters are made with a heavy impression, indicating energy, activity, and at times, aggression. They also slope towards the right, indicating that he reaches out to his future. He even writes that he hopes he will be heading in the "right" direction in the New Year. However, the letters are boxed firmly within the narrow parallel

tramlines (added by me) of his mundane practical reality, allowing few emotions to escape.

Look at his chart...

"Arthur" was born in 1961. When he came to see me late in 2001, he was working as a financial advisor for a large finance investment company. He said that he "gets up every day hating to go in to work" (his words). He also worked the stock market, and he came to me wanting to know about finances and wealth. He admitted that he was a gambler, preferring to rush passionately forward and turn money around in a day. However, he had lost a great deal of money through the fall of the Australian dollar after the terrorist attack in the USA (9/11) so his finances were (he said) in a volatile situation.



What he really wanted to do was to set up as an independent consultant, but he was extremely fearful of failure. In terms of romance and love this was a sticking point in his life, as he was always getting into relationships with empowered, critical women.

Clearly, the stellium in Capricorn on the Ascendant contains issues of fear of failure and inadequacy (Sun-Saturn and Saturn in rulership), role-modelled by enterprises of both father and grandfather which may have gone awry (Sun-Jupiter with the Sun ruling the 8th house and Jupiter ruling the 12th house and in fall), and issues of inhibited communication or feeling mentally inferior (Mercury conjunct Saturn, with Saturn in rulership but Mercury combust the Sun). With the whole stellium engulfing the Ascendant, it is more than likely that this will be reflected in his writing. With Saturn in rulership on the Ascendant, it is fair to suggest that it is probably the one who is “in charge” of the stellium, valiantly attempting to shore up feelings of inadequacy (Sun-Saturn) and mental inferiority (Mercury-Saturn) by over-control.

At my suggestion in the consultation, “Arthur” began to use cursive writing rather than capitals to help his fear of failure. In so doing, he set in train a whole avenue of exploration of other parts of his chart, in particular his Venus in Pisces and the water grand trine. Every time he wrote rather than printed, he gave himself a clear signal of his willingness to surrender more to his intuition, which in turn began to inform his ability to handle money better (Venus-Pluto), rather than his feeling betrayed by monetary transactions. As he gained confidence from this approach, so he gained confidence in taking risks in other areas of his life, such as further study (3rd house-9th house axis). This then allowed him to commit and be analytically obsessive (Moon in Virgo conjunct Pluto) in positive ways, and so take the heat away from this obsessiveness having to express itself in his personal relationships. Armed with academic imprimatur, he was then able to step out into



CULTURE AND COSMOS



A Journal of the History of Astrology and Cultural Astronomy

Editor Nicholas Campion

The very best of historical writing on astrology, including **Robert Zoller** on Hermetic Science, **Michael Molnar** on the Star of Bethlehem, **Robin Waterfield** on Greek Astrology, **Robin Heath** on Solar Hero Myths, **Nicholas Campion** on Freud and Astrology and **Demetra George** on Astrology in Byzantium

Published twice a year in Spring/Summer and Autumn/Winter

Subscriptions (for two issues)

AA Members: £11 UK and Europe, £13 overseas, including the USA and Canada. Send your subscriptions to the Astrological Association, Unit 168, Lee Valley Technopark, Tottenham Hale, London N17 9LN, UK, E mail astrological.association@zetnet.co.uk

Non Members: £13 UK and Europe, £15 overseas, including the USA and Canada. Send subscriptions to PO Box 1071, Bristol BS99 1HE, UK, E mail subs@caol.demon.co.uk,

Back Issues: £6.50 UK and Europe, £7.50 overseas, including the USA and Canada. See www.CultureAndCosmos.com for details of back issues.

the business world as a consultant and sole trader, making friends with Fear and Failure and allowing them to walk beside him, responsible for his own disappointments, which were really ways towards achieving success.

“Arthur”’s handwriting revealed which part of his chart was in charge at the time that he came to see me, and therefore gave a clear focus as to how that part could be assisted.

Now look at Margaret Thatcher, the first woman British Prime Minister...

Margaret Thatcher’s handwriting has an upward slant, signifying an optimistic approach to her world. The writing maintains an even baseline, showing an ability to plan ahead. Coupled with small writing, she has excellent powers of concentration and an aptitude for detail. There is also a generous amount of space between each word and between the lines, indicating a private person who can put space and solitude around herself when necessary.

However, there are also several features which indicate areas of insecurity. Firstly, the relatively small capital “I” pronoun. Despite the air

of authority, a part of her still feels intimidated by the position she holds. Secondly, the way she crosses her “t”s. The high bar indicates lofty ambitions, and when the stroke is long, forceful, and to the right of the stem, it suggests an ability to complete what she starts. Nevertheless, the t-bars are much higher than other letters of a comparable height such as “d”, “k” or “p” and sometimes the bars do not even touch the stem. This is someone who either sets unreachable goals or is never satisfied with what she does achieve. Furthermore, she may bite off more than she can chew and then become upset or frustrated when she cannot complete. Finally, the propeller “f” (moving forward with the top loop and backward with the lower loop) implies that she moves forward in her life only to sabotage or jeopardise her actions in some way.

Now let’s look at her chart

Clearly, Margaret Thatcher’s tenacity and ambition can be seen in her Saturn conjunct the Ascendant, and being connected with the 3rd house by rulership and interception, it gave her the voice of authority. Nevertheless, Saturn conjunct

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

Dear Mrs Ward,

Thank you for your message of
congratulation following the
election. I did appreciate it.

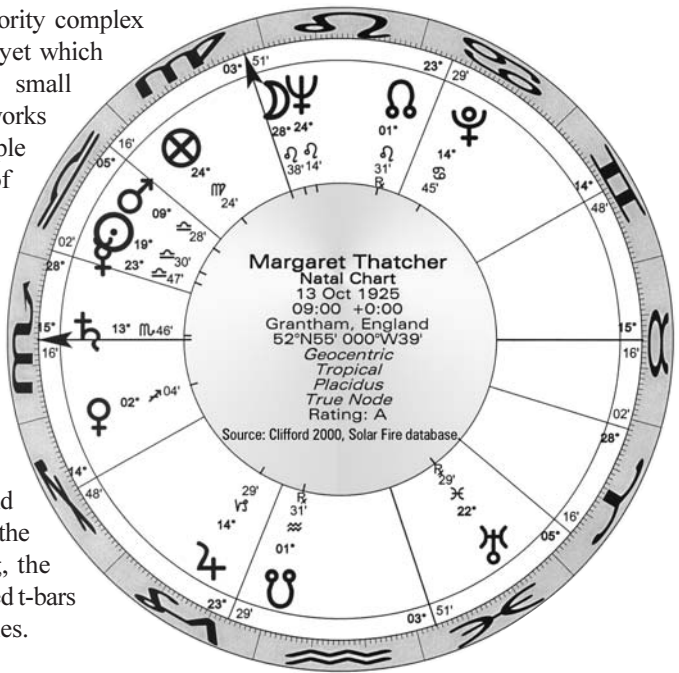
It was vital for the Government
to be returned with a clear and
decisive majority. We can now continue
with our task knowing that we have
the necessary support at home and
confidence abroad.

With every good wish.

Margaret Thatcher

the Ascendant indicates an inferiority complex that she hides from public view, yet which sits in her handwriting as the small capital “I” pronoun. Hence, she works harder and longer than other people as a way of hiding this fear of failure (the unanchored t-bars).

This need to be respected is echoed by a love of power embodied in the t-square (Mars-Pluto-Jupiter). Yet with Jupiter in fall and Mars in Cancer, she was being asked to employ alternative, non-mainstream ways of solving problems to do with resources and groups. This was not her way and the propeller “f” in her handwriting, the small capital “I” and the unanchored t-bars are windows into her vulnerabilities.



If Margaret Thatcher had come to you as a client, how could you have advised her? You could have suggested that she increase the size of her capital “I”, which would have allowed her to examine her Saturn conjunct the Ascendant and the ramifications of her sense of inferiority. You could have encouraged her to lower the size of the “t” and draw the cross bar firmly attached to the top, crossing from left to right and inclined slightly upwards. This would have lowered her sights to goals more easily achieved and thus given her greater satisfaction in her work. You could also have suggested she form her “f”s in a more conventional fashion rather than as a figure 8. This would have relaxed the pressure of her need to keep accomplishing and helped her to be happier with her success, giving her more opportunities to explore the charisma, intuition and inspiration of her Moon-Neptune conjunction square to Venus. The ramifications for her as leader would have been immense.

In conclusion

The aim of this short article is to give you insights into how to consider handwriting in connection with natal charts and to allow you to see how the two are intimately connected. Of the unique themes and issues that our charts display, it is your handwriting which will give you clues to what part is stepping forward at any one time to be helped. Your handwriting thus gives you a framework for the expression of issues in your natal chart and can be of immense help to you in shifting your narrative.

Therefore, simply recognise that one small change in your handwriting can produce an avalanche of effects further down your pathway, and as astrologers we gain a unique insight into which part of the handwriting to change.

