



MODERN SCRAWL—Trying to read the handwriting of many people today can make you want to pull your hair. Old-time penmanship was often elegant, as in the Declaration of Independence.

Handwriting, Once an Art, Shown by Old Manuscripts

Anyone who has ever tried to read a doctor's prescription knows that physicians have notoriously bad handwriting. A look at an exhibit of fine handwriting in Perkins Library might provide a welcome change.

By Earl Wolslagel

If you have ever had trouble reading letters from your Aunt Tillie or hastily scribbled messages from well-wishing friends far away, it is probably because handwriting styles follow no precise format these days.

They are largely the result of individual preferences and habits of the writer. There is little resemblance between today's "running round hand" and 16th century "italic hand" or the Gothic script known as "secretary hand" that prevailed in the later Middle Ages on into the 17th century.

Carelessness and less frequent practice and use of handwriting are

also to blame, experts say.

Bill Erwin, assistant curator of manuscripts in the Perkins Library, has more than passing interest in fine handwriting.

Elegant Penmanship

He likes to talk about calligraphy, a word that is perhaps more appropriate to describe the old-time elegant penmanship seen infrequently these days.

Recently, Erwin began digging through old manuscripts for examples of fine script. He came up with many samples of several distinctive handwriting styles developed in the last four centuries.

Now he has put them on public view in the manuscript department on the third floor of Perkins Library.

There are dog-eared pages of hand-bound, hand-scripted volumes, well-thumbed ledgers, notebooks, diaries and copies of letters written by well-known figures of history. Each item has its own background information on handwriting style, peculiarities and source.

Commonly Used Script

Erwin says that at the time of Queen Elizabeth I, two major styles of handwriting were in competition for common usage. One, "secretary," was the Gothic script which had emerged from the Middle Ages and "met the need for writing that was widely understandable in a world in which business and literacy were expanding.

"It was a script that could be executed more quickly than the formal hands used on documents of that day," he said. "But its widespread use ceased in the 1600s."

Chief competition with secretary hand was italic. Originating during the Italian Renaissance and bearing a definitive Roman script, it arrived in

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DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Wife of Vice Presidential Nominee

Duke Trustee in National News

A Duke trustee gained the national spotlight last week when her husband was nominated as Gerald Ford's vice presidential running mate.

Elizabeth Hanford Dole, a federal trade commissioner, will be "a great help" to her husband Sen. Robert Dole in the fall election campaign, believes Jean Brumley Jr., wife of Dr. George Brumley Jr., associate professor of pediatrics.

Mrs. Brumley and Commissioner Dole grew up together in Salisbury and were undergraduates together at Duke. The two women are still good friends, and Mrs. Brumley had been looking forward to a quiet visit when Commissioner Dole came to the Duke trustees' meeting this year. Now if there is a visit, it will hardly be quiet.

Excellent Public Speaker

Mrs. Brumley described Commissioner Dole as "an excellent public speaker and a charming Southern lady. She is very poised and makes her opinions known in a tactful way.

"She married much after her contemporaries," Mrs. Brumley commented. "She's a career woman in her own right and her husband had to be quite a person." The Doles dated for several years before they married, the second marriage for him but the first for her.

Missing the Dole-Hanford wedding last December was a disappointment to Mrs. Brumley, who just returned in June from a year in Europe during Dr. Brumley's sabbatical from the medical center.

Senator Equally Delightful

"I certainly think a lot of both of them," she said of the Doles. "Sen. Dole is equally delightful. He's a very warm person, and our children are very fond of him."

During a trip to Washington, the

Brumley children especially enjoyed lunch in the Senate Dining Room and a ride on the train between the Capitol and the Senate Office Building as guests of Sen. Dole.

Mrs. Brumley expects Commissioner Dole to maintain a career regardless of the November election outcome.

Good Training at Duke

She got good training in administration and public speaking as president of Duke Women's College in 1957-58. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa, she earned a law degree at Harvard and spent a summer as an intern at the United Nations.

She went to Washington in 1966 during the Lyndon Johnson administration and began her career by representing indigent defendants in the District of Columbia court system and by serving on the staff of the assistant secretary for education in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

From 1971 to 1973, Commissioner Dole was deputy director of consumer affairs. She won the Arthur S. Fleming Award for outstanding government service in 1972.

Leader of Tomorrow

In 1974 *Time* named her one of 200 "Young Leaders of Tomorrow," and Richard Nixon appointed her to a seven-year term on the Federal Trade Commission, a post she may have to resign because of possible legal or constitutional problems related to her husband's national campaign and possible election.

"I think Elizabeth is a very sincere and warm person," Mrs. Brumley said. "She has remained down-to-earth and interested in old friends and hometown ties."

She has been active in alumni

affairs at Duke and in 1974 was elected to the Board of Trustees by the alumni. She was chairman of the Loyalty Fund last year, the first year the drive went over \$1 million, and is chairman again this year.

N.C.'s First Relapsing Fever Cured

A former Duke student suffering from the first known case of relapsing fever in North Carolina was cured this summer by a group of Durham physicians.

Only three to five cases of the possibly fatal, tick-carried disease are seen each year in the United States, mainly on the west coast, said Dr. Allan J. Lester, director of the Duke Convenience Clinic, which provides primary health care to the Durham community.

Four days after his return from a camping trip in California and Oregon, the 25-year-old patient became ill with flu-like symptoms, high fever, chills and difficulty in walking. After an examination at the Convenience Clinic, the patient was admitted to Watts Hospital with a diagnosis of "fever of undetermined origin," Lester reported in the *Center for Disease Control's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

Routine lab tests were normal, and Lester ordered a test for malaria. Dr. Kenneth Grim, a pathologist at Watts and one of the few American doctors familiar with the relapsing fever spirochete called *Borrelia*, recognized the spirochete on the blood smear.

Treatment was begun at once. After an initial reaction to the medication, the patient made a steady recovery and was discharged from the hospital four days later.

The patient evidently had picked up the disease during his camping trip even though he did not notice any tick bites, Lester explained. The *Ornithodoros* ticks that transmit the disease do not have a painful bite and often drop off before they are noticed.

Cases of relapsing fever occur in warm months when ticks are active in logs, stumps, rodent burrows and rustic cabins. Most infections involve tourists, campers, hikers and hunters who invade sparsely populated areas.

Visitors to such areas should consider using insect repellents, Lester recommended.



DISEASE CARRIER—This is the *Ornithodoros* tick that transmits relapsing fever. Found in the western United States, it is a soft tick, unlike the hard ones found in this area.