

MARCH OF CRIME

MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA—LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

ARIZONA CRIME WAVE—BIG SUCCESS

By Kris Neri

The Arizona meeting of the SoCal Chapter of MWA was held on Friday, August 1, in the stunningly beautiful red rock country of Sedona, Arizona. It was a unique, fun and well-attended meeting.

Hosted by me and my husband Joe, the festivities began with an author reception, sponsored by the SoCal chapter, at our bookstore, The Well Red Coyote. Featured Arizona authors, Betty Webb, Donis Casey, Ben Small and Kerrie Droban, mingled with fellow MWA (and some SinC) members as well as some 30+ readers, conversations being lubricated with wine, cheese and other goodies. Crime scene tape ringed much of the store, and a welcome sign read: "Welcome, mystery writers, readers, amateur sleuths, private eyes, damaged police detectives, victims & corpses."

Just before 6:00 pm, we all assembled at the nearby Sedona Public Library for the formal program, a panel discussion with the four featured authors, moderated by me. Besides being an



One of the AZ panels.

official MWA program, the panel discussion was also part of the weekly Author Series of the Sedona Public Library's 50th Anniversary Celebration.

The lively and entertaining panel members gave the audience a wonderful glimpse into the worlds of mysteries and thrillers, as well as true crime. Among the high points were discussions of why mysteries are so well suited to showcasing social ills, the appeal of historical mysteries, a look at the current popularity of the thriller, and the genuine risks true crime writers sometimes take when

they describe the exploits of some seriously bad people. The Well Red Coyote handled books sales for the authors, with most titles selling out by the end of the program.

Afterwards, we all met at Casa Bonita, a local Mexican restaurant, for some great food and drinks, and conversation that lasted well into the evening. For another glimpse of the event, check out Donis Casey's blog, "Mysteries and Mexican Food," at: <http://fatalfoodies.blogspot.com/2008/08/mysteries-and-mexican-food.html>.



AZ Crime Reception

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MWA AND SINC AT UCLA

So Cal MWA and Sisters In Crime/L.A. invite you to a Wine & Hors d'oeuvres Reception to mingle and meet our Special Guests: Members of Sisters In Crime/O.C.

When: Saturday, September 13, 2008 from 5-8 PM

Where: The elegant UCLA Faculty Center on the UCLA Campus,

480 Charles Young Drive, Los Angeles

FREE TO MEMBERS OF SOCAL MWA, SINC/LA, SINC/OC

GUESTS: \$15 per person til Sept 7 (\$20 after/at the door)

Hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks included - Cash Bar - Parking: \$8.00

RSVP: September 8, 2007 via email to: sistersinrimela@yahoo.com

Guests may pay by Check or Paypal as follows: Paypal through the MWA Website: www.socalmwa.com
Checks — Make payable and mail to: SOCAL MWA 12021 Wilshire Blvd, 506, Los Angeles, CA 90025

Directions/Parking: <http://facultycenter.ucla.edu> (click on "Access to the Center")

The President's Rap Sheet



As we swing into our Fall activities, one theme predominates: Community, specifically, the community of writers. We wrapped up the summer with a well-attended gumbo party at Bill Fitzhugh's compound (yes, Bill cooked every dish from scratch!), giving us a chance to catch up on members' various projects and deadlines. Next up is our annual event at the UCLA Faculty Center, co-sponsored with Sisters in Crime (Los Angeles) and featuring our special guests, the members of Sisters in Crime (Orange County). The energy of the Sisters (many of whose members are also SoCal MWA members) is infectious—more on that below.

September also brings our participation in the West Hollywood Book Fair on September 28. This event, unfairly overshadowed by its big brother the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, attracts over 30,000 people and provides a great platform for our members to speak to readers. There are five mystery panels this year, coordinated by our own John Morgan Wilson, and we have our own

booth. If you haven't worked at an MWA booth before, you've missed a chance to explain to the world who we are and why we do what we do (and work on your tan)!

October will be a busy month too. Not only do we have a stellar program on tap about lawyers and writing (hmmm—why do so many writers find writing to be more satisfying?) but the beginning of the month will find many of our members in Baltimore, attending and participating in BoucherCon, the granddaddy of mystery conventions. For those who have never attended, it's a unique opportunity to meet authors, agents, publishers, and fans. While some panels get repetitious ("Where do you get your ideas?" always is a hot topic), the chance to put faces and voices together with the names of your favorite authors is a treat.

What's the point of it all? One member recently buttonholed me about our program this year, complaining that he wanted more "programming." We've tried hard to change things a bit this year, to balance educational programs with networking opportunities. We've had some

great panels on agents, poisons, and the like—we've also had public outreach activities (the Palm Springs Book Festival, the L.A. Times event, and the upcoming WeHo fair) and parties. We try to provide an opportunity for writers to learn from other writers. Sometimes that's in a didactic setting—sometimes it's in an informal conversation about one's agent, one's writing habits, one's publisher, or one's headaches.

We're hard at work planning our biggest program ever, a two-day event to be called the California Crimewriters' Conference. This is a joint effort with SinCLA to be held in June 2009, focused on lectures and workshops on the craft of crimewriting. In the past, SinCLA's wonderful "No Crimes Unpublished" conference has focused on new writers, especially those who haven't had their work published. This new program is intended to appeal to all writers, exploring every aspect of the craft, including selling, marketing, editing, and rewriting. We hope to have some of our superstars participate, with a special forensics track and programs on screenwriting and television writing added to the normal curriculum. Stay tuned for further details!

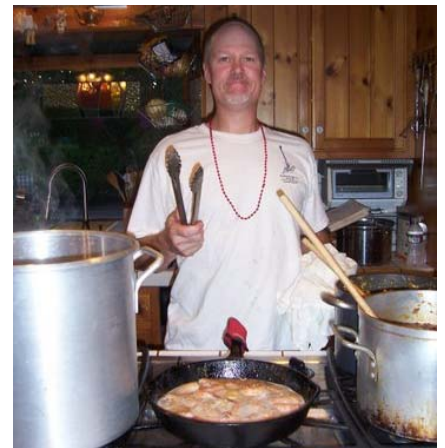
GUMBO GATHERING GREAT!

By Dianne Emley

A lively crowd gathered at the home of SoCal MWA board member Bill Fitzhugh and his wife Kendall for a festive gumbo party. Bill slaved over a hot stove, in the San Fernando Valley heat, cooking three types of gumbo, shrimp etouffee, boiled shrimp-in-the-shell, and all the fixin's. Party-goers were festooned with Mardi Gras beads and chowed down to zydeco music. A great time was had by all.



Debbie Mitsch, Jeff Boxer, Steve Hodel



Gumbo Master Bill Fitzhugh



Pamela Samuels-Young and Randy Young



Chris Faust and Dan Kelly



Susan Kosar Beery and Bob Levinson



Naomi Hirahara, Robert Fate, Sheila Lowe

NEWS



• John Morgan Wilson, one of the organizers of the West Hollywood Book Fair, tells us that nearly two dozen MWA members will be among the more than 200 author panelists and moderators at the seventh annual West Hollywood Book Fair on Sunday, September 28. For details, log on to www.westhollywoodbookfair.org/. It's a free event!

• And many of our members will be "Charmed to Death" and participating in this year's Bouchercon in Baltimore, from Oct 9-12. We hope to see many of

you there to cheer on your fellow writers as they dazzle on their panels.

• Bob Levinson was commissioned a Kentucky Colonel by Gov. Steve Beshear during his visit to RiverPark Center in Owensboro, KY, where his play, "Murder Times Two," was staged as part of the second annual International Mystery Writers' Festival. So is it "Colonel Bob" now?



Featured panelists at the second annual International Mystery Writers' Festival of RiverPark Center in Owensboro, KY, were (from left) MWA Grand Master **Stuart Kaminsky**, **Carol Higgins Clark**, MWA Grand Master **Mary Higgins Clark**, and **Robert S. Levinson**.

UPCOMING EVENTS—MARK YOUR CALENDARS

September: *Cocktails and Eats*

Saturday, September 13. 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

SoCal MWA and Sisters in Crime/LA co-host a reception at the UCLA Faculty Center.

480 Charles Young Drive, Los Angeles

Special Guests: Member of Sisters in Crime Orange County

FREE TO MEMBERS OF SOCAL MWA, SINC/LA, SINC/OC

GUESTS: \$15 per person 'til Sept 7 (\$20 after/at the door)

More info here: <http://www.socalmwa.com/home.htm>

September: *WeHo Book Fair*

Sunday, September 28.

Visit the SoCal MWA booth at the West Hollywood Book Fair.

To help with staffing, contact Linda Johnson:

lojohnston@yahoo.com

More info:

<http://www.weho.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/DetailGroup/navid/339/cid/1980/>

October: *Panel: Lawyers (Hyphen) Writers*

Sunday, October 26. 11:00 a.m. Champagne Brunch.

Sportsmen's Lodge, Studio City

Pamela Samuels-Young will moderate a panel of lawyer-writers including Paul Levine, Les Klinger, and others to be announced.

November: *Panel: From the Page to the Screen*

Sunday, November 16. 11:00 a.m. Champagne Brunch.

Sportsmen's Lodge, Studio City

Bill Fitzhugh will moderate a discussion with producer Trevor Albert ("The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen," "Because of Winn Dixie," "Bedazzled," "Groundhog Day" and actor/writer/producer James Keach ("Walk the Line").

December: *Holiday Party*

Sunday, December 14. 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Hors d'oeuvres and no-host bar.

The Jonathan Club at the Beach

850 Palisades Beach Road, Santa Monica, CA 90403

Killer Quote

More from Raymond Chandler, a favorite mystery author of the past.

"Cops are just people," she said irrelevantly. "They start out that way, I've heard."
 – "Farewell, My Lovely" By Raymond Chandler

WAKE UP CALL

New Expectations for Forensic Accuracy in Today's Mystery and Crime Writing

By Jeff Boxer

1: "She thumbed off the safety of her S&W Model 10 service revolver..."

2: "Murphy could tell from the burn marks that Jackie Rotten had been shot at point blank range..."

3: "The Vegas CSI crew knew the bullet's angle of entry would give their lab team the exact info they needed to determine from which hotel and precisely from which window the shooter fired."

4: "...and the bullet hole in the wall, that was made by a .357 Magnum, for sure."

5: "He could tell from the graininess of the image that it was taken with a high-speed, super-telephoto lens..."

The above examples, paraphrased from actual scripts and crime novel pages, contain everything from basic hardware errors and common misnomers to egregious issues with forensic procedure and scientific application. Regardless of whether they came through lack of knowledge or conscious decision to go for drama vs. accuracy, these were in each case needless and risky. Here's the lowdown.

1: There have been few revolvers in history that featured a safety; the Smith & Wesson Model 10 was not one of them.

2: The application of the term "point blank range" to connote extremely close gun deployment is possibly the most common error in crime writing, both for print and TV. I've even heard the phrase employed during a capital case by an alleged "Firearms Expert." The actual term "point blank" refers to any range that does not require adjusting one's aim or one's sighting mechanism to hit a designated target.

Given the trajectory of most modern handgun ammunition, point blank range could easily extend to 75-plus yards to make a lethal hit on a human target.

3: Two problems with this scenario. Without knowing the vic's exact body position when hit, there is no method for establishing the bullet's path. The trickier issue is that, even

with a photographic record of the shoot, essential ballistic issues vital for an accurate call, such as the cartridge/powder load and weapon barrel length are unavailable. Pure science? No, as written, it's pure science fiction.

4: No crime scene investigator worth his or her salt would ever make this remark. Beyond deformation in wall sheet rock caused by an object traveling at high speeds, there are many bullet/cartridge combinations that have similar diameters.

The .357 Magnum and the .38 Special can fire the exact same bullet, and ditto for the .380 and the 9mm. All four of them would create hole diameters similar within a few 1/100^{ths} of an inch.

5: Big trouble here; today's consumers have become very familiar with modern, digital photography equipment and its capabilities. In pure, technical terms, image graininess has nothing to do with either the speed (f-stop) or length of a lens.

As all of these examples come from highly successful shows and authors, the question might be asked: "if they can get away with it, why should I bother to do any better?" While the final decision is yours to make, I suggest you consider the following argumentum.

Mea Culpa, I am not a mystery/crime writer (unless you consider the filing of a forensic report on a homicide investigation as literature). That's your job; I am a Forensic Specialist and Expert Witness in firearms and technical/medical photography with a background in investigative journalism and criminology. I've also spent the greater part of the last two decades consulting for prime-time crime shows through an old college buddy, Emmy Award-winning Writer and Exec. Prod. William M. Finkelstein (*L.A. Law*, *Murder One*, *Brooklyn South*, *Civil Wars*, *Law & Order*, *N.Y.P.D. Blue*).

A few weeks ago, I was sharing some back-and-forth on the "biz" with another friend who has for the last decade plus

Continued on page 7

Fresh Blood

Active

Stephen J. Cannell (Hollywood, CA)
Wendy Hornsby (Long Beach, CA)

Affiliate

Linda C. Manning (Valley Village, CA)
Justene Adamec (La Canada, CA)
Pamela Asbury-Smith (Tucson, AZ)
Todd Drucker (Los Angeles, CA)
Travis Richardson (Los Angeles, CA)

NEW ADDRESS FOR NATIONAL MWA

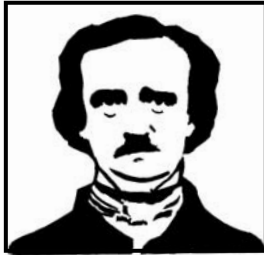
MWA National's new address is:

Mystery Writers of America • 1140 Broadway, Suite 1507
New York, NY 10001

Phone, fax and email remain the same, but here they are again in case you need them:

Phone: 212.888.8171 • Fax: 212.888.8107

Email: mwa@mysterywriters.org • Website: www.mysterywriters.org



Ah Fall! When the Fall releases sprinkle down like drops of blood. Will the critics be rav'n? Nevermore, you say? Fill us in on your own tales of horror and share a cask of Amontillado to drown your sorrows in the next issue.

YOUR EDITOR SPEAKS

In this issue we have articles by two experts in the field. One is a handwriting expert who gives us her insight into the world of handwriting on a case currently in the news. See her story on Page Seven. Our other writer is a forensics specialist and he warns authors to get it right when penning their mysteries. Print is forever, isn't it? At least

we'd like to think so. His story is on Page Four.

'Tis also the season for the annual fall trek to wherever Bouchercon is living. This year it is living in Baltimore from October 9-12. Baltimore has another claim to fame that the Mystery Writers of America members should be well aware of. Although our mascot and mentor, Edgar Allen Poe,

was born in Boston, he lived and died in Baltimore, writing "The Raven" there. A pilgrimage to his grave might be in order.



The Crime Calendar

Mayhem in the Midlands—May 22-25, Omaha, NE, <http://www.omaha.lib.ne.us/mayhem/index.html>

Crimefest— June 5-8, Bristol, UK www.crimefest.com

Murder in the Grove— June 6-7, Boise, ID, www.murderinthegrove.com

Bloody Words—June 6-8, Toronto, Canada, bloodywords.com

International Mystery Writers Festival—June 12-22, Owensboro, KY <http://www.newmysteries.org/>

Hardboiled Heroes & Cozy Cats—June 13-14, Dallas, TX, <http://www.mwasw.org/>

Deadly Ink—June 20-22, Parsippany, NJ, www.deadlyink.com

Book Passage Mystery Writers Conf.—June 26-June 29, Corte Madera, CA <http://www.bookpassage.com/content.php?id=44>

Thrillerfest—July 9-10, New York, NY, <http://www.thrillerwriters.org/thrillerfest/>

West Hollywood Book Fair—Sept. 28, W. Hollywood, CA, www.westhollywoodbookfair.org/

Killer Nashville—Aug. 15-17, Nashville, TN, www.killernashville.com

Bouchercon 39—Oct. 9-12, Baltimore, MD, <http://www.charmedtodeath.com/>

Cape Fear Crime Festival—Oct., Wilmington, NC, www.capefearcrimefestival.org/

Magna cum Murder—Oct. 24-26, Muncie, IN, www.magnacummurder.com

The Great Manhattan Mystery Conclave—Oct. 31—Nov. 2, Manhattan, KS, www.manhattanmysteries.com

New England Crimebake—Nov. 14-16, Lowell, MA, <http://crimebake.org/index.htm>

Tony Hillerman Writers Conference—Nov., Albuquerque, NM



Transom Notes

- **Ben Malisow's** second book, a nonfiction academic work for young people, **TERRORISM**, should come out in late September, from Chelsea House/Facts On File, part of their new Criminal Investigations series.
- **Robert S. Levinson** has a short story, "The Quick Brown Fox," in the October issue of *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*, now on newsstands.
- **Andy Peterson's** debut novel, **FIRST TO KILL**, a mass market paperback, launches on August 26th. It will be available everywhere.
- **WRITTEN IN BLOOD** (Penguin's Obsidian), Sheila Lowe's next Claudia Rose Forensic Handwriting mystery will be released September 2. MWA chapter members are invited to the launch at the Olivas Park Banquet Center in Ventura on September 16. Hors d'oeuvres, cupcakes, a drawing for a free handwriting analysis. Please RSVP: sheila@sheilalowe.com. Sheila also did an interview in Real Simple magazine, August edition, about handwriting analysis. She will also be signing on September 6 with Gwen Freeman at Mysteries to Die For at 11:30, and with Gwen Freeman (Crazy Fool Kills Five), Bruce Cook (Blood Harvest), and Robert Fate (Baby Shark's High Plains Redemption) at the Valencia Barnes & Noble at 4:00. September 27 with Gwen Freeman at The Mystery Bookstore at 1:00.
- **Annette Mahon** just sold **BITS AND PIECES; A St. Rose Quilting Bee Mystery**, to Five Star.
- **Deborah J. Ledford's** short story, "Graves of Echo Canyon" is available on *Snippets* via podcast at <http://www.snippets.com/ledford.jsp>
- **Jeri Westerson** will be on a panel at the West Hollywood Book Festival called "Getting Serious About Crime: Writers with a Mission," with Christopher Goffard, Denise Hamilton, Pam Ward, and moderator Steven M. Thomas. She will also be on a panel called "Mysteries Deep and Dark" on Saturday, October 4, at the Burbank Library as well as on a panel at Bouchercon on Thursday October 9th at 11:30am called "LIVING IN THE PAST: Getting Research Right." Laurie R. King will moderate. And then, Jeri's debut medieval noir, **VEIL OF LIES** (St. Martin's Minotaur), finally hits the streets on October 28.
- First novel for **Tyler Dilts**, **A KING OF INFINITE SPACE**, the first in a planned series featuring Long Beach homicide detective Danny Beckett, is being released by World Parade Books this November.
- **John Morgan Wilson's** Edgar-winning first novel, **SIMPLE JUSTICE**, which launched the Benjamin Justice series in 1996, has just been reissued by Bold Strokes Books. It will be followed in September by the reissue of **REVISION OF JUSTICE**, the second in the series. Meanwhile, John has an essay in **Love, West Hollywood: Reflections of Gay Los Angeles**, edited by Chris Freeman and James Burke.
- **Eric Stone's** new book, the third in his Ray Sharp series of detective thrillers set in Asia and based on stories he covered as a journalist, **FLIGHT OF THE HORNBILL**, is coming out in October from Bleak House Books. Eric's West Coast Book Launch Party is at The Mystery Bookstore in Westwood, on Saturday October 4, 6pm. There will be Indonesian pop music, a slide show and Indonesian snacks. Eric will also be signing at Book 'Em in South Pasadena on Sunday October 5 at 2pm, Mysteries to Die for in Thousand Oaks on Saturday October 18 at 1pm, Clues Unlimited in Tucson, AZ on Saturday October 25 at 2pm, and Poisoned Pen in Scottsdale on Monday October 27 at 7pm.
- **Dennis Paumbo**, former Hollywood screenwriter (*My Favorite Year; Welcome Back, Kotter*, etc.) whose mystery fiction has appeared in *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*, *The Strand* and elsewhere, has a new book, a collection of mystery short stories, called **FROM CRIME TO CRIME** (Tallfellow Press). For more info, please visit his website, www.dennispalumbo.com. He will be at the California's Writer's Club on Saturday, Sept 13 from 1-2 pm; Central Coast Writer's Conference at Cuesta College in Morro Bay Sept. 26 & 27; and giving a workshop called "Taking the Mystery out of Writing Mysteries" at Vroman's Bookstore on October 6 & 13, 6:30-8 pm.

“Wake Up Call” Continued

directed and produced a number of prime-time crime and law & order TV shows. We often compare notes, so I decided to pursue his opinion on the inaccuracy of forensic procedure as represented through several successful shows. His response, which at first surprised me, fell in line with what the entertainment industry often regards as standard operating procedure.

“If it’s close enough, people buy it, and no one cares.”

My perspective: I am one who believes television gets away with nonsense more easily than the written word. If you doubt this, remind yourself of the number of print journalists who have been pilloried over the last few years for less-than-


accurate info or fabricated materials. Yes, I am aware it’s reporting vs. fiction, but the point is print sticks harder than TV dialogue. I am trying to raise your awareness to what will be a new pressure on the mystery/crime writer: I believe the day is coming in which authors will be called on the carpet by readers for mistakes made in forensic procedure. The result: a negative effect on sales within the Mystery/Crime marketplace for those authors who fail to bring their level of knowledge on forensic accuracy to an accepted standard, and that standard, my friends, is on the rise.

My advice, before you put your name on something that hopefully will be around for a very long time, do the research and get the facts.

Mr. Boxer’s forensic evidence, testimony and expert opinion have been used in medical, Federal, and capital cases. He can be reached through his website: www.theforensicspecialist.com



Eddie Says:



I have great faith in fools; self-confidence my friends call it.

THE WRITING ON THE WALL

Handwriting Expert Weighs in on Current Crimes

By Sheila Lowe

In 1984 a man now calling himself Clark Rockefeller lived in the guesthouse of a San Marino home. John and Linda Sohus, a recently married couple in their 20’s lived in the main house, which was owned by John’s mother. John and Linda told friends and relatives that they were planning to go to New York, looking for work, but when they disappeared, people who knew them were puzzled. Eventually, postcards arrived signed “Linda and John,” but the couple never reappeared in San Marino.

A few years after their disappearance, the new owners of the San Marino home began digging a swimming pool in the back yard. You know what comes next—human remains were found in several plastic bags. Later, these remains were tentatively identified as John Sohus.

Fast-forward to 2008.

Clark Rockefeller, now in custody for kidnapping his small daughter, is being considered a “person of interest in the case.” Many newspapers have been covering the story, and I was asked by the Boston Herald to provide a handwriting analysis report, using a recent sample of his handwriting. In addition, last weekend I was provided by Frank Girardot of the Pasadena Star Free News and San Gabriel Valley Tribune with a copy of one of the postcards received by Linda Sohus’ boss, along some known samples of her handwriting. I was asked whether the handwriting on the postcard was genuine. I was also asked to evaluate her handwriting for personality.

Linda was an artist who painted centaurs and called herself “Cody.” The known sample attached was written to one of her clients, an art dealer.



The postcard writing is what we would think of as feminine, but it’s not possible to conclusively determine gender from handwriting, only what are historically considered masculine/feminine traits.

Although the handwriting on the postcard is fairly close to school type (similar to copybook learned in grade school), it has some interesting connections from one letter to the next, and some simplifications. These reveal an intelligent person who is able to make intuitive leaps, quickly picking up on what is going on around them. At the same time, one who preferred not to rely on intuition, but was highly

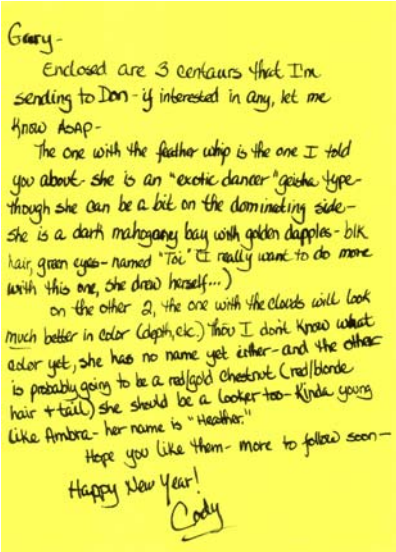
logical, reasoning out and intellectualizing her emotions, rather than just feeling them.

The writing rhythm is very tight, which reveals a need for control of one’s environment. At odds with this characteristic are the wavy lines on the capital H in “Hi” and the N in “Not” which generally suggest someone who smiles a lot, or at least who wants to project a happy-go-lucky image. The writing is tall but narrow, indicating strong ego needs but some reluctance to make demands. The ending letters on “Linda”, “John,” “Lydia” and “Marano” are seen in the handwritings of people who feel the need to protect their ego. While seeming friendly and outgoing, they put up barriers between themselves and others, revealing little.

Regarding the other

“Handwriting” continued

handwriting—the letter, envelope, and invoice: the letter is written with either a calligraphy pen or some type of felt tip that creates a thick line of ink called “pastosity.” This word literally comes from “pasta” and means soft, or doughy. It’s seen in artistic people, as Linda Sohus apparently was, and



The letter written by Linda Sohus; a clue for handwriting expert Sheila Lowe in this baffling case of secret identities.

reveals someone who appreciates their creature comforts but isn't willing to put a lot of energy into pursuing them. They tend to seek experiences through their concrete senses, and what they experience on an emotional level stays with them for a long time.

The writing has the charming, easygoing, relaxed quality of a person who wants to just enjoy life and avoid friction whenever possible. In fact, there is almost a muddy quality in the way some letters have too much ink. This is an indication of strong sensuality that could be expressed by escaping into alcohol, drugs, or sex, which would help her to shut out unpleasantness or irritations. Many of the letters butt up against each other, showing a lack of clear social boundaries. The bowed t-bars suggest that she could easily be talked into or out of doing something.

A couple of weeks ago, I was asked by the Boston Herald for comments on the handwriting of Rockefeller. Here were my opinions:

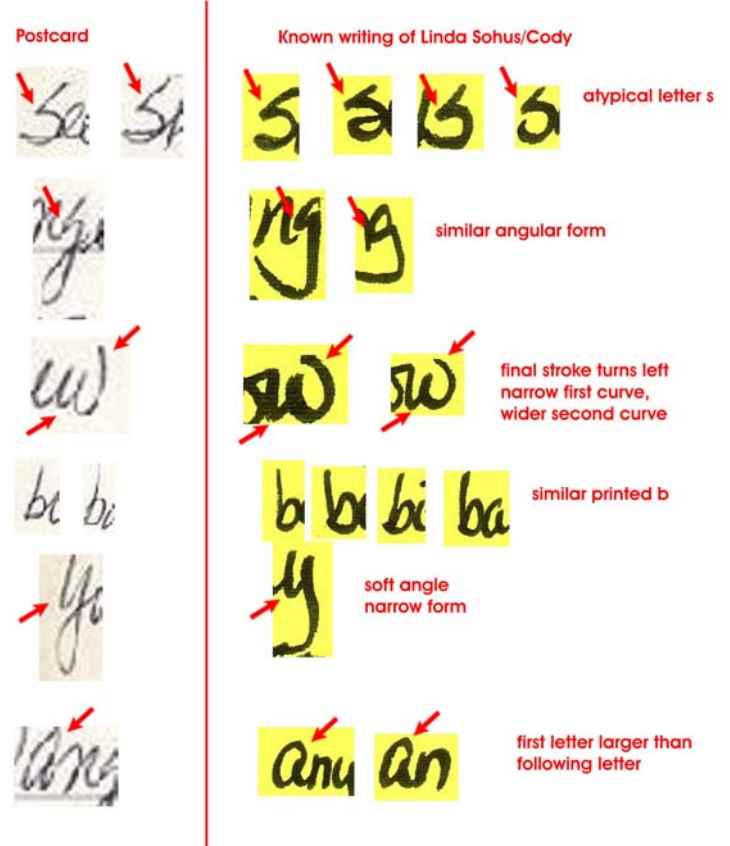
The printed writing has many extremes of size, which is a strong indicator of an explosive personality. Particularly when letters (such as the H in Massachusetts) pop out above the rest, it's impulsive, reactive behavior. He experiences a progressive anxiety that builds to a bursting point, and needs to be released, and is undoubtedly released in inappropriate ways. Because he has a lack of control over where and how he releases those strong negative feelings, the people within his sphere of influence are likely to suffer.

Blunt horizontal strokes, such as t crossings and some ending strokes, such as we see in this sample, are often made by violent offenders. Strokes that are cut off too early suggest a lack of forthrightness, and also that he is not grounded in

reality. He sets his objectives higher than what is realistic.

The signature has spotty pressure and is illegible, among other things. His presentation is one of initial charm, but when the pressure is on, he disappears.

My opinions were based on a less-than-ideal sample and are subject to review of the original, if and when it becomes available.



Comparison analysis of postcard handwriting to letter.

Sheila Lowe is a court-qualified handwriting expert and graphologist with more than 40 years experience. **WRITTEN IN BLOOD** (Penguin/Obsidian), the latest in her Forensic Handwriting mysteries will be released September 2. www.sheilalowe.com and www.claudiaroseseries.com

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WRITER PRODUCER WILLIAM LINK HONORED

Cal State Long Beach To Dedicate The William Link Theatre with Dinner Party and Play Reading

California State University Long Beach (CSULB) will permanently dedicate its performing arts University Theatre to multi-award winning writer, William Link, with the unveiling of THE WILLIAM LINK THEATRE signage, plus a dinner party and reading of his new play, "Berggasse 19", on Saturday evening, September 6 at the Spark Woodfire Grill in Beverly Hills/Los Angeles at 6:00 p.m..

"We chose to honor William Link for his outstanding body of literary and performance work which has inspired the past, the present, and the future. Mr. Link's ground-breaking, often controversial, socially-themed and uplifting works have made a profound difference in the lives of our students, their parents before them, and our entire community," explains Professor Brian Alan Lane, the Founding Artistic Director and Executive Producer of The William Link Theatre. "We believe this to be the first time that a theatre has been named for a living Hollywood writer, and we look forward to a long and productive association with a great man and great original plays."

Link's play "Berggasse 19" (the address of Sigmund Freud in Vienna) will have its first formal reading that evening by actors including John Billingsley (playing Freud), Kellie Martin, Bonita Friedericy, Perry King, John Loprieno, Cynthia Watros, and Eric Tiede (partial list). The drama is signature Link and includes a fair measure of mystery, suspense, and politics with a twist.

In Spring 2009, The William Link Theatre's first full production will be "Columbo: Prescription Murder"

which was the original play and pilot for Link and his late partner, Richard Levinson's, successful, long-running TV series "Columbo" which starred Peter Falk. In the new version, "Roots" and "Star Trek: The Next Generation's" LeVar Burton will portray the title role. Lane will adapt the script for both the new casting and new times.

Link is the most honored, successful, and prolific writer in the history of television, films, print, and theatre. He has been the President of the Mystery Writers of America, and he and his late partner were the first writers inducted into the Television Academy Hall-of-Fame. He and Levinson have won the Paddy Chayevsky Award, many WGA and Emmy Awards, many Edgar Awards; and Link was the first recipient of the Mystery Writers' Marlowe Award for lifetime achievement. His other TV series include "Mannix," "McCloud", "Murder She Wrote," "The Cosby Mysteries", and a dozen others. His TV movies include "My Sweet Charlie", "That Certain Summer", "The Execution of Private Slovik", "The Boys", and the eerily prescient "Terrorist on Trial". As a writer/producer, he was instrumental in launching the careers of Steven Spielberg (a CSULB alumnus) and Steven Bochco (and many others), and he has cast or written for the "A-list" of Hollywood actors — Anthony Hopkins, John Lithgow, James Woods, Martin Sheen, Michael Douglas, Angela Lansbury, George C. Scott, Hal Holbrook, Patty Duke — the list goes on and on.

The "Berggasse 19" evening is by invitation only, but Mr. Link has made a limited number of seats available to MWA members. If interested, please call 310.418.0367 or e-mail to williamlinktheatre@gmail.com. Priority reservations are also being taken now for "Columbo" starring LeVar Burton in April 2009 — e-mail for more information and show dates and times.

Pro- motions

Ideas to Promote your Books

Jeri Westerson devised a tri-fold press kit with a finished size of 5.5" x 8.5" to be mailed to independent booksellers throughout the United States and parts of Canada. It is much more portable to mail than a folder with pages of photos and loose pages. And cheaper in terms of postage as well. She also made a pdf of a press kit and made it available on her media page on her website.

MARCH OF CRIME



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