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# Clinical Graphology

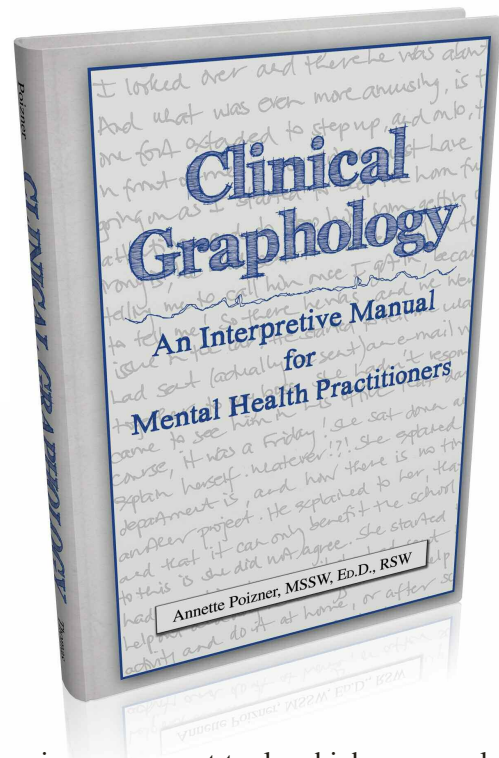
## An Interpretive Manual for Mental Health Practitioners

by

Annette Poizner, MSSW, Ed.D., RSW

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Faced with challenging economic times, contemporary clinicians require assessment tools which can accelerate the therapeutic process and facilitate brief psychotherapy. This text introduces graphology, or handwriting analysis, which has been used clinically in Europe for decades alongside other projective techniques. In *Clinical Graphology: An Interpretive Manual for Mental Health Practitioners*, this clinical application becomes accessible.

The text provides a compelling rationale for the clinical evaluation of handwriting and demonstrates how therapists can access rich personal data by examining clients' graphic behaviors. Designed to systematically present clinical graphology in theory and practice, a review of the literature demonstrates that the clinical use of graphology is consistent with the tenets of clinical practice. Graphological interpretive theory is presented in detail, providing a theoretical understanding of those graphic features which are meaningful indices of psychological phenomena. In this context, the inherent congruity between graphological and psychological theory is explored. Diverse handwriting samples, including many of contemporary public figures, illustrate graphic phenomena while demonstrating and encouraging the graphologist's unique type of visual acuity.

To assist the reader's ability to synthesize graphic traits into a holistic personality profile, an interpretive schedule is given which summarizes graphic indices and their interpretations. A method of assessing handwritings is presented which permits a degree of standardization that serves research while helping readers cultivate interpretive skills. Providing a comprehensive treatment of the psychology of handwriting, this volume includes a discussion of caveats which guide the clinical use of graphology as well as research considerations and guidelines for sharing graphological findings with clients.

To date, clinicians in North America remain unaware of the merits of graphology usage although they continue to seek out methods of assessment which will facilitate their clinical efforts. This volume will illustrate graphology as a tool which can be applied by those with virtually any theoretical orientation or practice model. The strategies and discussions contained in this book will provide positive direction for psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, art therapists, vocational counselors, pastoral counselors, naturopaths, and paraprofessionals.

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# Critical Acclaim

Foreword by Lois Vaisman MSW, LCSW.

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"*Clinical Graphology: An Interpretive Manual for Mental Health Practitioners* is an excellent book, well-written, and peerlessly researched. Annette Poizner has provided a definitive text. Learn about this marvelous methodology—study it seriously and advance your understanding of human behavior and emotion."

– Jeffrey K. Zeig, Ph.D.  
The Milton Erickson Foundation

"This is a long overdue book on a topic that has a potential to make a significant contribution to the clinical literature. Annette Poizner presents a clearly written and practical volume of the highest quality. *Clinical Graphology* represents the state of the art in this area of therapeutic treatment."

– Arthur J. Clark, Ed.D., Professor,  
St. Lawrence University, and author,  
*Early Recollections: Theory and Practice in Counseling and Psychotherapy*

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