

Script and Scribble Discussion Questions

- ~ What are some of your big takeaways from this book? Do you feel like the title reflects the contents?
- ~ Which of the 5 chapter topics (Handwriting History, The Golden Age of Penmanship, Graphology, The Digital Age, Handwriting Importance) did you find most compelling? Why?
- ~ Which of the early developments (pens, medieval scripts, inks, modern scripts) in writing and scripts was most interesting to you? Any you were surprised by?
- ~ What were your thoughts on the graphology studies the author undertook? How did you find yourself responding to the “science” behind graphology?
- ~ What was your experience of writing cursive? How did you learn to write?
- ~ How often do you handwrite and what types of things do you use it for?
- ~ How did the book inspire you to think about your own handwriting? Did it inspire any changes?
- ~ The book was published in 2009—can you think of any developments in the last 15 years that might have been useful additions to the author’s thoughts?
- ~ “But eventually, as the nouveau riche supplanted old money, an excellent and readable script, the mark of a shrewd businessman, became the indicator of worth—much as an artfully designed and easily navigable computer setup might be today.” (pg 47) What do you think of this comparison?
- ~ On page 128 the author discusses the magical value and meaningful value of handwritten artifacts—do you have any experience of this from your own past? Can you think of any handwritten artifact you have ever seen that has had this magical or meaningful value?
- ~ “And yet a long, chatty, funny letter full of private jokes and sly allusions and witty asides and low gossip is the pinnacle of postal bliss.” (pg 134) What images does this conjure for you?
- ~ When talking about adjusting her own handwriting on page 177, the author comments that “scoop and loop” (overly rounded connectors) tends to make handwriting “disagreeably girlish.” Are there certain types of handwriting that make you think of specific genders? What makes them identifiably gendered?
- ~ Do you think the postal museum should take a broader view of objects related to handwriting, as the author does? What types of objects might be involved in collecting and are they significant for American history?



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