Looking at John Wooden’s signature and handwriting, the graphologist immediately identifies his script as something called “copybook script.” When children first learn penmanship, they are taught a classic copybook style script and some, over the passing years, will deviate from that copybook script and create an idiosyncratic type of handwriting that allows more self-expression. Some writers, though, are traditionalists. They very much stay true and loyal to the copybook script they learned in school, making very few adjustments. This is the individual who we would describe as conservative, disciplined, loyal to traditional values, community-minded, valuing that which is established, tried-and-true. There is a desire to conform in useful ways and to herald the importance of classic values. This is a writer more interested in doing the good and right thing than doing the thing that feels good to do. After all, many writers make adaptations to the copybook script because, for one reason or other, it is more comfortable or compelling for them to write in a completely different way than they were originally taught. The copybook writer takes very seriously the societal message that has come to him about what is good and right. He re-creates the “good and right” handwriting he learned in elementary school. He will similarly align with wholesome values that come from earlier genera-
tions. The writer is so loyal to the penmanship model he learned as a young child, he shows us the degree of loyalty he has to people and causes. His priority is to be responsible, receptive to higher values and learnings, a solid upstanding citizen. He would live his life as a mouthpiece for those universal values whereas others might choose to live their lives to express something more personal, or live their lives to accumulate experiences or otherwise to achieve something for the self. This type of writer is more selfless than that.

Copybook writers often become teachers and we commonly see teachers with this copybook style of writing. It’s as if this individual happily internalized the traditional teachings of the society and so successfully did so that he or she wishes to be a mouthpiece for the same traditional values. So although he was a coach, I would say that he would have identified his true calling to be that of “teacher.”

Other features in the writing:

A marked right slant implies an interest in others and an eager participation in the community and the world beyond the self.

Retraced t, h and d stems: Note how carefully he forms these letters. He sends the line up and then carefully brings the same line down, retracing the line he just sent up. Normally, writers are not that careful and end up making a little bit of a loop when they track that line back down to the middle zone to join with the next letter. Retracing is interpreted as a sign of privacy or discretion around personal matters. And that is consistent with the copybook script writer, somebody who has a sense of grace, privacy, discretion, dignity, a sense of what is appropriate for public consumption versus what is personal. He would not have been one to write the “tell all” autobiography that sizzles.

Note that this writer often does not seal the letter o. When these little middle zone letters are left open at the top, graphologists often interpret somebody who likes to communicate. So if he was a very private man, he was also engaged with others and enjoyed sharing ideas.

His capitals are fairly elaborate and sometimes even decorative and formal. This is an expression of dignity. Capital letters represent first impressions. If a person believes it’s important to make a good first impression, they do so by putting a bit of a bow tie on their capital letter. Something a little dressier versus something plain.

Note how the writer represents letters fully and attends carefully to most of the details. When writers flesh out letters in their entirety, they are showing themselves to be strongly aligned with the five senses and good at dealing with the tangible, concrete world. Writers who are strongly intuitive live in the mind’s eye and will usually have less patience to pen all the little features of a letter, preferring to just give a hint of what that letter is. Those writings tend to be more illegible. But this writer shows himself to be alive to sensate details in his world. He would therefore be a very practical sort, handy and well able to maneuver the physical world. A person like this would be able to learn a little bit about cars and then be able to do his own car maintenance activities. He would’ve been comfortable (in other words) maneuvering the physical world and managing it. He would put up the IKEA furniture, not pay somebody to show up to put it together for him.
The webpage that I forwarded (http://forum.johndensmore.com/index.php?showtopic=4205) had two particular samples of the handwriting of Jim Morrison, but one, the top one, looked more spontaneously generated. The lower sample has been written very neatly. In fact, in order to analyze handwriting, you really need a sample that has been spontaneously written versus a sample that has been neatly produced for the reader’s sake. So the top sample would seem to be the more authentic sample. And of course we have his signature on top of it. Here are some comments:

Most importantly, we look at any given handwriting and get an overall impression from it. What calls out to be noticed here? In this handwriting, the overall impression is that it was written by a child. Childish-looking handwriting, unless it is specifically the result of a physical problem like visual, cognitive or muscular difficulties, implies immaturity. We are not able to detect the chronological age of a writer on the basis of handwriting. If the handwriting looks like it was written by a child (barring physical issues that explain the graphic difficulties), we presume that the handwriting is giving us a window into the psychological age of the writer. So that childish writing, especially this childish writing given irregularities like spacing that varies tremendously, poorly formed letters (note that he does not seal the bottom of the cursive letter s – a sign of somebody who lets himself off the hook so he doesn’t
have to finish what he starts) or an overall messiness that implies inner chaos, would be queuing us to a writer who is impulsive, needy and moody.

Note the difference between the writing style of the sample and the writing style of the signature. The signature looks rather sophisticated. It doesn’t look like it was written by a child. In other words, when it comes to expressing his image (represented by his signature) he can pull it together and come up with something that looks sophisticated. Notice that in his signature he truncates his first name, his private name representing his private and personal self, by just writing the first initial of his first name so the focus will be on his last name, his professional self/identity. So his impulse, when he presents, is to maintain privacy about his personal self and pull it together when it comes to presentation in the public domain.

Yet, the greater handwriting sample shows that on a day-to-day level he was experiencing moodiness, confusion, rigidity and an overall lack of discipline.

But that signature shows his motivation to pull it together so he could come off as sophisticated and polished in the public arena. There is another graphic sign which shows the same thing. He does something called retracing the t stems. Normally, a person moves the pen upward, to reach the height of the t and then brings the stroke down. Sometimes this is done creating a bit of a loop. After all, why does it have to be done perfectly so that the upstroke and the downstroke are perfectly retraced one on top the other? The writer who does retraces these two strokes so that they cover each other perfectly shows a need to be highly private – “He covers his tracks!” Don’t let the cat out of the bag! So there’s a need for privacy and that may be the person who lives a life of chaos but possesses pride. He wants to look like he has it all together.

Ideally, we hope to see the same writing style consistent between the signature and the handwriting sample. When this occurs, what you see is what you get. The outer presentation reflects the inner truth. So here there is a difference between the outer presentation and the inner truth.

Note the way the lower zones of one line intermingle with the middle zone of the line below. As I’ve written in another document, this is the person who watches “inner television.” Somebody who spends a certain amount of time thinking and fantasizing. Thereby, more self-oriented/self-involved. Less reality-based. Less common sense. Very subjective.

There are definite signs of about-average intelligence in this handwriting. You have the word “tribe.” The last three letters of that word are so nicely joined to each other showing a trait that we call “simplification.” There is a simplified way that somebody can connect letters one to the other so that legibility is maintained but efficiency is maximized. He did not suffer from a lack of intelligence. But we see that highly intelligent people are not spared mental health issues!

The person who is impulsive, on one hand, is going to suffer from extreme self-criticism, on another hand. We certainly see it in the handwriting. Notice the way he slashes sharp strokes to cross his t’s. Quite sharp. Little daggers. He would have a well of anger that would be expressed through irritation, resentment but also anger that could find expression in self-loathing.

Sometimes you can see little symbols in people’s handwriting or signatures. Look at the phrase “events of those.” See the little musical note embedded in that word “of“?
Carol Burnett’s handwriting exemplifies the graphological trait of simplification. A simplified handwriting is one where simplified strokes are used to connect letters to each other and in so doing legibility is maintained but speed of writing is also facilitated. By way of example, note the way the writer attaches the letter o to the letter f in the word “of.” Another example is the way the writer crosses the first letter of the word “think” and attaches the cross stroke to the following letter, h. Simplification indicates a writer of very high intelligence, an individual who is creative, has good physical coordination. The writing is also print script which means she sometimes connects letters and sometimes leaves them disconnected. Look at the word “handwriting” to see how some letters will be connected to each other and others will not. Print script is a sign of somebody with literary ability. Somebody who loves to write and who is a good writer. In fact, on the basis of handwriting alone, the graphologist would guess this to be the handwriting of a writer and might not guess that it was the handwriting of a performer (although the large capitals in her signature show a desire in making a good impression on others). The handwriting is rather humble or modest looking. I think that’s probably what makes her very special, a root quality of humility at her core.

We can also notice that there is a sharpness in this writing. Look at the sharp angles in the letters m and n. Sharpness is a function of analytical thinking and also enough access to aggressive energy to push projects through.

So far we are really seeing a range of talents. As a child, she would’ve been a gifted child. Analytical and creative, good writing skills, good physical coordination. Look at the organized spacing. The sample is nicely spaced and her two lines seem very straight and well oriented one on top of the other. This is a sign of somebody with

What do you think of my handwriting sample today?

Carol Burnett Hamilton
strong organizational skills. As well, her writing line is fine or thin, usually a sign of emotional sensitivity. What comes through are the multitalents and sensitivity associated with the artistic personality type. Note the arcade that she uses to connect the name Burnett with the following name Hamilton. That arch type of structure associates with people who have a strong grace and dignity and even formality about them. There’s a commitment to privacy and discretion. It’s sort of like a dome or, we have that expression, “Keep it under your hat.” Won’t be any steamy autobiographies by somebody who writes with arcades. The arcade writer has a sense of responsibility, allegiance to higher ideals and interest in right action.

Note the way the writer writes her lower zone as a straight line which stops abruptly (instead of creating a loop which swings around and goes back to the middle zone). Lower zones made with that straight line which stops abruptly show the writer with amazing willpower. After all, it takes amazing willpower to stop on a dime. The muscles prefer to trail off and not to stop suddenly. The writer who stop suddenly like that likes to exert willpower and do things in a way that requires more of it.

Note the way that the name Carol is attached to Burnett is attached to Hamilton (this is a very old handwriting sample. She’s not married to Hamilton anymore). This is somebody with strong connectivity to her family: strong connection to her family of origin and strong connection to her own family. Somebody who identifies herself so strongly with her family that her identity rests on the foundation of those relationships. So we see from the handwriting that she can shine on her own talents and merits, but she primarily organizes her identity around her primary relationships.

Note the way she encapsulates her professional name and encloses it in the first letter. That draws extra attention to that name, the part of her identity that speaks to her professional life. So there’s an intensity around that name that comes through because of that special treatment of that name. As if she is showcasing that name. That’s her specialness.

So what would I say if I would be summarizing what we learn about Carol Burnett on the basis of this (minimal) handwriting sample?

This is the handwriting of a highly intelligent, creative, sensitive individual with excellent literary abilities. This is somebody with strong willpower and good organizational skills. As an adolescent she might have had difficulty deciding what to do with her life; with so many talents, she could have gone into a range of different fields and might have struggled to decide which one to go into because she is so multifaceted. Had she been motivated to do so, she could have been a medical doctor, for example. She is very, very smart. Her wide bandwidth of skill sets makes her highly adaptable and flexible. She has enough aggressive energy and willpower to push through projects but enough sensitivity to relate appropriately with others and forge close connections. And her close connections with family are her leading priority. And strong organizational skills so she could undertake a wide range of projects and balance that with everything else that she was doing.