



THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540

DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION DIVISION

August 18, 1980

Mrs. Rose Matousek
820 West Maple Street
Hinsdale, Illinois 60521

Dear Mrs. Matousek:

This is in reply to your letter of August 1, 1980, addressed to Dr. Boorstin, which contained your petition that works on graphology be removed from the occult class (137) of the Dewey Decimal Classification.

Please note on pages 12 and 28 of the attached Dewey Decimal Classification Additions, Notes and Decisions that analytic graphology has been removed from 137 and that the index entry now places most of it at 155.282 Individual psychology.

In the next edition of the DDC, sooner if possible, 137 will be discontinued. It already is no longer used by the Decimal Classification Division, which is the major user of the DDC, applying approximately 115,000 numbers to the quarter million titles passing through the Library of Congress annually. Graphology is now classed only in 155.282 (Diagnostic graphology), 363.2565 (Documentary evidence), and 658.3112 (Selection of personnel by management).

If you have any other questions regarding the treatment of graphology in the DDC or by the Division, do not hesitate to write me. Thank you for your interest in the improvement of the DDC.

Sincerely yours,

John P. Comaromi
Editor, Dewey Decimal Classification

Library of Congress Info.

RNJMAT@AOL.COM, 01:44 PM 04/07/19, Diagnostic Graphology

I dug through my correspondence with the Library of Congress to answer your question of how the Library of Congress arrived at the terminology of "Diagnostic Graphology." The bottom line answer is, I don't know.

In the Edition 18 of the Dewey Decimal Classifications, the classification at that time of "Analytic and Divinatory Graphology" (#237.7) was under the general heading of "Popular Psychology, Parapsychology, Occultism" in the index. "Diagnostic Graphology" (#155.282) under the general heading of "Differential and Genetic Psychology" was not shown in the index.

In 1979 classifiers were inclined to use the occult classification rather than the psychological one. My plea with the LOC was to change that.

Corrective measures were begun with a letter from Joseph H. Howard, Assistant Librarian for Processing Services, dated May 11, 1979, in which he stated that Diagnostic Graphology was clearly provided for in the Dewey Decimal Classification at 155.282 under Individual Psychology but unfortunately there was no lead to 155.282 only to 137.7, an omission that the editors planned to rectify.

When Dewey Edition 19 was published, the words "Diagnostic Graphology" was retained. I simply rejoiced at getting handwriting analysis out of the occult classification that I didn't argue their terminology. Besides, I didn't want to. I liked it. Does anyone find fault with it?

Rose Matousek



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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN
FOR PROCESSING SERVICES

May 11, 1979

Dear Ms. Matousek:

Your letter of April 21 to Dr. Boorstin has been referred to me for reply.

Diagnostic graphology is, as you have pointed out, clearly provided for in the Dewey Decimal Classification at 155.282 under Individual psychology.

The index under "Diagnostic graphology" leads to this number; but unfortunately there is no lead to 155.282, only to 137.7, under Handwriting, an omission that the editors of Dewey will rectify. They will also add both numbers to a new entry under Graphology.

As to 137.7, which in the forthcoming Edition 19 will be just 137, there is a fair amount of older literature dealing with handwriting analysis from the paranormal point of view, and for this topic libraries still need this number. Your letter has encouraged the editors to review the terminology, and they plan to change it to, simply, "Divinatory graphology."

Dewey 19 is in process, and too near publication to make changes, but the improvements mentioned above will be announced in the regular bulletin of additions and changes.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

Sincerely,

Joseph H. Howard
Assistant Librarian for
Processing Services

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Chairman, Public Relations Committee
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