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## Dr. Philip Bouffard handwriting analysis to determine authorship of "confession" note in Phyllis Moretti's book

Dr. Philip Bouffard

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# **LAKE COUNTY REGIONAL FORENSIC LABORATORY**

## **LABORATORY REPORT – DOCUMENT SECTION**

**LABORATORY NO.: 990901-1604**

**DATE OF ANALYSIS: 9/1-14/99**

### ITEMS SUBMITTED FOR EXAMINATION

- Q-1 Writing of the word "Yes" on the first page of a soft cover book entitled *Endure and Conquer* by Dr. Sam Sheppard.
- Q-2 Writing of the words "to Phyllis c our best wishes "Dr. Sam" Sam H. Sheppard".
- K-1a A photocopy of a two page letter addressed "Dear Betty & Steve", submitted as known handwriting of Sam Sheppard.
- K-1b A photocopy of a two page letter addressed "Dear Bill", submitted as known handwriting of Sam Sheppard.
- K-1c A photocopy of a letter addressed "Dear Aunt Helen", written on two prescription forms of Dr. Sam H. Sheppard, submitted as known handwriting of Sam Sheppard.
- K-1d A photocopy of a letter addressed "Dear Aunt Helen", written on three prescription forms of Dr. Sam H. Sheppard, submitted as known handwriting of Sam Sheppard.
- K-1e A photocopy of three National City Bank checks, submitted as bearing known signatures of Sam Sheppard.
- K-1f A photocopy of two National City bank checks, submitted as bearing known signatures and handwriting of Sam Sheppard.

### **RESULTS OF EXAMINATION:**

- Q-2 Based upon significant similarities in common between the writing on this page and the writing on items K-1a through K-1d, it is my opinion that the handwriting on item Q-2 is the writing of Sam Sheppard, writer of known specimens K-1a through K-1d.
- Q-1 The questioned writing on this page consists of only three letters, "Y", "e", and "s". The known specimens of Sam Sheppard indicate that his writing of the letter "e" varies considerably, in part due to the letter position in relation to the preceding and following letters, but also due to natural variation.

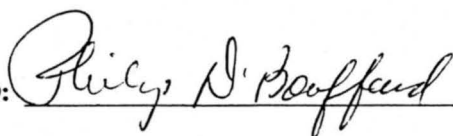
The letter "Y" on this page compares favorably to the one printed "Y" in the known specimens, that being from the word "You" on the "Dear Bill" letter, item K-1b, page 2. Other writings of the letter "y" in the known specimens of Sam Sheppard are script forms, written with one continuous stroke. Many of these script forms have a characteristic very long descending stroke, with no loop formation, consistent in that characteristic with the questioned "Y".

The letter "s" has both a distinctive shape and a drag stroke from the "e" into the "s". These characteristics compare favorably with the formation of the terminal letters "s" in the known specimens of Sam Sheppard.

Both the Q-1 and Q-2 entries were written with a pen or pens having similar blue ink. These entries were examined with the VSC-1 in both IR and luminescent modes. The inks on both pages are consistent, one with another, in these tests.

Based upon the distinctive letters "Y" and "s", the location of the "Yes" on the same sheet (front and back) with the extended writing of the Q-2 entries, and the same ink characteristics on these two pages, it is my opinion that the word "Yes" on item Q-1 is the writing of Sam Sheppard, writer of the K-1a through K-1d specimens.

**DATE:** 9/14/99

**SIGNED:** 

**PHILIP D. BOUFFARD  
FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINER**