

Does Your Writing Reveal Your Future?

WHAT RAPHAEL SCHERMANN
DOES AND HOW.

(BY EUGENE S. BAGGER).
I first went to see Raphael Schermann on March 23, 1923, in his apartment at No. 43 Untere Weissgerberstrasse, in the third district of Vienna, a nondescript middle class neighborhood. I was ushered into his study and the presence of a small man of strongly Jewish appearance, stockily built, bald, dark complexioned. He looked like a bank teller or small lawyer.

Accompanied by two Viennese journalists, old friends of mine, we dined. In the course of the meal Schermann began to relate some of his "cases," as he called them. He told about incredible things in a cold, matter-of-course, casual way that was more irritating than mere bragging would have been. It was in a spirit of heckling, of challenge, that I pulled an envelope from my pocket and handed it to Schermann with the words:

"Now, Mr. Schermann, what do you make of this?"

Schermann said:
"Oh, you want me to perform for you? All right. Kindly step into my study."

I followed him. The two Viennese remained in the dining room. Schermann seated me at his desk and said:

"All right, I shall tell you about the handwriting you show me, but first I want you to write down a sentence and sign it."

"What shall I write?" I asked.
"Anything. Write: 'I wonder when I shall be back in New York.'"

Face Twitches as He Talks.

This I wrote down in pencil and signed "Eugene S. Bagger." Schermann then took the envelope which bore my address in the handwriting of a friend, and compared it for a moment or two with the slip on which I had written. Then he looked at me attentively, and without particular emphasis began to talk—first in a cautious, groping way, then gradually warming up to a level, unexcited tone of certainty. His face, first quite calm and even commonplace of expression, began to twitch. But this twitching was the only remarkable feature in the whole affair—and not so remarkable at that. I confess Schermann's style, or rather the lack of it, disappointed me.

Schermann said:
"The lady who wrote this address is an extraordinary person—exceptional intellect and radiant beauty. She is very young, but her mind is older than her years. She is weak of will—must always lean on something or somebody. She has great gifts, but does not use them and worries about the way she squanders her time. She is eccentric, wayward. Her chief ambition is to be different from others, and to appear different even from her own self. She wears eccentric clothes, big, colored, embroidered patterns. She uses strong make-up—when she is very sad and beside herself she puts on additional daubs of rouge to hide her paleness, so people shan't guess what is going on in her. She always wears a mask."

Schermann had given an accurate description of a friend of mine, an American girl. She is only twenty-two, but already a divorcee, a brilliant mind and striking beauty, whose appearance in a room always creates a stir. What Schermann said about her use of make-up was so true that I had to suppress an exclamation. As I had to suppress an exclamation, I had to suppress an exclamation. As I had to suppress an exclamation, I had to suppress an exclamation.

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There was not one word in the Canadian papers about their coming over on the Montrose, but they came just the same, and reached here last night.

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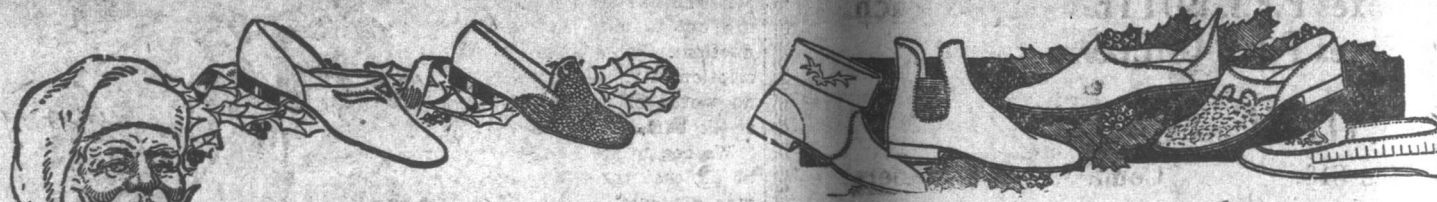
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