The Hand
and Its Lines

LASER

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THE HAND

AND

ITS LINES

A Short Treatise

ON

PALMISTRY

ILLUSTRATED

BY

E. J. LASEEER, C. D.

SCIENTIFIC PALMIST

President of the National Institute of Palmistry, of Grand Rapids, Mich., and author of "Illustrated Palmistry."

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Some of the Book's Contents

Early History of Palmistry.
Its Scientific Divisions.
Good and Bad Signs in the Hands.
Fingers and Thumbs Keys to Character.
Cause of the Lines.
Disease Shown by the Lines.
The Criminal Known by His Hands.
Insanity Detected.
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If one would have a son and daughter well employed,
Of judicious mind and skilled in worldly worth refined,
See Jupiter's and Mercury's mounts are well defined,
The moon well rounded and with Venus' love alloyed.

HIS booklet has been prepared to interest the public in the science of Palmistry and convince its readers that there is much more than is generally supposed by the average person in the outline of the hand and in the lines and markings of the palm. The doubter has but to inform himself slightly respecting this great science, and examine the hands of his friends to be agreeably surprised at what even he—with a little study—can see.

A casual examination of its pages will convince the reader that there is a real basis for Palmistry; a careful reading will interest him to learn more.

LASER.

1902.
What is Palmistry?

Palmistry is the science of the physiognomy of the hand and of the lines of the palm. It is also called Chirosophy and Chirolgy. The two divisions of it, that treating of the shape, or physiognomy of the hand, and that relating to the lines of the palm, are called Chirognomy and Chiromancy respectively.

The latter, Chiromancy, is the oldest palmistry, treating as it does of the lines or markings in the hands; and its history is anterior to Abraham and contemporary with the earliest history of the people of India. Passing thus lightly over its grand past and its wonderful struggle for preservation through the interminable wars preceding the birth of Jesus Christ and the annihilation wrought by the book-destroying Vandals of the Middle ages, the time is reached when Chirognomy had its birth.

Its founder was Captain D'Arpentigny, a retired army officer under Napoleon, who published his first book on the subject in 1843, after studying the subject for many years. His attention was first called to it by noticing the similarity in the shapes of hands of people in the same profession, science, or calling in life. He noticed artists had similar shaped hands, soldiers a common type, and people of about the same temperament hands resembling one another. He classified hands into seven different types, all of which have a distinct meaning. So accurate was he in his interpretation that no change has been made in the classification since, and he discovered a division in palmistry almost as important as the lines themselves.

Types of Hands

Elementary Square or Useful
TYPES OF HANDS

These types are known as the square, or useful; the philosophic, knotty or analytical; the conic, or artistic; the spatulate or argumentative; the psychic, idealistic or pointed; the elementary, or primitive; and the mixed, the latter having the qualities of two or more of the others.

So much may be told from this division of palmistry alone that a competent Chirognomist can tell the temperament, character and substantial qualities of a person, acquiring an insight into his business qualifications, and even his future years, that is almost marvelous to the uninitiated; and

Types of Hands—Continued.

how much more phenomenal the things he may see by combining with it its brother science, Chiromancy!

And I may as well say here, that the accuracy and reliability of palmistic readings depends absolutely on the knowledge and natural ability of the interpreter. There is nothing the matter with the science of Palmistry. Its reliability is long established. Failure is with the reader, either through ignorance, carelessness or misrepresentation; and he may err, even the very best—for it is a well
known fact that in consultations five physicians have many times been wrong and one right, and sometimes all have failed to diagnose a case correctly. Palmistry is a deep study and requires the keenest insight and analysis to interpret it correctly. Then do not expect a scientific reading from a Gypsy, who does not generally know the name of one line in the hand, or from a lady member of a traveling palmistry show, whose' whole knowledge is confined to the Mount of Venus. But when you do spend money in this way consult an experienced reader who has made a conscientious study of it. Experience counts for more in Palmistry than perhaps in any other profession. There is no mystery connected with its practice, and do not be deceived through euphonious names, misapplied expressions and incantations, and by fakirs wearing the toga and vestments of East Indians.

MOUNTS OF THE HAND

A glance at the illustration entitled Mounts of the Hand shows that special names are applied to certain parts of the palm. Little hills or protuberances are found on the inside of the hands, particularly under the fingers and at the foot of the thumb—only in the latter case the "hill" is not "little" but quite large. These elevations have a particular meaning in Palmistry, and as they are large or small, high or depressed, so will certain qualities in the individual be affected for good or bad. Then they must all be considered in relation to one another. For instance: Young men, in selecting a wife, should observe that the mount or elevation at the foot of the thumb, called the Mount of Venus, is rounded neatly and not too skinny if he desires an affectionate wife; and the maiden, in turn, should not select a husband too much developed in this part of the hand if she wants to be the only one in her partner's affections. If you desire your son to follow a professional life, look well to the Mount of Jupiter, and get the opinion of a competent Chirognomist before starting him out on life's voyage; also observe the Mount of the Moon, for in certain phases of it the lad will devote his time to "playing hookey," and the young man to "avoiding examinations."
The cut, Mounts of the Hand, also shows lines taking various directions across the palm, the principal of which are the life, head, heart, fate and union lines. Every hand has these lines in a perfect or modified state, and according to their length, evenness and position will affect the sanity, health and prosperity of the subject. Thus good life and head lines are indicative of good health and even disposition; a long, unbroken heart line of a calm, constant and truthful nature, particularly in a woman. Long fate lines are excellent in many ways, and promise much to the possessors. Besides
these lines there are other lines found in most persons' hands, making fourteen chief lines in all, and still others, called influence lines. All of these are taken into consideration when reading hands. Signs like stars, crosses, dots, circles, squares, triangles, etc., play an important part, some being good, others evil, depending on what part of the hand they are found. A star found on the Mount of Jupiter presages great honors and (according to good authority) the achievement of one's fondest hopes. But even in this, other parts of the hands and the lines should verify it.

The number of lines of all kinds, primary and influence lines, in the hands depends upon the impressionability of the person; upon the scale of his intelligence. So in some hands there are more lines than in others and more events may be read from them. Events are read chiefly from the lines; character from the type, lines and mounts. As we progress in the scale of humanity we find more lines, indicating higher intelligence, and from this fact alone we can form an idea of the descent of the person and gain an insight into his ancestry. Thus a genealogical tree is at once opened before us.

The difference between the elementary hand, or the person of lower intelligence, and the hand of the highest order is so great that seeing the hand of a criminal we at once know whether he is of the brutal type or one of the advanced school, employing craft and the highest diplomacy.

The simple deflection of a line from its natural or normal course is a matter of the greatest importance to the Chirosophist, and alters the reading of the type of hand to a great extent.
THE FINGERS

The fingers are an important factor in Palmistry, and from them alone much insight into character may be obtained. Their length, shape, pliability, length of the joints in relation to one another, special marks found on them, distance of one from the other, and whether high or low in the hand, all are of much moment.

Medium short fingered people, with smooth joints, are the happiest, while people with long fingers, especially with enlarged joints, are generally in trouble from their dissatisfied and critical natures. Fingers that bend back flippantly at the first joints indicate much versatility, but unless the rest of the hand indicates firmness and general merit, will invariably be disastrous to the owner.

Fingers in shape are spatulate, square, conic and pointed. The conic type, modified, and the square type, slightly spatulated, are the best for the practical problems of life and are found on the hands of most successful people.

THE THUMB

The thumb is really the key-note to the character and brain power of the subject, and as it is long or short, large or small, to that degree it affects the intelligence and temperament of the person; or as it is rigid or pliable, so are certain characteristics in the individual. Even the situation, place of the first joint—whether it is half way, one-third or two-thirds the distance between the tip and the third phalanges, is a very important matter.

Babies always have small thumbs, which develop with the brain. Congenital idiots have very small thumbs; monkeys, the most intelligent of animals, before arriving at man, have appendages or stubs, taking the place of human thumbs, and
they use them for holding objects and to cling to trees.

A woman with a very large, short thumb will be rough in her ways and indifferent to the delicacies that make the refined woman, and will mingle with women of gossipy tendencies, hang on the back fence and tell all about her second door neighbor. With a hard hand she will be very industrious, often rising at four in the morning. If her husband is a saloon keeper she will have no objection to going behind the bar. She will work in the field like the Boer women, and can hold her own in a fight.

Increase the length of her thumb considerably and give her short nails, and you will have an Amazon, whom it would not be safe to meet when her anger is aroused.

Replace the short, thick nails with long, polished ones, and take a little of the roughness away from the thumb, and you have a masculine woman, a woman who advocates woman's rights, like Susan B. Anthony; a person in whom there is much tact and great diplomacy. Such women will often make successful lawyers and physicians, but poor mothers. Reduce the size but keep the length and you have logic, scheme and purpose well developed. Such women will generally have long fingers. Everything they do will be well considered and done for an object. It is unnecessary to say that they will marry for money; and if other parts of the hand show a lack of love and sympathy their husbands should be pitied. The possessors of such thumbs are often accomplished musicians and successful actresses.

If the first phalange is wide and heavy, with the Mars features of the hand strongly developed, a quarrelsome disposition is the result. Such a woman when angered would throw a skillet at you or strike you with a club.

**HEALTH CONDITIONS**

If a person is perfect in this respect the hand will tell the tale. If the subject has inherited his
disabilities the cautious Chirosopist knows it at once. Not only does he know that the functions of life are irregular, but in most cases he can tell the cause and the disease that afflicts the person, and prescribe in the case as reliably as a physician. If physicians knew the importance of Palmistry in diagnosing ailments they would be deep students of it. Without going into the interpretation of the lines, which show so much in this respect, the general state of the hand, such as dry or wet, hard or soft, cold or hot, make known wonderful revelations. Physicians feel the hand to ascertain if the patient has fever, and the register of the flow of blood or heart beats is always taken on the wrist, the beginning of the hand. Physicians call it feeling the pulse. On account of the myriads of nerves and minute blood vessels that center here,

**Hand of William Gladstone**—This is the hand of the literateur, the man of letters, the person of honor, the observer of good morals, the ideal parent; but not of the politician. A statesman, but hardly a diplomat. It is hardly necessary to add that he was conscientious in what he advocated. He could never have been an American politician. The shape of the hand is almost identical with that of Rev. Parkhurst's. The hand is conspicuous from the fact that it has two life lines, both very long, which show double capacity for labor and endurance; also on account of the wonderful lines of honor running from the life line towards the fingers.

the hand becomes overheated in cases of fever on account of the flow of blood being increased, and it grows cold when the circulation is bad, caused by slow action of the heart. Thus we are enabled to tell much about the condition of the person's health by this simple means alone. But to find out the wonder of wonders and discover the source of the trouble we decipher the labyrinth of lines in the hand, which never err to the master Chirosopist.

**CAUSE OF THE LINES**

What is the cause of the lines in the hand? This is a question many ask. Some have solved it to their own satisfaction by attributing it to work and the folding of the hand.
This is the answer of the easily satisfied person. Work never caused a single line in the hand. The hand of the person doing the severest manual labor has the fewest lines, principally because it is a kind of elementary hand. A line will often show plainly through a callous spot; if not, it reappears with the disappearance of the callous.

Some of the lesser lines come and go as trifling events affect the person's life. The main lines, like the life, heart and head, are permanent through life, and never change to any appreciable extent.

If skeptics in this direction will investigate they will find more lines in the hands of the society woman than in the hands of the factory girl; more lines in the hands of the politician than in the hands of the iron-worker.

The real cause of the lines is attributed to the astral fluid, as it is termed, that subtle, inexplicable force that gives life to the human anatomy. It is no easier explained than electricity. We simply know it exists. What electricity is no man so far has been able to explain. The theory is that the astral fluid proceeds from the planets, stars and other stellar bodies and is projected through the fingers, which act as points, as it were, to absorb this force, and entering the myriad of nerves centered in the inside of the hands, digs the furrows found in the palm, the least adverse the resistance the straighter or more perfect the lines.

All lines have regular destinations. Any deviation from this course is caused by adverse circumstances. Thus successful people have lines distinguished for their perfectness; the unsuccessful or strugglers for existence, lines broken, retarded and diverted from their true position.

The vigor and health of the individual has much to do with the clearness of the lines. In cases of paralysis lines often disappear from the hands. In the case of one arm or side paralyzed the lines become very faint in the affected member, sometimes disappearing altogether, and at the same time the lines in the other hand become more distinct, doubtless caused by the fact that the healthy one has to absorb more of the astral or vital fluid, and has double duty to perform, clearly showing there is relation between the lines and the brain. Lines will grow through a scar or burned spot. This is more argument that they do not arise from mere chance.
Because some people are wonderfully successful they are entitled to no particular credit. It is easier for some to achieve the greatest renown and success than for others to make a bare living. They are endowed by nature with superiority of intellect, or some especial fitness in a given direction. Had Sarah Bernhardt’s hand been examined when she was a child the extraordinary dramatic ability she has since shown would have been noticed. All great actors and actresses’ hands are of the same type, and the plan of the main lines is the same. So can this similarity be traced in all the different professions and vocations.

**CRIMINAL TENDENCIES DETECTED**

Criminal tendencies in the hand may be detected. I have discovered them a score of times, and in the case of children have seen the downward career lead to the reform school and finally to the penitentiary. For it is an indisputable fact that persons having the germs of degeneration and criminality in them seldom reform, and it is a question even then whether they could ever be trusted. If a person has signs of murder in the hand he will commit murder some day if he is not restrained. It is only a question of incentive and the time being propitious. If it is to be caused through passion, he but needs to be angered sufficiently; if for money, simply the opportunity need arrive. If he is a coward, a moonless night, a hidden alley and a belated wayfarer, are all that is necessary.
INSANITY SHOWN

Does insanity show in the hand?

Just as criminal tendencies may be detected, so is weakness or deficiency in sanity apparent in the hand. The examination may simply show an excess of imagination. This, with deficiencies in other ways, notifies the Chirosoptist that the subject is likely to become insane through sudden excitement or through too much enthusiasm in any direction; that the nervous, hysterical woman will lose her mind over unrequited love. And as we run over the scale of the different kinds and degrees of insanity, we must apply much of the same reasoning we do to the criminal hand.

REVEALING THE FUTURE

Can past events, accidents, marriages, etc., be read in the hand? I say yes.

Does Palmistry reveal the future? I say yes with equal candor. I have myself proved these things time and again.

As regards prophecy, suppose we examine but the type of the hand and leave the examination of the lines alone for the time being, and see how logically we can apply it to the future. Suppose we have a badly balanced hand before us, showing evil tendencies, such as laziness, bad temper, shiftlessness and lack of self respect; and we find no redeeming qualities, such as love, sympathy, purpose and a fair amount of mentality, we can at once safely predict a life of failure. The subject will be one who will work for others, regularly losing his situation for want of earnestness and fairness, and who will shift about the world as a good-for-nothing, perhaps ending up as a drunkard. Let us examine the lines in this subject’s hand and we find the fate line missing and the line of the sun entirely wanting. Thus our observations are doubly confirmed. We have arrived at our conclusion from two directions, by observing the type of hand and the lines in the palm.

Another example. It is the hand of a young woman, showing great intelligence, strong originality, ambition, love and versatility. Industry, perseverance and sincerity still increase the attributes just mentioned. An examination of the lines confirm what Chirognomy has just taught, and we
at once decide, here is the material for success. We now have to conclude in what line it shall be. A study of the mounts and lines will settle the question. Shall she be a musician, a society woman, a physician or an actress?

I could recite numerous cases that have come within my own observation, such as predicted sicknesses, marriages, separations, crimes, insanity, deaths and inheritances which have come true.

READING CHILDREN'S HANDS

It is of the utmost importance to have the hands of children and young people read. Their weaknesses and special fitness for professions and avocations may be known years before they manifest themselves. It is useless to make a lawyer of a mechanic; a physician or a butcher of a person too timid to kill a chicken; folly to make a boy, who cannot manage himself, proprietor of a business. Better to bring him up in a trade or calling in which he is an employe. Then there is the great importance to be derived by discovering the deficiencies in the boy and girl and rectifying them; for in many cases the defects shown may be entirely eradicated by pursuing the proper course, and the method of discipline best adapted to the subject will be disclosed through the hand reading.

PALMISTRY AND OTHER SCIENCES

Phrenology is but the threshold of the Temple of Palmistry, within whose golden doors real facts, data and truth begin. We examine the head as we do the type of hand for the foundation of character and temperament, but we trace the lines
in the hand for the actual ebb and flow of the con-
fl icting tides of life. I do not want to say by this 
that Palmistry does not agree with Physiognomy 
and Phrenology. It is in perfect accord with them 
as far as they go. In fact, Palmistry agrees with 
the practically established psychologic sciences. 
The shape of the hand alone will teach as much 
as Phrenology does.

It is in harmony with physiology; for it may 
be said the more artistic the hand the more æsthetic 
the individual. The finer the curve of the horse's 
neck and his outline of figure, the higher the 
breeding—and so on in other grades of comparison.

It agrees with graphology; for as the instru-
ment, so must be the handiwork. A person with 
a philosophic hand will write a coarse, cramped, 
angular hand, while the writing of the conical hand 
will be even and exquisite in its harmony.

**AS APPLIED TO MARRIAGE.**

One of the most important features in Palmistry 
is its applicability to the marriage relation. Owing 
to the frequent occurrence of mesalliances Palm-
istry can here serve a very useful function. 
Probably less than one married couple in ten live 
happy, harmonious lives, the agreement thus pro-
duced conducing to proper conditions of health and 
to longevity; for conflict, quarreling, infidelity and 
unadaptability of the sexual temperament can but 
result in irritability, nervousness, sickness, often 
business failure, and puny, ill-conditioned children.

I examine hand after hand, and find in the 
majority of cases unhappiness in marriage. Many 
of these show the sign of separation. I dislike to 
believe these unfavorable prophesies, and try to 
cast them aside. Nevertheless, I know they are 
true. The history of domestic life at the present 
time confirms it. I see these things happening 
about me daily. Why should the hand show a lie? 
It does not. The average young man and young 
woman does not look at the marriage union 
seriously enough.

Much misery could be saved by having the 
hands of the man and woman contemplating mar-
riage read by a competent palmist, and then pay-
ing attention to what had been told. This is where 
Palmistry can do a signal service.
Incompatibility of temper is responsible for most unhappy marriages. It is impossible to mix oil with water, gum with alcohol, mucilage with acids. Just so are some temperaments inharmonious, and association will but bring out the opposing elements the stronger. Many people marry to find out these appalling incompatibilities later.

Pre-nuptial association is attended with the stage lights at full strength, the paint of dissimulation wrought to the highest touch, and the sound of the orchestra and glamor of the scenery and chorus entirely blinding the realities of the moment.

The honeymoon over, the echo of the chorus dies away in the distance, the scene changes, and the couple find themselves viewing the spec-

Leon Herrmann, the magician's hand, is particularly adapted to the profession its owner has chosen, indicating a wonderful imagination and love of the mysterious. This imagination is shown by a strong, sloping head line from the mount of the moon. Great sensitiveness, love of art and poetry, strong intuitive powers and great love and enthusiasm are the qualities that contribute to make him successful. The hand is strikingly feminine. The desire for pleasure, frivolity and the good and tempting things of this life are so strong that if he is not careful they will over-balance the other qualities and cause his failure.

tacle from the wings of the stage, as it were. The colors are more sombre, the heat of the furnace has cooled and the cold wind of life whistles through the interstices of the walls. They are face to face with reality.

It has been my experience, and I am consulted repeatedly by persons having trouble in marriage, that nearly every child-marriage, as I call them, contracted between the ages of fourteen and seventeen, is a failure. In fact, I only know of one instance among those coming personally to my attention which was completely satisfactory until death ensued. Divorce divided the others either soon after marriage or some years later; in one case I remember as late as the wife's twenty-sixth

18
year, she having been married between her thirteenth and fourteenth years to a man much older. Yet all these years she had been unhappy. Her parents compelled the marriage in the first place, and after a few days she began to dislike her husband. Even in this case there were children who had to suffer for the sins of their parents.

More than once I have seen the line of separation in the hand at the time of marriage, and a few years later seen the couple part, and, in legal time, secure a divorce.

I have seen the signs of an unhappy marriage in the hand of the bride and a sign threatening her with a violent danger and almost a fatality. Several years after she was struck with the butt end of a gun by her husband and nearly killed. In this case the couple began to quarrel six months after marriage, the police being called in several times to cool the husband's madness. This affair resulted in separation.

**STUDYING PALMISTRY**

If it is of any value to know the character of the person you are dealing with in business, if it is advantageous to know the disposition of the person you are about to marry, then knowledge of the hand is really of great importance. As unsuccessful marriages are mostly caused by incompatibility of disposition and misunderstanding each other, it would be very acceptable here in preventing such misery. Hundreds of people live to middle
life, and by not understanding human nature are cheated, taken advantage of and swindled out of what would have been a competence and perhaps made them independent the rest of their lives.

The study of music is considered of great importance. Taking dancing lessons is a part of every young lady's and young gentleman's education if they expect to appear to advantage in social affairs. At least thousands of dollars are spent for these ends yearly. And all for what? For pleasure. To appease the god of vanity. Not to add to their advantage in a business or commercial way, but for an apparent opposite effect—to assist in spending money. Would it not be just as consistent to invest a little money in Palmistry? The social part could at the same time be catered to, so that they could not only use it as an accomplishment, but employ it as well in knowing others, in ascertaining their vulnerable points and their unsailable phases of character.

Leave out the beneficial part altogether, if one wishes, and consider it from the social standpoint, for it is a fact that "Palmistry is again resuming its sway and is receiving marked encouragement in fashionable circles. Society belles are learning to take their admirers by the hand and read them like a book; thus with Venus in the ascendancy, Apollo smilingly listens to his fate, and the torch of Hymen is not always kindled in vain."

In these pages I have given you just a glimpse of Palmistry. I have taken you through a palm forest of beautiful angles, lines and curves. You have seen the fingers of these palms take different shapes, according to their kind; some were tapering, white and gentle, and belonged to the vivacious maid; some slightly rough and distorted, and belonged to the person of uncertain mien; and others rugged, healthy and confident, possessed by the man of the world. If you have been observant and scanned this forest well, you are doubtless convinced that the great network of lines in the palms have a special significance, were placed there for a specific purpose, and the solution of their intricacies is but a question of human knowledge.
A Few things that may be discovered by having the hand read. ... ... ...

1. If a person has musical, artistic or dramatic ability.
2. If a person is cautious and prudent.
3. If a person will make a success by his own personal efforts or through the assistance of other people.
4. If a person will have changes or losses in life.
5. If a person has an artistic or a material nature.
6. If a person has a meddling, fault-finding disposition.
7. If a person worries over little things or only over large affairs.
8. If a man lets his wife rule him or if he rules his wife.
9. If a person is extravagant, in money or in talk.
10. If a person is independent in thought and action.
11. If a person is practical or theoretical.
12. If a person has a weak or strong character.
13. If a person is deceitful or not.
14. If a person is inquisitive or not.
15. If a person has good or bad judgment.
16. If a person has continuity and perseverance.
17. If a person has a love of the intellectual or of the material in life.
18. If a person is egotistical or not.
19. If a person is domineering or not.
20. If a person is orderly or disorderly.
21. If a person likes quantity or quality in food.
22. If a person has inventive ability.
23. If a person is liable to accident.
24. If a person has occult powers.
25. If a person will have good or bad luck.
26. If a person has traveled or will travel much by land or by water.
27. If a person will have many opportunities to marry, and if married life will be happy or otherwise.
28. If you will marry for love or for money.
29. If you will be ruled by others or if you will rule others.