

Lewis Handwriting Chart

(Supplement to “Villainous Handwriting”: A Chronological Study of C.S. Lewis’s Script in Volume 33: pp.73-94)

As this chart illustrates, there are distinct patterns to Lewis’s handwriting which are useful in the dating some of his undated manuscripts. Some of the changes in Lewis’s hand were immediate and distinct—and so apparently deliberate, and some of were slow and subtle—and so apparently unconscious. By the end of the 1940s and into the 50s and 60s, Lewis’s writing had “settled down,” and changes—which do exist within these decades—are fewer, more subtle, and more difficult to map out.

The following Lewis Handwriting Chart provides examples of the main periods in Lewis’s handwriting as well as major subdivisions reflecting changes in C.S. Lewis’s script.

1. 1905 - (1910) 1912 - Childhood Years
2. (1910) 1912 - 1921 - Traditional Cursive
3. 1922 - September 1926 - Deliberate Change
4. October 1926 - October 1931 - The “Great War” G (and Several Fs)
5. November 1931 - 1933 - Lewis’s Final Letter g
6. 1934 - 1939 - Left lower looping, triangular Fs
7. 1940 - 1952 - “Classic” Lewis Style
8. 1953 - 1963 - Messy, Staccato Style

For further detail describing key markers and characteristics of the eight periods in Lewis’s handwriting, please see “‘Villainous Handwriting’: A Chronological Study of C.S. Lewis’s Script” in *VII* Volume 33. To order Volume 33, go to <http://www.wheaton.edu/wadecenter/Journal-VII/Subscriptions>.

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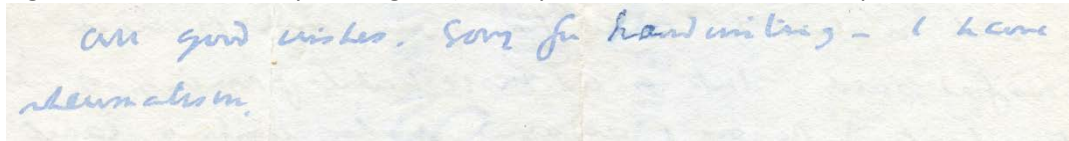
Figure	Owner of Manuscript
<p>Figure 1.1 – Letter to Roy Harrington (January 19, 1948); See <i>VII</i> Vol. 33 p. 73.</p> 	<p>Marion E. Wade Center, Wheaton College</p>

Figure 2.1a – Letter to Owen Barfield (January 24, 1926); See VII Vol. 33 p. 76.

It was a kind, if uneconomic, thought to send a copy to a certain purchaser. Many thanks. I have now read it through. Prior to any other criticism, you will be glad to know

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Figure 2.1b – Letter to Owen Barfield (February 2, 1927); See VII Vol. 33 p. 76.

My dear Barfield – Advice wanted urgently. Do you know anything of a thing called the Panton

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Figure 2.2 – See VII Vol. 33 p. 76.

“Boxen, or Scenes from Boxonian City Life” (Volume One) (1912)

The result was that a couple of days later the boys, Pig, Colonel Whitney, Fortescue,

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Letter to Arthur Greeves (July 25, 1922)

the last twenty years of her life to astrology. Without the least

Letter to Owen Barfield (January 24, 1926)

much clearer than the whole. By the bye, a good deal of this may be due to my knowing more about you out.

Letter to Owen Barfield (October 21, 1929)

Thanks for letter. I wolfed Part IV of the novel with great excitement and must, of course, re-read it before my criticism can be of

Figure 2.3 – See VII Vol. 33 p. 76

Letter to Owen Barfield (October 21, 1929)

The bad side, as you probably feel itself. There is in this last part a problem you have not (I think)

Letter to Arthur Greeves (December 24, 1930)

My dear Arthur – I take no blame for the long silence. In the latter half of term like now: but the dinner on the wrapper is worth having for its own sake. I envy have been almost wholly occupied with sawing and axing for firewood, or cleaning

Letter to Arthur Greeves (February 1932)

This I had better write a letter you don't like: let me see – I must first select

Letter to Warren Lewis (April 3, 1934)

The journey was pleasant as far as Chester. There

Letter to Owen Barfield (June 2, 1940)

to this particular tribulation; for the particular, when it arrives, always

Letter to Arthur Greeves (January 30, 1944)

agencies of any kind. Nor do I know any

Letter to Roy Harrington (January 19, 1948)

-ground material; the only thing of any importance

Letter to Mary Shelburne (November 30, 1957)

Dear Mary Wilkes – Thanks for your letter of

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Figure 2.4 – See VII Vol. 33 p. 77
Letter to Arthur Greeves (January 1943)

not very good, except for a fat pale man with his basin of cocoa – a little like

Letter to Roy Harrington (January 19, 1948)

revealing what you asked for, one of my former notes

Letter to Mary Van Deusen (January 26, 1954)

Thanks for your letter of

Letter to Mary Van Deusen (January 16, 1959)

“I guess about it” – I have never been able to find out. But

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Figure 3.1 – See VII Vol. 33 pp. 77-82

1. **1905-(1910) 1912 – Childhood Years:** “To Mars and Back” manuscript (1909)

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I. To Mars and back - Lewis.
When I first met Brown F.R.A.S., I
had no idea that his love for
Jules Verne's side of astronomy
would lead me into this. I came
to know him through his $\frac{1}{2}$ -broth-
-er James: as I took a mild
interest in astronomy, ~~the~~ Brown
and I were good chums. It was
after I had known him for about
a month that he suddenly def-
-ed in to see me one night.

~~He~~ "Bensin I'm going to Mars"
he said in his short way.
I laughed. "How?" said I. "In a
vessel" said he "all I want
is money." "Don't be a fool
Brown" said I "you'll never do
it!" "Oh yes I will" quoth
he "at any rate I'll try."

2. (1910) 1912-1921 - Traditional Cursive: Letter to Arthur Greeves (May 6, 1917)

My dear Galahad, I am afraid this letter is not punctual and
I am further afraid that many of my letters this term will not
be punctual. We do not do really much here, but somehow the
whole day is frittered away in little things. As for going on to

3. 1922-September 1926 – Deliberate Change: Letter to Arthur Greeves (July 25, 1922)

We were all glad to get your letter and not only for the enclosure as you might maliciously say! Although we may seem to you at times rival spectators we really feel the greatest sympathy for your present restoration to the paternal roof tree. We all miss you very much and so, no doubt, do our

4. October 1926-October 1931 – The “Great War” “G” (and Several “F’s”): Letter to Arthur Greeves (March 1929)

I am very sorry your message has been so long delayed. If you remember my way of life, you will know that I am kept in by pupils all morning, that I then

5. November 1931-1933 – Lewis’s Final Letter “G”: Letter to Arthur Greeves (December 6, 1931)

-like but positively enjoy almost every kind of weather. We had about three days of dense fog here lately. That was enough to tax even my powers of diving without the sun, but though it became oppressive in the end I felt that it was a death piece

6. 1934-1939 – Left Lower Looping Triangular “F’s”: Letter to Owen Barfield (June 28, 1936)

-ication you sent me? I liked it immensely, not only, I hope, for the intimacy, but for the felicity (not hitherto the commonest excellence in your work or mine): but after keeping it on my table for about ten days with the intention of copying it onto the fly leaf of the book, I

7. 1940-1952 – “Classic” Lewis Style: Letter to Arthur Greeves (December 11, 1944)

The ones which teach the fullest and most dogmatic theology are precisely the ones that retain their people and make converts, while the liberalising and modernising ones lose ground every day. Thus the R.C.'s are flourishing and growing, and in the C. of E. the "high" churches are fuller than in "low"; not

8. 1953-1963 – "Messy," "Staccato" Style: Letter to Mary Van Deusen (December 4, 1954)

Dear Mr. Van Deusen - I was just wondering when I had been from you again. There is no need to "rational yourself"; provided you will not be hurt or puzzled if affairs are sometimes sandy or shabby! By the way, when must eat the bread

1. 1905 - (1910) 16 1912 - Childhood Years

Figure 3.2 – King's Ring manuscript (1906); See VII Vol. 33 p.77

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(deposited by Walter Hooper)

In a former treatise I have described the foundation of thessarics, and discussed the matter. In that little work (owing to lack of some requisites), I omitted to say, (1.) How King Glasman put down the natives, (2.) How he paid for the building of the thesary. (3.) Any thing about thess orders, and social organisation. On the ~~the~~ request of my father, I am now penning an essay to supply these wants, or try to, rather. In the first place we must remember that Glasman's thessmen were civilised, and had, naturally, better weapons than the crude and savage

Figure 3.3 – "To Mars and Back" manuscript (1909); See VII Vol. 33 p. 77

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I. To Mars and back - Lewis.
When I first met Brown F.R.A.S., I
had no idea that his love for
Jules Verne's side of astronomy
would lead me into this. I came
to know him through his $\frac{1}{2}$ -broth-
-er James: as I took a mild
interest in astronomy, ~~the~~ Brown
and I were good chums. It was
after I had known him for about
a month that he suddenly def-
-ed in to see me one night.

~~He~~ "Bensin I'm going to Mars"
he said in his short way.
I laughed. "How?" said I. "In a
vessel" said he "all I want
is money." "Don't be a fool
Brown" said I "you'll never do
it!" "Oh yes I will" quoth
he "at any rate I'll try."

2. (1910) 191222 - 1921 - Traditional Cursive

Figure 3.4 – Letter to Arthur Greeves (July 24, 1915); See VII Vol. 33 p. 78

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hantres to the Ancient Mariner, as Danse Macabre is to the March of the Dwarfs. Also - I hope all these schemes aren't boring you - you are going to help me to improve my drawing nest holes. Figures I can do tolerably, but from you I must learn the technique of the game - shading, curves, how to do a background without swamping the figures etc. Of course this will all be in pen and ink which is the best medium for my kind of work - I can imagine you smile at my calling such scribbles "work"; but no matter. I am longing to get home again now, and except I shall arrive next Saturday. Yes Mrs. F. has

Figure 3.5 - Letter to Arthur Greeves (August 24, 1919); See VII Vol. 33 p. 78.

She expects to go to France in a week or so now, which is rather horrible. What a pity you couldn't come over and bear me company in the solitudes of Highfield. By the way there is a thing I want you to do.

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3. 1922 - September 1926 - Deliberate Change

Figure 3.6 - Pudaita Pie manuscript (1922-1924); See VII Vol. 33 p. 78.

Preface.

He would have been called a man of ^{opinions} fixed, but he was rather a man of fixed vocabulary. As some are known by their habitual clothes, hobbies or affections, so he was distinguished by the system of words and phrases in which his mind habitually worked. But these were the cause rather than the result a wonted circle of ideas. It is doubtful if anything

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<p>Figure 3.7 - Letter to A.K. Hamilton Jenkin (July 19, 1925); See VII Vol. 33 p. 78.</p> <p>bot in swevenis which comin by cause of planetis coniunction on from our filthie and corrupt repressiouns, ther is no maner sop nouthen ordinance of place and tyme. And I mette right so that I</p>	<p>Bodleian Libraries, Oxford University</p>
<p>Figure 3.8 - Letter to Owen Barfield (January 24, 1926); See VII Vol. 33 p. 78.</p> <p>Perfect cleanness, at a first reading, I cannot claim for it: but this was hardly to be expected. I shall be able to say more</p>	<p>Marion E. Wade Center, Wheaton College</p>
<p>4. October 1926 - October 1931 - The "Great War" G (and Several Fs)</p> <p>Figure 3.9 - Letter to Owen Barfield (February 2, 1927); See VII Vol. 33 p. 79.</p> <p>My dear Barfield - Advice wanted urgently. Do you know anything of a thing called the Pantom</p>	<p>Marion E. Wade Center, Wheaton College</p>
<p>Figure 3.10 - Letter to Arthur Greeves (December 27, 1929); See VII Vol. 33 p. 79.</p> <p>My dear Arthur - The perfect quest again! An awful thing has happened: I find that I have not got with me my three most valuable keys. I have writed to the Ulster</p>	<p>Marion E. Wade Center, Wheaton College</p>
<p>Figure 3.11 - Letter to A.K. Hamilton Jenkin (July 27, 1928); See VII Vol. 33 p. 79.</p> <p>I do hate writing letters unless I'm in the middle of an argument. If only I had a woman's habit of writing letters full of "news" as they call it!</p>	<p>Bodleian Libraries, Oxford University</p>

Figure 3.12 - Letter to Arthur Greeves (January 26, 1930); See VII Vol. 33 p. 79.

the "if not"), at any rate too little interesting to repay you for the labour of keeping up your side. I shan't be in the least offended if this is so: tho' even then I would like a line occasionally. However, one good result of growing up is that one learns how

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Figure 3.13 - Letter to Arthur Greeves (January 10, 1931); See VII Vol. 33 p. 79.

take a for granted, and explain to you are the sort of man who would try to persuade a girl to marry you by reading her all the general reasons for marriage out of the prayer book ("procreation of

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5. November 1931 - 1933 - Lewis's Final Letter G

Figure 3.14 - Letter to Arthur Greeves (February 4, 1933); See VII Vol. 33 p. 79.

in the garden finds himself busy from

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Figure 3.15 - Letter to Arthur Greeves (February 1932); See VII Vol. 33 p. 79.

historical falsehood: not that the things she describes did not probably happen in Greece, but that they were not typical - the Greeks being, no doubt, cruel by modern standards, but, by the standards of that age, extremely humane. She gives you the impression that the cruelty was essentially Greek, whereas it was precisely the opposite. But is, she is

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6. 1934 - 1939 - Left Lower Looping, Triangular Fs

Figure 3.16 - Letter to Arthur Greeves (December 26, 1934); See VII Vol. 33 p. 79.

this term with the intention of answering it, and here goes at last! I wonder how much of its news is still up to date. For example, if I had replied when the letter came I should have said "I am so glad to hear that you have settled down in a comfortable routine" - but I can't

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Figure 3.17 - Letter to Arthur Greeves (December 1935); See VII Vol. 33 p. 80.

have finished my book, which is called The Allegorical Love Poem, and is dedicated to Barfield. The Clarendon Press have accepted it and hope to have it out by May. As I am to get 12 free copies (Pents only give me 6) you

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Figure 3.18 - Letter to Owen Barfield (September 2, 1937); See VII Vol. 33 p. 80.

"Defeat and victory are the same in the sense that victory will open your eyes only to a deeper defeat: so fight on." In fact he is the friend statement

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7. 1940 - 1952 - "Classic" Lewis Style

Figure 3.19 - Letter to Arthur Greeves (December 20, 1943); See VII Vol. 33 p. 80.

wanted it. Some of the semi-comic giants have good names - "Uncle Two-Heads" and "Giant Safe-rides". But on the whole it's ho-ho stuff - though I naturally enjoyed reading it. I find a giant still has a queer fascination for me. Each of those fairy tale dangers has a different flavour. Recall it: I mean a dragon is quite a different feeling from a giant, and a witch

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Figure 3.20 - Letter to Arthur Greeves (May 25, 1941); See VII Vol. 33 p. 80.

town. She says that all my friends are alright so I suppose she wd. have mentioned you if you weren't. It's like the end of the world to think of bombs near

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Figure 3.21 - Letter to Arthur Greeves (December 10, 1942); See VII Vol. 33 p. 81.

an equal sense of exile - the fact that you're 6 miles from them and I a couple of hundred making no practical difference).

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<p>Figure 3.22 - Letter to Owen Barfield (May 18, 1945); See VII Vol. 33 p. 81.</p> <p>was true of Christ was, in its lower degree, true of all Christians - i.e. they go away to</p>	<p>Marion E. Wade Center, Wheaton College</p>
<p>Figure 3.23 - Letter to Arthur Greeves (May 13, 1946); See VII Vol. 33 p. 81.</p> <p>of Forest Reid; and in deed in an article love of two wk. I have just written for Time &</p>	<p>Marion E. Wade Center, Wheaton College</p>
<p>Figure 3.24 - Letter to Owen Barfield (December 16, 1947); See VII Vol. 33 p. 81.</p> <p>defence against, an allegation of, as domestic. Take care. When there is no office there may be no leisure at all. But of course of it can mean read</p>	<p>Marion E. Wade Center, Wheaton College</p>
<p>Figure 3.25 - Letter to Mary Shelburne (February 22, 1958); See VII Vol. 33 p. 81.</p> <p>of the "Repository artists", but what the Dickens are Repository Artists? I never heard of them</p>	<p>Marion E. Wade Center, Wheaton College</p>
<p>Figure 3.26 - Letter to Owen Barfield (December 16, 1947); See VII Vol. 33 p. 81.</p> <p>My dear B - Yes, I did read your letter. You must bear with me. Things were never worse at the Hills. W. is away, no correspondence was never</p>	<p>Marion E. Wade Center, Wheaton College</p>
<p>8. 1953 - 1963 - Messy, Staccato Style</p> <p>Figure 3.27 - Letter to Mary Van Deusen (December 28, 1953); See VII Vol. 33 p. 81.</p>	<p>Marion E. Wade Center, Wheaton College</p>

Dear Mrs. Van Deusen

Thanks for yr letter of
the 20th; my congratulations to yr husband
on his interesting work. About Paul, I believe

Figure 3.28 – Letter to Susan Salzberg (February 5, 1960); See VII Vol. 33 p. 81.

Dear Susan Salzberg

All I can tell you is that
pictures come into my head and I write stories

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Figure 3.29 – Letter to Mary Van Deusen (January 16, 1959); See VII Vol. 33 p. 81.

is why those who believe, like yourself, continue to
expose yourselves to the temptations against faith which
evil men will present to you, and will then judge by
attending their lectures!

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Figure 3.30 – Letter to Patricia Mackey (June 8, 1960); See VII Vol. 33 p. 82.

Julien (why must so) before she ate it

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Figure 4.1 – The Pudaita Pie (1922-1924, alternative dates 1926-1930); See VII Vol. 33 p. 83.

On the occasion of a stepladder having been used
to support a tent, he observed, "You break up the
good stepladder! And what for, forsooth? -To make a
thing like an abortive Punch and Judy show!"

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Figure 4.2 – The Pudaita Pie (1922-1924, alternative dates 1926-1930); See VII Vol. 33 p. 83.

96.

Jules Verne being mentioned, his interlocutor remarked " I don't think those novels would interest us any less because the things which he invented have now become common place matter of fact. One could still enjoy Twenty Thousand Leagues under the sea just as much, tho' one is used to real submarines." " But in his time ", he retorted, " sure such a thing had never been heard of."

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Figure 4.3 – See VII Vol. 33 p. 85
Summa manuscript page 8 - red text only (1928-1929)

Clearly, by my own analogy, an author could make a character aware of him (the author) if he chose. The point is that the character has no causality do not therefore apply to it. This may be expressed in

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Summa manuscript page 16 – red text only (1928-1929)

-ilton) with spirit. True in fact but argument doubtful;
The whole difference between ontologic "creation" wh. uses elements of a pre-existing world + real cosmic creation has been neglected.
VIII. Even if the existence of intermediaries be granted, then, since

Figure 4.4 – Moral Good manuscript (1924-1925); See VII Vol. 33 p. 86.

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IV

The motives for deception imply weakness & ∴ God is no deceiver. How then does error come? Error is merely defect, i.e. partial nothingness, & so not caused by God. But this is hardly satisfactory, for error is not purely negative. The truth is, it results from the combination of my faculty of cognition with my free will: i.e. free to do or not to do = to affirm or deny, to pursue or shun. And as the will is "of wider range" than the understanding, it extends itself to things I do not understand, and making choices there, falls into error.

Figure 4.5 – Moral Good manuscript (1924-1925); See VII Vol. 33 p. 86.

V.

Zeus, in the graver pictures of him, sits immovably on some cold mountain top far beyond the region of clouds and storms. He "neither slumbers nor sleeps" and his nod shakes all Olympus. Such a god, from the first, invites metaphysical treatment. We know that the people who talked thus of Zeus with sooner or later talk of the One, and the Form of the good which is beyond existence. In

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