

Analysis of Jeffery Epstein's  
50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Book,  
vis-à-vis Donald Trump

For John Solomon

by Wayne A. Barnes

September 12, 2025

## Summary

This is not a case of a thumbs-up or thumbs-down determination as to whether the first-name signature of Donald Trump on the single page of Jeffery Epstein's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Book is *his* signature. It is much more complex. The lettering appears to be in the style of the way Mr. Trump writes his first name as an informal signature, and he very likely wrote those letters. But that does not mean he signed his name to the full page of dialogue, with curving lines drawn around it. A thorough investigation indicates it is *highly unlikely* that he penned (or with a felt-tip marker or Sharpie) or wrote his name beneath those dialogue lines and the drawing.

## Objective

In the ordinary course of a signature investigation, the objective is to determine whether a Questioned (Q) signature, which is of unknown or uncertain origin, when compared with known (K), or control signatures, written by the subject, is a forgery. The analysis is rigorous and the consistencies and similarities in the known signatures will usually stand out as different in obvious, and sometimes not so obvious ways, from the questioned signature, if it is a forgery.

In the present situation, the analysis is more dynamic. Here there is a questioned signature, which can be compared to hundreds of known and readily available signatures written by Mr. Trump. The objective is to determine *not* whether it is a forgery, but rather, if it is the valid signature by the one who signed it, or much more consequentially, if someone who applied a copy of the Trump signature to the page in question, and how it was done? The reason this is the issue is because the dynamics of the signature fall well within how Mr. Trump signs his name. That is, it was not forged by another and written, flat out, right there on the page. This was written by Mr. Trump's hand, but the question is to determine if he actually signed at the bottom of the page, as many have asserted, while Mr. Trump says he did not. Note, a forgery is someone signing another's name. The present case is an issue of someone applying another's name to a place the named individual did not, or would not sign, of his own volition. That is, it is *not* a "forged signature," but rather a "fraudulent signature." The objective is to analyze all of the material and make a determination as to what occurred, from all of the available facts.

## The Investigation

After 48-years of analyzing signatures, one thing stands out above all others. It is *never* just about the signature. Instead, what is most important is the *investigation* surrounding the fact pattern of the signature, which can bring clarity to what has occurred.

The present matter is no different. Those details will be provided in the following pages.

## The Fact Pattern

On January 20, 2003, a very wealthy Jeffrey Epstein celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. The records show that many individuals sent Epstein greetings and well-wishes for his big day in the form of letters. He was not just wealthy, but he had an extremely wide circle of friends, representing many different spheres of life in the U.S., other billionaires, entertainers, politicians, and more. It

should be clarified that, at this time, in 2003, while there were both rumors and some well-founded evidence that Epstein had some very nefarious aspects to his personality, at that time, all of the details were not known to all of his friends, depending on the nature of their relationships. For the purpose of this analysis, it can only be said that some-knew-and-some-didn't, and some had heard portions of what was taking place regarding the activities on Little Saint James Island in the U.S. Virgin Islands, that became known as "Pedophile Island."

At some point after the birthday celebration, Epstein's longtime associate and girlfriend, Ghislaine Maxwell, reportedly took the many letters of birthday congratulations and had them bound into a book.

(I have not seen the book, either photos of it, or in person, but I understand it is hardbound, where the pages cannot readily be removed, nor could any be inserted into it, since it was first made. This is not a certainty, but it is the working theory.)

Also, about the specific page which is the subject of this analysis, there was no clarification that anyone could say, on the day of the bookbinding, that it was certainly among all of the other pages. Whether it was, or was not, its existence would only come to the attention of the public years later.

The below was provided by the House of Representatives Oversight Committee, and portrays the page in question:

Voice Over:

There must be more to life than having everything.

Donald

Yes, there is, but I won't tell you what it is.

Jeffrey

Nor will I, since I also know what it is.

Donald

We have certain things in common, Jeffrey.

Jeffrey

Yes, we do, come to think of it.

Donald

Enigmas never age, have you noticed that?

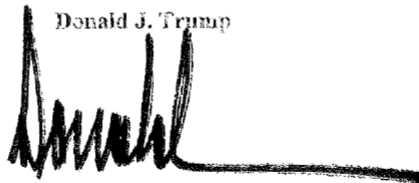
Jeffrey

As a matter of fact, it was clear to me the last time I saw you.

Donald

A pal is a wonderful thing. Happy Birthday—and may every day be another wonderful secret.

Donald J. Trump

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald J. Trump', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sometime in recent months, the existence of this page was brought out into the open. No one seems to assert that it involves anything illegal or even implies something of questionable legality. What has been asserted, however, and by many who are in political opposition to Mr. Trump, is that he had the audacity to send such a familiar and intended-to-be-humorous birthday greeting to a man, who has since gained the enmity of almost everyone in the United States. That is in light of his now-revealed reputation as a serial pedophile, who somehow escaped retribution from the American justice system, seemingly for decades. Many assessed that Epstein's wealth and personal relationships with influential individuals was what likely protected him from being brought to heel by the scales of justice. If one was aware of all of that, and still honored the man with a cordial greeting, that is what might place Mr. Trump in a negative light.

Mr. Trump has denied having sent the offending letter, and also denied creating it, or having any knowledge of it before it was made public. As is normal in such circumstances, seemingly battalions of Trump's political enemies asserted outrage at what they see as a close, personal relationship between Mr. Trump and the dastardly Epstein.

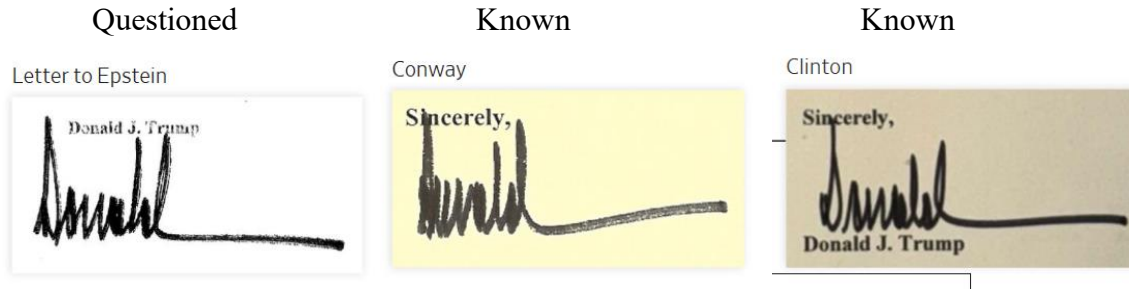
Mr. Trump replied that he had a break in his relationship with Epstein from the 1990s. Those opposing him are quick to point at his ostensible signature at the bottom of the page. The words of the dialogue would indicate a close familiarity with the evil Epstein. With the drawing, the outline of a female form, and the dialogue of an imaginary repartee between "Donald" and "Jeffery," it has been asserted that the two of them share something "secret." It appears to many to imply something lascivious. Additionally, the style of the signature, "Donald," some have described as appearing like female pubic hair, in light of the placement below the torso form of the female outline.

While there may be some other facts or assertions involved, this set of facts is sufficient for the reader to understand the anxiety regarding this page. It has drawn much attention to both the issues of Mr. Trump's integrity and his associating with a questionable individual with a nefarious reputation. Some have analogized with the old adage, "When you wallow with the pigs, expect to get dirty."

It is Mr. Trump's position that the entire document is fabricated, that he had nothing to do with it. This is just one of many obvious examples in recent years, of those who mean him harm—physically, financially, through the U.S. Justice system, etc. How he is seen in the eyes of everyday Americans is what hangs in the balance for Mr. Trump.

### **Mr. Trump's Signature**

Samples have been put forward of when Mr. Trump signed his name to various letters. All were variations of "thank you," "in appreciation," or "congratulations."



There is no doubt about the similarity of the signature on the dialogue page having been written by the same hand as the dozens of other sample first-name signatures of Mr. Trump. But as stated elsewhere, that is not the same thing as asserting that he *signed* on that page—not at all.

Every viewed signature was written using a black felt-tip/Sharpie pen. It is the same signature observed dozens of times on television when Mr. Trump signed bills into law at the Resolute desk in the Oval Office.

Specifically, all of the lines have an upward, then downward direction, almost as though there was pressure from the beginning and ending of the word, pushing it together in an accordion style. Think of a concertina.

The capital “D” could just as soon be an uppercase script “S,” with the only difference being how much it appears to be squeezed together.

Unlike a “manager’s signature,” where there are usually lowercase letters written as nearly straight horizontal lines, or omitted completely, this is the signature of a very detailed person, in all things and at all times. Each letter, no matter how squeezed in and vertical, is present. The “o,” the points of the “n,” the nearly-filled-in “a,” then the tall “l,” sometimes with a slit for the opening of the loop, such as it is, and sometimes with the both vertical lines of the letter touching in their path, and other times almost like a single line. Each and every one of these letters described are in the questioned “Donald,” as well as the known samples.

The last letter, “d,” is the most distinctive of all, for two reasons. The circle of the lower part of the letter in script, just as when printed from a computer, should be touching the lower half of the vertical line. But Mr. Trump does not do that, ever. In every sample, including the one on the dialogue page, the lower circle is to the left of the vertical, a smidgen away from it.

If one were told to write their script lowercase “d” in this manner, it would be almost impossible to do, but it is how Mr. Trump always writes his “d,” with the circle separated from the vertical line. In signature analysis, this is considered to be an *anomaly*, as almost no one ever does it. It is distinctly attributable to Mr. Trump.

There is another reason this last letter distinguishes his first name, Donald, as an informal signature, as opposed to his full-length “Donald Trump” signature. That is the horizontal line at the ending of the “d,” with a long tail off to the right. Some people might underline their name for apparent emphasis. Some might have a dot over an “i” or a “j,” which they would punch onto

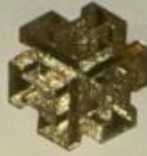
the paper as a form of finality in completing their signature. Here, it is the extended line, far past the name, which is Mr. Trump's trademark flourish at the end of his first-name signatures. All have very similar streaks to the right, with a slight arc in the full length of the line. But also, due to what is likely an oblong point of the felt-tip pen, just as in calligraphy, while the vertical direction of the tip of the Sharpie makes the vertical lines in the signatures fairly slender, when the slash goes to the right, the line has a greater thickness of the sharpie, causing a thicker line. Were he to use a felt-tip pen with a point, and not an oblong shape, the line to the right would be as thin as the rest of the lines in the signature, but it is not. That is something else a would-be forger would have to consider if there were such an attempt at a forgery.

So, it is clear that Mr. Trump drew this word, "Donald," but it is not clear if he drew it on this page, and if not—as he strongly asserts—then where did it come from? Was it photocopied, trimmed around the edges, and then placed there as an applique, and then photocopied, again? Or could there have been something like an autopen, created for just this occasion.

We might think of Corporal Radar O'Reilly in the MASH television series, placing a dozen documents on the desk in front of an absentminded Colonel Blake. He would simply sign each one, willy-nilly, and never bother to read any of them. (In one episode, that is how Rader placed a form, among many, on Col. Blake's desk, which he signed, unread, and enabled the corporal to save a lamb from being Thanksgiving dinner, by sending it back to the States and his family farm, with transfer orders for "Private Lamb.")

Mr. Trump appears to have no such proclivity of not knowing what is on the desk before him. There is every indication that he reads what he signs, and signs his own name. Further, it would also seem that he signs a message he is familiar with, because he dictated it.

Below are three examples of full letters with the "Donald" signature:



November 10, 2000

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Senator-Elect from New York  
450 Seventh Avenue  
New York, NY 10123

Dear Hillary:

Congratulations on your well-deserved victory! I know you will do a great job in Washington, and I looking forward to having you represent us there for the next six years.

With best wishes,

great going!

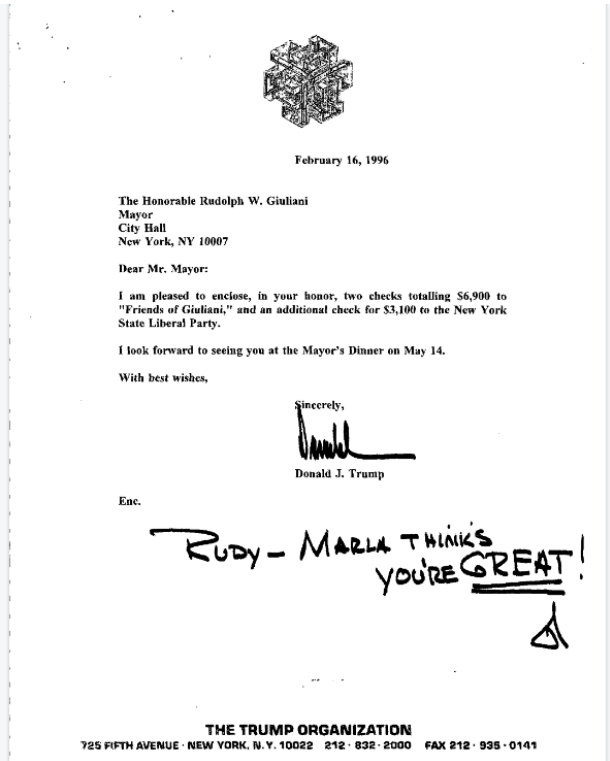
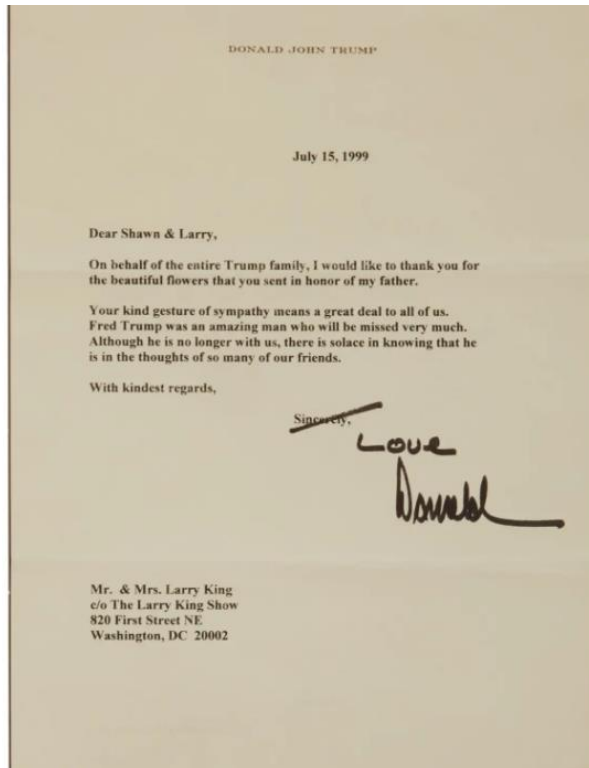
Sincerely,

Donald J. Trump

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## The Wording of the Dialogue Message

Here is the wording of the dialogue-style message:

Voice Over:

There must be more to life than having everything.

Donald

Yes, there is, but I won't tell you what it is.

Jeffrey

Nor will I, since I also know what it is.

Donald

We have certain things in common, Jeffery

Jeffery

Yes, we do, come to think of it.

Donald

Enigmas never age, have you noticed that?

Jeffery

As a matter of fact, it was clear to me the last time I saw you.

Donald

A pal is a wonderful thing. Happy Birthday—and may every day be another  
wonderful secret

Donald J. Trump

(signed, first name, Donald)

Wikipedia gives us this definition: **Voice-over** (also known as off-camera or off-stage commentary) is a production technique used in radio, television, filmmaking, theatre, and other media.

True, Mr. Trump is familiar with production techniques, but this isn't a voice-over at all. It is straight dialogue with nothing further to be heard or read. Not to be nitpicking, but this is something that Mr. Trump would not say, and words he would not use to describe this apparent situation.

While the overall impression of the dialogue might seem to indicate a close relationship between Mr. Trump and Epstein, one which did not exist during the birthday time frame, it is the apparent referral to something hidden, maybe salacious, secret and personal between the two men that was not at all the relationship they had at the time, and not at any time. It is more than an overstatement of the contacts between the two men, a fabrication made for the reader.

If Epstein read these lines in 2003, he would surely see it as someone playing a practical joke, because Epstein knew no such camaraderie existed. It might have seemed humorous to him, but he would likely have wondered who sent it, realizing it could not possibly have been created by Mr. Trump. In fact, it is not outside the realm of possibility that Epstein, himself, created this page, simply to entertain himself, not fully foreseeing the potential consequences far into the future, and after his own demise.

Let's touch on the confusing dialogue. The first line appears to be spoken by the person whose name is beneath it, "Donald." But if you follow that pattern to the fourth entry, ending with "...common, Jeffery," and the name "Jeffery" beneath it, that would mean this was Epstein's line, but it could not be, with him referring to himself.

If you assume then that the very first line is like a set up for the ones to come, then the name of the speaker is *above* the line after it. If so, then who speaks the opening line?

If that is so, and the second line is from “Donald,” (Yes, there is, but I won’t tell *you* what it is.), then who is the “you” to whom he is speaking, the “Voice Over”? That doesn’t make sense, either.

A lot of noise has been made by those supporting this being a valid page created and signed by Mr. Trump. One thing they point to is the use of verbiage that is known to be lines he often uses, “enigma,” and “a wonderful thing,” for instance. But if one stands back from this surface thinking and farther outside of the box, one should realize that if someone wanted to attribute these several lines as having been written by Mr. Trump, wouldn’t the actual creator pick words that are exactly that Mr. Trump uses, which the public is used to him saying and writing, because it would then look like a Trump-creation? So, for the same reason it is asserted that these words make it appear to be Mr. Trump’s idea, in fact, this turns the logic around and makes it someone else’s fabrication, more like a Saturday Night Live parody skit with the joke being aimed at Mr. Trump.

One would have to interview his staff and secretary to clarify what words Mr. Trump often uses, if not over-uses, but also there are words that he would likely never use. Would he ever refer to any man, or here, especially Epstein, as a “pal.” It doesn’t sound Trumpian. In fact, in all of the research, with many pages of varied documents connected with Mr. Trump, there has never been one that has anything like this tiered-line dialogue configuration. His is a one-page, formatted letter, business stationery, formal to the addressee, taking care of business in a single paragraph, and then, maybe, something hand printed and short, like, “Enjoy your birthday!” and that’s it. No muss, no fuss, and it is out of the way and on to the next thing on his agenda.

### **Extraneous But Relevant Information**

A signature analysis should be only one part of a larger investigation. On the page, surrounding any signature which is at issue, there may be sets of numbers, possibly from handwritten dates, as on a deed, a will, or any document that requires notarization. Often those numbers have unique patterns used by the signer. When an individual is trying to deny the authenticity of their signature, it is easy enough to compare, not just the scrawl of their signatures, but also the way—the style—in which they wrote their numbers. Those can then be compared with other known numbers they have written, which are not in question. This helps to support the position that the signature they signed is also a valid one.

While this analysis technique is not in evidence here—no numbers that are handwritten—it is an important example to demonstrate that other details of a document “in evidence” may have other factors not perceived by the writer—and sometimes by the forger—which could be their undoing.

This is the case with many other aspects of an investigation which may seem extraneous, that is, not to be relevant. But it is important to take the entire picture of the scene of the signing, as well as any other knowledge which may aid in coming to a conclusion about the signature, one way or the other.

Video from a closed-circuit camera, inside or in an adjacent parking lot, might show the signer of the notarized document entering the building and office at the appropriate time to have been the signer. The absence of his presence would work the other way—he wasn't there. But, again, while important, that is not applicable here.

The person who would benefit from a forged signature becomes especially important when looking at, for instance, a will. If the new will cancels all of the former beneficiaries of an earlier will, this would point a finger at who stands to gain the most as being involved in the forgery. This could end up with the forger, not only losing out on the will, but being charged with a felony and going to jail.

But, again, this particular extraneous aspect is not important, because there is no one in the current fact pattern who specifically gains (like from a will), so there is no obvious individual party to look to, as the one who benefits. However, there is a potential gain, by someone who was involved in creating the document in question, if the goal was for the one whose signature is fraudulent, appears diminished in the eyes of the public. We can turn to the Latin phrase used in the law, *cui bono*, who benefits? Here, it might not as much be “who benefits,” but the opposite, “to whose detriment” as long as it aids the culprit in his political position, by comparison.

Often, for documents which are questioned, there will have been other individuals present, who may also have signed the document at the same time, as a notary and witnesses. Interviewing those individuals is important, and they also have something to lose if they have been dishonest. For a state certified notary, it is her entire livelihood at stake, and all of her previous notarizations will also be called into question. So any witnesses to the signing should be interviewed by a professional investigator, and there should be an investigation of all seemingly extraneous factors which could be relevant to determine the authenticity of the signature in question. This would include fingerprints and DNA, which might have been left on the document, or anything else the signer, or the forger, may have touched in the area, not unlike the crime scene investigation at bank robberies. That aspect is too late for this investigation, although it should be a lesson learned for the “next time.”

But, alas, for the present fact pattern, there seems to have been no one present to have witnessed, either way, when the dialogue lines were written on the page. Due to the many parties that could have handled the page since its inception, there would also be no usable fingerprints or DNA to look for.

### **The Creation of the Dialogue Page**

Mr. Trump emphatically asserts that the dialogue page is a “dead issue,” and that he had nothing to do with it, did not create it, endorse it, and it was news to him when it first surfaced. His political enemies, of course, ridicule this response, but why? Because he (allegedly) signed his (first) name to it! But how conclusive is that?

I recently had a signature investigation where there was a will, signed and notarized, in which the daughters of the decedent questioned the validity of their father's signature on the will. They were very familiar with what it looked like, and the one on the will was not it.

The decedent's business partner, three months after the decedent passed away, seemingly magically produced a will where, of course, she was named as the sole beneficiary.

In reviewing a plethora of property records in the U.S. jurisdiction, trying to locate signatures examples to compare to the one on the will, I found something most extraordinary.

The will, from 2019, had a signature which was identical to one on a deed from 2016. For those not familiar with the fine points about signatures, there can never be two identical signatures, not signed two minutes apart or two years apart—never! But there it was.

I noticed that, beneath the signature line, where the signer's name was typed out on the will, the two last letters of the man's name were partially obliterated. How could that be? Also, the size of the handwritten signature on the two documents was significantly different from each other. That is, compared with the name lettering under the signing line, one of the signatures was much larger than the other. Also, what appeared to be a slight difference, came because one of the signatures was a matter of three degrees clockwise different from the other.

The answer became plain. The culprit had photocopied the 2016 signature, then cut it out to make an applique. Picture a kindergarten child with round-nose scissors, cutting her way around the scrawling line of the signature, so, when completed, it has an amoeba-like shape. This is what the culprit did, and then affixed it to the appropriate signature line on the will. But when she zoomed in on the signature, she didn't realize that what she produced was oversized. So, when affixed to the will, it was actually too large to seem like an appropriate signature. But that is not something the uninitiated would observe, and it passed muster—at first.

Because she had left a portion of the edge of the amoeba-shaped paper not trimmed closely enough, and not realizing it slightly overlapped the decedent's typed name under the line, she missed the fact that the last two letters of his name were partially obliterated. When examined carefully, there was no other way this could have occurred, but for the use of an applique. If it was just the one signature, no one would have been the wiser, and it would have been a matter of she-said (the daughters) versus she-said (the former business partner). But with the entry of the earlier deed signature into the fray, even the judicial authority readily realized what had occurred.

Why is this relevant?

The fact that the Trump signature on the bottom of the Epstein dialogue page certainly appears to be that of Mr. Trump, and the way in which he always writes his first name-as-a-signature, this by no means assures us that he signed that page. While there is no "bottom line" to sign on, and no name spelled out beneath it, (where some letters might be obliterated), that does not diminish the possibility, even the likelihood, that the name on the page was applied from "lifting" his signature from another location and placing it as a signature applique where the creator of the page wanted it.

That is to say, the multitude of partisan commenters, who continuously point at the style of the “Donald” signature on the dialogue page, simply don’t have enough experience with fraudulent signatures to realize there are other options than Mr. Trump having signed his name to the page.

It should also be noted here that there is often a requirement, and in many jurisdictions, that notaries have the signers use blue ink. That is especially so on significant documents (why else would they be notarized?) including deeds and wills. That is so there would not be a possibility of photocopying them, along with malintent. Also, it is then easy to distinguish which document is the “original,” versus a photocopy of the document.

While this is significant for these types of documents, there was no requirement, or even a choice made by Mr. Trump to use a blue marker for whenever he signed his name which landed on the dialogue page. Navy blue ink might have helped to clarify the matter, whereas black ink would appear seemingly identical in both the original and a photocopy.

Also, I have not had access to the “original” of this document which is, presumably, in the bound binder in an office on Capitol Hill, ostensibly compiled not long after the birthday celebration in 2003.

It does raise the question as to whether that specific “original” was hand-signed by Mr. Trump. Or is it possible that this important page was a composite, where an applique of his first-name signature was placed at the bottom of the dialogue page, and then photocopied.

As a point of interest, should Mr. Trump start to use a navy blue felt-tip pen, that would seem to comply with the normal requirements for notarizations in “blue ink,” but it is still something that could also be photocopied in color. With a high-quality printer, it could also be printed out in blue and used similarly for the purpose that the applique was created for.

It would bear further investigation to determine this aspect of the inquiry into the validity of the signature on the page. Thus far, all that has been seen in public, including the sample of the page from the House Oversight Committee, is a photocopy of what may or may not be an “original” page in the bound birthday book. The bound page has been described as “original.” But was the dialogue page really so, or was the “original” actually a copy of the dialogue page with a taped or glued-on applique signature photocopied?

There is one last point to mention here. Whoever created the dialogue page seems to have put a good deal of thought into it, but something was overlooked.

By far, the pages where Mr. Trump signs with his first name only, are outgoing letters where there is some coloration to the paper used. It is off-white or yellow-to-beige, but it never seems to be white. That means that if someone cut out an applique of the Donald signature and tried to affix (paste or tape) it to a piece of white paper, the difference in color around the “Donald” would stand out. So, the colored paper had to be photocopied onto a white page so the trimming around the signature could take place and not be observed because of a different tone of the paper. This would mean that the ultimate color of the target paper used, on which to place the

applique, would also have to be white, which is the case with the dialogue page in the birthday book.

But Mr. Trump's standard is colored paper which, it is highly likely he would have used for any outgoing letter, no matter the recipient. It is just what he does. The creator of the dialogue page could not have made his creation appear "real," without it all appearing to be on white paper, which is against Mr. Trump's personal standard. It is unlikely that the culprit thought this far outside of the box, but as a professional investigator, it is in my wheelhouse to consider such things.

### **Who Typed the Dialogue Page?**

Here is a tricky question. It goes far beyond what might be seen as a "normal" investigation. Typically, an accuser might point at a signature and proclaim it is "real," and, therefore, so must be the entire document. But not so fast.

In all of the many examples of pages with Mr. Trump's signature on them, particularly where he uses only his first name, they are in the form of formal-looking letters. There is Trump letterhead at the top, and usually a single paragraph typed neatly, with normal margins on the sides, top, and bottom. They are generally in categories of thanking, complimenting, donating, and congratulating someone for something.

It is surmised that Mr. Trump doesn't sit down at a computer and type his own letters. While he could, there is evidence that he does not.

In a letter to Shawn and Larry King, thanking them for flowers for Mr. Trump's father's funeral in 1999, the complimentary closing word was "Sincerely." But when Mr. Trump signed the letter, he lined through that word and nearby wrote "Love." That is, if he had been typing this by himself, he would have simply typed in "Love," and would not have had to correct it. Likewise, if he had typed it, and now wanted to use "Love" instead of "Sincerely," he could simply have retyped it with the correction, so it would have been neater, all around, a perfectly typed or printed out letter. But it wasn't. Someone else typed that letter. It could have been a long-time secretary or assistant, or a temporary hire. But it wasn't Mr. Trump. (For those who know him well, he is one of the busiest individuals you would ever meet, and the time to create even a one-paragraph letter is simply not something he would have done.)

A letter of congratulations to Hillary Clinton, on her successful campaign to become a Senator from New York in 2000, also had handwritten words. Under the main paragraph, and to the left of his one-word signature, in felt-tip, he wrote, "great going!"

Again, these are words that added a personal touch to the letter, something individually from Mr. Trump, beyond what was in the general congratulatory single-paragraph letter. Had he typed this on his own, would he not just have typed it in as a last paragraph with the interjection?

No, Mr. Trump didn't type this letter, either. And the more of his letters one reads, the more one is convinced that if he wanted to portray appreciation for someone, for what they are, what they

have done, how kind or successful they have been, etc., he uses a formal-looking, single page letter, signed by the man, and maybe with that personal touch of an added couple of words. He is a busy man, and that is what his schedule allows him to do.

Here is another point which, it is unlikely that someone who might forge a signature, or even a complete document, might not think about. First, they rarely think anyone will be questioning what they have done, especially with an apparently valid signature—that is unless you are familiar with the use of appliques.

But *where* the document in question was created and typed, would now become an issue.

Would Mr. Trump have thought, possibly for long minutes of time, both to create an intended-to-be-humorous page for Epstein, maybe committed it to paper, like a poet writes down lines in their musing while in a creative mode? Would he then have sat at a computer and typed it up, centering the dialogue lines, and then printed it out? For anyone who knows him, and for decades, he dictates what he wants typed, or he relies on a reliable secretary to create the paragraph that matches the occasion mentioned in the letter.

Now picture him dictating the dialogue page, to a secretary, or even see him sitting at a computer to create it on his own, and you will realize this would not have been possible.

It might have been embarrassing to dictate these words to a secretary, even a long-time one who he trusted, likewise, if he just laid a rough draft on her desk and instructed her to type it up.

Now there is the issue of “evidence,” which might be located on the hard drive of a computer, whether from 2003 or some later time. If the FBI had a reason to investigate, not this fact pattern, but some other incident, where it was a true investigative necessity to inspect a hard drive from over two decades ago, they would do it. Having been a Special Agent for 29 years, I know this is something that, if essential to a case, we would have made it happen.

But is there a hard drive in the possession of the Trump company, or a personal computer, that has the dialogue page deep within it. Again, this is probably something the creator of the page did not think deeply enough to consider important. But if an Ace Investigator were put on the trail, the result would be—it is there, or it is not. And this is no matter how long ago, whether it was an old computer on a back shelf, a newer one, the internet, or the cloud, almost everything can be found somewhere.

The conclusion of this aspect of the analysis is that if Mr. Trump really wanted to send a birthday greeting to Epstein, it would have been a single paragraph in a formal letter, maybe with a personal word or two written out, and then a first-name signature. There is absolutely nothing in his correspondence history that smacks of anything even remotely similar to the dialogue page. This, plus the assertion that he and Epstein had a break in their relationship in the 1990s, so not only a letter of congratulations, but something as intricate and time consuming as the dialogue page, would have been out of the question. It is just not something he does.



## The Time Frame Issue

This is an area worth discussing. The birthday book was allegedly compiled and created sometime after the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was reportedly Ghislaine Maxwell who did it. The question was whether the dialogue page was among those pages in 2003. Was it created by Mr. Trump, or parties unknown, back then, or did it come into existence much more recently.

If it was created in the earlier time frame and Mr. Trump did not do it, then who did, and why? In 2003, Mr. Trump had no significantly publicized aspiration to get into politics. While he might have toyed with the idea, he was certainly not politically active and was even reportedly donating money to candidates from both major political parties.

In recent years, extraordinary efforts have been made by Mr. Trump's political enemies, to destroy him in almost any way possible. The degrees of "lawfare" have been momentous and both time-and-money consuming. The irony is that his *putting up with* all of this effort, sitting in court for weeks on end, and aspersions cast daily by the news media, especially when out of office, one might have thought he'd had *enough*. Then there was the creation of the Steele Dossier—out of thin air, whole cloth—and its outrageous assertions, with the color of law used to attack the then-former-president in every imaginable way, and all with completely fake assertions, as they were later shown to be. And don't forget Letitia James, Attorney General of New York, who, most inappropriately, made it her campaign promise to "Get Trump!"

An odd thought is that those who fought hardest to harm Mr. Trump and give him such a bad name, in their heart of hearts, they really think he was not above the sleaze, but was really knee deep in the mud, not seeing him as anything different than themselves. The dialogue page was just another notch in their six-shooter handle to bring him down to their level. They entirely missed the point that Mr. Trump might have principles.

When would the creation of the dialogue page come about, if in this timeframe?

It seems that anything, and at any time, which would contribute to the effort to have a complete downfall of Mr. Trump was fair game. The damage to his time and money had been significant in fending off, then fighting off the multiple attacks. But the goal with the dialogue page would have been different. It would be to try to destroy him in the eyes of his multitude of followers.

Had he been palling around with a known pedophile, that might do the trick. This would be disinformation, the kind the Soviet KGB was so good at. Not necessarily something "illegal," but fine-tuned and reputation damaging, all the same.

There was a classic story from Hedrick Smith, the New York Times correspondent in Moscow in his 1976 book, *The Russians*, where he told of a massive shipment of food to India, delivered on many pallets, all labeled as having come from the U.S. But by the next morning, KGB operatives had gone to the warehouse and relabeled all of the pallets with signs indicating it had come from the Soviet Union, that is, good will from the Russians to the Indian population. Leaders knew better, but the population who did not, would have gained newfound appreciation for their neighbors much farther to the north. That was great disinformation and quick thinking, but was it

illegal? And did Russia ultimately benefit from their actions? Well, from their point of view, *it couldn't hurt*.

So, would a dialogue page created by Trump's enemies help their cause against him? Again, "it couldn't hurt." And it would be personal to many people if the assertion—if the man who had ostensibly written the dialogue and drew curves around it of a female form—was true, his many fans would think they had been tricked about the kind of man he was. That would be especially so for Evangelicals all across America, who Mr. Trump's opponents would dearly love to disinform and make their candidate appear tainted.

And how exactly does one put a recently-created dialogue page into a 22-year-old bound birthday book?

Years ago, I received monthly newsletters in paper form. After a couple of years, I had each year bound into a hardbound book, for their protection and ready accessibility. That would seem to be the end of the story.

But if I found an errant monthly newsletter that I had missed earlier, I could simply go back to the bindery and tell them what I needed. They would then take apart what they had done and insert the new pages. If they didn't fit, they could start it anew and still produce what I wanted. That is, a bound volume is only as permanent as the desire to add something to it.

When a valuable old painting is stolen and one later surfaces that appears to be the original, there are tests that can be run. A tiny chip of paint from the top of the canvas, hidden by the ancient frame, will do. When it is analyzed, if there are chemical elements in it that did not exist in oil paint in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, you have a fake. I have recovered several valuable pieces of art, and this is just part of the tricks of the trade.

How would you know if a bound book is newly bound? This is similar to the investigation of who typed the dialogue page, and on what machine? Who bound the birthday book, and is there anything different in 2025 from the technology or glue or binding material from what was used in 2003? Are there company records of the binding from way-back-when, which would clarify that the order had been taken and filled, with delivery or pick up, and by whom.

The job of the magician is to raise his left hand, with the white glove, far over his head and out to the left, so the audience will follow it. At the same time, the other hand is bringing a white dove out of his vest pocket, which then seems to magically appear.

If an American sees a dialogue page and is told it is real and that the former-president is a dirtbag for participating in such a sordid incident, they shouldn't be so remiss *not* to realize there might be a background to this apparent *evidence*, at least until an investigation can be conducted to determine the veracity of the facts as they have been asserted.

Now assume the age of the birthday binder dates back to 2003, and all of the current pages were in it then, including the dialogue page. What then?

Since Mr. Trump decided to run for the presidency, he has had an even higher profile than he did before, when he was *only* a major construction contractor and television personality. But neither of those positions merited the attention and the full power of the Democrat Party to do him wrong. But it has been rather in-your-face ever since Tuesday, November 8, 2016, when the unthinkable happened. Unthinkable to Mr. Trump's opposition, anyway.

If the dialogue page had come into existence relatively recently, it would have been since that date. Any number of well-known players would have been glad to assist the effort to cause damage to President Trump, whether he was in office or in the interim between his terms in office. The list of potential dirty-tricksters would be long.

However, if the dialogue page had been from 2003, who would have created it? That is, of someone's own accord, thinking of the idea, initiating the plan, creating the page, finding a valid single-name signature of Mr. Trump that could be "lifted," then setting the scenario in motion.

I can only imagine that, over the years, Mr. Trump would have had many enemies, for example, competing contractors who did not get the bid. There could also be employees, once highly loyal, but then fired, who might feel jilted and angry. The psychological picture that has been painted in the press of what has been called a former-Trump-fixer, Michael Cohen, would spring to mind as the kind of individual for whom this kind of scenario might have appeal. Anyone with an axe to grind might have done this.

Think of the Russians and the USSR stencil they created so quickly to improve their position with the Indian population. That was a target of opportunity. Might have worked, might not, but give it a go and see what happens.

If a disgruntled individual wanted to get back at Mr. Trump, for almost any reason, and thought they could lay an egg, which would end up in a bound book that—someday—might hatch and embarrass their old boss, why not, and see what happens. No one else would have to know about it, and the bonus of their nemesis becoming a political candidate a decade-and-a-half later, that would just be marvelous!

Why not have it surface during Mr. Trump's first term? When the unforeseen trap could have been sprung? The opposition party was in far too much disarray to put together anything specific, like using the dialogue page to their advantage, then. It might be seen as better to use it if Mr. Trump would run again. After all, he would be in office for four years, and you want the people to turn against him before he would run for a second term, when the impact would be stronger.

That is, there is a case for the dialogue page being *in existence* in 2003, placed in the bound book, and also for it to have been more recently created, with the same result, in a by-hook-or-by-crook method of having it inserted into the binder.

When a news outlet tells you the image they publish is the "original," it is only a *copy* of what is in the binder. Discovering whether *that* is truly an "original," and examining it carefully, is truly worthy of further investigation, where both the left and right hands of the magician are being watched carefully.