PROLOGUE: SIGNIFICANT LESSONS OF AUGUSTO VELS*

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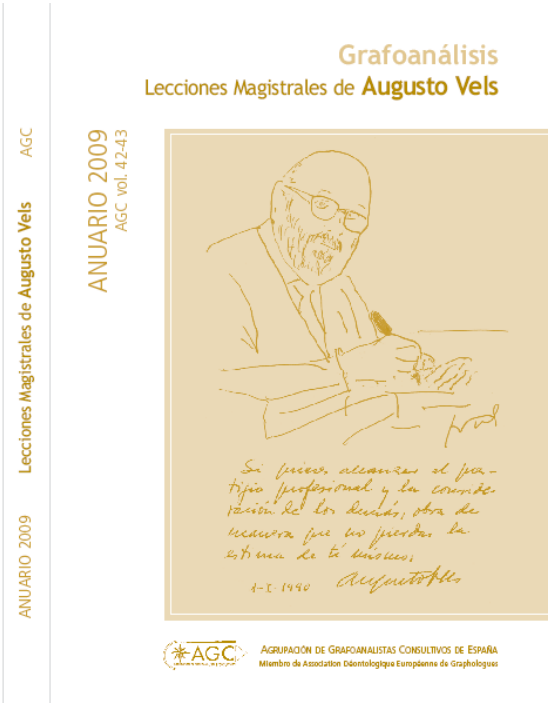

Augusto Vels' trascendence is determined by the contribution of his Handwriting Analysis System as a symbol of the Spanish School of Graphology.

Anxiuos and sensitive about learning to know the human being, he discovered his graphological vocation by reading Matilde Ras' works. The latter, direct pupil of Crépieux-Jamin, of Solange Pellat and Dr. Streletski, imported French graphology to Spain, something very important because it definitely influenced Augusto Vels' guidance. His name, as everybody knows, is the pen name of Alfonso Augusto Velasco and he took it under the suggestion of "*El Correo Catalán*" director, the daily newspaper he was collaborating with as director of the graphological department. Augusto Vels, as he started to be popularly known, is not only a simplification of his name and surname, but also and curiously the combination of the letters that he used to sign.

The master, forced by the circumstances of the Spanish Civil War, even though we can say he was lucky to be destined to the sanitary services, received a medical education, later to make the career of Health Inspector, also known as Technical Health Inspector. He continued the studies in analytical psychology (psychoanalysis) and projective tests, in a period in which the university career of Psychology didn't exist yet and in which psycologists used to educate themselves in the Medical Faculty, for example in Dr. Ballús' chair with two years of intensive Clinical Psychology postgrade. There, in the department of psychiatry, Professor Augusto Vels colaborated with Dr. Josep Miret i Monsó, who had just returned to Barcelona from exile and from his stay in Venezuela, where he developed an important work as a university professor. This was very similar to what happened to Dr. Emilio Mira y López, one of the biggest

supporters of the graphological techniques. Today his daughter Montserrat Mira, our illustrious collaborator, is carrying out his work.

On the other hand, in 1949 Vels organized a Graphology course in the SEU of the University of Barcelona and many other courses in different schools for managers. As soon as the Psychology Faculty was born, Augusto Vels' books became part of the Industrial Psychology official programmes bibliography in the University of Barcelona. It is important to remind that his book *Escritura y Personalidad* in its first editions of the publishing house *Miracle* was one of the books of the Anthropology collection, directed by Dr. Ramón Sarró, who among other things wrote the introduction to his work: *El Lenguaje de la Escritura*.

As we had the opportunity to express in the University of Barcelona during the tribute to Augusto Vels in October the 16th 2009, at the loving presence of his family, the Velasco family (children and nephews), event that also coincided with the solemn act of the closing of the Master's degree in European Handwriting Analysis, his system of Handwriting Analysis represented an important instrument to all sciences that study human behaviour. Thanks to a descriptive taxonomy of the French handwriting aspects imported and adapted to Spain, it classifies the dominants and subdominants with the purpose of applying the nowadays computerized Excel *formula* and to get the percentile of the predominant temperament and adding the Jung's Basic Attitudes and Psychic Functions (the hipocratic temperaments updated by Vels and Periot with the help of Dr. Paul Brosson have been recently confirmed by Cloniger and Sven, who claim the classical and medical 4 Temperament theory coming from the 4 elements and by the scientific researches and study of the neurotransmitters) and the Heymans-Le Senne Characterologies combination. (In 2009 ARIGRAF, thanks to Prof. Raffaele Caselli, organized many workshops on the Heymans-Le Senne Characterological typology, which is so pedagogical to graphologists). The method gradually integrated concepts of the Italian, Swiss, German schools together with Dr. Pophal different varieties of Stroke theory and the *Gestalt*, as we can very well see in his work *Grafologia Estructural y Dinamica*. All this without losing the order and epistemological meaning of the hadwriting aspects and subaspects. Today we have reviewed the description of these parameters in order to adapt them to a more modern terminology and by adding the Transational Handwriting Analysis concepts, a graphological typology coming from Dr. Eric Berne's innovative psychoanalytic integrative and dynamic system. Therefore, there's no doubt, that the Handwriting Analysis represents a complete and reliable system, where the most practical and advanced personality aspects occur.

Compared to other kinds of tests, the system rialibility has been confirmed not only by the undisputed succes of hundreds of personnel selections carried out in different multinationals and in the *Mar Sardá* Bank, where Professor Augusto Vels worked as Personnel Director, but also by the academic legitimation that it received thanks to Dr. Mercedes Almela's dregree thesis at the Educational Psychology Department of the University of Barcelona. And, obviously by its incorporation as a university subject to our Master's degree in European Handwriting Analysis. Augusto Vels' work has been backed up, in the Forensic Medicine School of the *Complutense* University, by his friend and follower

Professor Mauricio Xandró and also by important Professors like Dr. Jean Charles Gille, who gave it great importance inside his works. Professor A. Vels, at the same time, received a very rapid international recognition: he was named *Société Française de Graphologie* and *Groupement des Graphologues Consells de France* correspondent; member of the *Accademia delle Arti e Lettere* in Paestum (Italy), and he received a lot of awards and recognitions. He was named *Belgian Society of Graphologists* and *British Academy of Graphology* member of honour; *International Institution of China-European Graphological Research* member of honour and correspondent in Brusssels; *Centro Internazionale di Grafologia Medica di Roma* member of honour and, coming back to Spain, he not only founded the *AGC* and was named *SOESPGRAF* member of honour, but he also received the *Gold Medal* to the *Technological Merit*. In 1999, at the end of his long career, the illustrous *Puerto Lumbrera* Town Council, where he was born, dedicated to his favourite son Professor Augusto Vels a street and a museum-room..

It's for us a great pleasure to have been able to realize this monographic work to Augusto Vels' memory by selecting and recording his conferences, articles and with a final paragraph full of witnesses regarding his figure. This work that we have so happily coordinated as a posthumous work of our Master, represents our personal thanks to his contribution to societye. His family, Augusto and Jorge Velasco together with their sons and wives, the UAB Master's degree in European Handwriting Analysis and many colleagues join us to thank this Spanish great man and master of Graphology, Professor Agusto Vels.