

Easter 'Nonsense' Challenge

Our #SolveItDickens challenge for March-April comes from the notebooks of Dickens's shorthand pupil, Arthur Stone, at the [Free Library of Philadelphia](#). There is no longhand title and we suspect that, rather than a coherent text, Dickens is improvising sentences to test his student's knowledge of Gurney arbitrary characters. So please treat each sentence as a separate item that is not necessarily connected with the other sentences. Once we can read this text, we will have completed transcription of Stone's Notebook A!

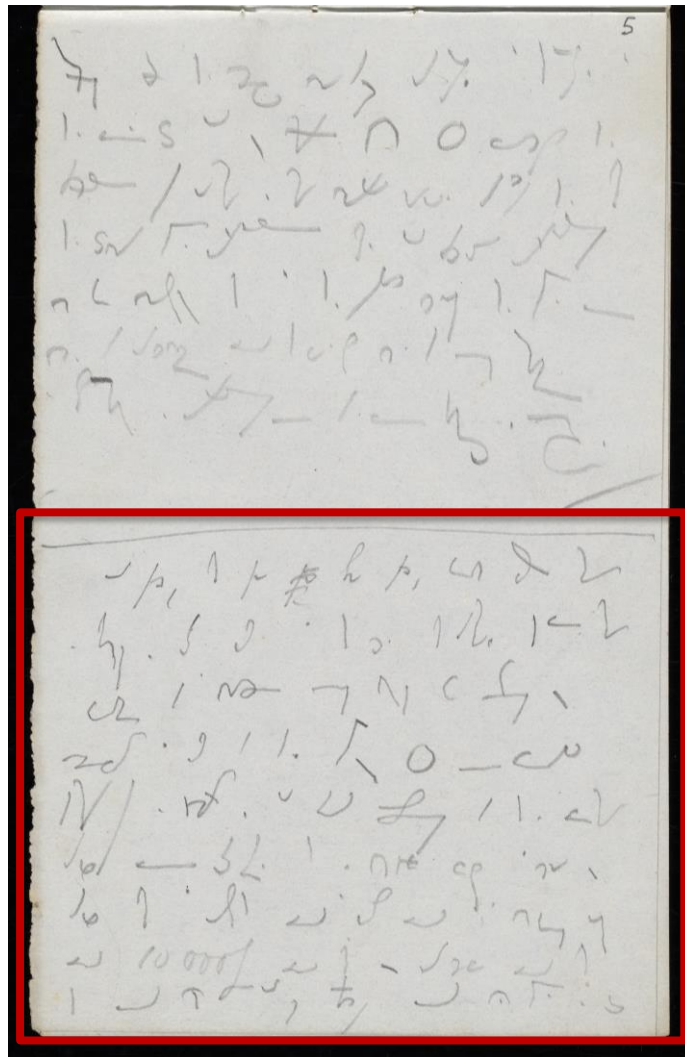


Figure 1: A page from Arthur Stone's Notebook A. Image © The Free Library of Philadelphia. The top half of this exercise is the last part of 'Sydney Smith', which has previously been deciphered.

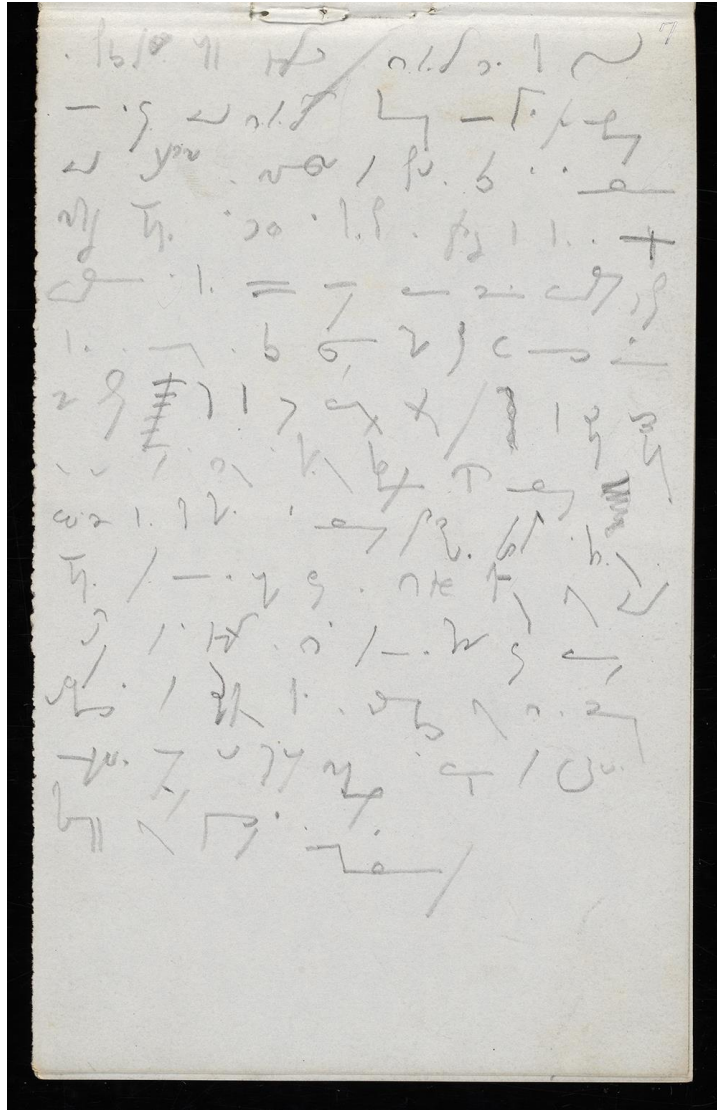


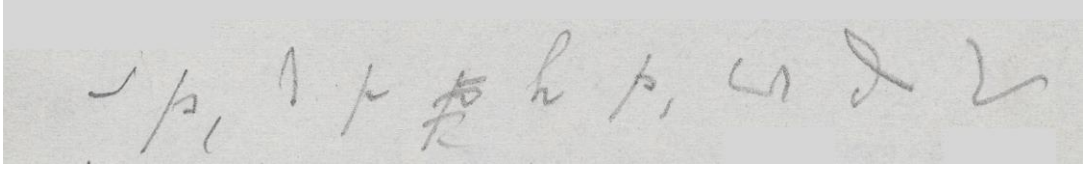
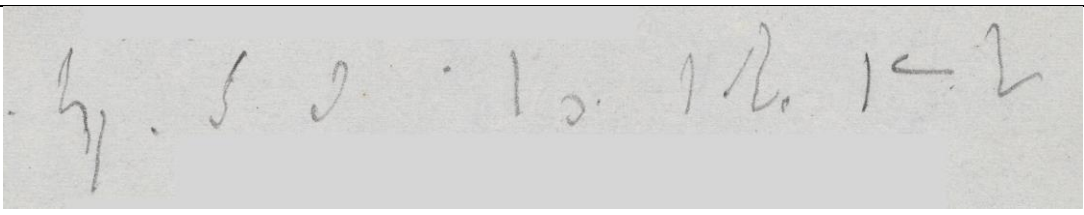
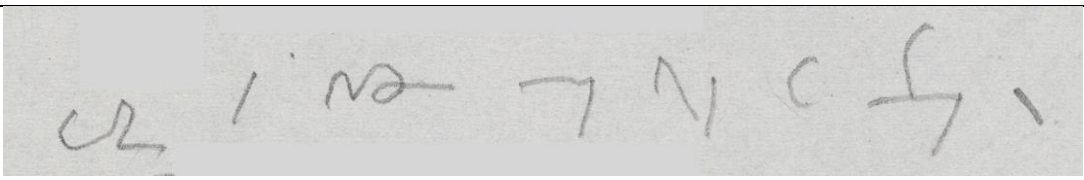
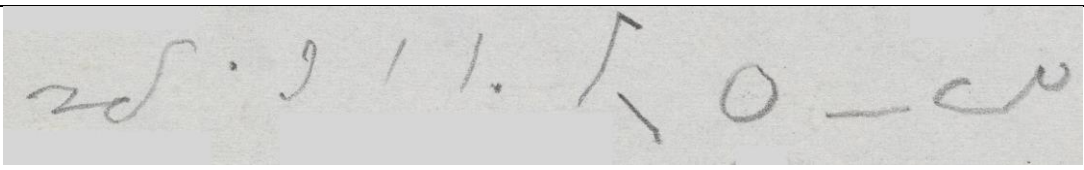
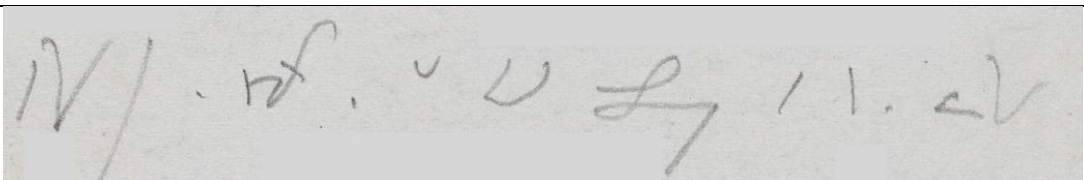
Figure 2: A page from Arthur Stone's Notebook A. Image © The Free Library of Philadelphia.

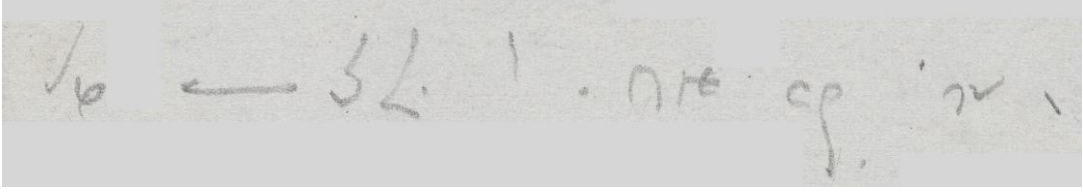
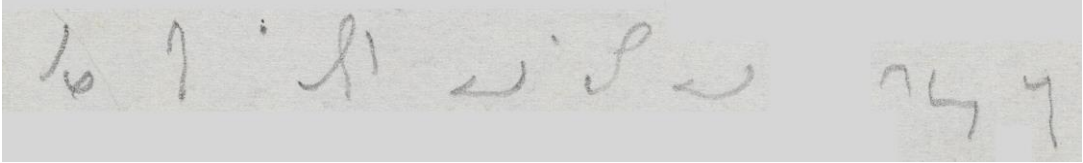
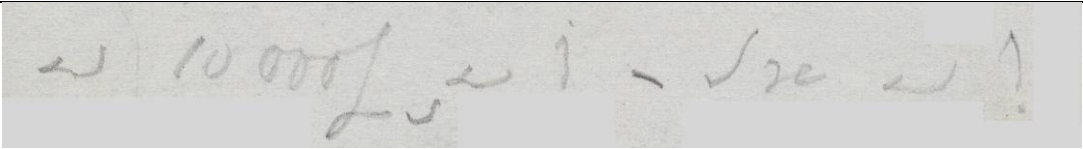
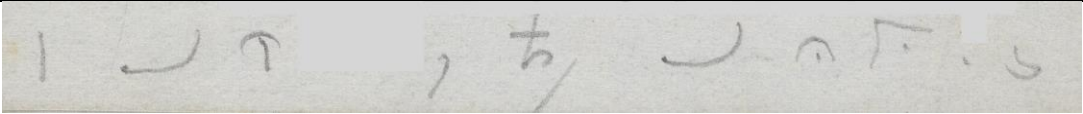

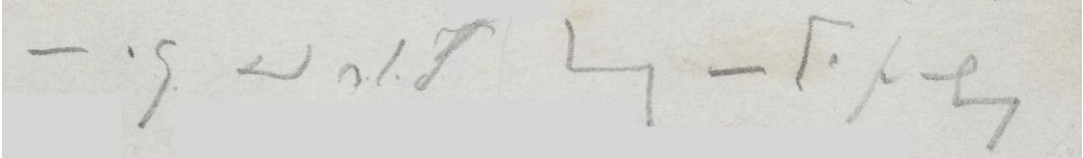
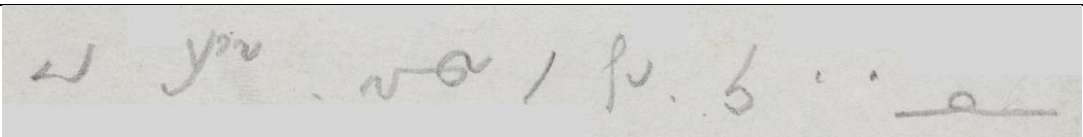
Use our ['Resources'](#) to help you decipher the text, look out for repeat symbols, and consider searching distinctive words/phrases to see if you can find a source text to assist with your transcription. Remember that it is unlikely that you will be able to solve the whole text, but even one new symbol can be useful. Anyone who successfully describes a new symbol will be credited as its discoverer on our Roll of Honour.

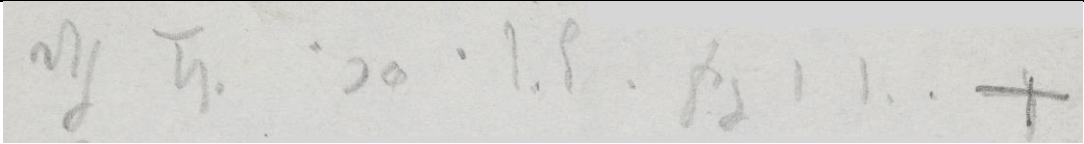
As this is a longer challenge, there is an extended deadline. Please complete the entry form and email us (claire.wood@leicester.ac.uk and bowleshugo@gmail.com) your solutions by **30 April 2023**.

SOLUTION

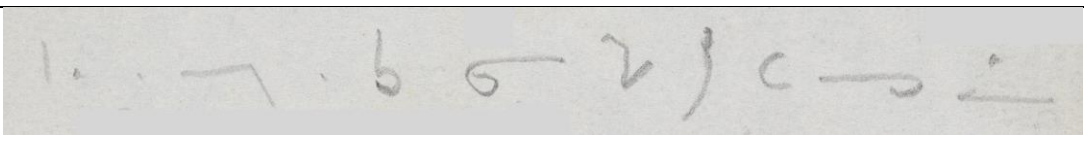
Please decode as much of the text as you can, below, writing your solution for each character or group of characters under the appropriate line of shorthand script.

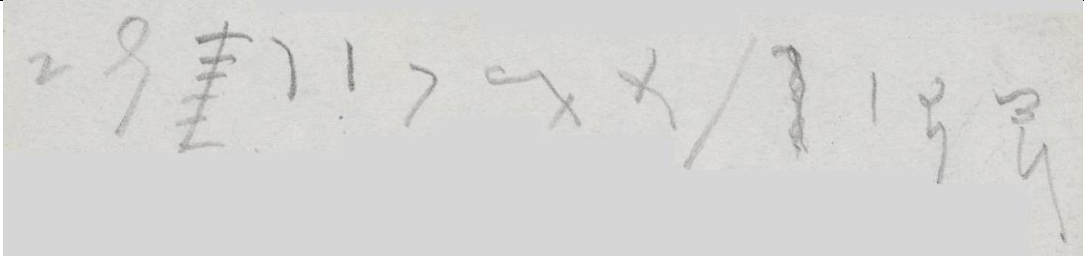
Line no.	
1.1	
1.2	
1.3	
1.4	
1.5	

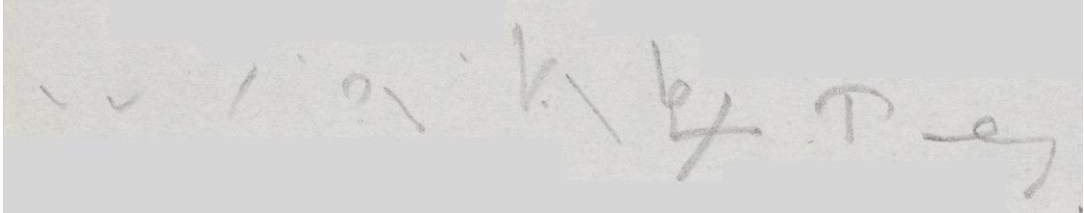
1.6	
1.7	
1.8	
1.9	
2.1	
2.2	
2.3	

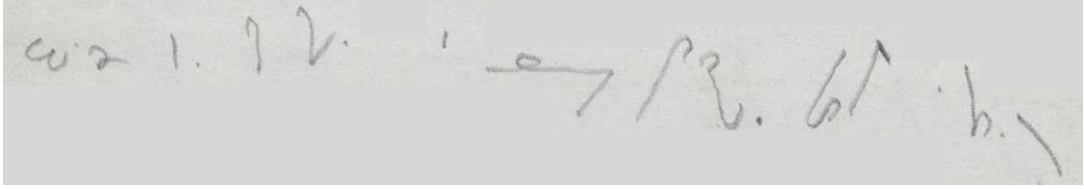
2.4 

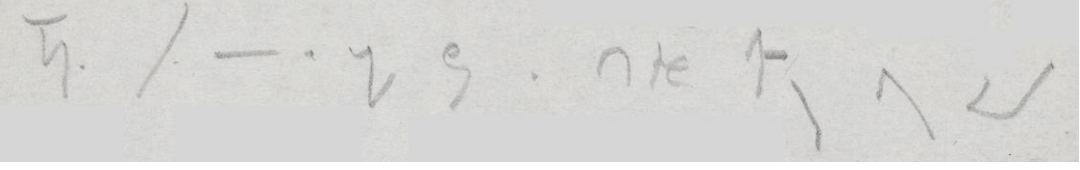
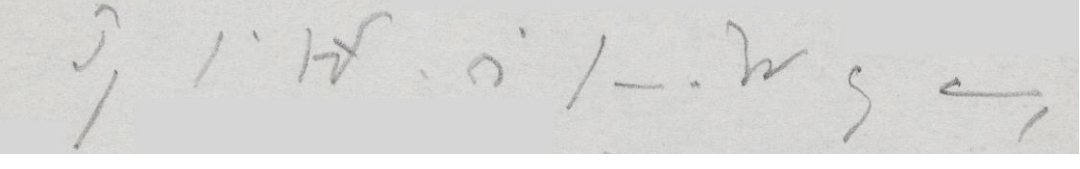
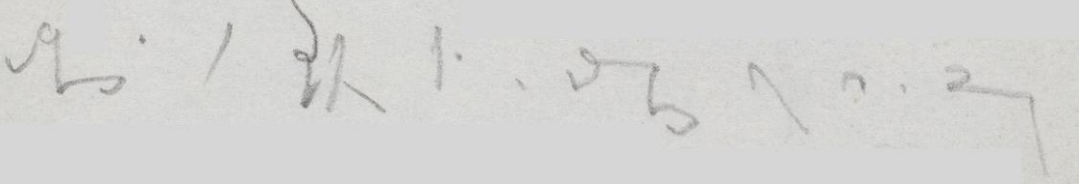
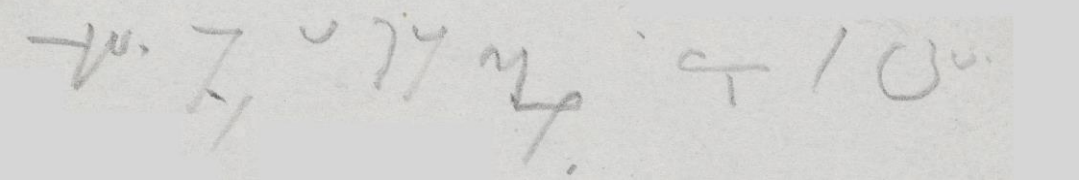
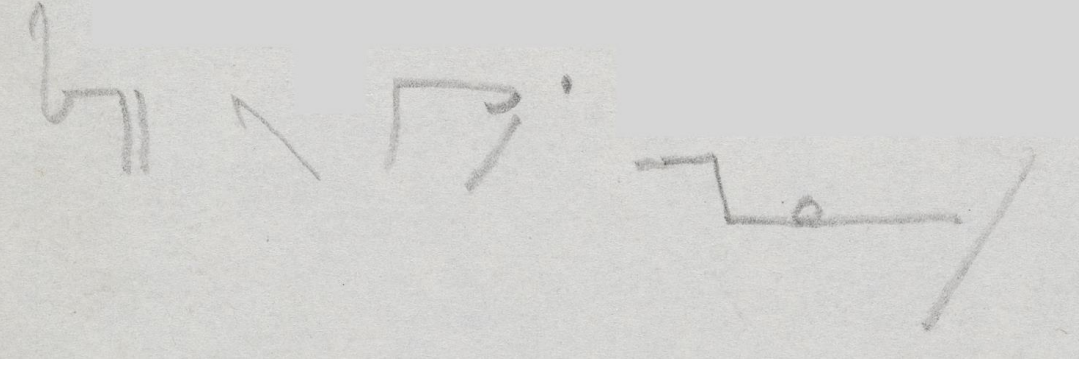
2.5 

2.6 

2.7 

2.8 

2.9 

2.10	
2.11	
2.12	
2.13	
2.14	

Name:

Email:

Country of Residence (optional):

Do you consent to being credited for your efforts and as the discoverer of any new symbols on the Dickens Code Roll of Honour? (please tick)

Yes No

If 'yes', please state the name that you would like to be credited under (this could be your full name, your first name, a pseudonym, or a social media handle)

I wish to be credited as: _____

By signing this form and emailing in your competition entry, you agree to license your solution and report under a [Creative Commons CC BY-NC](#) license and grant permission for the 'Dickens Code' project website and related social media channels to reproduce your work, with appropriate credit. If you do not provide a signature, unfortunately we will be unable to process your competition entry.

Participant's signature: _____

Date: _____



The Dickens Code is supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council