

Table of Contents

How Individual Fates Turned into Insight – A very personal introductory note	7
A Curriculum Vitae of My Work	13
Introduction	19
Chapter 1: Handedness and the Human Brain	23
1.1 The Anatomy and Physiology of the Brain	23
1.2 Our Knowledge of the Different Functions of the Cerebral Hemispheres . . .	25
1.3 The Lateralization of the Cerebral Hemispheres:	31
1.4 Handedness as an Expression of the Motor Dominance of One Cerebral Hemisphere	39
1.5 Neuroscientific Research Findings on Handedness	43
Chapter 2: The Converting of Inborn Handedness	47
2.1 The Primary and Secondary Consequences of Converting Handedness	47
2.2 Methods of Converting Handedness and a Clarification of Terms	49
2.3 An Explanation of the Primary Consequences of Converting Handedness . .	53
2.3.1 The “Loose Connection” in the Brain: Memory Disorders and their Consequences	53
2.3.2 The “Knot” in the Brain: Disturbances in Concentration and their Consequences	57
2.3.3 Difficulties in Reading and Spelling and their Consequences	61
2.3.4 “Your Left is there, where your Thumb is on the Right!” – Insecurity concerning the Left and the Right	64
2.3.5 Disturbances in Fine Motor Skills: Writing as an Expression of Character? . .	66
2.3.6 Disturbances in Speech	72
2.3.7 Practical Tips for the Converted Left-Hander	74
2.4 An Explanation of the Secondary Disturbances of Converting Handedness	74
2.4.1 Insecurity, Feelings of Inferiority, and a Tendency to Withdraw	74
2.4.2 Psycho-somatic and Neurotic Disorders	75
Chapter 3: Personality Characteristics of Converted Left-Handers	83
3.1 Factors with a Definitive Influence on the Personality Development of Converted Left-Handers	83
3.2 Typical Personality Characteristics of the Converted Left-Hander	84
3.2.1 Preliminary Remarks	84
3.2.2 Common Personality Characteristics of many Converted Left-Handers	86
3.2.3 The “Yes-But” Stance and the Joy of Opposition	87
3.2.4 An Unconscious Omission of Thoughts and Parts of Sentences	88

3.2.5	Detail-laden Discursive Behavior	92
3.2.6	The Tendency to Free Associate and Run into Other People's Words to Guard Against Forgetting	93
3.2.7	Understatement as a Philosophy of Life and its Effect upon the Choice of Partners	95
3.2.8	Diplomacy: A Rare Characteristic Among Converted Left-Handers	99
3.2.9	The Converted Left-Hander as the Mute Listener	100
3.2.10	Hard on Themselves and Hard on Others	101
3.2.11	Admiring One's Own Thought Processes Without Recognizing Where They Came From	101
3.3	Unexpected Emotional Burdens and the Breakdown of the System	102
3.4	Determination and Strength of Will: Their Influence upon the Converted Left-Hander	103
3.5	The "Demosthenes Effect": A Personality Feature That Can Determine Individual Fate	103
3.6	Converting Handedness: A Societal Time Bomb Waiting to Explode	104
Chapter 4: The Traditional Evaluation of Left and Right		105
4.1	The Influence of Symbolism Through the Ages	105
4.2	The Left and Right in Turns of Phrases and Expressions	112
4.3	The Influence of Various Evaluations upon the Societal View of Left- Handers	114
Chapter 5: Converting Handedness, Related Scientific, Investigations and the Transference of the Results into Practice		117
5.1	Some General Preliminary Remarks	117
5.2	The Scientific Treatment of the Consequences of Converted Handedness ...	120
5.3	Why was the Information about the Consequences of Converting Hand- edness Not Incorporated into either General Pedagogical Insights or "General Public Opinion"?	124
Chapter 6: Support for Converted Left-Handers by Reappraising the Conse- quences of Converting Handedness		127
Chapter 7: The Possibilities and Dangers of Reconverting Handedness		131
7.1	Introduction	131
7.2	Important Aspects in the Decision to Reconvert Handedness: The Rea- soning Behind the Decision	134
7.3	"There is No Reset Button in our Brain" – An Explanation of the Aspects that Determine Reconverting Handedness	136
7.3.1	The Age of the Person Affected and Reconversion	136
7.3.2	The Inner Attitude of the Person Affected and that of Related Contact Persons Towards Handedness	154

7.3.3	The Age and Degree of Converting	178
7.3.4	Ambidextrous Activities and their Effects upon the Process of Reconvert- ing Handedness	179
7.3.5	The Construction of Memory Devices and the Role Writing Plays in Daily Life	187
7.3.6	The Actual Life Situation and its Effect upon the Successful (or Unsuc- cessful) Reconversion of Handedness	191
7.3.7	Intermittent Writing with the Left Hand and the Prognosis for the Suc- cessful Reconversion of Handedness	192
7.3.8	Additional Cerebral Disturbances and their Effects upon Reconverting Handedness	204
7.3.9	Reconverting the Handedness of Professionals with Demanding, Com- plex, Intellectually Challenging Careers can be Especially Dangerous	205
7.4	Expectations Concerning Reconverting Handedness	206
7.5	Mirror Writing: The "Leonardo Phenomenon"	207
7.6	Summary	216
7.7	Practical Tips for Reconverting Handedness to the Dominant Hand	217
CHAPTER 8: Problems of the Converted Left-Hander in Various Areas of Person- al and Professional Life		219
8.1	The Converted Left-Hander at the Pediatrician, Pre-school, and Ergother- apist	219
8.1.1	Observational Criteria and Options for Intervention for the Pediatrician ...	219
8.1.2	Consequences of Converting the Hand used between Infancy and the Start of School	222
8.1.3	Possibilities for Intervention in the Form of Early Support and Ergonomic Therapy	242
8.1.4	Determining Handedness among Mentally Disabled Children	247
8.2	Converted Left-Handed Children in Kindergarten	248
8.3	The Converted Left-Hander and School Entrance Examinations	252
8.4	The Converted Left-Hander in School	255
8.4.1	Some General Remarks and Some Specific Information about Elementary School	255
8.4.2	Declines in high school Performance and the College-Bound Student	257
8.4.3	Several Important Tips for Understanding the Converted Left-Handed Student and for making their Scholastic Situation Easier	263
8.5	Occupational Advice Concerning the Choice of Profession for the Convert- ed Left-Hander	266
8.6	The Converted Left-Hander at the General Practitioner and the Internist ..	270
8.7	The Converted Left-Hander in Psychotherapy	271

Chapter 9: Postulates Derived from Research Findings	309
Appendix	313
Excerpt from a Scientific Paper prepared for the federal examination for the teaching profession with the subject "Aspects of the Care and the Converting of Left-handed School Children with Special Consideration for the Work of the Consulting and Information Center for Left-Handers and Converted Lefthanders in Munich" by Christine Grecht , 1991.	313
Article "'Ambidextrous People' are Brain-Damaged" taken from the Münchener Medizinische Wochenschrift.	319
Some Thoughts after Confronting the Data Accumulated and the Research Studies	327
Works Listed and Consulted	329
List of Reports and Case Studies	333
List of Helpful Adresses	335
Index	337