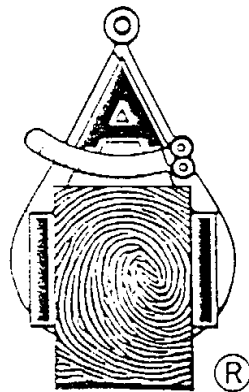


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# Letters to the Editor

Dear Mr. Grieve:

The dermal ridge arrangements of Malcolm X (1925-1965) are far different than those which we most commonly encounter. The right thumb impression of Malcolm X was a radial loop with a horizontal appearance. Two variables which influence the display of a given pattern are gender and racial stock. However, considering the above and all other known variables, radial loops have failed to provide a display on the aforementioned digit at frequencies higher than one percent. Further, the discovery of a horizontal loop upon the person of another individual has not been noted in my seventeen years of study! Most loop patterns are diagonal in appearance.

1.—Right Thumb



The radial loop is a minority pattern in so much as the definition can be understood. Its counterpart, the ulnar loop, maintains the highest frequency among all other patterns. Malcolm X also displayed variety

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in the distribution of his dermatoglyphic configuration. Most individuals display patterns that are consistent with the patterns of the neighboring digits. In noting the three basic patterns, arch, loop, and the whorl, no particular pattern dominates in Malcolm's overall display.

Sincerely,

*Andres J. Washington*

Andres J. Washington

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