FWCG Program April 2019 by Tom Campos

The Movie Theme for April is from "The NeverEnding Story " a 1984 fantasy film about a boy and the adventures that involves himself and the other characters while he is reading that titled book.

So, we borrow the title for this FWCG Program to present historical “Never-ending” writing and the earliest of tools known for drawing and writing. As we study the writing tools of the past, we can experience how they were created and appreciate how writing began which can influence us and others in the present and future.

MAKING DRAWING AND CALLIGRAPHY PENS FROM BAMBOO & REEDS

Writing Pens suitable for Arabic or Chinese calligraphy are made of either Reed or Bamboo.

These wooded styluses are readily found in their country sides and are easily made as well as their papers.

For tools used in writing on papyrus the early Egyptians and Middle-east countries mostly used Reeds, since these grew plentiful along the Nile or other rivers and marshes.

While the tool for writing on rice paper the Chinese and other Asian countries have used Bamboo which grows in abundance in their jungles.

For our Program the wooden Bamboo may be the preferred writing instrument instead of the Reeds which do require to be sharpened and re-cut more frequently.

**How to make a Wooden Drawing and Calligraphy Pen**

Choose a pencil length stick that fits your hand well

Remove any joints in the stalk that interfere, as needed

Use a sharp knife or blade to cut; for safety reasons cut away from you and fingers.

Carefully shave the bottom side to make a flexible point

Then flip the pen over and bevel the top to make the nib of the pen better for writing and that has less curved.

Now take the razor and trim the wings of the pen to take the flare off.

Also, you can drill a small hole in the middle to stop the point from splitting and to receive some ink

Make a single cut in the center from the hole toward the point which makes the nib flexible

Make the final cut across the nib at an angle or leave that cut straight

 Reeds

Reeds that are soaked and then dried helps them not to split when cutting the pointed nib.

If you cut reeds they may split when dry, so it is best to use dry, but soaked reeds

 Bamboo

Bamboo is known for its hardness and can keep its shape and point longer, plus it is easier to cut.

Also the thinner you trim the underside of the pen the more flexible the point becomes.

This allows for more “spring” action in the pen’s point.

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