

# *The* **SCRIBES** *& Scribblers* **Inklings**

Vol. 38, No. 3 **The Fort Worth Calligraphers Guild**

*November 2016*



## COVER ART

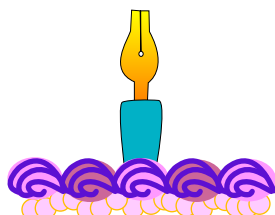
By Cheryl Darrow

Wooden house with word “imagine” carved out of the front side. It has been stained and the letters colored with oil pastels.

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Happy  
Birthday!



Mary Jane Ott ... Nov 4  
Linda Jones ..... Nov 8  
Vicki Petersen...Nov 20  
Bincy Bizzell.....Nov 26



## From the President's Pen

Greetings Guild Member:

Well the United States will have a new President and Vice-President and Cabinet Members to govern us soon. Hope you vote in the presidential election next week. My history teacher taught me that it's a privilege to cast your vote. I was able to vote early and avoid the “Second Tuesday of November” lines.

A different political question for you, How's your John Hancock? — meaning do you have a legible handwriting when practicing your calligraphy? And as to the original signers of the Declaration of Independence, how many future presidents signed the original parchment document? The answer is 2: John Adams was the 2nd President, Thomas Jefferson became the third President, and the oldest signer was Benjamin Franklin at age 70. Also, to spread the news of this historic announcement to other Colonial States, over two hundred copies were printed on paper and a few still exist in museums and collector possessions.

And speaking of signing last minute presidential legislation and documents, President Obama is known to have signed several hundred clemency pardons during his last weeks in office. So, I reflect that since the Oval Office no longer uses quill pens and ink, who makes the writing instruments that he does use? Seems that the pen company of A.T. Cross sells dozens of these special presidential pens known as “Townsend” pens to the White House. President Obama used eleven such pens — one to write each letter of his name — in signing some documents. He then gives them away as mementos to the officials who were witnesses to the document's signing. These pens are not for public sale so it's very rare that they show up on ebay.com.

The CEO of the A.T. Cross company is Chad Mellen. And the Cross pen isn't a recent phenomenon. He says, “We've got a letter in our archives ... John Steinbeck (author 1902 - 1968) sent a note back to his editor saying that he was going to have stop writing unless he could get some new Cross pens and refills.” Looking to the future, is Cross pen worried by the explosion of tablets, styluses and keyboard? “The idea that handwriting is going the way of the buggy whip is not accurate,” Mellen says. Instead, Mellen thinks digital handwriting ó stylus or finger on a screen ó could soon merge with old-school writing on paper.† “That's where we really see writing instruments and handwriting going.”

So again, let me encourage you to practice your own handwriting style while doing calligraphy pieces.

See you at the November Guild Meeting, where the program is on Italic Calligraphy (by me).

Tom Campos, *FWCG President*

# HARVEY'S HELPFUL HINTS



## VINTAGE NIBS

Aah! The Spencerian #1 vintage nib! Truly a work of art for a work of art! This nib is a MUST for any calligrapher worth his/her "salt." I can't say enough good things about this nib (and nothing bad). It performs like a dream (guess that's why they call it a "dream nib"). Perfection in all ways. The flexibility of the tines is exemplary with little effort. There were 3 different versions of this nib and at present I have only the first and second generations available (older models). And my modified Speedball holder will accommodate any length nib. Don't struggle with any nib that sticks out too far from the holder – life is much too short for frustration, and you are not accomplishing anything but frustration. By having too much nib sticking out too far gives you far less control, and your lettering will show you the negative results. Try one...and be pleasantly pleased!

## DRIED UP GLUE STICKS

Did you know you can reconstitute dried up glue sticks? It's very possible by immersing them in water for about an hour, dry them off with a towel, and start using them again as if they were new. Of course you can buy new ones...

## WASHING BRUSHES

NEVER wash a brush with hot water – this dissolves the glue holding the bristles under the ferrule. Use cool water, soap, dry well, and store them with the bristles hanging down. And if you store them in a container be sure to add some moth flakes as a "critter" deterrent. They love to eat bristles.

## SILICA GEL PACKETS

Save all your silica gel packets for your nibs, brushes,

etc. as a moisture absorber. This will help keep your nibs and brushes moisture and rust resistant.

## SPECIAL ENVELOPES

Make a "Valentine" or "Love" envelope using a paper doily. Brush over the doily with powdered blush and spray with Krylon Matte Finish before writing on the envelope. Results are bound to please!

## ADDRESSING ENVELOPES

When having to write a bunch of envelopes here's a tip you might like to use: Cut off the 4 corners of another envelope, stick them on your writing table, then slip the envelope to be written on into the 4 corners. Makes life a bit easier!

## FLOURISHING

Reggie Ezell says that the best flourish is done on a downstroke. If you want to make a flourish with an upstroke simply turn the paper around. Sounds much too simple, but it works.

## BINDING SMALL BOOKS

Here's a good one: use your sewing machine to bind small books – use gold or bright colored thread. Leave the loose ends long enough to accommodate beads, and/or trinkets, etc.

'Til next month, for beautiful writing, peace, harmony and good health, and a most happy Thanksgiving!

Harvey Anton, <penstaff@verizon.net>  
H – 972-307-0172, C – 817-470-2735  
Call or email me for items you want mailed.

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## Welcome New and Renewing Members!

You will need to add these members to your 2016-17 directory.

### Shelley Cox

5412 Trout Creek Court  
Watauga, TX 76137-4725  
shelleybcox@gmail.com

Mar 30

817-235-7605 (C)

### H. Rick Maul

3205 Channing Lane  
Bedford, TX 76021-6505  
haroldmaul@yahoo.com

Aug 28

817-868-7818 (H)  
817-501-1604 (C)

### Edith Dwight

3325 Rogers Avenue  
Fort Worth, TX 76109-2924  
edithdwright@gmail.com

Feb 6

817-988-6476 (C)

### Suzanne Raif

604 South Haynes Avenue  
Fort Worth, TX 76103-3515  
tsraif@att.net

Feb 16

817-536-6578 (H)  
817-688-4805 (C)

# Calligraphy Around the World

## — Roman Lettering —

Most alphabetic scripts used throughout the world today ultimately go back to the consonantal writing system used for Semitic language. They ultimately go back to Ancient Egypt and were partly influenced by a cursive script related to Egyptian hieroglyphs. The Phoenicians developed a phonetic alphabet consisting of 22 letters. The Greeks added the necessary vowels. Latin, the most widely used alphabet today in turn derives from Greek.

Early Greek consisted of capital letters written between two guidelines. The direction of reading was not fixed until later. Initially one row would read left to right and then switch from right to left. In time the strokes of the Greek letters grew thicker and serifs appeared. These letters which were used for inscriptions throughout the Greek empire were models for formal lettering in imperial Rome. Those Roman inscriptional letters — written with a flat brush, held at an angle like a broad nib pen, then carved into the stone with a mallet and chisel — have served as models for calligraphers and type designers for the past two thousand years.

The most revered example of Roman capitals appears in an inscription at the base of a war monument in Rome — Trajan's Column, C. E. 114. Many consider this particular work to embody the ultimate resolution of Latin letterform evolution.



*Roman Capitals written by John Stevens for Angie Vangalis hence the red "V."*



*Roman Capitals by Father Catich (1906-1979)*

Trajan's war on the Dacians, a civilization in what is now Romania, was the defining event of his 19-year rule. The loot he brought back was staggering. To commemorate the victory, Trajan commissioned a forum that included a spacious plaza surrounded by colonnades, two libraries, a grand civic space known as the Basilica Ulpia, and possibly even a temple. Towering over it was a stone column 126 feet high, crowned with a bronze statue of the conqueror. Spiraling around the column like a modern-day comic strip is a narrative of the Dacian campaigns. Thousands of intricately carved Romans and Dacians march, build, fight, sail, sneak, negotiate, plead, and perish in 155 scenes. Completed in A.D. 113, the column has stood for more than 1,900 years. The column is one of the most distinctive monumental sculptures to have survived the fall of Rome.



*Roman Capitals carved by John Stevens*



*A photo of the Trajan Column that has been colored.*

Although the earlier forms were passed down to us in cut stone, we think the forms must have been formed by incessant practice with a flat, stiff brush, or some such tool. The Romans are grouped into letter families to simplify learning. They are not easily learned and perfected. They vary in pen angle (manipulation and width).

The holding and manipulation of a flat reed pen would account for the varying order of the thick and thin strokes as they appear in the different letters. For example, the two vertical strokes in the letter N are thin, while in the letter H, they are thick and in the letter M they are thin and thick. This irregular order make Roman capitals very tricky and difficult to produce with speed.

[www.nationalgeographic.com/trajan-column/](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/trajan-column/) provides an interesting animated movie about the Trajan Column.

Angie Vangalis and Linda Langley presented our September lesson. In addition to researching the history of Roman letters, they gave



*A rubbing from the Trajan Column made by Mark Van Stone*

us a handout showing Roman letters made with a monoline tool and contrasting letters drawn with a chisel-edged tool. Thanks for all your work ladies!

*A close-up of the colored Trajan Column section.*



# Minutes of our Meeting

Fort Worth Calligraphers Guild Meeting  
October 13, 2016 Thursday  
6:48pm Meeting Started  
6:58pm Meeting Adjourned

Location: Bedford Public Library, 2424 Forest Ridge Drive,  
Bedford Texas 76201  
817.952.2350

Attendants: 10 members and 2 guests

- Members: Linda Jones, Ollie Olivarez, Deanna Fava, Linda Langley, Sharon Schmidt, Nancy Teigen, Tom Campos, Trudi Simoson, Belinda Anderson, Marilee Haughey, Cynthia Stiles, Mary Jane Ott, Barbara Petroski (Rick Maul arrived after the business meeting)
- Guests: None

President, Tom Campos  
Minutes from September 8, 2016 FWCG meeting – no questions or comments.

Treasurer, Cayetano Olivarez (Ollie)  
Presented OCTOBER 2016 BUDGET  
o Presented Handout of October Budget as of 10.13.16

Membership, Linda Jones  
Reported that we have 42 members and passed out directories for the 2016-2017 year.

Library  
The library is available for checking out books. Email Rick Maul and he will bring book to next FWCG meeting in November. Books are due back at the following FWCG meeting in December

New Business  
MOTION made by Deanna Fava for Polly Campbell to receive

her lifetime FWCG membership MOTION 2nd made by Marilee Haughey  
VOTE was UNANIMOUS

SWCC  
Tom Campos asked attendee to give ideas for SWCC gift bags.  
No discussion

Newsletter  
Linda Jones asked for the November newsletter: Someone tonight please take good notes and pictures of the program presentation following the business meeting tonight...and email to her.

6:58pm  
Meeting adjourned

7:05pm  
Nancy Teigen presented 2nd Lesson  
Latin Alphabet – Chinese / Japanese Lettering from it's development to today's application

- Each attendee received
  - a. a mini Japanese Calligraphy set, containing an ink stone, ink stick and writing brush. These were given by Angie Vangalis.
  - b. 6 pages of handouts of the program
  - c. Various kinds of paper samples
  - d. Sharon Schimidt give green ink sticks
  - e. Note cards and matching envelopes were available to create a final of piece of what we practiced
- Attendees spent a significant amount of time practicing lettering with a goal to do a finished piece.

8:30pm  
Meeting ended

— Belinda Anderson, *Secretary*

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## Mark Your Calendar!

Sacred Words Exhibit — The Saint John's Bible & the Art of Illumination — Oklahoma City Museum of Art, Located in the Donald W. Reynolds Visual Arts Center, 415 Couch Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73102, (405) 236-3100 — October 15, 2016 thru January 8, 2017.

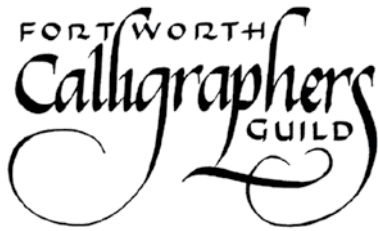
Southwest Calligraphy Conference — hosted by the Fort Worth Calligraphers Guild, January 27-29, 2017

Dan Mooney workshop on Illumination Techniques — Registration details will follow — March 25-26, 2017.

The Graceful Envelope contest entry deadline — March 27, 2017.

Kaligrafos & FWCG exhibit for ArtReach Visual Arts at Lovers Lane UMC in Dallas — mid-May thru July, 2016.

Carol DuBosch workshop on Brush Calligraphy — Registration details will follow — October 27-29, 2017.



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# Guild Meeting

## Thursday, November 10, 2016

### Meeting Location:

Bedford Public Library  
2424 Forest Ridge Drive  
Bedford, TX 76021xs

**Business Meeting: 6:30 p.m.**

**Program begins about 7:00 p.m.**

This year's theme is "The History of Calligraphy Around the World." At the November 10th program, Tom Campos will look at Historical and Modern ITALIC script. Every practicing calligrapher has a favorite hand, but the Italic script can lend itself for ordinary daily writings, like grocery and to-do lists, quick memos and journal entries. The slight slope and rhythmic strokes help speed the lettering while still making it a legible cursive handwriting. Fancy swash capitals can be used for distinct names.

Those attending the program should bring your favorite broad and medium size chisel-edge pens and ink or similarly sized markers. (I am learning to enjoy using the Pilot parallel pens with ink cartridges)

Also, bring a rolling ruler or straight edge ruler and two pencils, sharpened and joined with rubber bands. We will have practice handouts including some grid papers and stock paper. Do bring some short quotes or poetry sentences for practicing the letters.

Also, bring your folder and passport every month to collect your stamp and handouts. If you missed the September & October meetings, you can pick up your folder / passport at the November meeting.

