

Washington Calligraphers Guild (WCG)  
Program Meeting – March 24, 2008

**“Best” Calligraphy Books for Beginners and Beyond**

Categories:

General books – basic instruction for beginners-to-intermediate levels

Historical books – “classics” that build on the past

Reference books – encyclopedias and manuals

**General Books – basic instruction for beginners-to-intermediate levels:**

Angel, Marie. *The Art of Calligraphy: A Practical Guide*. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1977.

Barchowsky, Nan Jay. *BFH [Better Fluent Handwriting]: A Manual for Fluent Handwriting (with CD-ROM)*. Aberdeen, Maryland: Swansbury, Inc., 1997.

Beasley, Dick. *Alphabeas: Broad Edge Pen Letter Forms*. Flagstaff, Arizona: Calligraphabets, 1983.

Camp, Ann. *Pen Lettering*. 1958; reprint, Leicester: Dryad Press, 1976.

Cicale, Annie. *The Art & Craft of Hand Lettering*. 1st ed. New York: Lark Books, 2006?

The Diagram Group. *Lettering & Calligraphy Workbook*. New York: Sterling Publishing Company, Inc., 1997.

Dubay, Inga and Barbara Getty. *Italic Letters: Calligraphy and Handwriting*. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1984.

Eager, Fred. *The Italic Way to Beautiful Handwriting: Cursive and Italic*. Collier Books, 1976.

Evans, George. *An Introduction to Calligraphy*. Secaucus, New Jersey: Chartwell Books, Inc., 1987.

Goffe, Gaynor. *Calligraphy Made Easy: A Complete Beginner’s Guide*. London: Robinson, 1994.

Gourdie, Tom. *Basic Calligraphic Hands*. 1984; reprint, New York: Taplinger, 1986.

Gourdie, Tom. *Calligraphic Styles*. New York: Taplinger, 1979.

Gourdie, Tom. *Calligraphy for the Beginner*. New York: Taplinger/Pentalic, 1979.

Halliday, Peter. *Calligraphy Art & Color*. London: B.T. Batsford, Ltd., 1994.

Harris, David. *The Art of Calligraphy (A Practical Guide to the Skills and Techniques)*. Toronto: Macmillan, 1995.

Harvey, Michael. *Creative Lettering Today*. New York: Design Books, 1996.

Johnston, Edward and Heather Child, ed. *Formal Penmanship and Other Papers*. 1971; reprint, New York: Taplinger/Pentalic, 1977.

- Johnston, Edward, Heather Child, ed. and Justin Howes, ed. **Lessons in Formal Writing**. 1st ed. London: Lund Humphries, 1986.
- Kuiseko, Ryokushu. **Brush Writing: Calligraphy Techniques for Beginners**. 1st ed. Tokyo: Kodansha International Ltd., 1988.
- Lawther, Gail; Christopher Lawther and Anne Trudgill, calligrapher. **Learn Lettering and Calligraphy Step-by-Step**. London: Macdonald & Co Publishers, 1986.
- Lovett, Patricia. **Teach Yourself Calligraphy**. London: NTC Publishing Group, 1993.
- Lynskey, Marie. **Beginner's Guide to Calligraphy**. England: D&S Books, 2001; reprint, New York: Sterling, 2003.
- Mahoney, Dorothy. **The Craft of Calligraphy**. New York: Taplinger, 1981.
- Moring, Annie. **Calligraphy Stroke by Stroke: A New Illustrated Guide to Calligraphy Techniques with Eleven Calligraphic Alphabets**. London: Quarto, Inc., 1995; reprint, Philadelphia: Running Press, 1995.
- Nash, John R. and Gerald Fleuss. **Practical Calligraphy**. New York: 1992; reprint, London: Hamlyn Publishing Group, 1992.
- Noad, Timothy. **Mastering Calligraphy**. North Dighton, Massachusetts: JG Press, 1996.
- Pearce, Charles. **The Anatomy of Letters: A Guide to the Art of Calligraphy**. New York: Taplinger, 1987.
- Pearce, Charles. **The Calligraphy Sampler: Roman Alphabets**. London: William Collins Sons & Co, 1985.
- Pearce, Charles. **The Little Manual of Calligraphy**. New York: Taplinger, 1981.
- Sassoon, Rosemary and Patricia Lovett. **Creating Letterforms: Calligraphy and Lettering for Beginners**. New York: Thames and Hudson, 1992.
- Shaw, Paul. **Letterforms: An Introductory Manual of Calligraphy, Lettering & Type**. New York: Paul Shaw, 1986.
- Sloan, Fran (Strom). **Pen Calligraphy Manual: Basic Calligraphy**. Beaverton, Oregon: AHA Calligraphy, 1998.
- Svaren, Jacqueline. **Written Letters: 33 Alphabets for Calligraphers Expanded and Revised**. 1975; reprint, New York: Taplinger, 1986.
- Thomson, George L. **The Calligraphy Work Book: How to Master Broad Pen Scripts**. 1985; reprint, New York: Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., 1990.
- Thomson, George L. **The New Better Handwriting**. Edinburgh: New York: Pentalic, 1977.
- Trudgill, Anne. **Basic Skills: Calligraphy Techniques and Creative Projects for Beginners**. New York: Watson-Guptill, 1989.
- Trudgill, Anne. **Traditional Penmanship: Mastering 18 Classic Alphabets Stroke by Stroke**. New York: Watson-Guptill Publications, 1988.

- Waters, Sheila. ***Foundations of Calligraphy***. Greensboro, North Carolina: John Neal, Bookseller, 2006.
- Winters, Eleanor and Laurie E. Lico. ***Calligraphy in Ten Easy Lessons***. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1984.
- Wong, Frederick. ***The Complete Calligrapher***. New York: Watson-Guptill Publications, 1980.
- Young, Caroline, Jane Felstead, designer. and Susan Hufton, calligrapher. ***Calligraphy From Beginner to Expert***. Tulsa, Oklahoma: Usborne Publishing, 1990.
- Young, Caroline, ed. ***Complete Book of Calligraphy***. London: Usborne Publishing, Tulsa, Oklahoma: EDC Publishing, 1994.
- Zapf, Hermann. ***Creative Calligraphy: Instructions & Alphabets***. Germany: Rotring, 1985.

### Historical books – “classics” that build on the past

- Benson, John Howard and Arthur Graham Carey. ***The Elements of Lettering***. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1940; reprint, New York: McGraw Hill, 1950.
- Douglass, Ralph. ***Calligraphic Lettering with Wide Pen and Brush***. 1949; reprint, New York: Watson-Guptill, 1967.
- Jackson, Donald. ***The Story of Writing***. New York: Taplinger, 1981.
- Johnston, Edward. ***Writing & Illuminating & Lettering***. London: John Hogg, 1906; reprint, London: Pitman Publishing, 1975.
- Knight, Stan. ***Historical Scripts***. Revised edition. 1949; reprint, New Castle, Delaware: Oak Knoll Books, 1998.
- Nesbitt, Alexander. ***The History and Technique of Lettering***. 1950; reprint, New York: Dover, 1957.
- Neugebauer, Friedrich and Bruce Kennett, translator. ***The Mystic Art of Written Forms: An Illustrated Handbook for Lettering***. Bad Goisern, Austria: Neugebauer Press, 1980.
- Ogg, Oscar. ***The 26 Letters: A History of the Alphabet***. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1964.

### Reference books – encyclopedias and manuals

- The Calligrapher's Handbook: A Practical Guide to Learning Calligraphy with More Than 60 Full-Color Illustrations***. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. London: 1987; reprint, New York: Crescent Books, 1988.
- Child, Heather, ed. and Society of Scribes and Illuminators. ***The Calligrapher's Handbook***. New York: Taplinger Publishing Company, 1986.
- The Complete Guide to Calligraphy***. London: Oceana - Quantum Publishing, 2006.

Folsom, Rose. ***The Calligraphers' Dictionary***. New York: Thames & Hudson, 1991.

Harris, David, Mary Noble and Janet Mehigan. ***The Calligrapher's Bible***. London: Quarto - Barron's, 2004.

Martin, Judy and Miriam Stribley. ***The Complete Guide to Calligraphy Techniques and Materials***. Chartwell Books Inc., Secaucus, New Jersey: Quill Publishing, 1984.

Stribley, Miriam. ***The Calligraphy Source Book: The Essential Reference for All Calligraphers***. Philadelphia: Running Press, 1986.

Wilson, Diana Hardy. ***The Encyclopedia of Calligraphy Techniques: A Comprehensive Visual Guide to Traditional and Contemporary Techniques***. 1993; reprint, New York: Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., 2002.

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Note: This list was compiled by Iris W. Anderson, WCG's Librarian. She may be reached at 301-598-0392 or by email at [iris.anderson@comcast.net](mailto:iris.anderson@comcast.net)