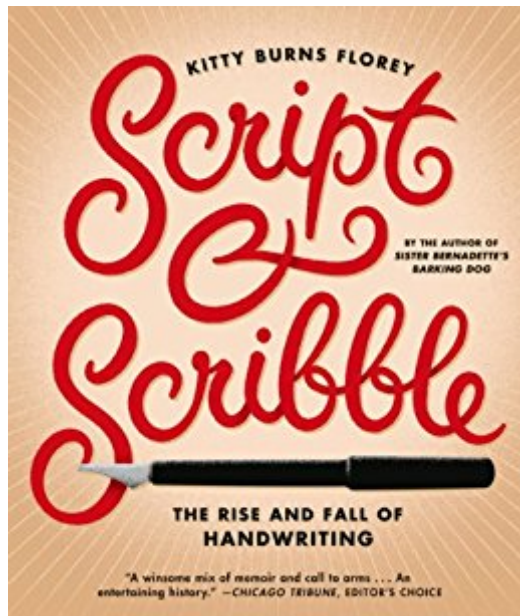




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Script And Scribble: The Rise And Fall Of Handwriting



Synopsis

"A witty and readable (and fetchingly illustrated and glossed) excursion through the history of handwriting." —The Wall Street Journal
Let a self-confessed "penmanship nut" take you on a tour of the strange and beautiful world of handwriting. Since her Catholic school days learning the Palmer Method, Kitty Burns Florey has been in love with handwriting, and can't imagine a world where schools forego handwriting drills in favor of teaching something called keyboarding. In this "winsome mix of memoir and call to arms" (Chicago Tribune), Florey weaves together the evolution of writing implements and scripts, pen-collecting societies, the golden age of American penmanship, and the growth in popularity of handwriting analysis, and asks the question: Is writing by hand really no longer necessary in today's busy world? "Charmingly composed and handsomely presented," *Script & Scribble* traces the history of penmanship to the importance of writing by hand in an increasingly digital age (The Boston Globe). From the Trade Paperback edition.

Book Information

File Size: 12578 KB

Print Length: 192 pages

Publisher: Melville House; Reprint edition (October 8, 2013)

Publication Date: October 8, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00C8RZI78

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #463,987 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #12

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Reference > Words, Language & Grammar > Handwriting

#122 in Books > Reference > Words, Language & Grammar > Handwriting #171 in Kindle

Store > Kindle eBooks > Reference > Trivia & Fun Facts > Curiosities & Wonders

Customer Reviews

This is my fourth copy, since I keep giving them away to friends. The author knows her subject

inside and out. Her prior book, *Sister Bernadette's Barking Dog* would alert buyers to her talent of turning literally anything into entertaining reading. It was about sentence diagramming! You read right -- Kitty Florey's treatment of handwriting is informative to the nth degree and, delightful and, in parts, hilarious. But most of all, you will learn about a practice and art that is fading into oblivion. Let's hope Florey's book inspires a resumption in the enjoyment of handwritten communication. Don't you feel a little thrill when you see a handwritten envelope in your mailbox amongst all the sterile typewritten/computer generated other stuff! If so, you owe it to yourself to read how handwriting came to be, then how it came to be so much fun!

This book made me think about handwriting again and made me look at it in a whole new light. I hadn't used cursive (as taught by the Palmer Method) in probably twenty years but was pleased to find that it all came back to me. I also discovered that writing in cursive allows me to get more in my journals and gives them a more personal feel. If there is any drawback to this book it is the few layout errors in the first chapter. This is clearly someplace where the publisher let the author down and it does not distract significantly from the author's writing, which I found very engaging.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and I wish I could write this in pen and ink, and in proper Palmer cursive. It's a fascinating study and a delightful read. It can inspire one to work on your handwriting without resorting to mastering Spencerian script (although I would love to write in that hand). Like to write with pen and paper? Read this book.

The phrase that kept coming up was, "Who knew?!" Great discussion of the skill we've all lived with all our lives but really never understood. Henry David Thoreau-one of America's first pencil makers? Who Knew?

This is really a very short work on the subject lasting some 190pp including the credits. The writer is humorous and displays a wealth of knowledge on the subject and makes you want to read on while talking about subject matter that many would find only boring; yet I found interesting UNTIL the last chapter. It is as if another person wrote that or some editor suggested that this short volume be lengthened to give it more meat or a broader point in keeping with the subject matter. I saw little if any point to the last chapter and would liken it to a name dropper at a cocktail party. Lots of names, light fluff and very little substance to the conversation. But I would still buy the book, for its free flowing manner, less the last chapter. One can easily finish it in two evenings as I did. I would say

the book contains little of anything you NEED to know, but A LOT OF THINGS that are fun to know and contemplate. And yes it will be more beneficial to those of an age to have benefited from the Palmerian school of handwriting. I doubt that any of the millennial generation would find it that enthralling, even though it does have a myriad of pictures and drawings to help sustain their interest. Buy the book and enjoy it, simply skip the last chapter. Your life will still feel just as fulfilled as before!

How it all got started and how the teaching of penmanship has declined. I had great teachers in school or so I thought but this really shows that all the email and electronic communication is so impersonal. Impress someone; buy the book and write a letter or note to a friend.

Entertaining while educative, for those who love the vanishing art of handwriting.

As an avid fountain pen collector, this book immediately drew me in. The art of writing by hand is fast becoming a thing of the past -- forget about the virtues of fine penmanship, much less the craft of making fine pens instead of mass produced plastic things with colored goop in them. People yammer endlessly on cell phones, text in code, pound away at keyboards -- or eliminate the handwork entirely and dictate in dull monotone at their 'voice recognition software.' Writing, both the physical act of creating script and the art of stringing words together in complete sentences, is fast becoming a thing of the past. I expected this book would be a thoughtful essay on this topic. This book does include a brief history of the development of writing and an interesting discussion of the various teaching methods and penmanship styles of the 18th through 20th centuries. There are some witty observations about the effect of the personal computer on our lives, especially on our (un)willingness and (in)ability to put pen to paper on a day to day basis. There is a discussion of the quirky "graphology" movement. All entertaining, if not extremely enlightening. But the book also suffers from some serious flaws. First, sad and sorry production values. As others have noted, there are some glaring glitches like text printed on top of graphics, footnotes misnumbered, typos, the absence of an index. One also would think that a book extolling the virtues of fine handwriting would also be a finely made book. This one is printed on cheap paper and has that "fresh out of a software package" look. Second, some very thin content. The discussion of the history and current status of the fountain pen is superficial at best and inaccurate at worst. Sure, the fountain pen is not exactly mainstream. But there has been a modern resurgence of interest in fine writing instruments, both vintage and current production. This book devotes two pages to the development of the fountain

pen, including an extended anecdote about an ad for the Sheaffer Snorkel on the "I Love Lucy" show. The author devotes just over one page to ink, which concludes with the observation that ink is "an artifact of another world," available only at art supply stores for use by artists and calligraphers. The author seems blissfully ignorant of the resurgence of interest in fountain pens and the revival of many of the classic pen manufacturers. The title of the review sums up my impression of the book. Much to admire, much that disappoints.

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