



NOTTINGHAM CALLIGRAPHERS

Newsletter Number 4 January 2012

From the Chairman.....

Hello All!

A happy new year to everyone – hoping you're feeling rested and ready for an excellent 2012.

I wonder if anyone received any good calligraphic gifts for Christmas this year? I was lucky enough to get "The World Encyclopaedia of Calligraphy" compiled by Christopher Calderhead and Holly Cohen. It's a wonderful book which, unusually, covers scripts other than western lettering – Arabic, Hebrew, Chinese, Tibetan, Korean to name just a few. I can see me spending rather a long time admiring it!

I hope you're enjoying the newsletter – we're really hoping you'll feel able to submit articles yourselves (maybe even without being coerced by one of the committee!) Did you know one of the other benefits of being a member of Nottingham Calligraphers is access to our library? There are a number of very good calligraphy books, plus quite a few back issues of *The Scribe*, all available to be borrowed free of charge. Sheila King looks after the library and brings it along to workshops; so don't forget to ask to have a look. And if there's a book you think would be a good addition to the library then please make the suggestion – we'd like to add one or two new titles each year if funds permit.



I mentioned last time about the SSI Calligraphy Exhibition – it's on in Halifax from 14th January to 17th March. I have just learnt that Calderdale Calligraphers are mounting an exhibition of their work in the same building, opening on 14th January too, so that's an international exhibition and a local exhibition to visit together!

Before I go, a thank you to Kate who has, once again, managed the brain scramble of working out how to run the envelope exchange. To all of you on the list, enjoy it – it's a great chance to do something creative and maybe a little bit different to your usual lettering. And if you're not on the list.... maybe next time...!

Janet

Envelope Exchange

It's that time when the new envelope exchange starts once again. Those of you who have decided to take part in the 2012 envelope exchange will have received your new list by now and have probably noticed a few names missing, but also some new people including Horace Staniland.

I'm really pleased that people enjoy this venture and it is a good way of completing a little calligraphic project each month. The first envelope will go out in February and there will be no envelope in December this year.

Thanks to all those who have taken part in the past, those who are going to do it this time and to those who might be enticed next time round.

Kate

Workshop News

Design and Layout

Tutor Sue Sinclair

Date 21 January

Location Lowdham 10am-4pm

This is an area that most of us 'battle' with, whether it is calligraphy, painting, writing etc. Sue aims to guide us through some of the elements of this important subject by getting us to do several tasks. This should be a really instructive and worthwhile workshop on a very complex topic. This workshop is a must for all those who want to improve their layout and design.

Carolingian Hand

Tutor Angela Dalleywater

Date 25 February

Location Lowdham 10am-4pm

Carolingian is a beautiful and elegant book hand developed to be written quickly with few pen lifts. Angela is a very popular tutor who will skillfully coach us to writing or developing this lovely hand. This workshop is for all levels.

Screen Printing and Lettering

Tutor Steve Delaney

Date 31 March

Location Lowdham 10am-4pm

This is a new and exciting subject for Nottingham Calligraphers. Screen printing is a technique that can lend itself to lettering perfectly. The results can be spectacular. Steve has all the equipment. We provide the enthusiasm! This is not one to miss. Why not invite a non-calligrapher friend to join you for this have-a-go workshop? (In case the workshop is oversubscribed, we would give priority to members).

It would be lovely to have a good attendance for these workshops, so if you would like to attend then please let me know as soon as possible. Information about materials and equipment will be circulated as soon as available.

DATE CHANGE Please note that Janet's workshop on **Roman Miniscules** will now take place on 28 April.

Kate Hall

A Thing of Beauty.....



This example comes from the title of a plan of Moscow published by Dutch cartographer Johannes Blaeu (1598-1673) in 1662. It is in the VYAZ decorative style of Cyrillic lettering which is characterised by stacked and nested letters and common stems, which form a dense, continuous band of lettering.

The style originated in 11th century Byzantine books and is related to the style of Greek uncial lettering found in Orthodox icons. It spread to Russia and was very popular in the 16th century. Blaeu's map is thought to be based on an original Russian survey ordered by Boris Godunov (1551-1605) and he probably used a copy of the original made in 1610 for Sigismund III of Poland.

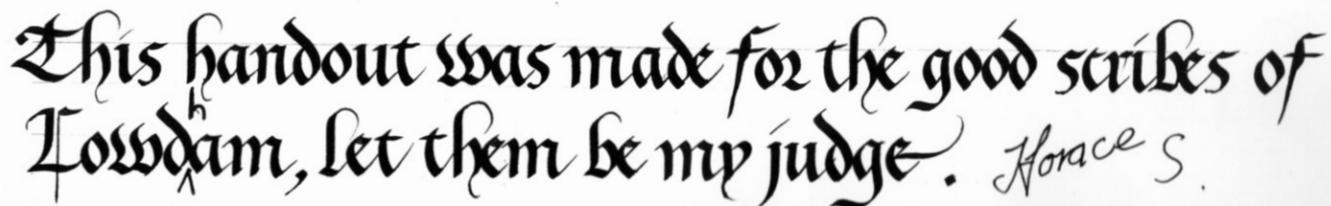
Although difficult to decipher because liberties are taken with the letterforms (the first three words are Tsarskoi Grad Moskva), I think it has a beauty and elegance which is truly inspiring.

Sue Sinclair

Workshop Reports I

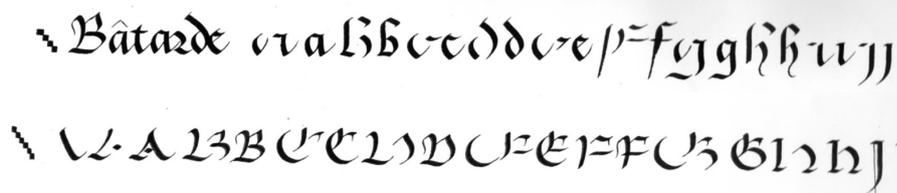
Batarde Workshop with Horace Staniland

Having only recently joined Nottingham Calligraphers I wondered whether I had been over ambitious in attending the Batarde workshop at Lowdham. Still nothing ventured, nothing gained. I knew we were in safe hands with Horace as I had already attended his illumination workshop and been quite chuffed with my final piece on that day.



This handout was made for the good scribes of Lowdham, let them be my judge. Horace S.

I took a gulp when looking at the worksheet Horace handed out, Batarde with its strong, decorative lettering, all angles and fancy cursives and with letter shapes I had never seen before. I gave my friend a 'What have you got me into' look. We got straight down to business (well, after the first round of tea and chocolate biscuits) and Horace took us through the letters step by step.



Batarde a b c d d o e p f g h i h u j j
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

We worked busily with furrowed brow and the occasional groan of angst escaping. Horace came round with lots of advice and tips for each of us, he also sharpened our nibs with a grinding wheel to improve performance, maybe he should have sharpened my wits instead.



At tea break Horace read out a piece called 'The Garden of Proserpine' which he knew by heart – very impressive. Then following lunch we lightened up a little making a Christmas card before attempting Batarde Capitals at the finish of the day.

I heard some people declare great interest in this hand so I am sure there will be more work appearing written in Batarde. For me, I think I have many hours of practice ahead. All in all, another wonder workshop from Horace in his no panic laid back style.

Lorraine
December 2011

Workshop Reports II

Gilding with Peter Halliday

Oh! What a golden day for learning the Art of Gilding. Just a brief glance at Peter Halliday's website will tell you that we were in the hands of a master calligrapher.

He is described as 'having an international reputation as one of the foremost calligraphers and teachers in the western world ...' Is it any wonder that tiny Lambley Village Hall was packed with the enthusiastic members of Nottingham Calligraphers making full use of having the privilege of sitting at this master's feet.



Peter expertly demonstrated the basics of gilding, at the same time supporting his learned talk with examples of his work on glass and various papers. He presented us with several ideas and coupled this with some practical advice.

And that was that! He sent us off to mix various gluey substances, diligently apply pastel oils and colour to different papers – and then, wonder of wonders, the magic of gold leaf came alive.

There's no doubt that a deal of gold leaf was applied but the end result was a brilliant success. Our thanks to Peter for an inspirational day, and a contented workshop.

Gwen Vine
November 2011

