

Work turns letters to art

By Kelly Laughlin
Of The Print

Everyone has something valuable to communicate, whether they do it through the use of lip and tongue or on paper. Expressing ourselves by word of mouth, for most, is not a difficult task. But when asked to write a phrase or sentence on paper, sloppy or illegible handwriting can be an obstacle.

Calligraphy is one way to help erase this handicap. Some may confuse "lettering" with calligraphy. Lettering is usually a script formed with mechanical aids such as a rule, compass and square. Calligraphy is freed for the most part from these aids. Stanley Morris, a type designer and authority of letterforms, said, "Calligraphy may be defined as freehand in which freedom is so nicely reconciled with order that the understanding eye is pleased to contemplate it."

Essentially, though, the beauty of the art of calligraphics is that they are not set within the confines of a block or square, but rather, within the control and spontaneity of the hand.

Combining these essentials of discipline and free movement makes calligraphy one of the most difficult arts to master. No matter how long you plan to apply calligraphy to your life, you'll find constant improvement and constant growth occurring. Patience is the main ingredient in a successful calligraphic recipe.

One of the ways calligraphy will, with daily practice, naturally improve your handwriting is in the actual practice of the art. In most cases, calligraphy is performed with a dip pen or osmiroid pen, a bottle of black ink and some duplicator or typing paper. Books have been written so that calligraphy can be self taught. Though calligraphy has

only been prominent in America a mere 50 years, its impact and popularity have already made it to the West coast, and the Portland area. The book, "Beginning Calligraphy," by Robert L. Boardwell, expert in the art of beautiful writing, is an excellent text that can be used in the classroom or studio. His book is available at J.K. Gills, Grahams Stationary in Milwaukie and the Clackamas Community College bookstore.

Having an artistic inclination need not be a prerequisite for beginning calligraphy. Practicing between 10 and 20 minutes daily is all that is needed to become proficient. Classes are also available at the

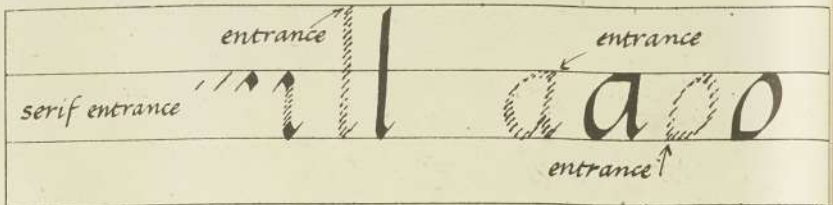
Portland Art Museum, Marylhurst Education Center and Moss Junior High School.

If you are into the arts you find great improvement in your work as a result of calligraphy. Calligraphy naturally disciplines your hand because it forces you to make your letter forms as accurate as possible. If you're a writer, calligraphy enhances your work. A quote by a great author, a simple sentence or a single word can become an extension of your own feelings for the work you've chosen, be it your own or someone else's.

Calligraphy can, at its best, be one of the most enjoyable and profitable hobbies around. If you apply calligraphy with desire, you'll find yourself beginning to call you for wedding announcements, certificates, poetry, quotations they'd like you to duplicate in the medium. Many of them may want you to do it for free. If they're your friends it's usually desirable; if they're not, however, get a shake in dollars and cents. What your work is really worth. After a time, you may, by myself, be able to include profits and purchases as a deduction.

Besides the monetary aspect of calligraphy, it can be a hobby. It's also a desirable way to spend a spare moment or two.

Entrance - The stroke of the pen to begin a letter is called an entrance



*Abraham Beautiful Columbia Danforth Ensign
Flower Glorious Happiness Insect Jewel Kingdom
Lotus Magnolia Noon Olympia Peace Quality
Roman Spencer Tom Understanding Value
Willingness Xray Yummy Zenith
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 . : ; , ? ! " ' & \$ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 etc. et.*

Success is often the result
of taking a misstep
in the right direction.
— Al Bernstein

