

Letter Perfect

January/February, 2006

The Newsletter of the San Diego Fellow Calligraphers

Vol. 27, No. 3

January 13, 2006; 7 pm
SDFC General Meeting

The Slides of Morgan Beatus—A Manuscript for Medieval Spain with Risa Gettler*, guest lecturer

Most Spanish territory was occupied in the eighth century by Muslim invaders. Hemmed in by the sea and mountains, the peninsula of Spain endured an isolation unmatched by other regions in Europe. As a result Spain fashioned her own independent medieval culture in the brilliant school of manuscript art called Mozarabic. These manuscripts are written in Visigothic Versals. Risa Gettler brings slides from The Pierpont Morgan Library's, Morgan Beatus, which contain these odd and ancient letterforms along with a peppering of a few pieces of her and Spanish calligraphers work done in this style. **Location:** San Diego Education Association, Suite 300; 10393 San Diego Mission Road, San Diego. Go to www.sdfconline.com for more information.

January 14 & 21, 2006
Visigothic Versals
with Risa Gettler*

Start the New Year with a 10th century lettering style. Visigothic Versals are an exclusive, distinct, and independent lettering tradition unique to 7th—11th century Spain. Visigothic Versals whisper of hands past and future: Roman Capitals, Uncial, and Textura, while offering fascinating letterforms and combinations as strong as Spanish iron-work, delicate as lace, and passionate as the music called Flamenco! For more information, go to our website, www.sdfconline.com.

SDFC welcomes Risa Gettler

*Risa Gettler culminates her enthusiasm of calligraphy via her education and career in Graphic Design, with focus, and lifelong passion and study, of letter arts. She continues to deepen her calligraphic knowledge by studying throughout the United States, North Africa, Spain and, Accademia Delle Arti Calligrafiche, Italy and most of all, self study. Risa enjoys teaching calligraphy and finds passion, challenge and satisfaction in all 26 cantankerous letters. Risa's calligraphic art can be seen in many publications and in juried calligraphic art exhibits from Washington State to the Washington National Cathedral.

Presidential Ponderings

The holidays are over and a new year has begun. SDFC is humming along and getting ready for a variety of exciting events.

The La Jolla Library will be the site of the **SDFC Exhibit** this April. There is a lot of space in the community room, so get your pens and ideas ready and make art! Check page 2 of this newsletter (and www.sdfconline.com) for more information.

In mid January we welcome our very own Risa Gettler, who will introduce many of us to a “new” 10th century lettering style, **Visigothic Versals**. In February the ever popular making of greeting cards returns. Louis Lemoine joins us in March with his version of Peter Thornton's **Button Alphabet**. In May Sylvia Kowal returns with **Pop-Ups 2**. Have you started cleaning out your studio/creative space? Save those usable calligraphically related goodies for June's event, **Trash 'n Treasures**. At the June meeting, SDFC will also be holding Board elections. Consider where your skills and talents would be best suited and volunteer to help with the leadership and direction of SDFC.

From Sarah Ban Breathnach

Time is the New Year's bountiful blessing:

- Three hundred sixty-five bright mornings and starlit nights
- Fifty-two promising weeks
- Twelve transformative months full of beautiful possibilities
- Four splendid seasons

Happy New Year!

Diane Reiter

February 10, 2006; 7 pm
SDFC General Meeting
Greeting Cards

Everyone is welcome to join members and their guests as we gather to partake in the popular tradition of making greeting cards—calligraphic skill not required (but always welcome!). Please bring scissors, glue stick and other basic supplies. Check the meeting reminder postcard and www.sdfconline.com for more information.

SDFC April Exhibit

By Marsha Vanetsky

I'm very happy to inform you that we have found a wonderful venue for our April exhibit. Thanks to the preliminary work of fellow member Shirley Wineberg, we were able to reserve the community room of the La Jolla Library. Here are the specifics:

Where: The La Jolla Riford Library Center
7555 Drapers Ave in La Jolla

When: Show will run from 4/2/06-5/12/06
Art work will be collected by 3/25, hung on 4/1 and taken down 5/13

Need to Know:

Reception is scheduled for Sat. 4/8/06 from 2:00-5:00 PM
All artwork must be framed and have wire strung on back.
There is not much space for 3-D items, and I only suggest they be displayed on the day of our reception.

Please begin thinking about a name for our show and e-mail me your suggestions by Jan. 15th. The space is old world Spanish architecture. The city of course is one of America's finest, and there's a large baby grand piano at the front of the room. The show will be in the spring, we'll be able to use the patio for our reception and of course there's always the sea near by; just some possible ideas for you.

There's quite a bit of wall space to cover and we'll need lots of artwork. Please consider submitting numerous entries into the show. Happy creating! Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns by phone at 760-798-1645 or by email mvanetsky@yahoo.com.

Other Exhibits:

Sorby Galleria: SDFC Member and non-member Calligraphy
Calligraphic works on display in Rancho Bernardo until the end of January 2006. www.sdfconline.com.

The Cambridge Illuminations: virtual exhibition

For more information go to www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/gallery/CambridgeIlluminations/index.html.

The Splendor of the Word: Medieval and Renaissance Illuminated Manuscripts at The New York Public Library

The exhibit runs from October 21, 2005 through February 12, 2006, in the D. Samuel and Jeane H. Gottesman Exhibition Hall (First Floor) of the Humanities and Social Sciences Library, 5th Avenue and 42nd Street, New York, NY 10018-2788. For more information, go to <http://www.nypl.org/research/calendar/exhib/hssl/hsslexhibdesc.cfm?id=354>.



2006 CONTEST THEME: A FINE LINE

Are your favorite lines from songs or films, or do you prefer tan lines, fishing lines or even felines? Explore the lines of communication as you design an artistic envelope around any kind of line! www.calligraphersguild.org for more information.



Copperplate, also called Script, Engrossers Script and Roundhand in the 19th century, is elegant, beautiful and expressive. The technique is different from other calligraphy styles by using an oblique pen holder. Participants experimented with pressure using a pointed flexible nib and they covered both minuscule and majuscule letters. Instruction provided beginners with a strong basis for future development as well as stylistic refinement for intermediates and flourishing for the advanced participants. Copperplate can be a modern hand and is in much use today. It is ideal for wedding invitations and envelopes. Lots of handouts and advice were given, and we all had a great time exploring this elegant hand.



Linda Hirsh's samples from her workshop "Get to the Point," November 12 & 13.
Photos by Trisha Martini



SDFC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SDFC Holiday Party



The annual SDFC Holiday Party was held at the Poway home of Stephen and Naomi Lesberg. As members and guests walked through the front door, they were greeted by a beautiful display of SDFC ornaments cleverly hung by the staircase with care. Good friends and new friends were able to visit over a variety of fine foods and tasty punch. The gift exchange was lively and provided some funny moments. It truly was an enjoyable evening. To Naomi and Stephen, the words of (Beverly) Longfellow Frank:



THANK YOU POME
 Thank you for hosting the calligraphy bunch
 It was such a pleasure to talk and to munch.
 Everything was simply delicious
 (The vitamins in chocolate are especially nutritious)
 The conversation was A number one
 Getting together is always such fun.
 The evening was filled with mirth and with flair
 We're so happy that we could be there.



Photos by Naomi and Alex Lesberg



Clockwise from top: Trisha Martini; Mary Kloha; Andy Dunk; Stephen Lesberg; Sue Mann and Lorraine Brown; The Party-Goers; The boys—Steve Reiter, Tom Rogers, Andy Dunk and Stephen Lesberg; Heather Wiley and Pat Sunda; Linda and Allen West.

Corrections to the SDFC roster

Beverly Frank
 jackf@nethere.com
 Patsy Roeder
 birdiehoot@sbcglobal.net

US Postage Rates change Jan. 8th!

It will cost 39 cents to mail a 1 oz., regular sized envelope. Go to www.usps.com for more information.

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Letter Perfect is the bi-monthly newsletter of the San Diego Fellow Calligraphers. SDFC is a non-profit group dedicated to the art of calligraphy and related subjects. We include beginners, professional artists and all levels in between. Our purpose is to share and to educate.

Meetings are usually held on the second Friday of each month, September to June. Locations may vary. Check our website www.sdfconline.com for information and directions.

Those wishing to join SDFC or to renew their membership may do so by contacting Dianne Decker-Houser; SDFC; P.O. Box 84960; San Diego, CA 92138-4960.

Publication of any article in *Letter Perfect* does not imply endorsement by the San Diego Fellow Calligraphers or its Board.

Please send your information, pictures, etc. for the March/April 2006 issue of *Letter Perfect* to Trisha Martini; 11151 Socorro St.; San Diego, 92129-1311; or by fax to (866) 673-2145; or by e-mailing it to her at TRISHAINK@yahoo.com. If you have any questions, call (858) 672-2016. Submissions must be received by February 21, 2006.

SDFC 2005-2006 Calendar of Events

January 13: General Meeting: Risa Gettler,
The Slides of Morgan Beatus—A Manuscript for Medieval Spain
January 14 & 21: Risa Gettler Workshop: **Visigothic Versals**
February 10: General Meeting: Greeting Cards
March 10: General Meeting: Louis Lemoine, *The BP is Mightier than the Sword*
March 11 & 12: Workshop: Variation of Peter Thornton's **Button Alphabet**
with Louis Lemoine
April 8: Reception for SDFC Exhibit, 2—5pm, La Jolla Library
May 12: General Meeting: Sylvia Kowal, *Pop-ups 2*
June 9: General Meeting: Trash 'N Treasures and general elections

www.sdfconline.com

is the official website of the San Diego Fellow Calligraphers. Bookmark this address for the latest SDFC news, photos, calendar of events and other society information. For our online gallery, we would like to publish .jpg files of your scanned calligraphy. Send them to Naomi Lesberg at nlesberg@cox.net

Tips and Hints

Compiled by Shirley Wineberg

You can get unusual textural effects with felt-nib pens and markers by splitting the ends with a sharp knife. "Paint" rubber cement on the bottom of water jars, paint jars, coffee mugs, etc. to prevent them from slipping off a slanted work surface.

To help prevent a bottle of masking fluid from gumming up, make it a habit to turn the bottle over every time you enter your studio.

To transport watercolor when you don't want to bring along a large or clumsy palette, squeeze your favorite colors of paints into the compartments of a small pill organizer, putting in as much or as little as you want. Allow the paint to harden by leaving the lid(s) open for a while.

A fine white sanding block is easy to hold and lasts a long time. It quickly tames ragged edges of book board, mat board, and shrink plastic. It also sharpens drawing pencils and colored pencils to a fine point.

Calligraphy and Travel

For those who like to plan ahead, here is the tentative summer International Calligraphy Conference schedule:

- 2007 – Vancouver Island, Canada
- 2008 – Chicago, IL
- 2009 – Minnesota (St. John's)
- 2010 – Boston, MA
- 2011 – San Francisco, CA area

Black & White Calligraphy Conference

June 25 to July 2, 2006 in Seattle, WA
<http://blackandwhiteconference.com>.

The 2nd Bell Ranch Book Arts Adventure

Save the date for The 2nd Bell Ranch Book Arts Adventure- Sept. 21- 26, 2006, in northeastern New Mexico. Work in an authentic & beautiful hacienda set in the middle of the 300,000 acre Bell Ranch www.thebellranch.com. For a full description contact nancyculmone@plateautel.net.

SAN DIEGO FELLOW CALLIGRAPHERS



**P.O. Box 84960
San Diego, CA
92138-4960**

Address Correction Requested