

Letter Perfect

November/December, 2005

The Newsletter of the San Diego Fellow Calligraphers

Vol. 27, No. 2

November 11, 2005; 7 pm
SDFC General Meeting
Masters and Masterpieces of
Copperplate

with Linda Hirsh, guest lecturer*

With 'Masters & Masterpieces of Copperplate,' guest lecturer Linda Hirsh examines and discusses works of master Script, Copperplate and Spencerian writings. 'Let's Get to the Point' workshop with Linda is November 12 & 13. **Location:** San Diego Education Association, Suite 300; 10393 San Diego Mission Road, San Diego. Go to www.sdfconline.com for more information.

November 12&13, 2005
Let's Get to the Point
*with Linda Hirsh**

SDFC welcomes
Linda Hirsh!

*Linda Hirsh resides in Placentia, Ca and has been studying Calligraphy for over 20 years. She is an active member of the Society for Calligraphy and The Orange County Society for Calligraphy. Her work has been in exhibits and publications throughout the United States. It has been Linda's delight to teach what she loves and she loves all Calligraphy, but the pointed pen and all variations thereof are her passion.

December 10, 2005; 6 pm
SDFC Holiday Party

At the Home of Stephen and Naomi Lesberg
16505 Orchard Bend Road
Poway, CA 92064-1711

Celebrate the Holidays with food and friends! Spouses/significant others welcome! More details will follow on our website, meeting reminder card, and e-mail ring. We look forward to seeing you all!

Presidential Ponderings

SDFC is off to a great start for the 2005-2006 year! In September Nancy Culmone was our guest lecturer and teacher. Many members learned a lot about colored pencils and decorated caps, and appreciated what a skilled and dedicated teacher Nancy is. Be sure to read the articles about the workshops elsewhere in this newsletter. Thanks to Jacqueline Lacey and Jean Igoe for facilitating those workshops. Last month members had the opportunity to again be wowed by our very own Edna Wright. At the general meeting on Friday night, we learned how to make a Nag Hammadi book. On Saturday, a roomful of bookbinding enthusiasts were carefully guided in the construction of a Historical Coptic Book with wooden covers. Be sure to read that article as well. Thanks to Pat Sunda for facilitating Edna's workshop. A special thanks goes to Edna's husband, Forrest, who drilled a gazillion holes in the wooden covers so participants could concentrate on sewing, not carpentry. In November, SDFC welcomes Linda Hirsh. Linda will be the guest lecturer at the Nov. 11 general meeting and teaching a Copperplate workshop Nov. 12 and 13. There are a few open spaces in the workshop. Sign up now and learn this pointed script or improve your current skill level.

Ready for the Holidays? They're almost here! We will be holding the holiday party at Stephen and Naomi Lesberg's home in Poway. What better way to celebrate than with food and friends? Spouses or significant others are welcome to attend. We'll also be having the traditional gift exchange of calligraphy related items of approximately \$10. More information will be provided in the Holiday Party invitation and at www.sdfconline.com.

Need holiday gift ideas? SDFC offers gift certificates. They're perfect for your favorite calligrapher to use towards SDFC membership or SDFC workshops. Feeling generous? The SDFC scholarship fund would welcome contributions in any amount. May you and yours have a happy and peaceful holiday season. See you at the Holiday Party! Happy Lettering!

Diane Reiter

Historical Coptic Book *with Edna Wright*

By Phyllis J. Miller

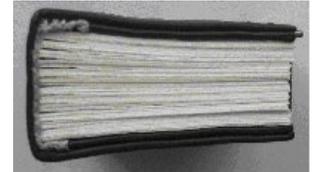
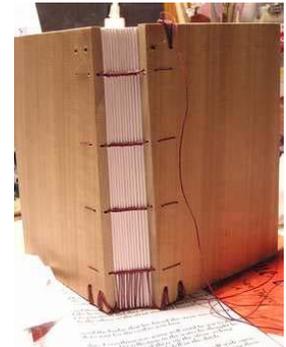
Edna Wright treated us, the SDFC members, to a rare gift of knowledge on this unusual weekend. With her guidance on Friday, we put together the form of the Nag Hammadi book. The original came from a library of writings, a collection of thirteen ancient leather-bound documents, or codices, discovered in a cave in Upper Egypt. Dating from AD 390, and written on papyrus in Coptic - the Egyptian language - they are translations of gnostic writings. That in itself brings us to early Christianity when Gnostic - a Greek word for knowledge - figured largely

during those years. The books survived because of the desert. The Nag Hammadi lies flat and square with leather-bound cover. One could imagine it fit easily into a robe's deep pocket.

The second journey, to sew together another form of Coptic book from AD seventh and eighth century, came Saturday at our workshop at the Escondido Episcopal Church with beautiful surroundings. Edna prepared the elements of the Coptic book-to-be. She handed each of us two equal size beautiful covers, boards made of poplar. Mr. Wright, following her pattern of Ethiopian stitching, drilled diagonal and other size holes into the wood.. Our major task - to sew the boards to thirteen signatures, groups of folded paper. Edna gave us four needles she had bent - and showed us how that's done. It took some skill to thread the bent needles with waxed cord. Yvonne Perez-Collins helped us, too, with her sewing skill and tips..

Each lovely book that could last for years, we finally coaxed into being. It is kind to us by staying flat when open at any place. Coptic is the liturgical language of the church, and describes the Egyptian Christians based on the teachings of St. Mark who wrote the first canonical gospel and brought Christianity to Egypt, Judea's close neighbor. By the 7th and 8th centuries, Christianity had spread as far north as the British Isles along with any country ruled by Rome.

Many thanks to Edna for her special attention and instructions for us.



Top photo by :Lorraine Brown

*Historic Coptic Book (top)
and Edna's sample books*

Reminder: The Sorby Galleria in Casa de las Campanas will be hosting a Calligraphy Exhibit from December 2, 2005 to January 25, 2006. Members are invited to submit calligraphic artwork, properly labeled with your name and the title of your piece, and suitably framed for hanging. There is no fee. Pieces should be no larger than 2 ft. by 3 ft. Bring your artwork, to the SDFC general meeting on Friday, November 11, 2005. For more information, contact Jean Porter or go to www.sdfconline.com. Please note: the Sorba Gallery exhibit is not an SDFC

Calligraphers Wanted in Old Town San Diego!

Can you imagine yourself in Victorian attire, holding an Italian glass pen and scribing a romantic letter? This is your chance!

The Plaza del Pasado is a collection of historical-based shops and restaurants within Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. The park's historic period is 1821-1872. As part of expressing San Diego's history in the park, we are looking for volunteers. You can come for a one time visit, or (even better!) on an ongoing basis. We have a stationery store and sell historic quill pens and glass pens. We are looking for volunteers to sit outside (or inside!) the store doing calligraphy and letting visitors try it out, too. The goal is to let people experience an aspect of our past. That means you would wear period attire (which we can provide) and we want you to be willing to share and interact with visitors. It is also an opportunity to show off your handiwork!

Training will be provided by Plaza del Pasado.

If you are interested, please contact Kara Murtey, Interpretive Manager at 619-954-6936 or kmurtey@dnccinc.com.

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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, Sept. 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 Jean Igoe; SDFC; P.O. Box 84960; San Diego, CA 92138-4960.

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A weekend with Nancy Culmone

Color It Luscious



Photos by: Naomi Lesberg

Nancy Culmone's Color It Luscious workshop used a mixture of mediums and methods to produce spectacular results!

By Linda West

"Everyone take out paper and pencil," isn't that how most school classes begin? Our class with Nancy Culmone started with an indexed book of paper samples and a set of Prismacolor pencils. First we tested our tools, examining the sample papers' textures and the range of colored pencils' spectra, with varied pressure and blending on black and white paper. We played with scumbling, impressing, white-polishing, erasing and "tape removing" as we used our pencils to highlight simple words. Adding ink with a reed pen and pressing ribbon designs with "Prismacolor" crayons we completed two full days of not only color pencil technique with various awesome papers but also color theory.

Nancy used small gatherings at the front of the class to demonstrate our projects and to tell us about using contrasting, layering and transition blending. We were immersed in color as she shared some cultural concepts of different colors (green is rated "R") as well as color's affect on people's minds and emotions. The whole concept of color is a study in itself.

Our minds were filled with practical, theoretical and creative information. Nancy used the processes of teaching to help us complete our projects and to give us the information to make our color calligraphy luscious and appealing. Best of all Nancy shared herself with us. She told us about her work creating one of a kind books, using paste-paper and her beloved colored pencils. She shared her work routine, philosophy and her inspiration for her work in progress, "The Raven."

A sharing circle on Sunday afternoon brought us all together in celebration of what we had learned. The responses to each others work was a testimony to the great group of fellow calligraphers that we belong to. We started with paper and pencil and finished the workshop with the full spectrum of lessons in color. Nancy's closing thoughts included the idea of taking time to play and taking that playtime seriously. She concluded that the serious work of art is successful when we take time to play.



By Linda West

Imagine opening a walk-in closet and finding an alphabet wardrobe. Each letter is a distinctive piece that can be used on its own or in combination with others to make a stunning outfit. Now imagine studying each letter alone. You may contemplate not only its shape but its counter spaces. Start with black on white; now play with just one letter. Create a mini-portfolio for your letter. That was how we began our study of the decorated letter with Nancy Culmone. In reality, our wardrobe was a slide show of contemporary calligraphy; capital letters used as works of art alone. Our mini-portfolio was real; we chose one Neuland capital letter and studied its parts, four ways: cut, torn, left-over cutouts and crumbled whole. We pasted black letters on white arches text wove. This letter portfolio became the basis for our study for the day.

Our next project was to choose one of our "letters" created from the cutouts to reproduce in ink. We were to choose an unusual one; perhaps the letter made from all the left over cutout pieces from the four capitals we made. These were fascinating studies, especially the textured letters created with our Stimudent and tongue depressor pens—herringbone capitals are possible you know!

Our final task was to make a stencil with a simple Roman capital. We then used water color to define the counter spaces and added colored pencils to accent and enhance the color work. The time flew by so that our homework was to complete a stencil of our Neuland letter and paint the counter spaces.

We enjoyed the highlights of contemporary artists who are using capital letters alone to create works of art. We also learned about synesthete Vladimir Nabakov, a Russian man who associated letters with colors. His brain literally interpreted a letter as a color. Nancy explained that there are also individuals who associate musical notes with colors in their minds. Nancy gave us the tools and processes to study contemporary capitals that can stand alone or be used to highlight a calligraphic work in one day with "The Decorated Letter."



Photos by: Lorraine Brown

Top to bottom: Yvonne Perez-Collins hard at work, Jacqueline Lacy and Nancy Culmone, Nancy's decorated Rs.

The Decorated Letter

Letterforum 2006.

The 26th International Gathering of Lettering Artists, will be held July 22-29, 2006, in Harrisonburg, VA. The list of distinguished faculty members is posted on the web-site. Go to www.letterforum2006.com for more information.

It's not too late to sign up for

Letters California Style,

the first annual SfC members conference to be held Feb. 16 to 19, 2006 in Pomona. For more information, contact DeAnn at DeScribe25@aol.com or C.C. at babblonia@aol.com or go to www.societyforcalligraphy.org.

Please send your information, pictures, etc. for the January/February 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. Material must be received by December 21, 2005.

SDFC 2005-2006 Calendar of Events

November 11: General Meeting, Linda Hirsh, *Masters and Masterpieces of Copperplate*

November 12 & 13: Linda Hirsh Workshop, *Let's Get to the Point*

December 9: SDFC Holiday Party

January 13: General Meeting: Risa Gettler, guest lecturer

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 7: Reception for SDFC Exhibit

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

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

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