

D. Leonardt & Company's New Principal Wakes Up The Echoes of the Old Principality

By Bob Hurford

Photographs and lettering by the author

In some of the most exciting nib news in more than a century, D. Leonardt & Company, a steel pen maker located in Shropshire, England, has introduced the Principal, a nib that successfully reproduces the venerable Principality.

A remarkable bit of engineering, Leonardt has re-created the super-fine Principality point and its superb flex to make what is in the author's view the finest nib manufactured today.

IAMPETH's own master penman, Brian Walker, deserves the lion's share of the credit for convincing Leonardt's chairman, Nick Stockbridge, that the Principal would be a worthwhile investment. Together, they made the nib a reality.

A 100-year old Gillott Principality, left, and the new Leonardt Principal.

The Principality, originally manufactured by Gillott in the latter half of the 19th century through to World War II, was the hands down favorite of Madarasz, Courtney, and other past master penmen.

Zaner and Bloser commissioned Gillott to clone the Principality as the Zanerian FineWriter. Frederick Tamblin did likewise with the Tamblin #7. Both the Spencerian Pen Company and Hunt also copied the Principality as the Spencerian Artistic #14 and the Hunt Imperial 101. The latter is still made.

Like the old Principality, the Principal can make the finest hairlines with thick, solid shades. For writers of ornamental pen-

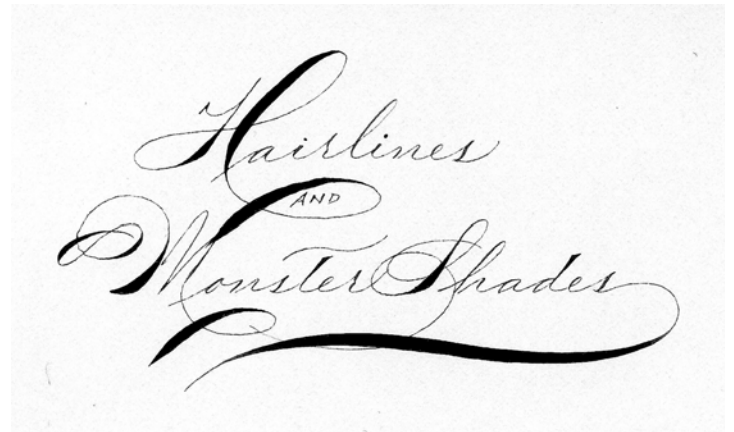


The huge flex of the Principal creates some thick, solid shades.

manship, copperplate, or engrosser's script, the news could not be better.

The considerable flex and snap—the ability of the a nib to flex its tines and quickly return to its original position—of the Principal is everything any penman could want.

As of this writing, the Principal is now available in Great Britain and first shipments are beginning to arrive in the United States. Call Paper & Ink Arts (800-736-7772) or John Neal Books (800-369-9598) for pricing and availability.



Roundhand

Leonardt Principal

Ornamental penmanship, copperplate and offhand flourishing are a pleasure with the new Leonardt Principal.