

Posted by Evan Lindquist

Following is the full text of a typewritten letter dictated by E.W. Bloser to D.W. Hoff in 1913.

In the third and fourth paragraphs, Bloser describes his ink. One of his ingredients was Arnold's Writing Fluid, which was a mixture of sulphate of indigo and gallotannate ink.

E.W. Bloser's Ink

E.W. Bloser, was owner of the Zaner-Bloser Co. in Columbus, Ohio. He described his ink in two paragraphs of a typewritten letter to Daniel W. Hoff, Meadville, Pennsylvania, April 28, 1913. His description follows:

"In signing my letters I usually use Zanerian India Ink, although I sometimes use some of our Zanerian School Ink. However, I think that I used India Ink in signing most of the letters I sent you. There is really very little India Ink in it, the main part being water. I put in the inkwell a little India Ink and then add a little water, stirring it quite a good deal. I then add a few drops of Arnold's Writing Fluid* until the ink comes to the point of separation. The India Ink is made largely of carbon and the Arnold's Writing Fluid is antagonistic to it and will not mix well. For that reason very little of the Writing Fluid should be added at a time, although enough should be added from time to time to bring it to the point of separation. That is, to the place where the ink becomes full of specks, the solids separating from the water. If the ink stands for some little time the water comes to the top and the solids go to the bottom. It should then be thoroughly stirred and probably a little more water put in on top without stirring it. Of course, this should be done from time to time as the ink is used. It doesn't require much time. The older the ink gets, the better it comes and a little water can be added now and then. It is astonishing how little ink there really is in the inkwell after it has been used for several months. I got hold of this idea accidentally some years ago by unintentionally mixing the two antagonistic inks and then experimenting with this ink. If it is done just right, there is probably no better ink for fine ornamental writing. A very fine line can be secured by loading the shades. They are black enough to make the proper contrast.

"I enclose herewith a little writing executed by our Mr. Knowles. You will notice on the light lines that the ink is to the point of separation, as is shown by the tendency to skip a little, and if more Writing Fluid were put in, the ink would be spoiled. Stirring is one of the necessary things in order to get the best results with it, since in this way the antagonistic elements seem to be sufficiently united to work properly."

Cordially yours,

[signed] E.W. Bloser

P. S. I used a Zanerian Ideal Pen in signing my letters to you. However, the enclosed specimen by Mr. Knowles, was executed with a Zanerian Fine Writer Pen.

B/O