

Lessons in Engrossing

By EL Brown

This is quite an important lesson, as it shows the lay-off of a set of resolutions. Attention is called to the diagram showing how the double-curved heading is made. First rule the centerline, and then place the compasses on the center point and rule lines for heading. The center point at the top can easily be located after a few trials.

Lettering on a curve is more difficult than on a straight line, and beginners will find guidelines helpful in making the letters uniformly vertical.

The words "Bricklayers' Union" may first be penciled with special attention to spacing, form, etc., and then written with a No. 1 Soennecken pen. Large lettering like this line is usually "ruled up" in order to give the letters sharp, clean edges and render them exactly vertical. This line is unfinished that the student may see the effect of the letters after the edges are ruled. Small lettering like that following the word "Whereas" is not usually "ruled up," so even more care is necessary in writing than on the large lettering, where many, inaccuracies are remedied by mechanical means. The words "Whereas" and "Figures" were retouched with a common pen.

The original drawing for this lesson is eleven and one half inches from left to right and twelve inches from top to, bottom. Remember that this is only a part of a set of resolutions-the most difficult part for beginners, and we hope our young penmen friends will find some useful points in this lesson worthy of critical attention.

Having referred to "ruled up" lettering above we will explain our meaning more fully for the benefit of the young penmen not familiar with such matters.

Tack the sheet on the drawing board, having the edge of, the T-square parallel with the center line of the design, and, draw the ruling pen along the edge of each letter, keeping a sharp lookout for accuracy in spacing, width, etc.

RESOLUTION WORK. The most difficult part for the beginner in engrossing the "lay-off" in pencil which gives the approximate space the wording will occupy, with the size and style of lettering for prominent words and lines, roughly suggested. In the diagram we have suggested an Old English letter for heading, also for the man's name, the balance of text being in Engrossers' script. The original copy will be executed on a sheet about 15 x 17. Make a double curve for the heading with dividers, placing the point on the centerline at the place indicated.

The completed design will be given in the next lesson. In the meantime see what you can do with the "lay-off," following our suggestions.

YOUR design should not be smaller than 10x12 on paper or cardboard about 15x17. Lay off as directed in the previous lesson, to get all parts properly spaced. When this is done, pencil in detail the lettering and decorative initial. It is necessary for beginners to make a careful pencil drawing, but the experienced engrosser will simply put on a few lines to find the exact space the lettering will occupy, then proceed to write the Old English with a broad pen, depending on the eye for regular spacing and well-formed letters.

After the letters are finished carefully in pen and ink, they can be shaded with brush and color with good effect. The modern engrosser must be a colorist as well as penman.

An outfit for brush shading need not be elaborate. Half a pan each of lamp black and Payne's Gray, two brushes numbers 5 and 6, and some saucers for mixing color. - Beginners should practice on plain washes, aiming for clean, transparent tones. Lay off spaces from two to three inches square and fill your brush with

color. Begin at the top and let the color follow the brush freely. Do not try to use little color; if you do your results will be unsatisfactory. Use plenty of color and work quickly. Practice and experience will supply what instructions will not.

PALMER'S PENMANSHIP BUDGET

Album Resolutions

ALBUM form for engrossed resolutions is quite popular nowadays. The size of pages varies, but the most common size is 7x10. Flexible leather is desirable on the best work, while heavy pebbled paper or sheepskin tied with narrow ribbon can be used on the lower-priced albums,

As a rule, the title page is most elaborate, containing the name of the society, date, and sometimes the words "Resolutions Adopted by" preceding the name of the order.

First, pencil roughly the initial "S" and decoration, then space the lettering. All the curves were made free hand. Beginners will be more successful by penciling each letter quite accurately before adding the ink, but the experienced workman usually stumps the letters with a broad pen first, then rules up the edges with a T-square and ruling pen.

WATER-COLOR TINTING

Two brushes, Nos. 5 and 6, and a pan of lampblack will serve to tint this album, but for illuminating work a full assortment of colors is necessary. Watercolor work on engrossed resolutions saves much time and adds greatly to the general effect. The same softness and delicacy of tone cannot be obtained with pen lines.

The various tones are obtained by mixing the color thick for the darkest tones, adding more water for the lighter values. Use the color freely to obtain transparency.

After the tinting is completed add the flourishing, using a quick movement. We prefer a flexible pen in an oblique holder for this style of flourishing, making all the strokes from right to left.

PALMER'S PENMANSHIP BUDGET

ALBUM PAGE TWO

THIS page is pleasing in effect, as it is not overloaded with flourishes and ornaments. Next to the title or first page this is the most elaborate, and it will afford much study and careful practice.

Sketch in the initial "W" and scroll work, first giving special attention to the form. See that your lines are full of grace and symmetry. After completing the word "Whereas," roughly pencil the rest of the wording on the page, including the name "John P. Murray." Next pencil in detail and add waterproof ink. The wash work should be finished before the script is written. For the tinting follow the directions given in the last lesson. Whatever colors or tints are used on the first page should be used on all the following pages.

The knack of color work is difficult to acquire, especially from printed instructions. However, it must be understood in the beginning that color must be handled quickly for satisfactory results. Most failures result from using too little color in the brush.

Study the values very carefully, aiming to bring out the different parts by strong contrast of light and dark tones. Two or three washes may be necessary to obtain the desired tone for the background of "W" around the upper part of the letter. However, never add the second wash until the first is perfectly dry.

PALMER'S PENMANSHIP BUDGET

ALBUM PAGE THREE

PROCEED to lay off this page about the same as previously explained.

If the start words are uniform in style and decoration we regard the result as more pleasing. Beginners must guard against overloading their designs with decoration.

First sketch the word "Whereas," then rule lines for script, which should be penciled roughly to find the approximate space it will occupy.

Outline scroll work and finish the words "Whereas" and "Resolved" very carefully, aiming for correct form and spacing. Follow with the wash drawing, then the script. The script must be uniform in shading, height, slope, etc. See that your ink flows freely, is black in the shades, and has a fine mellow hairline. Don't hurry. Be careful and painstaking and you will succeed.

PALMER'S PENMANSHIP BUDGET

ALBUM PAGE FOUR

THE paper for an album is so folded that the text comes on the right-hand page and if your album contains four pages of pen work it necessarily has four blank pages. An album 7x10 in size is cut into sheets 14x10, and folded. Lay off the entire page roughly, giving the decorative scrolls careful attention. When you have memorized this style of scrollwork you will be able to obtain the desired effect quickly with little effort. Copy from the best models first, but later depend upon the resources of your brain for your designs.

Ink the letters and outline the scroll work with water-proof India ink, and always put on the washes before writing the script. See that your script is uniform in color-aim for regular height, spacing and slope.

In the next page is the word "Committee" lettered in Old English followed by members' names. As a rule, the names are written by the engrosser, but sometimes the members of the committee write their names or have their signatures added in facsimile. For covers cut a sheet of sheepskin so it will project about one-fourth of an inch by the edges of the pages.

Punch three holes through the center of the album. Start the ribbon in the center hole on the back of the album. The bow should come on the back.
