

Clinton H. Clark
1864-1937

Clinton H. Clark was one of those rare artists who, like Francis Courtney, seemed to have the skill to produce penmanship that bordered on the impossible. He was born in New York, April 15, 1864. When eight years old, he told his father that he intended to make his living with a pen. Through years of study and determined work, he developed into a penman of uncommon ability. He taught in business schools in San Antonio, Texas; Buffalo, New York; Hutchinson, Kansas; and Sioux City, Iowa. From 1916 until his death he was connected with Strayer's Business School in Philadelphia.

In 1893 he won first prize in a world-wide contest conducted by the *Penman's Art Journal*. In so doing, the *Journal* classed him as one of the most skillful penmen in the United States. His off-hand flourishing was on par with Fielding Schofield and John Williams not only in exquisite renderings, but in his original designs as well. He died at age 73 on June 6, 1937.

Patrick W. Costello
1866-1935

Patrick William Costello was born in Minooka, Pennsylvania in 1866, an area long known as one of the major coal regions of the state. As a young boy he exhibited an interest in lettering, yet his family's poor financial situation afforded no easy schooling for him. In his youth he worked as a clerk in a grocery store and also picked slate in the coal breakers with the other young men in the community. He had no formal training in art, except for a few lessons from WE Dennis in 1903. However, he still practiced his lettering more as a hobby, for within a short time, Patrick promoted himself in business by applying for-and being offered the job as the first clerk in the City Engineering Department of Scranton, Pennsylvania. He made friends easily and enjoyed doing little engrossing jobs for his friends. These attracted the attention of professional penmen many miles away who were amazed at his work.

After working in the Department for a brief period, Costello entered local politics and served two terms as County Auditor. However, during this political portion of his life, a visitor came to see him and changed the course of the young man's career path. Costello's fame in penmanship had spread throughout the state. Charles Paxton Zaner, himself a native of the coal field region of Pennsylvania, made a special trip to see Costello and find out about his work. The great penman was astonished at Patrick's pen art, and advised him to drop out of politics and pursue a career as an engrossing artist. Costello opened up a small studio in Scranton and within a short time earned the respect and admiration of all penmen for many years. From the advice given by Zaner, a strong friendship grew between these two men that lasted the rest of their lives. Patrick W. Costello died on May 20, 1935, after being in ill health for three years. His admirable work was distinctive, often being executed only in various shades and washes of Payne's Grey or umber tones.

Francis B. Courtney
1867-1952

Known as "The Pen Wizard" by his peers, Francis B. Courtney was truly unique among penmen. As a student at age 17 of AH Hinman, the grand old master and student of PR Spencer, Courtney developed his passion for penmanship early in life. Shortly thereafter, he received further training in penmanship at the Spencerian Business College, Cleveland, Ohio.

His first position after graduation was as an accountant in a manufacturing company, which he held for two years. However, preferring to work in a business college environment rather than in a general office, Courtney wrote 200 single-page specimens, each line being in a different style, and sent them out to business colleges throughout the country. This brought him many job offers, and his reputation as a penman grew rapidly. Over the years, he taught at many such colleges: Hinman's College, Worcester, Massachusetts; Portland, Maine Business College; Lincoln, Nebraska Business College; Spaulding's Commercial College, Kansas City, Missouri; McDonald Business College, Des Moines, Iowa;