

FB Courtney, The Wizard of the Pen, explains how he creates caricature faces using letterforms. See reference image in next message. Taken from The American Penman, February 1908 edition.

Joe Vitolo

Letter Heads

By Francis B. Courtney, Minneapolis, Minn.

Here is a pastime that will create considerable interest among all those who are interested in letters. I have given here numerous illustrations of the human head in letters containing different expressions, some of joy, some of anger. I have even portrayed the associate editor's smiling countenance. It is exactly the way he looks upon receipt of a big club.

The entire alphabet is at one's disposal, and with a little thought and care one can produce heads of letters.

The eye is made from the A O C F and L; the ear from C S G I D G B R J P L E F; the nose from A O J U F M L V; the chin from E W J U S A F L; the forehead from T M N C H L Z F S.

Practice the letters comprising your name on your head. Give up writing your signature and use your letter head instead.

The letters of your name producing a head of letters applied to your check in business transactions, would be an excellent method of heading off the forger.

WHEN anything really new and unique in the line of penmanship comes out, it usually has originated in the cranium of that little wizard imp who whispers in the ear of Francis B. Courtney, and Courtney's car is always to the ground to hear its approach. Several years ago the imp confidently said something to Courtney about figures and writing. No sooner said than a system of figure writing was originated and sprung as a surprise on the unsuspecting, who said, "how easy." Who would have thought of it but Courtney?

Letterheads! There is nothing new about the sound of the word. Most of us use it every day, but it remained for Courtney to interpret its meaning anew.

It can be very appropriately said that Courtney's head is a letterhead, and a head of letters as well. It is so full of letters that he not only sees, but feels and hears them wherever he goes. He feels them in the gentle breezes of the springtime; he sees them in beautiful folds of the summer clouds, in the branches of the trees, and in the graceful rolling of the breakers at the seashore, and he hears them in the whistling of the winter winds. He has even discovered them in the expressions of the human face. How natural they look. They have always been there, but it remained for Courtney to see them. They would probably have remained hidden forever had Courtney been a farmer instead of a penman. Asst. Editor.