

## Sickels Letter

By WE Dennis

(Taken from Dennis' Studies in Pen Art, page 60)

This is a very elegant and beautiful letter for elaborate pieces of engrossing. It is not the most difficult, though rather slow of execution; therefore it is not used so much as other alphabets. It can be treated in many ways, and affords great scope for variations and ornament.

As a rule it is quite necessary to sketch this letter rather carefully in pencil, especially where considerable ornament is used. When tinted with a brush, it is well to use waterproof inks (Higgins's is good) for all outlines. Put in all the line-work first, carefully giving shape and character to the lettering, then the wash-work comes next.

It is rather difficult to give a good effect to this letter by working it up entirely with the pen; the brush, therefore, is the best medium for handling it successfully. The alphabet presented on the following page was done on a rather dark-gray Bristol board, a brush being employed to lay on the color, which was Payne's Gray mixed with India ink, the high lights being put on last of all with Chinese white. Gray Bristol board is an excellent thing for this kind of lettering, using Payne's Gray mixed with lampblack or India ink.

Beautiful effects can be produced on gray Bristol board when doing elaborate pieces of engrossing, and no richer, handsomer letter than the Sickels can be found for head-lines where extra display is necessary.

This letter harmonizes beautifully with the Roman, Block, Old English, and Engravers' Script. It also affords an excellent opportunity for working in around it fine brush designs such as lilies or other flowers, leaves, etc., all of which blend harmoniously.