

Joseph A Francis
(1908-2000?)

The following was posted by Del Tysdal to the Yahoo Ornamental Penmanship Group:

J A Francis was the last of the really 'old timers' in Madarasz ornamental penmanship. I met him in 1971 and corresponded with him until 1995. Since then he is with Madarasz and the others practicing penmanship. Here is a bit of history. In 1929 J A Francis was called the 'coming Madarasz' in various Zaner Bloser publications. He was the only person at that time to be able to 'capture' the style that Madarasz used. Mr. Francis showed me how to do the swans on his kitchen table in 1971. That was the only time I actually met him. For 20 + years after we wrote many, many letters back and forth and he shared with me his life in penmanship. Penmanship had slipped away and he found he could make little money in the profession and he work as a customs agent in north central North Dakota. He retired to Omaha Nebraska. He knew everything about the penmen of the days gone by. He was so willing to share, I was amazed. He was the 'old school' without a doubt, the type of stuff we cherish in this group. I will post some of his original items for you to view.

Francis took lessons from J W Lampman of the Omaha Business College. Not a Zanerian as far as I know. I am going to call him on the phone tonight. He would be 90 if yet alive, but his Omaha address is in the phone book and his number is there.

The following was posted by Nick D'Aquanno to the Yahoo Ornamental Penmanship Group:

Hi Don

Found a death notice for a Joseph A Francis aged 92 Date of birth 1908. From the records on the Omaha public records site.

If it is JA Francis, he'd have passed in 2000.

<http://www.public-records-now.com/Search/SearchResults.aspx?vw=death&input=death&fn=j&mn=a&ln=francis&city=omaha&state=NE&zip=&criteria=j;;a;;francis;;omaha;;NE;;;;;;>

Best,

Nick D