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Horace G. Healy (1867-1938)

By E. A. Lupfer

In the passing of Horace G. Healey at St. Petersburg, Florida, in December, the penmanship profession has lost one of its most outstanding and lovable characters. Mr. Healey was born at Polo, Illinois, on August 8, 1867. He was educated in the Polo Public Schools and attended the Western College at the age of 17. It was there that he received his first penmanship inspiration from Mr. McVey. He later attended Valparaiso College, Valparaiso, Indiana, in 1887-8-9. While at Valparaiso he came under the influence of that skillful and outstanding penman, E. K. Isaacs.

For two or three years he served as a country school teacher near Milledgeville, Illinois. He also had some experience as an itinerant teacher of penmanship-. After finishing his scientific course in Valparaiso, which included work in shorthand and typewriting, he attended the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Business College for additional work. He then went to Boise, Idaho, as a teacher.

In 1892 Mr. Healey became associated with Cedar Rapids Business College as a teacher of shorthand and penmanship, where he remained until 1899 at which time he went to New York City to do magazine work. In 1906 he purchased the Penman's Art Journal, established in 1877, which he edited until 1916 when it was purchased by and consolidated with The Educator. During Mr. Healey's 16 years as editor of the Penman's Art Journal he exerted a tremendous influence in the penmanship profession. Undoubtedly the Penman's Art Journal enjoyed the reputation of being one of the outstanding penmanship magazines ever published. Mr. Healey's literary ability combined with his penmanship training and interest in penmen enabled him to get the hearty cooperation of many of the leading penmen, teachers and supervisors of handwriting.

Mr. Healey wrote a very good business hand and was especially skillful in the old classic Engraver's Script.

While Mr. Healey was interested in all commercial subjects, penmanship was one of his specialties. It was in penmanship that he became nationally known. Probably no other man in the profession knew the history of penmen so thoroughly.

Few penmen have ever owned so elaborate a collection of fine penmanship from past and present masters. This collection he very generously donated to the New York City Public Library where it will be preserved and exhibited. He also had a very fine library of works on typewriting which he donated to the Boston University, and a shorthand library which he donated to the Yale University.

In 1904 he joined the faculty of the High School of Commerce of New York City, teaching shorthand, and heading the Department of Handwriting. He switched to the Evander Childs High School in 1914 where he taught typewriting until his retirement in 1937.

Mr. Healey served as president of the New York City Commercial Teachers Association, the Eastern Commercial Teachers Association, and the Brotherhood of the North Presbyterian Church of New York. He was very active in penmanship and commercial associations, and will be greatly missed by these associations. Mr. Healey lived a long and useful life, ever striving to help others and setting a fine example. We can truthfully say that he rendered a great service to the penmanship profession. He was also the author of the Free Arm Movement Writing, and wrote various articles for The Educator.

In paying tribute to him we should not forget the one who was his closest companion, to her The Educator and the entire penmanship profession extends deepest sympathy in the loss of so noble a husband and companion.