

I am sad to announce the passing of a fine penman/calligrapher, Mr. Kaiji Ito of the Japan Penmanship Association (JPA) this past May. Mr. Ito was a past President of the JPA and an Editor of the association's newsletter, The Yoshodo. He was a remarkable penman with a style and ability that harkened back to the 'golden age' or American Ornamental Penmanship. I will post his image and a few specimens of his work in the next few messages. Below is his obituary taken from The Yoshodo issue 260.

Joe Vitolo

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Mr. Kaiji Ito (1927-2003)

Obituary: In 1940 Mr. Ito happened to meet 'Calligraphy' in his early teens, Since 1946 he began to edit 'The Yoshodo' till December 2001 for over half century, his last work as an editor was No.253, the Christmas Number of the 21st Century. In January 2002 getting a large bowel trouble, he was hospitalized and undergone an operation. Once or twice he got home treatment last year, but this January he was sent to hospital again and May 26 he passed away peacefully at a Christian hospice in Tokyo at the age of 76.

Mr. Ito had worked for a newspaper company 'The Asahi' for a long time, all the while he had served and enjoyed English penmanship, especially the Spencerian Penmanship and Art of Flourishing as a skillful lecturer at several Culture Centers or a certain college of Art, finding lots of newcomers and being the idol of his pupils.