

Bird Flourishing

By EA Lupfer

(*from Ornate Pictorial Calligraphy)

Flourishing is to a large degree conventionalized nature. Forms are not flourished true to nature, but are slightly modified. The birds are more graceful and regular in outline, while the foliage is less complex and more symmetrical. Flourishing is in part a decorative art, not wholly pictorial. It is not one of the few Fine Arts, but one of the many arts that are pleasing and beautiful. It is an art that appeals strongly to people of moderate education who have some sense of the beautiful in their souls. It is an art that leads to the appreciation of other arts and finer arts. It is the soul of beauty in curve and in arrangement of curves. It also contains an element of contrast in light and heavy lines. Its chief charms lie, however, in its gracefully curved strokes and harmoniously arranged lines. And to be a master in this fascinating art one must understand, consciously or unconsciously, something of the laws of curvature and arrangement. But to realize these things one must be expert in the manipulation of the pen. To be that, means that much practice of the right sort must be indulged in. It takes no little practice and much paper. So do not become discouraged if you do not succeed in producing graceful lines and harmonious effects at first. But persevere, and the Goddess of Flourishing will some time reward you for your labor.

On this and the following page are shown the various steps in developing bird flourishes. Practice on each step until you can make it well. These birds were all made from the left to the right. Be sure of the location of each stroke, for these strokes are foundation strokes in bird flourishing. Give the eyes special study. Draw them in carefully.