

MOVEMENT Herhold

The Chirographic Art

GF Herhold's Compendium of Modern Penmanship
(1893)

CHAPTER 11

MOVEMENT.

Writing is movement. If you command a free and easy movement you have power to produce clear and graceful lines.

It may be of four kinds : Finger, Muscular, also called ForeArm, Combined and Whole-Arm movement. All of these have their proper place for use.

If obliged to stand and write, without any rest for the arm, we must use finger or whole-arm movement.

The finger movement is the extension or contraction of the thumb, first and second fingers, while the hand and arm remain stationary. This is the easiest movement, and is therefore assumed by children. It is also used by Pen-Artists for fine lettering or card work; but will not answer for ordinary writing, as the power of the fingers is not strong enough to produce good rapid strokes.

The muscular, or the fore-arm movement is the action that comes principally from the fore-arm, while resting on the muscle just forward-of the elbow, and on the tips of third and fourth fingers, or on the first joint of the little finger, moving the hand forward and backward, right and left and also in a circular motion, until the muscles work freely, without lifting the arm, or moving the sleeve. This is the only and best movement for rapid business writing.

The combined movement, is the unison of the muscular and finger movement. This is the true movement for beautiful and accurate writing.

The whole-arm movement is made by raising the elbow from the desk, and resting on the tips of the third and fourth fingers. It is the action of the arm from the shoulder. This movement is only used for large capitals, and in flourishing and black-board writing, and should not be used by beginners and for business writing.