

George Bickham's
Penmanship Made Easy
Or
(The Young Clerks Assistant)
(1733)

Directions for Young Practitioners by Way of Introduction

Writing will never look Ornamental without a due portion of Characters throughout the Whole, a just Distance between the letters themselves as well as the Words, a Natural inclination of one Letter to another, & a Smooth Stroke performed with boldness & freedom.

Directions for Learners

The proportions of Letters is regulated by the o & n; therefore practise them first in a large Character.

Make All Your Body-Strokes with the Full, & all Hair-Strokes with the corner of Your Pen.

Never turn Your Pen, nor alter the Position of Your hand.

Let Your hair-Strokes be proportioned to Your Body-Strokes & answer one another.

Your Letters without Items must be even at the top & bottom.

Let Your Stems above be equal in length to j.

Let Your Capitals be equal in height to l, & a little Stronger.

Let Your Words stand twice e/y distance of Letters, & r/y Lines twice the length of l, that no Stems may interfere.

Hold Your Pen between the two forefingers extended almost straight & the Thumb bending outward, with c/y hollow downwards, & the Nib flat.

Let Your Paper lie directly before you, & your Hand rest only on e/y top of r/y little Finger.

Rest Your Arm lightly between the Wrist & the Elbow.

Keep Your Body upright, and your Elbow almost close to you Side.

Rest Your Body on your left Arm, & keep your Paper down with your left Hand.

Never lean hard on your Pen.

Directions for Learners

In Order to Write expeditiously in time, Write slow at first.

Make the Nib of your Pen for the Round & Round Text Hands the breadth of the full Stroke, & that lying next e/y Hand Something Shorter & Narrower.

For the Italian Hand make the Nib something finer, & the Slit longer.

Note In Writing where Figures are intermixed, they must always Slope.

Your Figures likewise must be larger than Your Writing.

When Your Figures are arranged in Columns, make them upright.

*I shall close these Useful Hints with Mr. Motteux's Encomium on the Pen, & humbly hope, 'twill meet with a favorable Reception, not only as an agreeable amusement but as a suitable Dedication to an Undertaking of this Nature.