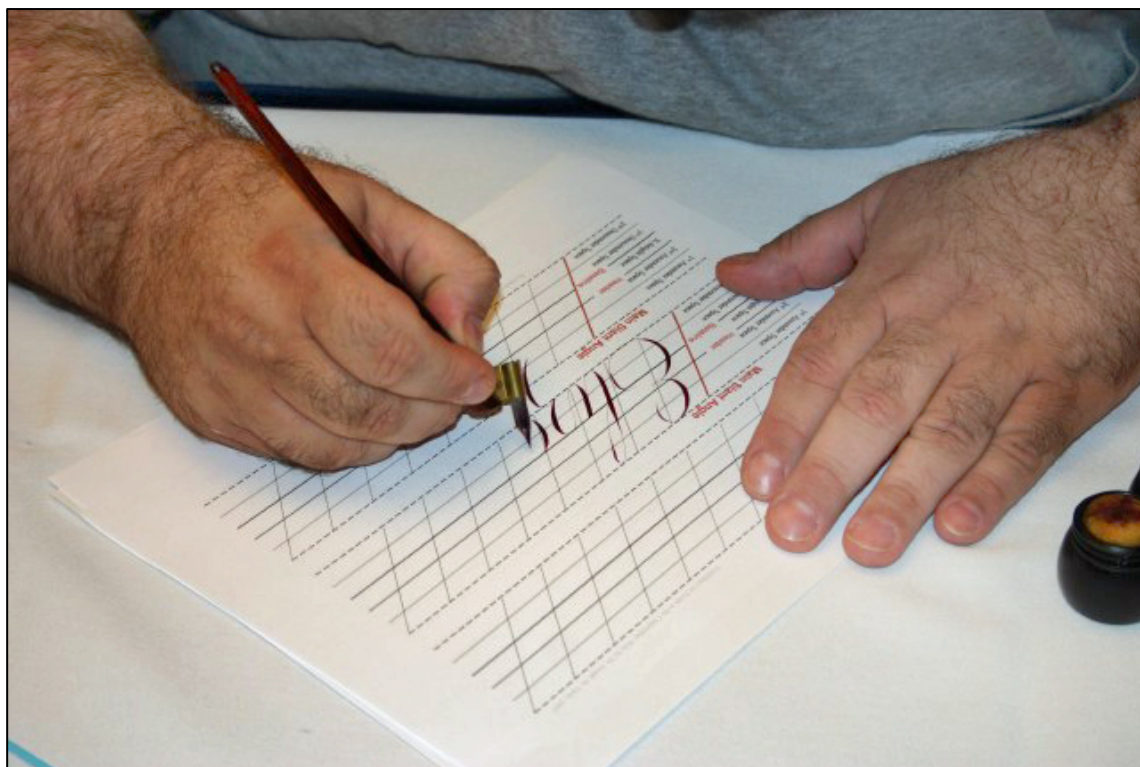
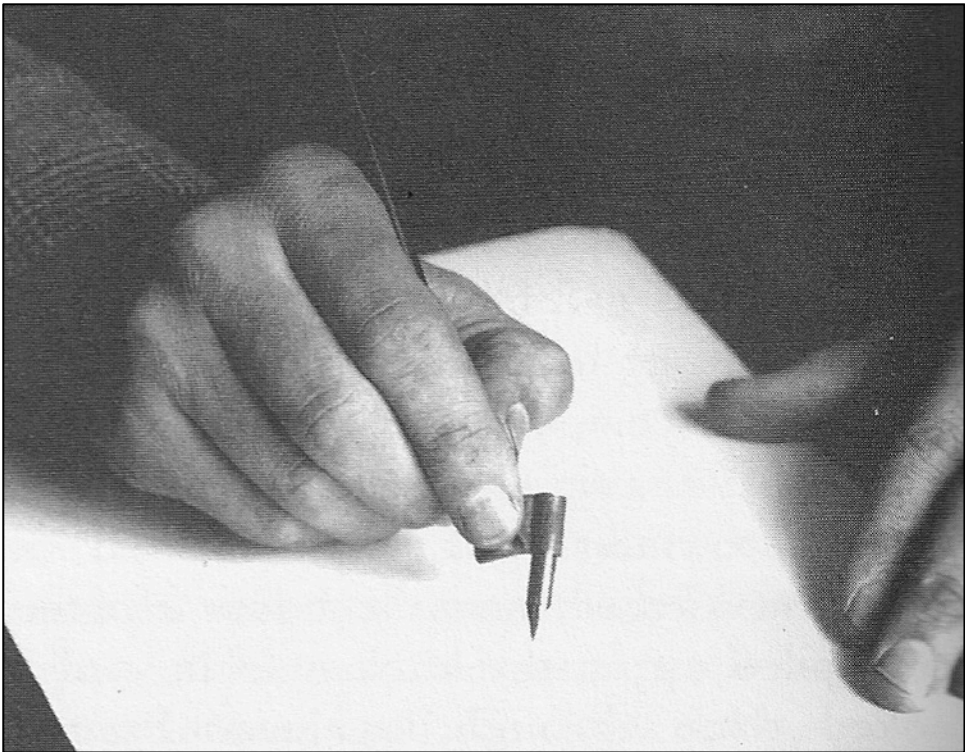


Pen Grips of Penmen Past and Present



Scanned and Compiled by Dr. Joseph M. Vitolo, 2015
Penman and IAMPETH Historian

William C. Henning (1871-1972)



Oblique Penholder

Francis B. Courtney (1867-1952)



HOW TO HOLD THE PEN.

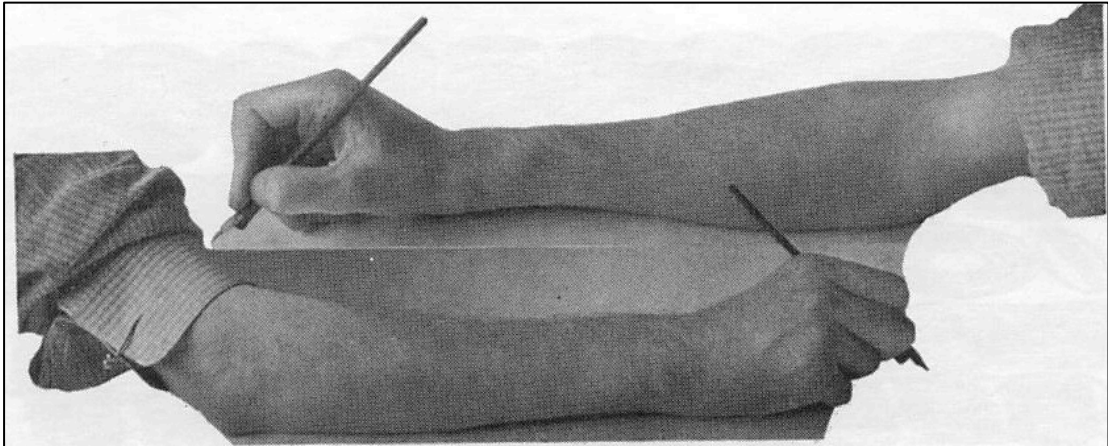
The manner of holding the pen comes next. Let us study illustrations 3, 4, and 5 very carefully. No. 3 shows how the penholder is held between the second finger and the thumb. No. 4 shows the under part of the hand as it is when ready for action. No. 5 shows the relative position of the fingers and how they are brought under the palm of the hand. There is but little difference between the appearance of the hand when holding the pen correctly, and when at rest with the fingers partly closed. Of course it is understood that no two hands are made alike, so you are not expected to make your hand look like those in the illustrations. But it is the general principles of correct penholding that you should study and apply.

Illustration No. 6 shows both sides of the arm when in position for writing, and illustrates further the holding of the pen. Notice how the arm rests on the large muscle below the elbow, that the wrist and hand are absolutely free from the desk, and the third and fourth fingers serve as a vehicle on which the hand rides lightly over the paper in whatever way the mind directs. Study your hand carefully and then the illustration. When you have caught the idea you have already learned how to hold your pen, one of the first essentials of dashy writing.

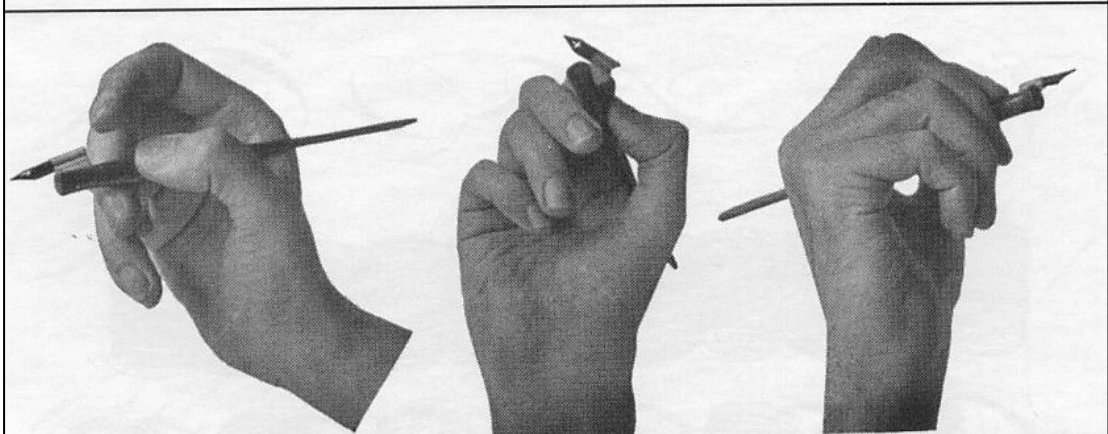
Oblique Penholder

Francis B. Courtney (1867-1952)

continued



No. 6 Francis B. Courtney's arm ready for action
Thousands of letters never receive a reply. The handwriting is too poor.



2

No. 3

No. 4

No. 5

The hand that wrote the copies, showing how the pen was held.

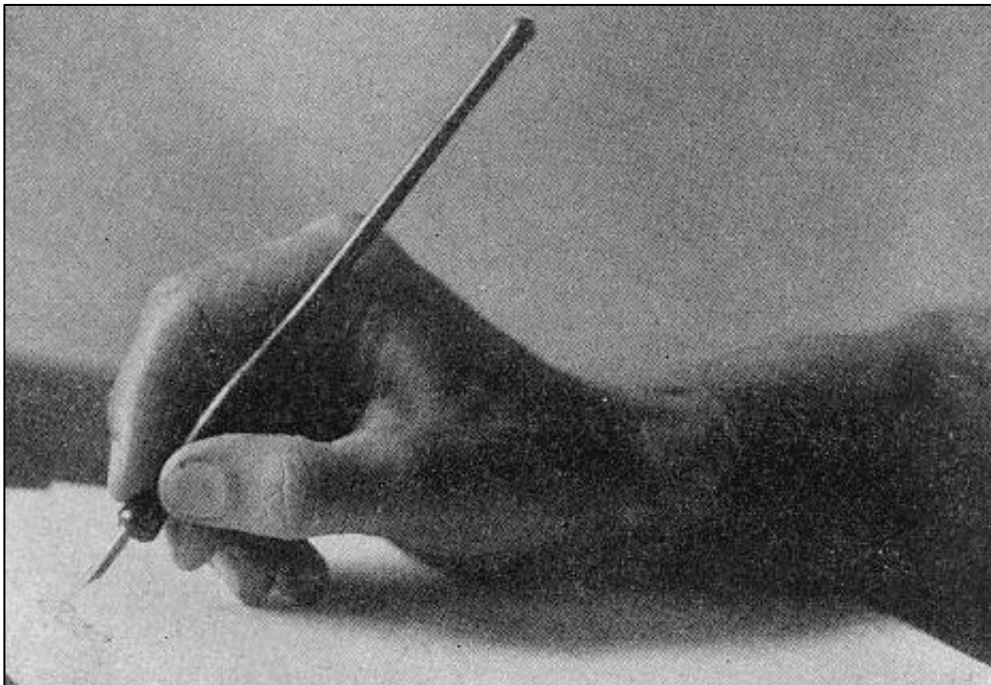
There is no longer any doubt who is at the head of the penmanship profession. Francis B. Courtney has long been there. He is the master penman of the world.--A. N. PALMER, Editor American Penman.

Oblique Penholder

Earl A. Lupfer (1890-1967)

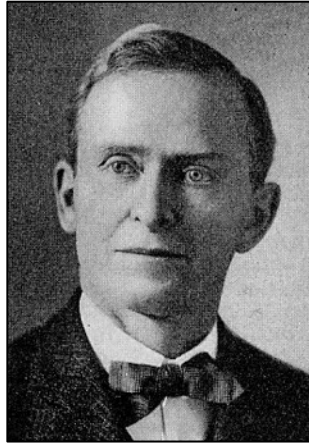


Value of good position is illustrated here by Mr. Lupfer. Note that the gliding is on the two fingers, the hand loose, easy, and comfortable. It is not pinched or cramped. By taking this position, Mr. Lupfer is able to write thousands of words without tiring.



Straight Penholder

John Austin Wesco (1855-1938)



THE PENHOLDING HAND

Study this hand. The fingers are held closely together through the placing of the third or wedge finger between the second and fourth, and all touching at the first or end joint. The wedge finger is wedged.

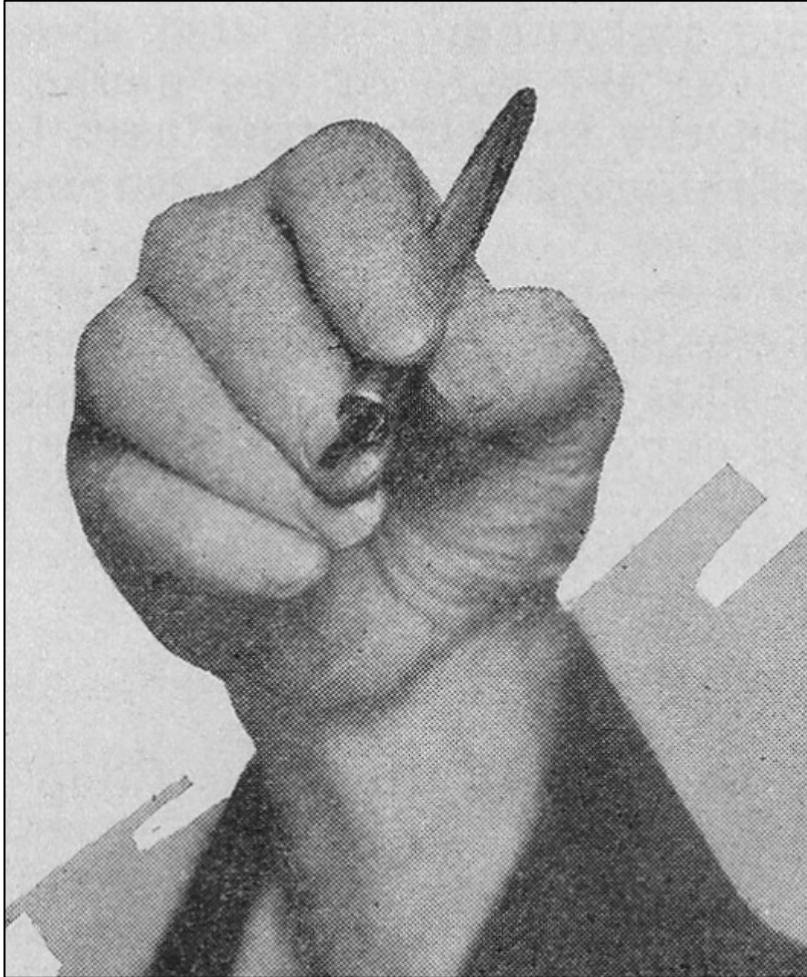
The holder is placed against the side of the nail of the second finger and crosses the hand below the knuckle joint of the first finger. This is very important as in resting there it helps to hold the wrist up. Notice how the first finger laps, or rests over the side of the pencil, leaving a little space between the fingers. This is done to keep the nerve in the under portion of the finger from too tight pressure, a condition which would tend to cause fatigue. When this finger rests easily and the habit is formed, writer's cramp could never occur. The pencil or pen point should be extended beyond the first finger tip one and one-half inches, and the thumb should be drawn back from the end of the first finger one-half inch. Placing the thumb this way gives it a nice, easy position, and when you have it correct it will show the three position lines very prominently. When the arm is properly placed on the desk and paper, only the side of the end of the little finger contact touches the paper.

WEDGE FINGER

The wedge finger is the third finger of the writing hand, reading the fingers of the open hand in this manner: Thumb, first finger, second finger, third finger, little finger. The hand end of the arm is made solid by bringing the fingers together at the first joint, drawing in or curving the third more than the rest, so that the end of the third finger points down and under the hand instead of lining with the curvature of the other fingers. Notice the hand in the picture on this page, how the third finger is located between the little finger and the second finger, with the opening between the second and little fingers much smaller than the wedge, or third finger, in its position between these two fingers. The third finger is called the wedge finger, because it is wedged between the second and little fingers.

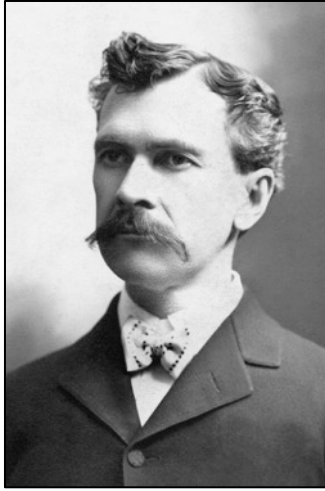
Oblique Penholder

John Austin Wesco (1855-1938)
continued



Oblique Penholder

William E. Dennis (1860-1924)



Straight Penholder

Louis A. DiGesare

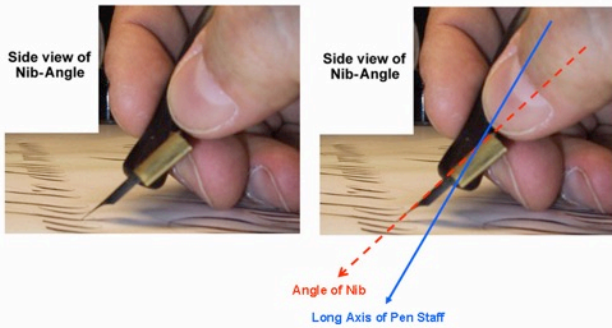


Oblique Penholder

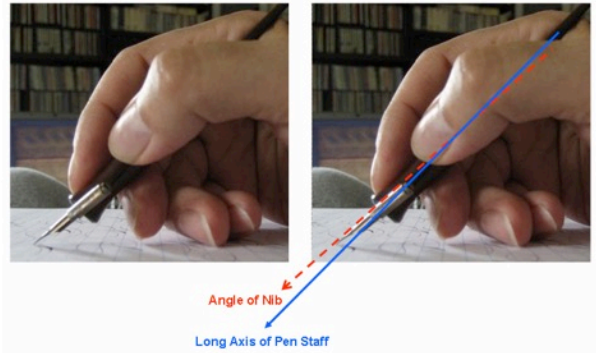
A Comparison of the Nib to Pen Staff Angle of 5 Modern Pointed Pen Artists

Image created by Dr. Joseph M. Vitolo

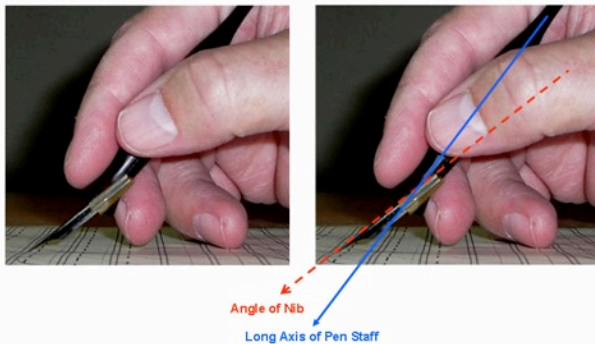
Dr. Joseph M. Vitolo: Engrosser's Script (Copperplate Style)



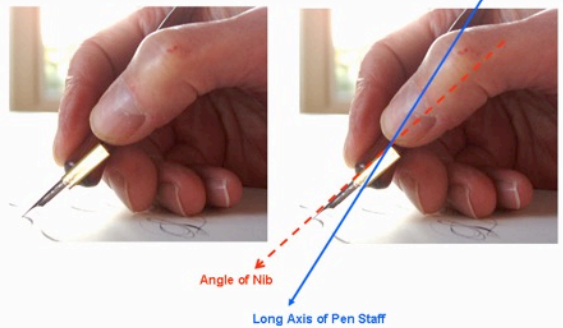
Nick D'Aquanno: Spencerian/Ornamental Script



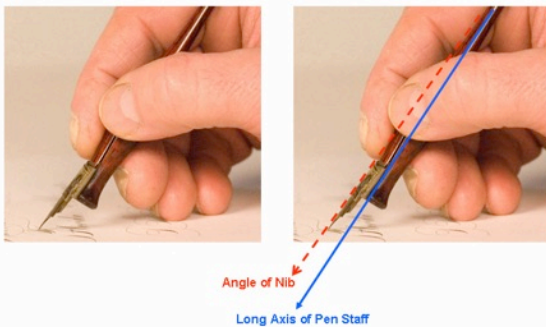
Don Tate: Spencerian/Ornamental Script



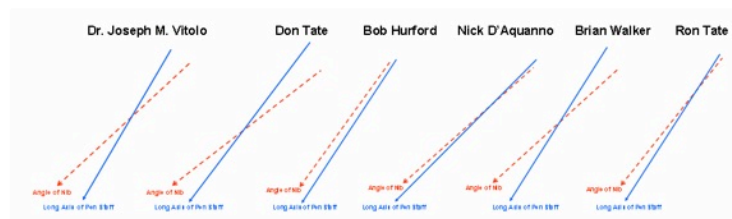
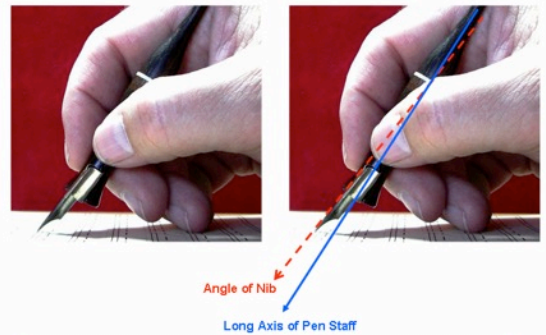
Brian Walker: Spencerian/Ornamental Script



Bob Hurford: Spencerian/Ornamental Script



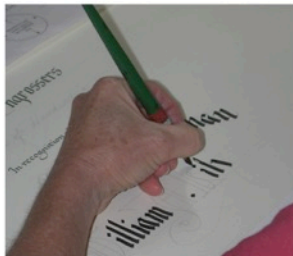
Ron Tate: Spencerian/Ornamental Script



Oblique Penholders

Pen Grips of Left-Handed Pen Artists

IAMPETH Master Penman Rosemary Buczek



Rosemary is shown here using a straight penholder for text lettering, NOT script. When she writes script, she uses a custom made Bil Lilly oblique penholder with a metal flange that is bent to her specific requirements.

IAMPETH Master Penman John DeCollibus

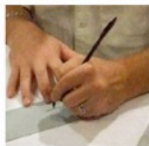


John does not use a 'hook'. He uses an oblique penholder. It is the same style that a right-hander would use.

You can see a video of John writing at:

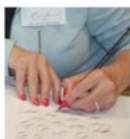
http://www.iampeth.com/videos/pages/deCollibus_different_styles.htm

IAMPETH Master Penman Richard Muffler



Rick writes with a hook and uses an inverted oblique penholder made specifically for left-handers. This means that the flange is on the opposite side of the pen staff from a right-hander's pen staff. I believe his current pen was custom made by Jake Weidmann.

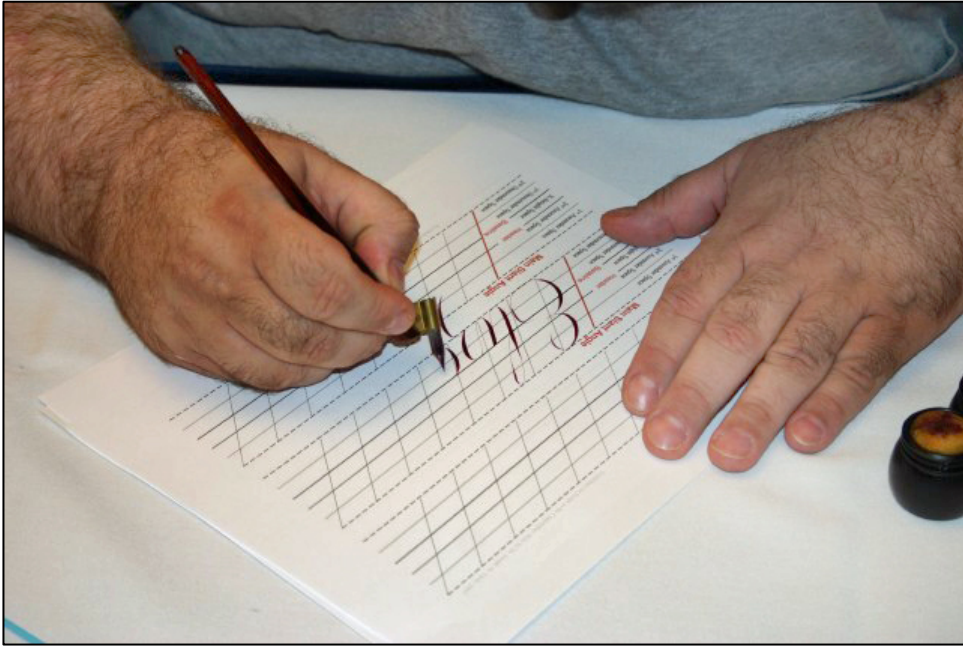
Past IAMPETH President Debi Zeinert



Debi does not use a 'hook' and writes with a straight holder.

You can view a video of Debi writing at: <http://vimeo.com/16716962>

My Pen Grip



Oblique Penholder