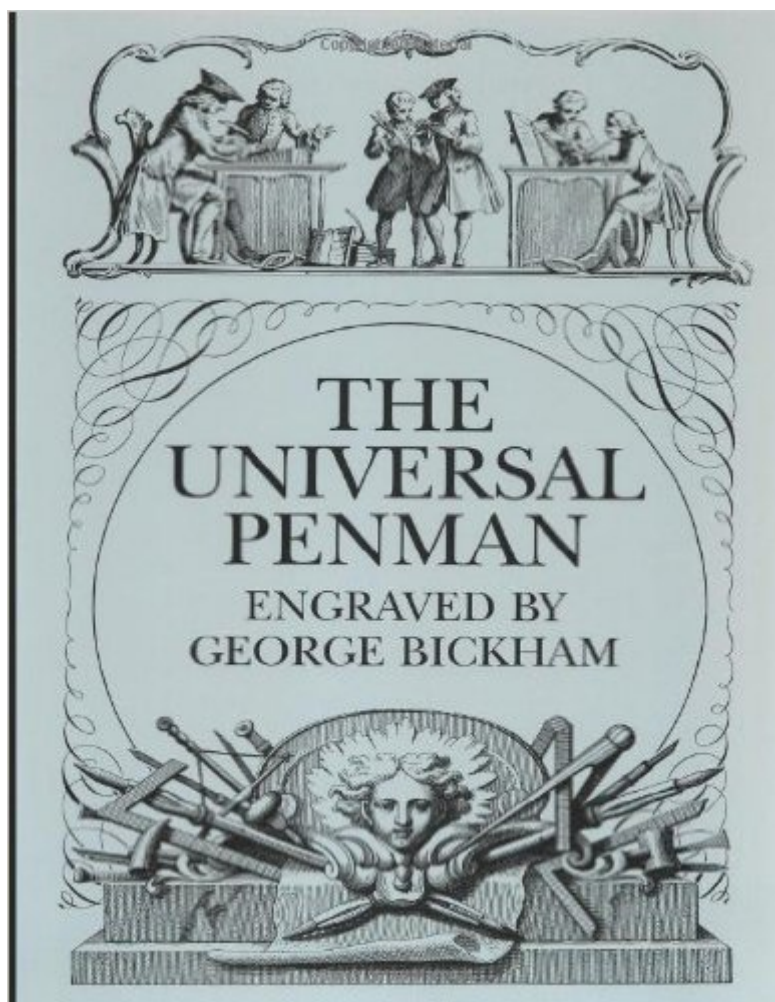


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# The Universal Penman



## Synopsis

"Very welcome . . . magnificent." "Graphis "A valuable addition for art directors." "Advertising Age This is the only complete edition available of one of the most famous and most useful books of commercial art ever printed. George Bickham, a noted engraver and calligrapher, first compiled this work back in the 1740s, from the best specimens of 24 of the leading calligraphers of his day. Unfortunately, Bickham published his work in 52 separate parts, over a period of eight years. In Bickham's own day it was difficult to get a complete set of the Universal Penman; today, apart from this edition, it is virtually impossible, for most surviving 18th-century copies lack certain rare plates. This Dover edition, however, contains every plate which Bickham engraved, and each is reproduced from an original so remarkably clear that these modern plates are actually better than most 18th-century originals. This book contains more than 210 full-page plates, each crammed full of beautiful and interesting material. To list only part of its contents: Over 125 pictorial scenes, clear copperplates of drinking scenes, family scenes, commerce, rustic festivities, duels, more. Over 200 script pictures, male and female heads, busts, cherubs, griffins, birds, fish, etc. 19 complete alphabets: round hand, round text, Old English, florid, foliated, and others. 275 lettered specimens, overlaid with fine flourishes, swirls, spirals, featherings, volutes, etc. Over 100 panels, frames, cartouches, and other effects Over 950 lettered specimens, with thousands of words that can be lifted right off for reproduction. Individual items in this book are permission-free, and may be used (up to ten items per use) without permission, payment, or credit line. Calligraphers find Bickham the best source for English round-handwriting; commercial artists, advertising directors, and designers all find Bickham first-rate as a source for immediately usable pictures and script that suggests antiquity, quality, and reliability. Craftspeople have found it rich in unusual ideas and motifs, while libraries and art historians find it a wonderful collection of 18th-century pictures illustrating art-life.

## Book Information

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[Calligraphy](#) #4444 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies](#)

## Customer Reviews

This book is amazing! I bought it for a school project my daughter was working on in school about Colonial America, to show the kind of book people used to write from back then. It is beautiful and the calligraphy is amazing. As a historical item it is definitely worth buying, however, if you are wanting to LEARN how to do it, there are other books that are better. [Mastering Copperplate Calligraphy, a Step-by-Step Manual](#) is one good choice.

This book is a reprint of copperplate writing from XVIII century. If you like calligraphy you will enjoy it!

The Universal Penman is a wonderful book to pour over when you want to see a variety of flourishes and Copperplate script. If you do any calligraphy, then this book is a great addition to your reference library. You can dissect the examples and see how to incorporate them into your own work. Or you can just admire the sheer beauty of the handwritten word.

The "Universal Penman" is an excellent example of 18th century engravings. The engravings are amazing. The talent of the artists inspires both the beginning and advanced student of penmanship.

As Philip Hofer writes in the forward, "Altogether, there are many reasons why every intelligent person should take a renewed interest in good handwriting." Even if you're not a calligrapher, you should buy this book simply because it is BEAUTIFUL. The work done by George Bickham inside is stunning--both the artwork and calligraphy. Seriously, if you have any interest whatsoever in lettering, you will love this book.

I have enjoyed this book thoroughly. I love the different scripts and flourishes and the meaningful quotations. I use it at least 3 or 4 times a week to practice my copperplate and Spencerian writing. I would highly recommend it.

This Book has the most gorgeous full page examples of various calligraphy. I have gone through it

several times and continue to find new ways to scroll and flourish my lettering.

One of the best resources for pointed pen lettering that exists. Loaned my first copy and had to replace it.

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