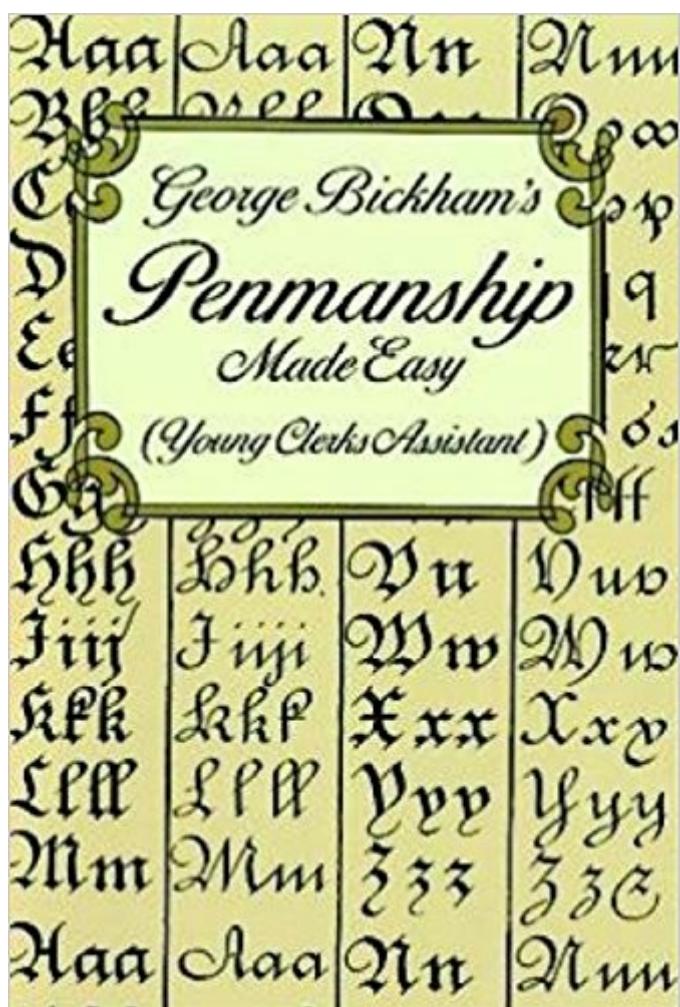


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# George Bickham's Penmanship Made Easy (Young Clerks Assistant)



## Synopsis

George Bickham was an enterprising eighteenth-century engraver and calligrapher who promoted the practice of proper penmanship. This volume, an unabridged reprint of his now extremely rare calligraphy manual, *The Young Clerks Assistant*, provided "young practitioners" with much valuable information on how to write not only legibly but also with beauty and grace. The book begins with "Directions for Learners," a series of helpful hints on forming letters, holding the pen, arm and wrist positions, proper posture, and so on, followed by a wealth of calligraphic specimens: alphabets, maxims, didactic verses, and other words of advice for elevating the moral standards of the young. For modern calligraphers, Bickham's guide offers an abundance of models for imitation and provides a delightful look back at the instruction manuals and teaching methods of the mid-1700s. Enhanced with many charming engravings, this hard-to-find antique teaching tool can be read as easily for pleasure as for inspiration. It will appeal to calligraphers, graphic artists, and any devotee of fine penmanship.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

George Bickham was an enterprising eighteenth-century engraver and calligrapher who promoted the practice of proper penmanship. This volume, an unabridged reprint of his now extremely rare calligraphy manual, *The Young Clerks Assistant*, provided "young practitioners" with much valuable information on how to write not only legibly but also with beauty and grace. The book begins with "Directions for Learners," a series of helpful hints on forming letters, holding the pen, arm and wrist

positions, proper posture, and so on, followed by a wealth of calligraphic specimens: alphabets, maxims, didactic verses, and other words of advice for elevating the moral standards of the young. For modern calligraphers, Bickham's guide offers an abundance of models for imitation and provides a delightful look back at the instruction manuals and teaching methods of the mid-1700s. Enhanced with many charming engravings, this hard-to-find antique teaching tool can be read as easily for pleasure as for inspiration. It will appeal to calligraphers, graphic artists, and any devotee of fine penmanship. Unabridged Dover (1997) republication of *The Young Clerks Assistant*, as published by Richard Ware, London [ca. 1733].

Keeping this book in its proper context is important. This is a reprint of a guide published in 1733. It's not a modern "how to" guide that shows you every stroke for you to improve your penmanship. It is a quaint old 61-page sample book that shows examples of a few general fonts. I wouldn't recommend this book to someone who wants to learn how to make each letter of each font. This book won't do that. This book is a quaint historical document, or as the back cover says, "a delightful look back at the instruction manuals and teaching methods of the mid-1700s."

Very hard!!! The writing concept is great but you really have to be determined and on your toes if you hope to achieve the same skill set this book obviously expects from anyone who wants to write the way English was first written centuries ago!! Anyone who can indeed learn to write penmanship in this very ornate but beautiful style, should win a gold medal!!!

My son had the most horrid penmanship several years ago I have ever seen. I guess it comes from using a keyboard all of the time to communicate. I bought this book hoping to help and it did. The thing to remember is NOT to go through it fast. Buying practice paper and extending the time spent writing will help a lot. I really like this book. My son's penmanship is now legible.

I'm no calligrapher. That said, I've a deep love and appreciation for penmanship and also for reading and learning about antique script hands. This short work by one of the greatest engravers and calligraphers ever is a wonderful read, a fun way to practice penmanship (as an advanced study) and a rich (if by no means comprehensive) source of samples for persons interested in 18th Century engraving, handwriting and calligraphy. I can't imagine recommending this little book to beginners. For one thing, Copperplate (the writing hand of the 18th Century) is not a hand most people learn in grade school and use as kids. Thankfully, there is a real revival of interest in

Copperplate scripts and for those of us who are already trying their hand at Copperplate, and perhaps working with some other calligraphic scripts, this book is quite a good resource -- one of two by Mr. Bickham reproduced by Dover Publications.

The book is very helpful, glad I got it!

Full of inspiration. In this you can find examples of "Italian Hand".

I love to write with a fountain pen and yet my penmanship is very poor - Just looking at this book helps even if you don't do the letters. I found my writing improved by just this step - however I have only had the book a few days and I intend to get into the practice and get a better result - love it.

How he makes penmanship and writing style interesting and readable (as opposed to tearfully boring and abject) is to be commended. It's wittand engaging, go figure.

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