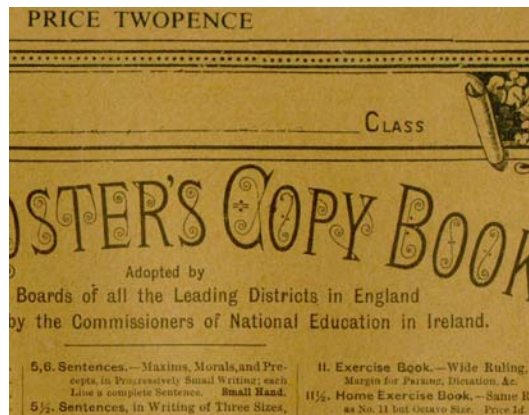


COPPERPLATE LETTERING



WHEN DID COPPERPLATE ORIGINATE?

European penmen and engravers perfected Copperplate lettering, also known as Round Hand, during the 17th and 18th Centuries. It differs from other types of calligraphic lettering in that it is produced with a flexible nib.

To form Copperplate letters, pressure is applied on the downward stroke of a letter to spread the point of the pen. On the upward stroke the pressure is released to create a hairline effect. The letters are slanted at 45^o to 55^o to the base line.

PENS AND QUILLS

The early flexible nibs were made of flight feathers of swans and geese and were called quills. The natural curve of the feather must sit neatly in the hand – therefore right-handers used a feather from the left wing. Quills must be cured and cut to shape before use and need frequent re-trimming to maintain a fine line.

Pens with metal nibs were developed in the 18th Century. A wide variety of nib sizes were available.



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