



Spencerian Saga Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Welcome!

We would like to welcome you to the special world of 19th century American Penmanship and the 25th Anniversary of the Spencerian Saga! We are especially excited about our plans for this year. In addition to our Traditional (Beginner's) and Advanced programs, we will also be conducting a weeklong Engrossing Spencerian Saga.

Through this unique program, participants will rediscover the vintage techniques used by American Engrossers to create the recognition certificates that inspired thousands of people with their custom designs, sheer beauty and expressive text.

Another remarkable opportunity this year will be the availability of magnificent full-scale reproductions of P.W. Costello's engrossing (courtesy of Thomas Costello) and over 300 phenomenal specimens of the fabled Horace Healey Collection from the Zaner-Bloser archives. In addition to our extensive collection of original penmanship specimens from Spencer, Reynolds, Zaner, Bloser, Doner, Madarasz, Courtney, Ames, Dennis and so many others, this unprecedented display is a goldmine for study and inspiration. It truly is a highlight that all students of penmanship will want to see and will be available every day for each week-long Saga program.

I am also proud to announce that Harvest Crittenden will be assisting me this year with instruction and the programs. Harvest is a certified Master Penman with the International Association of Master Penmen, Engrossers and Teachers of Handwriting (IAMPETH), and a highly respected instructor of penmanship, calligraphy, engrossing and gilding. She has served on the faculties of numerous regional, national and international conferences. Harvest and I have worked together for several years, and I feel fortunate that she will be able to share her talents and passion for the pen arts with you.

Last but not least, this year is of special significance to the Spencerian Saga, and personally, to me. 2011 is our 25th anniversary; the Saga will celebrate a milestone of sharing and teaching our penmanship heritage for a quarter of a century. Students have attended from over 43 states and 7 foreign countries, and together, we have enriched our lives with the beauty from another era. Many of us have developed treasured friendships for years, and it continues to be my privilege to bring us together. I hope you will consider joining us this year and celebrate this remarkable event with Harvest and me. We look forward to welcoming you personally.

Very sincerely,

Michael Sull, Director Spencerian Saga

The Spencerian Saga

The pens they moved so long ago

*are still and silent now;
like cherished songs – they, too, are gone,
save what our thoughts allow.*

*The penmen, their adventures,
their work, their days and time,
held much in store of treasured lore
from days now left behind.*

*And there's none to tell the stories left;
none perhaps – just me,
but there is a way to yesterday;
to a world that used to be ...*

Come with me to a special place

*that's somehow lost in time,
where years and years have disappeared;
some of which were mine.*

*The smile of a teacher's face,
his colleagues and their fame;
that fabled skill – unrivaled still,
and all the storied names.*

*A time of due propriety
of waistcoats, ties and spats,
of gold watch chains and evening canes
and formal silk top hats.*

*Of values of emotion
in the sending of a note
to family, friends, time and again;
the love of how we wrote.*

*Oh, come with me to my story land
of penmen who were real,
of sheer delight to watch them write
and how it made us feel.*

*A stroke, a line, so thin and fine,
a comradeship of men,
the glory days now gone away
that won't come back again.*

*Yes! Come with me to yesterday
so very long ago,
and let your eyes fill with surprise
at what the past may show.*

*A scrapbook in the amber glow
with flourished birds in flight,
and every page a silent sage
that softly says "goodnight".*

*The old penpoints – like soldiers
still alert to hear the call,
and magazines of penmen's dreams
awaiting one and all.*

*Oh, come with me to that special place
and see what we may find –
let's wander on together
through a world once left behind!*

*Where life was not so busy
as it often is today,
and gentle words were said and heard
in what the people say.*

*And then, inside this special place
as time itself stands still,
you'll have at least a sense of peace
that never left, or will!*

*Yes, come with me, Oh! Come with me
with all your heart and mind,
where years and years have disappeared,
some of which were mine.*

*And in some darkened corner,
though difficult to see,
you'll find a ghost if you look close;
the penman that was me ...*