



# the skein

wherein ARE wound  
the jararvellir jars



The Skein  
Paul Goldschmidt  
5625 Highland Way  
Middleton WI 53562



NOVEMBER 2008 A.S. XLiii



## BARONESS:

Her Excellency Eithni ingen Talorgain (*Jean Hetzel*) 4934  
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 ladywren@gmail.com



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**Rapier Marshal:** Cosimo de Cellini (*Joe Ordaz*) 274-0997,  
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**SUBMISSIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Subscriptions for 2008 are free, but there is a recommended donation of \$1 per issue to cover postage and copying (Full year = \$12). Submissions will be edited for grammar and spelling. Anything that is in poor taste or violates SCA publication guidelines or copyright law will not be published. *The Skein* is published monthly on the first Wednesday after General Meeting. The submission deadline for each issue is the Friday before the General Meeting of the publishing month. Submissions are accepted in any (legible!) format and via e-mail. Please also include any publication restrictions beyond those of this newsletter.

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## CANTON OF COILLE STOIRMEIL

(Monroe & Juneau County, WI)

<http://www.coillestoirmeilonline.org>

Seneschal: Matthias of Rolling Oaks (Matt Schwall)

23149 State Hwy 21, Tomah WI 54660

[limos112@hotmail.com](mailto:limos112@hotmail.com), (608) 372-5445

Monthly Meeting: First or second Sunday of the month at the Nest in Tomah

# BARONIAL MEETINGS, GUILDS, AND CONTACTS

*Please call the contact person to verify when & where an activity is held!*

## **Archery Practice Sun 12-2PM, Wed. 6:30-9PM. UW Stock Pavilion**

Contact: Lady Jois (Deena) 226-0846

## **Armoured Combat Wed. 7-10PM, Sunday 2-4PM. UW Stock Pavilion**

Contact: Roisin igen Ailill (Rebecca Heidelberger) 244-4621, roisin106@aol.com

## **Armormaking Tuesdays 7PM. 3314 Ridgeway Avenue**

Contact: Master Giles (Ed Gilbert) 244-2845, horsebows@mail.madtown.net

## **Bardic Arts** (not currently active)

Contact: Vacant

## **Brewing & Vintning Third Monday.** Various locations (call for info)

Contact: Robert the Stout (Robert Trefz) 441-6150, rtrefz@tds.net

## **Calligraphy & Illumination Tuesdays 7PM.** Call for location

Contact: Lady Eile (Alicia Cronk) 250-4595, leleth.faery@yahoo.com

## **Clothier's Guild Alternate Mondays, 7PM.** Contact for location and dates.

Contact: Iohanna (A. Rebekah Turner) 957-9072, arebekah@gmail.com

## **Cordial Guild First Tuesday 7:30PM** Contact for location

Contact: Lady Cianna Kharleen (Carrie Wilkey) 846-8008, cianna@teadame.com

## **Equestrian** (not currently active but information available)

Contact: Alissende de Montfaucon (Tammy Thompson) 212-5433, alissende@centurytel.net

## **European Dance Sundays 3PM.** UW Campus—check TITU for room.

Contact: Lady Genevieve Elisabeth Dumas (Jenny Becker) 206-9330, kathrynscurly98@aol.com

## **Fletching Fridays 6:30PM (call ahead) 5418 Imagine**

Contact: Lord Toussaint de Caluwe (Tyson Patterson) 838-4092

## **Fool's Guild Alternate Wednesday 6:30PMish, UW Stock Pavilion.**

Contact: Lady Aliénor Hathaway (Mariessa Dobrick) 658-8941, reesa83@aol.com

## **General Business Meeting Usually 1st Sunday, 7PM, Edgewood College,**

**Predolin Hall — call to verify meeting date and location.**

Contact: Ivan Matfeevich Rezansky (John Beebe) 298-0918, rezansky@sbcglobal.net

## **Instrumental Music Mondays 7PM-Beginners, 8PM-Advanced.**

UW Campus—Check TITU

Contact: Lord Nikolaus der Ausländer (Clint Hotaling) 846-0859, n\_auslander@hotmail.com

## **Middle Eastern Dance and Drumming Wednesday 8:15pm, UW Stock Pavilion.**

Contact: Lady Kenya (Heather Cushing) 298-0103, evilkenya@tds.net

## **Needlearts Tuesdays 7:30.** Call for location

Contact: Lady Helena Caxton (Sara Andrews) 414-507-5872, lostvirtue76@yahoo.com

## **Pottery Guild First or second Monday (alternating with Clothier's), Fired Up Pottery.**

Contact: Annora (Wendy Nelson) 438-6530, wendybyrd42@yahoo.com

## **Rapier Practice Wednesday 6:30-9PM, UW Stock Pavilion**

Contact: Cosimo de Cellini (Joe Ordaz) 274-0997, jordaz@netzero.com

## **Social Practice Wednesday 9PMish.** Call to verify location

Contact: HE Eithni (Jean Hetzel) 628-7782

## **Thrown Weapons Sundays Noon, Second Wednesdays 7PM, UW Stock Pavilion.**

Contact: John "Jack" Bartholomew of Flanders (David Thompson-Hall) 257-1082

## **Vocal Music Thursdays 7 PM** UW Campus—Check TITU

Contact: Lady Aliénor Hathaway (Mariessa Dobrick) 658-8941, reesa83@aol.com

# EPISTLE FROM THE BARONESS

Unto the Populace of Jararvellir does Baroness Eithni ingen Talorgain send greetings!

Jararvellir is rarely quiet for long and we are embarking on a very busy year indeed! Last month, Their Majesties Æsa and Raito held Their Crown Tourney in the Shire of Midewinde. Many brave warriors from across the kingdom took the field for the honor of their chosen Inspiration... In the end, however, it was one of Jararvellir's own, Stephen du Bois, who was victorious for his lovely lady Ailleanne ingen Faelin. Congratulations to Prince Stephen and Princess Ailleanne. Vivant!

With back-to-back reigns in the same Barony come special challenges. Jararvellir is very supportive to our Royals, but with two sets at the same time, the work is doubled while the population remains stable. I would challenge each of you to find some way to support Their Majesties and Their Highnesses. Even if this is not something you usually do, even if you think there is not anything you have to offer Them, contact Their chamberlains and offer your services. You may be surprised at the many ways you can help out and know that even the "little things" are important tasks, as they take the pressure off other staff members. I have a further challenge to the "usual suspects" – those of you who give a great deal to any reign, and you know who you are – pace yourselves! While it is important to serve and support our Royal folk, burnout serves no-one well. Take care of Their Majesties and Their Highnesses, but remember to take care of yourselves as well.

Next weekend is one of the most difficult choices of the year – Nordskogen is hosting Clothier's seminar, Korsvag is hosting Rhythm and Bruise, the Middle Kingdom is hosting KWAR, and out to the East is Known World Cooks and Bards! Myself, I will be traveling to Nordskogen to teach and learn about the arts of the needle. Whether you choose to sew, fight heavy, fight light, cook or sing, it would be hard to go wrong! Safe travels, regardless of which direction you go!

Early in December is Boar's Head in Caer Anterth Mawr. Although it has been somewhat cramped in recent years, a new building promises plenty of room for fighting, learning, and socializing for all. Fighters, remember to bring a toy for the Toys for Tots Tourney and the event will

also feature a “bake sale” to benefit the Heirs, so consider bringing some goodies to donate or purchasing some to enjoy, for the good of the land. As always, Boar’s Head will be one of the highlights of the winter season and I hope to see many of you there.

Remember to put Jararvellir’s It’s Only a Flesh Wound and Coille Stoirmeil’s That Moot Thingy on your calendar for early in 2009. Planning for a Yule Moot is also in process and should be announced in the December Skein and on the Jara list, so stay tuned for more details! It is a busy and exciting time in Jararvellir – Let’s Go Fish!

Yours in Fishy Service,

eithni

## NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

*In attendance: Marian Elizabeth Wollenschlager, Paul Wickenden, Ivan Rezansky, Tatiana, Eithni, Wren, Tegan, James, Kristen Bird, James Bird, Geof Foster, Sara Stewart, Nikolus der Ausländer, Æsa Gilsdottir, Lanze Windhavn, Sol, and Fujiwara No Nagamochi.*

**Chronicler (Paul):** It’s time to renew your subscriptions for the Skein. I’ll be putting renewal forms in the issue this month and will have forms at the meetings. Do we want to change the fee (free, but with suggested donation of \$1 per issue)? **[No change for 2009]**

**High Seat (Eithni):** We have Boar’s Head and Twelfth Night coming up. Let me know if you have anything to donate to the gift baskets. Keep in mind that we now have both HRMs and HRHs in the Barony, so support them in whatever way you can. As for other upcoming events, there is It’s Only A Flesh Wound in January and That Moot Thingy in February.

## LOCAL NEWS

### STOCK PAVILION SCHEDULE

We have the Stock Pavilion for all of our accustomed times in November and December, except for December 24th and 31st, when we are canceling practice. As always, the full schedule (and the new waiver) can be found at:

<http://www.ansci.wisc.edu/Facilities/stockp.htm>

### JARARVELLIR ARTILLERY BRUNCH

Sunday, November 16 at 11am

Please join us for the first indoor archers’ brunch of the season, starting at 11:00 am. Our kind hosts this month is Ælfguire ApSaille at 1514 Arrowood (directions below). Please bring a dish to share. Archery practice begins at noon at the Stock Pavilion. As always, we have loaner archery gear available.

#### Directions to 1540 Arrowood:

Take your best route to Sherman Ave.

If coming from downtown, you’ll be turning left on Almo (it’s across from the Zippy Lube and the Scruffiest Bar in Madison).

Turn right onto Arrowood.

It will be the second house on the right.

Warning: she lives with Roisin, two dogs, three cats (at the moment!) and a kid. Allergens abound!

Questions? Contact Jois (226-0846) or Ælf (244-4621).

are called fugitive. Inks that don't fade or fade very slowly are called colorfast.

It is recommended that you use black ink for your first ink. Black inks are among the cheapest inks. You can find Speedball as well as Higgins ink at most arts and crafts stores and it isn't that expensive. Some calligraphers prefer to use Sumi ink. It is a kind of ink that originated in Japan and comes as a liquid or solid. It is very black and is very pretty to look at. It also is about twice as expensive as **Speedball** or **Higgins**. Ink doesn't have to be expensive. You should be able to get a bottle of ink for about \$5 an ounce or less, and an ounce of ink lasts a very long time.

#### Okay, so how do you do calligraphy?

Come to Jaravellir's Calligraphy and Illumination on Tuesday nights and we will be happy to show you. Guild starts at 7:00 p.m. According to the Jaravellir website contact information for directions is: Anorra (Wendy Nelson) phone 608-438-6530 (no calls after 10:00 p.m.).

**Suggested Book:** Marc Drogin. *Medieval Calligraphy: Its History and Technique*. New York: Dover Publications, 1980. ISBN # 0-486-26142-5

**AUTHOR'S NOTE:** As mentioned at the beginning of this article, the plan is to continue with this as a series. The next article will be on how to do calligraphy and then we will go from there. Should you wish to contact the author I am available at events and my email is: [mystborne@yahoo.com](mailto:mystborne@yahoo.com) If you don't get a response within a few days that means I didn't get the e-mail.

## EVENTS

### OUT AND ABOUT

For more information visit the individual group's website (accessed from <http://www.northshield.org/Events/List.aspx>).

#### December 2008

13—**Boar's Head**, Caer Anterth Mawr (West Bend WI)

#### January 2009

31—**It's Only a Flesh Wound 2**, Jaravellir (Jefferson WI)

#### February 2009

6-8—That Moot Thingy/Rumble in the Forest 3, **Coille Stoirmeil** (Tomah WI)

#### April 2009

4—Spring Coronation, **Jaravellir** (Madison WI)

**Yule Moot (Eithni):** I've decided to run the Yule Moot this year. Marion has checked on available dates for the Washburn Room at Edgewood and January 18th might be the best day. Washburn has no cost and potluck is free so there is no budget. **[Meeting approved and agreed that the Jan/Feb general meeting will take place at the Moot]**

**WW (Æsa):** Nordskogen has identified their autocrat. There has been no discussion on their side about what to do with the proceeds from the event (including our proposal to send \$1000 to the city). We do not currently have a need for the money in the Barony (have about \$6000 in Baronial coffers). Of this year's \$3000 profit, we suggest giving \$1000 for city, about \$900 for showers, and split the rest between the two Baronies. **[Meeting approved sending this proposal to Nordskogen]** No decision on last year's money (which was being held in contingency because of the lawsuit).

**Music Guild (Nikolaus):** Alasdair has indicated that he would be pleased if we gave a concert at Boar's Head (with TRM's permission at court — Æsa indicated that it was fine with her).

**Marion:** Nothing

**Coronation (Iohanna):** The feast plans for Coronation are in the works.

**Webminister (James):** The Jara List is currently hosted by Minstrel. Do we want to copy it over to Itasca? There would be no change to the features provided, but it would give us ownership. **[Meeting decided to make no changes yet, but suggested researching to see if this should be done in future; and also to check with Calvin as he is the current moderator]** I am updating the fighting section of the webpage but otherwise am almost done. We could do a lot of things (forums, etc.) with the site, but there has not been a lot of interest expressed.

**Exchequer (Tatiana):** All is well.

**Newcomers' Feast (Wren):** We were able to get Co-op space at no cost except for the \$100 deposit. Nagamochi will be feastocrat. Information will be coming out on the List this evening. It will be held on 11/15 at 4pm, with feast at 6pm. We are looking for ten or so people to show off stuff, and some five or so to help with clean-up/set-up (could be same people). The food budget is not worked out yet but are planning for 35-50 sitting people at about \$3 each. We need the cash box and seed money, and would like to borrow utensils. I have the site contract but it must be signed in the Co-op's presence so need to arrange to meet with them. **[Eithni and Ivan will work out details with Wren and Nagamochi]**

**Chatelaine (Wren):** My two years are almost up. Eliane has expressed an

interest but others are welcome to express interest. I would like to transition the office in January.

**Potential Japanese Event (Nagamochi):** I am thinking of putting together a Japanese 12th Night (or at least some sort of winter event) in Jan-March 2010.

**It's Only A Flesh Wound (Kristyan):** The ads are in to the kingdom newsletters. We are planning to have a silent auction to benefit TRH's travel fund and I need someone to coordinate it. We also need items to auction. The event itself is on January 31.

**Coronation (Kristyan):** Our bid was accepted and it will be held on April 4th in Waterloo. This time, we will have all local royalty. Eithni will host the post revel.

**Cookbook (Kristyan):** I am putting a cookbook together for fundraising for TRMs and I am looking for contributions. The book will have both period and modern sections. The deadline is November 15th. I hope to have them available at Boar's Head.

**Pursuivant (Kristyan):** Nothing to report except that the quarterly report went in.

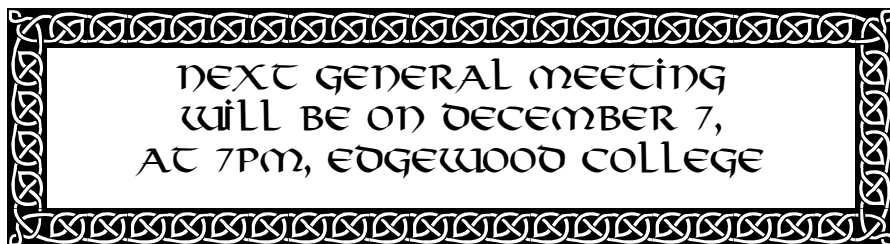
**James:** Nothing.

**Geof and Sara:** Nothing.

**Archer's Brunch (Sol):** There will be an Archer's brunch on the 16th at the home of Ælf and Roisin.

**Clothier's Guild (Iohanna):** The guild is taking a break for 3-4 months. Attendance has been low.

**Directory (Ivan for Cwen):** Cwen has started work on the Directory and is looking for updates. A notice will appear in the *Skein*.



**weight of the paper.** For finished work it is strongly recommended that you use nothing less than a 90 pound **weight**. The paper doesn't actually weigh 90 or more pounds, but instead is a way to determine the thickness and durability of the paper. Color also changes between various papers and that can influence what you want to use. Not all paper **accepts the ink** the same way. "**Accepts the ink**" is a term that describes what happens when the ink and the paper come in contact with each other. This is often influenced in part by the tooth of the paper.

Some paper **readily accepts the ink** meaning that the ink sinks into the **fiber** of the paper. Other paper **does not accept the ink** very well. This means that the ink sits on top of the paper and dries there. Either isn't bad or good and each has its advantages. Paper has **fiber** just like cloth has fiber. How that **fiber of the paper** comes together to make the paper can really change how the paper **accepts the ink**. Paper with **fiber** you can see can cause **spidering**. **Spidering is what happens when your ink starts to travel on the paper where you don't want it to go.** Kind of like cracks from a hole in a window.

So, as you can see, it becomes important to know what kind of paper you prefer to use and for what. A kind of paper that is fantastic for one thing may be terrible for something else. Paper recommendations for projects and scrolls you will hear include Arches Hot Press, Arches Cold Press and Bristol Vellum.

The "Holy Grail" of surfaces to do calligraphy on would be **Vellum and Parchment**. Their close cousin is **Pergamenata**. **Vellum and parchment** come from animal skins that have been treated and stretched. What is the difference between vellum and parchment? That is a subject of much discussion and there seems to be very little overall consensus on the subject. Some say it has to do with the animal it comes from, others say it has to do with the thickness of the skin. Whatever you call it, it is very expensive. The average price I have found is about \$75 per square foot plus or minus.

**Pergamenata** is sometimes called vegetable vellum. While this is a misnomer, it does accurately reflect that **Pergamenata** mimics **vellum and parchment** very well. **Pergamenata** is made from vegetable matter treated and dried. You can get it in pre-cut sizes. Sheets of 11" by 14" can be purchased at the price of 10 sheets for around \$12.50. Much cheaper than **Vellum and parchment** and is understandably a favorite replacement for **Vellum and parchment** for A&S competition projects.

#### Ink

Ink is the preferred substance to write with and not all ink is made equal. Not all ink is made the same color. If you can think of a color, there is ink in that color. Some examples include pearl, luminescent, neon, hot, cold and just about anything else. Some inks fade faster than others. **Inks that fade**



*Speedball nib with attached reservoir*



*Mitchell nibs with detached reservoir*

Almost all nibs have one or more cracks in them so the ink can flow under the tip of the pen. This crack is called a **capillary**. The ink flows along the **capillary** in small amounts to the tip of the nib and conforms to the shape and width of the nib. This is what allows the letters in calligraphy to make the pretty shapes.

#### Writing Surface

Calligraphers almost become experts on writing surfaces. As mentioned previously, writing surfaces include but are not limited to paper and pergamena as well as parchment and vellum. There are several factors one has to take into account. One of the first is finish.

The term **finish for paper is just like using the term for wood or paint. It is how the surface of the paper is, well, finished.** Sometimes smooth, sometimes rough, sometimes shiny, sometimes dull. How a paper is finished determines its **tooth**. No, it doesn't bit. Every piece of paper has a tooth. The **tooth of paper is basically how rough or smooth the paper is.** Different **teeths** will interact with you nib differently.

**Different kinds of paper are different in thickness. That is called the**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DIRECTORY

Do you like to see your name in print? It is not too late to get your name and other info into the Baronial Directory.

What I need from you is the following: SCA Name, Modern Name, address, phone number, cell number, email, SCA Awards, and guilds you participate in (you name as many as you want). Please email, call, or mail the info to Cwen at: [cwen@uwalumni.com](mailto:cwen@uwalumni.com) , 608-298-0918 , Toni Sumner-Beebe, 2882 Cimarron Trail, Madison, WI 53719

Please get all info to me by November 17.

### NEWCOMERS' MOOT

There will be a Newcomers' Gathering and Feast on **Saturday, November 15**. Come learn more about the SCA--or share your knowledge!

**Location:** "The Castle," the Phoenix Co-Op, 636 Langdon St. (kitty-corner from Memorial Library)

**Schedule:** 3pm set-up, 4pm open house, 6pm Feast, 8pm finish and clean-up

Feast will be a wonderful multicultural dinner, made by our own Nagamochi, with Japanese, Middle Eastern, and European courses. We are asking a \$3 feast fee, to be collected before Feast. Bring feast gear if you have it. If you will be eating feast, PLEASE RSVP to Lady Wren: 608-333-6413 , [ladywren@gmail.com](mailto:ladywren@gmail.com)

All newcomers, of all interests, are welcome! We only have space for 10 established (=no longer new) SCA members at Feast (please RSVP!), but established SCA members are welcome to attend and show off their arts/sciences in the lovely Castle living room, or just come and answer questions and meet our new members. If you have friends or family that would like to come, please have them RSVP if they'd like to eat Feast, but if not, they are welcome to just come by and meet folks between 4 and 6 pm.

We have need of the following assistance for the event: 4-6 people to help with set-up and/or clean-up; 2 people to help in the kitchen; 2 people as general helpful people during the event (Some of these can be the same people, but this is not necessary). If you can help out, contact Lady Wren.



# A GENTLE INTRODUCTION TO CALLIGRAPHY (just one of a series)

by Ian the Green

Calligraphy, is it a difficult fine art or just writing? Both opinions are common. So where does the truth lie? Like many things, it lies somewhere in between, so let's explore the idea.

## First, what is Calligraphy?

Calligraphy is a way of writing. Like all writing, calligraphy stores knowledge. The root words of calligraphy are from Greek *κάλλος kallos* "beauty" + *γραφή graph* "writing." Put together we can take the meaning to be beautiful (or pretty) writing.

## What timeline of study is appropriate for us?

The Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) governing documents state, "For Society members, most of the world, and all of the centuries prior to the 17th, can serve as a source for personal research." So any writing done pre-1600s from any place in the world that had writing is fair game for us.

## Who can do Calligraphy?

The short answer is: Just about anyone who wants to. There are very few people who can not do calligraphy. Calligraphy takes the ability to hold the pen still. You may be tempted to say that it takes being able to see as well, but there are blind calligraphers.

Some people claim that because they have horrible handwriting that they could never do calligraphy. Calligraphy and handwriting are different. Handwriting is done by gripping the writing implement, usually at your finger tips, and then you move your wrist and fingers to make the letters and words on the page, moving your arm only so the pen traverses the page. Such movements are fine motor skills. Calligraphy writing also grasps the pen usually at the fingertips but all similarity ends there. The fingers and wrist almost never move when doing calligraphy, instead the arm moves to form the lines to make the letters and words. Such movements are gross motor skills. So calligraphy uses a different part of your brain than handwriting does. There are people with horrible handwriting that do excellent calligraphy.

But I'm sinister! Sinister, in this case doesn't mean evil, it means left handed. Lefties can do calligraphy too! You don't need any special or expensive equipment either. You need what every one else needs; the curiosity and desire to learn and some basic supplies.

## What are the basics of Calligraphy?

First, willingness to learn about calligraphy. One need never pick up a pen to learn about calligraphy. The basics of calligraphy, like anything else one learns, is the knowledge about the tools and terminology of the craft and/or skill.

In calligraphy, just as in any other hobby, there is a whole new language to learn. This "language," can be intimidating to the newcomer when people start throwing around words that don't seem to have any meaning or have different meanings than in regular conversations. When a new term is used it will in **bold** and then **the definition or common usage** will be **bolded** behind it. The next few times the word is used, it will also be **bolded** to help cue you.

## What are the basic tools of the Calligrapher?

The basic tools of a calligrapher are ink, pen and writing surface such as paper or vellum. There are many different kinds of tools in calligraphy. If you decide to go into calligraphy, you will find which ones and which combinations work best for you.

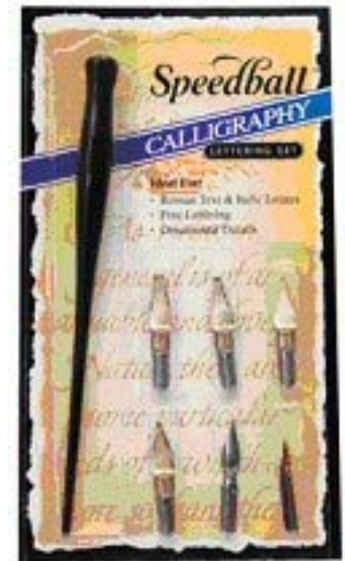
## The Pen

This picture is of a fairly common beginner's set for calligraphy. It contains the **pen holder** as well as the **pens, often called nibs**. These are the two most recognizable parts of the **calligraphy dip pen**. The **pen holder** is the long black thing to the left most of the package. The **nibs** are the six little things in lower right of the picture.

**Pen holders** are not all made equally and do not all look alike. As you can see from the picture there are different sizes of and kinds of **nibs** as well. If you decide to get into doing calligraphy you will eventually mix and match and find the combination that works best for you.

Some pens have a **Reservoir**. A **reservoir** is a **piece that holds extra ink** so the **pen** can write for longer amounts of time. Much in the same way a water reservoir holds water for later drinking and use by people.

The two most common kinds of nibs are **Mitchell** and **Speedball**. **Speedball** nibs have an attached **reservoir** and **Mitchell** nibs have a detachable **reservoir**.





# SKEIN SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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