



Volume 18 • Number 1 • April 2019

Welcome to *Nib Noise*. I hope you'll enjoy reading this month's issue.

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS NEWSLETTER!

The robot that sends it out still hasn't learned to read. If you have comments or questions, send email to:

richard@richardspens.com

To subscribe or unsubscribe, please visit the Free Email Newsletter page on my site:

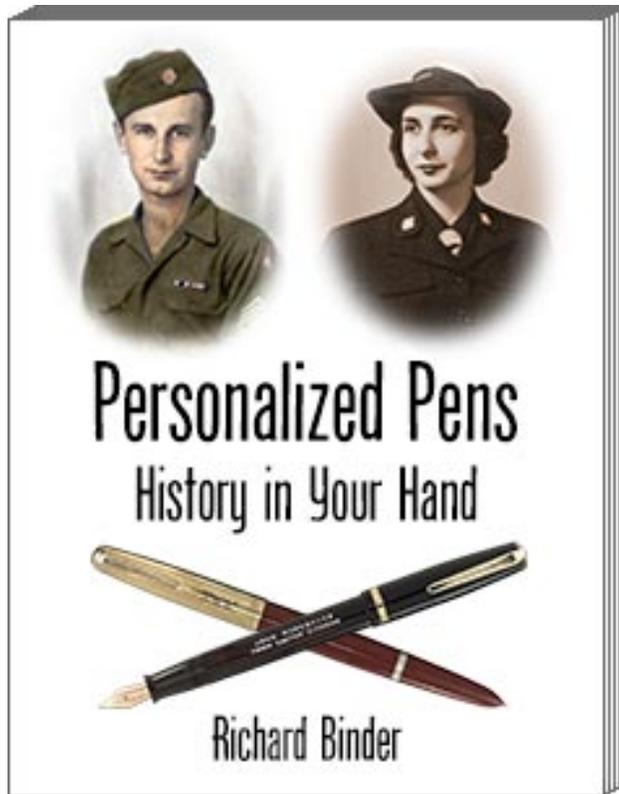
<http://www.richardspens.com/?info=nibnoise>

New and Improved

Beginning with this issue, *Nib Noise* comes to you as rich text. Rich text is easier to read, and it allows me to include images like the snazzy new *Nib Noise* header at the top of this message. Internet addresses will appear as links that you can open in your browser so that you won't have to copy and paste links from your email.

My Newest Book

Last month I published my seventh pen book. Yes, I know, that's last month's news, but if you don't have the book, it's not old, it's still new. This book isn't about pens. It's about people. The title should be a clue to what it's about.



This book contains sketches of the lives of 15 people, some of whom did great things and others who did not. All of them were ordinary people, living (mostly) ordinary lives, who happened to own pens on which their names were engraved (or scratched). Each of these people has a history that deserves to be preserved and remembered.

http://www.richardspens.com/?bks=richard+pers_pers

For those who still prefer paper books, I'm working on putting this book into print.

Our Next Pen Show



We last attended the Chicago Pen Show in 2003. It's been a long hiatus, but we will be there in 2019! The Chicago show happens next month, starting on Thursday, May 2 and running through Sunday, May 5. This show has undergone a rebirth, and it is one you really shouldn't miss. The show draws a good crowd of dealers and visitors, and in addition to a wide selection of pens for sale and seminars for you to attend, a squad of highly qualified repair people and nib workers will be in evidence.

I'll be one of the nib workers I mentioned above, and Barbara will be making sure I keep my nose to the grindstone. Please read our "Table Talk" FAQ to learn how we operate at a show:

<http://www.richardspens.com/?info=shows>

If you plan to come and haven't ever been to a show before, you might want to read my article on Your First Pen Show:

<http://www.richardspens.com/?shows=firstshow>

For more information, visit the show's website:

<http://www.chicagopenshow.com/>

We look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones. We hope to see you there!

It's a Busy Season for Nib Workshops



Able seconded by nibmeister Linda Kennedy of Indy-Pen-Dance and Brian Gray, president of the Edison Pen Company, I will be giving my hands-on nib smoothing seminar at the Chicago show. It happens Sunday morning, beginning promptly at 8:30 a.m.

We will have space for 16 hands-on participants. You must register in advance. Registration for this workshop will open at 9:00 a.m. Eastern time on Friday, April 19, 2019, on this Web page:

<http://www.richardspens.com/?page=workshop>

Your prepaid \$20.00 materials fee will cover the cost of the tools, supplies, and pens you will use. You'll also need to bring a good-quality loupe. I recommend a 10× unlighted loupe for this task.

If you won't be a registered participant you are still welcome to audit the workshop. We'll have extra copies of the handout for you, and we'll take questions

from auditors just as from paid participants. If you decide after the workshop that you'd like to try working with your own pens, Mike and Linda at Indy-Pen-Dance will have complete kits of the workshop materials for sale at their table.

For those of you who can't make it to Chicago but will be at the St. Louis show in June, I will be giving the same workshop there (except that I deliver it extemporaneously, so the lousy jokes will be different).

The Glossopedia

With more than 1,600 definitions and descriptions, more than 950 illustrations, and more than 2,150 cross-references, the RichardsPens Glossopedia is the most comprehensive resource of its kind anywhere. Each month, *Nib Noise* includes a randomly chosen Glossopedia entry.

niello. 1. A black compound of sulfur with silver, lead, or copper, used for filling in engraved designs in silver or other metals. 2. An object, such as a pen, that is decorated with niello. Shown below is an early Pelikan with a barrel Binde of sterling silver and niello. See also *Binde*, silver, Toledo.



To immerse yourself in the Glossopedia, follow this link:

<http://www.richardspens.com/?gloss=>

Broad Strokes

Finding out who made a Japanese pen branded Athena or Teikin might be a real

task, but the Japanese Industrial Standards can often help you find out at least who made the nib. If a Japanese pen's nib bears a symbol like one of the two below, look for a four-digit number that will tell you who made the nib.



You'll find the (not-so) secret code (and why there are two symbols) in this table:

http://www.richardspens.com/?nibs=jis_numbers

To help you find reference articles on my site that have been edited recently, there is a handy heading right at the top of the reference index, listing the five most recently added or edited reference pages.

The Pen Doctor

The Pen Doctor is a regular visitor to the Nashua Pen Spa, and every so often he puts a few prescriptions up in our site's reference section. Each month (except when I forget), I'll be reprinting one of his prescriptions here.

Q: I want to send my orange Parker Duofold out for restoration. Should I ask the repairman to use a silicone sac?

Rx: As a sac material, silicone is actually not as good as latex. It does not stick as tightly when shellacked to the section; and because it's not as elastic as latex, it does not work as well when filling the pen. Also, because it is gas permeable, you have to keep a filled pen nib upward when it's not in use to prevent leaks. Silicone's virtue is that it doesn't outgas sulfur compounds, and that's why I use it in pens that are known for discoloration problems.



A Jade Duofold, or a Pearl and Black one, would get silicone. An orange pen like yours (officially named Chinese Red or Lacquer Red, but what's in a name?) would not get silicone because the material of which it's made just doesn't seem to discolor much at all. I would also use silicone in clear demonstrator pens because of its transparency. (I use modern exact-replacement PVC sacs to replace dead Parker Pli-Glass sacs.)

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