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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>



Visit the Pyramids!

August is here, the hottest month, and Amelia, the young married lady of the photo above has left behind home, hearth, and husband Rodger in England to travel to exotic climes. We hope she is having a good time in Cairo, but somehow I think her fancifully painted retractable safety pen might well be the least unpleasant thing about her trip. Oh, umm, never mind, her post card is dated February 17. I don't know enough about British postage stamps to guess whether Howard Carter's discovery of King Tut's tomb will figure in later writings home. but maybe she won't venture the 400-mile journey up the Nile to find out. I also don't think tuppence ha'p'ny will get her card all the way to England, but maybe she plans to post it when she arrives at the dock back in Southampton.

It's Showtime! But Not for Us.

This is the month of the Washington DC Fountain Pen SuperShow, and although we won't be there this weekend, Barbara and I wish exhibitors and attendees alike a great show and lots of the exceptional bargains the show is famous for.

Our next pen show will be the Sixth Annual Commonwealth Pen Show at the Holiday Inn Boston Bunker Hill Area Hotel, on Sunday, September 15. It's a one-day show, but it's a good one, growing bigger and better every year, and well worth the trip if you are close enough. The weather outside might be a little cooler than it was a couple of weeks ago, but the pen show room will be hot! Come and enjoy the fun of a classic New England-style pen show!

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>

Also, please read our "Table Talk" FAQ to learn how we operate at shows:

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

For information about the show and the hotel, please visit the show's Web site.

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

I will be working on nibs to improve or customize your writing experience, and Barbara will be juggling people to make sure I don't have time to go on a buying spree.

We can accept your MasterCard, VISA, American Express, or Discover card — but some of the vintage dealers are hobbyists who can handle only cash, so be sure to note the location of the ATM in the hotel lobby.

We look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones. We'll be there all day. Will we see *you* at our table? (If you won't have any pens for me to work on, please do feel free to stop by and at least say hello!)

An Unsolicited Plug

True. They don't even know I'm writing this. If you are not a subscriber to, or a dedicated purchaser of, *PEN WORLD* Magazine, you've already missed out on the first three installments of my current series on Japanese pocket (long/short) pens. The fourth installment is in the August issue, and I'm guessing there will be copies of that issue at the DC show this weekend. If you can't see it *in situ*, however, you can see it here through the kindness of Nicky Pessaroff, the editor of *PEN WORLD*:

[http://www.richardspens.com/pdf/PW32.5_Richard Binder.pdf](http://www.richardspens.com/pdf/PW32.5_Richard%20Binder.pdf)

There will be several more installments in this story, and *PEN WORLD* has back issues available so you can see the earlier parts. Subscribe now, and don't miss out on what's coming up in the series — and in all the other excellent articles, too.

The Glossopedia

With more than 1,475 entries comprising (with subentries) more than 1,625 individual terms, more than 950 illustrations, more than 190 patent citations linked to their respective patent documents at various archives, and extensive cross-references, the RichardsPens Glossopedia is the most comprehensive resource of its kind anywhere. (Yes, it's gotten bigger since last month.) Each month, Nib Noise includes a randomly chosen Glossopedia entry.

Queen. (*Queen & Co.*, also *James W. Queen & Co.*) A manufacturer of fountain pens and instruments for engineers and surveyors, located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; founded sometime before 1870 and remained in business until sometime after 1907. Queen fountain pens were fitted with nibs by James Morton of New York City. The advertising cut shown below was published in 1892, in *The American Stationer and Office Outfitter*.



To immerse yourself in the Glossopedia, follow this link:

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

If you would like to suggest an entry for the Glossopedia, you are most welcome to do so. Send an email to me at this address:

richard@richardspens.com

Broad Strokes

This month, I talk about a hero that was also a villain, the kind of character everyone should be careful of — especially with fountain pens. They guy's name is Parker "51" Ink.

http://www.richardspens.com/?care=51_ink

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. For edited pages, there are brief descriptions of what was changed.

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. With the upcoming St. Louis show featuring several calligraphers, and with more people taking up calligraphy, I thought this prescription might be of use.

Q: I bought a beauty of a Vac Major at last year's Chicago show. My problem is in filling, and it may be my inexperience with Vacs, although I don't have a similar problem with my other Vac pens.

The pen has a good diaphragm, it really hooovers the ink up — however, when I go to lock down the plunger, it ejects the ink again. The only solution I have come up with is to invert the pen when locking down.

Is there something amiss with the pen's filler set-up, or is it me?

Rx: It's you. The Vacumatic system — indeed, any filling system with a breather tube — relies on differential pressure; that is, the small volume of ink in the breather tube puts up less resistance to pressure than the ink in the barrel. When you press the plunger slowly, the pressure has time to equalize, and the pen ejects ink from the barrel and breather tube simultaneously. (This behavior is more noticeable with a bigger pen because the larger barrel can eject more ink on each stroke.) But when you press the plunger quickly, the ink in the breather tube goes first, and when it's gone there's only air in the tube. Air is much easier to push than ink, so the pen just continues to eject air through the breather tube.

That said, there's still some ink that is ejected on that last stroke, but with a quick press you'll put much less of it back into the bottle.

Another option, of course, would be to trade the pen in for one with a Speedline filler so that you would not need to make that last downstroke.



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