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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 refuses to learn 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.



Baby, it's cold outside!

It's taken until February for the temperatures around here to drop to a wintry chill, but they have finally done so, and my theme song for the next few days, at least, will be "Woodchopper's Ball." The pen in the photo above, while not actually icy cold, is seriously cool. In 1924, three years after he was put out of work by the failure of the Robert H. Ingersoll Dollar Watch Company, Robert's brother Charles opened up a new company to make the Charles H. Ingersoll Everlasting Dollar Pen. For the first couple of years, the pens were made of metal, first with a bayonet-type cap closure and later with a screw cap as shown by the pen above. Ingersoll pens were twist-fillers, and the twist knobs on the metal pens were as cheap as could be: they were upholstery tacks, and the style of the knob on any given pen depended on what was available in the upholstery-tack market when Ingersoll needed more tacks. After a brief foray into cheap celluloid pens in 1927, Ingersoll came down

among the very few companies in the Bakelite camp, producing some remarkably durable pens like the "Mahogany" example below.

Read the complete article: Profile: The Ingersoll Dollar Pen.



...And Now for the Bad News

COVID-19 is becoming more, not less, threatening. Several more-communicable mutations are spreading out there (U.K., Brazil, South Africa, and maybe others), making it even more necessary to observe precautions of masking and physical distancing — and getting the vaccine as soon as it is available to us. We can still share time with each other via Zoom or FaceTime, though. With a free Zoom account, you can have up to 100 users in your meeting, and Zoom has disabled the 40-minute time limit because of COVID-19. FaceTime is for Apple users only, and it allows only 32 users in a chat; but on the upside, it is more secure.

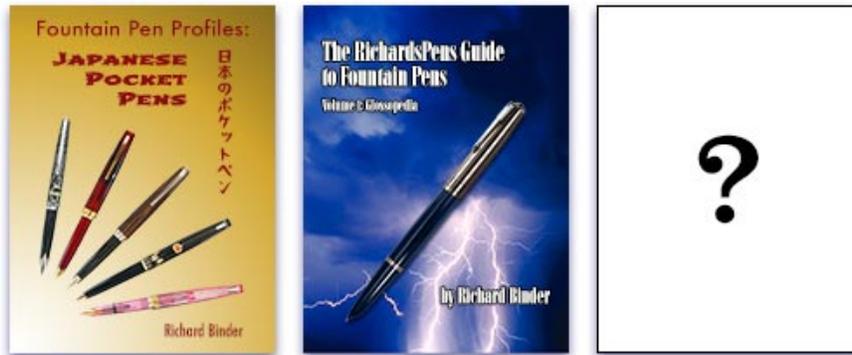
BROAD STROKES

The Pen Doctor dropped in this month, so in addition to his regular monthly prescription reprise, we have a set of new prescriptions. There are usually three, but this month the Doc fielded a late-arriving email asking several questions about ink composition. I've included his answers to that email in this month's issue.



The RichardsPens Bookstore

I don't actually have a bookstore, but I have written a few books, and I let other people do all the work of selling them. Right now, I'm working on the second edition of *Japanese Pocket Pens* and the fifth edition of the *Glossopedia*, and there are new books in the planning stage. There's a complete listing of my books on my site, with direct links to pages on Amazon, Apple, Barnes & Noble, and Lulu where you can buy them for your own library.



*By Don Fluckinger
February 2004*

The Pelikan 200 blue demonstrator and the Hero 100, believe it or not, are the first modern pens we've owned in years.

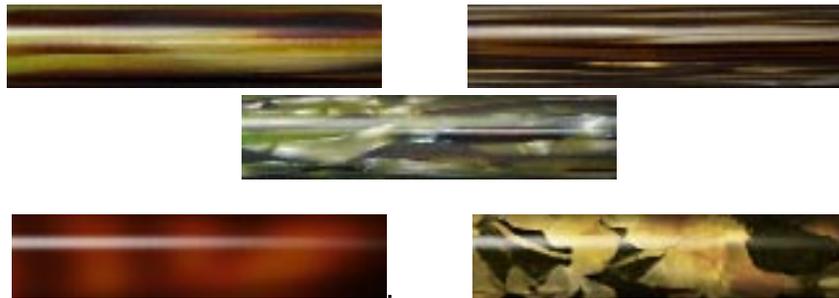


Read the whole article: **Modern Pens Revisited.**

From the *Glossopedia*

With more than 1,500 entries comprising (with subentries) more than 1,700 individual terms, more than 1,000 illustrations, more than 200 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. Each month, *Nib Noise* includes a randomly chosen *Glossopedia* entry.

Tortoise Shell also *Tortoiseshell, Tortoise-Shell*) Widely used name for a pattern resembling the color of real tortoise shell, which is usually a mixture of brown and translucent amber. Interpretations of the color have varied widely; shown below are five different examples: upper row, from left to right: vintage Pelikan 101N, modern Pelikan M400, modern Pelikan M101N; lower row: Parker 75 & 180, modern Bexley and Gate City Pen. Note that the Parker chip illustrates lacquer over brass, not a translucent resin.



If you would like to suggest an entry for the *Glossopedia*, I invite you to send an email to me at richard@richardspens.com with your proposed entry. If you don't have a definition for your entry, I'll do my best to find one.

And if you don't think you can wait more than 129 years (note how this number keeps growing as new entries are added) to see the whole *Glossopedia* here, one entry at a time (if I don't slip up and repeat an entry or three), you can easily jump the gun by purchasing your own copy in ebook form for Amazon's Kindle and Kindle app, Apple's Books app, or Barnes & Noble's NOOK and NOOK app.

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 on my site. Each month (except when I forget), I'll be reprinting one of his past prescriptions here.

Q: Here's a question I've never seen asked: **without fear of damage, can one use a fine fountain pen with india ink by simply dipping the nib and feed, writing or drawing, then after use carefully washing the nib and feed before storing - i.e. never drawing ink into the barrel reservoir of the (fountain) pen?**

Rx: It can be done, but I don't recommend it. Even with careful washing, it's all too easy to leave ink in the feed channels (where it will inevitably have been drawn by capillary action). India inks contain substances that are hostile to fountain pens, such as shellac or gelatine. Shellac is not water soluble; you can't wash it out of a pen with water. If your purpose is simply to have a waterproof ink, there's a better way. I have many clients who are artists, and these people unanimously sing the praises of Platinum Carbon Black. Several of them use it to do pen-and-watercolor work, drawing with a fountain pen and then, after the ink is thoroughly dry, using watercolor washes over it. This ink is what's known as a *nanoparticle* (or *nano-particle*) ink; that means that although it's still a pigmented ink, the particles of pigment are much finer than the particles in India ink or in paints, so fine that they don't seem to clog fountain pens. Platinum Carbon Black is not the only nanoparticle inks; although it's the only one with which I've had personal experience, there are several others available, in black and other colors. Nanoparticle inks do need a little more care than ordinary inks, but they don't

contain the evil substances that are in India ink.



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