



**Volume 20 • Number 10 • January 2022**

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

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[richard@richardspens.com](mailto:richard@richardspens.com)

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**Happy New Year!**



The year turns, and life goes on. The fountain pens we collect might have been made last week, or they might have been made more than a century ago; they endure as we do. Some, like Waterman's Hundred Year Pen and the Conklin Endura shown above, were expected to long outlive their original owners, and indeed, many of them have done just that despite the fact that lifetime warranties are much less common than they once were. The photo of the woods came from the camera of Janet Wright a few years ago, and this month seems like the perfect time to use it. The flat-top Endura had a run of several years before being replaced by the more streamlined, but short-lived, Endura Symetrik, which in turn gave birth to the first successful modern piston-filler made in the United States, the Conklin Nozac ("No Sack").





The Nozac shown here, in the Red/Silver Herringbone pattern (originally V-Line), is arguably the most attractive of the bunch; indeed, it is among the most beautiful pens of the Golden Age.

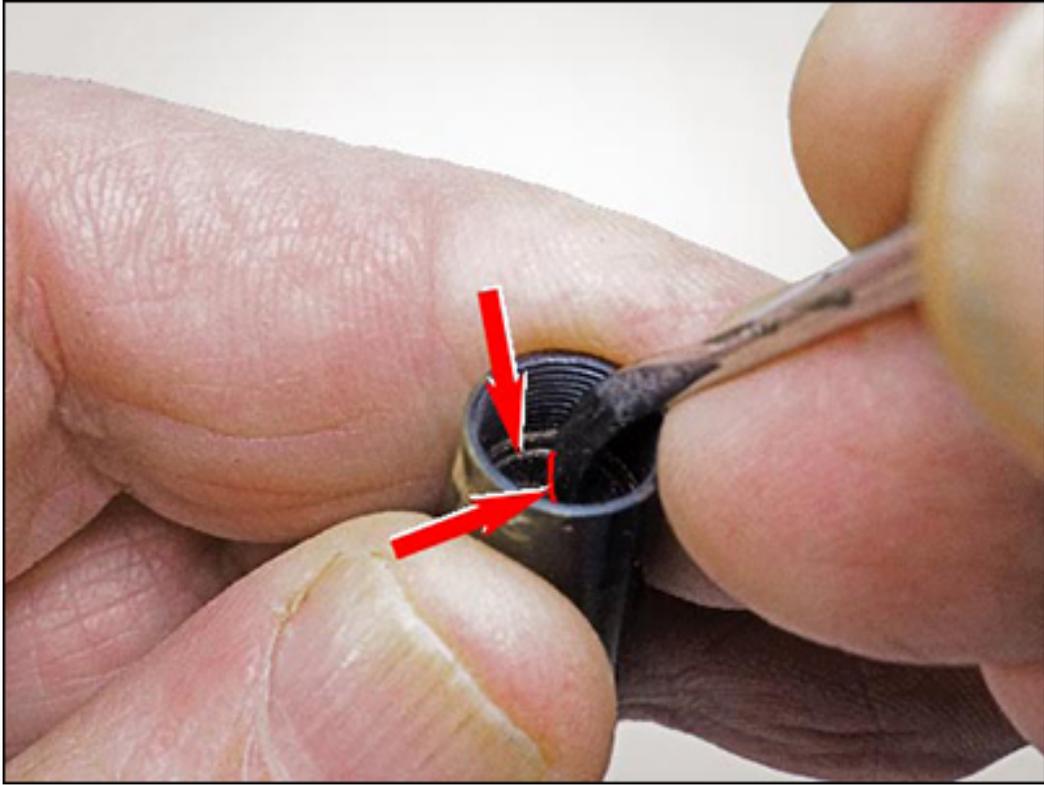
You might not know that not all Nozacs were piston-fillers. After Sheaffer and Wahl introduced plunger-filling pens in the mid-1930s, Conklin jumped on that bandwagon with the Nozac Q.F. (**Q**uick **F**illing).

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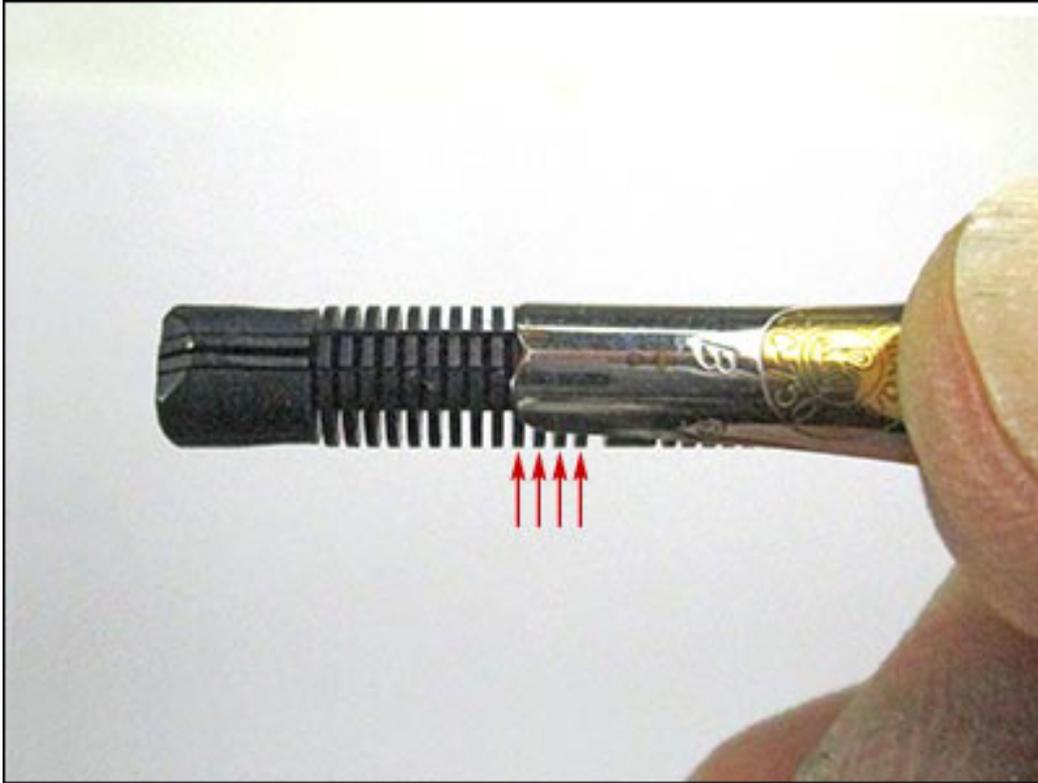
## BROAD STROKES

This month's "Broad Strokes" brings you two articles instead of the usual one. Both are oriented toward repair and restoration; I hope you'll find them interesting and useful.

First, the Pen Doctor dropped by the Nashua Pen Spa in December, leaving three new prescriptions: [Ink to use with "Rite in the Rain" Paper](#); [Good Material for Polishing Pens](#); [Removing an Ossified Diaphragm from a Vacumatic](#)



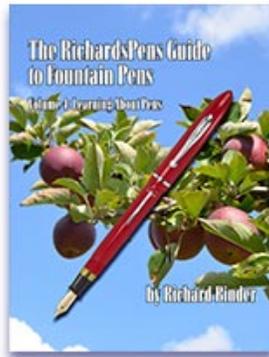
And second, I've put together an article on [How to Disassemble and Reassemble Pelikan Nib Units](#).



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## **My Books**

If you're new to fountain pens and someone gave you a new fountain pen for Christmas in hopes of urging you more firmly into the hobby, *The RichardsPens Guide to Fountain pens, Volume 4: Learning About Pens* might be just what you need. It's chock full of basic information, and it's available as an ebook for Amazon's Kindle and Kindle apps, Barnes & Noble's NOOK and NOOK apps, and Apple's Books on macOS, iOS, and iPodOS.



There's a complete listing of my books on my site, with direct links to the web pages where you can buy them for your own library.

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*By Don Fluckinger  
December 2005*

## **December 2005: Cursive, We Hardly Know Thee**

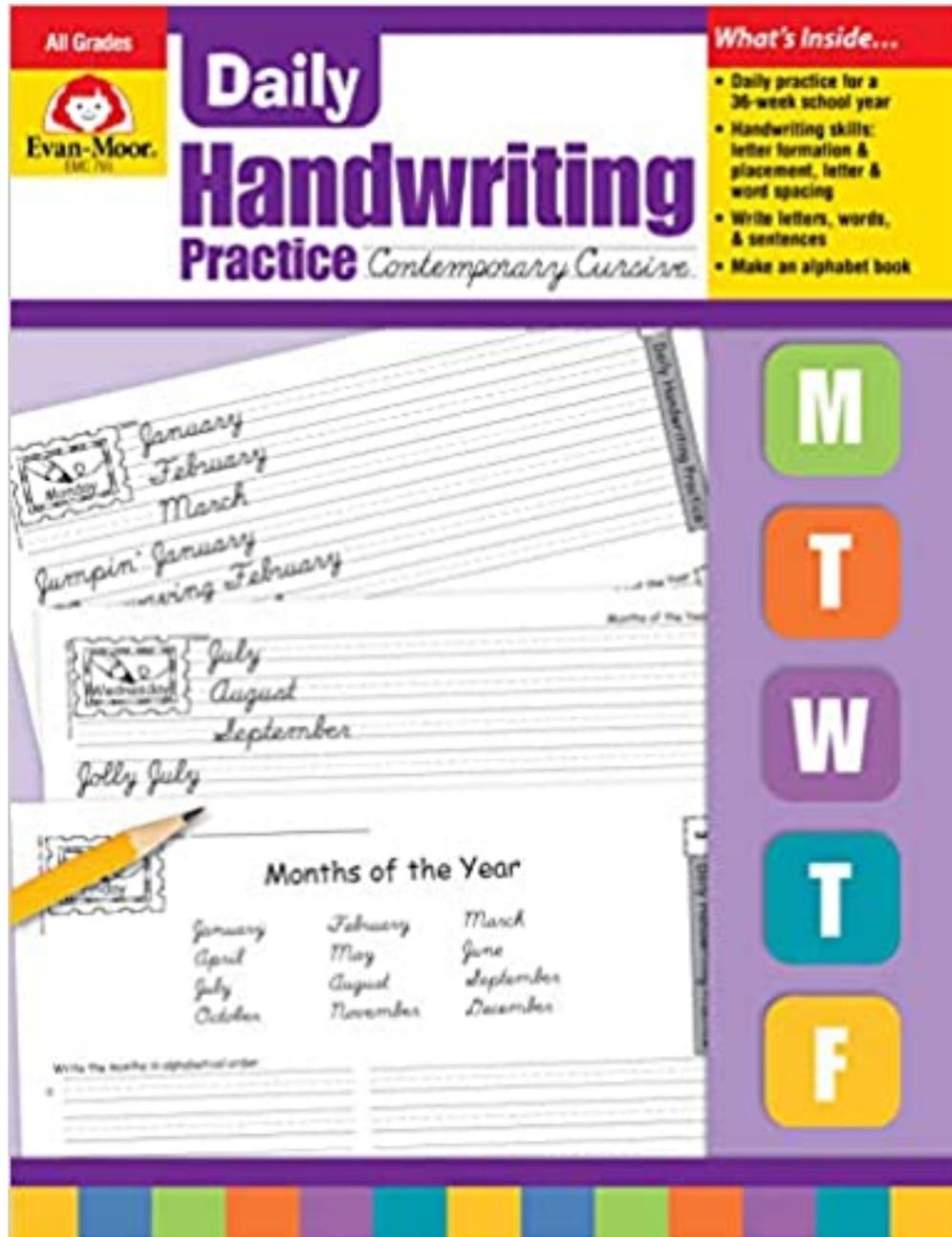
Writing cursive is a lost art that's getting more and more lost with each passing year.

Think about it: How much do you write today, compared to what you wrote, say 10 years ago?

I will say, without hesitation, that I write 2% to 5% of what I did before I first

sat down at a computer.

And I, like you, am a fountain pen collector...



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From the *Glossopedia*

With more than 1,575 entries comprising (with subentries) more than 1,750 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.

**white gold** An alloy of gold with at least one white (silvery) metal; has a silver-white color similar to that of platinum. 18K white gold is used decoratively for pen bodies or furniture, and occasionally instead of rhodium- or palladium-plated yellow gold to make nibs for pens with silver-colored bodies or furniture. The most economical white gold contains nickel along with smaller amounts of copper and zinc; but nickel has been linked to allergic dermatitis, and nickel-safe white gold alloys generally use palladium with a smaller amount of silver. See also [gold](#).

If you would like to suggest an entry for the *Glossopedia*, I invite you to send an email to me at [richard@richardspens.com](mailto: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 132 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. When I release the next edition, your ebook vendor will notify you (or make the update silently).

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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.

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## 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:** I have read that the plastic used in Eversharp Skylines may shrink over time making the section difficult to remove from the barrel. If one succeeds in getting the section out without cracking the barrel, should the fit between the two be adjusted to avoid cracking the barrel when fitting the section back in place? If so what is recommended: reducing the diameter of the section, increasing the hole diameter in the barrel? Advice on the best way to accomplish this?

**Rx:** In most cases, all that's needed is extreme care to align the section perfectly with the barrel so that it will go in straight; cocking it at an angle can split the barrel. But there's a catch: which cases won't this work for?

The best solution is to make sure that the surfaces of the section and the barrel are perfectly clean: no chips or chunks of anything, especially shellac residue that might be there from the last time the pen was assembled. Turn on your upward-pointing heat gun (*never* use open flame for this work!). (If you don't have a heat gun that is permanently mounted with its nozzle pointing straight upward, take time to arrange a reasonable facsimile of one before you start reassembling the pen.) Line the parts up and begin to insert the section; hold the pen over the heat gun, rotating it so that all sides of the barrel threads will warm evenly, and warm it gently and not very much. Keep applying gentle pressure to push the section in. When the barrel is warm enough, it will relax just sufficiently to allow the section to slip in. Do not heat it until it softens enough to deform; use a very delicate touch with the heat.



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