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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

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As I write on Saturday morning, much of New England is being buried in new snow. In some places it's expected to total as much as 36 inches (almost a meter). I was ready to zip out for breakfast this morning, but wiser heads (Barbara and our cat Meresamun) pointed out that nothing would be open because Nashua is under a Snow Emergency order. The photo above, featuring the elegant Cap Cod house that's right across the street with about four inches of the white stuff on the ground, suggested that they might be right. So I rustled up a nice breakfast of homemade English muffins, a fruit medley, and fresh hot coffee from our favorite coffee roaster, The Coffee Mess in Hilliard, Ohio. The snow-colored pen is a one-off special order that Bexley made for Mike and Linda Kennedy. The Bexley Monarch is out of production, but you can probably find one on the secondary market. They are excellent pens.

Back to the business at hand. Among the more interesting and out-of-the-way fountain pens I've come across are clerical pens. These were not pens for clerks, as you might expect; instead, they were for clergy and religious. I've seen only a very few of these pens, and the two I own were both made by Waterman. As shown in the photos here, they are discreetly black and marked with a cross on the cap, hot-stamped and filled with jewelers' wax. The larger one, made in the late 1940s, was called the *Cleric*, for priest and ministers. The smaller one, made in the early 1950s, was the *Cloister*, for nuns.



BROAD STROKES

Have you ever considered collecting fountain pens that aren't pens? In keeping with the theme introduced by the two clerical pens above, I present **Holy Water Sprinklers** — **Fountain Pen Style**. Like clerical pens, fountain pen-styled aspergilla are extremely uncommon; their provenance makes them interesting, and they would make a challenging collection, especially when paired with their mating fountain pens.



My Books

In case this is your first issue of *Nib Noise*, I invite you to visit my Books page. I don't sell anything from my site, I prefer to let the bookselling pros do the heavy lifting. 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.



By Don Fluckinger
February 2006

Pen Ads: What Good Are They?

Pen ads. Who needs them? For people who aren't hip to the excellent content in pen advertisements, here's a list of 10 things you can learn about your favorite pen models from just glancing at an advertisement.



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.

Bloody British Burgundy (also *Blood Red*) Common name for a color used for the Aero-metric version of the Parker "51", in English production only. Bloody British Burgundy (below, left) is distinctly lighter than most versions of burgundy. According to legend, it was not used in the U.S. because Kenneth Parker's wife Mildred, who had a degree in the arts, was consulted on the color choices for the Aero-metric "51" and refused to allow the color to be used because it looked like blood. Shown for comparison (below, right) is the Burgundy that was used in the U.S.



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 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).

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: I was looking at a Pelikan 120. I want to find some extra nibs for it, but I don't see them listed on anybody's site.

R: It can be very difficult to find nibs for the 120. Pelikan produced the 120 in the 1960s. After discontinuing the model, the company decided in the 1970s to reintroduce it, but they no longer had the tooling or the engineering drawings. So they hired Merz & Krell, who engineered and produced a 120 version whose nibs were not compatible with Pelikan's 120 nibs.

How can you tell which pen is which? As shown by the image below, Pelikan's 120 has a straight cap band and a flared section, while the Merz & Krell version has a conical cap band and a section with no flare.



Once you know which 120 you're interested in (or actually have), you are faced with a decision. The original 120, made by Pelikan, can use nibs made for the M100 or M150. These nibs are identical except that the M100's nib is not gold plated. Given that the Merz & Krell 120's nib units are not compatible with Pelikan's, you can sometimes find M&K nibs on eBay, or you could knock the existing nib unit apart and replace the nib itself with one from an M100 or M150 nib unit.



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