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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 *Nib Noise* out refuses to learn to read. If you have comments or questions, send email to:

richard@richardspens.com

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Hard rubber, all by itself, is boring. Pen makers tried all sorts of trim ideas to make it less boring. After chasing...



...they tried plain colors (sometimes together with chasing)...



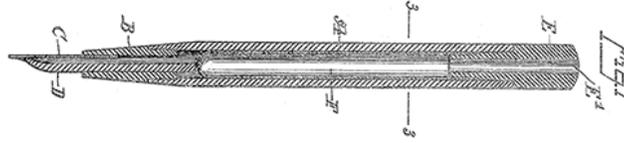
...and mottling...



...and woodgrain...



...and finally, courtesy of H. P. & E. Day, Waterman's famous "Ripple."

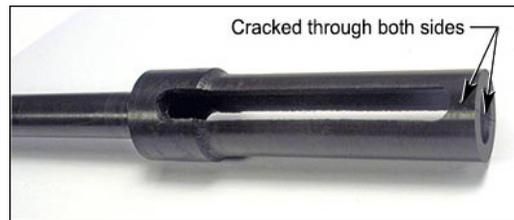


And Speaking of the Crypt...

To delay the time when my Crypt articles will be moldering away in unmarked graves, I've added a **From the Crypt** section to the Reference Pages area of my website. I've already filled the new section with the first five articles, and each of the remaining articles will appear there a week after you've received it here in *Nib Noise*.

BROAD STROKES

Retractable safety pens come in two major varieties. The one we are interested in here has a knob at the back of the barrel to extend the nib when the knob is turned. Even though many other companies made them and Waterman didn't even invent them, these are commonly called Waterman-type safeties. They all use a long-pitch helical cam to drive the nib shaft out or pull it in, and herein lies a problem. The cam system consists of a tubular shaft with slots cut in its wall and one or two grooves cut along the inside of the barrel. Inside the tubular shaft rides the smaller shaft that is the nib carrier. The weakest link is that tubular shaft. It's fragile, and it can be broken if too much force is applied in an attempt to convince a nib that won't stay extended that it should do so. **How to Repair a Cracked Safety-Pen Operating Shaft** describes how to repair this damage.



The Nib Noise Archive

For those who enjoy brushing away cobwebs while they dig through attics, the *Nib Noise Archive* is on line. Except for the current issue, the Archive includes every monthly issue since Volume 1, Number 1, which appeared on April 1, 2002.

PEN WORLD and Me

My next *PEN WORLD* article was planned for this month, but as many of you probably know, life has gotten in the way and I've been dealing with a family illness. I'll be back in *PW* in April.

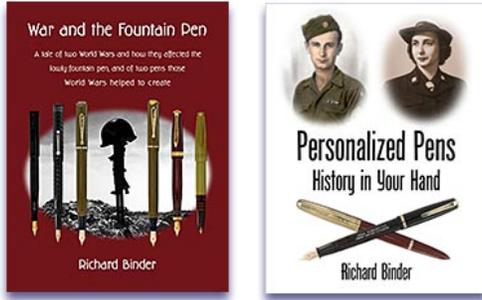
If you don't already subscribe to *PEN WORLD*, I recommend it as good reading and an excellent way to keep abreast with what's going on in the (pun intended) pen world. Print editions are available by subscription or on newsstands, and digital editions are available by subscription. Back issues are available.

My Books

My newest book, *War and the Fountain Pen*, was published late in December as an ebook or as a 6×9 premium trade paperback. Both versions have hundreds of newly generated high-resolution illustrations that show beautiful detail. The paperback is on rich heavyweight paper, with premium full color printing.

War, by definition, is a terrible thing. It brings terror, destruction, pain, suffering, loss, death, and much more. But at the same time, great advances in the things of civilization can and do occur as a result of such conflict. It's easy to notice the great advances that have come out of war, such as better transportation and better healthcare. It's less easy to notice the little things of everyday life, such as better fabrics, better methods for preserving food, and better tools for recording our history, our cares, and our joys. This book takes as its subject the changes war has wrought on one small, but not at all insignificant, tool that we, service members and civilians alike, use to conduct our daily business: the fountain pen.

War and the Fountain Pen includes condensed versions of some of the personal histories in *Personalized Pens: History in Your Hand*. If you enjoy personal stories of this kind, you might find *Personalized Pens* to be right up your alley.



I invite you to visit my website's **Books page**. It has a complete listing of all my books, with direct links to the vendors' pages where you can buy them for all your close pen friends — or for your own library.



As an Amazon, Apple, and Barnes & Noble Associate, I earn a commission when you purchase one of my books by following a link from my Books page.



By Don Fluckinger

March 2005: Fountain Pens for Lefties 101

When I was a little kid I picked up a 1920s-vintage dictionary at a garage sale. Under "left-handed," it gave a couple definitions that weren't too positive, including "sinister," and "satanic." Nice.



From the Glossopedia

With more than 1,600 entries comprising (with subentries) more than 1,800 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.

Shadow Wave Parker's marketing name for a set of colors for the Vacumatic Junior that featured longitudinal striping in an irregular pattern instead of lateral striping in distinct rings. Shown here is a Silver Shadow Wave Speedline Junior. See also Vacumatic.



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 133 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. This month, just in time for the Christmas gift-giving season, here's what the Pen Doctor prescribes for newcomers who will be discovering how handy it is to have a blotter or three around.

Q: I just received a 1940s Striped Duofold Vacumatic Ingenue/Junior. This pen has a speedline filler. I took the filling unit out, removed the pellet, and gave it a clean. However, when I went to install the diaphragm, it wouldn't keep the pellet in.

R: You can usually get the pellet to seat better by using a blunt pick or a small punch to push the rubber separator down into the plunger tube. Diaphragms vary in the thickness of their rubber; find the thickest one you have. Install it, making sure to push the pellet farther in than usual. Then, use the conical collar as a "ram" to push the rubber separator back down onto the pellet. (You will still be able to pull the diaphragm free with a little tug, but don't. As long as it stays in place through filler operation, it's fine.

Note

This technique applies only to Lockdown and Speedline fillers. Trying it on a plastic-plunger filler is a good way to break the filler.



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