

c Bridges, M.M.  
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## A NEW HANDWRITING FOR TEACHERS

### INSTRUCTIONS HOW CHILDREN SHOULD USE THE COPIES

*WRITE* on ordinary 'sermon paper,' which is ruled with faint lines about  $\frac{5}{16}$  of an inch apart, making the short letters the height of a space. If small children have difficulty in making letters this size, use a lesser space to start with. It is important that pens, ink & paper should consort well; a pen that suits one paper writes ill on another, or with different ink. Generally speaking, a fairly yielding, broad nib, as a F, a broad 'ladies' pen, or quill, with freely flowing ink, on intermediate paper, neither rough nor smooth, works best.

Enough has been written & said about the position of the hand in writing: I would only recall the old traditional rule of two fingers on the pen, which seems to have been founded on experience & not without reason; & also insist on thick down-strokes: any thickness in the horizontal part of the stroke betrays a wrong position of the pen.

The capital alphabet is given first, but children begin of course with the small letters, & the fourth plate will show the order in which it is most convenient to teach these: the

Z 43

.B 84

ii



*simple strokes of which the letters are composed should be first learned, & after each stroke the resultant letters, which, on this plate, are simplified for the beginner. When these are mastered, the more varied & difficult forms of the third plate can be learned. In this small alphabet, a few of the letters have two or three variant forms; in some cases these are merely alternatives & can be used according to taste; others are for distinct use, as initials or finals, &c.*

*The variants are as follows:—*

- d: the second is only for use as a final; i.e. at the end of words: see plate 5.*
- e: three forms of this letter: the first is begun from below & is to be used when following a letter which ends with a stroke rising from below, such as h: see he on plate 5: the second e & third e follow letters the last stroke of which ends high; the third e is made in two strokes; see be & oxen on plate 5.*
- f: the two forms can be used indifferently, but see of on plate 5.*
- j, k, p, q, z: either form of these five letters may be used, but the first form in every case implies a careful & somewhat ornamental style, & the simpler forms are better for quick writing.*
- s: the nearer the small s keeps to the form of the capital the better, but it becomes modified when joined with other letters; the way to join it will be found on plate 5.*

t: either form may be used at pleasure.

v, w: the first form given of each of these letters can only be used to begin words: see VOW on plate 5.

x: how to join this letter, see OXEN on plate 5.

The double letters are only suggestions, but such small varieties add interest to the appearance of manuscript.

Of the capitals, where there could be any doubt as to how they are to be formed, I have shown the construction on plate 5: in the case of B, D, E, M & Q, the black line indicates the first stroke; the dotted, the second.

At the end of the capital alphabet will be found a few alternative forms. A, D, the first E, F, O, P & T may be useful as being written in one stroke. The second alternative E, though necessitating three strokes, can be made very quickly by one continuous flowing motion of the pen, see plate 5, where the whole passage of the pen is shown by the line which it would make if not raised off the paper. The alternative S is optional.

On plate 5 I have given a set of Arabic numerals.

Plate 6, 'All the ways of life,' shows the letters, without modification, combined into words, & it may be used as a copy; but it should be remembered that the curves are too much rounded by the engraver.

The next three plates, 7, 8, & 9, will show what the script is like when it approaches a current hand. They are in fact reproductions of the hand, which the New Handwriting is intended to teach; any one who adopts it will, knowingly or unknowingly,

*modify it, & it must not be considered as the only possible or indeed best outcome of the forms on which it is founded.*

*M. M. Bridges.*

*In response to the continued demand, the present edition is issued, in the form of plates. One caution may be added—Children's copies of the 'New Handwriting' often show undue exaggeration of the ornamental parts of letters. The teacher must lead the child to see for himself (by comparing various forms of one letter) what is the essential part, & must insist on the correctness of this; at the same time showing that the ornamental parts are optional & variable.*

*The whole set of ten cards, with instructions, can be had of any bookseller, price 4/6: or separate plates, 5d. each: instructions separately, 6d.*

*Schools may refer for educational terms to the Author, Chilswell, near Oxford.*

*N.B. At the request of a friend, a new plate of simple capitals (No. 10) has been added for beginners, price 5d.*

A B C D E

F G H I J K

L M N O

P Q R S T

U V W

X Y Z

A B C D E F

G H I J

a b c d d e e e f f  
g h i j j k k l m n  
o p p q r s s t t u  
v v w w x y z z  
H h g g t h s t a a e

STROKES	LETTERS	STROKES	LETTERS
	i t u	o	o
1	r	c	c e
i	n m	o	a d
l	h p f	l j	q j g
l	l b	k	s x
v	v w	y	z z



1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
c 8 9 0 ~

B D L M

Q E

and he be of joy.  
vow oxen so is.

All the ways of life are pleasant;  
in the market place are goodly  
companionships & at home griefs  
are hidden; the country brings  
pleasure, seafaring wealth, &  
foreign lands knowledge.

Come & sit under my stone pine that  
murmurs so honey sweet as it bends to  
the soft western breeze ; & lo this honey  
dropping fountain, where I bring sweet  
sleep, playing on my lonely reeds —

Thyrsis, the reveller, the keeper of the nymphs  
sheep, Thyrsis who pipes on the reed like Pan,  
having drunk at noon, sleeps under the shady  
pine, & Love himself has taken the crook &  
watches the flocks

Read not to contradict & confute,  
nor to believe & take for granted,  
nor to find talk & discourse, but  
to weigh & to consider.

Some books are to be read only in  
parts; others to be read, but not curious  
ly; & some few to be read wholly, &  
with diligence & attention

Bays yield no smell as they grow, rosemary  
little, nor sweet marjoram; that which, above  
all others, yields the sweetest smell in the air, is  
the violet; especially the white double violet, wh.  
comes twice a year - about the middle of April,  
& about Bartholomew-tide. Next to that  
is the musk rose; then the strawberry leaves  
dying, with a most excellent cordial smell;  
then the flower of the vines - it is a little  
dust, like the dust of a bent, wh. grows  
upon the cluster in the first coming forth; then  
sweetbriar, then wall-flowers

A B C D E E F

G H J J K L L

M N O P Q

R S T T U V

W X Y Z