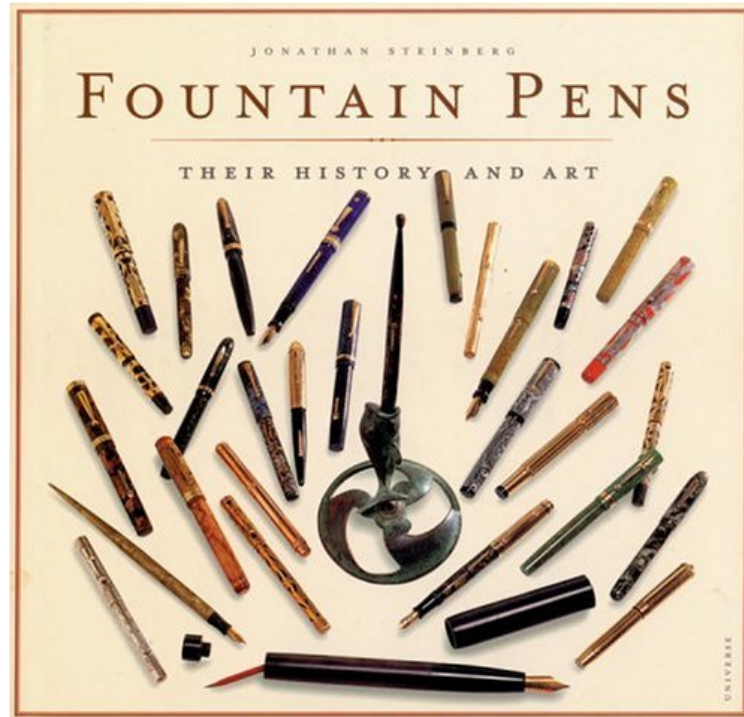


Fountain Pens: Their History and Art

Jonathan Steinberg

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#1131968 in Books Universe 2002-11-16 2002-11-16 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.10 x .80 x 8.20l, 1.40 #File Name: 0789306816144 pages | File size: 30.Mb

Jonathan Steinberg : Fountain Pens: Their History and Art before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fountain Pens: Their History and Art:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. I'll bet you didn't know ...By David A. Baer This handsome volume reflects the high quality standards, cantankerous spirit, and eccentrically traditionalist preferences that seem to characterize many of us who are drawn to the impractical beauty we call insist upon calling fountain pens. An introduction and six chapters tell the story of this writing instrument, its long evolution, its demise in the twentieth century, and its rebirth as a collector's item here in our twenty-first. Five lavishly illustrated chapters meander their way from the pre-fountain-pen spectacle of rooms-full of 'inexpensive scribes' with quill in hand doing the work of a small iiterate class ('Pre-1880s: before the fountain pen', pp. 22-39) on to moderate levels of pen production ('1880-1910: early marketing efforts, pp. 40-52) to the rise of a corporate behemoth (1910-1925: competing with Sheaffer', pp. 54-85) to the fountain pen's twentieth century misfortunes ('1930-1940: how the depression affected the market', pp. 86-107); '1945: the war: how bargain debasement nurtured the ballpoint pen', pp. 108-121) and finally to a day when--mirabile dictu--people write books about fountan pens ('The future: the rebirth of the cottage industry', pp. 122-128). Mr. Steinberg is neither an economist or sociologist and so given to amusingly sweeping explanations of pen life: 'By the 1930s the world was in the grips of the Great Depression. The public wanted to be dazzled by technological marvels to take their minds off their economic woes. Hence the uncommon popularity of the Schneider Trophy seaplane races and the land-speed record attempts ... For fountain pen design, the Great Depression made utilitarianism and functionality the order of the day.' However, Steinberg *is* a lover of pens and that's why he's a capable author of

a coffee-table illustrated book like this one. One closes this book with several impressions forming themselves in his brain. First, there is the sheer technological challenge of making a pen where ink flows in the directions it's supposed to, with tolerable evenness, and a refusal to leak. This is one of those small technological adventures that culminates in something the rest of us take for granted rather than to the cleaners with ink stains around the pockets. Then there is the sheer variety that flourishes within somewhat unbending natural limits. As with dogs, there are only so many ways and means to make a pen. Yet the plethora of canine breeds on offer has its parallel in the dazzling display of pens of which photographs, paintings, and reproduced advertisements flavor this book. If you are so inclined, you may well find a resource that will educate you more thoroughly about fountain pens. But probably not with a more satisfactory outcome for the appreciative eye. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. This is the one to buy. By V. R. Padgett I've read 8 books on fountain pens in the last few days. Only Steinberg's captures the view, the love, the depth, the feeling, the expansive history of this writing instrument. Lambrou's Meisterbuch mit 500 Seite ist gut; Twydl's shorter work is outstanding in its way; But this one has the feel. Buy it. Buy more than one. 7 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Among the Best. By Walter Herip If you own three books on pens, this should be one of them.

Transform your view of the handwritten word with this beautiful illustrated guide to the art of the fountain pen. In an intimate trim size perfect for giftgiving, *Fountain Pens* traces the history of the development of the pen from early reservoir systems to self-filling pens to modern reproductions. Lavishly illustrated, the book features more than one hundred four-color images, from lush photographic portraits of individual pens to rare vintage advertisements and original patent illustrations. A celebration of the pen from quill to nib, *Fountain Pens* will be a valued addition to the libraries of collectors and enthusiasts alike.

About the Author Jonathan Steinberg is an international lawyer who is also a leading expert on fountain pens. He is the organizer of fountain pen shows in New York, Milan, and Bologna and has appeared as a collectibles expert on CNBC, NBC, BBC and is a collectibles advisor to USA Today and Forbes Magazine. He is also the author of *Fountain Pens: A Collector's Guide*.