

A15 WHAT DO WE REALLY KNOW ABOUT THE CRAFT OF CALLIGRAPHY?

In this age of supercomputers and the Internet, we tend to forget about the skills and techniques of the scribes of yesteryear. How did they cut a quill? What is dutching? What bird and from which part did the feather come? Which animal skin did they write on? How was it prepared? How did they prepare their colors for decorating or their gessoes for gilding? What stick ink do I use and what's wrong with using Pelikan 4001?

This workshop answers many of those questions that you may have wanted to ask. We shall also come to the realization that many of these techniques are still appropriate today. During this workshop we shall cut quills, prepare vellum, select and stretch paper, use egg for mixing color (both the white and the yolk), and also cover some of the more simple facets of gilding.

Charles Pearce



Charles Pearce is a native of the United Kingdom but has lived in the United States for almost thirty years.

He is generally recognized as one of the world's foremost calligraphers and lettering artists, and his work is represented in collections around the world including those belonging to various members of the British Royal Family. He teaches and lectures around the globe, especially in North America, Europe and Australia. His books are recommended by calligraphy teachers everywhere. He lives and works on Hillspcak, just outside Eureka Springs, Arkansas.
www.charlespearce.com



A15 SUPPLIES

Ink/Paint: A selection of gouache colors; Sumi ink; A Chinese ink stick and inkstone.

Misc: A small sheet of glass or plexiglas for sanding on (12" x 12" or so); porcelain or plastic mixing palette; utility knife; pair of good quality rubber gloves.

Also required: • A burnisher (hematite preferably), a gilder's knife and cushion all available from Paper and Ink Arts, www.paperinkarts.com • A diamond knife sharpener, from Atelier Gargoyle, 1-800-547-0704 or info@AtelierGargoyle.com. • A quill knife, available from Lee Valley Tools, item #06D04.08, www.leevalley.com It all sounds a little expensive, but put against the cost of buying, say, a musical instrument, the cost is minimal and these are tools you will have for a lifetime. I shall bring a lot of my own tools for demonstration purposes, and will have students work on some of the gilding techniques. **Materials fee:** approximately \$65, which covers the cost of these items: a quantity of goose or turkey wing feathers; a piece of vellum (calfskin or goatskin) size about 12" x 12" plus a quantity of scraps for trying things out; 2 sheets of loose leaf gold leaf; gum ammoniac; gum sandarac; raw eggs; garlic juice. In order to make gesso, we will be handling white lead which is a poison. Protective gloves and possibly a mask would be a good idea. It is always a good idea to bring a notebook, and cameras are permitted in class, but please keep flash to a minimum and used only when writing is not in progress.