

Copperplate Calligraphy

An Ultra- Fancy Document Script

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Copperplate, also known as Engraver's or Engrosser's Script or English Roundhand, originated in the seventeenth century and continued as the dominant style of lettering during the nineteenth century. It was used for engraving and for formal documents, and is a style where the pen duplicates the appearance of the script that was engraved into copper plates used for printing – hence, the name, Copperplate.

It is a very ornate style and requires an altogether different kind of pen and technique from other calligraphic styles which use a broad-edge pen such as the very popular Italic style.

Spenserian is a variation of this style. You probably recognize Copperplate as the style used on many diplomas and invitations (especially traditional wedding invitations) as well as on the U.S. Declaration of Independence and Constitution.

Copperplate has several variations but all of them have the distinctive thick and thin strokes as well as the extreme slant of the letters.

Here is an alphabet chart showing the version of Copperplate that I teach:



This is an example of Copperplate when it is used to write sentences. It is elegant and impressive.