

# SHOW CARD WRITING

BY CRAFTSMAN.

(Continued from November Number.)

**O**UR illustration is an exact reproduction of the position of the right hand while ruling edge-lines with a brush. Holding the brush slightly forward in an almost perpendicular position.



Figure 4

rest the ball of the first joint of the little finger against the side of the cardboard, so that the ball of the second finger rests on the top edge of the card, the third finger setting tightly against the second.

The thumb and index finger grasp the brush in the position indicated, so that the handle of the brush is at right angle with the upper end of the second joint of the index finger.

Raising the upper end of the card with the left hand at an angle of about 45 degrees, and resting the lower end on your table, draw your brush rapidly along the edge of the card at any distance required from its extreme outer edge. The process is repeated on all four sides. When no paper edging is used on a card which is mounted on a frame, a broad end line is often used or ruled on the edge with a wide brush, or a thin line ruled and the space to the outer edge filled in.

## Circles.

The professional card writer has a large wooden compass that can outline a circle 2 feet in diameter. Amateurs can use various sized dinner or tea plates, glasses, medals or coins, and then follow the pencil marks with a brush, making the lines with fine or coarse brush, but going over once only. For small circles a compass having a drawing pen on one side is used. For large circles one should always use a large pin or small wire nail, piercing the card and fastening to the table. Then loosen the card slightly so that it will revolve readily on the pin. Then fasten a piece of hard twine (that will not stretch) on the pin, and make a slip knot at the other end, passing your brush handle through it.

Now dip the brush into your color, and, while holding the twine taut, twirl your card from right to left and hold your brush almost upright in one position, while resting as much of its point, according to the width of line required.

## Ruling Across Cards.

To rule lines on a card, to underline certain words, or to draw one or two lines across the top, bottom, and sides of a word requires some practice before it can be

properly executed. Take an ordinary straight edge or wooden ruler, rest its right lower end firmly on your card, placing the two fingers of your left hand under its left end, grasping the ruler firmly with the thumb, holding it in such a position that the entire inner upper end is completely raised from the table. Proceed to rule lines in the same manner as explained above, excepting that the ball of the second finger rests firmly against the side of the ruler and the ball of the third finger rests flat on the top of it.

When the panels to be drawn are small, use a drawing pen.

It is usually desirable to make the inner line heavy and the outer line lighter. With a brush this requires more pressure in the first instance, and a lighter touch for the finer line. For a drawing pen the width of a line can be gauged by tightening or loosening the small set screw affixed to the side of each pen. These are mostly used on small cards.

## Flat Stroked Letters.

Before making the letters in the following flat stroke alphabet we would urge you to take one of your No. 1 stub pens, placed in an ordinary pen-holder, holding it exactly as you would if you were about to write back-handed in the same position as shown in Figure 5, "flat stroke pose."

Hold the dry pen over the copy given herewith. Try the letter C first, allowing every part of your pen point to touch the paper with each stroke, no matter how thin or broad the line may be.

The strokes must follow in the order of the numbers on the copy given and be written according to the position of the arrows. Now try letters O, I, E, L, and all the others. Use no pressure on the pen whatever. You are merely doing this to learn how to hold the brush for flat-stroke work and to become acquainted with the formation of the letters; then you will have gained



Figure 5

enough practice to make the brush-work a simple matter. After you make the capitals write the lower case letters.  
(To be continued.)

Tom (looking over his papers): "Here is a receipted bill from my tailor three years old. Might as well tear it up." Jack: "Keep it as a curiosity."