

CALLIGRAPHY & ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS

6-Week Course

Fridays: 14 April – 19 May 2023

Benefits of doing Calligraphy:

Aside from being a beautiful form of art and writing, Calligraphy is an excellent way to improve your fine motor skills. As we age our motor skills decrease, unless we keep our muscles toned. Fine motor skills are essential for all tasks that we use our hands for, and by learning a craft such as calligraphy we engage and exercise our hand muscles.

In this 6-week Course:

We will learn how to create beautiful manuscripts and other useful written items by using traditional as well as modern calligraphy. We explore inking, illumination and decorative features on manuscripts, as well as how to use ink, pens and paper successfully in calligraphic crafts.

This is a continuation of our previous 6-week Calligraphy courses. We learn the techniques of beautiful hand-written scripts by incorporating them into day-to-day functional objects with decorative additions and embellishments.

What you will need for these classes:

- A Calligraphy pen with a broad flexible nib
- A Dip Pen with a flexible, pointed nib or a FIRM Brush Pen
Photos of suitable pens are included in the resources on the next page
- Paper that is smooth and bleed-proof, strong and non-absorbent. (Premium photocopy paper is fine for practicing)
- Optional: Graph paper, lined paper, or pencil and ruler to rule guidelines onto your chosen paper
- Sharp HB pencil and eraser
- Coloured inks or watercolour paints and fine synthetic watercolour brushes; gold marker pen (optional)
- Indian/permanent ink for a dip-pen. Information about ink can be found here: <https://www.jacksonsart.com/blog/2021/11/22/a-guide-to-inks/>

Resources (following pages):

1. Recommended Calligraphy Pens (*Fig. 1*) & Nibs (*Fig. 2*)
2. Glossary of Terms
3. Inspirational and Resource Photos
4. Hands (Typeface Options)

What we will be covering during the 6-week programme:

Week 1 – Fri. 14 April.: *Common Mistakes in Calligraphy; Pen & paper choices; Strokes and Pressure*
Week 2 – Fri. 21 April: *Eastern Brush Techniques; writing a poem, label or recipe with Eastern Hand*
Week 3 – Fri. 28 April: *Incorporating Flourishes into writing & manuscripts; brush control and smooth strokes*
Week 4 – Fri. 5 May: *How to create a decorative border with repeat patterns*
Week 5 – Fri. 12 May: *Illuminating your repeat pattern border with colour*
Week 6 – Fri. 19 May: *Versal and words for inside your illuminated manuscript created in Weeks 4 & 5*

Resources:

1. Recommended Calligraphy Pens and Nibs:



Fig. 1: Calligraphy Pens with Broad Flexible Nibs



Close-up view

Fig. 2: Dip Pens with flexible, pointed nibs & FIRM Brush Pen

2. Glossary of Terms:

Calligraphy:	The art of fine writing
Flourish:	Decoration of letters, usually by the addition of sweeping strokes
Illumination:	Decoration of text of a manuscript (or letters or words) with gold, silver or coloured ink
Manuscript:	A book or document in any kind of hand writing, as opposed to print
Versal:	A word drawn with an illuminated first letter or paragraph initial

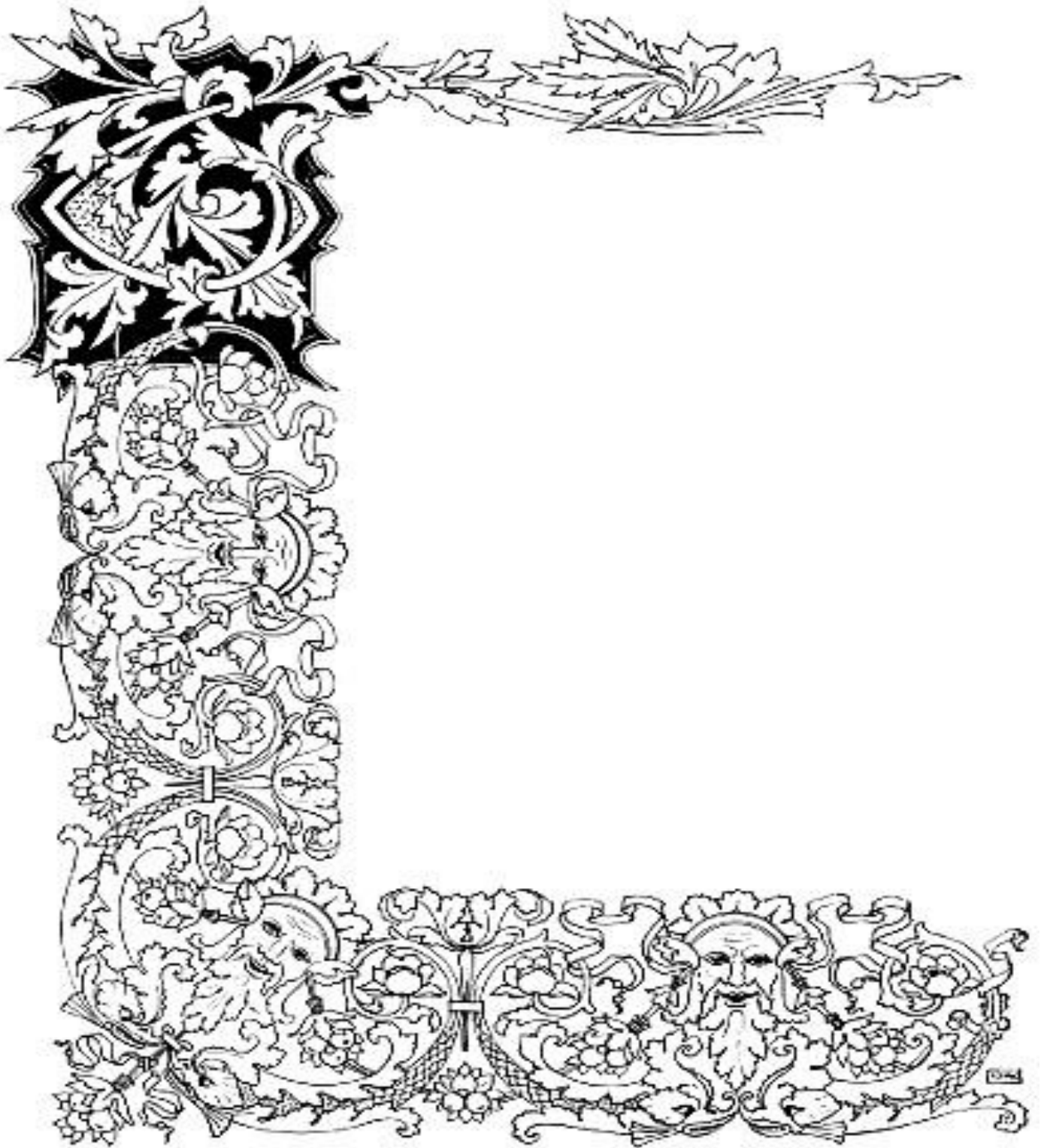
Parts of the letters:

- Majuscules – “capital” letters
- Minuscules – “small” letters
- Ascenders – parts of the letters above the main writing line: h, l, k, etc.
- Descenders – parts of the letters below the main writing line: g, y, p, etc.
- Stroke – any mark made with the pen
- Hairline – the thinnest stroke made with the pen
- Serif – small strokes added to the letters
- Counter – the inside of a letter

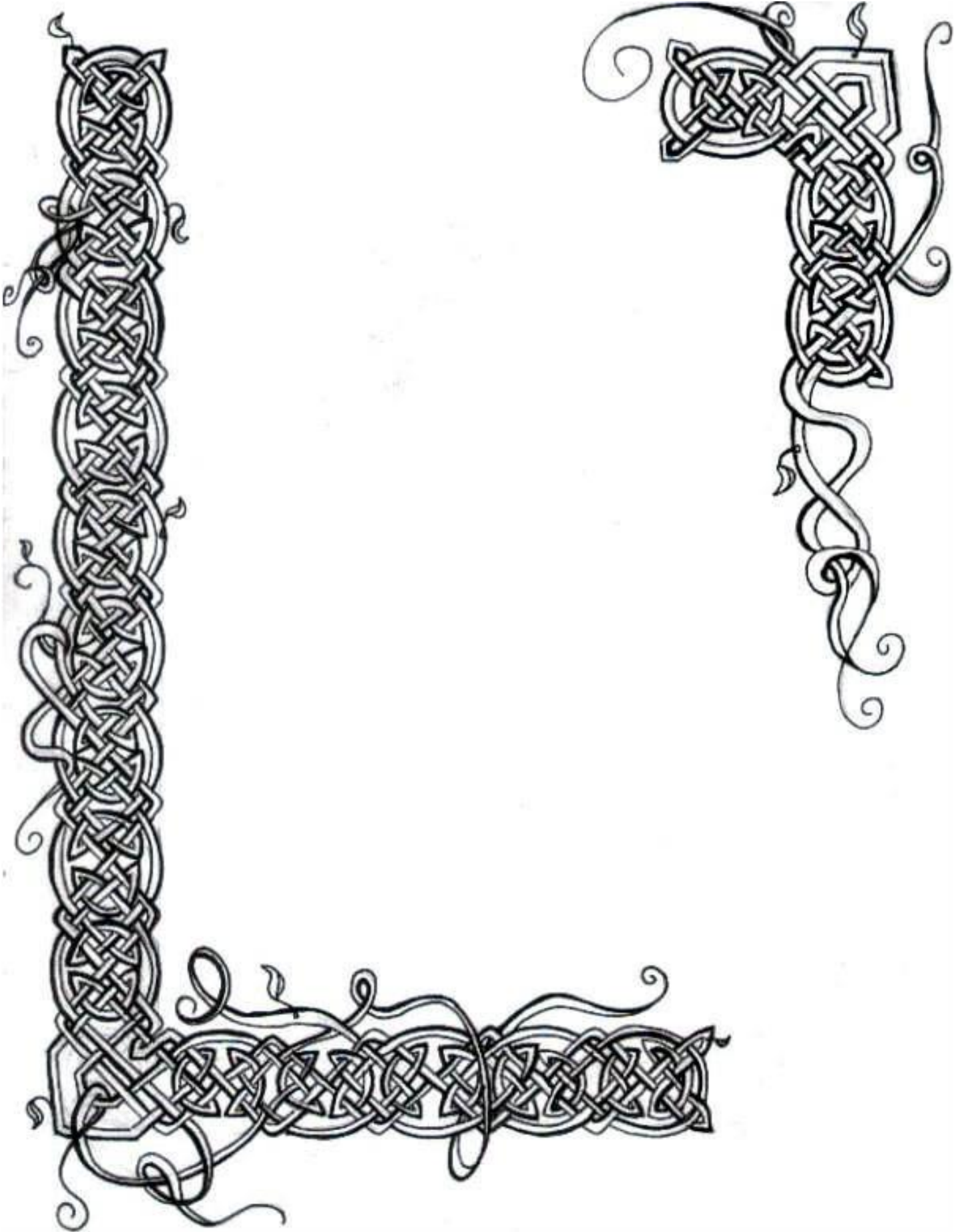
Letter proportion and guide lines:

- Baseline – the writing line
- X-height – the height of the minuscules without ascenders or descenders
- Waist line – the top of the x-height from the baseline
- Ascender line – marks the top of the ascenders
- Descender line – marks the bottom of the descenders

3. Inspirational and Resource Photos (page 1)



3. Inspirational and Resource Photos (page 2)



4. Hands (Typeface Options)

Foundational Hand



Foundational Swash Italic Hand



Copperplate Hand



4. Hands (Typeface Options) (Cont.)

Modern Free Caroline Hand

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
 ß & ! ? æ ö ... ~ /

ABCDEFGHIJ
 KLMNOPQRS
 TUVWXYZ
 1234567890

Eastern Hand

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

ABCDEFGHIJ
 KLMNOPQRS
 TUVWXYZ

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

Modern
Hand
Version

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