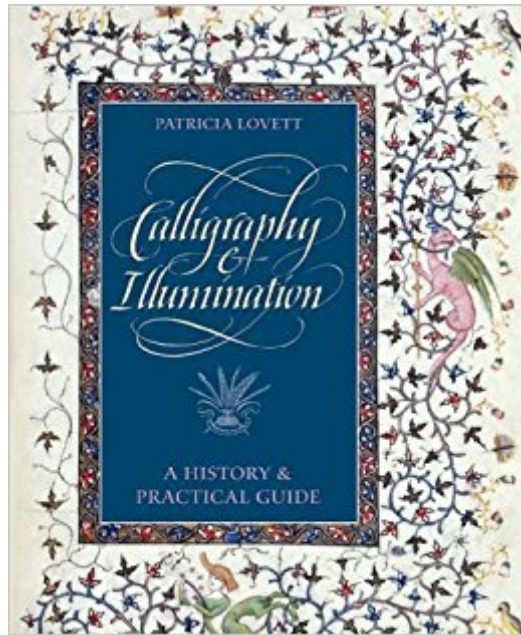




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# Calligraphy And Illumination: A History And Practical Guide



## Synopsis

Illuminated manuscripts provide a rich source of inspiration for today's calligraphers, artists, and graphic designers. Patricia Lovett, a professional calligrapher and expert on the medieval book arts, looks at the history of calligraphy and illumination, explores the use of gold in miniatures and highlighting, and then shows how to create a variety of projects ranging from the simple to the technically advanced. The step-by-step directions provide ideas for creating letter shapes and page layouts and instructions on how to design and paint a coat of arms. Exquisite illuminated manuscripts from the British Library and other sources illustrate the text, and a detailed reference section provides help in selecting papers and brushes, mixing colors, and preparing and stretching vellum. With special chapters written by experts in the fields of calligraphy, illumination, and heraldry, and clear instructions throughout, this colorful volume is a treasure trove. PATRICIA LOVETT is a professional scribe, author of several books on lettering, and chair of the Calligraphy and Lettering Arts Society in England, where she lives. 325 illustrations, 175 in full color, 8 1/2 x 10 1/4"

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Adult/High School-Lovett, a professional scribe, has written an amazing book for art students wanting a practical guide to calligraphy, illumination, and heraldry. It is also an amazing resource for those studying the Middle Ages. The author begins with a succinct description of calligraphy including how to sharpen a quill, recognize alphabets, design projects, and run a calligraphy studio. Illumination is discussed in detail with a stunning collection of graphics that describe how to gild and

create illumination projects. Photographs of historical and modern illuminations are part of this section of the book. The final chapters pertain to heraldry-its history, design elements, and works of modern heralds. Several chapters written by other experts in the field are included. Readers will find this fine manual easy to read and visually captivating. Linda A. Vretos, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Alexandria, VA Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Professionals and beginners alike will welcome this latest offering from calligrapher and medieval book arts expert Lovett, chair of the Calligraphy and Lettering Arts Society of England. She provides step-by-step, stroke-by-directional stroke instructions on everything from lettering techniques to a range of projects from basic page layouts to advanced design. Lovett explores the history of illuminated manuscripts as a fine art and as a design influence for today's artists, and includes chapters by renowned contributors Herman Zapf on type design; Michelle Brown on illumination; Rosemary Sassoon on handwriting and calligraphy; and Hubert Chesshyre on heraldry and coats of arms. The 225 illustrations, 175 in color, amply complement the text and include reproductions of some of the world's most exquisite illuminated manuscripts. The detailed back matter, a treasure trove of information, has a glossary, paginated index, reading list, and a reference section providing tips on paper, brush choice, and preparation of colors and vellum. Collections strong in the visual arts will be especially interested. Whitney Scott Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

This is a British publication, and there is much (pp 201-290) about heraldry and the coat of arms. I wasn't interested in this subject, interesting as it was. This was the reason for 4 out of 5 stars. If you want an extensive summation of heraldry and coats of arms, then this is the book for you! The illumination, for which I bought the book, on pp 149-202, was extensive enough, covering the history of illumination, the tools needed, and the various ways illuminators made and used the adhesives for the gold. The subject was covered extensively. For those who are new to calligraphy, you'll find more than you bargained for. There is extensive coverage of tools and many scripts are offered, complete with stroke order.

Not only an absolutely outstanding 'how to' book but a classic in every sense of the word. Easy to read typesetting and outstanding color photos and illustrations as well as several philosophical essays from the likes of Hermann Zaph concerning the differences between handwriting and

Calligraphy. The enormous creative sense and dedication on the part of the author are both made obvious in the brilliant appearance and organization of this book, which thoroughly covers Calligraphy as an art, the art of illumination and the art of Heraldry. This is an essential text for any scribal library and you will no doubt refer to it again and again.

I'm a long-time calligrapher. This book is a must have for any calligrapher. Not only does it cover all the basics, such as materials, historical alphabets, layout, etc, but also covers Illumination, including gilding and Heraldry, including how to design and paint a coat of arms and touches on Copperplate and handwriting, something not usually found in a calligraphy reference manual. My favorite chapter is on "Working to Commission", which is VERY practical. The book is very easy to read, and quite enjoyable. I read it from cover to cover like a novel. The author did such a good job summarizing all the important details of each subject. The text is heavily supported by wonderful illustrations, from ranging sources as medieval manuscripts to modern calligrapher's work. Each "hand" is laid out with the keystrokes, and organized by "key features". A must have for all calligraphers, beginners and masters included!

When I learned this book I'd borrowed from the library was no longer in print, I shopped around for something like it. I didn't find anything that was nearly as thorough or detailed. Every step has specific directions and clear pictures. There are many, many photos of old manuscripts, and examples of how to use the knowledge in the book for crafts today. It seems to me to be a Bible of calligraphy and illumination. I highly recommend it, and I can't believe it's no longer in print. It's wonderful!

Best calligraphy book ever and service good

Excellent book, very thorough and detailed. The only book I've found that has arcana like stretching vellum over a panel. And a whole lot more!

Great book! Easy to read-through, even though it is in textbook-like format. Can't really compare it to any other book, as it is probably the most comprehensive book on the subject.

Without a doubt, this is the best book on calligraphy and illumination ever in print, and the chapters on heraldry are as detailed and lucid as any other text devoted solely to that subject. Whether you

are interested in this book to learn calligraphic technique or simply desire it for coffee-table 'eye candy,' you will be genuinely pleased with your purchase.

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