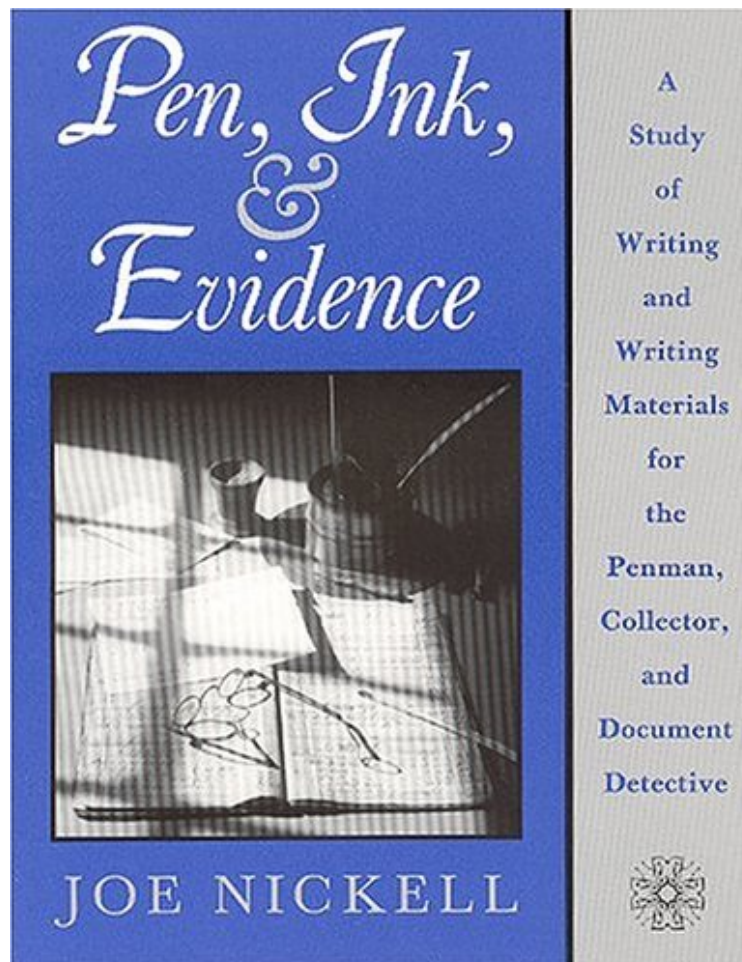


(Read now) Pen, Ink, Evidence: A Study of Writing and Writing Materials for the Penman, Collector, and Document Detective

## Pen, Ink, Evidence: A Study of Writing and Writing Materials for the Penman, Collector, and Document Detective

Joe Nickell

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**Joe Nickell : Pen, Ink, Evidence: A Study of Writing and Writing Materials for the Penman, Collector, and Document Detective** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pen, Ink, Evidence: A Study of Writing and Writing Materials for the Penman, Collector, and Document Detective:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent treatment of a fascinating subjectBy Michael F. CassidyMr. Nickell's book is a delight to read. He treats the subject in a way that engages the reader on a popular level, without sacrificing scholarship. Nicely executed.9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Good Textbook for "Intro to Document Analysis"By Eliot RosewaterPEN, INK, EVIDENCE is a good companion volume to Nickell's Detecting Forgery: Forensic Investigation of Documents. Like that work, it is apparently targeted towards

the beginner (me) and NOT the practicing professional. For example, when an analysis technique is mentioned (and not all techniques are covered) Nickell tends not to go into elaborate detail on the actual practices. The chapter notes serve as a bibliography and are valuable leaping off points for more indepth research and understanding. This book is divided into five major sections: (I) Writing Instruments, (II) Ink, (III) Paper, (IV) Writing, and (V) Examining Documents. There are three appendices covering (1) Eighteenth Century Scripts, (2) Chronology of Writing and Writing Materials, and (3) Laboratory Identification of Pens, Inks, Papers. Nickell has access to a huge array of relevant materials which are profusely included in black and white photographs throughout the book. The photographs are of fair quality and I assume that higher quality photos would result in higher price (duh). Overall, I found it interesting, useful, and satisfyingly broad in subject coverage. Nickell's writing style is accessible and clear. The ubiquitous use of anecdotes is essential and entertaining. E.g., "Of course, one approach to duplicating security watermarks -- like those placed in prescription blanks for alcohol during Prohibition ... -- was simply to dupe a legitimate paper company into producing paper bearing watermarks." -pg 85. I want to know more about alcohol prescriptions during Prohibition!

The centuries-old art of handwriting is practiced daily by millions, yet few have any idea of its history or the tools used in handwriting. In *Pen, Ink, and Evidence*, Joe Nickell traces the development of writing and writing materials from the ancient cuneiform tablet to today's ball-point-scribbled memo. Nickell not only describes how ink, paper, pens, and pencils have been manufactured and used over the centuries, but also explores the history of such ancillary activities as learning calligraphy, cutting quill pens, deciphering old scripts, detecting forgeries, identifying watermarks, dating ink bottles, and reading faded manuscripts. He also traces the development of autograph collecting, describes how to identify inks, and offers sidelights on postage stamps, early typewriters, mourning stationery, fountain-pen fillers, and the evolution of the desk. Richly illustrated from the author's own collection, the book includes photos of historic inkwells, traveling writing kits, pens of glass and gold, ink eraser knives, quill cutters, paperweights, letter openers, pen racks, and sealing-wax melters, as well as documents ranging from valentines and genealogical records to secret messages. *Pen, Ink, and Evidence* is an essential text for calligraphers, archivists, literary scholars, historians, genealogists, collectors, document analysts, teachers of handwriting, and all others with an interest in writing and its accoutrements.

The most important work on the subject since Thomas Astle's landmark *Origins and Progress of Handwriting* in 1784. Certain to become a classic. -- Charles Hamilton, *From the Foreword* About the Author Joe Nickell is a former professional investigator with a world-famous detective agency. A calligrapher and document collector, he teaches business and technical writing at the University of Kentucky. He is the author of two books on forgery and other means of deception, *Inquest on the Shroud of Turin* and *Secrets of the Supernatural* (with John F. Fischer).