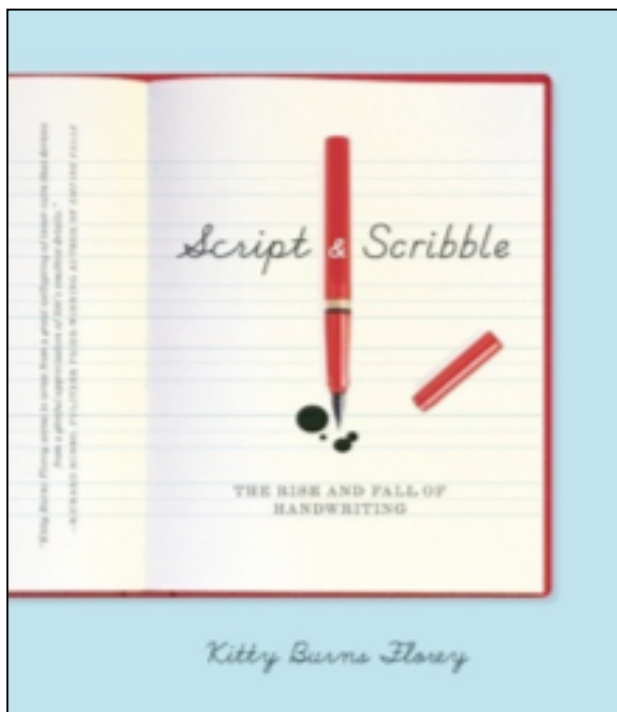




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"This is a book every writer would love, a curious cabinet on the art and act of writing."

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*"What in God's name has happened to penmanship? It's easy to blame the computer, but, as Kitty Burns Florey demonstrates in her thoughtful, witty and sensible book, the story goes far deeper than that. It touches on the way we think, the way we write, and the way we lead our lives. Read **Script and Scribble** and be enlightened."*

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Script & Scribble

The Rise and Fall of Handwriting

by *Kitty Burns Florey*

PUBLISHED ON NATIONAL HANDWRITING DAY: 23 JANUARY 2009

"A true source of human happiness lies in taking a genuine interest in all the details of daily life and elevating them by art." – William Morris.

... And so begins *Script & Scribble*, a colorful and fascinating exploration of the history of handwriting and all its delightful variations, by the author of the runaway success, *Sister Bernadette's Barking Dog: The Quirky History and Lost Art of Diagramming Sentences*.

Steeped in the Palmer Method of Handwriting she learned at Catholic school, **Kitty Burns Florey** is a self-confessed "penmanship nut" who has spent her life experimenting with handwriting scripts. Upon discovering that schools today ditch handwriting drills in favor of *keyboarding*, Florey immediately started posing questions:

In the digital age, do we still need legible handwriting? If so, how is that being taught in schools today? If not, what are we replacing it with? What happened to the Palmer Method of Florey's own childhood, drilled into her by Sister Victorine in third grade? Who was Palmer, anyway, and how does he fit into the history of handwriting? Who invented the printing she learned in first grade? What happened to fountain pens? How did her once-artistic script degenerate into scrawls and scribbles? And should she do something about it?

Script & Scribble, the result of Florey's questions and extended research, is a perfect mix of quirky fact and personal memoir that will provoke pangs of nostalgia in many readers. We are taken on an engrossing tour peppered with Florey's inimitable side-notes and asides. We learn of pen-collecting societies, the golden age of American penmanship, the evolution of writing implements and scripts, the growth in popularity of handwriting analysis and the many aficionados who still prefer scribbling on paper to tapping on keys.

One question lingers throughout: *WILL HANDWRITING ONE DAY BECOME OBSOLETE?* Time will tell, and in the meantime, *Script & Scribble* stands as a true monument to a fine – and declining – art.

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