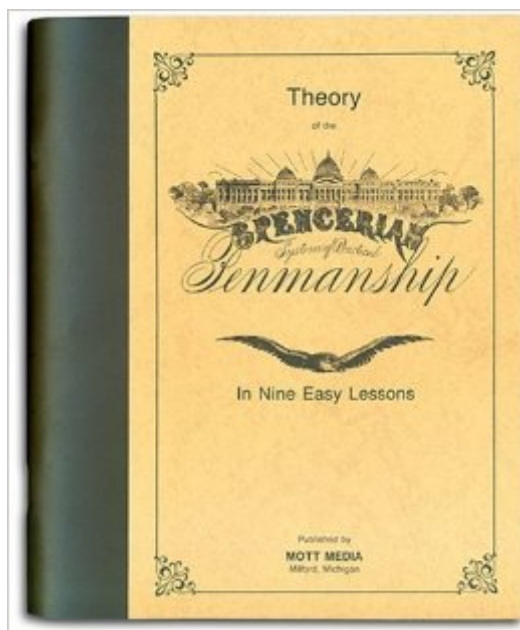


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# Spencerian Penmanship (Theory Book)



## Synopsis

This book explains how all the letters can be made gracefully and rapidly using various combinations of a few basic pen strokes. It explains Spencer's philosophy of teaching principles which engage the mind as well as the hand. It also details his methods for teaching classes of children. One of these is having the children write rhythmically, in concert, as the teacher counts. The power of this method is being rediscovered today.

## Book Information

Paperback: 64 pages

Publisher: Mott Media (MI); Pck edition (February 1, 1985)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 088062082X

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Product Dimensions: 6.9 x 0.2 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (101 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Platt Rogers Spencer, the developer of the Spencerian method of penmanship in 1840, published this short book about the "theory of proper penmanship" in 1870, along with five Copybooks, making his teaching method the gold standard for handwriting instruction in the late 19th Century. It is almost unimaginable for us in the 21st Century, but there was a time not that very long ago when there were no computers, no typewriters, and all banking and bookkeeping records were done by hand. Poor handwriting could be disastrous: a misplaced space in a will could mean that instead of receiving "tobacco, two hogsheads" (loosely 2,000 pounds of leaf tobacco, and quite valuable), the nephew of a deceased Southern gentleman might receive "tobacco, two hogs heads", which might be a single pouch of tobacco and two cheeses made with the heads of pigs (far less than valuable). Handwriting was important. Under Spencer, it was also quite regimented. The theory book describes how writing classes for boys and young men should be implemented (women couldn't work as bank clerks or secretaries yet). From the beginning, the class was as regimented as Marine Corps boot camp. While there are four positions "allowed" for sitting at the desk-- Left-side, Front, Right-oblique,

and Right-side-- the author insists that the class should all maintain the same, uniform position (note: there's no more allowance for left-handers than for women, although at least left-handers could learn to write with the non-dominant hand!). Everyone was told to sit the same way, "easily upright, and keep the shoulders square", to avoid becoming "hollow-chested or round-shouldered".

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