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Cadels and Flourishes for Late Period Scrolls.

The cadel is a flourish made up of primarily straight sections that meet at angles or square corner instead of an oval or circular curves. This technique was born out of the Gothic scripts and achieved its height of popularity in the 15th century for manuscripts and early books. Jean Flamel, secretary to the Duc de Berry, is credited with their invention in 1409 – and the decorative script quickly gain popularity as single Versals, paired with the bastard scripts and later evolved in to the elaborate forms seen with Italic texts in the 16th century.

Flourish is the general term that encompasses text embellishment and also stand-alone ornamentation. This can range from serifs, extended strokes and added strokes to curves and curls so complicated that the words are almost lost. Flourishes are divided primarily into two camps, curvilinear and angular, with the angular ones being known as cadels.

True Cadels – as defined by Bill Hildebrandt.

- 1) It can be traced completely from one end to the other with a single line that does not retrace any part.
- 2) During tracing, it may cross itself only once at any one crossing point.
- 3) During tracing, the line must cross any line in the pattern that it touches.

False Cadels also exist and are used widely but they are frequently easy to spot because the lines don't sync together the same way.

Tracing:

- 1) Remember that the fine lines may not show up in your original image due to ink fades.
- 2) Do your tracing on a test paper – then, after perfecting your lines, trace it using a light box onto your good paper. If making the cadel in gold leaf, just do your trace directly with your adhesive size.

Freehand:

- 1) Plan, plan, plan.... And measure, measure, measure!
- 2) Figure out your basic interlacing first and then add in details
- 3) Remember: Thick and Thin, right angles and false / true.
- 4) More is more in this case – it takes a lot to make the oversized cadel 'feel' right on the piece. Let it take over and shine.

References:

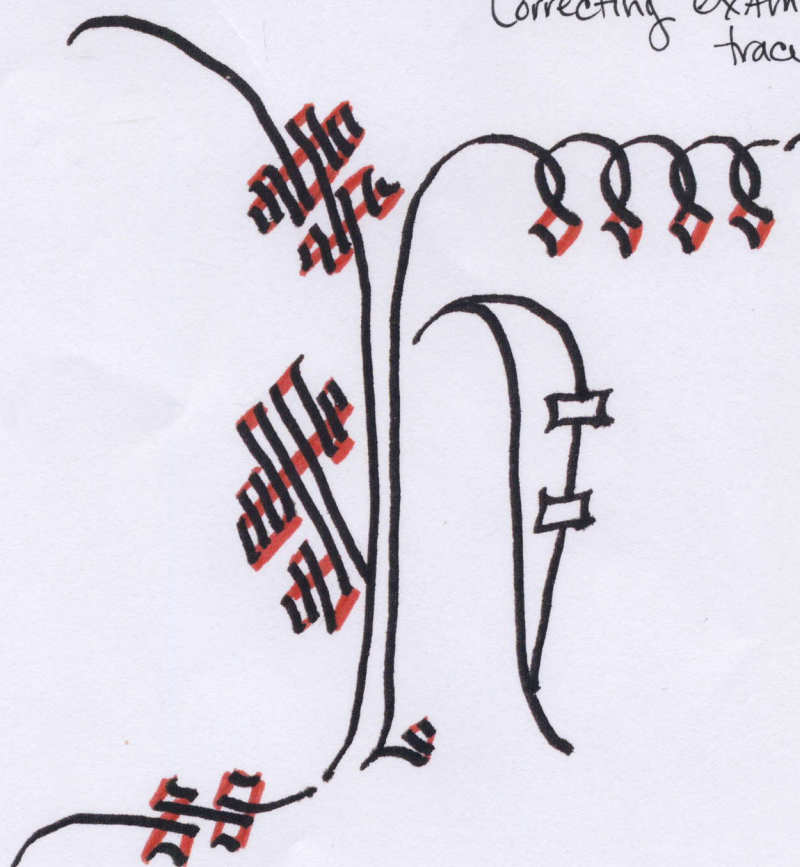
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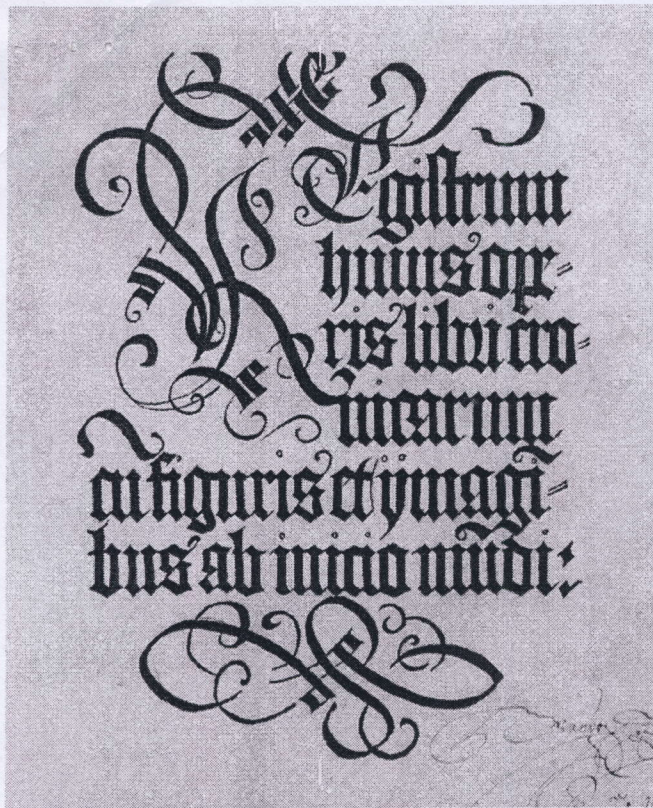
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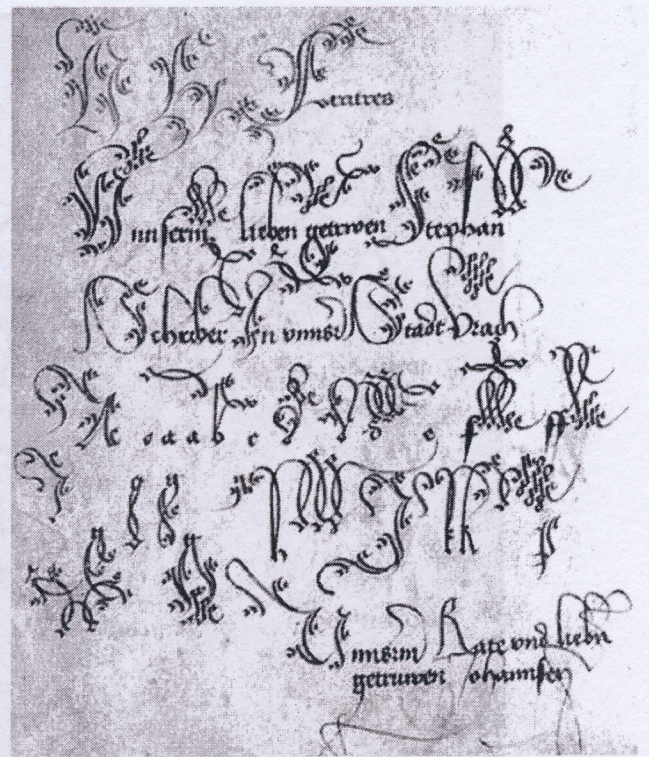


Correcting examples— when tracing, be sure to complete all the boxes & lines.

Ink has faded over time.



Cronica Cronicarum ab Initio Mundi
Schedel, Hartmann (1440-1514)
1493



The Spätgotisches Musterbuch des Stephan Schriber,
Germany 15th century



Calligraphy book written in 1592 by John Scottowe



