

Louis Madarasz

His Life & Works



Louis Madarasz
(1860-1910)

Compiled by Dr. Joseph M. Vitolo, 2014
Penman and IAMPETH Historian

Louis Madarasz
in Photographs



Madarasz from "Texas"
FROM

CHAS. T. POMEROY'S

STUDIO

CRESCENT GALLERY

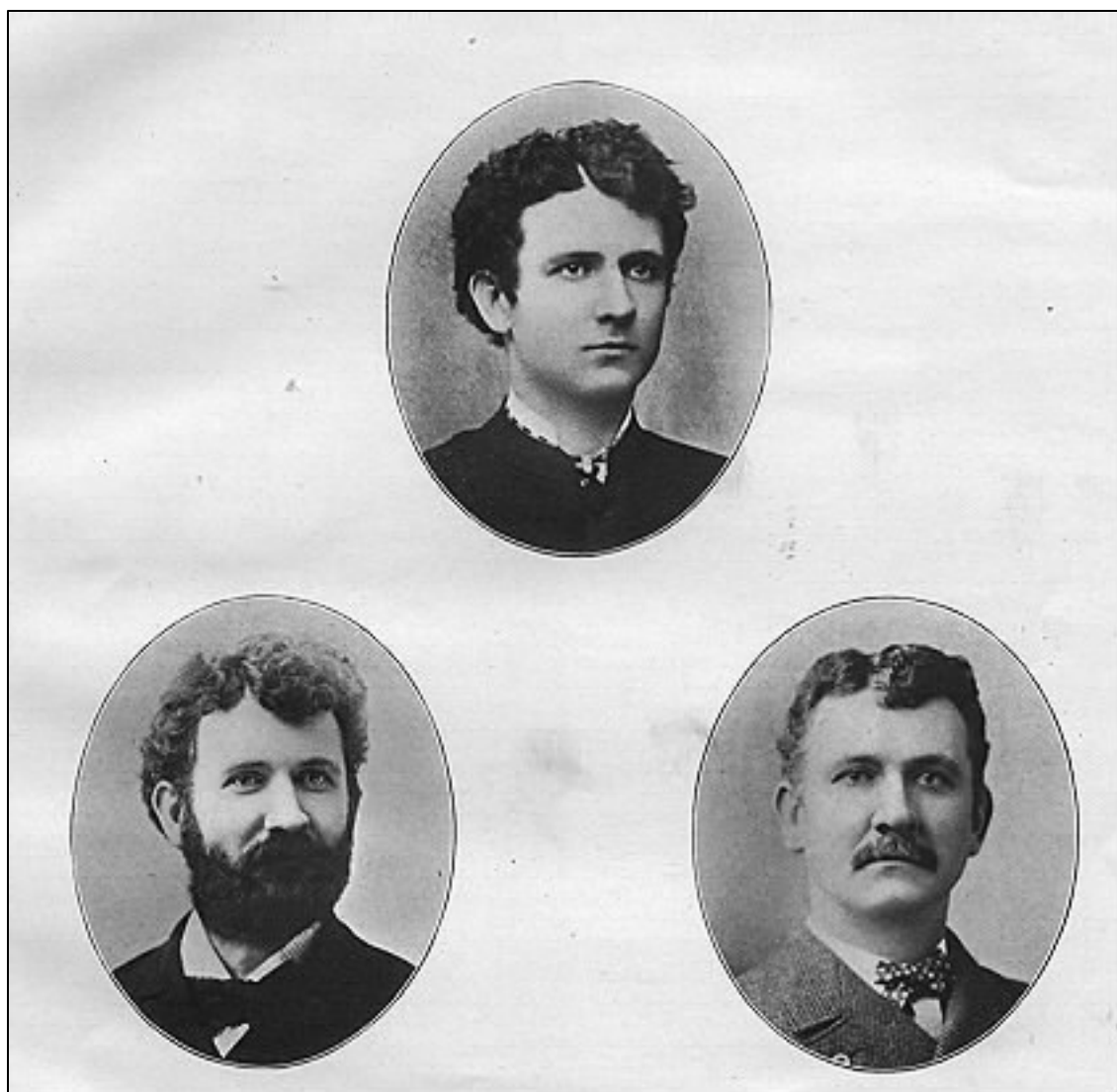
18 WEST MAIN ST.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

1881.

Madarasz the "Wiz"
Duplicate furnished
as a youth





Louis Madarasz Biography

The following biography is used with permission from Michael Sull's Spencerian Script and Ornamental Penmanship, Volume I.

Louis Madarasz (1860-1910)

The man who, above all others, is universally regarded as the most highly skilled ornamental penman that ever lived, Louis Madarasz, was born in San Antonio, Texas on January 20, 1859. He obtained a copy of Gaskell's Compendium of Penmanship when he was in his teens. Studying the text by himself, he achieved a degree of skill in ornamental writing that was remarkable for one so young. Such self-discipline and persistence were instrumental in Madarasz's desire to master the art of penmanship.

In the late 1870's he enrolled as a student at the Rochester Business University in Rochester, New York. While attending this institution, his facility with the pen earned him a reputation throughout the state. During the years that followed, Madarasz took on penmanship positions at a number of institutions. His wanderings eventually led him to Manchester, New Hampshire the location of Gaskell's penmanship school. Besides being an accomplished master penman, Gaskell was also a businessman who recognized advertising opportunities. Madarasz, whose fame as a penman was fairly widespread by this time, also recognized the opportunity to further his own skills by being associated with Gaskell. It was a good association for both men, and soon the famous signature of Madarasz appeared on the advertisements for Gaskell's Compendium. Madarasz stayed with Gaskell for several years, learning much about advertising and the business of mail order.

As time went by, Madarasz again moved from one institution and town to another. He seemed to have a restless spirit in this regard, and seldom stayed anywhere longer than a few years. He worked in Sterling, Illinois; Jersey City, New Jersey; and Poughkeepsie, New York. Regarding his social interests, he enjoyed chess and other board games, and was quite skilled at playing them. He also enjoyed the theater, not only as a spectator, but as an actor. He once studied under a professional thespian and even had a part in a stage performance. This interest was, however, only temporary in the penman's life and he soon went back to his love and profession of penmanship with greater zeal than ever before.

Over the years, Madarasz never tired of traveling, working and teaching. He had incredible energy to devote to penmanship, and the quality of his work never faltered. His speed of execution was reputed to be faster than any penman, before or since. His style was unique, a dramatic, rather heavily shaded variety of ornamental writing. It has been said that Madarasz's penmanship style was copied by more penmen than that of any other. In 1908-1909, Madarasz involved himself in a most ambitious project to earn money. He purchased large, new scrapbooks of two hundred pages each. He then filled each page of the books with his own penmanship. To do this he copied his own business letters, correspondence, writing lessons and display writing and pasted them, one by one, upon each page. He advertised them as the Madarasz Scrapbooks, and sold them for \$45; \$25 to be paid as a deposit, and then \$5 per month on the balance. In all he sold perhaps a dozen such books. Only one of these is known to be in existence today, and much of it has been reproduced in Volume Two of this text.

The last few years of Madarasz's life were spent in a business association in Goldfield, Nevada. It was there that health problems began to plague the penman. After a severe bout with pneumonia, Madarasz became diabetic and never regained his formally healthy physique. Quoting from *The Secret Of The Skill Of Madarasz*, a book published by the Zaner-Bloser Company in 1911 as a tribute to the great penman: "He passed away quietly on December 23, 1910, having on the day he was stricken written a Christmas greeting in that beautiful clean cut style of penmanship which has been copied by so many thousand aspirants during the past thirty years. At his request his body was cremated. His ashes rest in the beautiful Columbarium at Fresh Pond, Long Island. His epitaph reads:

'In memory of a brave and gentleman whose love of Truth and justice made him an Inspiration to all who knew him. He put his house in order, his work was done.'

Two of the earliest known
specimens from a young
Louis Madarasz



One of the earliest known specimens from Madarasz



If not called for in 10 days, return to the
Champion Boy Henman
 of the U. S., who *WRITES* 1 doz. cards in a style that
 please U. for 20c. 25 for 38c. 12 Pen Flourished
 cards, (no 2 alike,) something artistic, each card a
 pair, for 20c. *All the rage,* black cards and white ink
 people say "they are nobby" 25c. a doz. Elegant
 samples and circular, 15c. Satisfaction Guaranteed by
 I. MADARASZ, *Penman.*

Box 164.

One of the earliest known specimens from Madarasz

N.Y. Mar. 27. 1855.

J. C. Persons. Esq.,

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your favor and in reply would say. Gaskell's Compendium were the only copies I practiced from. I cannot now tell how much the Youth's Companion paid me. I receive as high as fifteen dollars a day. but the average is much less, on account of dull times everywhere. - I can see no reason why you could not become a star penman.

Very truly,
I. Madarasz.

The Ornamental Penmanship of Louis Madarasz

Many of the specimens in the following pages were taken from The IAMPETH Archives.

Arizona

Business

Cashier

Dangerous

Engravings

Famous

Georgia

Honduras

Insurance

January

Kalamazoo

Louisiana

Manufacture

Newmanite

Chicars

Penman

Quincey

Romantic

Necessari

Tennessee

Quincey

Romantic

Necessarian

Tennessee

United States

Victoria

Writing

Davies

Yamagata

Janerian

Sinis

The best
School of Penmanship
is
The Zanerian Art College,
of
Columbus, Ohio.

Go to it!

MADARASZ

Davidson

MADARASZ

Washington — "four square
to all the winds," grave,
thoughtful, proof against
the wiles of British strategy and
the poisoned darts of false
friends; clear-seeing over the
heads of his fellow-country-
men — the most colossal world-
figure of his time.

Rome perched Nero
upon the greatest throne on earth,
and so set up a poor madman's
name for countless centuries as
the synonym of savage cruelty.

J. Kane, Esq.
Tribune Building,
New York

L. MADARASZ

The ²Printer's
Art Journal

Some Off-Hand Dashes by L. Madarasz.

The best
penmanship school
The Zanerian College.
Columbus.

L. MADARASZ

Lincoln - The greatest human
in all history; The gentlest memory
of our world.

G. A. Grimes.

L. MADARASZ

Knockville, Tennessee,

Oct. 21. 1909.

Friend Ransom,

I am handing you this as an example of my ornate writing, and hope that it may be satisfactory in every way.

I am much gratified to know that you are meeting with such success with your correspondence school, and trust it will always continue.

With my very best wishes.

Sincerely,

L. Madaritz

Then, pilgrim, turn, thy cares forego,
All earthborn cares are wrong;
Man wants but little here below,
Nor wants that little long.

Alas! the joys that fortune brings
Are trifling and decay;
And those that prize the paltry things
More trifling still than they.

And what is friendship but a name,
A charm that lulls to sleep;
A shade which follows wealth and fame,
And leaves the wretch to weep?

There is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune.

American Art College,

Columbus,

Ohio.

See Europe if you will, but
see America first.

The pen, the pen, the brave old pen,
Which stamped our thoughts of yore,
Through its bold tracings oft again
Our thoughts still freshly pour.

L. MADARASZ

Bismarck—overbearing, gruff,
a giant pugilist in the diplomatic
arena, laughed with grim disdain
at France, which said, "You
shall not."

L. MADARASZ

The beauty of the home
is order—
The blessing of the home
is contentment—
The glory of the home
is hospitality—
The crown of the home
is godliness—

The pen, the pen, the brave old pen,
Which stamped our thoughts of yore,
Through its bold tracings, oft again
Our thoughts still freshly pour.

Sounds which address the ear
are lost and die
In one short hour.

but that which strikes the eye
lives long upon the mind;
The faithful sight
Engraves the knowledge
with a beam of light.



A. Burnett.

Lincoln measured in dollars
and cents was a failure, measured
by character, a world's standard.

Theo. Sumner.

Gaines. Spencer. M. W. B.

P. S. Warner. L. M. S.

W. W. Bennett. C. H. Jones.

Signatures and Envelope Address.

By L. MADARASZ.

A. Beck. J. C. Barlow.

From
Madarasz
New York.

NEW YORK, N.Y. STAMP
DEC. 10
3⁰⁰ P.M.
1903

2
P

J. Harman.
Stonington, Conn.

L. A. Rogers. G. P. Healey.

W. W. Kenworthy.

A. P. Root W. Spencer A. East.

D. H. Mueschahn.

1218 Chambers St. Louis, Mo.

T. D. Davis

R. J. Hollins

A. Beaudet.

E. S. Flick.

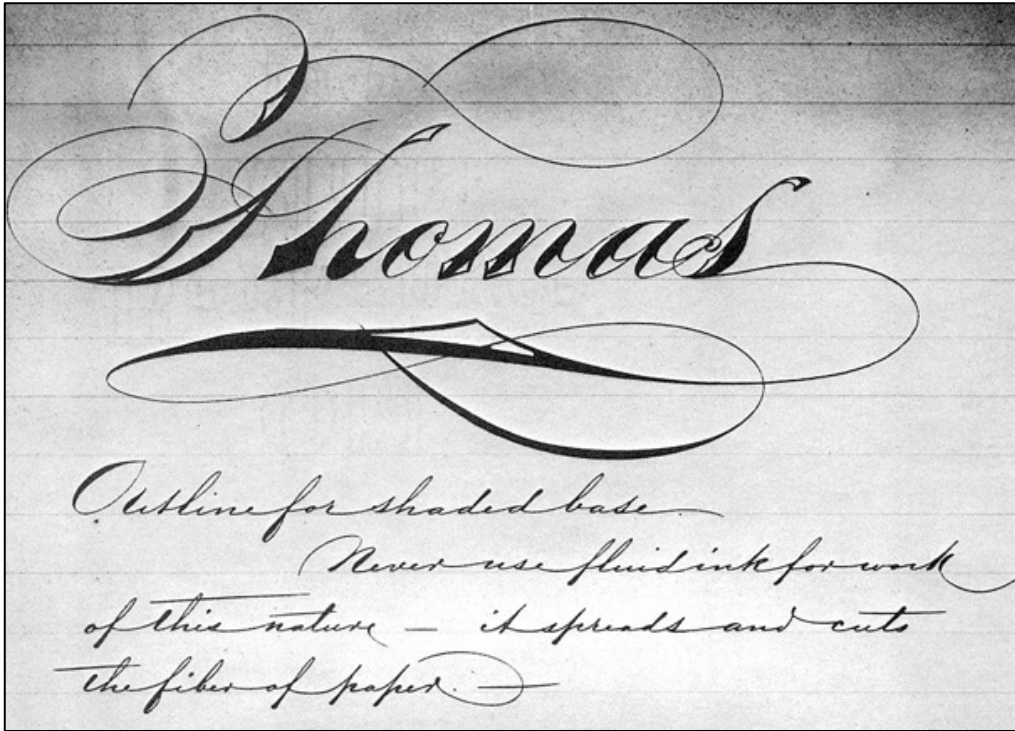
L. Madarasz.

D E F G H I
J K L M N O P Q
R S T U V W X Y Z

Great Capitals - Madarász.
NEW YORK

By L. MADARÁSZ.

Engelberg
Linn



Count that day lost
Whose low, descending sun,
Views from thy hand
No worthy action done.

Kind hearts are gardens:
Kind thoughts are roots:
Kind words are flowers,
Kind deeds are fruits.

The Offhand Flourishing
of
Louis Madarasz

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