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The Art of Writing

By [Gena Ng](#)

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The fountain pen evokes a time when writing was a treasured way of communicating. Thoughts were expressed using a nib gracefully gliding on white linen paper. Whether it was a note, a greeting card or memo, the hand-to-mind connection transmitted stronger emotions as the writer carefully composed every letter and word.

The digital age may seem to have diminished the need for old-school pen-and-paper writing method with tech gadgets that make it easier to instantly convey thoughts by tapping on tablets and keyboards, or by using a stylus to scribble messages. But if you imagine touch keypads having rendered writing obsolete, think again.

You just might be missing out on a valuable experience.

"Something happens when you use a fountain pen. Writing becomes an art," says Andreas Boesch, managing director of Montblanc, South East Asia. Now in his 40s, he remembers using the writing instrument for the first time when he was in primary school.



The fountain pen epitomises the elegance of the written word. (Photo: Gena Ng, Premier)

"You sit down, you take the time to put your thoughts, to put what you want to express into words. So it's a part of you, it's a part of your personality." No amount of digital prowess, it seems, can replace the satisfaction from the physical act of writing, and no other writing instrument draws a stronger emotional connection for the writer than a fountain pen.

German pen maker Montblanc has been producing impeccable fountain pens since 1906. Over the years, it has developed and created high-quality writing instruments that many have tried to copy. Its most iconic series, the Meisterstück (German for Masterpiece), debuted in 1924 and has since been a cornerstone for Montblanc.

"Over the years, we have accumulated knowledge in this old craft," muses Boesch. "Can you imagine how many millions of fountain pens we have produced over the decades? And each piece is individually manufactured, handmade, and tested by hand."

The nib of Montblanc's flagship fountain pen — made of 18-carat gold — is painstakingly crafted by hand in 35 skilled steps. It is next tested by a special quality control department that's made up of only women, whose delicate ears listen for any unpleasant scratching sounds while test-writing the pens, and whose watchful eyes ensure that the ink flows in a consistent line.



Each nib is made of gold and skilfully crafted by hand. (Photo: Montblanc)

The Meisterstück is the ultimate symbol in writing instruments, and not just because of its timeless craftsmanship. It signifies all the values that Montblanc stands for — tradition, storytelling, elegance, and preservation. Every Montblanc pen created carries these values and continues to uphold the brand's commitment to the culture of writing to this day.

Despite the rise of modern tech gadgets, the fountain pen has not lost its lustre.

Standing the test of time, the fountain pen remains a meaningful companion to many. There is a growing number of elite collectors who are constantly on the look out for the finest timeless icons to add to their personal collection.

Special edition writing instruments are especially noted by collectors.

Montblanc's latest limited edition is the 'John F. Kennedy' that pays homage to the late American president. Encapsulating his life and achievements, the blue precious resin represents his US Navy career, the platinum-plated clip carry engraved JFK initials and the three platinum-plated rings on the cap represent his three brothers.



The John F. Kennedy Edition pays tribute to the former US president's life and achievements. (Photo: Montblanc)

The 'John F. Kennedy' series is just one of Montblanc's exclusive 'Great Characters' assemblage that honours 'great figures from history' such as Leonardo da Vinci, Albert Einstein, Alfred Hitchcock and Mahatma Gandhi.

In celebration of the Meisterstück's 90th anniversary in 2014, Montblanc has also created a commemorative collection. Featuring new Meisterstück writing instruments, the collection epitomises the company's rich heritage in superior artisanal craftsmanship and flawless elegance in design.

But there are those who love Montblanc simply for being an elegant unique piece of writing instrument created in a tradition that has lasted for more than a century.

Boesch still keeps the first fountain pen that he bought when he entered university at the end of 1990, a black Meisterstück Classique.

"I have it with me up till this day, and it's still working. It has become a part of me," he proudly declares.



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