

**TEXT-BOOK OF LIGHT-LINE SHORTHAND:
A PRACTICAL, PHONETIC SYSTEM,
WITHOUT SHADING, FOR BUSINESS,
CORRESPONDENCE, AND VERBATIM
REPORTING, SPECIALLY ADAPTED TO
THE USE OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES**

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Text-Book of Light-Line Shorthand: A Practical, Phonetic System, Without Shading, for Business, Correspondence, and Verbatim Reporting, Specially Adapted to the Use of Schools and Colleges by Roscoe L. Eames

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ROSCOE L. EAMES

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BY
ROSCOE L. EAMES,
STENOGRAPHER.



A. S. BARNES & COMPANY,
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1883.

INTRODUCTION.

THE System of Light-line Shorthand is thoroughly and exhaustively presented in this volume. It has now passed through four editions, the first two being in lesson slips, and the third in pamphlet form. After years of study, experiment, and use, during which it has been subjected to the most thorough practical test in the different branches of reporting, Light-line Shorthand, a harmonious and complete whole, is now adequately brought to the notice of learners, and placed within reach of all who may wish to acquire the art of verbatim reporting.

The illustrations are very copious, and both in variety and quantity, are unprecedented in any previous text-book, there being 58 pages of engraved shorthand matter, furnishing an admirable school for practice to the student of Stenography.

The Vocabulary of upwards of 4,500 words and phrases, is ample, and together with the examples embodied in the lessons, gives command of a large proportion of the words used in extemporaneous speaking, besides furnishing abundant analogies for all other words.

The lessons are arranged on the plan of closely combining precept and example. Every principle is practically illustrated, and examples for practice are introduced in the text where they belong, thus demanding attention, and securing the practice which is indispensable to success.

The greatest care has been exercised to present no word to be written until the principles which control the formation of the outline have been explained. Only one style is taught, and that the reporting style, the pupil being conducted by a series of graduated exercises, from the alphabet to the acquirement of all the principles of contraction. The correct and permanent consonant outline is given when a word is first presented, so that the student is freed from the task of afterwards unlearning it, in order to acquire a new and better one. The so-called "Corresponding Style" of shorthand is considered entirely unnecessary for any practical purpose.

The lessons have been prepared with special reference to the necessities of the school and college, and the labor required on the part of the teacher has been reduced to a minimum. This feature enhances, rather than lessens, the desirability of the book as a self-instructor.

A brief statement of the features of the system may be appropriate: It is written without a single *shaded* character; it assigns horizontal and slanting upward curves to the representation of the most frequently recurring sounds; the cognate sounds are represented by lines struck in the same direction, but *short* and *long* for the *whispered* and

voiced sounds respectively; the signs are never halved nor lengthened, and only three sizes of stems are used, namely, tick, short, and long; the system is unapproachable in ease of execution, and its exceeding legibility is largely consequent from this flexibility, for an outline that is easily executed is not liable to be distorted when written at a high rate of speed; six stems may be struck in two directions, thus securing the greatest possible lineality, and, together with the frequency of curved lines, insuring acute angles in almost all cases where angles are necessary. The system conforms to the great law of *Curve Motion*, which is also the law of muscular motion.

The Connecting Hook of this system cuts the Gordian Knot of bad joinings, and renders otherwise awkward and difficult forms as rapid and legible as any.

The absence of shading, *per se*, adds at least twenty-five per cent. to speed, and fifty per cent. to legibility.

The true status of Phrase-writing is herein fixed, and that much-vaunted practice relieved from the empiricism and obscurity in which it has been shrouded. Instead of the wholesale advice too often proffered by shorthand authors, to phrase under all conceivable circumstances, its real value and mode of application is plainly stated.

A valuable arrangement of Connective Vowels is presented—the result of two years labor in this particular direction, after a practical knowledge of all modern schemes of a like nature. They combine the advantages of joining, and “pointing in,” and may be generally connected where

most needed, at the beginning or end of words of but one consonant sound. The vowel sounds of the language are subjected to a rigorous practical analysis, and the assignment of material to their representation, and their grouping in three positions, will be found of the utmost value to the verbatim reporter.

The system presents an entirely new arrangement of Stenographic Principles of Contraction, making improved use of the old, and introducing new and valuable material. It is chiefly in consequence of this that the objectionable features of *shading* and *halving* have been successfully eliminated. In this connection reference is made more especially to the Medium-sized circle, the Inclosed circle, the Divided circle, the Large loop, the Extension curl, the Lengthening principle, and the Compound curve.

As a single illustration of the improved use of material, it may be stated that the medium-sized circle (equally as valuable as the small circle) is assigned in Phonography to the sound of *ss* or *sz*, occurring only five times in 1,400 words, while in the New System that circle is assigned to the sound of *N*, occurring about 500 times in 1,400 words. This material is as good as thrown away in Phonography.

Aside from the advantage of light lines, the new system is manifestly superior in its lineality, and in its desirable frequency of acute angles. Among other points of superiority, Light-line Shorthand provides the best forms for the most common words, and gives the shorter form for the shorter combination of sounds, and *vice versa*.

From long experience, the Author's facilities for teaching by mail make this method fully equal to personal instruction. Although the book is a thorough self-instructor, yet a course of lessons by a competent teacher will many times repay their cost in the abridgment of the time necessary for the acquirement of the system.

Teachers should use their own judgment in the assignment of lessons, though in the first part of the book they are believed to be fairly proportioned. Subsequent lessons are made longer or shorter, in order to exhaust the particular subject only of which they treat.

Good materials for practice are ruled paper, with lines at least one-third of an inch apart, with but little gloss on the surface, and a pencil of medium quality. Pen and ink may be used if desirable, but their employment is exceptional among reporters.

I acknowledge my indebtedness in the elaboration of this system to the various Phonographic and other writers on Shorthand, and especially to John Brown Smith, that bold pioneer in the new era of Stenography, whose original and acute mind first perceived and applied the scientific principles of Curve Motion in shorthand writing.

BOSCOE L. EAMES.

SAN FRANCISCO, *January, 1835.*

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