

# **ECLECTIC SHORTHAND**

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Eclectic Shorthand by J. G. Cross

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**J. G. CROSS**

**ECLECTIC  
SHORTHAND**



## THE ADVANTAGES OF ECLECTIC SHORT-HAND.

We claim that the demonstration of the following four propositions is an unanswerable argument why the short-hand student should adopt Eclectic Short-hand:

1. It is the briefest.
2. It is the simplest.
3. It is the easiest to write.
4. It is the most legible.

### DEMONSTRATION OF THE PROPOSITIONS.

PROP. 1.—In December, 1880, *Browne's Phonographic Monthly*, then the leading stenographic journal, published comparisons of twenty-five of the best systems in existence, giving the writing, in all the systems, of a stanza of five lines. The Eclectic writing of the stanza contained, by actual computation, 14 per cent less than the briefest of the others (Graham's), and 49 per cent less than the longest (Lindsley's), and was 30 per cent briefer than the average of all of them; *hence the briefest system.*

PROP. 2.—It is the only system of the twenty-five which is based on the English alphabet. It contains less than fifty word signs, and has no exceptions to rules; *hence the simplest system.*

PROP. 3.—It is the only system of the twenty-five which dispenses with vertical characters, writing with characters in three directions instead of four, and the only system of connective vowels similar in form to the consonants, and with a single exception the only light-line system; *hence the easiest system to write.*

PROP. 4.—It is the only system of the twenty-five that makes as free use of vowels as of consonants, and while writing words with less strokes, still by its principles writes words more fully and with less memorizing of word signs than any other of the twenty-five. It also has no vertical strokes to become confounded in rapid writing with similar oblique characters; *hence the most legible system.*

To add strength to our demonstration we give the writing of the Lord's Prayer by both the Pitmans, Graham, Munson, Lindsley, Pernin, and Eclectic Shorthand, and we ask attention to the more uniform direction of the characters in the Eclectic, their easier combinations, and the fewer number of strokes, while the Eclectic writing writes more of the sounds than either of the others. L. Pitman's has 107; B. Pitman's, 93; Graham's, 88; Munson's, 90;

*ADVANTAGES OF ECLECTIC SHORTHAND—Cont'd.*

Lindsley's, 96; Pernin's, 93; and the Eclectic, 66 strokes. Adding together the strokes of all but Eclectic, we have 569; dividing by 6, we find the average is 94.5, from which subtracting the strokes in the Eclectic we have 28.5, which is 43 per cent. of the Eclectic writing, and 30 per cent. of the average of the six.

<i>Isaac Pitman.</i>		107.
<i>Benn Pitman.</i>		93.
<i>Graham.</i>		88.
<i>Munson.</i>		90.
<i>Lindsley.</i>		96.
<i>Pernin.</i>		93.
<i>Eclectic.</i>		66.

## A SUCCESS IN AMANUENSIS WORK.

"With less than two months' instruction, I could report any ordinarily rapid speaker."—C. Q. THORPE, *Chariton, Iowa.*

"With a comparatively small amount of study, in three months I acquired a speed of 135 words per minute."—J. E. CHALLENGER, *Stenographer with Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, Philadelphia.*

"After one month's lessons in Eclectic Short-hand, and some daily practice for two months, I could easily write 150 words a minute."—E. ELOISE BAKER, *Stenographer with The Current, Chicago.*

"At the end of four weeks' study I found myself able to write faster, and to transcribe more readily, than I could after studying Munson's system four months. I studied Munson under a very able stenographer. *This system I have studied alone.*"—H. G. STRINE, *Stenographer with Union Pacific Railway, Omaha.*

"After less than two weeks' instruction in Eclectic Short-hand, without any previous knowledge except a partial knowledge of the principles, I was able to use it with the greatest satisfaction in general correspondence work, and have never experienced the least trouble in transcribing my notes."—W. A. SMOLLINGER, *Covenant Mutual Benefit Ass'n, Galesburg, Ill.*

"The comparative ease with which the Eclectic Short-hand is written is truly wonderful. I am now writing 160 to 170 words per minute."—W. W. WHITE, *Stenographer to N. & G. Taylor Co., Philadelphia.*

"I have frequently written at the rate of 180 words a minute, afterward reading my notes with the same facility as though taken at a moderate speed."—JOHN F. STETLER, *1921 Walnut St., Philadelphia.*

"I commenced the study of Eclectic Short-hand the 12th of June, and on the 15th of August following I accepted a position as amanuensis with one of the largest firms in Chicago, which position I still hold. The system is easily acquired, and is just the thing for practical work."—JENNIE A. WELLS, *Stenographer to McCormick Harvesting Machine Co., Chicago.*

"I have had an Eclectic employed in my office for over a year, and I have never yet had to have a transcript rewritten or corrected on account of misinterpretation of the notes. From the experience I have had with the system, I consider it one that can be rapidly written, and read like print."—J. E. STUART, *Postoffice Inspector, Chicago.*

The lady referred to, in two months' study, reported and transcribed a speech delivered in court at the rate of 1,637 words the first five minutes, or an average of over 300 words per minute.

"I have devoted one-half of my time during a period of three months to the study of Eclectic Short-hand, and have had occasion to apply it daily in taking from rapid dictation letters pertaining to *five distinct branches of business*, frequently where the *mistake of one word would have been vital* to the transaction under consideration, and have found the system rapid, legible, and perfectly reliable. I believe it simply impossible to overestimate its utility to anyone contemplating a thorough business education."—C. R. SMITH, *North Dakota Loan and Trust Co., Jamestown, Dak.*

## A SUCCESS IN COURT REPORTING

WHERE THE GREATEST ACCURACY AND SPEED ARE REQUIRED.

**From the Hon. J. J. Phillips, Judge of Fifth Circuit Court, Ill.:** "I have had reporters on the *Chicago Times*, *Missouri Republican*, and *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* report speeches made by myself, whose work was nothing like as correct as that done by Eclectic students in court under my observation."

**From the Hon. Owen T. Reeves, Judge of Eleventh Circuit Court, Ill.:** "Mrs. C. P. Remine, an Eclectic writer, has been engaged as a short-hand reporter in this Circuit Court several years. I have examined the transcripts of her notes taken in cases tried by me, and I regard her a competent short-hand reporter in taking evidence."

**From the Hon. N. F. Pillsbury, Judge of Eleventh Circuit Court, Ill.:** "After a term of about three months, one lesson daily, in Eclectic Short-hand, my daughter is able to correctly report as fast as an average speaker will talk, and appears to have no difficulty in reading the notes afterwards."

**From Gen. John McNulta, Master in Chancery, Bloomington, Ill.:** "In October, 1883, Miss Shinn was called upon to report a case before me. Her services were called for with much reluctance on my part, as I was informed that she had devoted but about ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ to the study of Eclectic Short-hand. Since that time she has done substantially all the reporting of the contested chancery cases before me. Her speed is adequate, and her reports are absolutely accurate verbatim reports. She reads her notes when called upon with as much ease and facility as she would a printed article from a newspaper, and reads old notes with as much ease as fresh ones. I have never known a stenographer who wrote more accurately, or who read with as much facility."

**From Miss Mary S. Minor, Court Stenographer, Dallas, Texas:** "After a series of six lessons, and a few hours' daily study for three months, I was able to report court testimony, and to read my notes as readily as long-hand. Such is the simplicity of its construction, the flexibility of its lines, and its perfect legibility, that the work necessary to attain verbatim speed is *only practice*." [Miss Minor writes 160 words a minute.]

**From Sims Ely, Official Reporter Eighth Judicial District, Kas.:** "Having used the Eclectic system in court reporting, I speak advisedly when I say that it is fully capable of meeting every possible requirement. As to the time required to learn the system, I regard it as settled beyond controversy—not alone by my experience, but that of others known to me—that all the proficiency requisite for general reporting of every description, can be acquired in three months of constant study."

**From E. L. Davidson, Official Reporter Nineteenth Judicial District, Kas.:** "In my examination for this position I averaged 160 words per minute for five consecutive minutes." [He had studied but ten weeks.]

**From E. B. Sherman, Master in Chancery, Circuit Court of the U. S., Chicago:** "Miss Kate S. Holmes has been doing stenographic work in my office for several months, and although without previous experience, except in ordinary office matters, is doing very satisfactory work. Judged by its practical results, the Eclectic system must possess some positive merit, and one desiring to acquire the stenographic art should carefully examine its claims."



# ECLECTIC SHORTHAND DICTIONARY

GIVING THE

Phonetic and Shorthand Equivalents of  
the Primitive words, and the various  
classes of Derivative words of the  
English language.

— ALSO —

Several Vocabularies of Technical Terms.

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By J. G. CROSS, M. A.

AUTHOR OF ECLECTIC SHORTHAND.

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382 Pages. Sent, Postpaid, on Receipt of Price, \$3.

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This work is intended to be an authoritative writing of the language according to Eclectic Shorthand, and is invaluable to every writer of the system. It should especially be the constant companion of every learner, as the acquisition of the art will thereby be rendered much easier, more rapid and certain.

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"I have carefully examined it, and must say that it surpasses my most sanguine expectations, both in the selection of information and in its mechanical make-up. It is a book that should be in the hands of every Eclectic writer, not only the beginner, but also the experienced reporter."— *Prof. Amos Rosenberger, St. Paul, Minn.*

"The student who has a copy of Cross' Shorthand Dictionary by his side will never be without a ready and perfect instructor, while to those whose business demands a large number of railway, insurance, law, or medical terms, it will prove itself of incalculable value."— *D. H. Case, Official Reporter, 21st Judicial District, Kansas.*

# Eclectic Shorthand Dictionary.

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"It will be particularly beneficial to beginners, on account of the phonic spelling given."—*Prof. M. B. Wicks, Philadelphia, Pa.*

"The Dictionary is indispensable to the student, and of inestimable value to the expert."—*Robert L. Davidson, Official Reporter, 19th Judicial District, Kansas.*

"It brings the mastery of shorthand writing within the comparatively easy possession of those who are only able to buy a copy each of the text book and Dictionary, and study at home, or while pursuing some other employment."—*C. W. Taylor, Telegraphic Institute, Janesville, Wis.*

"To the student this work is simply indispensable. Every practical reporter, also, will find in its pages many 'pointers' and 'short cuts' hitherto unthought of."—*Sims Ely, Court Reporter, 8th Judicial District, Kansas.*

"Writers of Eclectic Shorthand will welcome this book. For the completion of any series of shorthand text books a dictionary is indispensable, and this Dictionary is one of the best of its kind. The plan of the work is admirable, the primitive words being given first in a body, with an occasional derivative, the writing of which is important; then come the derivatives, classified according to the prefix or the suffix which they are intended to illustrate; after these are several vocabularies of technical words, including commercial, railway, insurance, law, and medical terms, which those who are fitting themselves for office dictation work will find especially useful. Each outline is marked with an italic letter, showing the position in which it is to be written. The book will be useful to the advanced writer of Eclectic Shorthand, because it will show him the best outlines for uncommon words, and will often help him to read a carelessly written outline. The student of the system who shall write the Dictionary through, will have the best grounding in its principles that any teacher can give."—*The Writer, a monthly magazine for literary workers, Boston, Mass.*

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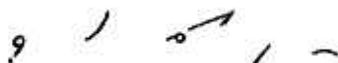
WRITING BY PRINCIPLES INSTEAD OF  
ARBITRARY SIGNS,

FOR GENERAL USE AND VERBATIM REPORTING.

By J. G. CROSS, M.A.

PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL COLLEGE OF ECLECTIC SHORTHAND, CHICAGO.  
AUTHOR OF DICTIONARY OF ECLECTIC SHORTHAND.

WRITING IS THE CONSERVATOR OF THOUGHT.



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