

Donald Jackson Calligrapher/Artistic Director

Donald Jackson was born in Lancashire, England in 1938 and is considered one of the world's foremost Western calligraphers. At the age of 13, he won a scholarship to art school where he spent six years studying drawing, painting, design and the traditional Western calligraphy and illuminating. He completed his post-graduate specialization in London.

From an early age he sought to combine the use of the ancient techniques of the calligrapher's art with the imaginary and spontaneous letter forms of his own time. As a teenager his first ambition was to be "The Queen's Scribe" and a close second was to inscribe and illuminate the Bible.



His talents were soon recognized. At the age of 20, while still a student himself, he was appointed a visiting lecturer (professor) at the Camberwell College of Art, London. Within six years he became the youngest artist calligrapher chosen to take part in the Victoria and Albert Museum's first International Calligraphy Show after the war and appointed a scribe to the Crown Office at the House of Lords. In other words, he became "The Queen's Scribe."

Since then, in conjunction with a wide range of other calligraphic projects, he has continued to execute Historic Royal documents including Letters Patent under The Great Seal and Royal Charters. He was decorated by the Queen with the Medal of The Royal Victorian Order (MVO) which is awarded for personal services to the Sovereign in 1985.




Jackson is an elected Fellow and past Chairman of the prestigious Society of Scribes and Illuminators, and in 1997, Master of 600-year-old Guild of Scriveners of the city of London. His personally innovative work and inspirational teaching, together with books, a film series and exhibitions in Europe, North America, Puerto Rico, Australia and China have led to his being widely acknowledged as a seminal influence on the growth of Western calligraphy over the past 25 years. In 1980, he wrote *The Story of Writing* which has since been published in many editions and seven languages. His 30-year retrospective exhibition, *Painting With Words*, premiered at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts in Minneapolis, Minnesota in August 1988 and traveled to thirteen museums and galleries.

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**Donald Jackson Bio
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Since the time of his first lectures in New York and Puerto Rico (1968), Donald Jackson has been a very stimulating influence on the growth of modern Western calligraphy in the United States through the many workshops and lectures he has given. It was the first of the International Assembly of Lettering Artists seminars, inspired by Jackson, which brought him to Saint John's University for the first time in 1981. He has since attended and lectured at several other of these annual Assemblies including those held at Saint John's University in 1984 and 1990. Jackson returned again to Saint John's in the summer of 1996 to serve as one of the keynote speakers at Servi Textus: The Servants of the Text, a symposium which included a calligraphy exhibition featuring Jackson's work along with that of other artists, many of whom were his past students and past associates of his atelier.

Jackson's studio/workshop at the Calligraphy Center in Wales is the only calligraphy atelier in the United Kingdom where artist calligraphers are still regularly employed as assistants maintaining the highest traditions of his ancient art in a modern context.

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