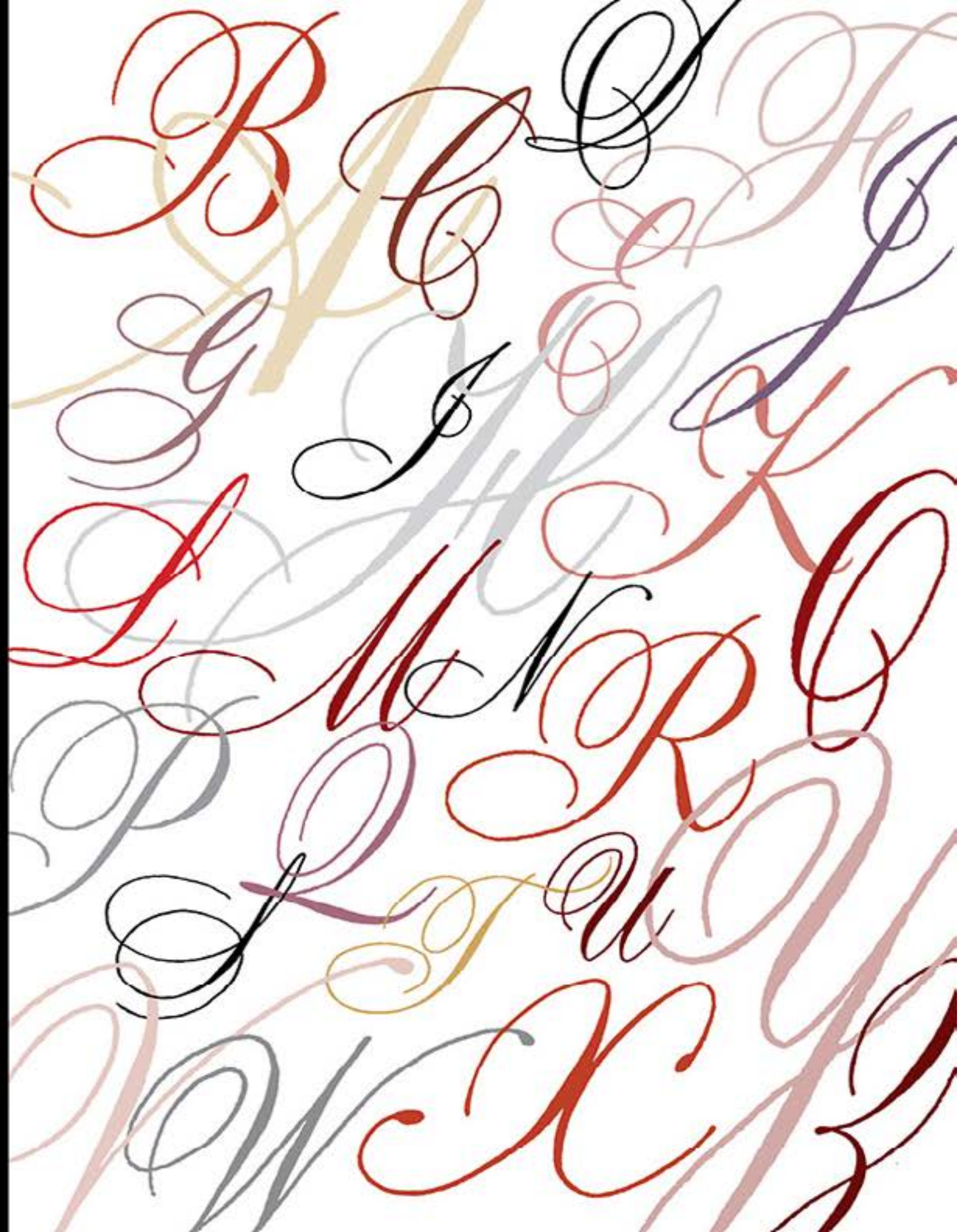




ALPHABET

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PAUL STANDARD

OUR GREAT FRIEND, Claude Dieterich Ambrosini, truly an international man of calligraphy, passed away September 18th in his last home, Lima, Peru. A Frenchman, an American, a Peruvian, as well as a teacher in several more far-flung corners of the world, he shared his love of lettering, music, and life wherever he went.

The following short bio was written by an impromptu team of his FOC friends for the email blast to members announcing the sad news, a bittersweet chorus of love and friendship that happened overnight through emails back and forth between Katie Leavens, Raoul Martinez, Dean Robino, Michael Starkman, Andrea Grimes, and Meredith Klein. Much of the information came from Juan Luis Gargurevich of Caligráfica, Claude's guild in Lima.

BORN IN AVIGNON in 1930, Claude studied design in France. After working in Paris for ten years he moved to Peru, first hired by the Feria Internacional del Pacífico (Pacific International Fair) in 1961. He then worked as an independent graphic designer approximately ten years before he was invited to direct the former Facultad de Artes Plásticas de la Universidad Católica del Perú (Faculty of Visual Arts of the Catholic University), where he taught for seven years.

In 1979, he traveled to the United States to take Hermann Zapf's summer classes (typography, calligraphy, and lettering) at the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York. He studied under Zapf for four years and was part of his last group of students. Claude settled in the US, living for two years in New York, five years in Miami (where he studied with Georgina Artigas) and 23 years in San Francisco, where he taught for the Academy of Art University of San Francisco and FOC, also working as a freelance graphic designer, retiring in 2013.

He joined FOC in 1983 and was an active participant, serving on the Council from 1994 to 1998. He designed three of our Kalligraphia logos and taught through our

Fort Mason program every year from 2004 to 2013. The many members of FOC who were his students remember his classes with great fondness and gratitude. In 2017, he was made an honorary member.

Upon his return to Peru, he dedicated himself to graphic design and promoted calligraphy through private group classes. In 2018 he was invited to become the first honorary member of the newly created Asociación Peruana de Caligrafía - CALIGRÁFICA (which he helped found). From then on, he was its main advisor. He has participated in all occurrences of Calligraphy Week in Peru. In 2024, a retrospective of his work called *Sobreviviente* (Survivor) was held in Lima.

Claude's work was featured in four issues of *Alphabet*, and he was invited to present a lecture on his work at the FOC Annual General Meeting in May, 2013, at the San Francisco Public Library before returning to Peru.

His work can be seen in the main calligraphy collections of the world, including the Richard Harrison Collection of Calligraphy and Lettering, in the Book Arts and Special Collections section of the San Francisco Public Library; and the World Museum of Calligraphy in Orehkovo, Russia.

Claude was known for his love of music. He whistled while working and was fond of putting on music, especially Latin American music, in his classes during the time when students were practicing calligraphy.

Claude shared his love of letters with friends, colleagues, and students across three continents and seven decades. We are grateful to have been a significant chapter in his history, as he was in ours.

Following are a few remembrances from friends and colleagues. We'll start with the unhappy but lovely note we received from our "sister institution," CALIGRÁFICA, the calligraphy society in Lima that Claude was instrumental in founding.

DEAR FRIENDS OF CALLIGRAPHY - It is with deep sorrow that we, at the Peruvian Calligraphy Association, Caligráfica, inform

CLAUDE DIETERICH A.

1930-2025



Photo by
Janet Olesner

Almost all work shown courtesy of SFPL's Richard

Harrison Collection of Calligraphy & Lettering. Mercil

PORTFOLIO

VOX AUDITA

PERIT

LITTERA SCRIPTA

MANET

Words: say them

and they're gone at once

but write them down

and they last forever

Alberto
Ferritelli

THE
STEP
OF
REASON

Las letras son símbolos
que transforman la materia
en espíritu

Samarine

The Friends of Calligraphy,
capitalizing on the occasion
of our 20th Anniversary,
punctuates the contributions of

and underscores
her achievements
as President from 1977 to 1979

May 7, 1995

El silencio
Es el lenguaje de Dios
Todo lo demás
Es mala traducción

Jalal al-Din Rumi

Encuen
tro de
Cultu
ras

Perspectivas
para
el mundo andino

Juliana &
Grenfel

19

In a single instant,
eighty thousand doors are created,
in a single instant
eternal time is consummated

89

M
V BUCANERO

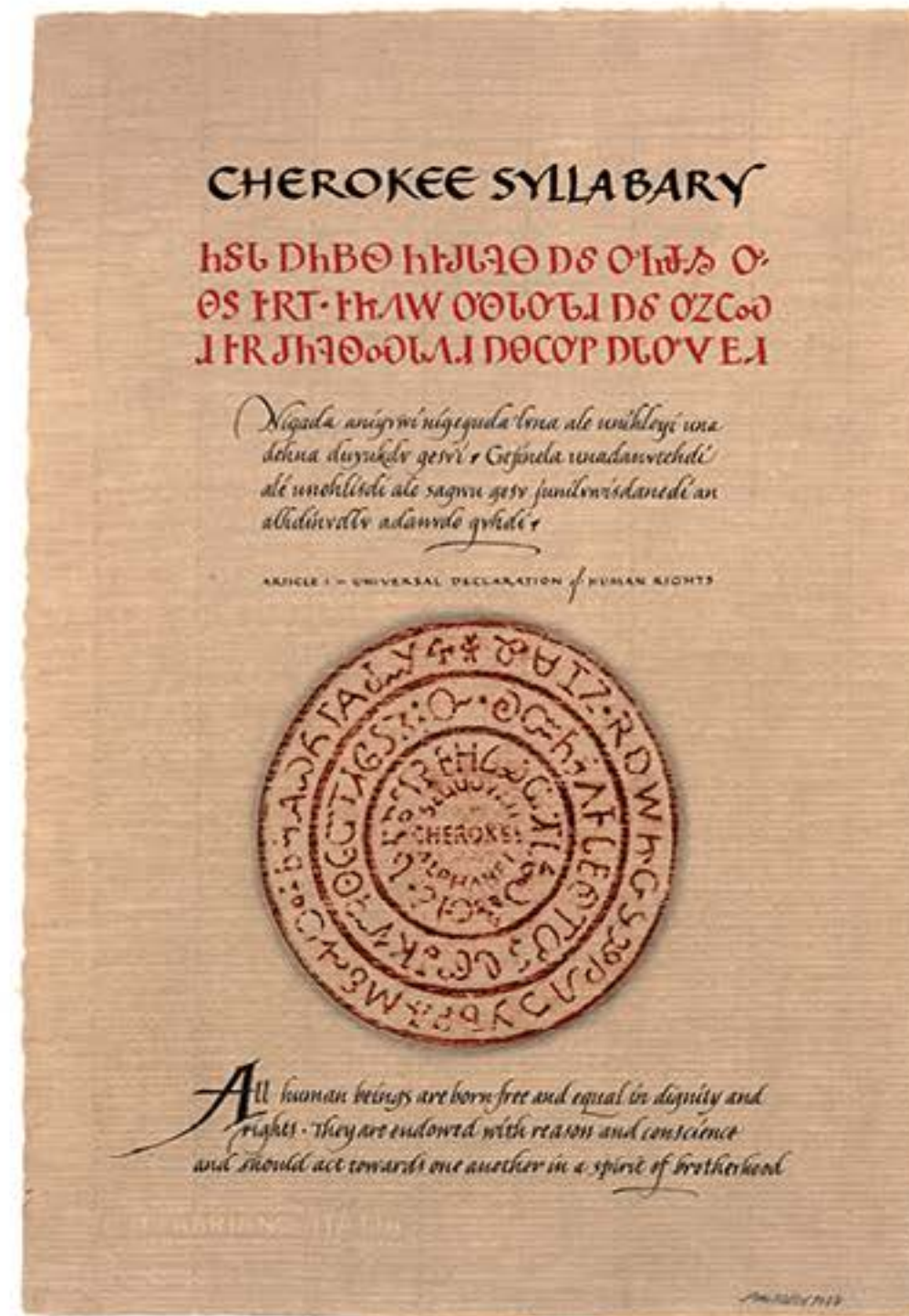


ARGENTINA





Opposite: In this carpet page, the text is from the Hávamál, and describes how Odin received the runes in an ecstatic awareness of the ability to write. Here runes form the grid, and the color offers pattern and spatial interest. The design is like the solid tree trunk of Yggdrasil.



Above: Made to draw attention to Sequoyah's story, to his Cherokee syllabary, to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to the wonderful Omniglot website where all world scripts are listed in detail. The central image is a wax rubbing of my clay trivet of the syllabary.



All captions on page 35.

