



## Congratulations On Receiving Your Authentic, One-Of-A-Kind PORCUPEN ©

Your PORCUPEN © was personally inspected before packing, and was shipped in a crushproof, 200 lb. test, Indestructo mailer. Unless an 18-wheeler ran over it, or unless you decided to open the package with an axe, your PORCUPEN © arrived in perfect condition.

### A few things to know about your PORCUPEN ©:

- These new, old-stock, antique dip-pen nibs are finished with a very fine factory oil coating to prevent rust. It is invisible and can't be felt, but it is there. Before using these nibs remove the factory oil coating so that the ink will adhere better. You can do this by dipping the nib in boiling water and then patting it dry, or by wiping the nib with rubbing alcohol. In days gone by, people would lick the nib to remove the oil coating, but that is not recommended!
- Writing with a dip-nib pen, especially if you have never done so before, is a bit of an art. Don't clench your hand, and don't press too hard on the nib. Start with a soft touch. No nib is indestructible – if you treat these nibs well, they will last (and write) for many decades.
- Two small bottles of ink have been provided to get you started. More ink, in various colours, can be purchased from your local craft or art supply store, and of course online. Make sure you purchase ink meant for dip pens.
- You'll quickly learn how deep to dip your PORCUPEN © nib into the ink, how much ink adheres to the nib, and how many words you can write with one dip. Remember that each nib is different: the amount of ink captured, the thickness of the line, the feel of the nib on the paper – all these things vary from nib to nib.
- Don't worry if you get some ink on the deerskin grip. PORCUPENS © are hand-made, and there is no reason to try to keep them in spotless condition. Likewise, if you get a bit of ink on your hands – soap and warm water should quickly solve the issue. Think of others who wrote with quill and dip-nib pens (some of the writers of the Dead Sea Scrolls, Shakespeare, the Fathers of Confederation, and Jane Austen, among many others). A little ink on your fingers is a sign that you're connecting with thinkers, writers, scientists, and artists from hundreds or even thousands of years ago.
- After you use your dip-nib pen, rinse off the ink from the nib and pat the nib dry. This will prevent any rust.
- Store your PORCUPEN © in the box it came in, or in some other way that protects both of its sharp ends.



**BODY:** Quills from Old World Porcupines (quills are a renewable, elegant, resilient resource; they are released by contact, and drop out when the porcupine shakes its body; new quills grow to replace lost or used ones). There are no species of porcupines listed as endangered.

**NIB:** New, unused, antique nibs (manufactured by various companies in the United States and England, including R. Esterbrook & Co, L. W. Holley & Son, Spencerian Pen Co. N-Y, and Joseph Gillott); the nibs are gold-plated, silverene, copper-plated, or steel.

**GRIP:** Canadian deerskin (deer are not endangered and are not subject to controls by CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora); the deerskin provides a firm, soft, textured, non-slip grip.

The porcupine quill, nib, and deerskin will last your lifetime, and beyond. Each PORCUPEN © is made by hand, and each one is unique. CAUTION: Both ends – of the porcupine quill and of the dip-nib – are sharp! Please be careful and use with caution.

The word "PORCUPEN" (for a porcupine-quill, dip-nib pen) and the associated logo are Copyright © 2018-19 by Carbon Communications Inc.

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