

James Hayes (1907-1993) was one of the first American calligraphers. He practiced professionally in Chicago for most of his long career, moving to Woodland Park, CO in 1972 in his retirement. He became the guiding light of the newly-formed Colorado Calligraphers Guild. Through his generous mentorship, he inspired the serious study of historical hands and pursuit of excellent craftsmanship. He was in demand throughout the US as a teacher for the burgeoning numbers of calligraphers in the country.

One of the treasures bequeathed to the Colorado calligraphy community after his death was an extensive collection of powdered pigments, which he no doubt used to create paint for his colored lettering. Some of these pigments are rare and antique and some are, unfortunately, toxic.

After several calligraphers selected a few pigments to experiment with, the Colorado Calligraphers Guild sought to find a museum that would appreciate the historical, artistic and scientific value of the remainder of these pigments. Fortunately, the School of Mines Mineral Museum saw the educational potential of displaying the pigments, many of which are mineral in origin.

As the museum works on developing their display, the calligraphy community looks forward to a relationship with the museum, possibly demonstrating the art of calligraphy.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to perpetuate the legacy of James Hayes, quintessential artist/craftsman.



