

J. H E R B I N

FOUNTAIN PEN INKS – J. HERBIN - REVIEW AND COLOR DESCRIPTION

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FOUNTAIN PEN INKS (La Perle Des Encres)

There are 26 colors in this range. The 30ml/1 oz bottles are beautifully designed with a color stripe on the edges of the label and a pleasing square shape. The tops are easy to screw open and the neck is wide enough to allow for the largest of fountain pens on the market. These inks seem a bit thin fresh from the bottle but make richly tinted marks after marinating in the pens for a few days where some natural evaporation occurs. Colors range from the lightest delicate yellow to a fairly dense black and include seven neutral browns and a gray. The inks all flow smoothly and fast out of the pen without bleeding and feathering on any of the test papers. Because fountain pen inks are dye-based they are more transparent than opaque as a rule which gives writing a brightness from the white (or color) of the paper surface. These inks all dry fast, although testing was performed in the New England winter where indoor air tends to be dry. There is no evidence to suggest that the drying time would be too much longer in a more humid setting. The unique color range provides a hue for any mood and personality. There are romantic pinks and natural greens and majestic blues as well as a forward red. There is a uniformity of performance over the whole group which is not true of all manufacturers. These inks are also available in cartridge form and are suitable for use with most European pen manufacturers (my Parker pens were all filled with a piston converter from the bottled ink).

These inks were amazingly lightfast. Most dye inks fade over time. After a month in the window these inks fared very well. One of the fuchsias, a blue, and two of the turquoise colors showed dramatic fading. All others held either completely or very close to the original color. These inks will disperse a bit when water is sprayed on them. They did not fade away completely in the water test and were still legible although paler.

FOUNTAIN PEN INKS (LA PERLE DES ENCREs)

Bouton D'Or – medium yellow. Improves with age in a pen

Ambre de Birmanie – transparent yellow ochre, earthy

Orange Indien – a hearty pumpkin orange, not bright like a citrus

Rouge Caroubier – true red, neither toward blue or yellow

Rouge Cyclamen – wow. Intense fuchsia

Rose Tendresse – like cyclamen but a bit lighter, subtler

Bouquet d'Antan – light wine red, towards brown

Rouge Opera – burgundy

Violette Pensee – a purple leaning toward blue

Bleu Myosotis – deep blue, towards green

Bleu Nuit – dark blue, towards navy

Éclat de Saphir – Ultramarine blue leaning slightly toward red

Bleu Pervenche – intense turquoise

Bleu Azur – lighter greenish turquoise

Diabolo Menthe – green tending towards light blue

Vert Reseda – Emerald green, leaning towards blue

Lierre Sauvage – dark leaf green

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Vert Olive – aptly named, a green toward brown

Vert Pre – soft lime green

Terre de Feu – warm brown, burnt sienna

Café des Iles – brown, chocolate

Lie de The – brown, black tea color

Cacao du Bresil – brown, sepia

Poussiere de Lune – brown, a dark purple overtone

Gris Nuage – steel gray

Perle Niore – black, dense