

The Scribe

The scribe's art;
copying a whole book,
by hand.

The letters just so
on the ruled line
or hanging from it,
depending.

Hands' work.
Parchment and paper,
ink and pen,
ruler and blade.

Yet scribe is more,
author
and editor
and artist.

Modern epigones,
teach calligraphy,
illuminate books,
vainly striving
to revive a corpse.

By hand
we write
a shopping list, or
a condolence letter,
at most.