

# PLUGGED IN

FUN FOR KIDS

A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE, PUBLISHED MONTHLY TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY, AND ART

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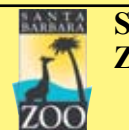
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## This Month's Theme: Manuscripts & Rubricas

A manuscript is a handwritten document. Historical events and famous people are brought to life through their writings. A manuscript can take many forms, including books, personal letters, diaries, and even legal documents such as our nation's Declaration of

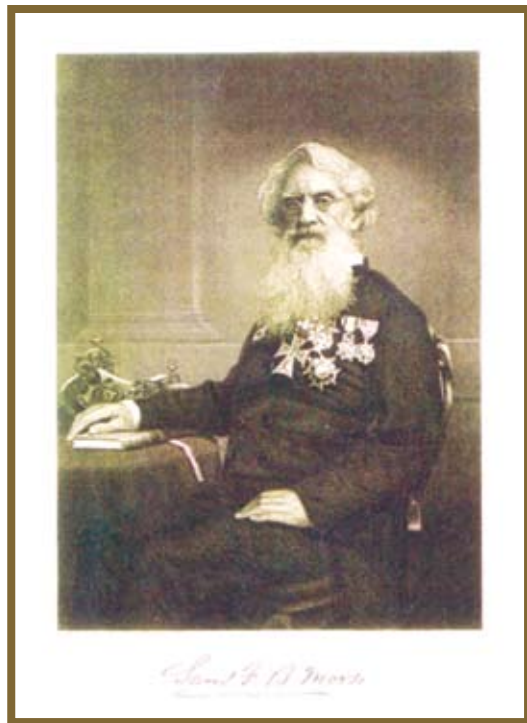
Independence. The word 'manuscript' is from the Latin words *manu scriptus*, or "written by hand." Manuscripts can also include drawings.

Have you created any manuscripts of your own?

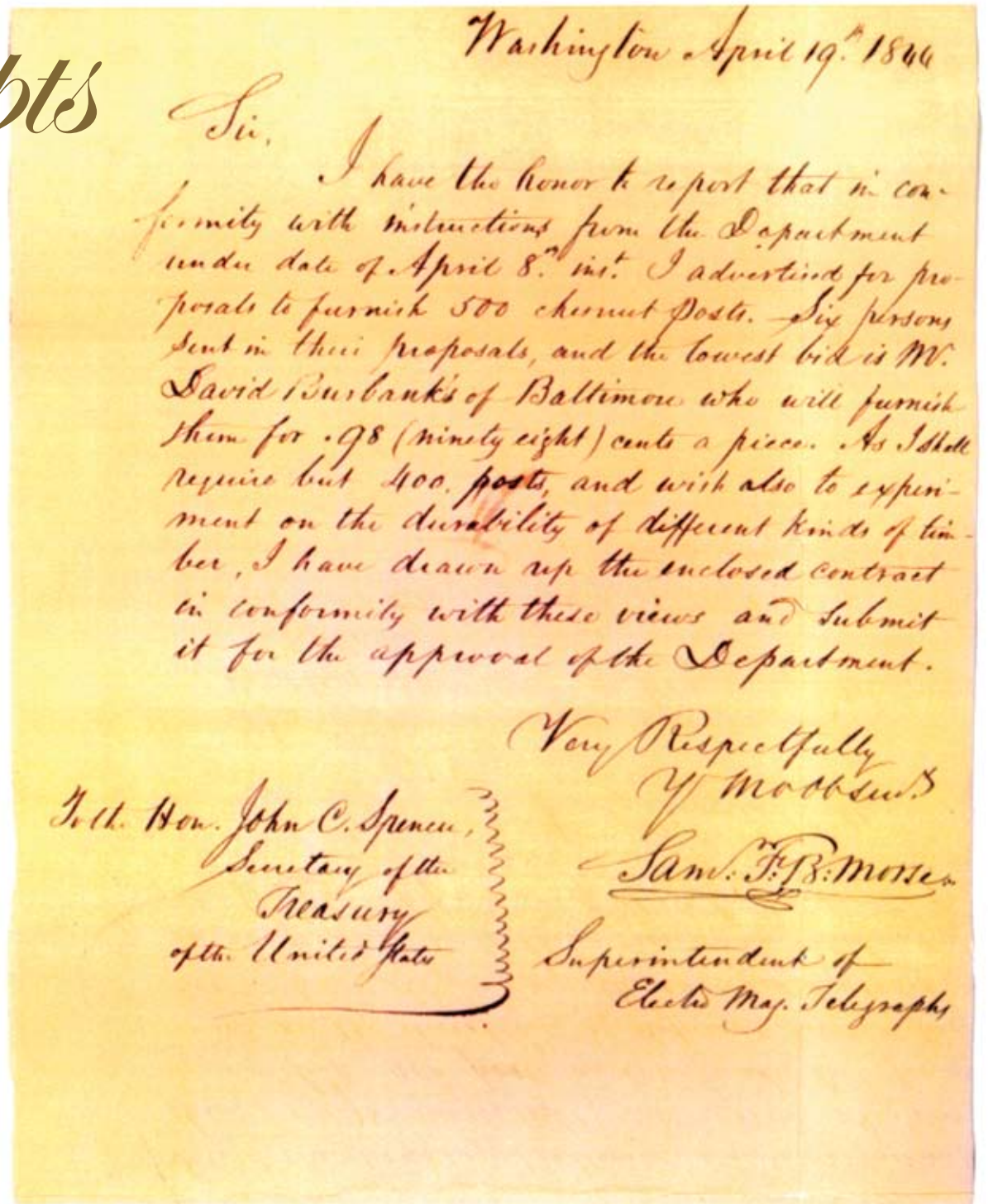
# Manuscripts

## Windows into History

The 1866 manuscript on the right was written in a beautiful writing style. Do you recognize the writer's name? The writer was Samuel Morse, the inventor of the Morse Code.

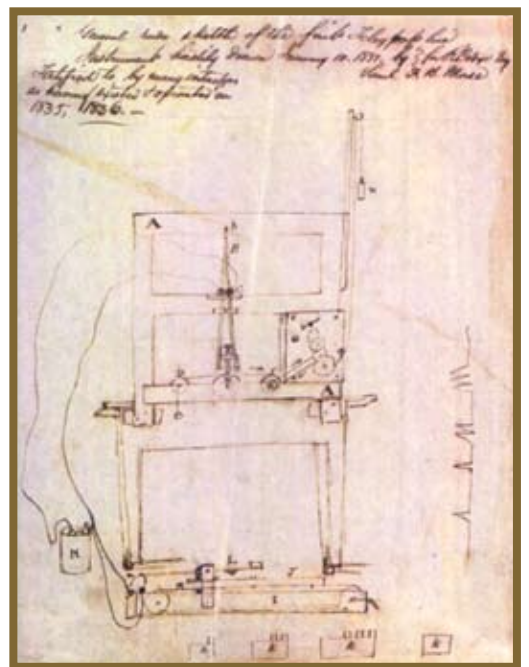


Samuel Morse



Page prepared by The Karpeles Manuscript Museum.

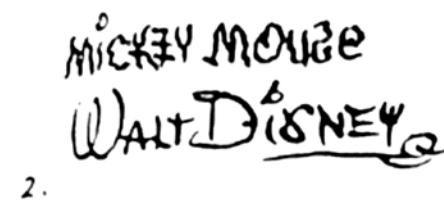
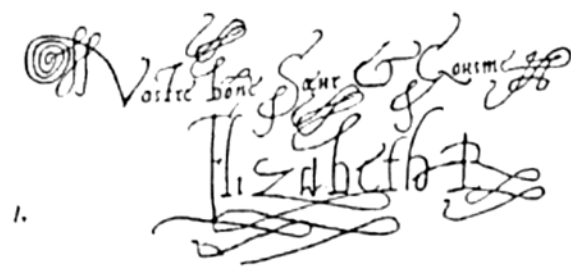
International Morse Code was an important way to transmit information quickly using short and long sounds to replace the alphabet. Originally, the sounds were produced electronically using a device called a telegraph. The manuscript on the right shows Samuel Morse's drawing of the first telegraph used to send Morse Code messages.



## Rubricas

A rubrica is a decoration that was often used when people put their signatures on manuscripts. Look at the rubrica used on each of these signatures on the right. Use the blank space above to write your own name using a rubrica decoration.

- 1) Queen Elizabeth I of England
- 2) Walt Disney (or Did Mickey Mouse really sign this?)
- 3) John Hancock (He was the first signer of the American Declaration of Independence.)
- 4) Thomas Edison (He is the American inventor of the light bulb, motion pictures, and the phonograph.)
- 5) John J. Audubon (He is an American artist famous for drawing birds.)



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