



Huzhou Writing Brush

湖笔

Scope of Huzhou Writing Brush protection is the areas under the jurisdiction of Huzhou City, Zhejiang Province. "Flowering brushes of Huzhou and Suzhou" is an accolade of Huzhou brushes from Guo Moruo. The Huzhou writing brushes can hold a full capacity of ink without dripping, while the hair is gathered without split ends, durable but not brittle.

"Sharp, neat, round, and strong" are the characteristics of Huzhou brushes. The tip of the brush is sharp but not split, conducive to various expression of strokes; the hair is straight and neat with good ink capacity, when spread out, the top is even, and delivers the ink evenly. The tip of the brush is round and smooth so that it is easy to handle when writing; the hair is strong and secure yet flexible in writing. The brush is durable and retains its original shape when not in use. With two thousand years of history, Huzhou brush represents the highest achievement of Chinese brush production. From Qin to Tang dynasties, Xuanzhou of Anhui Province became the main brush production area in China. In the Southern Song Dynasty, more than 40 years of battle between Song and Yuan dynasties in Jiangsu and Anhui regions gradually brought down Xuanzhou. The brush artisans fled southward and relocated in Huzhou, prompting the brush production in the neighboring town of Shanlian in Huzhou. Up till the Yuan Dynasty, Huzhou had seen constant improvement in brush production and finally replaced Xuanzhou in brush quality and reputation. The implementation of geographical indication product protection has boosted the development of Huzhou brush production and promoted the progress and development of Chinese painting and calligraphy art.

(Courtesy of the IP Protection Department of CNIPA)

湖笔产自浙江省湖州市。“湖上生花笔，姑苏发一枝。”这是郭沫若对湖笔的赞美之词。湖笔，饱蘸墨汁而不滴，抱拢不散不开叉，耐磨耐写不发脆。

“尖、齐、圆、健”。笔锋尖如锥状不开叉，利于点撇钩捺；笔毛垂直整齐，散开后顶端平齐无参差使吸墨饱满，吐墨均匀；笔头浑圆匀称，不凹不凸，使书写圆转如意；笔毛健挺，不脱不败，书写时收放自如，富有弹性，收笔后笔头恢复锥状如初，且毛笔经久耐用。湖笔拥有两千多年历史。自秦至唐，安徽的宣州成为全国的毛笔主产地，所产毛笔称为“宣笔”。南宋建朝后，宋、元在江淮之间 40 多年的争战，使宣城逐渐凋敝，笔工走避江南，徙居湖州，就使邻近的湖州善琚制笔业有了良好的发展环境。到了元代，湖笔工艺不断优化，终于取代了宣笔的地位，声名鹊起。实施地理标志产品保护以后，湖笔发展更加兴盛，促使了我国书画艺术的进步和发展。

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