

ENGRAVING

Engraving is a method of printing in which the words to be printed are etched onto a metal plate. Ink is then placed in the plate's etchings. Using a great deal of pressure, this plate is then stamped onto the invitation so that portions of the paper are forced into the ink-filled crevices of the plate. This classic method produces extraordinarily crisp lettering as well as the trademark three-dimensional indentations, created by the pressure, on the back of the invitation. Even today, much of the work is still done by hand.

THERMOGRAPHY

Thermography or "raised print" is essentially the reverse of engraving. The raised lettering is a result of a resinous powder that is melted over flat-printed ink. Thus, the print is raised on the face, rather than the back, of the invitation resulting in a look that is similar to engraving but in which the lettering is not quite as sharp.

LETTERPRESS PRINTING

Letterpress printing is a method of printing in which the words are raised above the non-printed areas. It is the oldest method of "relief" type printing and is accomplished by cutting a printing block, often using hand tools, and then coating the remaining raised surfaces with ink. This prepared block is then placed into the press, and during production, is pressed against the paper. Letterpress printing, begun in Europe in the 14th century as an alternative to calligraphy, offers an elegant look. In the past, the paper was not always pressed to such a degree that it became indented. Today, however, the indentations of the lettering are often preferred.

HANDCRAFTED and ECO/GREEN invitations are richly-textured papers available in many sizes and styles. Each piece is crafted by hand in the St. Louis studio by skilled artisans. Custom sizes are available upon request.

