

Give Cursive a Chance

| Timeline | |
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| 20,000 BC | Cave paintings |
| 3500 BC | Sumerian limestone tablet with pictograms (pictures) |
| 3100 - 3000 BC | Egyptian hieroglyphs with Ideograms (concepts) |
| 2800 BC | Hieratic script |
| 2500 BC | Greek writing in the form of Cretan scripts |
| 1800 BC | Demotic script |
| 1600 BC | Phoenician phonograms (sounds) |
| 1500 BC | Around 1500 BC the Chinese developed a complicated writing technique using more than 1500 characters. |
| 1200 – 1000 BC | Phoenician alphabets, based on phonograms (sounds) |
| 850 BC | Greeks adopted the Phoenician alphabet |
| 600 BC | Roman alphabet evolved from Phoenician, Greek, and Etruscan alphabets, appears in Rome. |
| 400 BC | Greek Ionic script |
| 1 - 100 | By the first century developed into Roman imperial capitals carved on stones, Rustic capitals painted on walls, and Roman cursive for daily use. |
| 300 -400 | Roman square capitals, quadrata, and uncial book hand |
| 568 | The earliest texts written in the Arabic script date back to some fifty years before the Hegira. |
| 796 - 804 | In response to Emperor Charlemagne's directive in the 8th century, Alcuin of York designed the first standard book hand, a minuscule script known as Carolingian. |
| 1000 - 1200 | Black Letter, a dense form of Gothic lettering |
| 1040 | Wooden movable type invented in China |
| 1150 - 1200 | Paper was expensive during the Middle Ages, so scribing monks developed a writing style that was narrower allowing more words to fit on a single line in a style that came to be known as Gothic. |
| 1201 - 1300 | Cancellaria Apostolica chancery, a Gothic hand similar to Blackletter. |
| 1230 | Metal movable type invented in Korea |
| 1400 | Humanist minuscule |
| 1420 – 1430 | Niccolo Niccoli introduced an italic cursive chancery hand. |
| 1440 | Guttenberg press |
| 1522 | Cancelleresca corsiva, 45 degree angle cursive chancery hand, used by Ludovico degli Arrighi in L'Operina is more commonly called italic (or Italian style) |
| 1530 - 1600 | Copperplate lettering and engraving |
| 1816 | A sans serif style of hand was first designed in 1816 by William Caslon IV in 1816 and named "English Egyptian", and now referred to as "Gothic" in the US or "Grotesque" in Europe. |
| 1850 - 1900 | British poet and artist William Morris spearheaded a calligraphic revival in the mid-19th century, reintroducing the flat edged pen and elevating the act of writing to the art form of its past. |
| 1900 - 1950 | Modern calligraphy revival initiated in Europe by Edward Johnston (England, 1872-1944), Rudolf von Larish (Vienna, 1856-1934), Rudolf Koch (Germany, 1873-1934) |
| 1950 – 1970 | Calligraphy revival gains ground with Lloyd Reynolds (US, 1902-1978), Arnold Bank (US, 1908-1986), Alfred Fairbank (UK, 1895-1982), and others leading the charge. Reynolds organized Calligraphy—the Golden Age and Its Modern Revival exhibition in 1958 at the Portland Art Museum. |

Also see www.electrikolor.com/MoreAboutCalligraphy.htm