

# History of the first writing patterns

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## ABSTRACT

*The writing was an urgent need in human societies to solve most of the daily problems, this need forced the minds of the creative people of the civilized lands of that era to invent the writing system, that the ancient Egyptians were proud of inventing hieroglyphics, which is a sign of their initiative, the Sumerians in Mesopotamia were one of the largest ancient centers of civilizations and had long been familiar with the pictorial line. this method became a cuneiform at the beginning of the historical period. the important achievement of the peoples of the Phoenician civilizations (Lebanon) and the favorable geographical location of these countries had led to the expansion of trade relations between the countries and they were able to invent their urgent need, which was the writing and their most important achievement was this writing, and this was the first writing system written in alphabetical order.*

**Keywords:** Mesopotamia, Cuneiform, Hieroglyphics, Papyrus, Sumerians, Phoenician.

## 1. Introduction

The art of writing, like other tools, added to the human force. The writing, which is an important and great achievement in the evolution of human society, is the greatest success of human beings in ancient history. It can be said that the line revealed a mental tool and at the same time human creativity, our forefathers learned what they did not know with their brainpower or learned what they knew much better. the process of the social, economic, scientific, and cultural life of primitive human beings was better and better defined with the help of writing techniques.

## 2. Hieroglyphics

Egyptian hieroglyphics were first invented by the Egyptians to write their matters. Egyptian hieroglyphics One of the oldest ways to convey content to others. some of these writings date back to 3,000 BC. Hieroglyphics have been the written language of the Egyptians for over 3,000 years. carvers and craftsmen have used it on the walls of tombs, columns, statues, seals, and soon. the hieroglyphs were written in both vertical and horizontal forms, which appeared first vertically and then horizontally (2:43).



Fig-2.1

The ancient Greeks first saw these writing lines, concluding that it was carved by priests for sacred purposes on tablets and walls. the number of hieroglyphic characters is about a thousand and they are categorized according to the subject of the role:

Knowing the direction of movement (left to right or right to left) is evident by looking at the characters. whenever characters (for example, human or animal motifs) look to the right, the direction of writing is from right to left, and whenever they look to the left, the direction of writing is from left to right. that is, the characters' motifs always look at the beginning of the line (4:58).

The lack of space between hieroglyphic words in writing makes it difficult to read hieroglyphic texts. Hieroglyphic letters were shapes that represented an object (9:102-104).

### 3. Cuneiform

Mesopotamian civilization is based on the achievements of the Sumerians. The Sumerians (around 5000 to 1500 BC) began a period with the invention of the cuneiform which is known as the beginning of calligraphy and historiography as well as the first human writing documents that remain in the form of clay or stone inscriptions (books or notebooks) belonging to the Aryan, Medes, Parthian civilizations(5: 57-58).

The first to complete the advanced civilization in Mesopotamia were the Sumerians. The Akkadians took this writing patterns and later passed it on to the Elamites, Babylonians, Assyrians, and Hittites. The Urartians lived in what is now Armenia and adopted this writing system. later, the Persians who conquered Mesopotamia transformed the cuneiform (1:215).

In cuneiform signs, you can easily get the initial images from which these signs are derived: forms such as human, animal, plant, mountain, forest, home, and work tools are seen (6:22).



Fig-3.1

With the passage of time and the development of the human mind, both its form and its meaning changed. signs engraved on stone tablets each of these signs indicates a word. Mesopotamia lacked paper and similar materials; for this reason, they wrote their writings on a plate made of clay in a wet state the same patterns and shapes give way to a combination of cuneiform symbols until the middle of the third millennium BC. therefore, the cuneiform system is very complex and difficult to learn (10:18).

### 4. The invention of the alphabet

**Phoenician:** On the eastern shore of the Mediterranean, between Egypt and Mesopotamia, was the land of the Phoenicians. Because the Phoenicians lived close to the sea, they perfected for shipbuilding and most of their people were sailors and merchants. they were the most advanced sailors, transporting the culture and products of the ancient Near East to faraway places to England. they had colonies in North Africa, southern Spain, and the islands of the Mediterranean Sea. so, the Phoenicians needed to write and calculate in the trade and exchange of goods although they learned arithmetic from Egyptian and Babylonian writing, it was very difficult to use hieroglyphics and cuneiform. these two writing patterns sometimes had one sound and sometimes had several sounds and signs. This was a very serious problem for the Phoenicians; to solve this problem and by using his intelligence and ingenuity, they invented the first alphabetic line, which was much easier, simpler, and easier than hieroglyphics and cuneiform (8:54).

**Phoenician alphabet:** more accurate than Egyptian hieroglyph. the Phoenicians (fourteen centuries BC) were often thought to be the first people to invent the true alphabet; an invention that revolutionized in the writing system, the Greek and Latin alphabets are influenced by the Phoenician alphabet. and since the alphabet of other European countries is derived from two alphabets, it can be said that the origin of the writing of European nations is Phoenician.



Fig-4.1

When Phoenician writing came into being, removed other scripts except for Chinese script from the realm of writing; because writing with this script was so easy, its use was widely developed. before the advent of paper, stones and metals were used for writing, and in addition to stones and metals, the bark of trees and animals was also used. But the high price of these two skins made them save on consumption and through saving, one was to compress the text and the other was to use acronyms and the other was to cut and reuse the skin.

The Phoenician alphabet is the first alphabet that each symbol of which is an acronym and has twenty-two letters. the earliest examples of this Phoenician alphabet are found in the small Lebanese town of Bolus, now called Jbeil. the Greeks adopted the Phoenician alphabet and made changes to it and the Greek alphabet (1000 BC) came into being. It is believed that the alphabet originated from the Northern Semitic lineage.

This alphabet, which according to some scientists was invented around (2400) BC and according to others according to (1100) BC; It is the greatest success of the Phoenicians in the history of civilization. In this writing pattern, because the name of the first letter was "a" (cow) and the second letter was "idol" (house); In this regard, the word "alphabet" is derived from the name of the first two letters and is called the alphabet. In this writing pattern, the Phoenicians chose only twenty-two symbols out of all the hieroglyphic symbols. and they separated the signs of the consonants and the vowels and created the writing of the sounds. the only drawback was the lack of symbols to indicate vowels (3:60-61).

The Latin alphabet was borrowed from the Romans and the Roman alphabet was borrowed from the Greeks. the Greeks probably took this alphabet from the Phoenicians, and the Phoenicians in turn used the Egyptian hieroglyph as their model (7:24).

## 5. Conclusion

As a result, we find that the world today has achievements in various fields of science. it all depends on the knowledge, innovations, and inventions of its predecessors Because they have laid the core: the Egyptians invented the hieroglyph, which is considered one of the achievements of Egyptian civilization, which was used in most of their problems in calculating, exchanging and recording documents. the people of Mesopotamia were able to invent the cuneiform and use it to solve various problems in life. similarly, the Phoenicians, after using cuneiform and hieroglyphics, which were very difficult to use, tried to do so and were able to invent the letters of the Phoenician alphabet. which became more effective in trade with other countries, Needless to say, the writing patterns after the Phoenician are affected by this writing pattern.

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