

The Beauty is in Each Letter

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ABSTRACT

In this article one of the branches of depicting art is analyzed – calligraphy. The history of a beautiful letter is described and, it is said about the kinds of calligraphy.

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 29 November 2021

Received in revised form

29 December 2021

Accepted 26 January 2022

Keywords: calligraphy, pictography, hieroglyph.

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The history of writing informs us about the fact that since the days of old yore when a man has only acquired the skill to think he wanted to write something: that is to leave the memory about his thoughts and ideas, new discoveries which caught the history or about interesting people. At the time when a person couldn't talk and his language consisted out of indistinct interjections, he tried to draw on the walls of cave amazing pictures. When a man began to speak and his colloquial speech appeared, it seemed for aborigines more important to write what people said to each other.

Calligraphy is the art of a beautiful and precise writing. To write beautifully learned even cavern people, the bear witness to this are the images on the stone walls. They also drew on the vault of their enters ancient animals, surrounding them nature, gradually giving their pictures plot compositions. Such a picture like letter was called pictography and the drawing passed on the whole message. Further such pictures of ancestors turned into symbols which contained a definite meaning.

Calligraphy (from Greek “a beautiful handwriting”) is one of the fields in depicting art. Calligraphy is also called the art of a beautiful letter. Modern definition of calligraphy - it is “the art of sign formation in a harmonic and proficient manner”.

The most ancient and simple way of writing appeared in Paleolithic age - “a story in the pictures”, so called pictographic letter (form Latin pictus- drawn and from Greek grapho - write). It means “I draw- I write”, as this letter was imperfect, because to read a story in pictures is possible differently.

Because of this reason pictography as a form of a letter not all specialists admit as the beginning of writing, because for ancient people any image was animated. The symbols in pictures specific only for savage people having been changed on hieroglyphs, little by little loose the connection with the representations.

This was the initial phase of writing occurrence. On the glue hieroglyphs were depicted with the help of dashes with wedge-shaped thickenings at the end, from here the name has appeared - Sumerian cuneiform wedge writing. Concrete sounds were proper to some hieroglyphs from which the words and phrases took shape. According to the historic data we know that Egypt hieroglyphic writing rises up to the IV century before our era. And, we also know, that in Egyptian alphabet were numbered more than 600 signs- here are clear images of things, people and animals.

As scientists estimate ancient Greek inscriptions refer to the VII-VIII centuries before our era. Although ancient Greek manuscripts weren't kept till our days but archeological excavations certify that some fragments from the books, drawings give the possibility to receive the imagination about the development and peculiarities of Greek alphabet.

Ancient Greeks considered that writing is the gift of the heavens. Old Greek legend states that Greeks were taught to write by the son of Phoenician tsar Kadm who sailed on the isle Fera in his spanking ship. Affected by the art of writing ancient Greeks gave Kadm right honors and supposed him to be demigod. By the historical data we know that Greeks significantly improved and borrowed the alphabet from Phoenicians. Greek letter of the beginning of the VII century suffered its great influence. Using Phoenicians' alphabet one can read ancient Greek writings found on the island Santorin without difficulties. The signs for vowel sounds in Phoenician alphabet were added; they were simplified and geometrized, turned into left Phoenician letters were turned by face into the right side.

At the beginning Greek letter was left-side, further being changed, it became right-side. This method of writing was inherited from the method of plowman's work. A plougher digged the first furrow, not returning the bulls to the start of the field, turning back he plowed in diverse direction. The impact of Greek writing changed the direction of the letter and Latin inscription. From the IV century before our era Greeks crossed to writing from the left to the right.

Not looking on the fact that calligraphy must be able to do classical, font and not standard copy matter form, classical calligraphy differs from font works and manuscripts of not standard forms. Here the letters were built in such forms historically, and they are ongoing and spontaneous, they are always born at the moment of writing.

In ideography - a symbolic writing, the drawing (hieroglyph) meant a word. The writing is born in a such exact way. The last revolution in the history of writing has happened with the invention of western - Semite alphabet in Palestine approximately in 1100 year before our century.

Phoenician alphabet is the most characteristic its variety, it is considered to be the predecessor of all existing today kinds of writing in Europe: Latin font, Cyrillic and Greek alphabet. Feathers for writing are known to us since deep ancient times, approximately since 3000 year before our era and they were cut out of the stem of cane.

English word "pen" (a pen, a writing feather) came from Latin word "penna" (a bird's feather), as geese feathers, which were turned around at the root, got a wide spread. Since VI century b. e. feathers were used during more than thousand years by many civilizations. The best samples of writing feathers were made out of feathers of a swan, a turkey or a goose because they had in their wings feathers of bigger size. Archeological findings in ruins of Pompeii include bronze versions of feathers although they had received spread only at the end of XVIII century.

In XVIII century noble persons and merchants owed the art of writing. It undoubtedly imposed imprint mark on feather pens and their evolution. They not only wrote, but embodied the status and taste of the owner. It means that gold, silver, precious stones and adept engraving was already used at that time in the process of making feather pens. There exist many kinds of calligraphic writing. Usual calligraphic two push writing has got fat basic and thin connecting hatches. The art of calligraphy in old times was highly appreciated and, in old school much attention was paid to the teaching calligraphy. Each person who acquired a beautiful hand writing, could already work as a yeoman. In XVIII c.

English letter was considered the most spread kind of calligraphic writing. On its bases was made Russian writing and it was one of the most beautiful patterns of calligraphic writing. Letters slope of English writing is 54*, for old examples of calligraphic writing is characteristic a big letter slope. One can often meet straight variants without slope and with left-side slope. Linear-ornamental trappings-strokes, got a wide spread and were developed together with the art of calligraphy. The art of calligraphy was constantly the lot of unity.

Glagolitic and Cyrillic are the version of Slavonic calligraphy. Looking attentively one can discover amazing resemblance with complex forms of Indian and Chinese calligraphy. Today calligraphy exists basically in the form of invitation cards and wedding greetings, fonts and handwritten logos, in religious

art, graphic design, carved in stones inscriptions and in historical papers. Also calligraphy is used on television in the quality of decoration, in different characteristics, certifications of birth and in other documents where is supposed to write with hand.

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