

Definitions

- *Logogram*—a graphic character or sign that represents an entire word.
- *Chia-ku-wen*—“bone and shell” script; the earliest known form of Chinese calligraphy; pictographic inscriptions, usually on turtle shells or the shoulder bones of large animals.
- *Chin-wen*—inscriptions on cast bronze articles (2nd phase of Chinese calligraphy, after Chia-ku-wen).
- *Hsiao chuan*—“small seal” calligraphy, characterized by a graceful, flowing, more abstracted style than its two predecessors, Chia-ku-wen and Chin-wen.
- *K'ai-shu*—the fourth phase in the development of Chinese calligraphy. Also known as “regular” style, it has been in continuous use for almost 2,000 years.
- *Ts'ai Lun*—105 A.D., credited with inventing paper.
- *Relief Printing*—the earliest known form of printing, approx. 300 B.C. In relief printing, the spaces around an image on a flat, hard surface are cut away, the remaining raised surface is inked, a sheet of paper is placed over the inked surface. Pressure is applied to the paper which transfers the ink from the flat surface to the paper.
- *Chop*—a seal, which originated approx. 300 A.D. Similar to the concept of a rubber stamp. Some chops are cut with the characters as relief, others with the characters cut away and the negative space printing.
- *Moveable Type*—a raised form containing a single calligraphic character, originally made from hard-baked clay. Placed side-by-side, they could be “inked,” relief-printed, reassembled into different configurations, re-inked and reused... (something like Scrabble).

Information to know

By approx. 2,000 B.C., the Asian culture was evolving in seeming isolation from Western Civilization. The ancient Chinese are credited with the inventions of gunpowder, the compass, and—especially significant to our study—paper and printing (the Chinese were the first to produce paper money).

Chinese calligraphy is estimated to date back to approx. 1,800 B.C. Chia-ku-wen (bone and shell) script appears to have been used from approx. 1,800–1,200 B.C. It was pictographic in nature.

A more refined calligraphic script called Chin-wen (bronze) script developed. Aply, bronze artifacts are found to be inscribed with Chin-wen script.

Although the two “classifications,” Chia-ku-wen and Chin-wen are distinguishable, there was a large degree of inconsistency in style of calligraphy in different areas of Asia until Emperor Shih-Huang T'i unified China and standardized—among other things—writing (259–210 B.C.) to a form known as “Hsiao chuan” (small seal) style.

A fourth and final classification in the evolution of Chinese calligraphy developed around the birth of Christ, and it has been in use for approx. 2,000 years. Called Chen-shu (or K'ai-shu), it is known as “regular” style calligraphy.

Page 34, example of “Li,” the three-legged pot (pay close attention to Chapter 3, p 34, and refer to Illustration 3-5).

The Chinese used (still use?) calligraphy to signify emotions. It has been said that calligraphy had bones (authority and style), meat (the proportion of the Characters), blood (the texture of the fluid ink) and muscle (spirit and vital force).

In 105 A.D. Ts'ai Lun reported his invention of paper. Initially the Chinese wrote on bamboo slats or strips of wood, then woven silk cloth. Obviously the former were bulky and cumbersome, the latter very expensive.

From the time of its invention in 105 A.D. until into the 19th Century, the technology of papermaking remained virtually the same. The early papers of the Chinese however, were extremely coarse by today's standards. yet we must keep in mind that the writing tool was a brush.

The early Chinese are credited with the development of printing—especially relief printing, which evolved either from the Chinese use of engraved imprinting seals or from the practice of making ink rubbings from inscriptions carved in stone (like tombstone rubbings).

The oldest surviving printed manuscript is the *Diamond Sutra* (p37, 38)). It is 16' long and 12" high.

It is estimated that books began to replace scrolls in the 9th–10th Centuries. The development appeared to be gradual, over the next several hundred years, from scrolls to accordion-style folded manuscripts to stitched, codex-style books (see p29).

Refer to class reading from *A History of Reading* (pp126, 127: papyrus, parchment, codexes).