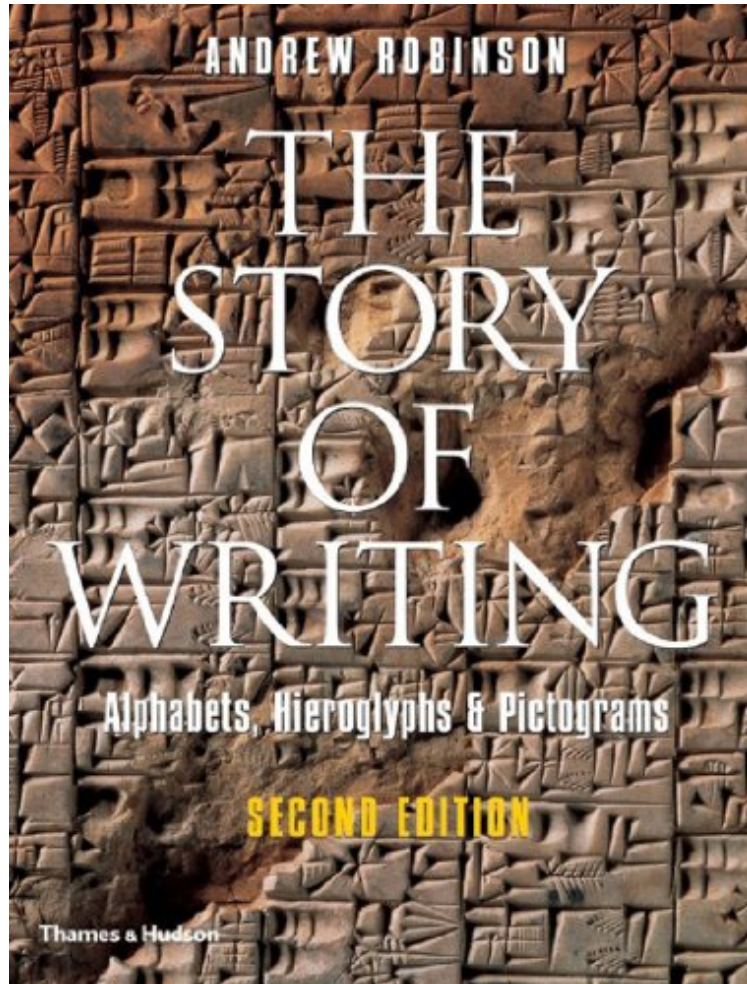


[Download] The Story of Writing: Alphabets, Hieroglyphs Pictograms

The Story of Writing: Alphabets, Hieroglyphs Pictograms

Andrew Robinson

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Andrew Robinson : The Story of Writing: Alphabets, Hieroglyphs Pictograms before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Story of Writing: Alphabets, Hieroglyphs Pictograms:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A fine and magnificently illustrated introduction for the generalist By R. M. Peterson While Andrew Robinson's THE STORY OF WRITING may be beneath scholars and serious students of scripts and writing systems, for the rest of us it is a fine introduction. Following an excellent introductory overview of writing in general, there are thirteen chapters. Representative ones are "Reading the Rosetta Stone"; "Sound, Symbol and Script"; "Cuneiform"; "Mayan Glyphs"; and "Chinese Writing". Each chapter, in turn, consists of a half dozen or so topics, each of which receives one or two pages. For example, the chapter on "Undeciphered Scripts" has brief discussions of the following subjects: the difficulties of decipherment; Indus script; Cretan Linear A (still

undeciphered, though Linear B is the earliest European script that we can understand); the Phaistos Disc; proto-Elamite script; Etruscan; and Rongorongo, from Easter Island. The book is copiously, and beautifully, illustrated, with photographs of ancient scripts and inscribed artifacts, as well as charts and maps. The illustrations and text are well integrated. The writing itself is ideal for a book of this sort -- neither simplistic nor overly academic. In addition, the book is carefully and intricately formatted, so much so that it is doubtful that the book could be satisfactorily rendered in digital form (just as Japanese kanji characters defy satisfactory electronic data processing). One theme of the book is that "the way we write at the start of the 3rd millennium AD is not different from the way that the ancient Egyptians wrote". Another is that phonography is essential to fully developed writing systems: "full writing cannot be divorced from speech; words, and the scripts that employ words, involve both sounds and signs". THE STORY OF WRITING would be a good addition to any general library.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Evolution is not singular

By Dave Mowers It happens on many levels and in language you will get over-lap and redundancy. How anyone can slight the conclusions of informed students like the writer after reading the same exact history of the shunning of hobbyists for the "learned professors" only approach detailed here is nuts. It is readily apparent that cultures in contact with one another exchanged ideas on everything which is why these "keys" or translation guides exist in the first place that have allowed us to reconstruct dead languages and writing systems. To say such ingenious systems were only logograms or only syllabic or pictograms seems quite ridiculous given the vast array of cultural similarities in archaeology. This book is awesome. I am using it to further my understanding of ancient mythology and thought it would be dull and centered largely on language itself but to the contrary it gives an excellent historical perspective that has allowed me to confirm L.A. Waddell's findings on the connection between Thor, Induru and the Turans which he states directly without providing a reference to what he was looking at or how he drew that conclusion! Hittite "Tarhun" for instance as their "storm god" is identical to Turan, Duran, Induru, Tor, Thor (Sumerian Dur-An) "heavenly god" giving you perspective on the Trojans as Hittites which when coupled with the Linear B translation chart on pg. 118 then compared with the Hittite cuneiform block back on pg 91 shows you that Hittite logogrammic cuneiform is actually rudimentary Minoan Linear B, the Linear B being a hieratic (in cursive) form of Hittite. Now I got that from reading this book and never would have made this connection without Mr. Robinson's easy-to-understand explanations. Sure enough a quick internet search just now on this shows that current scholastic study on the subject is proving my "leaping" judgment true. These leaps of inspiration are why we are able to figure out dead languages and ancient history in the first place. This book is a fantastic primer for beginners.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A good introduction to writing but could have been more comprehensive

By Bill J. Grossman This book gives the basic history of the deciphering of a number of ancient scripts. It has some nice photos and illustrations. It is not a dictionary or an encyclopedia by any means. It covered the mainstream ancient scripts such as Cuneiform and Egyptian, but barely touched on the more ancient, esoteric and mysterious scripts such as Neolithic pictographic, Sumerian pictographic, ancient Greek linear A, and the Indus valley scripts. I would have enjoyed it more if it push the envelope a little more.

A survey of the world's major scripts, studied through sight, sound and symbol Andrew Robinson explains the interconnection between sound, symbol, and script in a succinct and absorbing text. He discusses each of the major writing systems in turn, from cuneiform and Egyptian and Mayan hieroglyphs to alphabets and the scripts of China and Japan, as well as topics such as the Cherokee alphabet and the writing of runes. Full coverage is given to the history of decipherment, and a provocative chapter devoted to undeciphered scripts challenges the reader: can these codes ever be broken? In this revised edition, the author reveals the latest discoveries to have an impact on our knowledge of the history of writing, including the Tabula Cortonensis showing Etruscan symbols and a third millennium BC seal from Turkmenistan that could solve the mystery of how Chinese writing evolved. He also discusses how the digital revolution has not, despite gloomy predictions, spelled doom for the printed book. In addition, the table of Maya glyphs has been revised so that they are up-to-date with current research.

From Scientific American "Writing is among the greatest inventions in human history, perhaps the greatest invention, since it made history possible." Thus Robinson, literary editor of the (London) Times Higher Education Supplement, introduces his scholarly and fascinating study of alphabets, hieroglyphics and pictograms. He says he is not presenting the full history of writing, focusing instead on "an account of the scripts used in the major civilizations of the ancient world, of the major scripts we use today, and of the underlying principles that unite the two." But a great deal of the history is here, together with more than 350 splendidly helpful (and viewable) illustrations: cuneiform, Egyptian hieroglyphs, Mayan glyphs, Chinese and Japanese writing, and scripts based on alphabets. Robinson is also interested in the current movement toward increased communication through logograms, or pictographic symbols. Could they be expanded into a universal writing system that would transcend language differences? Robinson thinks not, asserting that whereas logograms can be helpful, "full writing is based on speech." The book is a paperback edition of a hardback published in 1995. Delightful to read...difficult to put down once started. -- Communication Arts Rich in images...well-informed and assured. -- Scientific American

About the Author Andrew Robinson has written more than

twenty-five books on the arts and sciences. They include *Lost Languages: The Enigma of the World's Undeciphered Scripts*, *India: A Short History*, and *Earthshock*, which won the Association of Earth Science Editors Outstanding Publication Award. He is also a regular contributor to magazines, such as *Current World Archaeology*, *History Today*, *The Lancet*, *Nature*, and *Science*. A former literary editor of *The Times Higher Education Supplement*, he was also a visiting fellow at the University of Cambridge.