

Map of Egypt

Earliest hieroglyphs found at Abydos dated ~3200 BCE

Showing main archeological sites where tablets with hieroglyphs have been found.

Hieroglyph is a figure of an object standing for a word, syllable, or sound used in writing

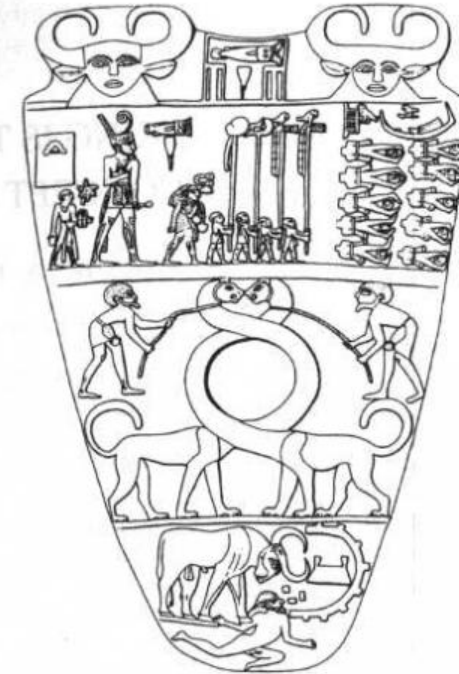
Hieros (Gk)= sacred

Gluphe (Gk)= carving

Egyptian bone tags from tomb at Abydos ~ 3200 BCE



Narmer palette, Hierakonpolis ~3100BCE



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1st dynasty, beginning of pharaonic period discovered in temple at Hierakonpolis (Hawk City) ancient capital of Upper (southern) Egypt. Memorializes a battle between north and south Egypt that resulted in “union of two lands.” It communicates by symbols and contains some of the earliest hieroglyphic inscriptions ever found.

Egyptian Museum, Cairo

Seated Scribe



Painted limestone statue of a noble Kai holding fresh papyrus roll in his left hand, his right hand holds a stylus (missing).

Eyes are inlaid white quartz, crystal, ebony
Old Kingdom
Egypt

2650-2134 BCE

Found in Saqqara cemetery

In early times literacy was limited to a few: priests, scribes and aristocracy.

Louvre, Paris



Hesire, Royal scribe,
Saqqara
2700-2650 BCE

Relief wood carving, in his left hand he holds his writing implements.

Egyptian Museum, Cairo

“The profession of scribe is a princely profession. His writing materials and his roll of books bring pleasantness and riches.”

Scribe Egyptian hieroglyphic logogram for "to write" or "to record".



Logosyllabary = writing that consists of logograms (word-sign), syllabograms, and semantic complements (non-phonetic sign that places a word in a certain category), like Mesopotamian cuneiform and Egyptian hieroglyphs

Royal Scribe Nebmertuf



Thoth, god of wisdom, writing and patron of Egyptian scribes is represented as his sacred animal, the baboon. He guides Nebmertuf who holds a papyrus roll open with his left hand on his tightly stretched kilt.

Musée Louvre, Paris ~1300 BCE Dynasty XVIII,
New Kingdom Egyptian

Egyptian God Thoth



Thoth served as scribe of the gods; he is credited with the invention of writing and alphabets (ie. hieroglyphs) themselves.

