

DIGITAL HUMANITIES FOR MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHICAL SOURCES

# 4. Uncial, semiuncial, carolingian minuscule

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Palaeography

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# 2 Characteristics

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#### Evolution

Palaeography

The Latin alphabet originates in the Etruscan alphabet, which in turn originates in the western variant of the Greek alphabet.

Phoenician c. 900 B.C.	-		-		-	-	_	
Earliest Greek c. 750 B.C. (Western Variant)	A	В	٦	Δ	Э	F	Ζ	Н
Etruscan c. 650 B.C.	A	8	1	0	1	1	1	B
Latin c. 500 B.C.	А	В	С	D	Е	F	Ζ	Н

Initially there was a single set of characters (capitals), which began to differentiate by support and author of writing (writing hands).

SENATUSIONVEROMANUS - 22 EUS Stry . F. O. DEC GUNT Mohnals Hay 1/50/001012 IMPCAESARIDIVINERVAFENERVA Thisign Trup and thoras + form TRATANOAVGGERM DACICOPON MAXIMOTRIBPOTXVIIMPVICOS P: NOWNTH Ix mert non . TH ADDECLARANINMOVANTAEALTIVDINL & Iguri Jose 1 Gurage For a span MONSETLOCVSTAN MULTISTAUFTS - ATS fine

Trajan's Column (2<sup>nd</sup> c.)

Papyrus with Senate discourses (1<sup>st</sup> c.)

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# Evolution (2)

Gradually, the letter shapes transformed to accommodate the writing needs.

■ elegant majuscule (*capitalis elegans*) 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> c.

INMIDEMVMCRASSAMAGNYMEA CRESCEREIAMDOMHISSINHON

rustic majuscule (capitalis rustica) 1<sup>st</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> c. CRIMASTANCOSIODIGNATAEST VOLKEVERSV NOSIRANI CIRMBULTSILVISHABITARETHALFA

• uncial letter (*littera uncialis*)  $3^{rd}-10^{th}$  c. humanum cenus non solumnativ kacsimilii ucinizso can no ucitu

■ semi-uncial letter 5<sup>th</sup>−8<sup>th</sup> (−10<sup>th</sup>) c.

DOCERAT IN PRINCIPIO APUDDO OMMA PERIPSUM FACTASUNT Palaeography

# Evolution (3)

Starting from the 7<sup>th</sup> c. forms of cursive writing appear in different areas of Western Europe (national hands).

- merovingian cursive (Luxeuil)
- visigothic cursive
- insular (irish) cursive
- italian pre-caroline (beneventan and franco-lombardic) cursive
   german pre-caroline cursive

- quanner cebiq uorabit. 230129 quann by noueun 22 and and on of provident of and "more of presser religed order of possible of the post free sociality armonally core delunio more

graftina pitarat cognoferan phacipul naangapi onin aquo uningtiar fonit & huchoaran & pfert.

costine ducioni ponussi si fubrugare ; qui deade generatione fuerunt .

・ロト ・ 同ト ・ ヨト ・ ヨト

Palaeography

# Evolution (4)

Palaeography

Starting from the 8<sup>th</sup> c., following the reform initiated by Charlemagne, a new writing is developed, intended to be easier to read and uniform in the Holy Roman Empire.

caroline minuscule

Crfactum & verpere et mane dier quartur · O ixitetuamdr · Produ cant aquae repule animae uiven

Some national hands continue to be used in some territories even after the caroline reform. Simultaneously, the uncial or the roman capitals start to be reused to differentiate the initials.

### Characteristics

Palaeography

admot rounded lines ılmpa discrete hooks aimno uniform letter widths Ductus 1 Some letters have a new shape in minuscule cursive writing: f/ss r a/aa g/zg d/dd ll zt e/ee

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イロト イポト イヨト イヨト

# Abbreviations

#### Palaeography

Abbreviations are less frequent and have multiple forms:

- sigla inherited from the Romans
  & (et) (cum/con-)
- usage of the tilde for nasalization and contraction hominũ (hominum) om̃s (omnis)
- nomina sacra
  inc (Ihesus) xpc (Christus) ds (Deus) sps (Spiritus)
  Gradually abbreviations appear from the common ones (see *Course* 3)
- common abbreviation signs

 $\mathbf{p}$  (per)  $\mathbf{q}$  (quod)  $\tilde{\mathbf{e}}$  (est)  $\mathbf{q}$ ; (-que)  $\mathbf{e}$  -ae-  $\mathbf{g}$  -us

- irish abbreviations
  - .n. (enim) .i. (id est) .f./.s. (scilicet)

(1月) イヨトイヨト

#### Example

Palaeography

auguan idompte diabolut furn Rorunglous moure uncender tafar mondi unecchinalizant fum raum Latera nexperition de quen quam peccare comppellara. Equil mer one mer proprian a wip practimpnone alican name non angeliene Ahumanar mes nale caraturale confequents es poriorita domonificara Juronm sudes credore sut der re Autropangelur nequebane eadora indi possibase nonfuite feelhaceoum portunalue non suferre Maria Nguancum male corrum fuporba Aquantumban jusgrans valors offensore. fecoruntitad: cinitatel dual a morer duoi terrenden seilica Amorful usq; Adcontemptumdi. Creletonuero amos di urg, adcon

comprumfur. Dong; illa inforpratec in drio glosiatur . Illacomm quaerie Abhominibur gloriam huicauton di conference whimaximaelt gloria illaingtoriafus galtat caput fuum bacchardnofuo glo mamer decaltanfcaputmeum. Illumprincipibuleiur uelinar qualifubrugat nationibur domi nandi libido dominatur inhac feruiunt inuicem incaritate : Fromeporia consulendo essubdia obcomperando illa infuir potenti burdiliger unturen fuam. hec dicit diofuo. Diligamtedne unrusmea Ideo quaemilla sapien referre fecundum hominen unenter Autopour AutAnimifui bons Aut נתדיוק: וכנדגתו נוחד . אודקעוףסבובר cognofcerection nonutchin honora uerunt sut gratias everunt fed

euanuerunt incogrationib; fuif Robicuratument infipient coreciu dicenter see sapienter idelt domi nante fibi fugbia infus fapienta fere excollencer Aula facar ecinmu tauerunt gloriam incorruptibili di infimiliaidinem imagini cor rupabilir hominir & uolucrum & quadrupedum arto-person soluur comodienim fimulacra adoranda uel du cer popularum uel rectatorer fuer-unt ecoluer-unt stq: for inercreaturae potulquam creatori à Abenedicarinfita; Inhacauton nullaelt hominif apienta nifipie Exquarecce colicur verurdr. id expectant pmum infociate fcou nonfolum hominum uerum eange Lorum utfit droma momorbur.

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St. Gallen, Stiftsbibliothek, Cod. Sang. 177, ff. 460vb–461rb (middle of 9<sup>th</sup> c.) Augustinus, *De civitate Dei*, lib. XIV, cap. 29.



Palaeography

#### Transcribe the following manuscript fragment:

St. Gallen, Stiftsbibliothek, Cod. Sang. 820, p. 62 (second half of 9<sup>th</sup> c.) BOETHIUS, *In Perihermeneias Aristotelis*