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History of Graphic Design

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Alphabet

In the latest lecture of class we discussed the different systems of the alphabet that was used long ago. There were a lot we discussed but three systems of the alphabet that we learned in particular were the Aramaic, Hebrews and Arabic alphabets. These three systems of the alphabet had their own unique way of displaying the way the letters were written and how they were used to explain what was going on at the time. At the same time these different systems of the alphabet also had some similarities to each other. The alphabet system has always been an interest of many people because of the letterforms and the way the letters were positioned.

The Aramaic alphabet had a similar way the Phoenician alphabet was used but it started to break away from that style in the 8th century BCE. The Aramaic alphabet was used for Aramaic language and the letters all represent consonants, some of those letters were also used as matres lectionis to indicate long vowels. The Hebrew alphabet can be said to have certain similarities when compared to the Imperial Aramaic script that was used during the 5th century BC. The two alphabets both had the same letter inventory and similar shapes. The Aramaic alphabet was an ancestor to the Nabataean alphabet and the later Arabic alphabet.

The Arabic alphabet is the Arabic script as it is codified for writing the Arabic language. It is written from right to left in a cursive style and includes 28 letters. Originally, the alphabet

was an abjad which was their type of writing system, with only consonants, but it is now considered an "impure abjad". As with other abjads, such as the Hebrew alphabet, scribes later devised means of indicating vowel sounds by separate vowel points. Most letters of the Arabic alphabet change form depending on whether they appear at the beginning, middle or end of a word, or on their own.

The Hebrew alphabet uses a different alphabet than English. The Hebrew alphabet was written from right to left, rather than left to right as in English. The Hebrew alphabet was usually called the "alef-bet," because of its first two letters. Like most early Semitic alphabetic writing systems, the alef-bet has no vowels. The dots and dashes that were used in the alphabet were written above or below the letter, in ways that do not shift the spacing of the line. Text containing these markings is referred to as "pointed" text. The dot that appears in the center of some letters is called a dagesh. With most letters, the dagesh does not significantly affect pronunciation.

In conclusion, the design of the alphabet really came a long way and now we are using the present form of the alphabet which is the Latin alphabet consisting of 26 letters where each pair of letters have an uppercase and a lowercase form. These systems of the alphabet showed that there was no stopping when it came to communicating with each other whether if it was trading or telling stories. The progression of the alphabet will continue to be an essential part of history and without it we wouldn't have the different typographic designs we have now.

