SCHEMATIC TIMELINE OF THE WORLD'S WRITING SYSTEMS

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3400 3300 3200 3100 3000 2900 2800 2700 2600 2500 2400 2300 2200 2100 2000 1900 1800 1700 1600 1500 1400 1300 1200 1100 1000 900 800 700 600 500 400 300 200 100 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900 2000

Egyptian hieroglyphic

Hieratic

Cretan hieroglyphic

Phaistos

Linear A

Linear B

Cypro-Minoan

Cypriot syll.

Demotic

Nubian´

Mer.´

Copt.´

Old Greek scripts

Byblian, Phoenecian, North Semitic

Proto-Canaanite, Proto-Sinaitic

(several)

Ugarit

Sq.Heb.

Aramaic

Etruscan

Punic

Roman

Runic

Libyan

Hebrew´

Brâhmi

South Arabian

Khar.

Ogham

Cyrillic

Nabat.

Gupta

Ethiopic/Ge'ez

Arabic

Tibetan

Devan.

Bengali

Tifinagh

Hebrew

Indic and S-E Asian scripts

Sumerian pictographic

Proto-Elamite

Sumerian syllabic

Old Akkadian

Harappan

Old Babylonian

Linear Elamite

Old Assyrian

Middle Bab'n

Hittite hierogl.

Hittite

Hurrian

Proto-Arabian

Middle Assyrian

Standard Bab'n

Shang oracle bones

Elamite

Ta chuan´

'Greater Seal'

Urartian

New Assyrian

Neo-Bab'n

Late Bab'n

Old Persian

Hsiao chuan

'Lesser Seal'

Olmec

Zapotec

Isthmian

Li shu

'Clerky Script'

Mixtec

Izapan

Modern Chinese

Mayan

Japanese Kanji´

Kana

Aztec

Korean

Yi

Ro.-Ro.