

History of Asian Art • Chinese Calligraphy

Professor Lampo Leong, Ph.D.

Chinese Calligraphy strives for a high order of excellence, which evokes exquisite sensations of the mind, heart and hand in perfect coordination — each stroke is endowed with varied rhythm, each dot with subtle resilience as ink permeates paper.

ANCIENT SCRIPT: XIA DYNASTY (ca. 2000-1700 B.C.E.) Style: Tip of the brush, angular, straight strokes
Pictograph & Oracle Bones Inscription: on tortoise shells & animal bones, used for divination



SEAL SCRIPT (Zhuanshu): SHANG DYNASTY (ca. 1750-1045 B.C.E.) & **ZHOU DYNASTY** (1045-256 B.C.E.)

Large Seal Script (Dazhuan, Jinwen): on Bronze vessels

Small Seal Script (Xiaozhuan) QIN (Ch'in) DYNASTY, CHINA (221-206 B.C.E.)

Qin Shihuang, First Emperor, Standardized written language, Prime Minister Li Si,

Style: Even, straight and curved strokes, balanced, refined, elegant, dignified & austere

Stone Drum Script (Shiguwen 374 B.C.E.): Carving on drum shaped stone. Style: Bold



CLERICAL SCRIPT (Lishu): HAN DYNASTY (206 B.C.E.-220 C.E.)

Bamboo & wooden slip script

A major break-through in writing, brought out the full capabilities of the brush, enabled faster writing

Han Bei: Stone carving Style: Variation of strokes; Head of a silk worm & the tail of the wild geese

Shichen Bei

Yiyiing Bei

Liqi Bei

Chaochuan Bei

Huashan Bei

Shimensong



STANDARD SCRIPT (Kaishu): SIX DYNASTIES (386-587, NORTHERN & SOUTHERN DYNASTIES), Side of brush

Wei Bei: NORTHERN DYNASTIES (Northern Wei, Western Wei, Eastern Wei)

Zhengwengon Bei

Zhangmenglong Bei

Shimenming

Longmen Bei

Cuanbaozi Bei

Cuanlongyen Bei

Zhong You (151-230, Southern Dynasties) balance of strength, pliability & elegance

Tang Dynasty masters: (618-907)

Yan Zhenqing (709-785, dignified, solemn, exuberant, powerful & resilience like vine)

Liu Gongquan (778-865, bony)

Yu Shinan (558-638)

Chu Suiliang (596-658)

Ouyang Xun (557-641, Straight, angular, rigid strokes. "combining the grace of the serpent & the vigour of the warrior")

Zhao Ji (1082-1135, Emperor Huizhong of the Song, slender gold script)

Jin Long (1687-17630)



RUNNING SCRIPT (Xingshu): HAN, WESTERN & EASTERN JIN (317-419) Style: Tip and side of the brush

Lu Ji (Western Jin)

Wang Xianzhi (344-388, Eastern Jin)

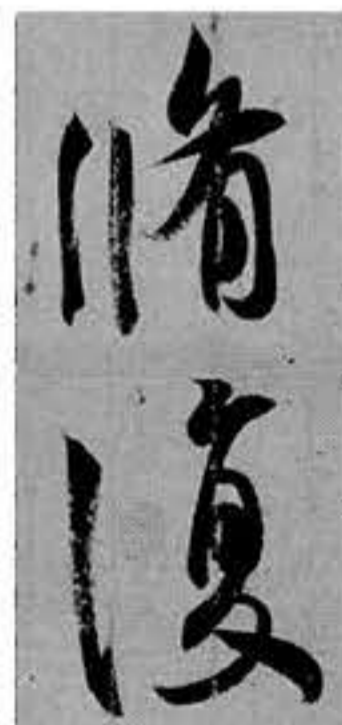
Wang Xizhi (303-379?, Eastern Jin): *Orchid Pavilion Preface*. Sage of calligraphy.

"Fairy flying among the clouds & dancing on the waves". Highly purified form of line, free, romantic, flowing, lofty style, graceful movements of swans

Yan Zhenqing (709-785): dynamic

Sun Guoting (648-703): *Shupu*

Mi Fei (Mi Fu 1051-1107): "Write with four sides of the brush, utilizing dry & wet ink tonalities"



CURSIVE SCRIPT (Caoshu, delirious cursive script, wild cursive script, Jin Dynasty, Tang Dynasty 618-907)

Wang Xianzhi (344-388, Eastern Jin)

Huaisu (ca. 737-800, the drunken monk): Extreme energetic, resourcefulness, vivacity, in mad ecstasy

Zhang Xu (active 713-740): "Dancer holding a sword which glitters and whirl in the air in musical rhythm."

Yang Ningshi (873-954)

Huang Tingjian (1050-1110): Swift & pugilistic movement

Su Shi (Su Dongpo, 1037-1101)

Wang Do (1592-1652)

