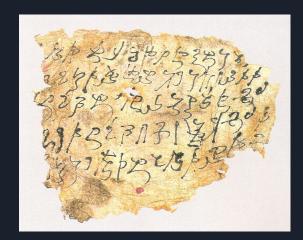
Calligraphy in Ancient India

Dade Walker

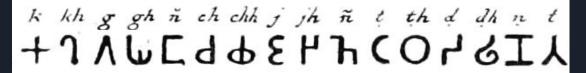
Brahmi and Kharosthi Scripts

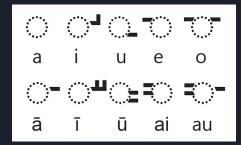
- Used throughout ancient India (400 BCE 600 CE)
- Origins of writing systems likely stem from Aramaic
- Both are abugidas symbols represent consonants with added marks to denote vowel sounds
- Written from left to right (mostly)



Paper strip written with Kharosthi writing

Early Brahmi (Left) and Kharosthi (Right) Letters





a ?	go 8	tra Z	psa \$	yu ∽	șa 🗆
am y	gha h	tha +	pha +1	ye x	și th
ā medial	cha 기거	thi #	phi th	ra 7	_{spa} h
i 7	chha ^Y ¥	the 4	phthi ‡	ram 3	èva Lr
iṃ 3	<i>I</i> YY ja	da S	phre 12	ri ⁴	sha 个
u j	ji XX	di X	ba ⊃	ru ว	shka Ti
e 7	ju JY	du 8	bi [†]	rkhes	sa PPP
0 7	jha H	de y	bu J	rte 🕏	saṃ P
ka Tr	jho H	dra 🖫	bra 7	rna よ	si 🍎
ki [†] h	ța 1-	dha 3	bha Th	rmaナ	su P
ku ah	tha 7	dhra 3	bhe th	rva 2	sta 7
ke th	фa Ч	na S	bhra ħ	la d	stra Z
krah	di Al	ni ¥	ma	li [≁] l	sya 🏅
kri ⁷ tı	ùa L	no ሻ	mam 3	lu d	SSa 🕏
kre Th	ņi f	pa h	mi Ψ	lo 7	ha 22
kha S	ta ソ	pi ^h	me U	va 7	haṃ 🎗
khu 9	ti サ	bn 2	mo N	vi [†] l	hi X
ga ሦሦሧ	tu S	pe H	ya ^	∨u ⊃	he 2
gam g	te 5	pra t	λaၨω₃√	ve 7	ho 2
gu S	to n	pri t	yi ^x	vral	й ,

Early Brahmi Script

- Used from 250 BCE 1st century CE
- Letters are typically more angular due to most commonly being carved into stone
- Edicts of Ashoka: Large pillars inscribed with Buddhist philosophy by the emperor Ashoka of the Maurya empire

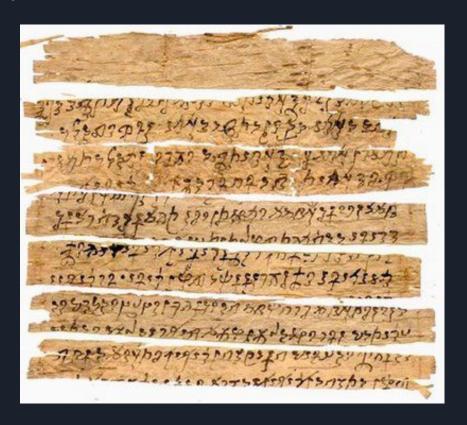
When King Devanampriya
Priyadarsin had been anointed
twenty years, he came himself and
worshipped (this spot) because the
Buddha Shakyamuni was born here.
(He) both caused to be made a stone
bearing a horse (?) and caused a
stone pillar to be set up, (in order to
show) that the Blessed One was
born here. (He) made the village of
Lummini free of taxes, and paying
(only) an eighth share (of the
produce).





Birch Bark Manuscripts

- Along with stone carvings, much writing was done on the inside of birch bark
- Written with pen and ink
- Written with Kharosthi script
- Writing is much more cursive than early Brahmi
- Buddhist manuscripts which often contained notes detailing authorship and date of writing
- Stored in clay pots

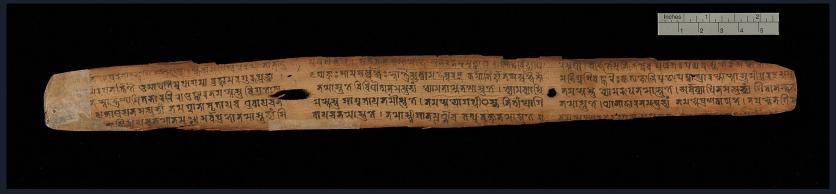




Palm-leaf Manuscripts

- Common method of writing for over 1500 years
- Dried palm leaves inscribed with a knife before applying ink and wiping off; text became engraved in surface
- Fragile leaves would cause writing systems to evolve into rounder and more cursive forms as the previously angular letters would cause leaves to tear
- Manuscripts typically degrade after about 600 years





What happened to them?

- Brahmi developed over time and eventually developed into numerous modern scripts including Devanagari and Tibetan script
- Kharosthi script seems to have been abandoned after the 3rd century AD

अ आ इ ई उ ऊ 来 飛 で で ए ऐ ओ औ क ख ग घ ङ च छ ज झ ञ ट ठ ड ढ ण तथदधन प फ ब भ म य र ल व शषसह

