

Chinese Calligraphy Script Styles

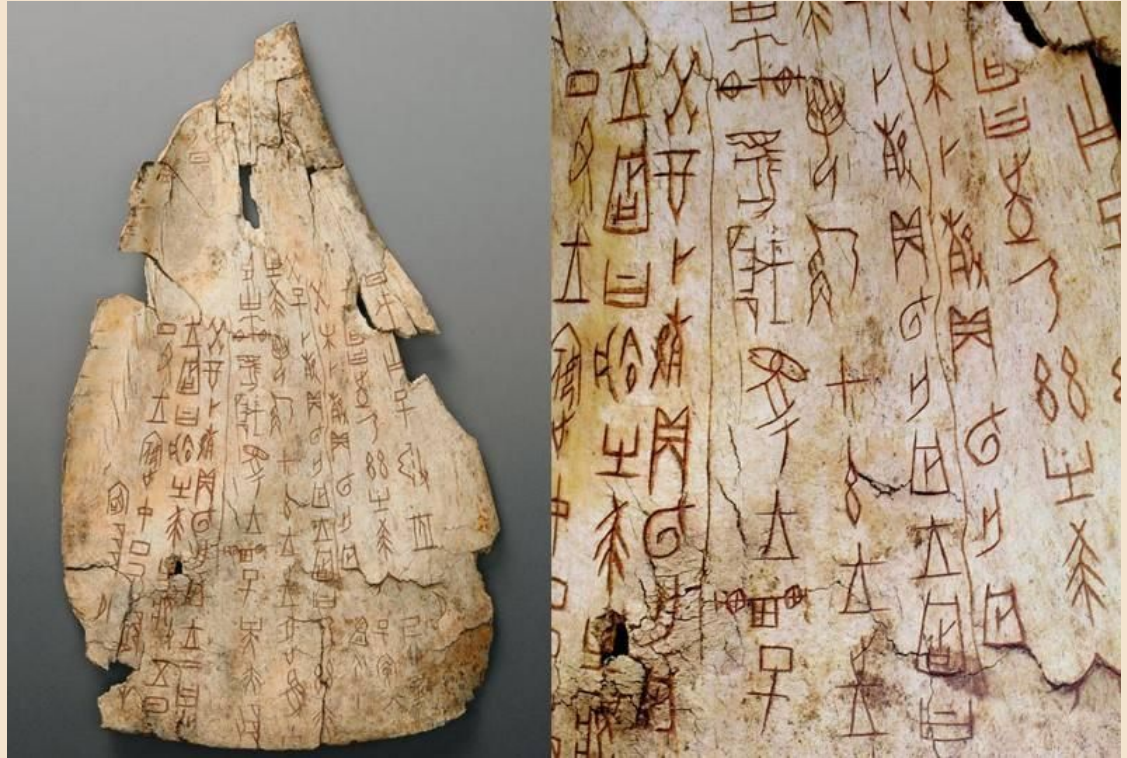
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EAST 1200
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oracle bones
bronze script
seal script
clerical script
cursive script
running script
ultimate script

	luck 吉	auspicious 祥	peace 平	calm 安
甲骨				
金文				
篆				
隶				
草				
行				
真				

Oracle Bones

- Made from turtles
- Shang Dynasty
 - c. 1600-1046 BCE
- Divination
- Symbols became words
- Carve symbols
 - Read cracks
- Declined after *I-Ching*
- Earliest written records



https://www.worldhistory.org/Oracle_Bones/
<https://zhuanlan.zhihu.com/p/101955129>

Oracle Bones

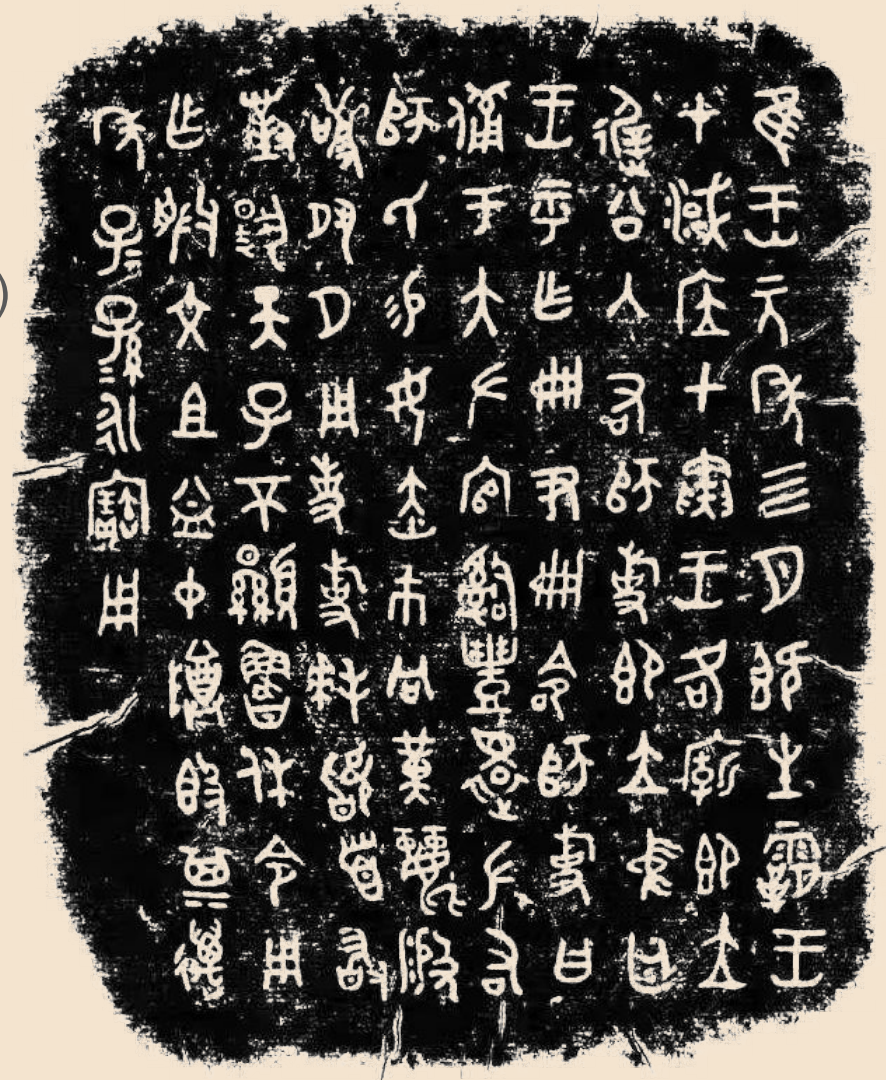


<https://zhuanlan.zhihu.com/p/101955129>

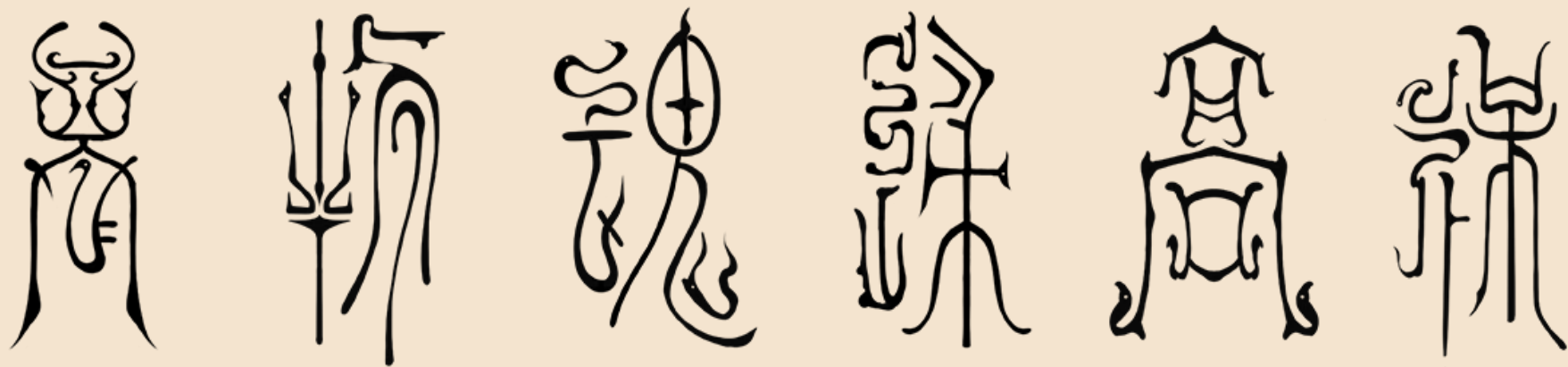
Bronze Script

- Late Shang Dynasty (1200-1045 BCE)
- Bronze objects
 - Vessels, bells, weapons
- Positive inscriptions
- Stylus on wet clay
- Molten metal in mold
- Diversity in bronze inscriptions

<https://www.historyofinformation.com/detail.php?id=2296>



Bird-Worm Script (鳥蟲書)

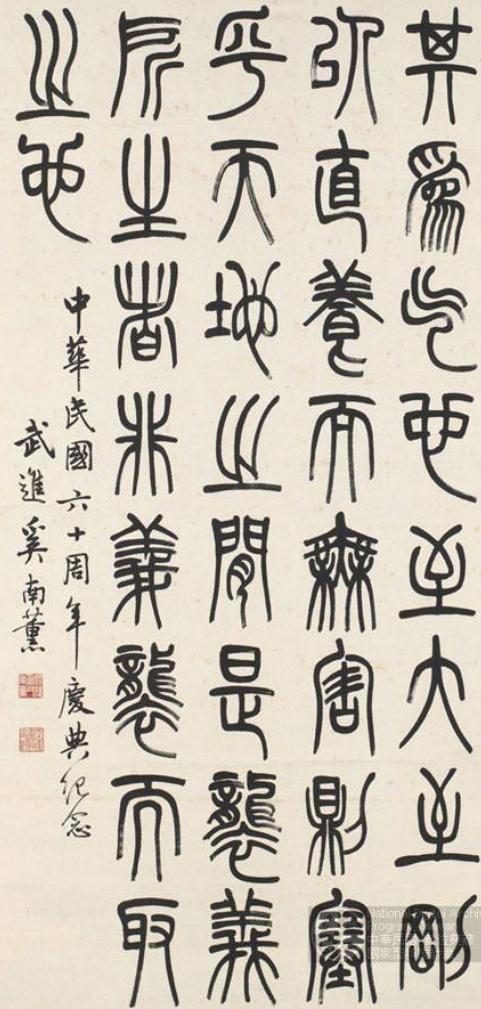


Seal Script

- 大篆 (dazhuan) Large-seal script
 - Derived from symbols
- Standardization
- Commemorative records
- 小篆 (xiao zhuan) Small-seal script
- Qin Dynasty
- Symmetrical, thin, even lines
- Official inscriptions stone monuments

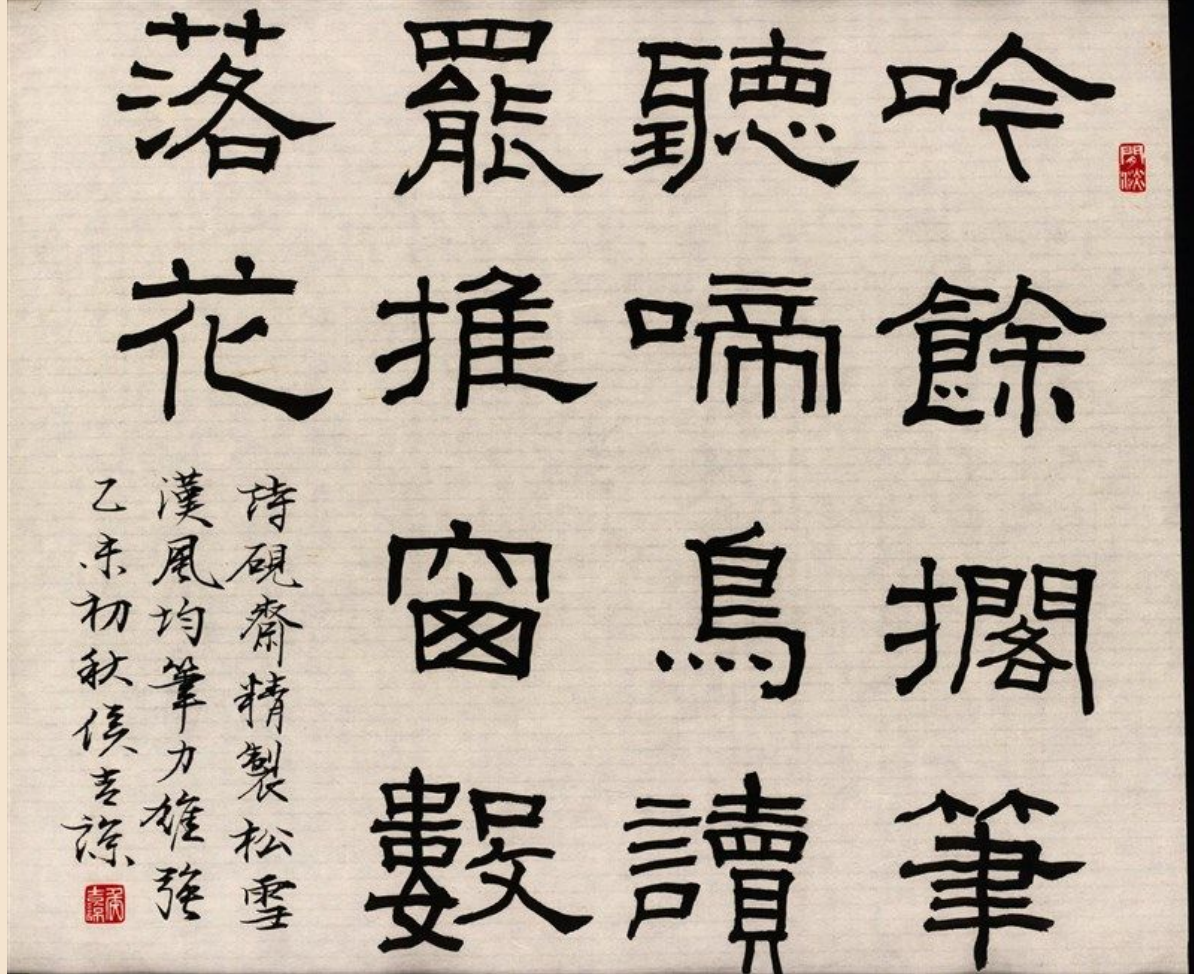
<https://catalog.digitalarchives.tw/item/00/25/ab/47.html>

<https://asia-archive.si.edu/learn/chinas-calligraphic-arts/seal-script/>



Clerical Script

- Speed
- Angular
- Han Dynasty
- Official documents
- Steles
- Paper
- Fabric
- Slips



https://www.cityu.edu.hk/lib/about/event/ch_calligraphy/clerical_eng.htm

<https://www.merit-times.com/NewsPage.aspx?unid=508297>

- Bamboo chips

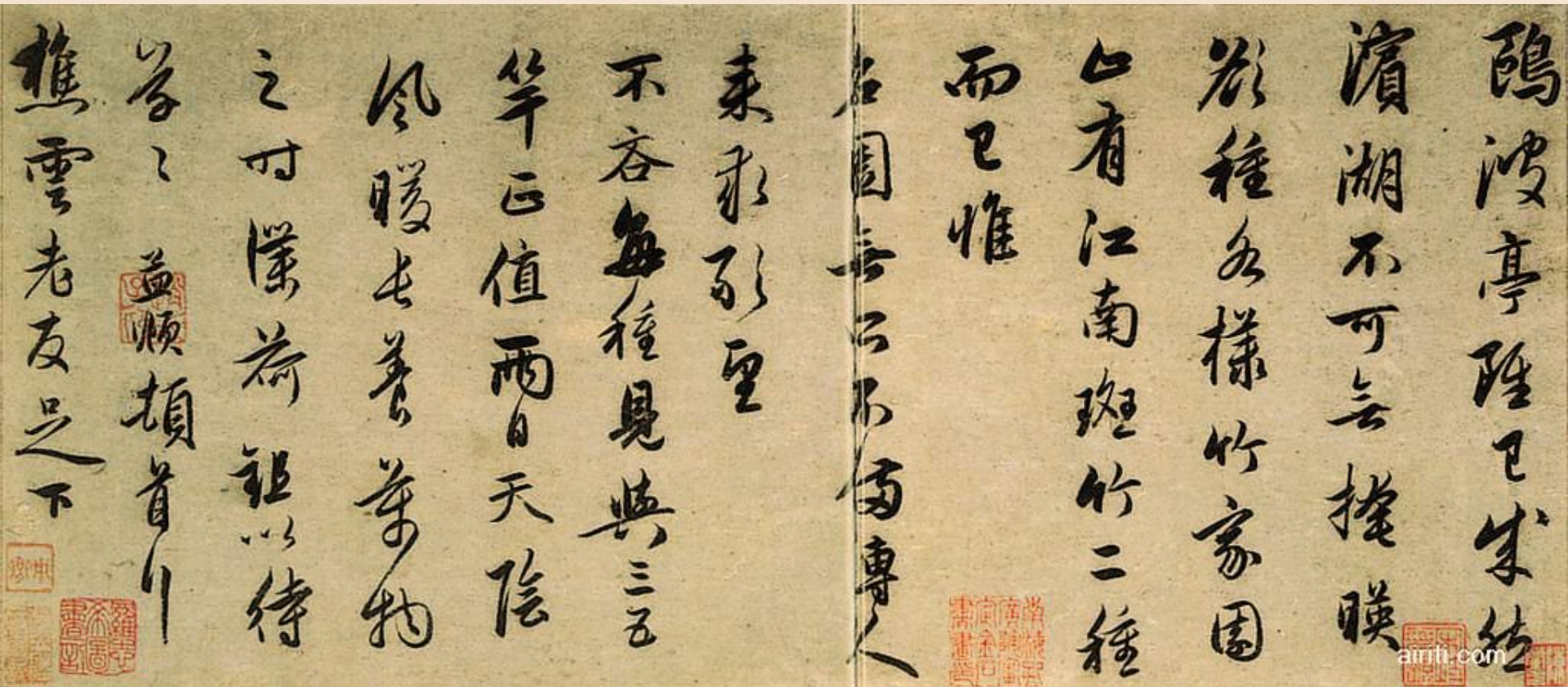
Cursive Script

- Late Han Dynasty (220 CE)
- Tang Dynasty (618-907 CE)
- Single, continuous stroke
- Freedom of expression
 - Spacing
 - Proportions

<https://www.merit-times.com/NewsPage2.aspx?unid=301073>
https://www.cityu.edu.hk/lib/about/event/ch_calligraphy/running_eng.htm
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/caoshu>



Running Script



Running Script

- Late Eastern Han to Jin Dynasty
- Combination of regular script and cursive script
- Easier to read than cursive script
- Quick writing

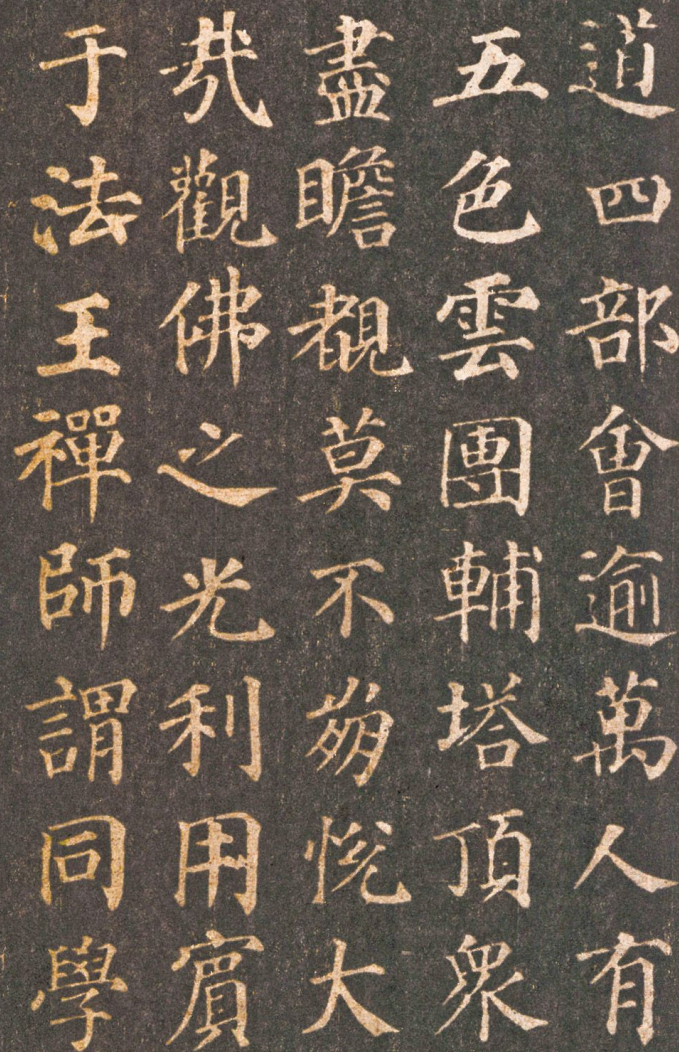
https://www.cityu.edu.hk/lib/about/event/ch_calligraphy/running_eng.htm

Ultimate/Regular Script

- 真書 / 楷書 (kaishu)
- Tang Dynasty
- Printed in modern-day texts
- Most widely and easily recognized style
- Clear brushstrokes

<http://www.columbia.edu/~xc2282/calligraphy/calligraphy.html>

https://www.cityu.edu.hk/lib/about/event/ch_calligraphy/regular_chi.htm



Discussion

- How do Chinese scripts compare to scripts in other languages?
- How much do you think the nature and writing system of a language affects the calligraphic art associated with that language?
- What factors might affect the development of a writing style in a culture?