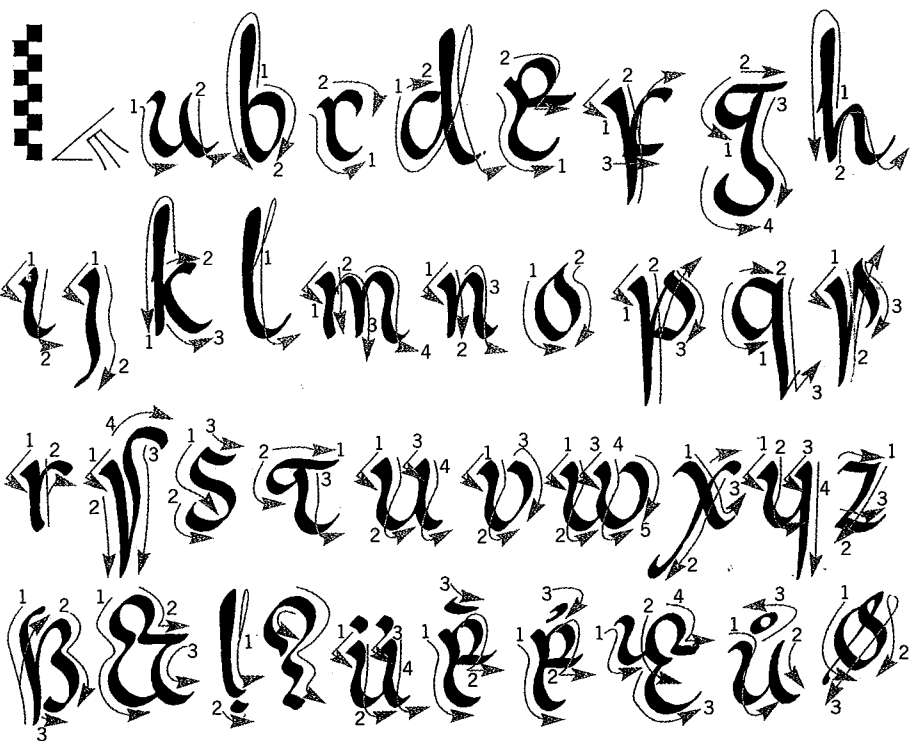


Luxeuil minuscule

This is possibly the earliest European minuscule alphabet, dating from the middle of the seventh century and developed in the monastery at Luxeuil in France. It has its origins in the Merovingian Court hand: Although retaining its cursive qualities, it has been simplified.



Points of interest

The fully rounded bowls contrast with the narrow letters such as "n" and "m." Ascenders and descenders are long, and letters were frequently conjoined.

The "a" has an open bowl, and in this instance the "b" is ligatured to "c." The "c" is made with a loop coming from a stem.



The "u" (or "v") has serifs, separating it from the "a." The suggested "a" shown here may be more suitable for modern use.

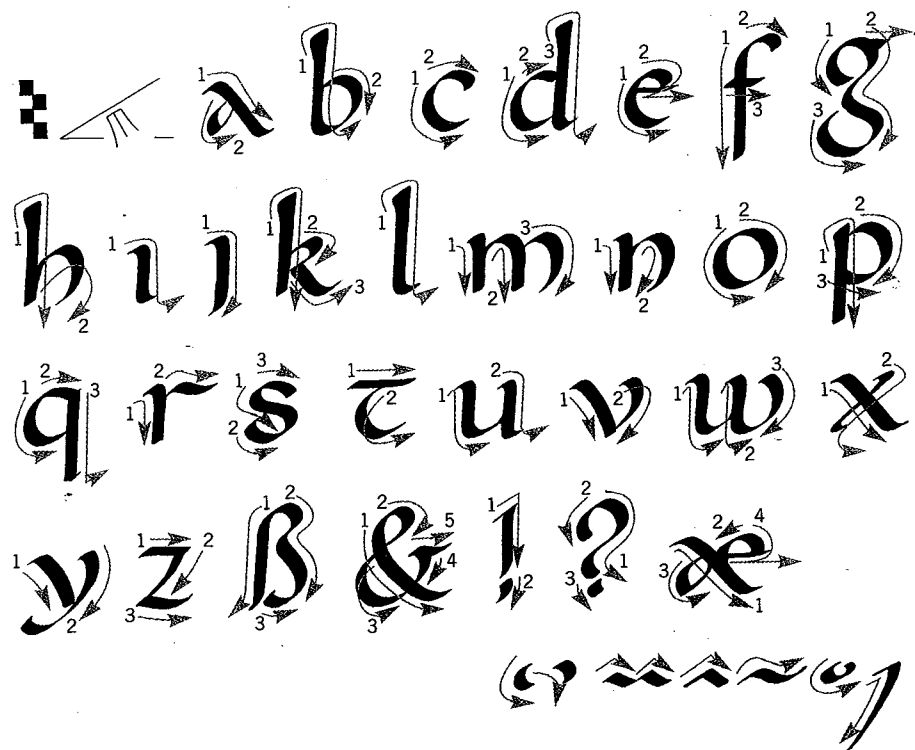


An alternative form of "e." The "e" is a tall letter rising above the x-height and represents a distinguishing feature.



Caroline minuscule

This reformed half-Uncial hand was developed during the late eighth century at Charlemagne's scriptorium at Tours. The hand is of major importance as our modern minuscule characters can be traced back directly to this script, the different letter being the "t."



Points of interest

The ascenders have clubbed heads and are equal to the x-height (smaller in modern use). The "r" is wide, and the "j" and "w" are modern additions.

In modern use, this form of serif is sometimes substituted.

The letters flow naturally, with no single letter standing out more than its neighbor.

Do not allow the "s" to become too narrow—pull out the center stroke.

The wide "r" is balanced by the wide and open "a": Together they produce distinctive word patterns.

This traditional "t" can be replaced by a modern "t."

