


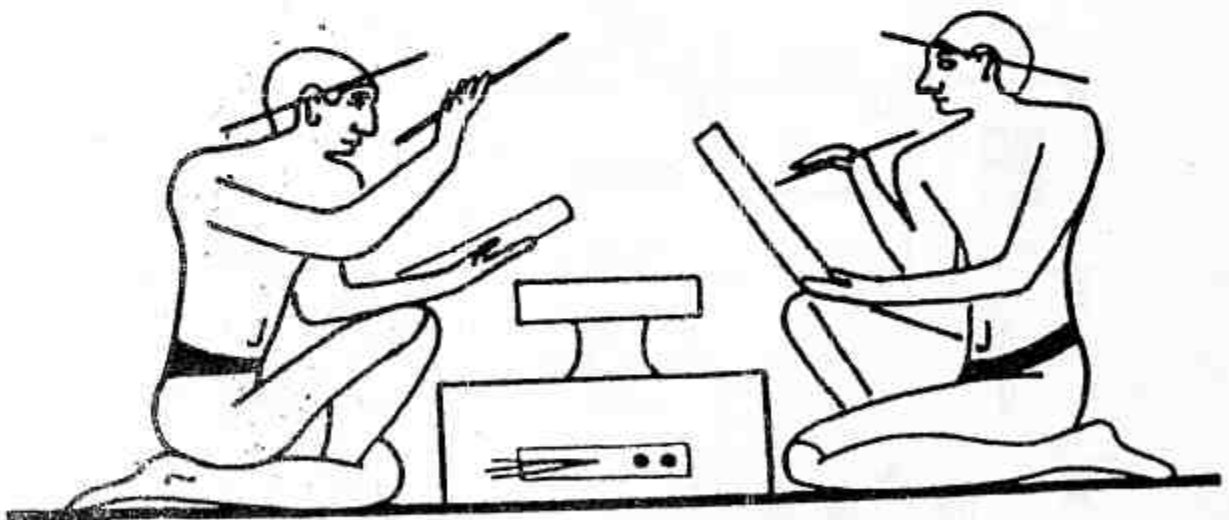


Hieroglyphics

The written language of the ancient Egyptians is called HIEROGLYPHICS. Writing developed very early in their history (around 3100 B.C.).

It was an unusual language which consisted of a group a consonants and picture signs. There were more than 700 different symbols used. Some of these symbols are easy to translate, for example when you see this glyph  (a pair of legs) it simply means "to walk," and when you see this symbol  (circle with a cross) it means city or town. One sign that most people recognize is the ankh , the Egyptian word for "life."

The people who were able to read and write the hieroglyphics were called SCRIBES. They were the most highly respected professionals in ancient Egypt. The scribes played a prominent role in the administration of the country and were responsible for the official records, tax rolls, and letters. Scribes were normally found sitting cross-legged on the ground with a reed pen, some paper (papyrus), and a small palette containing their ink.



Two Scribes Working

EGYPTIAN HIEROGLYPHS

<p>A</p>  <p>vulture</p>	<p>B or V</p>  <p>foot</p>	<p>C</p>  <p>basket</p>
<p>D</p>  <p>hand</p>	<p>E</p>  <p>reed leaf</p>	<p>F</p>  <p>horned viper</p>
<p>G</p>  <p>pot stand</p>	<p>H</p>  <p>shelter</p>	<p>I</p>  <p>reed leaf</p>
<p>J</p>  <p>cobra</p>	<p>K</p>  <p>basket</p>	<p>L</p>  <p>mouth</p>
<p>M</p>  <p>owl</p>	<p>N</p>  <p>water</p>	<p>O</p>  <p>quail chick</p>
<p>P</p>  <p>stool</p>	<p>Q</p>  <p>hillside</p>	<p>R</p>  <p>mouth</p>
<p>S</p>  <p>folded cloth</p>	<p>T</p>  <p>bread loaf</p>	<p>U or W</p>  <p>quail chick</p>
<p>X</p>  <p>basket cloth</p>	<p>Y</p>  <p>2 reed leaves</p>	<p>Z</p>  <p>door bolt</p>