



# THE EVOLUTION OF ARMENIAN ALPHABET



PETROGLYPH		HIEROGLYPH		SYLLABIC		ALPHABETS									
PALEOLITHIC 15,000-12,000 B.C. STONE AGE	CHALCOLITHIC ROCK CARVING COPPER-BRONZE AGE 5000-2000 B.C. ARMENIA	METZAMOR INSCRIPTION 2000-1800 B.C. (IRON AGE SCRIPT) ARMENIA	HYKSOSIAN INSCRIPTION 1730-1580 B.C. SINAI	HAIKAZIAN INSCRIPTION 1500 B.C.? ARMENIA	URARTIAN SYMBOLS 1200-650 B.C. ARMENIA	ARMAVIR INSCRIPTION 1100 B.C. ARMENIA	CHOLAGERD INSCRIPTION 850-750 B.C. ARMENIA	URARTIAN CUNEIFORM 850-650 B.C. ARMENIA	HYKSOSIAN after 1730 B.C. SINAI	HAIKAZIAN OLD ARMENIAN ?-14th Cent. A.D. ARMENIA	ODESSIAN 5-4th Cent. B.C. SINAI	MESROBIAN 406 A.D.-PRESENT ARMENIA	NAME SOUND NAME	PHONETIC VALUE	
													1 Ä Äyb	ä as in art	1
													2 Bû Bën	b as in bag	2
													3 Gû Gim	g as in gas	3
													4 Dû Dä	d as in dog	4
													5 Yë Yëch	yë as in yes ë as in yet	5
													6 Zû Zä	z as in zoo	6
													7 Ę Ę	ë as in end	7
													8 Û Ût	û as in urn	8
													9 Tû Tô	t as in toy	9
													10 Zhû Zhë	z as in azure	10
													20 Ę Ęni	ë as in eve	11
													30 Lû Lüne	L as in lamp	12
													40 Khû Khë	kh as in arabic khan	13
													50 Tzû Tzä	tz as in tzar	14
													60 Kû Kën	k as in skate	15
													70 Hû Hô	h as in hot	16
													80 DZû Dzä	dz as in adze	17
													90 Ghû Ghät	gh as in arabic ghazi	18
													100 Dgû Dgë	dg as in edge	19
													200 Mû Mën	m as in man	20
													300 Hë Hë	h as in horse y as in say	21
													400 Nû Nôo	n as in new	22
													500 Shû Shä	sh as in shy	23
													600 Vö Vö	vö as in volt ö as in ore	24
													700 Chû Chä	ch as in child	25
													800 Pû Pë	p as in sport	26
													900 Jû Jë	j as in junk	27
													1000 Rû Rä	r as in bravo	28
													2000 Sû Së	s as in sun	29
													3000 Vû Vëv	v as in vote	30
													4000 Tû Tüne	t as in skate	31
													5000 Rû Rë	r as in arm	32
													6000 Tsû Tsö	ts as in tsetse	33
													7000 Wû Hüne	W as in work V as in veto	34
													8000 Pû Püre	P as in park	35
													9000 Qû Që	q as in quick	36
													10000 Ö Ö	ö as in old	37
													20000 Fû Fë	f as in fat	38
													Öö = &	Öö as in food	39
													Yëv = &	yëv as in 'yev'	40

ADDED IN 12TH CENTURY A. D.  
DIPHTHONGS

pronunciation key-see Webster's Dictionary

THE EVOLUTION OF ARMENIAN AND WORLD ALPHABETS

By MELKON ARMEN KHANDJIAN

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

The tool by which this Word — that is human speech, feeling, and thought — is captured and frozen into tangible and visual form is the ALPHABET.

The ancients considered writing the gift of the gods and ascribed to it divine powers. For thousands of years, the sacred knowledge of writing was a well guarded secret of the temple priests and the ruling class.

edged and superior tools were manufactured. Between 6500 and 4000 before Christ, Armenian tribesmen carried on a thriving trade by supplying obsidian to Near Eastern lands.

The most typical skeletons of the White Race have been found in the Caucasus, after which this race is called Caucasian. Indications that Armenians and Georgian mountains of Caucasus were the birthland of the white race are very strong.

By proclaiming Christianity as state religion in 301 A.D., Armenia became the first Christian nation. In 387 A.D. the land was partitioned between the Roman and Persian empires.

COMPARATIVE CHART OF WORLD ALPHABETS

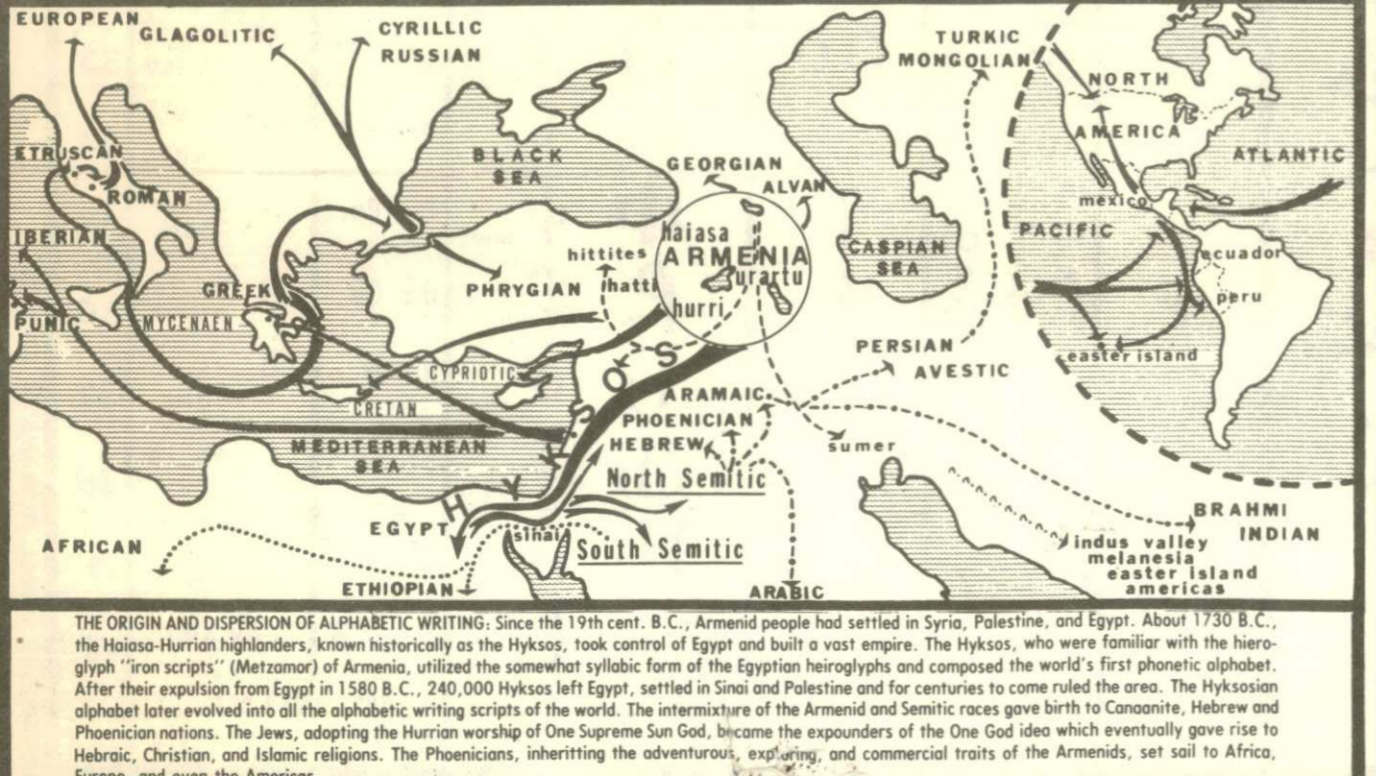
Wherever applicable, characters are arranged according to phonetic values. Otherwise, similarity of form and design are used for comparison. The chart is intended as a guide only, and does not imply absolute accuracy.

Table with columns for various alphabets: EGYPTIAN, UGARITIC, SYRIAN, ARABIC, HEBREW, PHENICIAN, etc. Each column contains the letters of that alphabet.

STYLES OF THE ARMENIAN ALPHABET

The Mesrobian script has undergone alterations and additions since its creation. Between the 9th and 12th centuries, the rather coarse capital letters assumed smaller and more graceful form giving rise to the minuscule letters.

Visual comparison of Armenian scripts including Yergatagir, Kabgir, Bolorigir, Seghagir, Notragir, Neshanagir, Sheghagir, Normagrir, Paragrir, Terchnagir, and their associated characters and historical notes.



Signs of the Planets (Sun, Moon, Mercury, etc.), Signs of the Zodiac (Aries, Taurus, etc.), and Musical Notations.

Armenid and other racial types (Sumerian, Jew, Celtic Briton, etc.) with descriptions of their characteristics and origins.