

Early English Handwriting

Some resources
and helps

Palæography



Palaeography, [also spelt paleography](#), παλαιός *palaiós*, "old" and γράφειν *graphein*, "to write") is the study of ancient [handwriting](#), and the practice of deciphering and reading historical manuscripts.



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Palaeography

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palaeography

Palaeography: reading old handwriting 1500 - 1800 A practical online tutorial

Palaeography is the study of old handwriting. This web tutorial will help you learn to read the handwriting found in documents written in English between 1500 and 1800.

At first glance, many documents written at this time look illegible to the modern reader. By reading the practical tips and working through the documents in the Tutorial in order of difficulty, you will find that it becomes much easier to read old handwriting. You can find more documents on which to practise your skills in the [further practice](#) section.



This tutorial has been developed in partnership with the [School of Library, Archive and Information Studies \(SLAIS\)](#), University College London

Where to start >

[Tips on reading and transcribing documents](#)



Short listed by **The Times Higher Awards 2006** for the Most Imaginative Use of Distance Learning

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Welcome

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/ About Us

Welcome to Scottish Handwriting.com, the website offering online tuition in palaeography for historians, genealogists and other researchers who have problems reading manuscript historical records written in Scotland in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

/ What's New

The emphasis of the website is on practical help to improve the palaeographical skills, rather than on the academic study of Scottish handwriting.

/ Tutorials

/ Coaching

Weekly Poser


Refresh your skills with our weekly posers. Latest one added 9 April 2009.

Site Updates

Try the **Glasgow Burgh Court tutorial** and improve your reading skills while learning about urban life in the 1600s.



 **Interactive Tutorials**
Test your palaeography skills with our interactive tutorials.

 **Coaching Manual**
Use our coaching manual to help you decipher documents.

www.english.cam.ac.uk/ceres/ehoc/index.htm

English Handwriting 1500-1700

an online course

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- project overview
- acknowledgements
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- historical introduction
- handwriting manual (1618)
- transcription conventions
- dating & describing hands
- bibliography & research resources
- alphabets
- index of manuscript images
- sample transcriptions

The Secretarie Alphabete

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Kk Ll Mm Nn
Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz



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press them more firmly on the mind, but will expose the test, is crucial to a thorough grasp of the origin, evolution,

from the manuscripts collected on this site, and present 1700. The links to complete alphabets, which will appear use the pop-up windows to return to this page, and through

a	b	c	d	e
f	g	h	i	k
l	m	n	o	p
q	r	s	t	u
v	w	x	y	z

www.btinternet.com/~tylcoat/handwrit.htm

Early English handwriting



A small selection of mid sixteenth to early seventeenth century English handwriting examples that we have collected and transcribed. Words within the quotation marks are those shown. Ten out of ten to anyone who can read number four **without looking at the transcription** - scroll down carefully!

Early English handwriting

Seven examples below from: 1547 / 1550 / 1563 / 1578 / 1604 / 1606 / 1612

1.

I bequethe to evry one "of my god chylldryn apeyste" xiiij£
[Will of William Tylcott, Nailstone, Leicestershire, 1547]



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O'QUINN LAW LIBRARY

aalt.law.uh.edu/IndexPri.html

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THE FIRST LEGAL SYSTEM: (1176) TO 1348

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[Edward III \(to 1348\)](#)

THE SECOND LEGAL SYSTEM: 1348 TO 1529

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Palaeography Assistance: Latin

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Palaeography Assistance: English

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Where will we *really* need
the ability to read ancient documents?

wills

manor documents

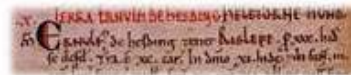
Poorhouse documents

civil litigations

parish records

Beginners' Latin

BEGINNERS' LATIN



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Latin 1086 – 1733:

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/latin/beginners

a practical online tutorial for beginners

This tutorial is a beginners' guide to the Latin used in documents between 1086 and 1733. It is the first online tutorial to help you learn the Latin from this period. [Try our new Advanced Latin](#) >

The tutorial covers the period between 1086 and 1733, when Latin was the [official language](#) ^[E] of documents written in England.

Knowing Latin will help you to read documents from this period. After 1733, official documents were written in English.

No previous knowledge of Latin is required. This tutorial is suitable for everyone who wants to learn. You may

- Be a beginner
- Want to refresh your skills
- Have studied [Classical](#) ^[E] Latin and want to find out about Latin from a different period

All of the grammar is fully explained. No previous knowledge is required.

You can practise by translating sentences taken from real documents held at The National Archives. For example, some are from the [Domesday Book](#) ^[E], written in 1086. It is the earliest surviving public record.

Where to start >

Tips on learning Latin

Tutorial >

Twelve lessons

Reference >

Word list, common problems, dating Latin documents and much more

Activities >

More documents to practise on. New documents will be added periodically.

Further practice >

Learn how to read old handwriting 1500-1800 with our interactive [online tutorial](#) >

- [Glossary](#)
- [Word list](#)
- [Grammar table](#)



Short listed by **The Times Higher Awards 2006** for the Most Imaginative Use of Distance Learning

Medway Ancestors Imagebase: list of parishes, in alphabetical order

citygark.medway.gov.uk/query/results/?Mode=Search&PathList=%2

- [Allhallows, see Hoo Allhallows]
- **Ash next Ridley, St. Peter and St. Paul 1563-1997 (P8)** [click here](#) [Z+a Medway Ancestors%2F%0A&SearchWords=&DateList=](http://citygark.medway.gov.uk/query/results/?Mode=Search&PathList=%2F%0A&SearchWords=&DateList=)
- [Birling, Lower, see also Snodland, below]
- **Birling, Lower, Christ Church baptisms and marriages 1893-1969 (P29C)** [click here](#)
- [Borstal, see also Rochester, St. Margaret]
- **Borstal, St. Matthew baptisms 1879-1969 and marriages 1902-1954 (P305B)** [click here](#)
- **Bredhurst, St. Peter CMB 1546-1954 (P44)** [click here](#)
- [Brompton, New, see Gillingham St. Augustine, Gillingham St. Barnabas, Gillingham St. Luke and Gillingham St. Mark]
- [Brompton, Old see also Gillingham St. Mary Magdalene and Gillingham, St. Mark]
- **Brompton, Old, Holy Trinity baptisms 1848-1953, marriages 1849-1953 and burials in municipal cemeteries 1920-1925 (P153D)** [click here](#)
- **Brompton, Chatham Garrison Church (the Garrison Church of St. Barbara), Maxwell Road, Brompton baptisms 1847-1977 and marriages 1933-1955 (NP153D)** [click here](#)
- **Burham, St. Mary the Virgin CMB 1627-1981 (P52)** [click here](#)
- **Chalk, St. Mary the Virgin CMB 1661-1940 (P77)** [click here](#)
- [Chatham, see also Luton, below]
- **Chatham, All Saints baptisms (including Medway Poor Law Union Workhouse Chapel, described as Holy Trinity Church, County Hospital after 1931) 1899-1942 and marriages 1914-1954 (P85H)** [click here](#)
- **Chatham, St. John the Divine, Baptisms 1853-1969 and marriages 1853-1954 (P85B)** [click here](#)
- **Chatham, St. Mary the Virgin CMB 1568-1974 (P85)** [click here](#)
- **Chatham, St. Paul baptisms 1855-1975 and marriages 1855-1954 (P85C)** [click here](#)
- **Chatham, St. Philip (Wayfield) and St. James (Walderslade) baptisms 1950-1962 and marriages 1951-1956 (P85F)** [click here](#)
[See also Chatham, St. William's Church, Walderslade, below]
- **Chatham, St. Stephen baptisms 1935-1980 and marriages 1942-1954 (P85E)** [click here](#)
- **Chatham, St. William (Walderslade Village) (previously Chatham, St. Philip and St. James, see above) baptisms 1960-1973 (P85G)** [click here](#)
- **Cliffe-at-Hoo, St. Helen CMB 1558-1980 (P94)** [click here](#)
- **Cobham, St. Mary Magdalene CMB 1655-1995 (P96)** [click here](#)
- **Cooling, St. James CMB 1707-1977 (P98)** [click here](#)
- **Crockenhill, All Souls baptisms 1852-1940 and marriages 1853-1954 (P139B)** [click here](#)
- **Cuxton. St. Michael and All Angels CMB 1560-1992 and parish customal 1631-1901 (P108)** [click here](#)

1855

BAPTISMS solemnized in the ^{Ecclsiastical} Parish of Saint Paul. - Chatham
 in the County of Kent in the Year 1855

When Baptised.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1855 April 1	Jane Elvina	Thomas + Mary	Darwin	Chalk Pit Hill Chatham	Labourer	Geor. Matthews Incumbent
No. 1						
1855 April 1	Annie	Thomas + Mary	Darwin	Chalk Pit Hill Chatham	Labourer	Geor. Matthews
No. 2						
1855 April 8.	William George	William George + Sarah Ann	Wood	13 Bryan St. Chatham	Shipwright	Geor. Matthews
No. 3						
1855						

1735

1735

Aprth. Catherine D. of Michael and Eliz^{both} Comport
Mayth. John S. of Nicholas Middleton
July²⁰ John Son. of Wat. Medhurst
Aug³. Elizabeth Kerke a Stranger's Child
Aug²¹. Thomas S. of Thomas Willard
Oct¹⁹ Thomas S. of Richard French.
Oct¹⁹ James S. of Robert Stylis.
Oct³⁰ John S. of Thomas Bishop.
Dec²⁸. Jane D. of Clement Aines
Janth Elizabeth D. of William Knight
Febth. Sarah D. of William Baker
Marth. Margarett D. of Henry Summers

1673

was Baptized March ye 23 Christm in 1672-22.

Christmings for y^e year 1673
John W. B. Dick.

Margaret y^e supposed Daughter of Dennis Lemming was
Baptized April ye 5th

Anne the Daughter of John Warren & Elizabeth his wife
was Baptized April ye 20th

John y^e Sonne of John Phillips & Mary his wife was
Baptized April ye 27th

Mary y^e Daughter of William Riddleton & Anne his
wife Baptized May ye 5th

Susana the Daughter of Richard Cressy & Anne his
wife Baptized June ye 8th

Mary y^e Daughter of Nicholas Holman & Margaret

1669

Decemb: ¹⁶ 22 John of sonne of John Gillet was

Decemb: ¹⁴ 27 ² daughter of Edward Gold
= well was baptized

Anne Demin ^{6⁹}/₇₀
January 2^o

of sonne
the sonne of Roberts
was baptized.

Sarah the Daughter of George Clement
(Anne his wife was borne in Greenwich
on the 21 of August 1668 not yet
Baptized)

1644

Elizabeth y^e daughter of Nicholas Rapier & Elizabeth his wife was
Baptized y^e 17th day of March

Joan y^e daughter of William Wynn & Ann his wife was
Baptized y^e same day

Marianne y^e daughter of Robert Bulby & Mary his wife was
Baptized y^e same day

Thomas Wrier & Elizabeth Haroy were married by license y^e 18th of

Allen Birkes was Buried y^e 12th day of May Ann 1644

Thomas Wayman was Buried y^e 24th day of May

John Huntly & Alice Bugdon were married by license y^e 27th day of

Dionysie Stophen y^e daughter of John Stophen & Margherite his wife was

Baptized in Aylford church by y^e vicar of Burham y^e 2nd day of July

Ann Hanker y^e wife Henry Hanker gentl^e was Buried y^e 5th day of July

William Good & Joane Goodson were married y^e 23rd day of July

Francis & William y^e sons of William Hayereste & his wife was
Baptized y^e 25th day of August

Thomas Brown & Elizabeth Grot were married y^e 25th day of September

1645

Henry Cavin y^e son of Richard Cavin
Baptized y^e 16th day of February
Elizabeth Eddons y^e daughter of Richard Eddons & Elizabeth his wife
Baptized y^e 23th day of February
Steven Gylfhoote y^e son of Richard Gylfhoote & Alice his wife
Baptized y^e 2^d day of March
Steven Gylfhoote was buried y^e 9th day of March
Edward Hammiter was buried y^e 10th day of April. 1645
Robert Rampey y^e son of Robert Rampey gent. & Sarah his wife was
Baptized y^e 3^d day of May
John ~~Wright~~ son of Anne Baker with. was married y^e 8th of
Thomas Board y^e son of Richard Board & Ann his wife was
Baptized y^e 14th day of September
Robert ~~son~~ & Feane Gylfhoote with. were married y^e 9th of October
William ~~son~~ was buried y^e 19th day of October

1645

X Regente booke of
 all the churcheinges
 weddeinges and buriall
 whiche haue ben in the
 parrysh of bredmyste
 in the countye of lester
 from the yeare of our
 lorde one thousande
 fyve hundredth forty
 and fyve as followeth

4

Anno 1588

Termino Tertio Die Junij mariti sunt.

Randall Ludsum de Fagnessam et Beindir
Paynt

Ultimo Die Novembrii de p̄dit mariti
sunt Georgius Walker et Josephina Grent

1589

Anno 1589

Primo secundo die Septembrii mariti
sunt Edwardus Sedden et Joire Webe.

Termino die Februarii mariti fuerunt
Robertus Godfrey et Johanna de Soule.

1590

Anno 1590

Secundo die Augusti mariti fuerunt
Johannes Barret et Anna Sandley

Termino quinto die Februarii de p̄dit
mariti fuerunt Johannes Jeter et Maria

HHHH
Templey p̄dua

Termino die maii Anno Domini 1602 mariti

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to 30

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1568 to 1757

Page 69 Baptisms from 1776
to 72 to 1812

Bevern wife & 3 children

Bevern wife

Bedman wife & 3 children

Shankham wife & 3 children

Wright

~~Bed~~

~~Wright~~

~~young~~

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1568

Buryings in Anno dñi
1568.

Miller — Johans the daughter of Richard Miller of
Surrey was buried the 17 of August.
Heards — Willem Heards son of Harwellham was
buried the 10 of September.
Whytspad — Willem Whytspad was buried the 6 of May.
Fromling — Anthony Fromling was buried the 8 of February.

Anno dñi. 1570.

Hadlow — Alys the daughter of Willem Hadlow was
buried the 10 of November.
Lystney — Margarete Lystney wyden was buried the
13 of November.

Anno dñi. 1571.

Wanoller — Johans Wanoller wyden was buried
the 25 of April.