

# Fascination of the Alphabet

The Evolution of  
Latin Script

*Winter exposition  
Abbey Library of St. Gall  
26 November 2016 until  
12 March 2017*

**Fascination of the Alphabet  
The Evolution of Latin Script**

**Winter exposition**

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26 November 2016 until 12 March 2017  
in the Baroque Hall

**Based on its unique collection of manuscripts, the Abbey Library of St. Gall presents the history of Latin script from Antiquity to the Renaissance.**

The Early Middle Ages saw the emergence of many different regional scripts, which were based on Antique scripts. Under Charlemagne († 814) a counter-movement took place which led to a standardisation of lettering. Carolingian minuscule was the standard script in much of Europe from the 9th until the 12th century.

In the Late Middle Ages, other scripts began to appear. While the most luxurious manuscripts were adorned with complex calligraphy, the writers of books on trading or everyday topics attached more importance to speedy writing. This led to the development of cursive writing with many abbreviations. Modern readers tend to find that legibility was sometimes neglected in the interests of speed.

In the 14th and 15th centuries, humanists south of the Alps reverted to the use of Carolingian minuscule, which they further developed, thus laying the foundations for our modern typefaces.

**Opening hours**

Monday to Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm  
Closed 7–25 November 2016,  
24/25 December 2016 and 13 March 2017

**Admission prices**

CHF 12.00|10.00|9.00|7.00

**Audio guide to the Abbey Library  
and Abbey Precinct of St. Gall**

CHF 5.00 E|G|F|I

**Public guided tours**

daily at 2 pm, in German  
27–31 December 2 pm and 3 pm  
Bookings for guided tours  
(including cathedral) and information  
tours@stibi.ch, Phone +41 71 227 34 16

**Exhibition catalogue**

available from the shop or via our website

**Address**

Abbey Library  
Klosterhof 6d, Postfach,  
9004 St. Gall, Switzerland

[www.stiftsbibliothek.ch](http://www.stiftsbibliothek.ch)  
[www.stiftsbezirk-sg.ch](http://www.stiftsbezirk-sg.ch)  
[www.st.gallen-bodensee.ch](http://www.st.gallen-bodensee.ch)

**Title illustration:**

**Illuminated A initial in the Folchart-Psalter,  
St. Gall, 872–883.  
St. Gall, Abbey Library, Cod. Sang. 23, p. 80.**