

Petra: The Cradle of The Arabic Script In The First Communication Revolution

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Abstract

Communication Scholars unanimously agree that the development of the alphabet is a cornerstone of civilization and that Greece played a central role in the spread of this medium in the West. Both Latin and Arabic scripts are derived from the Canaanite-Phoenician, which represents a shared cultural heritage between the Middle East and the West, most scholars suggest that the second-most-used alphabet in the world after Latin, i.e. Arabic, has descended from the Nabateans, while few say that it descended from the Syriac. Both Nabatean and Syriac are derived from the Phoenician script. This study examines how the historical critical communication theory may help solve this enduring mystery and finds compelling evidence to suggest that the Arabic script evolved from the Nabataean (of Petra in Jordan) rather than the Syriac. This makes Petra the cultural capital for the Arabic alphabet.

Bait Al Anbat