

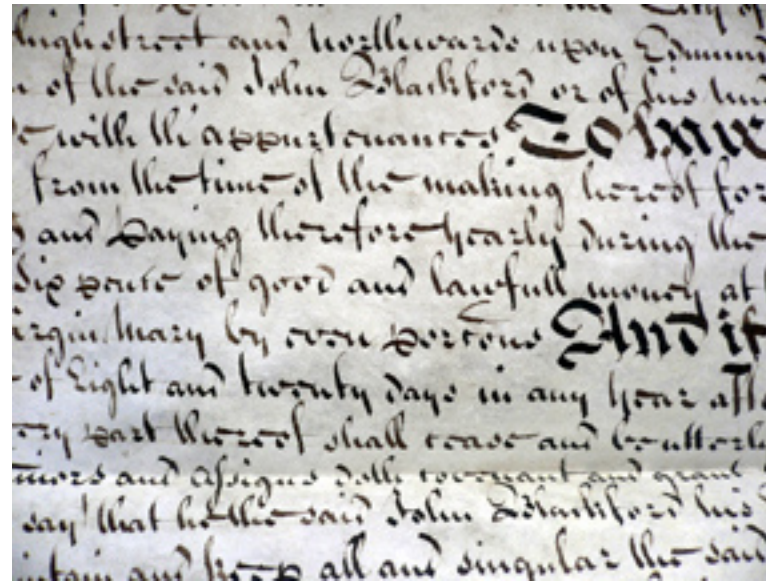
## A6 HISTORY OF WESTERN ALPHABETS

### Ewan Clayton



Ewan Clayton lives in Brighton, UK, where he runs his own calligraphy studio. He is also Professor in Design at the University of Sunderland. Ewan has taught and exhibited widely in Europe, North America and Asia. For many years he worked as a consultant to the Xerox Palo Alto Research Centre where his interest lay in new technology and quality of life issues. Ewan grew up near Ditchling, Sussex, where his family worked in a guild of craftsmen founded by Eric Gill. In 2009 Ewan successfully negotiated the opening of a new full-time Calligraphy with Design degree administered by the University of Sunderland but run in Kensington Palace London in space provided by the Prince of Wales. His book, *A History of Writing*, will be published by Atlantic in 2011.

A weeklong course gives us a rare opportunity to study the historical development of western scripts from Roman times through to the Italian Renaissance. We will also briefly look at an outline of the subsequent developments in western type forms. Studies will be pen-in-hand and the emphasis is on understanding how one letterform transforms itself dynamically into other varieties as time unfolds. In other words, we will see it as a linked history rather than as a succession of different and isolated hands. For each period studied, I will show images and play music to give a feel for the cultural context of the lettering. I will show medieval writing materials and demonstrate how to make reed and quill pens. Above all, it will be fun, entertaining, and informative and your calligraphy should improve as you discover the movements and sleights of hand that lie behind the West's principal calligraphic book-hands.



#### A6 SUPPLIES

**Pens:** Dip-pens (Rexel, Brause or Speedball square cut nibs – Rexel 1.5 mm or C2 Speedball is particularly useful), reeds and quill pens for experimenting with if you have any. **Ink/Paint:** Black ink, not waterproof – I prefer gouache colors (if in doubt choose Venetian Red or Oxide of Chromium green.) **Paper:** Layout Bond (not smaller than 11" by 17"/A3); 10 sheets of similar sized tracing paper. **Misc:** Cloth for wiping the pen, water container, a brush for the gouache, ruler, pencil and eraser. **Materials Fee:** none.