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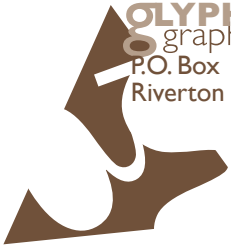
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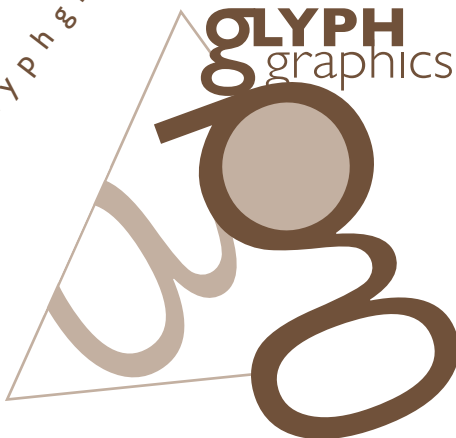
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project

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glyph

CATEGORY: language

DEFINITION: A symbol in a writing system; a painted or incised conventionalized sign. These individual images or design elements make up systems such as hieroglyphics, pictographs, or petroglyphs. Glyphs range from concrete images, such as an animal or a house, to abstractions, such as the use of a footprint to indicate travel, to signs representing the sound of words. In the Mesoamerican system, a glyph may represent an idea, word, sound, syllable, or a combination of them.

anaglyph

CATEGORY: artifact; language

DEFINITION: A term describing any kind of art that is carved, chased, embossed, or sculptured -- such as bas-reliefs, cameos, or other relief work of a material. Materials which are incised or sunken are called intaglio or diagraphs. The Egyptians used the term anaglyphs for a kind of secret writing emblem glyph.

emblem glyph

CATEGORY: artifact; language

DEFINITION: Symbols standing for royal lineages and their domains in the Maya civilization; a Maya glyph identifying a place or polity. Each of the principal Maya polities had its own hieroglyph, which appears in inscriptions of all kinds. Such emblem glyphs share a common prefix, but the main element varies from one city to another. Many of these glyphs can now be used to create logos and websites; others have still to be identified. They were first identified in 1958.

geoglyph

SYNONYM: Nasca lines; Nazca lines

CATEGORY: artifact; lithics

DEFINITION: Any ground-constructed example of rock art, such as intaglios, rock alignments, straight lines, geometric shapes, and other representative designs found in the desert. Geoglyphs can be formed by piling up materials on the ground surface or by removing surface materials and not suggest a largely ceremonial function.

hieroglyphics

SYNONYM: hieroglyphic; hieroglyph

CATEGORY: language

DEFINITION: A pictorial script used by ancient Egyptians from the beginning of the 3rd millennium BC until the end of the 4th century AD. A hieroglyph was a pictorial character or pictorial element used in hieroglyphics. Literally, in Greek, it means 'sacred carved stone'. The script consisted of three basic types of sign: phonograms, logograms, and 'determinatives'. It was written in horizontal and vertical lines. The script was used for funerary and monumental inscriptions, as well as more strictly religious ones. The script's development seems to have been so rapid that it may have been in some sense an imitation of the earliest writing of Mesopotamia in its Uruk phase. In both systems three classes of symbol were used, each a single picture or geometric figure. Pictograms or ideograms represented whole words in pictorial form. Phonograms represented the sounds of words, the picture of an object pronounced in the same way as the desired word being used in its place (this was made possible by the fact that the vowels were disregarded). Determinatives told the reader the class of word spelt in the phonograms, necessary where these were ambiguous. Often all three classes of symbol were used in conjunction. No attempt was made in its long history to simplify the system, even when the more cursive forms of it, hieratic and demotic, were introduced. More loosely the term has been applied to other pictographic writing systems, particularly those of Minoan Crete, the Hittites and the Maya. Many of the symbols consist of a conventionalized picture of the idea or object they represent. Egyptian hieroglyphs were deciphered by Jean-François Champollion in 1822, through his study of the bilingual inscriptions on the Rosetta Stone and an obelisk from Philae. Some 700 signs were employed.

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