

[sljfaq] Japanese lettering page added

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang.japan/2005-07/msg01062.html>

- *From:* "Ben Bullock" <usenet@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 18 Jul 2005 22:48:07 +0900
-

I've launched a new page on different styles of lettering used in Japanese.

The provisional web address is

<http://www.sljfaq.org/afaq/calligraphy.html>

although the name "calligraphy" is not particularly good.

The page is still a work in progress although I think the contents are already useful.

For suggestions/additions/corrections please follow up in the newsgroup or send email via the web page or to the address on this message.

I hope you had a nice "umi no hi".

Ben.

The following is a text version of the file saved with lynx. I haven't edited this carefully.

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Top: Introduction and Contents >> 4. The Japanese writing system >>
4.3. Other questions on writing systems
* Previous: 4.3.8. Can Japanese be written right to left?
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4.3.9. What are the different styles of Japanese lettering?

In the same way that there are various ways of writing English, both in handwriting and in type, Japanese has many different ways of being written.

There are three main styles of writing Chinese characters,

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

TO DO #33: priority: medium: Add a note about pen/brush/etc. written styles, from that web page I copied.
Here are some of the main ways.

Chinese letter styles used in Japan

; tenshotai (ÆØSûf"ØS)

Image: <http://www.sljfaq.org/afaq//kanji-fonts/tenshotai.jpg> This style is used in seals. There are two variations, daitenshotai ('ÆØS) Google Images: "'ÆØS", created in the Zhou (Japanese shuu, h) era, and shoutenshotai (ÆØS) Google Images: "ÆØS", created in the (Japanese Shin, æ) era.

Google Images: "ÆØS" Google Images: "f"ØS"
; reisho (.ØS)

Image: <http://www.sljfaq.org/afaq//kanji-fonts/reishotai.jpg> This style is square and simple in form. It is a simplified version of shoutenshotai.

Google Images: ".ØS"
; koreishotai (ä·ØS)

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Image: <http://www.sljfaq.org/afaq//kanji-fonts/koreishotai.jpg>

Google Images: "ä·øS"
; Minchoutai (S)

Image: <http://www.sljfaq.org/afaq//kanji-fonts/minchoutai.jpg> Minchou means "Ming dynasty". This type style is characterized by thick vertical and thin horizontal lines. This style is called soutai <S in China.

Google Images: " S"
; Kaishotai (wøS)

Image: <http://www.sljfaq.org/afaq//kanji-fonts/kaishotai.jpg> The most traditional square style of characters, with horizontal lines slanting upwards going from left to right.

Google Images: "wøS"
; Souchoutai (< S) Google Images: "< S"

This style, originally created for use in woodblock printing, closely resembles the kaisho style.

Japanese letter styles

The following lettering styles were created in Japan:
; Kointai (äpS)

Image: <http://www.sljfaq.org/afaq//kanji-fonts/kointai.jpg> This style is used in rakkan (=>) or seals.

Google Images: "äpS"
; Gyoushotai (LøS)

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Image: <http://www.sljfaq.org/afaq//kanji-fonts/gyoushotai.jpg> A "cursive", flowing style of writing using a brush.

Google Images: "LøS"
; Shingyoushotai (°LøS)

Image: <http://www.sljfaq.org/afaq//kanji-fonts/shingyoushotai.jpg> This is a more modern version of the gyoushotai font.
; Sousho (Iø)

The so-called "grass style", this is an even more flowing, cursive style than gyoushotai. This style was the basis for the origin of hiragana. See

Google Images: "Iø"

Edomoji (_8†W)

This general term covers many Japanese type styles which were invented for various reasons in the Edo period. For example,

; Kanteiryuu (ø-A)

Image: <http://www.sljfaq.org/afaq//kanji-fonts/kanteiryuu.jpg>

Google Images: "ø-A"
; Yosemoji (Ä-†W)

Image: <http://www.sljfaq.org/afaq//kanji-fonts/yosemoji.jpg> This name literally means a font to draw in customers.

Google Images: "Ä-†W"
; Kagomoji (í†W)

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This name literally means "cage letters".

Google Images: "い+W"
; Higemoji (い+W)

Image: <http://www.sljfaq.org/afaq//kanji-fonts/higemoji.jpg> These characters have little "whiskers" on them.

Google Images: "い+W"
; Sumou moji (い+W)

Image: <http://www.sljfaq.org/afaq//kanji-fonts/sumoumoji.jpg> This style is the one used for sumo wrestling posters.

Google Images: "い+W"
; Chouchin moji (い+W)

These characters are the ones used on chouchin, hanging paper lanterns, such as the ones you might see outside a yakitori stand in Japan.
Google Images: "い+W" ; Kakuji (い+W)

This very heavy, rectangular style is used for making seals.
Google Images: "い+W"

Modern Japanese font styles

; Goshikkutai (い+W)

Image: <http://www.sljfaq.org/afaq//kanji-fonts/goshikku.jpg> Image: <http://www.sljfaq.org/afaq//kanji-fonts/ksqoshikkutai.jpg> This style is similar to sans-serif type in English. The name goshikku is derived from English "gothic", but it has very little in common with "gothic" type in English. In the past, the word "gothic" was used to describe sans-serif typefaces. This meaning, "sans serif", has been preserved in the Japanese usage.

Google Images: "い+W" ; Marugoshikkutai (い+W)

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A development of the goshikku typeface with rounded corners (Japanese maru

(8) means "round") on the kanji. This typeface is used on road signs. Google

Images: "8'・Ã`S"
; Kyoukashotai (YÑøS)

This style was created in the Meiji era for use in primary school textbooks.

It resembles hand-written characters. It is a variant of the kaisho style made easier to read. It is often used in primary school textbooks. This style

is also used in the "Genki" textbook series for learning Japanese.

Google Images: "YÑøS"
; POPshotai (ÝÃ×øS)

Image: <http://www.sljfaq.org/afaq//kanji-fonts/popmoji.jpg> This lively style

of characters is often used for shop signs.

Google Images: "ÝÃ×øS"
; Shoujomoji (s†W)

Image: <http://www.sljfaq.org/afaq//kanji-fonts/shoujomoji.jpg> Google Images:

" s†W"

Shoujomoji literally means "young girl letters", and the style is a copy of a

feminine style of writing. ; Mingeimoji (,†W)

Image: <http://www.sljfaq.org/afaq//kanji-fonts/mingeimoji.jpg>

Google Images: " ,†W"

Unclassified font styles

The following font styles have been found but not classified yet.

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TO DO #34: priority: low: Classify these fonts

Kinbuntai (Ñ†S)

Google Images: "Ñ†S"

Sekihitai (ó`S)

Google Images: "ó`S"

ÛI

Google Images: "ÛI"

½c

Google Images: "½c"

K†

Google Images: "K†"

Useful web pages about fonts

Glossary of Terms used in Font Information Processing

I found this very helpful in making the above list of lettering styles.

The Wikipedia page on Japanese Calligraphy

contains more information on brush styles.

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Questions? Corrections? Comments? Contact: webpages@xxxxxxxxxx