

FOREWORD

how give

Part I of this book reprints *More Examples of English Handwriting* (1950). Part II replaces *Some Examples* (1949), mostly by new, full size, examples, with transcripts now uniform in method with those in Part I. That is to say, all transcripts are exact, and for ease of comparison set out line for line as written, the layout following closely that of the MSS. When abbreviation is extended or expanded, the letters omitted by contraction or suspension, or represented by special signs, are supplied in square brackets (e.g. Int' t'ram=Int[er] t[er]ram); when contraction by superscript letters is expanded, the omitted letters are placed in square brackets, the superscript letters are printed in *italics* (e.g. Q[ui]ete=Q[ui]ete; o[ra]o[ra]r). Any indication of abbreviation when extension or expansion is doubtful or impossible (cf. p.3 n.1) is marked by an apostrophe (e.g. p.4 n.1, p.5 n.1), or by the reproduction of superscript letters (e.g. p.8 n.2; for exceptions to this, see p.2 n.2 and p.8 n.1). ff has been printed F; and capital I standing for I or J, according to modern practice (e.g. John, not Iohn). The reproductions (with the exception of the Frontispiece and Plates XVII, XVIII and XXII) are full size, and have been made from documents in the Essex Record Office.

It is a pleasure to thank those who have given me such friendly and invaluable assistance: Mr. F. G. Emmison, the County Archivist, for constant support and many helpful comments; Dr. R. W. Hunt, Keeper of the Western MSS., Bodleian Library, for contributing the Note on the Scripts in Part I; Mr. Neil Ker, Reader in Palaeography in the University of Oxford, for contributing the Note on the Abbreviations in Part I and for most patient and constructive criticism of the notes on the text in Part I; Miss K. Major, Reader in Diplomatic in the University of Oxford, and Professor F. Wormald, Professor of Palaeography in the University of London, for most useful suggestions; and all my colleagues, and in particular Mr. D. M. Shorrocks, for advice, checking and correction, at every stage of preparation of the book. I am, of course, entirely responsible for all errors that remain.

January, 1954

H.E.P.G.

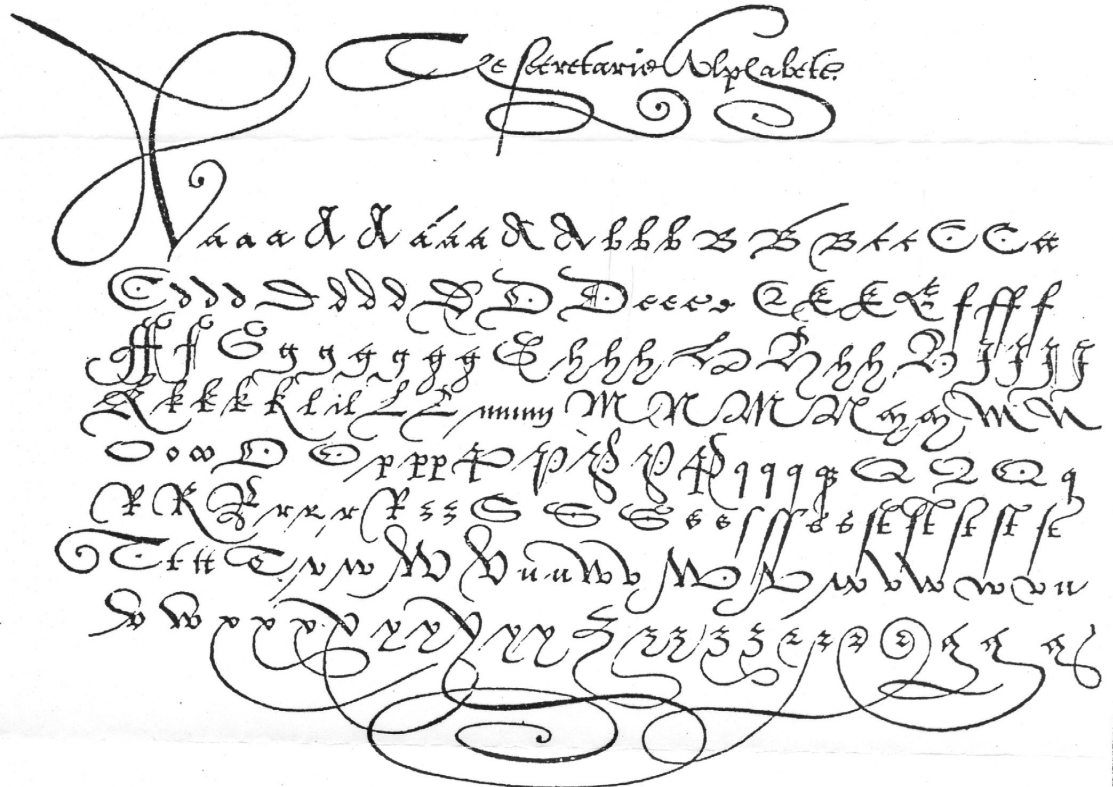


FIG. 1

Secretary Hand, from the first English engraved copybook, *A Booke Containing Divers Sortes of Hands*, by John de Beauchesne and John Baildon, London, 1571. Reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum.

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Fig. 1

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