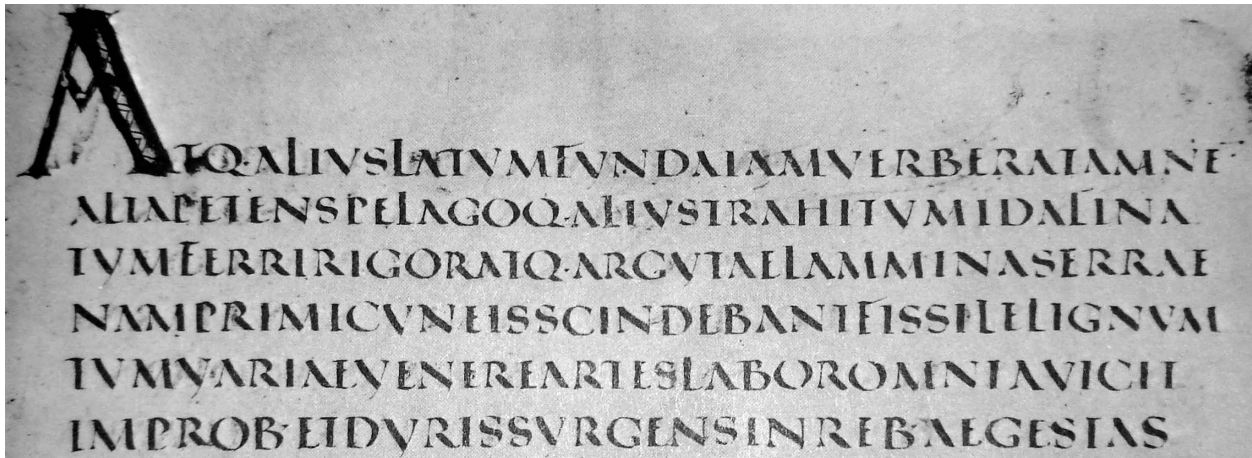
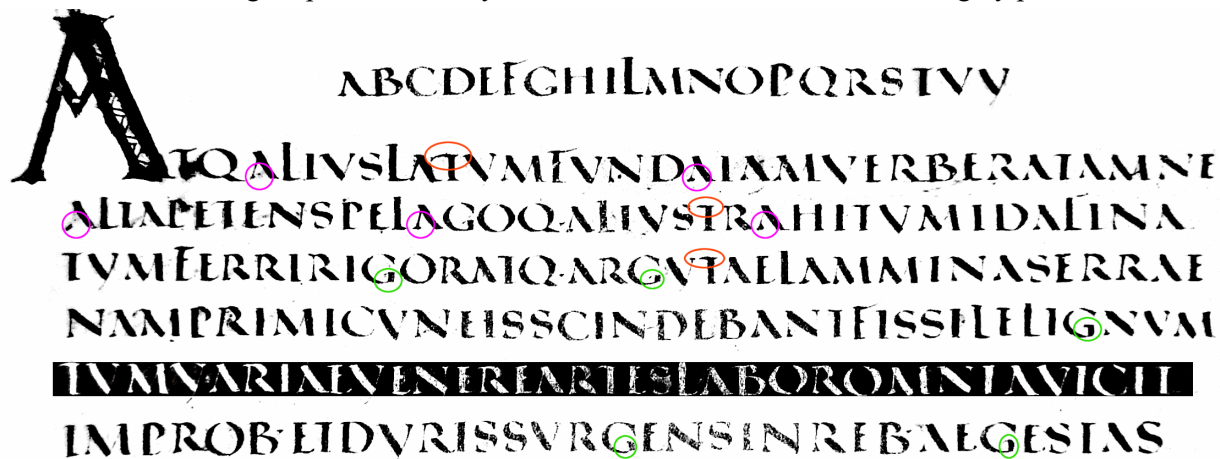


# ROMAN MAJUSCULE (SQUARE CAPITALS)

Analyzing a hand using an Early Roman Majuscule:



First, look at the sample. With computers, you can scan or photograph the sample and clean it up some. Be careful as cleaning it up too much may obscure details. The secrets are in the gray pixels!

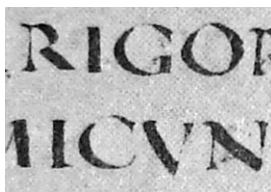


Here is the sample with gray background dropped and blackness emphasized. One line has been inverted so you can study the negative space and perhaps grasp the rhythm. Different colored circles represent a first pass look at the hand.

- Is there a cross stroke in the A or is the apparent cross stroke just pen bleed from the other side of the page? Enough A's exist to show that there is no cross piece in the A.
- Notice the cross stroke on the T is longer to the left and shorter to the right.
- Notice the little back stroke on the G.

Pull a sample alphabet from your sample. A process made much easier with graphics programs and computers.

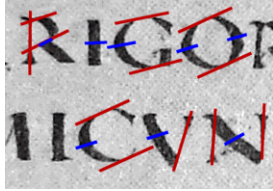
- Notice the F and L are taller than the other letters.
- J, K, U, W, X, and are missing from this set. This is normal as J, U, W are not used in Latin. K exists but is used for Greek words.



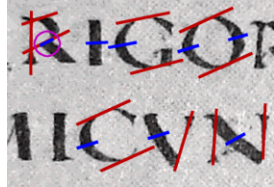
Now concentrate on one area with a good sample of clear letters.



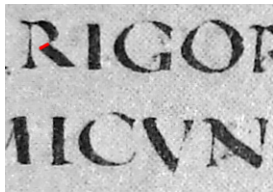
1. Find the thin strokes as they will usually tell you the angle of the pen and what angle to use when looking for the thick part of the letters.



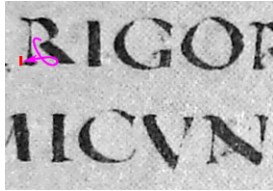
2. Find the thick strokes. This will tell you about the pen width—within reason. If you copy is close to the same size as the original, then you have a better chance of determining the correct pen width to letter height.



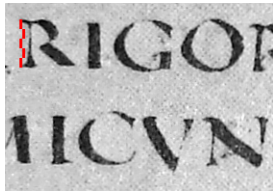
2.a. Notice the R where the down stroke leaves the bowl or the R. It is a perfect place to measure the pen width.



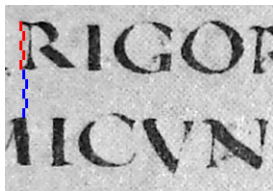
3. Measure the pen width.



4. Use the pen width as the base of the base unit of measure for font height.



5. For this hand, 5 widths high.



6. For this hand, the space between lines if the same as the height.

Now take your sample alphabet and look for exceptional components:



From the marking of thin stokes in step 2 and looking at the letters A, M, N, V, and Y. They all have strokes made at non standard angles.

F and T both flair up at the end of their respective top strokes.

L and F are taller than the other letters.

Y extends below the line but the Q stroke is short and does not extend below the line.