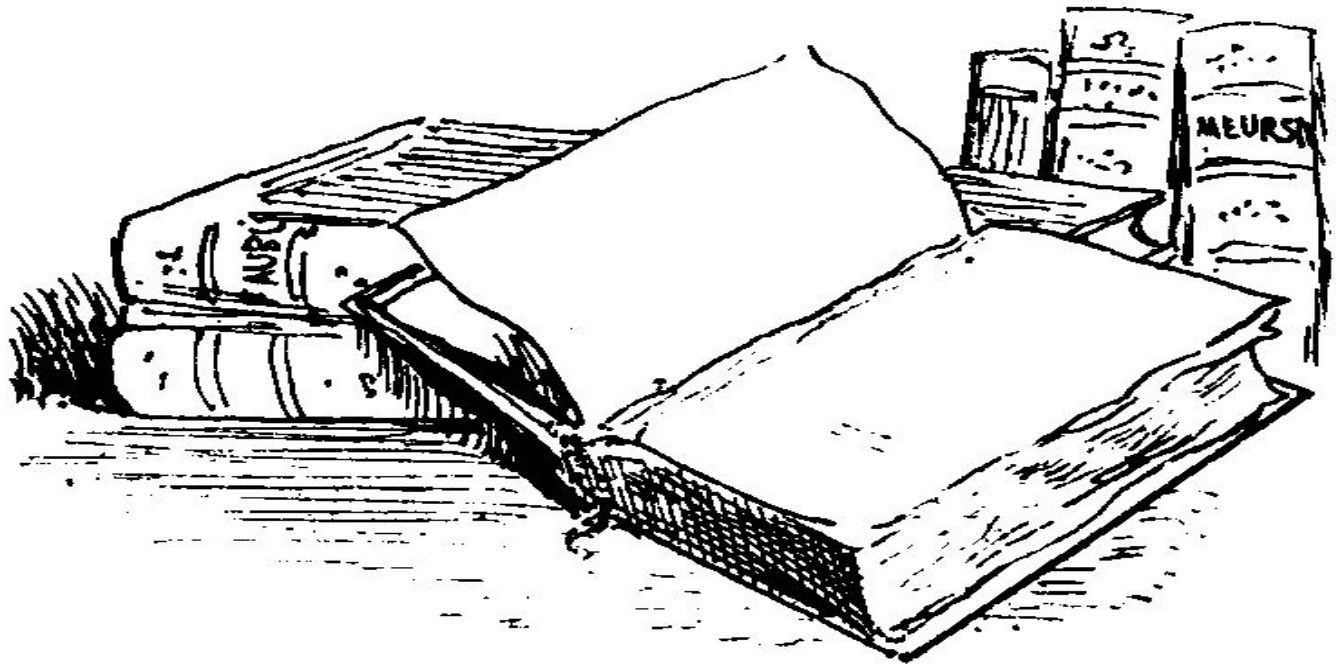


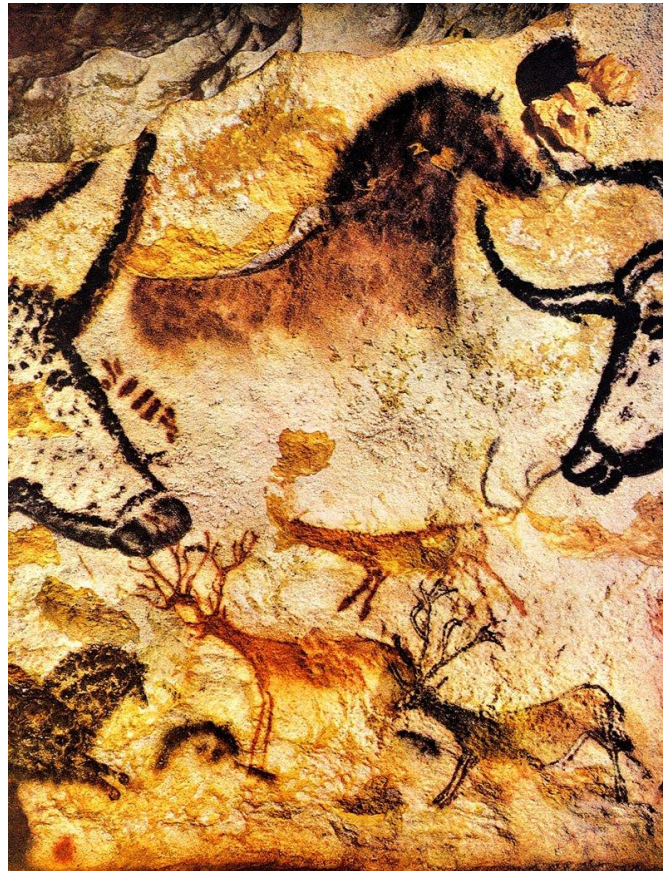
# History of the Book



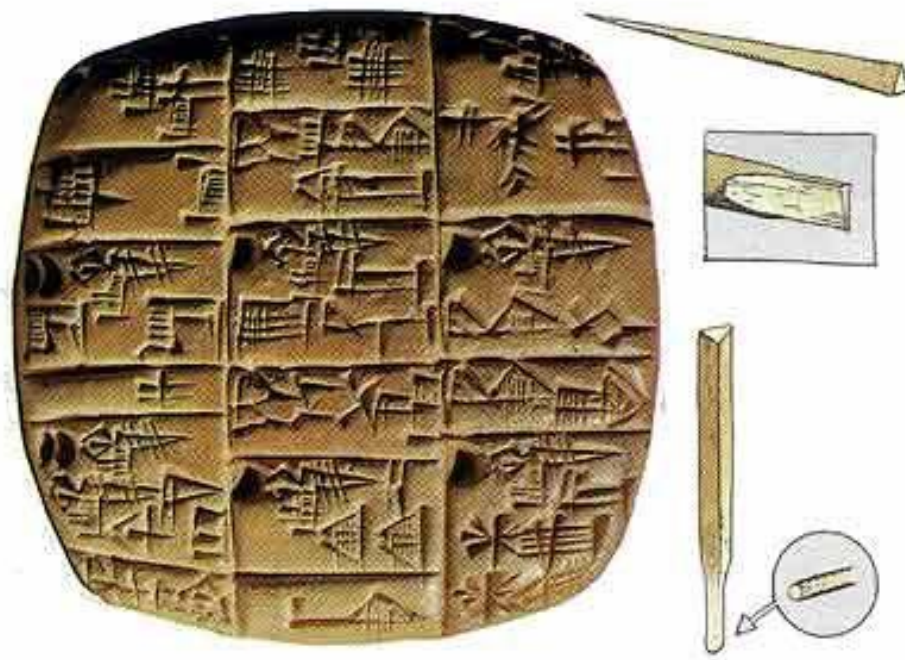
The history of the book  
reflects the history of  
civilization, book making is  
a long time craft.



The earliest type of “written” communication used pictures, such as those found on cave walls.



Around 3500 BCE the ancient Sumerians created the first true written language called “cuneiform,” which means “wedge-shaped.”



The Sumerians also created the first permanent and portable documents by writing on clay tablets, which were then dried so they became permanent records.



Around 2700 BCE the Egyptians developed a way to make sheets of writing material from the papyrus plant.





Because the papyrus was brittle, it was rolled into scrolls for storage. These scrolls are considered the first true books.



In Ancient India and Southeast Asia, books were written on palm leaves bound together with string.

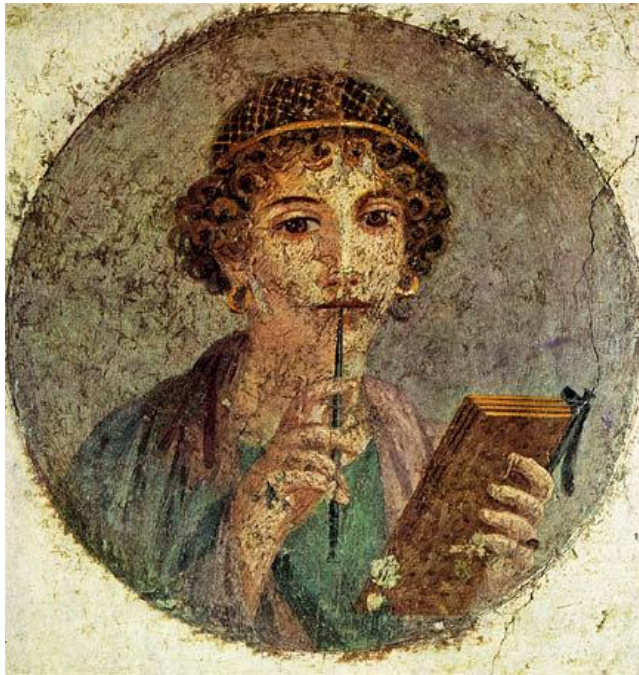






The ancient Greek and Romans often used wax tablets and a stylus for personal correspondence and business records.

These “pages” could be erased by smoothing out the wax.





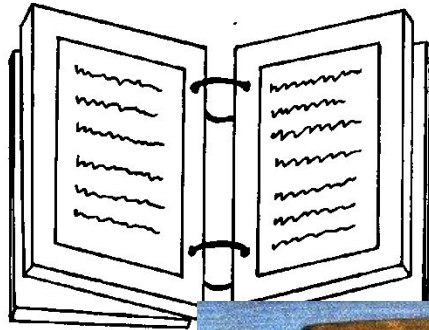
The Chinese invented paper, which unlike papyrus, could be easily folded. This led to the development of the concertina (or accordion) book format.



The ancient Aztecs also created books using the accordion format.

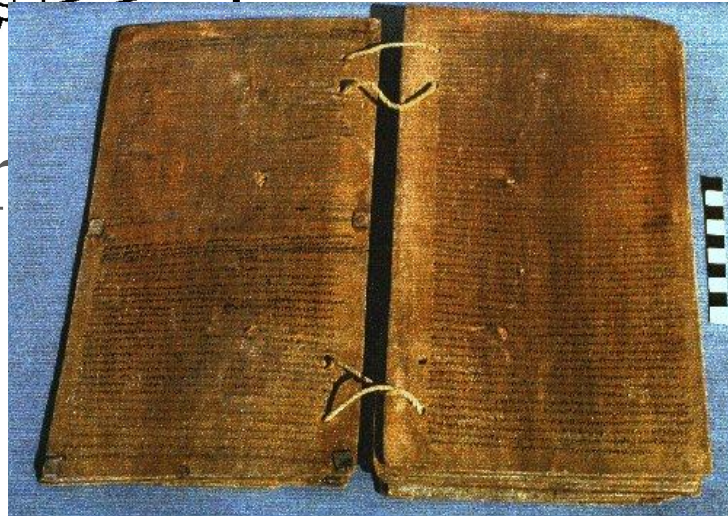


Around 300 CE, the Romans began linking together wooden tablets using cords. They called this a codex,



Latin *caudex*,

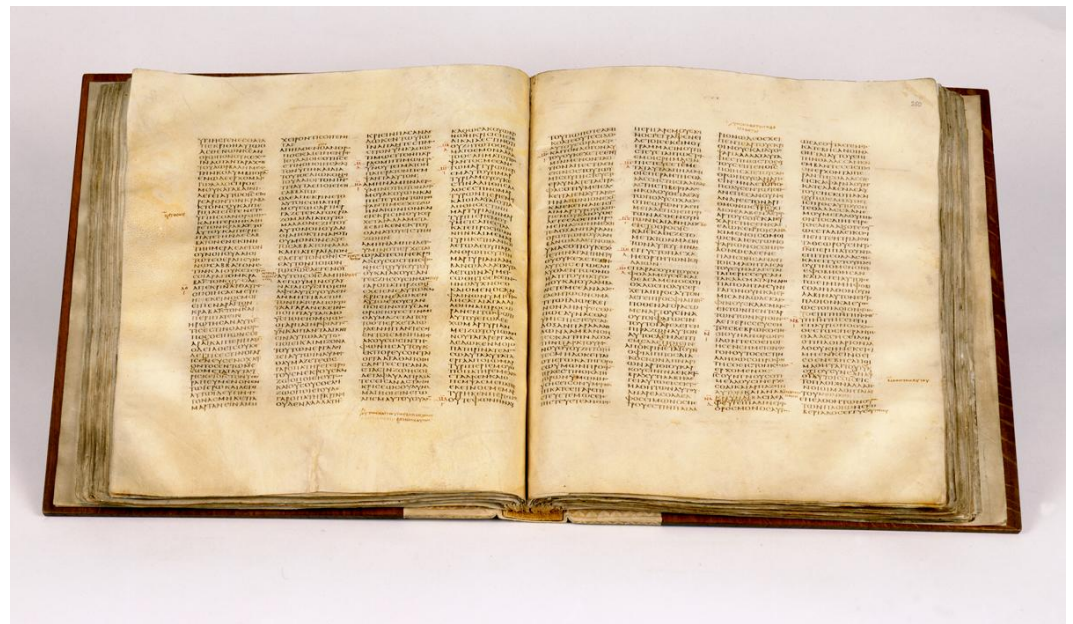
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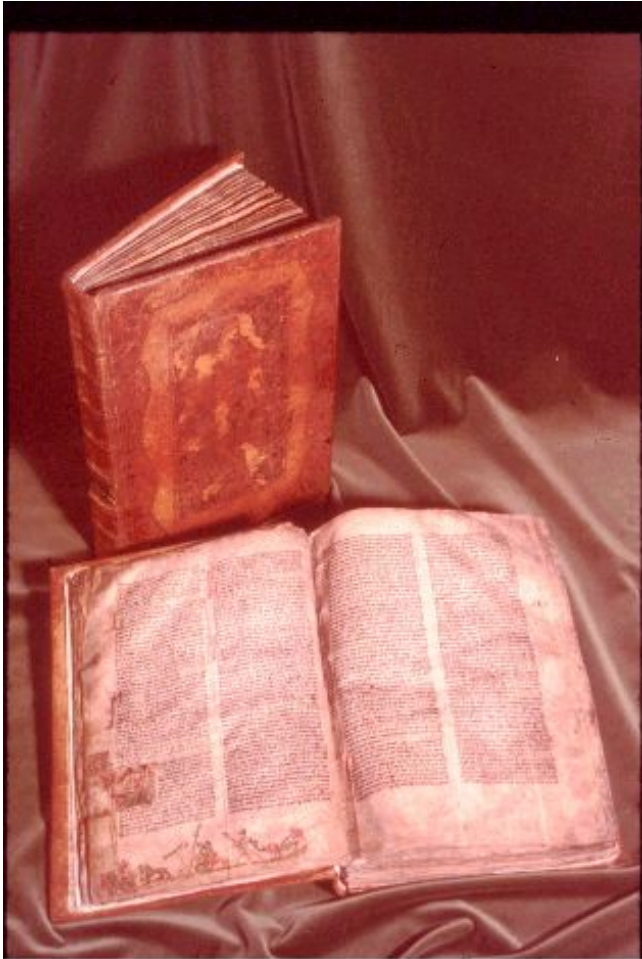


We now use the term codex to refer to any book made of folded and sewn signatures.

Since the codex was invented, many different styles have evolved.



# The codex has advantages over other book forms



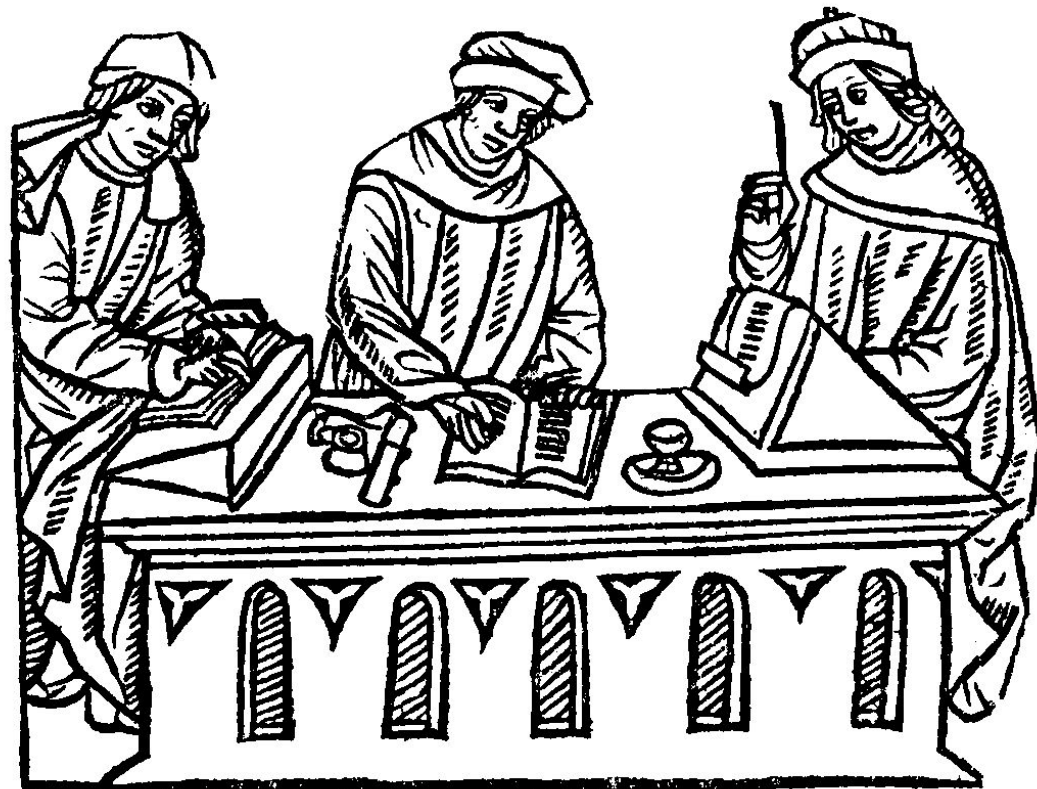
- The size can be adjusted for very long texts or several shorter texts can be bound together in one volume
- It makes more efficient use of materials since both sides of the page can be used.

# The codex has advantages over other book forms



- The codex is portable and easy to store
- The use of individual pages allows for varied layouts and the inclusion of large illustrations
- Because the writing surface is not rolled up, a wider variety of decorating techniques can be used

During the Middle Ages, books, especially the Bible, were hand-copied by monks in a scriptorium.

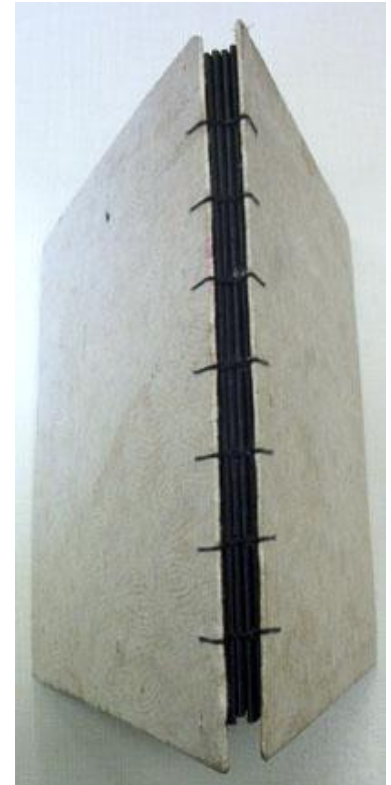


Many of these books contained beautiful miniature paintings called illuminations.





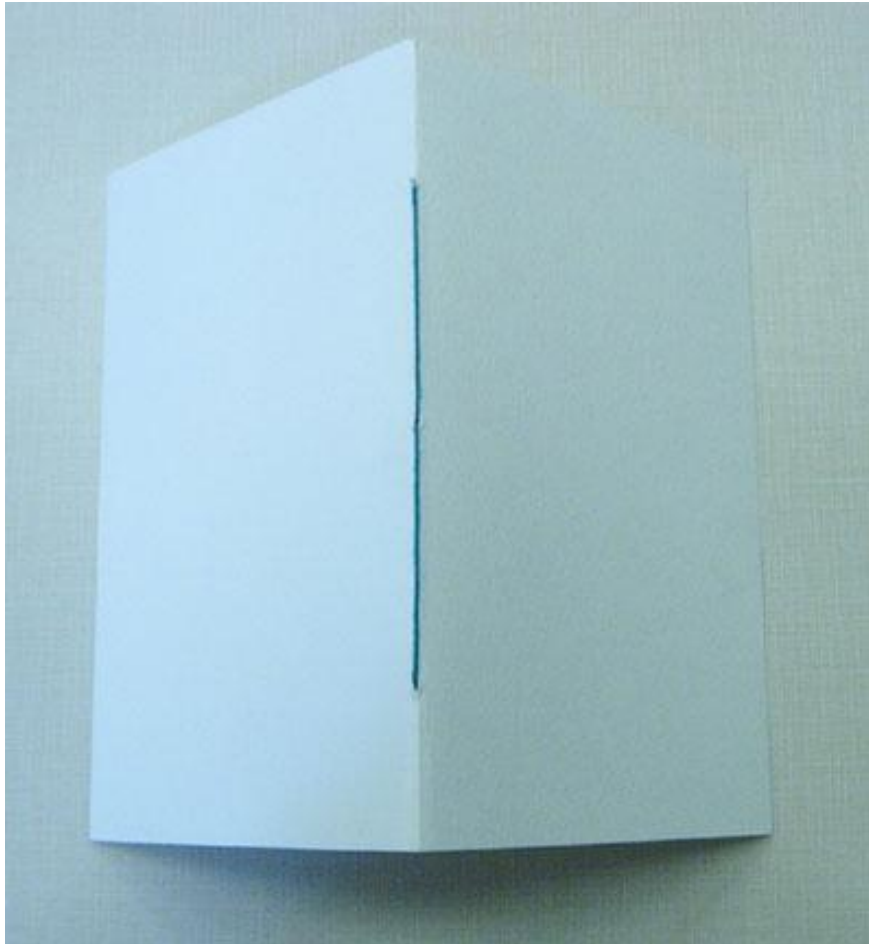
Around the 3<sup>rd</sup> century CE, the Copts, early Christians living in Egypt adapted a chain stitch to bind sections between wooden covers. This style is now called Coptic binding.



Japanese stab binding uses an awl or punch to create the holes for the thread.



# Modern Book Making Hobbies



The pamphlet stitch is a simple way to bind one section of folios.

Pages can be folded and glued to make a star or butterfly book.



Using traditional forms and modern innovations, today's book artist creates a synthesis between books and fine art.





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