



The Netherlands Institute at Athens cordially invites you to a lecture by

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*The real age of the Greek alphabet.
Rethinking the transmission of alphabetic writing from 'East' to 'West'*



Monday 12 October 2026, 18.00
at the Netherlands Institute at Athens
11, Makri str., 11742 Athens

All are welcome!

The event will also be streamed live: to register please click [here](#)

Abstract

It is generally assumed that the alphabet was introduced to Greece in or shortly before the 8th century BCE, after a period of some four centuries without writing. Recent insights and discoveries as well as new 14C dates, however, suggest that this paradigm is in need of revision. Based on epigraphic, linguistic and archaeological evidence this paper will argue that the Greek alphabet is substantially older than its first surviving attestations, and that there was no long illiterate 'Dark Age' in the Aegean.

Illustration: 'Cup of Nestor', from Pithekoussai (Ischia), Italy.

Source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Cup_of_Nestor_\(Pithecusae\)#/media/File:Nestorbecher_auf_Ischia.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Cup_of_Nestor_(Pithecusae)#/media/File:Nestorbecher_auf_Ischia.jpg)