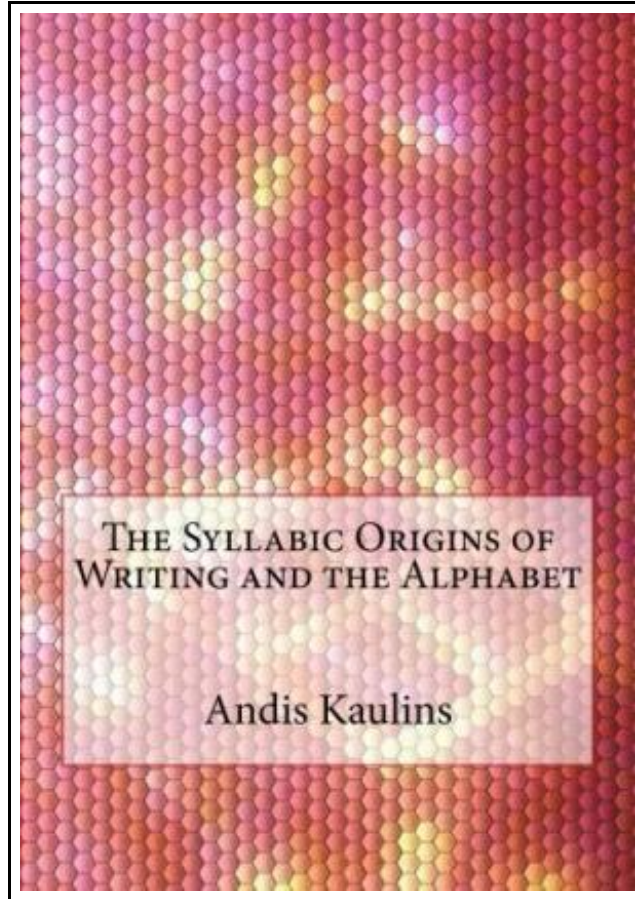


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THE SYLLABIC ORIGINS OF WRITING AND THE ALPHABET



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Createspace, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 254 x 178 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.The recent Uluburun (viz. Ulu Burun) shipwreck discovery, as noted by Jo Marchant in Nature magazine, may transform our understanding of ancient times, casting also new light on the origins of writing. One artifact recovered from what was likely a Phoenician vessel was the oldest writing board set ever found: a dyptich -- two plates attached on a hinge. Moreover, there were hundreds of large oxhide-shaped copper ingots and buns, some marked with signs duplicating those in scripts from Cyprus and Crete. One must note here that David W. Packard, co-founder of computer giant Hewlett-Packard, wrote his college dissertation on an undeciphered ancient script of Crete. What is the connection between ancient writing and the modern digital world? Handheld devices and computer hardware such as PCs operate by means of software code that converts human language information into machine language. Ancient signs, characters and symbols were similar inventions that converted spoken language into written language. The discovery of writing had far-reaching consequences for everyday life on our planet. Literacy brought humanity into a richer world. It opened up new vistas of individual potential and tapped what has proven to be a seemingly endless reservoir of human talents and abilities. Moreover, the written word not only promoted communication but also permitted recordation of human expression and knowledge. Writing was thus the ultimate invention that led to modernity. As Packard well understood, our era is an age of digital signs and characters. A study of the origins of writing proved useful. Nevertheless, the origins of writing are not well understood by researchers active in the humanities. There is, on the one hand, a seeming acceptance in parts of the scholarly...



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