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Nota di contenuto	Foreword / Gil J. Stein -- Preface / Geoff Emberling -- Introduction. Visible language : the earliest writing systems / Christopher Woods -- Cuneiform in Mesopotamia and Anatolia. Iconography of protoliterate seals / Oya Topcolu -- The earliest Mesopotamian writings / Christopher Woods ; Object descriptions : catalog nos. 1-58 --

Adaptation of cuneiform to write Akkadian / Andrea Seri ; Object descriptions : catalog nos. 59-62 -- The rise and fall of cuneiform script in Hittite Anatolia / Theo van den Hout ; Object descriptions : catalog no. 63 -- Egyptian writing. The concept and development of the Egyptian writing system / Elise V. MacArthur ; Egyptian myth of the creation of writing ; Object descriptions : catalog nos. 64-79 -- The earliest Egyptian writing / Andréas Stauder -- Egyptian hieroglyphic writing / Janet H. Johnson ; Object descriptions : catalog nos. 80-82 -- Orientation of hieroglyphs ; Writing in Nefermaat / Julie Stauder-Porchet
The potency of writing in Egypt / Emily Teeter -- Hieratic / Kathryn E. Bandy ; Object descriptions : catalog nos. 83-84 -- Demotic / Janet H. Johnson ; Object descriptions : catalog no. 85 -- Ptolemaic hieroglyphs / Francois Gaudard ; Object descriptions : catalog no. 86 -- Coptic / T. G. Wilfong -- Alphabetic writing. Invention and development of the alphabet / Joseph Lam ; Object descriptions : catalog nos. 89-94 -- Anatolian hieroglyphs. Anatolian hieroglyphic writing / Ilya Yakubovich ; Object descriptions : catalog nos. 95-99 -- China Mesoamerican hieroglyphs. The beginnings of writing in China / Edward L. Shaughnessy ; Object descriptions : catalog nos. 100-101 -- Mesoamerican hieroglyphs. The development of Maya writing / Joel Palka ; Object descriptions : catalog no. 102 -- Concordance of museum registration numbers -- Checklist of the exhibit.

Sommario/riassunto

This unique exhibit is the result of collaborative efforts of more than twenty authors and loans from five museums. It focuses on the independent invention of writing in at least four different places in the Old world and Mesoamerica with the earliest texts of Uruk, Mesopotamia (5,300 BC) shown in the United States for the first time. Visitors to the exhibit and readers of this catalog can see and compare the parallel pathways by which writing came into being and was used by the earliest kingdoms of Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, and the Maya world.
