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## Greenwich Part 1

## Introduction, Blackheath, General Wolfe, South Building, Planetarium, Altazimuth Building, Onion Dome

Word count:

Dates as 2 words - 1945 = nineteen forty-five

Monarchs as 3 words - Henry VIII = Henry The Eighth

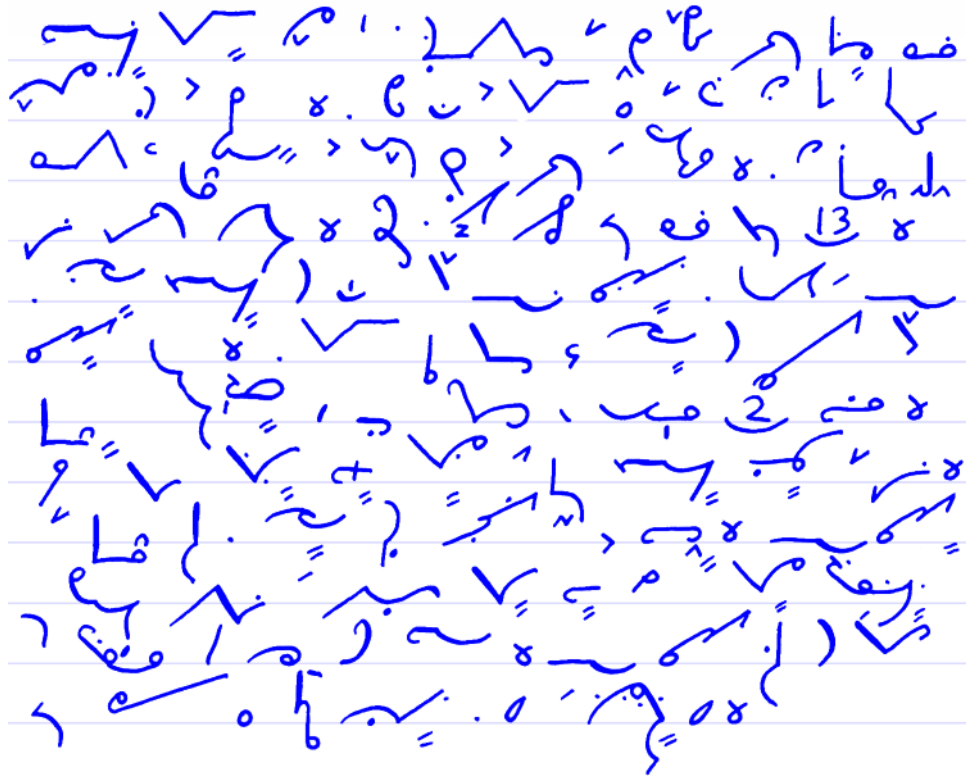
Some hyphenated words counted as 2 = boat-shaped

Paragraph numbers not included

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PDF Date: 12 April 2023

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



1. Greenwich Park lies on an escarpment on the south side of the River Thames, six miles east of the City of London\*. The southern end of the park is on the flat land at the top of the scarp with views of the entire sweep of the river and northwards. The land continues down the hill to river level. There has been a royal residence here since before 1300. The Manor of Greenwich was owned by King Henry IV and King Henry V. The park itself began when the Manor was inherited by the Duke of Gloucester, who gained permission to

enclose 200 acres. He built Bella Court Palace and the tower of Greenwich Castle on the hill. On the Duke's death, the Manor estate reverted to the Crown. King Henry VII rebuilt and renamed Bella Court as the Palace of Placentia or Pleasaunce, which means pleasure garden. King Henry VIII was born here, as were his daughters\* Mary I and Elizabeth I.

\* Omission phrase "City (of) London"

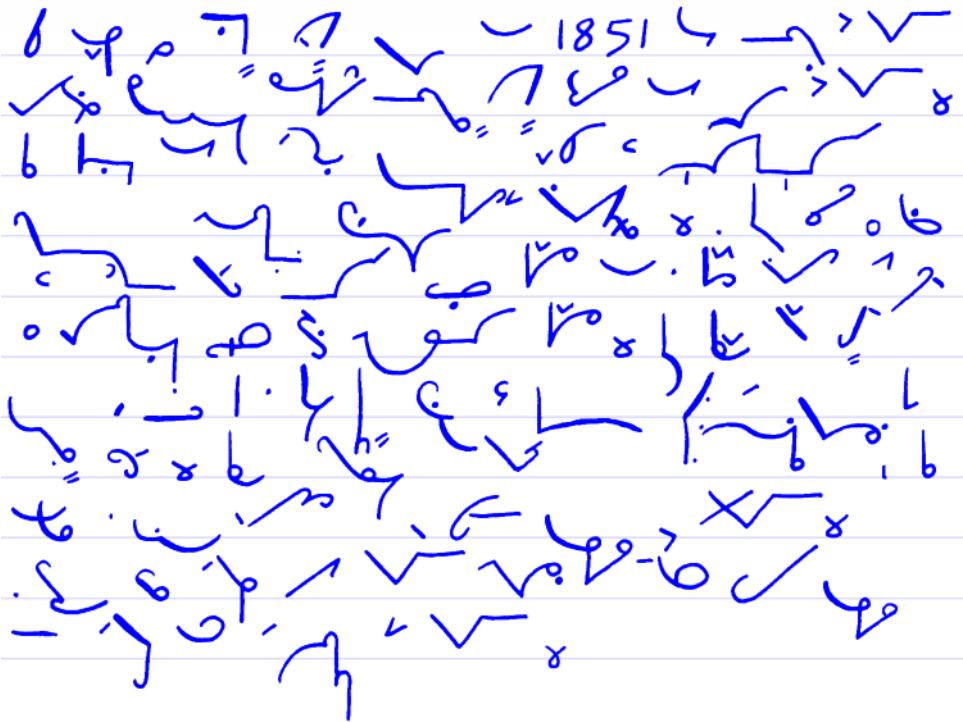
\* "daughters" Always insert the vowel in this and "auditors" "debtors"



2. Blackheath Gate is on the south side of the park, facing the expanse of the heath. This is best known nowadays as the starting point of the London Marathon which takes place\* every April. The runners form their huge queue in the long avenue in the park and the marathon route turns left outside the gate and makes for Charlton and Woolwich. There the route doubles back on

itself, passing the park again on the lower road through the town of Greenwich, making a detour over to the Isle of Dogs and finishing in The Mall by St James's Park. The route thus goes from a former royal residence to the present one at Buckingham\* Palace.

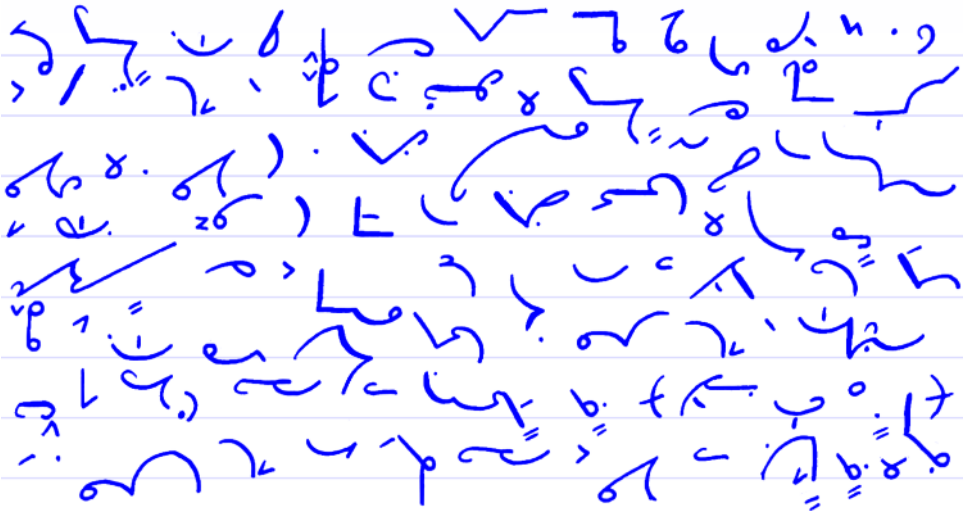
\* "Buckingham" The H is not pronounced



3. Just inside is the Gate Lodge built in 1851 for the keeper of the park, to replace the 17th century Keeper's Lodge that was in the middle of the park. It is decorated in the ornate Victorian style, with multi-coloured brickwork and intricate floral bargeboards\*. The top half is faced with buff-coloured glazed tiles in a diamond pattern and the roof has alternating courses of plain and fish-scale tiles. It was designed by John Phipps who gave it an

additional Tudor flavour with the timber jetty and beams at the front. It is not presently part of the amenities but it is nevertheless a fitting ornament to welcome visitors to the royal park. The plainer buildings opposite are the park and police offices, where visitors can obtain information and literature on the park.

\* "board" Full strokes B + Rd when written on its own



4. Here is Blackheath Common just outside the main park gates and this view shows about a third of the large area of flat grassland. Blackheath means "dark coloured heathland". The heath was a barren wilderness and not used for farming, but the stony\* soil was dug for ballast and gravel. After the Second World War, most of the diggings were filled in with rubble from bomb-sites and the common is now

level, apart from a small area of undulating ground at the north-east corner, called Vanbrugh Pits (locally known as The Dips), and a similar area in the opposite corner of the heath called Eliot\* Pits.

\* "stony" Insert the final vowel, as "stone" could also make sense

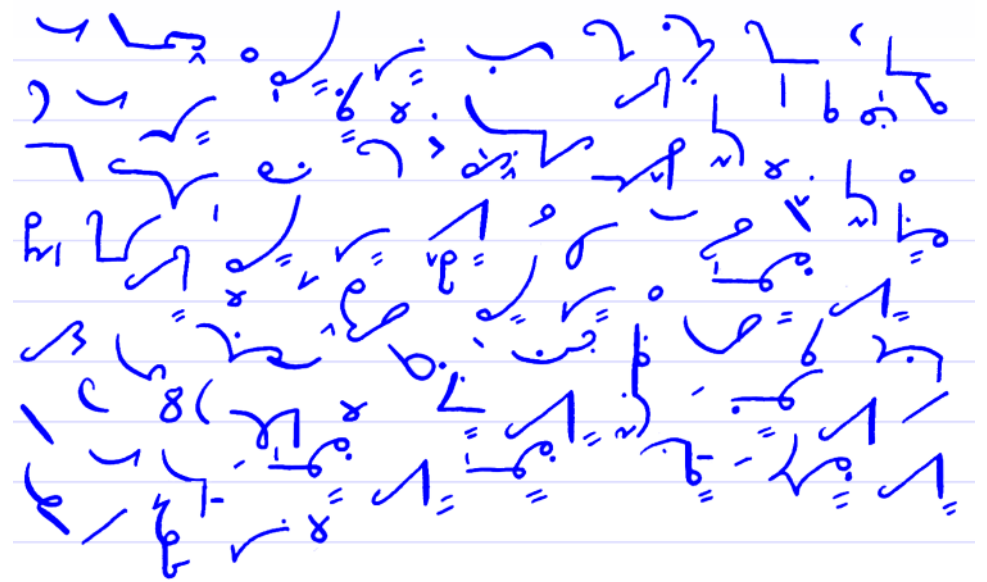
\* "Eliot" Names tend to have full strokes for greater clarity



5. Blackheath was one of the rallying places for the Peasants' Revolt led by Wat Tyler and the rebellion headed by Jack Cade, both of whom have roads named after them on the south-west side of the heath. In the 17th and 18th centuries, stagecoaches crossing the heath were at the mercy of the notorious highwaymen and it was not the safe and pleasant\* place

that we know today. The heath has always been a natural meeting point and today is used for recreation, football, sports, firework displays, kite flying, funfairs and other events. The edge of Blackheath Village is on the right of the photo.

\* "pleasant" Insert the vowel in this and "pleasing"



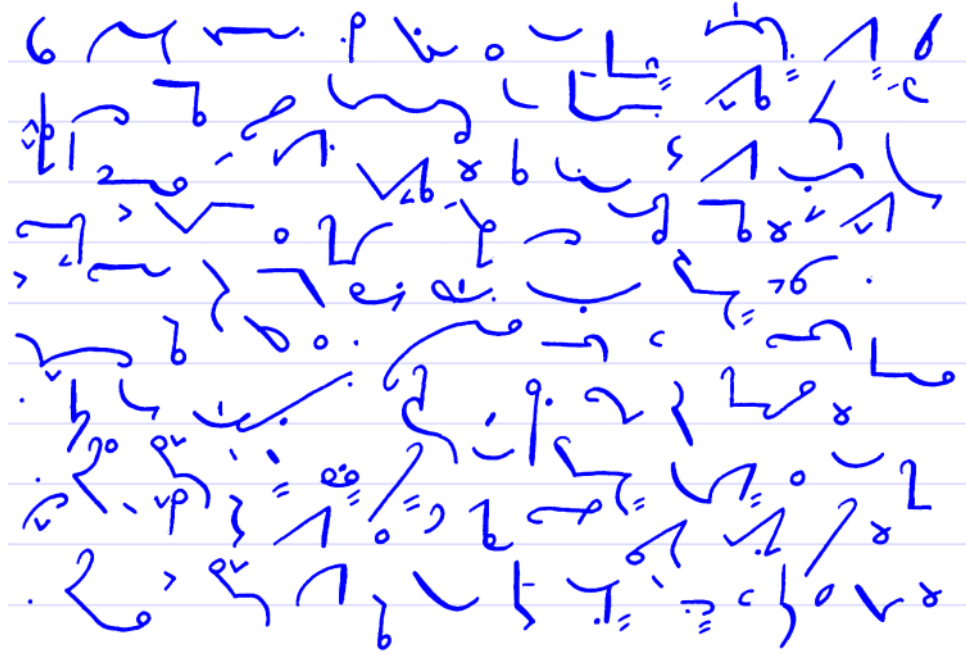
6. In the background is Shooters Hill, named from the archery practice that took place there in the Middle Ages. The Victorian water tower at its summit can be clearly seen from all the surrounding countryside. The tower is situated directly on Shooters Hill Road and is still in use by Thames Water. On the south-west side of Shooters Hill is Oxleas Wood, one of the few remaining pieces of ancient deciduous forest, which is estimated to be over 8,000 years old. Jack Wood and Castle Wood are

visible in the photo, and Oxleas Wood, Oxleas Meadows and Shepherdleas Wood are on the other side of the\* hill.

\* "8,000" Keep the Ith well curved so it does not look like 81

\* "years old" This phrase is quicker than writing the normal outline for "old" separately

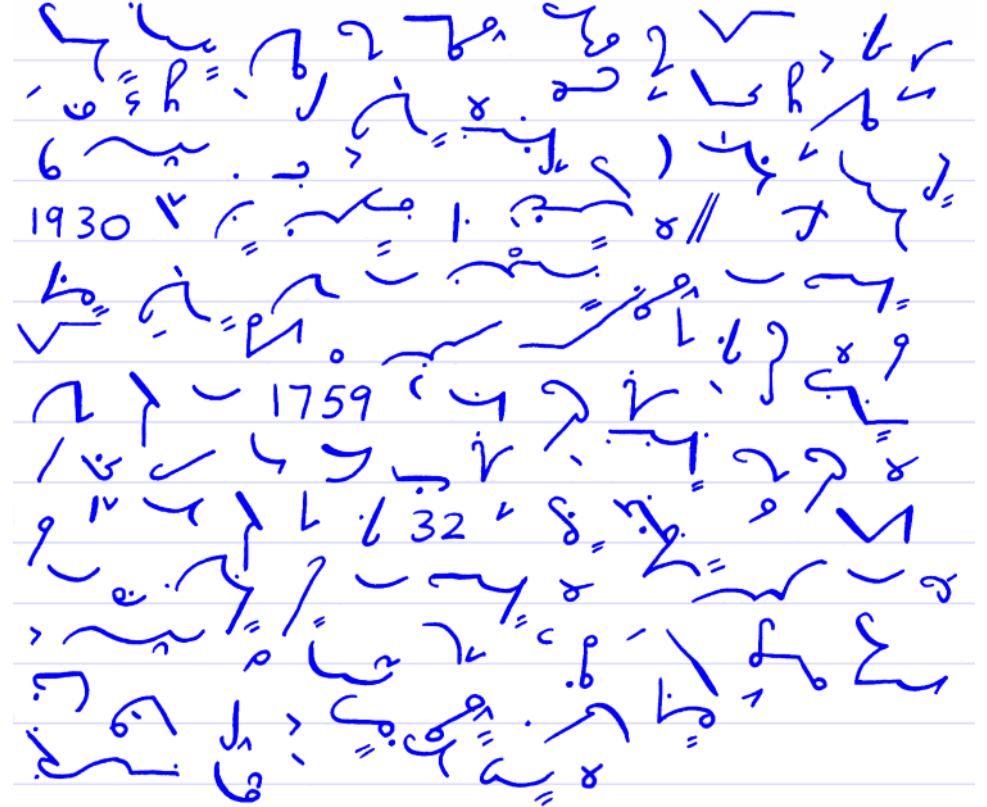
\* Omission phrase "on the oth(er) side of the"



7. This length of granite sett pavement is in Duke Humphrey Road just outside the main gates, used for many years for donkey rides which were offered at weekends and holiday periods. It is fitting that the road named after the creator of the park is directly opposite the main entrance gates. On the right of the granite path can be seen the stony\* nature of Blackheath soil, a reminder of its past as a wilderness covered with gravel diggings, a danger for

the unwary traveller who strayed from the established trackways. The sharp spire of All Saints Church in Blackheath Village is in direct line of sight, although the road is short and does not cross the heath to reach the church. The sharpness of the spire led to its being dubbed the Needle of Kent when it was first built.

\* "stony" Insert the final vowel, as "stone" could also make sense



8. Blackheath Avenue leads from the gatehouse northwards through the park to the edge of the hill, and ends with the statue of General\* Wolfe. The inscription on the back of the statue reads, "This monument\* the gift of the Canadian people was unveiled on the fifth of June 1930 by Le Marquis de Montcalm". Major General James Wolfe lived in Macartney House in Greenwich Park and started his military career at the age of 13. He led the battle in 1759 that ended French control of Quebec, which paved the way for the English to gain control of Canada from the French. He died in that battle at the age of 32 on the Plains

of Abraham, and is buried in St Alfege Church in Greenwich. Immediately in front of the monument is the viewing area, with seats and public telescopes overlooking the grassy slope down to the Queen's House, the River Thames and the panoramic views of North London.

\* "General" If you felt this might be read as "John" then put a wavy line underneath to draw attention

\* "monument" The U diphthong sign can't be placed against the final halved N because here that stroke represents "-ment"

9. At the end of Blackheath Avenue are the buildings that comprise the Royal Greenwich Observatory. This is the South Building which was completed in 1899 as an astrophysics observatory. Over all the first floor windows imprinted in terracotta brick are the names of notable\* scientists and astronomers. The bust on the pediment is John Flamsteed, the first Astronomer Royal, and his name appears over the entrance below. Edmond Halley

was the second Astronomer Royal\*. He noticed that four previous comets had the same orbit, and concluded that these were just one comet and that it would be seen again in 1758.

\* "notable" The N stroke is not halved, so it is not misread as "noble"

\* "Astronomer Royal" The first occurrence in full, and then afterwards use the Ray intersection

10. He died in 1742 but when the comet returned as predicted, it was named after him. Halley also has a lunar crater and a Martian crater bearing his name, as well as Halley's Method for the numerical solution of equations. James Bradley was the third holder of the post and is known for the discovery of the "Aberration\* of Light" which further proved the theory, first proposed by Nicolaus\* Copernicus, that the Earth was in motion and therefore not the

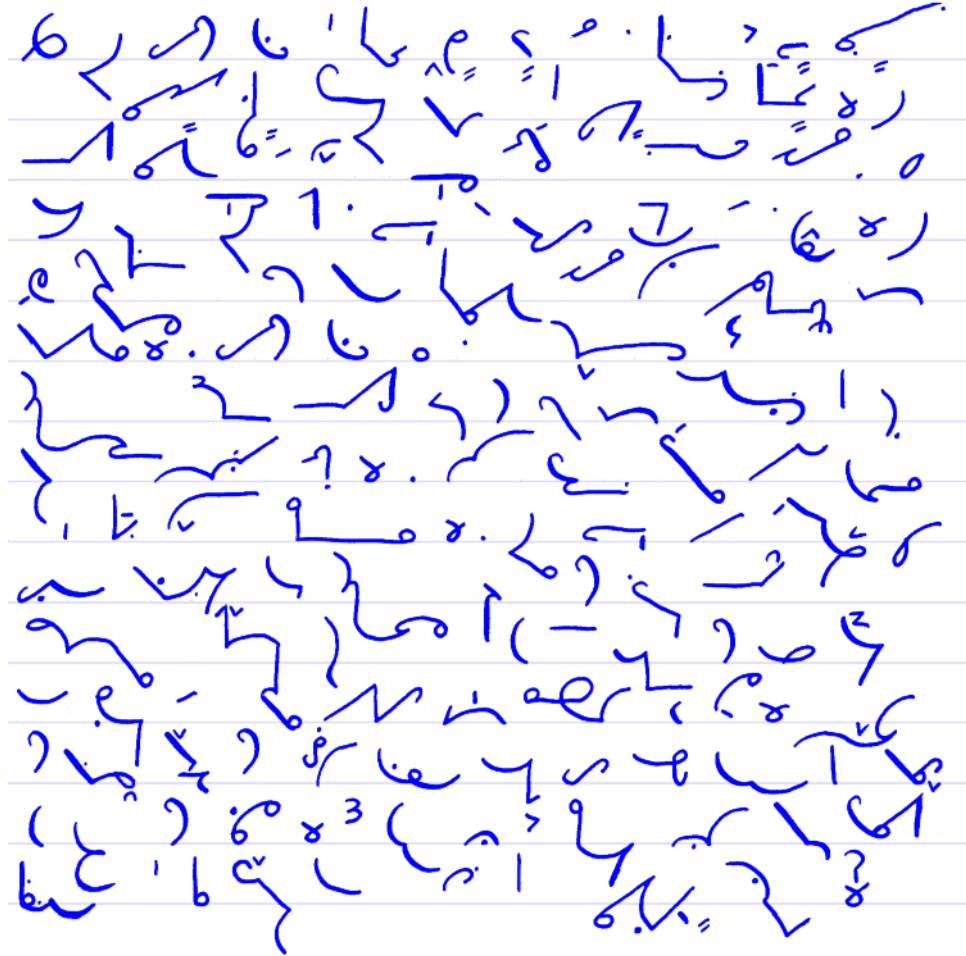
immobile\* centre of the universe. This enabled Bradley to improve the accuracy of the existing estimate of the speed of light.

\* "aberration" Insert the first vowel, as "operation" would also make sense

\* "Nicolaus" Using German pronunciation

\* "immobile" Such negatives repeat the stroke, to avoid having to insert the first vowel



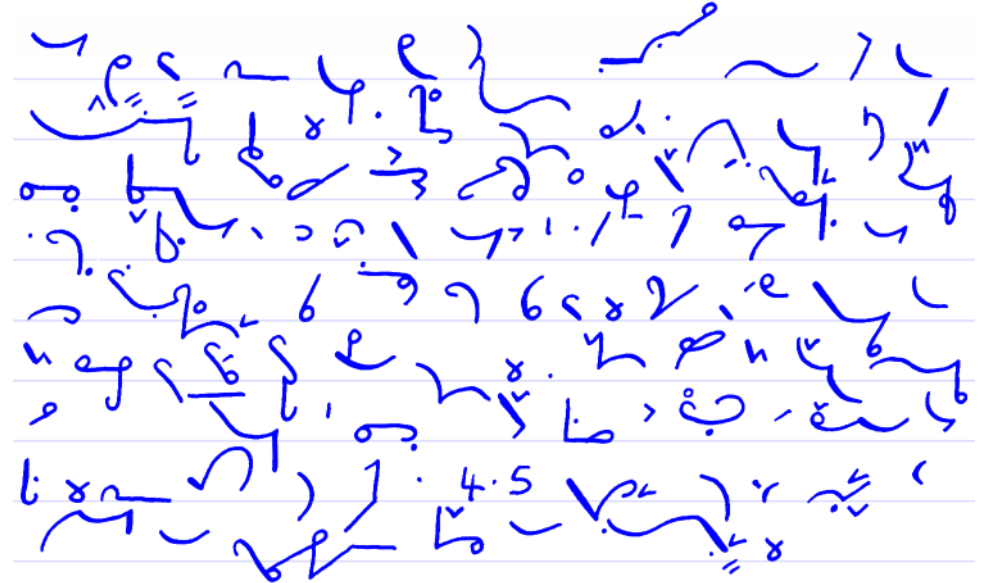


11. This is the ship weather vane on top of the South Building and is a depiction of the Great Harry, Henry VIII's flagship built at Woolwich Dockyard. She carried heavy and light guns, and bronze cannon, and was the first English two-decker gunship, and had a crew of between seven hundred and a thousand. She suffered problems from being top-heavy and was later restructured to improve performance. The weather vane is a reminder that the astronomical work carried on here was principally to improve navigation at sea, both military and trading. The little vertical blobs are not figures but turret-like structures. The ship's crew are obviously still waiting patiently for the

astronomers to deliver their completed accurate star-maps and timetables, so that they can undertake their next voyage in safety and return home successfully without loss. Meanwhile, they are bemused by the fact that\* they are constantly facing into the wind, instead of having it behind them filling their sails. What would they have made of the strange metal bird overhead, descending on its flight path for landing at Heathrow\* Airport?

\* Omission phrase "by the (f)act that"

\* "Heathrow" Using separate strokes. Outlines for "hither, heather" use the hooked stroke.

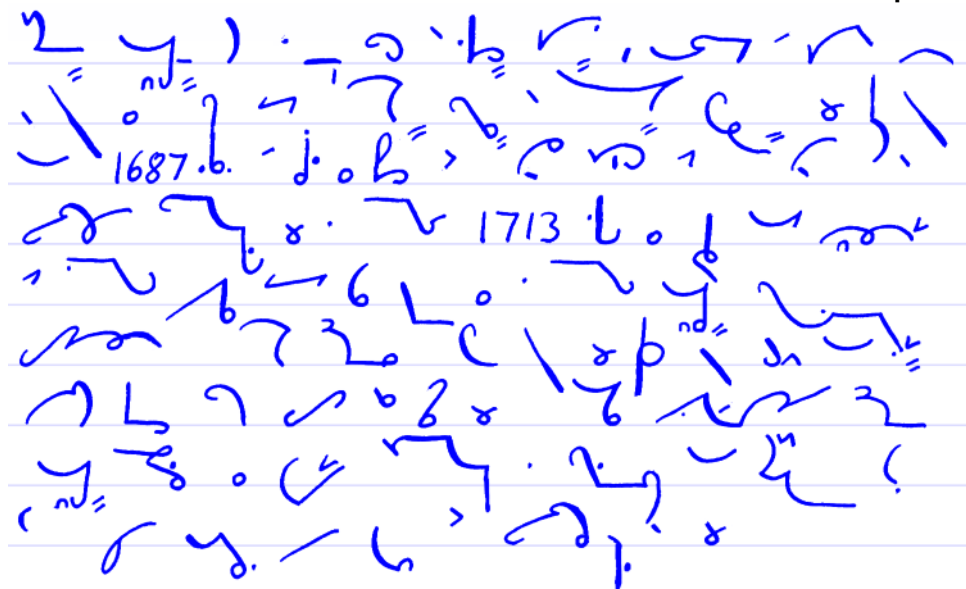


12. In the South Building you can visit several astronomy galleries, many of which have interactive displays. A darkened room shows a looping video on three large screens, describing the story of the beginning\* of the universe, as understood by present-day scientists, a free taster\* of what might be enjoyed on a much larger scale in the main planetarium, which is accessed from this building. There are two soft benches for about 16 people, plus plenty of standing room. The item lasts

about 5 minutes and is accompanied on screen by the text of the narration and signing for the deaf. You can also see and touch a 4.5 billion year old meteorite that landed in prehistoric times in Namibia.

\* "of the beginning" If more convenient, this intersection can be written underneath the preceding outline or phrase

\* "taster" Insert vowel and ensure Ster loop is large, as "tester" and "test" could also make sense



13. Isaac Newton was a good friend of Edmond Halley who encouraged and helped him to publish his treatise "Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy". It was published in 1687 and contains his statement of the laws of motion and the law of universal gravitation. A copy of the 1713 edition is displayed in the museum and the caption reads "This book is a copy of Newton's Principia\*", one of the most important\* mathematical works ever published. It is said\* to be bound in leather taken from one of his chairs. In this

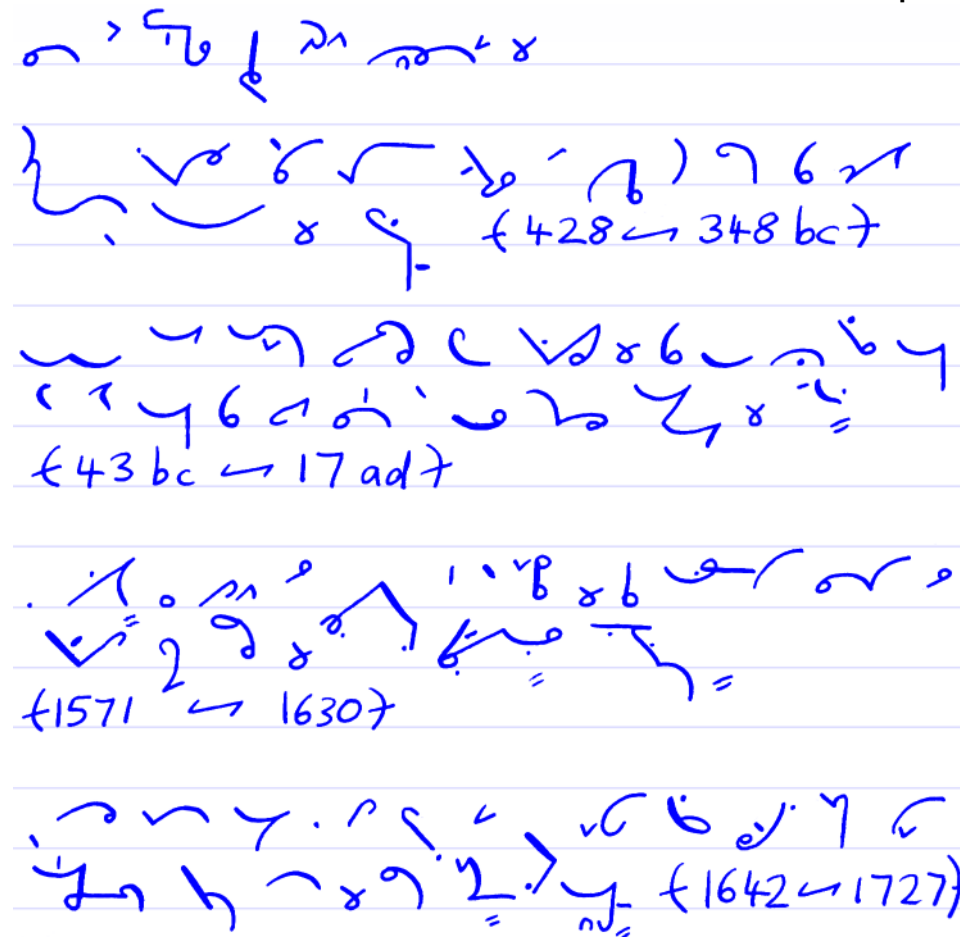
revolutionary work, Newton explains his theory of gravity, a breakthrough in scientific thinking that still underpins our view of the universe today."

\* "Principia" Latin pronunciation (the book was written in Latin = Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica)

\* Omission phrase "one (of the) mos(t) important"

\* "it is said" The Ses circle representing both S's

## GREENWICH - PART 1 Pitman's New Era Shorthand



14. Some of the quotations displayed around the museum:

"Astronomy compels the soul to look upwards and leads us from this world to another." Plato (428-348 BC)

"Nothing in the entire universe ever perishes . . . this thing may pass into that, and that into this, yet the sum of things remains unchanged." Ovid (43BC – 17AD)

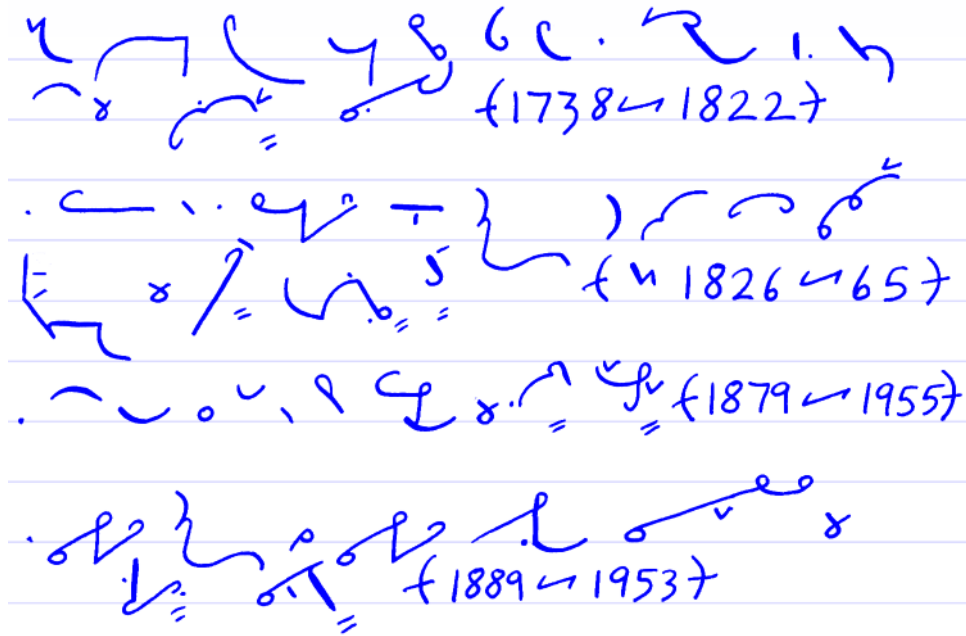
"The Earth is round and is inhabited on all sides: it is insignificantly small and is borne\* through the stars." Johannes\* Kepler (1571-1630)

"To myself I am only a child playing on the beach ... while vast oceans of truth lie undiscovered before me." Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727)

\* "borne" Note the vowel. Born uses first place thin dash, bourne (=stream) uses third place thick dash

\* "Johannes" For the German pronunciation, use stroke Yay





(1738-1822)

(1826-1865)

(1879-1955)

(1889-1953)

15.

"I have looked further into space than ever a human being\* did before me." William Herschel (1738-1822)

"A quarter\* of a century ago astronomy was little more than celestial\* topography." George Phillips Bond (about 1826-1865)

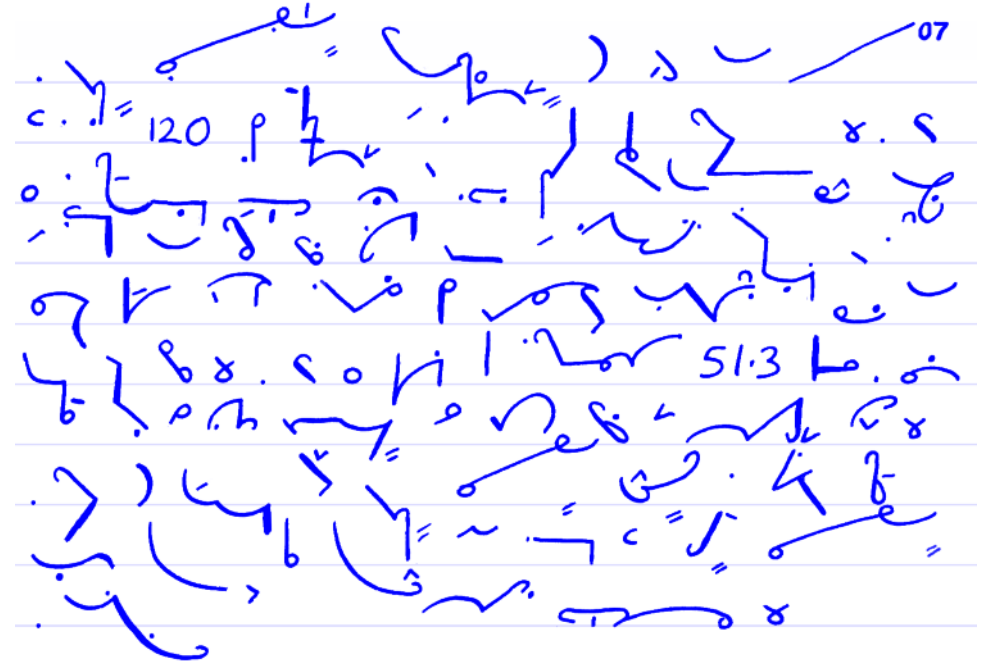
"The important thing is not to stop questioning." Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

"The history of astronomy is the history of receding horizons." Edwin Hubble (1889-1953)

\* "human being" The outline for "human" is written above the line to distinguish from "humane", and "being" uses the short form "be", so no diphone required for the "-ing"

\* "quarter" Optional contraction

\* "celestial" Omits the T



120

51.3

07

120

51.3

07

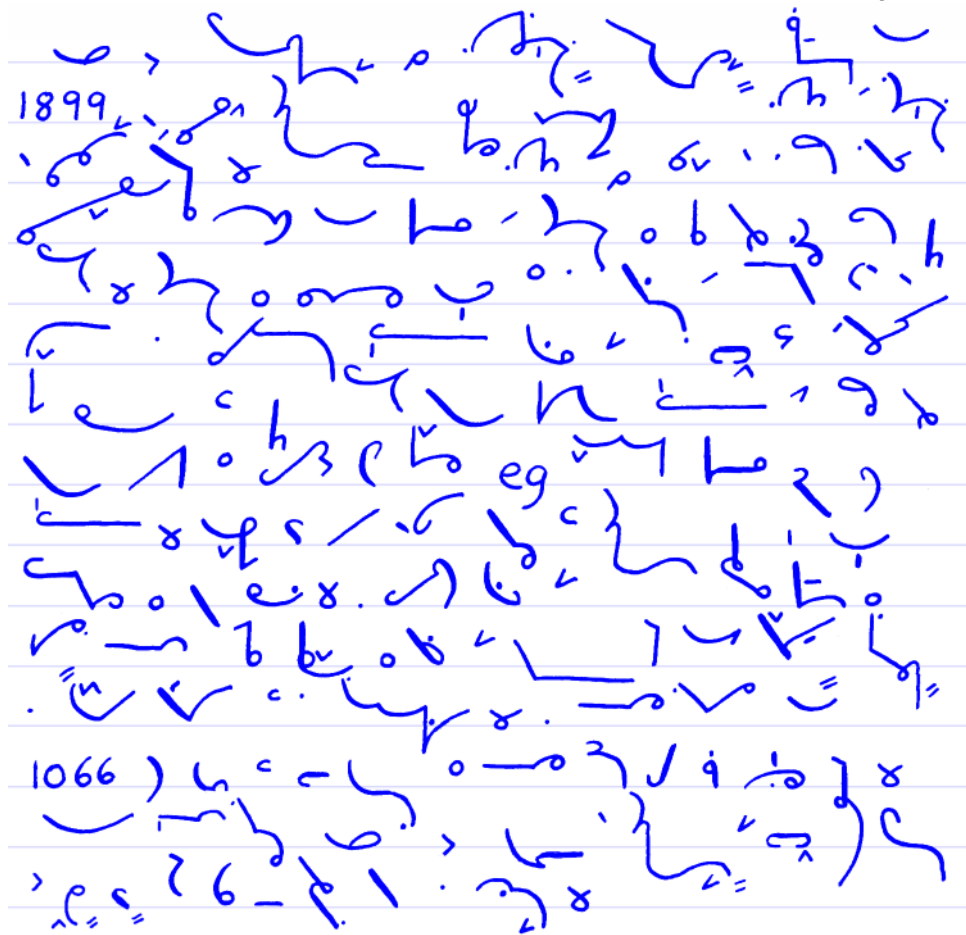
16. The Peter Harrison Planetarium was opened in 2007\* with a 120-seat\* auditorium and a digital display projector. The building is a truncated cone, made of concrete for sound insulation and clad in bronze plates welded together and artificially patinated to a smooth dull mottled appearance, said to resemble the nebulae\* seen in photos of deep space. The building is tilted at approximately 51.3 degrees, the same as the latitude of Greenwich, and is also placed on the meridian line. The project was funded by the Peter Harrison Foundation, a charitable

trust named after its founder, and not connected with John Harrison the inventor of the marine chronometers.

\* "2007" Long slash to represent the current century, arbitrary sign with no phonetic value

\* "120-seat" Ensure the circle is on the correct side; written clockwise it would be "120-seater"

\* "nebulae" Latin plural of "nebula", essential to insert the final vowel in both singular and plural



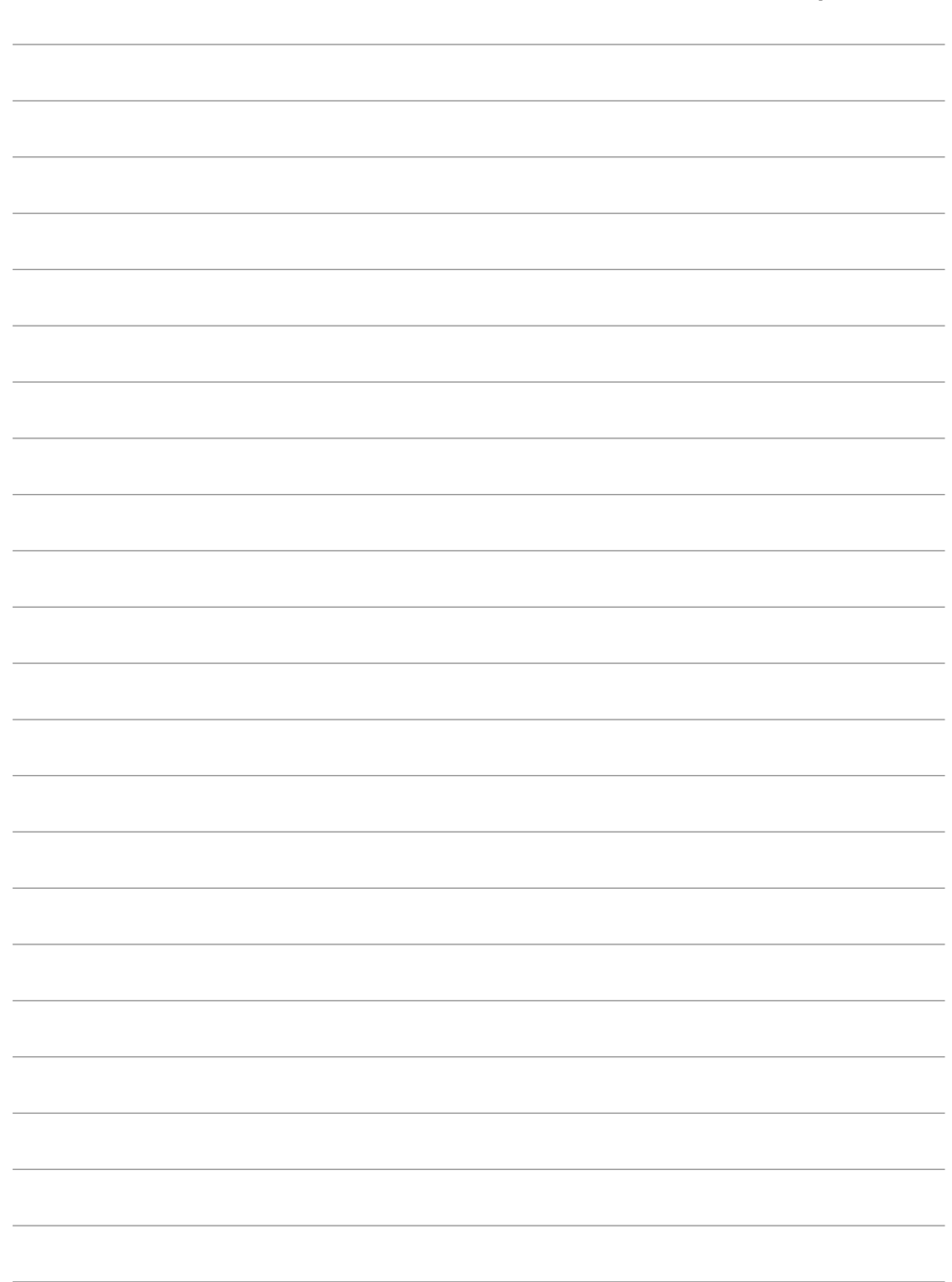
17. Next to the planetarium is the Altazimuth Pavilion, constructed in 1899 to house astronomical instruments to measure the altitude\* and azimuth of celestial\* bodies. Altitude is the height of a star above the horizon measured in degrees and azimuth is its position eastwards from due north. Azimuth is sometimes known as a bearing and can be thought of like a circular clock face on the ground with the observer at the centre, with due north being 12 o'clock and the star's position being read as one of the other times e.g. 90 degrees would be 3 o'clock. Inside the building are wall boards with astronomy displays but no equipment is to be seen. The weather vane on the dome is Halley's

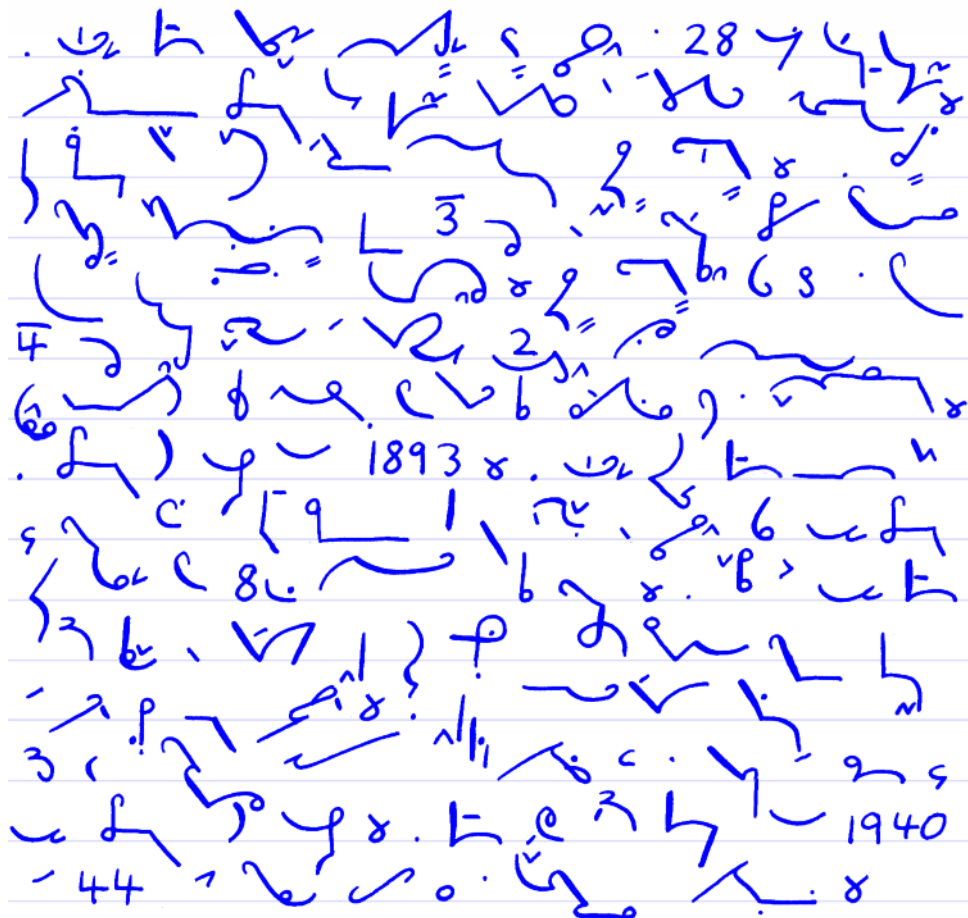
Comet and its design is based on the picture of it in the Bayeux\* Tapestry, a fiery ball with a fantail. The comet's appearance in 1066 was viewed with great fear, as comets were generally considered omens of disaster. Another comet appears next to the figure of Astronomia on the ground floor of the South Building, although this could possibly be a meteor.

\* "celestial" Omits the T

\* "altitude" Insert the first vowel in this and "latitude" to distinguish

\* "bayeux" A thick dash written sideways to the stroke represents this French vowel, similar to the English "sir"





18. The Onion Dome behind the Meridian Building houses a 28-inch photo-visual refractor\* telescope, for the dual purposes of observation and photography. It was constructed by Irish optical manufacturer Howard Grubb. The Chance Brothers of Birmingham\* took 3½\* years to produce satisfactory blanks, after 15 casting failures. Howard Grubb then spent a further 4½\* years grinding and polishing the 200-pound lens, making thousands of accuracy tests and inspecting every part of its surface through a microscope. The telescope was installed in 1893. The onion shape of the dome came about when the previous flat-topped structure had to be modified to house this new telescope, which was over 8 feet longer than its predecessor\*. The sides of the new dome were designed to bulge out so that the existing supporting brick tower and roof seating could be re-used. The outdated cannonball bearings were not without problems and were replaced with a

better system when the new telescope was installed. The dome suffered war damage in 1940 and 1944\*, and the present one is a fibre-glass replica. (2333 words)

- \* "refractor" Keep the R hook small and insert the vowel after the Fl stroke, so it does not look like "reflector"

\* "Birmingham" The H is not pronounced.  
There is also a contracted version which omits the Ing stroke.

\* "3½ 4½" Write the numeral first and the dash second, the same order as they are spoken.

\* "predecessor" Three downstrokes are tolerated, in order to provide a distinguishing outline from the similar "producer" which ends with Ray

- \* "1944" Leave out the century number when there are several dates in close succession