

German Script

by Peggy Baldwin, MLS

Difficulties presented by German script

- Usual problems
 - difficult to read handwriting
 - Faded and damaged records, which are poorly microfilmed
- In addition to that
 - Same alphabet, but looking at it you wouldn't think so!
 - Language that you may not be familiar with

Two kinds of script (see handout pages)

- Handwritten – Kurrent Kuperstich & Sütterlin
- Print – Breiskopf Fraktur and/or Fette Fraktur

Steps for learning to read German script

1. Study resources
 - a. Minert's *Deciphering Handwriting in German Documents* (see resource list)
 - b. German Script Tutorial (script.byu.edu/german) (see resource list)
2. Study handwritten script alphabet and learn the letters that can be confused with each other
3. Learn to write and read script
4. Download print fonts to your computer and practice typing things with those fonts (<http://www.fontspace.com/dieter-steffmann/breiskopf-fraktur>) – see FontSpace help pages for how to download and install in Windows and Mac. This website also has Wiegell Kurrent, Kurrent Kuperstich. Sütterlin is available at www.germancorner.com/fonts/.
5. Practice script with English
6. Study list of situational vocabulary (baptism, birth, death, marriage, occupations, etc.)
7. Start with tabular layouts and work up to narrative
8. Consider learning German

Script

- Alphabet
- Easily confused characters
- EXERCISE

Vocabulary

- German Word List, FamilySearch Wiki (see resource list)
- Make your own specific record lists

Tabular format

- Start by translating the column headings
- Layout is easy to follow
- Work up to narrative formats
















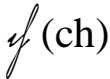


































































































Consider learning German



































































- Community college adult education courses
- Tell Me More German (DVDs) – expensive but receives excellent reviews and is used for college courses (see resource list)

Resources

1. Minert, Roger P. *Deciphering Handwriting in German Documents: Analyzing German, Latin, and French in Vital Records Written in Germany*. GRT Publications, 2001. Available from GRT Publications (<http://www.grtpublications.com/>), \$26.95.
2. German Word List, FamilySearch Wiki, www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/German_Word_List
3. German Script Tutorial, Center for Family History and Genealogy, BYU – <http://script.byu.edu/german/>
4. Thode, Ernest. *German English Genealogical Dictionary*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1992.
5. Bentz, Edna M. *If I Can You Can Decipher Germanic Records*. San Diego: Tamara J Bentz, 1982. Weak, but does have good word lists written in script.
6. Süß, Harald. *Edutsche Schreibrift: Lesen und Schreiben lernen*. München: Droemersche Verlaganstalt Th., 2002. Gorgeous book, written in German.
7. Tell Me More German
 - DVDs, 2 levels, \$229.00
 - DVDs, 5 levels, \$399.00
 - DVDs, 10 levels, \$529.00
 - Web pass, \$42.00/month

Alphabet

Modern		Sütterlin		Kurrent Kupferstich		Breitkopf Fraktur	
A	a						
B	b						
C	c						
D	d						
E	e						
F	f						
G	g						
H	h						
I	i						
J	j						
K	k						
L	l						
M	m						
N	n						
O	o						
P	p						
Q	q						
R	r						
S	s						

Modern		Sütterlin		Kurrent Kupferstich		Breitkopf Fraktur	
T	t						t
U	u						u
V	v						v
W	w						w
X	x						x
Y	y						y
Z	z						z
	ß (ss)						
Ä	ä						ä
Ö	ö						ö
Ü	ü						ü
	ch						ch
	ck						ck
	ll						ll
	mm						
	nn						
Sch	sch						sch
St	st						st
	tz						tz

PRACTICE

1. What are these English words written in Sütterlin

o n u s d r e a t h y m b s p
o n ñ | ð ð ñ u t f w m b | p

mann

son

mohnte

den

ben

spennte

2. What are these English words written in Kurrent Kuperferstich?

w m o y h f a r e p u
w m o y f f w n n y ü

son

son

3. Write your name in Sütterlin