

# Visigothic font

## Source and illustration

My first published font is “Visigothic.ttf”. It is based on the illustration of a mozarabic liturgy (British Library, Add. MS. 30844) on page 56 of *A History of Calligraphy* by Albertine Gaur, The British Library, 1994.

The text is the annunciation, from St. Luke 1, verses 26-36, in Latin. The sample of this font on the second page is of this text.

## Description and use of script

- Visigothic minuscule was used in Iberia from the seventh to twelfth centuries A.D.
- Lower case *a* has an open top.
- Lower case *t* extends the crossbar to the left in a closed loop.
- Initial capitals are used (mostly) after punctuation, but not for names of people or places.
- Initial *i* is usually capitalised. Before a vowel, *ti* is spelled *tj*: *salutatjo iuluauajo, gratjam qraaum*.
- Mid-height horizontal strokes are given a flourish at the end of a word *ε ε', ε e', † r', α α'*.
- Latin did not use a separate *v* as well as *u*. *Ave* is spelled with a *b*: *abe*. *Turbata* is spelled with a *u*: *auruáau*.

The script is described by Dr. Dianne Tillotson in her palaeography site:

<http://medievalwriting.50megs.com/scripts/history4.htm>.

<http://medievalwriting.50megs.com/scripts/examples/visigoth.htm>

<http://medievalwriting.50megs.com/exercises/annunciation/flannunciation.htm>

## Encoding

The encoding is not Unicode. Basic characters are accessible as letters; variants use numerals and alphabetic characters.

Bold and italic variants are not appropriate.

α α α̇ α̈	Β β	Ϸ Ϸ̇	Ϸ Ϸ̇ Ϸ̈ Ϸ̉	Ε Ξ Ξ̇ ε ε̇ ε̈ ε̉	f g	h ḣ	l l̇ i i̇ j
A a 0 1	B b	c 2	D d 3 4	E 5 6 e 7 8 9	f g	H h	I J i " j

l	o	m	m	N	n	#	o	ó	o	p	p	Q	q	r	r	S	s	*	α	α	u	u	x	z
l	M	m	\$	N	n	#	o	%	'	p	(	Q	q	r	)	S	s	*	t	+	u	-	x	z

punctuation	et	eius	iesu	que	ae	bus	per
.	et	eius	iesu	que	ae	bus	per
.	et	eius	iesu	que	ae	bus	per
.	et	eius	iesu	que	ae	bus	per

nullo tem  
 pore. missus est  
 angelus ga  
 brihel a dño  
 In ciuitatem  
 galilee cui  
 nomen na  
 zareth. ad uirginem  
 disponatam. uiro  
 cui nomen erat  
 ioseph. de domo dñ.  
 & nñm uirginis ma  
 ria. Ea ingressus  
 angelus ad eam.  
 dixit. a be maria  
 grā plena. dñi tecū.  
 Benedicam tu. Inas  
 mulieribus. Quæquum  
 audisset. turua  
 ta est In sermone eius.  
 & cogitabat qua  
 lis esset ista salu

n illo tem / pore missus est / angelus ga  
 brihel a domino / in ciuitatem / galilee cui  
 nomen na / zareth ad uirginem  
 disponatam uiro / cui nomen erat  
 ioseph, de domo david  
 & nomen uirginis ma / ria, et ingressus  
 angelus ad eam / dixit "abe maria  
 gratia plena. dominus tecum  
 benedicta tu inter  
 mulieribus." quæ quum / audisset turua  
 ta est in sermone eius. / et cogitabat qua  
 lis esset ista salu

aia. Ea ait angelus ei.  
 Ne timeas maria. Inuenisti  
 gratiam apud dñm.  
 Ecce concipies In utero. &  
 paries filium. & uocabis  
 nomen eius Iesum. Hic erit  
 magnus. & filius altis  
 simi uocabitur. Ea  
 dabit illi dñs dñs sedē dñi  
 patris. & regnabit In  
 domo iacob In ætænum.  
 & regni eius non erit finis.  
 Dixit autem maria ad an  
 gelum. Quomodo fiet  
 istud. quoniam uirum non  
 cognosco. Ea respondens  
 angelus. dixit ei.  
 Sp̃s sc̃s superueniet In te.  
 & uirtus altissimi ob  
 umbrabit tibi. Ideo.  
 & quod nascetur ex te  
 sc̃m. uocabitur filius  
 dei. Ea ecce helisabet

tatio, et ait angelus ei, / "ne timeas maria, inuenisti  
 gratiam apud dominum, / ecce concipies in utero et  
 paries filium et uocabis / nomen eius iesum. hic erit  
 magnus et filius altis / simi uocabitur, et  
 dabit illi dominus deus sedem david  
 patris eius et regnabit in / domo iacob in ætænum,  
 & regni eius non erit finis." / dixit autem maria ad an  
 gelum "quomodo fiet / istud quoniam uirum non  
 cognosco?" et respondens / angelus dixit ei  
 "spiritus sanctus superueniet in te / & uirtus altissimi ob  
 umbrabit tibi, ideoque / & quod nascetur ex te  
 sanctum uocabitur filius / dei." et ecce helisabet