

***THADDEUS  
DAVIDS***

***THE HISTORY  
OF INK, INCLUDING  
ITS ETYMOLOGY,  
CHEMISTRY, AND  
BIBLIOGRAPHY***

***THADDEUS  
DAVIDS***

***THE HISTORY  
OF INK, INCLUDING  
ITS ETYMOLOGY,  
CHEMISTRY, AND  
BIBLIOGRAPHY***

**Thaddeus Davids**

# **The History of Ink, Including Its Etymology, Chemistry, and Bibliography**

EAN 8596547029540

DigiCat, 2022

Contact: [DigiCat@okpublishing.info](mailto:DigiCat@okpublishing.info)



# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

[DEFINITION.](#)

[ETYMOLOGY.](#)

[CHEMISTRY or COMPOSITION of INK.](#)

[BIBLIOGRAPHY.](#)

[WRITING-INKS.](#)

[WRITING INSTRUMENTS.](#)

[IMPORTANCE OF GOOD INK.](#)

[On Ink.](#)

[CONCLUSION.](#)

[DESCRIPTION OF THE PLATES.](#)

[FORM OF THE WORD INK IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES](#)

# DEFINITION.

## [Table of Contents](#)

The word INK has been variously defined by lexicographers, cyclopaedists and chemists; but the following terms may be taken as fully expressing the common qualities and essential specific characteristics of all substances included under the name.

Ink is a colored liquid employed in making lines, characters or figures on surfaces capable of retaining the marks so made. The Encyclopaedia Britannica, (vol. xii. p. 382, 1856,) gives the following definition: "INK.—The term ink is usually restricted to the fluid employed in writing with a pen. Other kinds of ink are indicated by a second word, such as red ink, Indian ink, marking ink, sympathetic ink, printers' ink, etc. Common ink is, however, sometimes distinguished as writing ink."

As to COLOR,—black is and has always been preferred in ordinary uses. For ornamental purposes and for occasionally useful distinctions, various other tints have been and are adopted—as blue, red, green, purple, violet, yellow—and so on, according to the fancy of the maker, or purchaser, or consumer.

The substance employed to receive and preserve the marks thus made is now almost universally Paper. Parchment is still used in many legal documents and writings of form and ceremony. Cotton, linen and silk, when woven into fabrics for garments and like uses, are also subjected to marks of ink for the purpose of identifying property. So are wooden and leathern surfaces in similar

conditions. It is also employed in writing on stone, in the quite modern art of lithography.

Though its great original and continual employment is in writing, it must be remembered that it is also largely used in the delineation of objects by artists. Ink and paint are mutually convertible to each other's uses, but are yet so distinct in character and objects, that no one regards the words as synonymous, and no precise definition is needed to teach the distinction between them. As, for instance, in pen-and-ink drawings and sketches, the ink serves the purpose of paint. So likewise in the letters on sign-boards, &c. paint may be considered as a substitute for ink. The artist who traces his name on the canvas in a corner of his painting, employs paint in a similar manner. Printing-ink is used as black paint. In the best red inks, carmine (a paint in water-colors) is the essential ingredient. Indian Ink is used here only as paint,—in China, as ink.

# ETYMOLOGY.

## [Table of Contents](#)

The derivation of the English word “INK,” and of its representatives in various modern languages, has caused much perplexity to philologists, and has been the subject of many erroneous conjectures. We suffix the names by which it is known in those nations who have most employed it:

English,	Ink.
Low-Dutch, Neder-Duytsch, Hollandisch,	Inkt.
German or Deutsch,	Dinte and Tinte.
Old German,	Anker, Tincta, Tinta and Dinde.
Danish, Norwegian, } Norse, Icelandic, }	Blaek, (India Ink, Tusch.)
Swedish,	Blaeck, (India Ink, Tusk.)
French,	Encre.
Old French,	Enque.

Italian,	Inchiostro.
Spanish,	Tinta.
Portuguese,	Tinta.
Illyrian,	Ingvas.
Polish,	Incaust.
Basque,	Coransia.
Latin,	Atramentum.
Mediæval Latin,	Encaustum.
Greek,	Melan.
Hebrew,	D'yo.
Chaldee,	N'kaso.
Arabic,	Nikson, Anghas.
Persian,	S'y'ah'o.



Hindustani, }	S'yaho, Rosh'na, kali, shira, mas,
and Hindui, }	murakkat, kalik, midad.
Sanscrit,	Kali, (Black.)
Armenian,	Syuaghin.

We might amuse ourselves by extending this tabular list indefinitely. Enough, however, has been already shown to illustrate a few remarkable facts which we wish to present that are connected with the etymology of our subject; but we present a page of Lithographic illustrations which will enable any "curious reader" to trace the word further.

No dictionary of the English language gives us any help or light about the matter. Webster suggests "*inchiostro*," (the Italian word,) as the source of derivation; and all the Italian lexicographers agree that *inchiostro* is from the later Latin ENCAUSTUM, which is in fact Greek, Εγκαιστον, (Encauston,) "*burned-in* or *corroded*." Encaustum became corrupted into "*enchaustrum*," from which the transition to "*inchiostro*," is by the regular form of derivation from the Latin to the Italian,—the L before a vowel giving place to a short I—as "*piano*" from PLANUS. (The CH, in Italian is always sounded hard, like the English K.)

Leaving the French word *encre* as on the middle ground between different etymologies, and affording no light either way,—we find the Spanish and Portugese "*tinta*," and the German (a language widely remote from those of the Iberian