



## *“Man Writes”*

Sculpture by Martin Hurtig

WAUKEGAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

128 N. County Street  
Waukegan, Illinois

Fall - 1966

The piece of sculpture at the south end of the courtyard adjoining the library entrance on County Street is the work of Martin Hurtig, Evanston sculptor. The artist has portrayed the beauty and variety of the written language, from prehistoric times until the present. Examples of man's efforts to communicate throughout the ages are displayed, although not in chronological order.

The sculpture consists of two triangular volumes, each weighing about 1300 pounds, mounted on a concrete cylinder. Many techniques and tools were used to form the letters and designs, evidence of man's culture through the centuries.

### **LOWER TRIANGLE**

**NORTH FACE:** The large circular form is taken from Aegean hieroglyphic script, 2000 B.C. Beneath is an inscription from the Koran in quadrangular Kufic script, 1800 A.D.

**EAST FACE:** Top—a seal from Mohenjo-Daro, Indus Valley, 3000 B.C.

Center—cuneiform letters, the earliest known developed writing, 2000 - 3000 B.C.

Bottom—Arab calligram, 1800 A.D.

**SOUTHWEST FACE:** Top—a variety of letter forms, from the medieval period to modern moveable type.

Bottom—two lines in Hebrew from the Dead Sea Scrolls.

### **TOP TRIANGLE**

**EAST FACE:** Top—Greek inscription from 300 B.C.

Center—fish with Latin script.

Bottom—illuminated letter in Latin, 1000 A.D.

**SOUTH FACE:** Right side—Mayan hieroglyphics.

Left side—Japanese characters.

**WEST FACE:** Egyptian hieroglyphics from the 5th dynasty above Madagascan “magic” handwriting, 600 A.D.