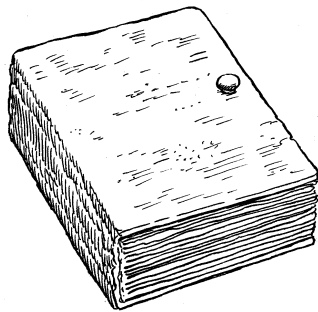
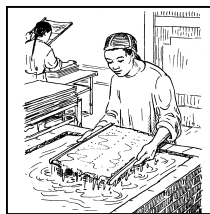


History of the Book

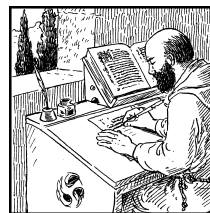


In 1906 a man named Johan Ludwig Heiberg heard about a manuscript by Archimedes that had been hidden since the twelfth century. It was a palimpsest, a text that has been overwritten with other text. In the Middle Ages, paper was scarce and manuscripts were recycled.



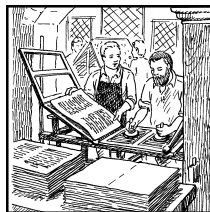
* A.D. 105—Paper Invented

The Chinese invented paper. Early paper was made from hemp, which was washed, soaked, and beaten to a pulp with a wooden mallet.



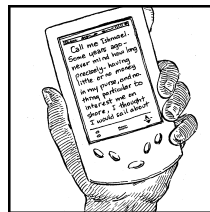
* A.D. 500–1400—Illuminated Book

Specially trained Christian monks called scribes copied manuscripts by hand into ornate, illustrated books.



* A.D. 1456—Invention of the Printing Press

Johannes Gutenberg invented the first printing press with moveable type.



* Today—Electronic Books

Now you can buy a handheld, multimedia reader that can store thousands of electronic books.

Find out more on

Infinite Secrets

On PBS September 30, 2003
at 8:00 p.m.

Check your local listings as
dates and times may vary.

www.pbs.org/nova/archimedes