Pre-1800 Books, Paper, and Printing Presses
Writing Media

Cuneiform Tablet
Anatolia, ca. 1875-1840 BC
LA County Museum

Khipu, Inkan Date Recording System
in use before 1500.

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Chronique du monde depuis la création.

1461 French Manuscript in scroll format.

Up to the present (i.e., 1461)
C’est la bible hystoriale en français
1373 French manuscript in codex format
f. 3v, “God measuring the world”

Chronique du monde depuis
la création. 1461 French Manuscript
in scroll format. “Creation of the world.”
Paper – not what it used to be

From fiber (linen/hemp and eventually cotton) to wood
Weight loss in flax processing plant to paper

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition of the Material</th>
<th>Kilograms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raw picked flax</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry flax</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rippled flax</td>
<td>17.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retted flax</td>
<td>4.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combed flax</td>
<td>4.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spun thread</td>
<td>3.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linen cloth</td>
<td>2.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White linen</td>
<td>2.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papermaking</td>
<td>1.69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key dates of the British Industrial Revolution

- 1733 - Flying shuttle
- 1764 - Spinning jenny
- 1769 - Steam engine
- 1784 - Spinning mule
- 1785 - Power loom
- 1793 - Cotton gin

- 1780-85 doubling of cotton imports
- 1785-89 tripling of cotton imports
Rettery – for fermentation of rags

From the *Encyclopédie* of Diderot and d’Alembert, ca. 1760
Cutting rags & removing buttons

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From the *Encyclopédie* of Diderot and d’Alembert, ca. 1760
Paper stampers

From the *Encyclopédie* of Diderot and d’Alembert, ca. 1760

This image is in the public domain.
Mould, deckle, and mould surface

From the *Encyclopédie* of Diderot and d’Alembert, ca. 1760
Drying Loft

From the *Encyclopédie* of Diderot and d’Alembert, ca. 1760

This image is in the public domain.
Setting type in an eighteenth-century print shop.
From the *Encyclopédie* of Diderot and d’Alembert, ca. 1760
Pressmen in action in an eighteenth-century print shop.
From the *Encyclopédie* of Diderot and d’Alembert, ca. 1760
The Thomas Printing Press
American Antiquarian Society, Worcester MA
The Thomas Printing Press, Detail