Chinese characters are one of the oldest writing systems in the world. The earliest Chinese characters were discovered more than 3,300 years ago and are still being used by one forth of the total population on earth. This lecture will introduce the origins and evolution of the Chinese characters and how they have influenced the Chinese nation, its society, family, and individuals. Understanding the Chinese characters is, in fact, the key to learning ancient China’s national identity, thinking, values, moral standards, lifestyle, customs, and aesthetic taste.