The Invention of Printing

A.D. 1450 – 1800

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Book Binding
## 1st - 2nd Century A.D.

The art of bookbinding comes to us from India.

Bookbinding originated mainly to preserve religious documents, or sutras. Script was copied onto dried palm leaves that were cut in two, and were bound together with the support of wooden boards. Buddhist monks spread the practice of bookbinding through Persia, Afghanistan, Iran, and China by the end of the 1st Century.
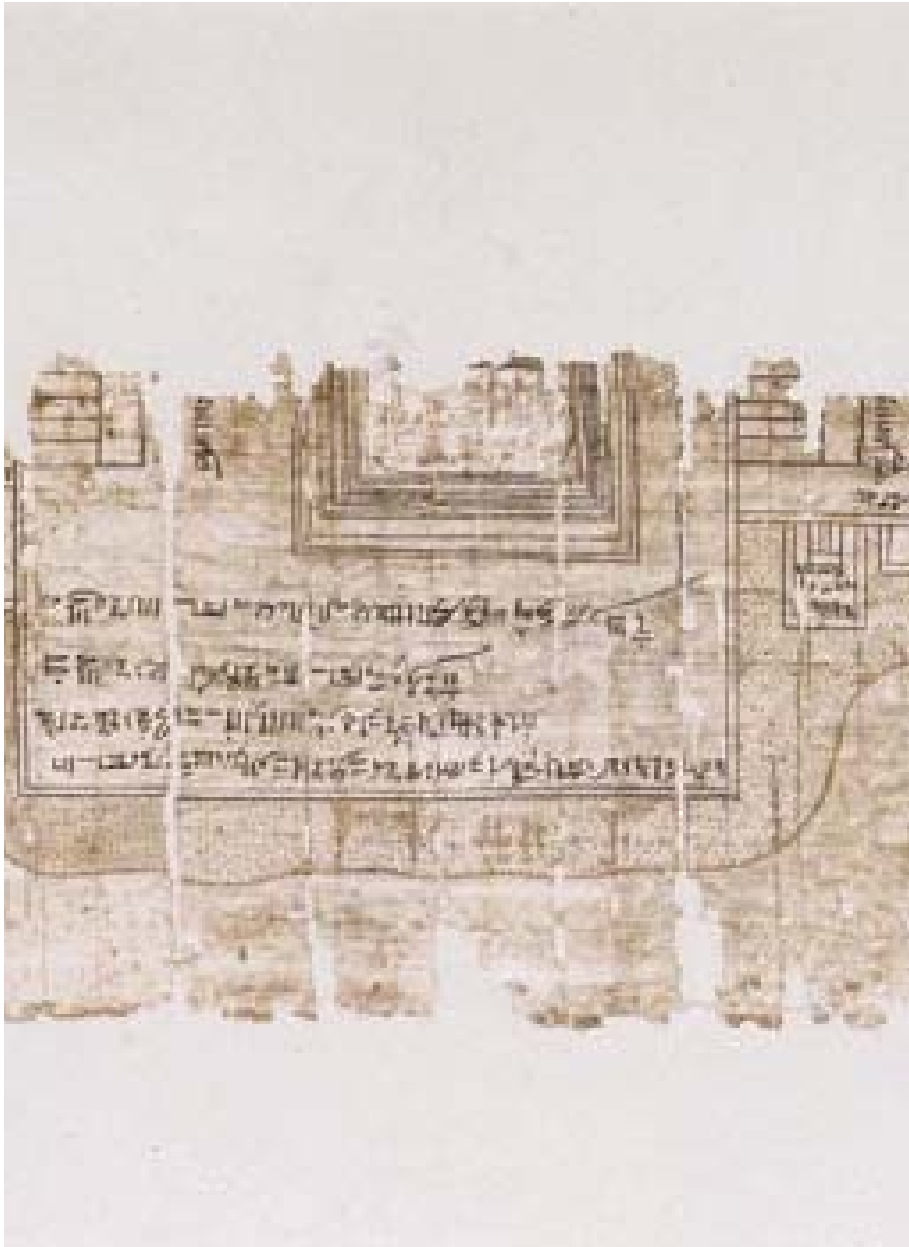
Paper
2nd Century

Paper as we know it today comes from China. Excavations of tombs of the former Han Dynasty (207BC-9AD) have revealed silk cloth bearing the texts of Lao Tzu - the father of Taoism (born in 604BC).

The individual fibres of this early paper were mixed with water in a large vat. Next, a screen was submerged in the vat and lifted up through the water,c atching the fibers on its surface. When dried, this thin layer of intertwined fiber became what today we call paper. T'sai Lun's thin, flexible yet strong paper was known as T'sai Ko-Shi . From China, the use of this modern type of paper soon spread through Nepal, India, the Middle East and eventually Western Europe.

The Anatomy of a Letter Form

Papyrus of Kerasher; Book of the Dead

c. 100 BCE
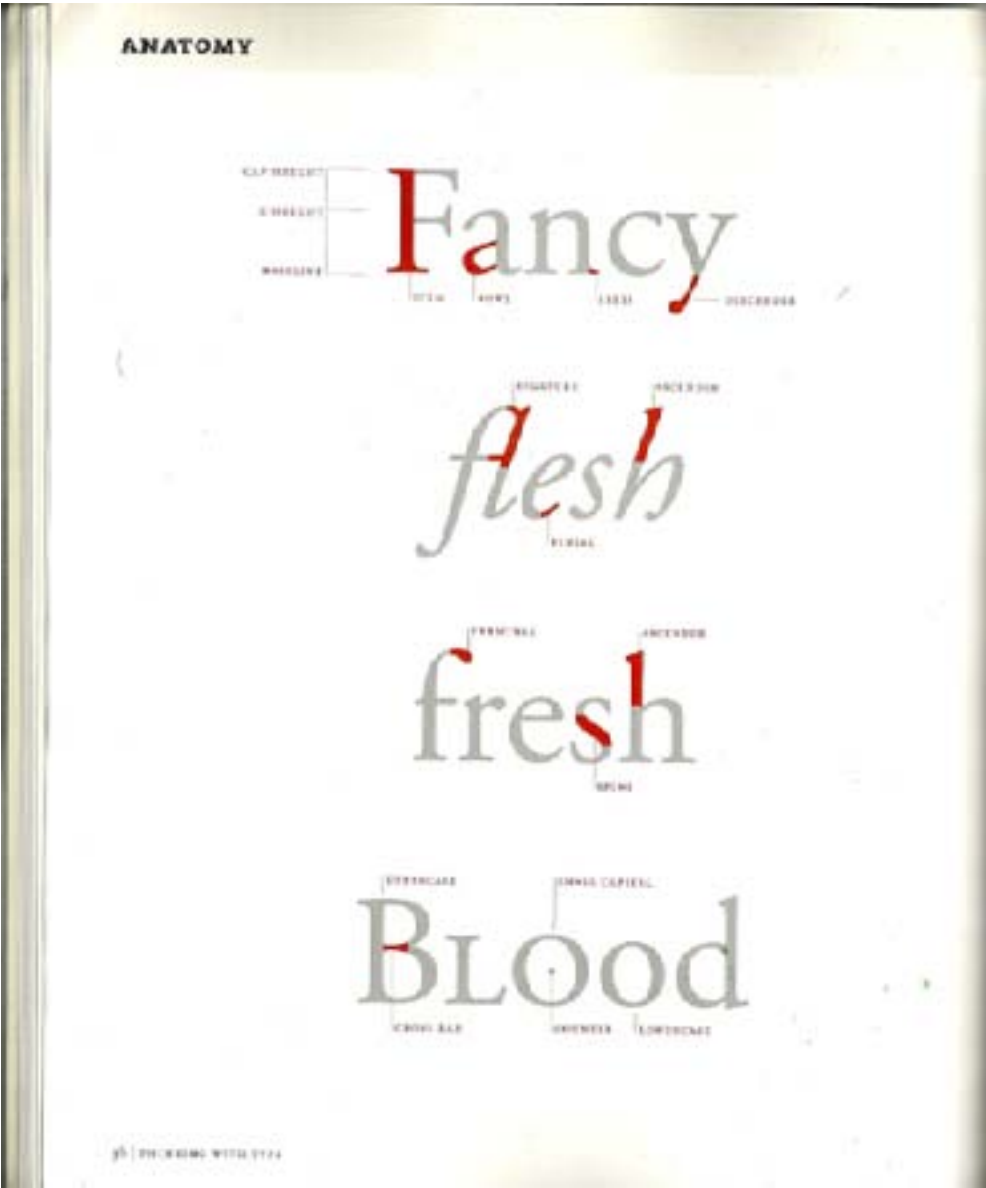
Impact of the Catholic Church

During the middle ages and before, the Catholic Church played a huge part in society. The Church was probably the most influential organization in Europe during the Middle Ages. It guided most aspects of society in one way or another. During the Middle Ages, most people were very religious.

They lived in fear that if they were to sin they may be sent into a pit of fire. The Church was their protector from that. It baptized them, buried them, provided for their instruction and guidance in between, and prayed for their souls after. It could save them by seeing that they were forgiven their sins.

It was not until a series events such as the Black Death and the Great Schism that society started losing faith in the Catholic Church.

Protestant Reformation

Martin Luther 1483 –1546

Martin Luther and John Calvin were important figures in the movement of the Protestant Reformation.

The efforts of the self-described "reformers" who objected to the doctrines, rituals and overall structure of the Catholic Church, led to the creation of new national Protestant churches.

This was encouraged by the series of events such as the black death and Great Schism, that led to the loss of people's faith in the church. This plus many other factors contributed to the growth of lay criticism in the church, and the creation of the Protestant Religion.

Johann Gutenberg

1398 –1468 - While Gutenberg was a German blacksmith, goldsmith, printer and he was also a publisher who introduced modern book printing. He also invented mechanical, movable type, began the Printing Revolution. Played a key role in the development of the Renaissance, Reformation and the Scientific Revolution. Laid the material basis for the modern "knowledge-based economy" and the spread of literacy to the masses.

Johann Fust

1400 –1466 - Early German printer, patron and benefactor who saw the value of Gutenberg's discovery and supplied him with the financial means to realize it. Advanced money to Gutenberg between 1450 - 1452. Fust was known as Gutenberg's creditor and help spread the knowledge of his works.

Johann Gutenberg   9   *Johann Fust*

William Caxton

1415 –1492 - English merchant, diplomat, writer, printer. Introduced the printing press to England. 1st English retailer of printed books (most were Dutch, German, or French).

Nicolas Jenson

1420 – 1480 - French engraver, pioneer printer and type designer based in Venice, Italy. Creator of the first model "Roman" typeface, which served as an inspiration for fonts such as Garamond and Aldus. Relocated in Mainz in October 1458 to learn the art of movable metal type.

Peter Schoffer

1425 –1503 - The Early German printer, studied in Paris, and apprenticed with the great Johann Gutenberg in Mainz. He than became printing partners with Gutenberg's creditor, Johann Fust. Schoffer eventually ended up getting married to Fust's daughter. Today the best-surviving examples of Schoffer's craftsmanship are the 1457 Mainz Psalter and the 1462 48-line Bible. The Psalter was the first printed book to ever give the date and place of printing and the printers' names.

Claude Garamond

1480 – 1561- Garamond was a Parisian publisher and was considered one of the leading type designers of his time. He is credited with the introduction of the apostrophe, the accent and the cedilla to the French language. Several contemporary typefaces, such as Garamond, Granjon, and Sabon, reflect his influence on early typography.

Jean Jannon

1580 – 1658 - Jannon was a well known engraver who was among the significant representatives of French typography of the first half of the 17th century. He was born in 1580, in Switzerland. He trained as a punch-cutter in Paris and in 1610 he began working for the printing office of the Calvinist Academy in Sedan. In 162, Jannon published a Roman type face and italics, derived from the shapes of Garamond's type faces. Later on Jannon's type face was mistakenly called Garamond, because it looked like that type face at first sight. Jannon's Early Baroque Roman type face, differs from Garamond in contrast and because it has grander forms. Jannon's italics rank among the most successful italics of all time. His italics are brilliantly cut and extremely elegant.

Renaissance Architecture

The architecture of the period between the early 15th and early 17th centuries in different regions of Europe is known as Renaissance architecture, demonstrating a development of certain elements of ancient Greek and Roman thought and material culture.

Stylistically, Renaissance architecture followed Gothic architecture and was succeeded by Baroque architecture. Developed first in Florence, with the help from Filippo Brunelleschi as well as other innovators, the Renaissance style quickly spread to other Italian cities. The style was carried to France, Germany, England, Russia and other parts of Europe at different dates and with different degrees of impact in different cities.
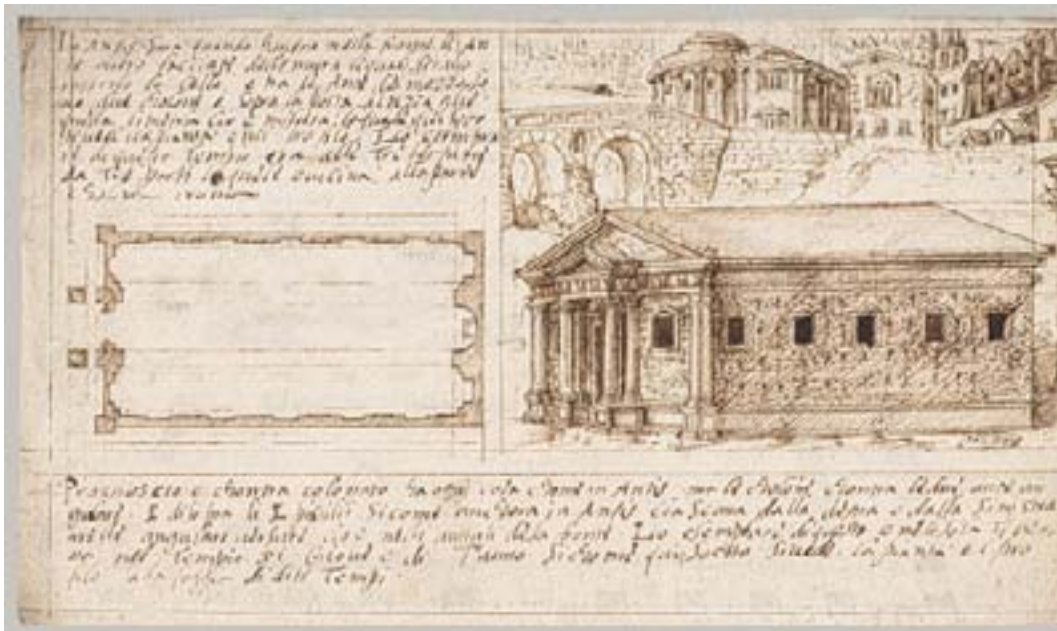
Renaissance Architecture

Tempietto Montorio, Rome (1502)

Old Cathedral of Coimbra (1139)

Blackletter
11th - 17th Century

Also known as Gothic script, Gothic miniscule, or Textura, Blackletter was a style of script used throughout Western Europe beginning in 1150 and was in circulation well into the 17th century.

Fraktur is a notable style of Blackletter, and sometimes the whole font style is referred to as Fraktur, otherwise known as Old English.

Commonly used in German texts well into the 20th century, most notably in Nazi propaganda during WWI and II.

How has Blackletter been used?

Blackletter was used heavily by the German Nazi Party under the instruction of Adolf Hitler. Hitler used it for its historical weight, and banned the usage of sans-serfi fonts, for they symbolized modernity, forward thinking and "Bauhaus" aesthetics.

More can be said about the origins and previous usage of Black-letter font in this video:

vimeo.com/18385978

What was going on in art/culture?

For the most part during this time, literacy was reserved for the clergy and members of the Church. In Germanic tribes during the Middle Ages, literacy raes are estimated to be as low as 10% of the population. Literacy rates in the Middle East are estimated to be higher, but for the most part, the general population could not even write their own names. The clergy perfected Blackletter script (there were 2 types, Textura and Fraktur) to preserve religious texts and government records. It is referred to as a "gothic" style of font because during the Humanist periods, the font was seen as "barbaric".

Characteristics of a gothic font include :

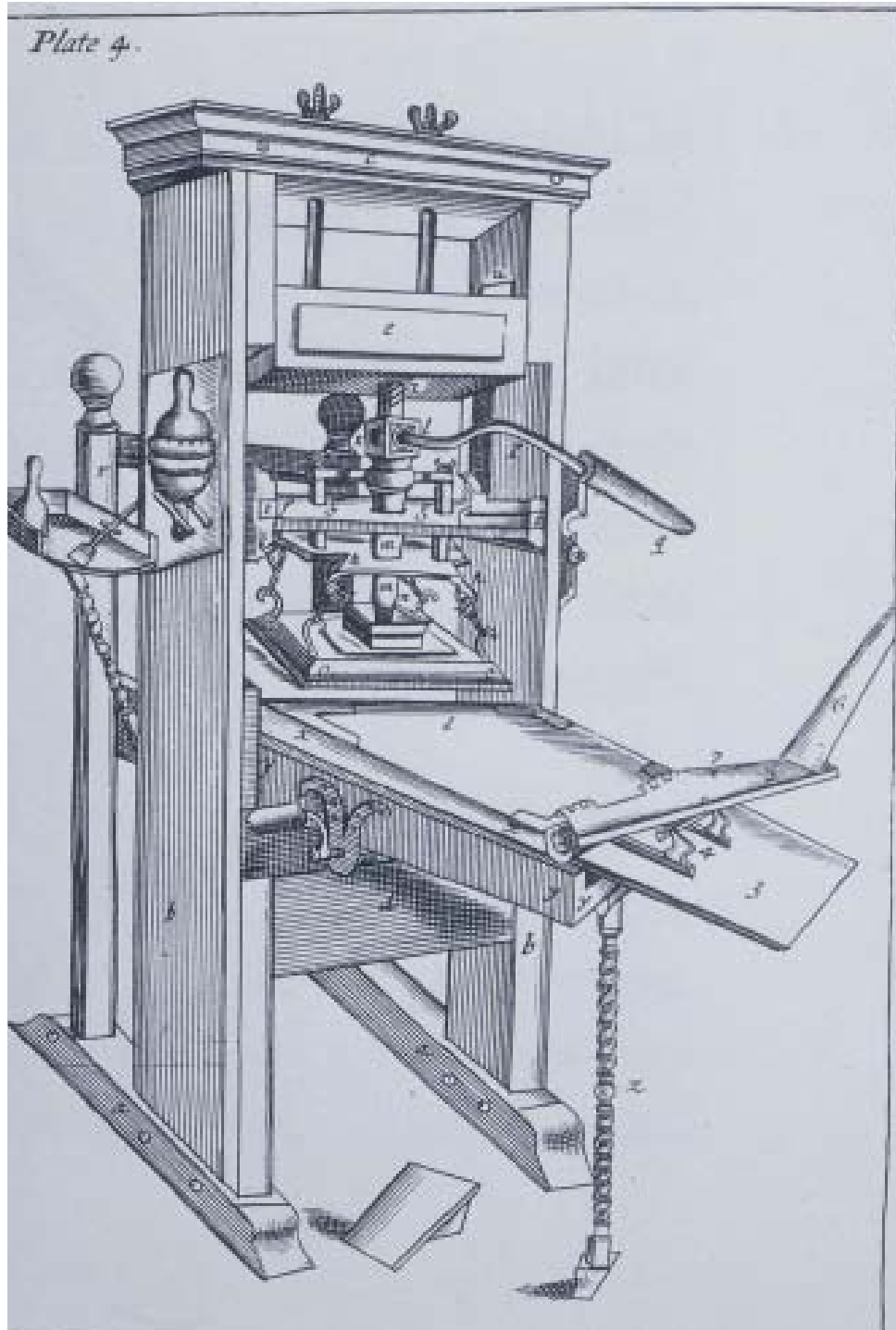Tall, narrow letters, formed by sharp, angular lines.
Ascenders are vertical, ending in sharp finials.
The main body of each letter looks almost identical in form and shape to one another.

Livre du Tresor

Plate 4.

The Printing Press

The printing press not only made books and documents more accessible, but also paved the way for a social and intellectual revolution. The sheer availability of books after the printing press made its debut encouraged more people to learn to read, thus the printing press is responsible for the spread of literacy and the modern world as we know it today.

The Mainz Psalter

The Mainz Psalter is the earliest dated example of printed matter using the movable print techniques of Johannes Gutenberg. Ordered by the Mainz Archbishop in AD 1457, it combines printed text with 2-color woodcuts. The entire book is printed on vellum with black and red inks, two-color initials, manuscript music, and large colored capital letters.

Incunabula

Incunabula is a generic term coined by English book collectors of the 17th century to describe the first printed books of the 15h century. Formed of two Latin words meaning "in the cradle" and "swaddling clothes".

The 1st technical incunabula is the Gutenberg Bible, printed in 1455.
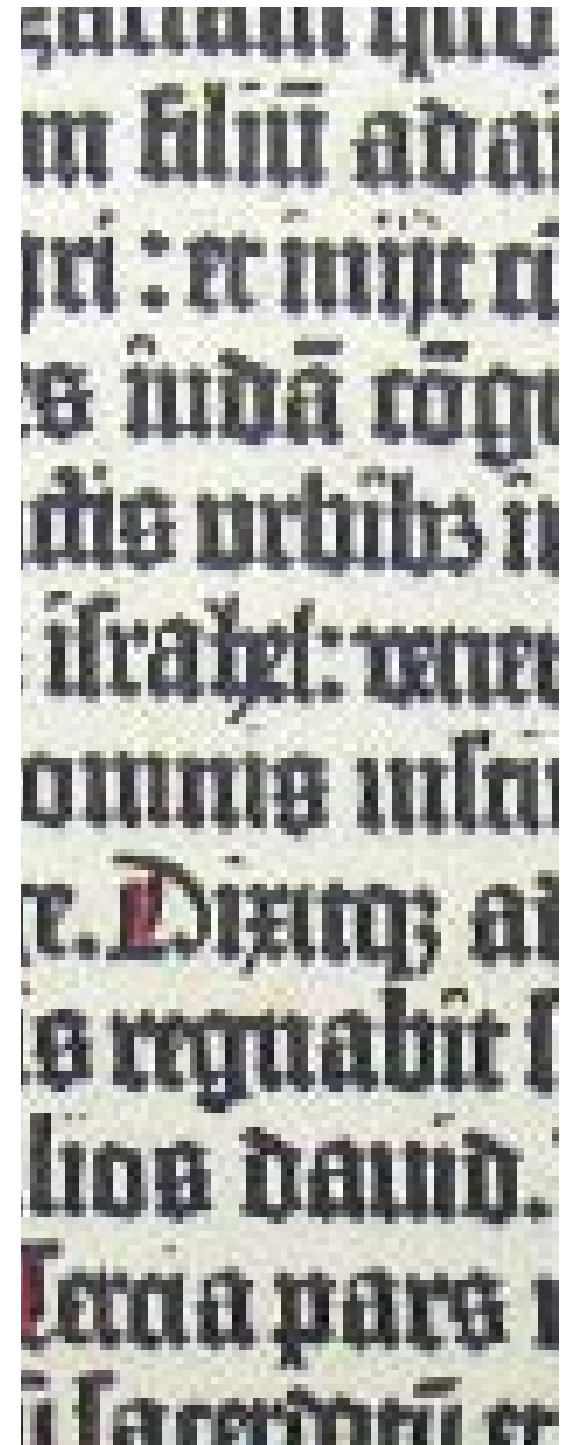
Fette Fraktur

Fette Fraktur is a Blackletter tyepeface that refers to a certain style of calligraphic hand fonts that are derived from this style. Blackletter lines are broken up, contain many angles, and even the name Fraktur means "broken" in Latin.

Originally used for advertisements because of the bold type that stood out from other typefaces. Often associated with German, it is also used in English, Gaelic, Latin and Scandinavian languages. It is important to understand that Fette Fraktur is not unique to Germany and is still one of the most used broken letter fonts today.

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Fraktur *font*

The term "Fraktur" refers to a certain style of calligraphic hand and any of the Blackletter fonts that are derived from this style.

Blackletter lines are broken up, contain many angles, and even the name itself means "broken" in Latin.

Often associated with German, but it is not unique to German. Fraktur was used in English, Gaelic, Latin and Scandinavian languages long before obtaining a distinctly German identity.
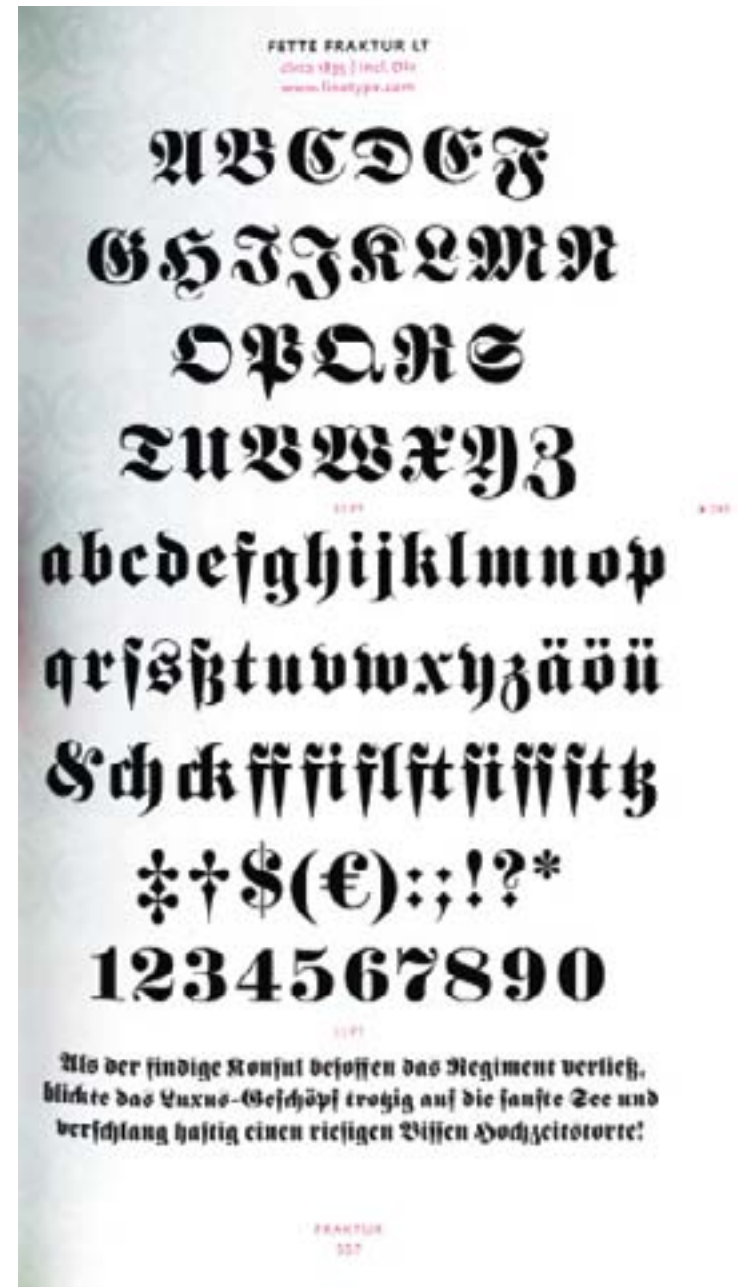
Powerful Type

Fette Fraktur was issued by the C. E. Weber foundry in 1875 but was originally made by a German punch cutter, Johann Christian Bauer. From as early as the Renaissance all the way to World War II the main German vernacular type was Fraktur, which is a style of Blackletter. Fraktur, or broken, are letter forms that are slightly composed of rounded elements and partly of straight lines and angles.

Originally Fette Fraktur was used for books and newspapers. Fette simply means bold, and this bold font was designed for headlines and display work to get the message out with emphasis. Fette Fraktur is a style of Blackletter popularly associated with Nazi Germany, though the Blackletter typefaces were banned by Hitler in 1941 because of an alleged discovery of Jewish contributions in the development of these faces.

People should know that although Fette Fraktur was used in Nazi propaganda, it was deemed "too Jewish" and was banned from publications in Germany at the time (early '40s). Although the font was used in German society for a very long time – including during the Nazi reign – it is anything but a Nazi font. Eventually the ban on Blackletter and Frakturs was lifted.

Roman Typefaces

Roman type has two principal meanings, both coming from the stylistic origin of text typefaces from inscriptional capitals used in ancient Rome.

The name "roman" is customarily applied to uncapitalized distinguishing early Italian typefaces from the Renaissance period and most succeeding seriffed types are based on them, from Roman letters dating back to ancient times.

Popular roman styles include Bembo, Baskerville, Caslon, Bodoni, Times New Roman and Garamond. Society began to step away from Blackletter typefaces for advertisements and began to use different Roman typefaces.

Murky haze envelop

Suez sailor vomits

We have just quote

Queen Elizabeth's Major

Adobe Jenson

Adobe Jenson is an old style serif typeface drawn for Adobe Systems by type designer Robert Slimbach. Its Roman styles are based on a Venetian old style text face cut by Nicolas Jenson in 1470. The first release of Adobe Jenson was in 1996.

A quick movement of the

Jump by vow of quick, lazy

Whacky pangram quiz fl

King Alexander was just partl

Where can you find Blackletter type today?

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