



Wood Type Specimens
Dartmouth Book Arts Workshop

These specimen sheets represent the wood type faces available in the Book Arts Workshop at the Dartmouth College Library. The collection was purchased in 2005 from the estate of Jack Lamb of Lebanon, New Hampshire, and is part of the holdings of letterpress type and illustrative cuts for use in the workshop.

Unlike metal type, finding specific names for wood type faces and their makers proved difficult due to the large number of manufacturers.

While unique or patented designs can be identified along with those makers who stamped their blocks, wholesale copying among firms makes definitive identification nearly impossible.

On most of these pages descriptive names are used based on broad categories adopted by Rob Roy Kelly in his book, *American Wood Type 1820-1900*.

Since only a limited number of characters are used typically in display work, individual letterforms play an important role in the choice of one face over another. To help the typographer, an example of each character is provided wherever possible. As the pages show, the quality and condition of the type faces vary as widely as their sources. Many of the faces are well drawn and cut while others appear to be more crudely made. In addition, some of the fonts are badly worn or missing characters that may limit the usefulness of those faces.

These type specimen sheets were printed directly from the wood type on Mohawk Superfine paper with heavier than normal inking and impression to compensate for the well-worn surfaces of some of these fonts. They were printed on a Vandercook SP20 proof press in 2007-2008 by Won K. Chung with the advice of Robert Metzler, instructor in book arts, and with the support of the workshop under the supervision of Barbara Sagraves.

W. K. C.

Hanover, New Hampshire

June 2008

A B C D E F G

36 line French Antique XXX condensed

H I J K L M

36 line French Antique XXX condensed

NO:PRST

36 line French Antique XXX condensed

36 line French Antique XXX condensed

U V W X Y Z

A B C D

E F G H

I J K L

20 line Roman extra condensed

MNOP

‘QUOI’

RS. TV

20 line Roman extra condensed

W X Y Z

20 line Roman extra condensed

& . ! - . ,

A B C D E F G H J

K L M N O P Q R

S T U V W X Y Z

16 line Gothic XX condensed

A B C D E F
G H I J K L
M N O P Q !
R S T U V W

15 line Clarendon extra condensed

V X Y Z & !

1 2 3 4 5 6

7 8 9 0 . 10

15 line Clarendon extra condensed

A B C D
E F G H
I J K L
M N O P
Q R S T

12 line Antique light face

U V W 1
X Y Z &
2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10

12 line Antique light face

A B C D E F
G H I J K L
M N O P Q R
S T U V W
X Y Z & ' , .

12 line Gothic Tuscan condensed No.3

A B C D E F G H I J K

L M N O P Q R S T

U V W X Y Z ! & \$

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

12 line Gothic XX condensed

A B C D E F G H I J L M N O P
R S T U V W X Y Z . & ' YES !

12 line French Antique XXX condensed

A B C
D E F
G H I!
J K L
M N O

PQR
'TIS!
UVW
XYZ.

10 line Antique

a b c d e

f g h i k

l m n o

p q r s t

u v w x

10 line Antique

yz. fi fi

ff fi fi

& 1 2 3

4 5 6 7

8 9 0 \$

10 line Antique

A B C D E F G H I J

K L M N O P Q R S

T U V W X Y Z ' & '

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 . 0 !

10 line Gothic extra condensed

A C D E F G K L

I J M N O P Q R

S T U V W X Z !

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

abcdefghijkl

mnpqrstuv

xyz \$12.30!

A B C D E F G H I J K

L M N O P Q R S T U

V W X Y & Z Z' z

\$ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

10 line French Clarendon condensed

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

10 line French Clarendon condensed

A B C D E F G H I J
K L M N O P Q R S
T U V W X Y Z & !

10 line Ionic extra condensed

A B C D E F G
H I J K L M N
O P R S T U V
W X Y Z & 1 !

9 line Clarendon condensed

ABCDEFGHIJK
LMNOPQRST
UVWXYZ!&\$
1234567890
abcdefghijkl
mnopqrstuv
wxyz.:;'-“?”

8 line Gothic extra condensed

A B C D E F G H I

J K L M N O P Q

R S T U V W X Y Z

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

8 line Roman condensed

ab cde fgh i jkl

mno pqr stuvw

x yz & fi ff fl ffi ffl

\$10,000.

8 line Roman condensed

Æ A B C D
E F G H I J
K L M N O
Œ P & Q R
' T I S ! U V
W X Y Z . , ;

6 line Clarendon extended

ABCDEFGHIJ
KLMNOPQRST
UVWXYZZUT

6 line Caslon condensed

A B C D E F H
I J K L M N O P
Q R S T U V W
X Y Z & ... A · Z

6 line Round gothic

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U

V W X Y Z & \$ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 . : ' !

6 line Gothic Tuscan XX condensed
6 line Antique Tuscan XX condensed

A B C D E F G H I J L M N O P Q R

S T U V W X Y Z . & ' GRATIS !

A B C D E F

G H I J K L

M N O P Q !

R S T U V

W X Y Z &

1 2 3 4 6 7 8

\$ 9 0 0 0 . 9 9

5 line Aldine expanded

a b c d e f f f
g h i k l m
n o p q r s t
u v w x y
fi fl ff fl

5 line Aldine expanded

A B C D E F G H I J K L M

N O P Q R S T U V W X Y

Z Æ & \$ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 !

5 line Clarendon condensed

A B C D E F G H I J K
L M N O P Q R S T U !
V W X Y Z & - : . , ' T I S

4 line Round gothic