

Alphabets

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INTRODUCTION

The reception given to the authors' two previous books 60 Alphabets and Lettering of Today has made it clear that students, artists, designers, advertising men, teachers, and many others interested in lettering constantly are looking for inspiration and new ideas. This is as it should be. There always was and always will be a need for well-designed hand lettering.

With these ideas in mind, and to help the artist get variety in his work, this book has been produced. In it the best material from the earlier books has been included, plus many new and unusual alphabets, over one hundred in all.

All lettering stems from the four basic alphabets, Roman, Block, Script, and Old English, Plates 1, 27, 38, and 46. These are ageless. But from these basic forms many derivations are possible. The following plates are the results of the authors' many years of lettering experience. Some of these alphabets were created through necessity to fit a definite need; others were inspired by seeing just one or two unusual characters. Still a few are the result of just plain doodling, such as novelty alphabets reflecting the spirit of the times. All in all, it is felt that an alphabet for almost every need has been supplied.

Each alphabet is complete. This is to help both the beginner and the artist in being consistent in their lettering. Too often, a line of lettering is made up of one or more characters of different alphabets. Since this is not a history of lettering or an instruction book, the text accompanying each alphabet has been kept to a minimum. If the authors' own experience can be trusted, the average artist gets more help from seeing an alphabet than from reading about it.

Finally, because the Roman alphabet is so basic and so widely useful, a geometrical analysis of it has been included.

To their fellow artists and all lovers of good lettering, then, the authors offer 101 Alphabets. They hope that it will be a real help to them, and that it will give them the basis on which to design at least 101 more alphabets.

101 ALPHABETS

This is an excellent example of the accepted Roman alphabet of modern times. There are innumerable variations of this basic alphabet, several of which are shown on later plates. However, it is the one alphabet that the beginner should master before going on to other styles of lettering.

ABCDEF GHJJKI MOPQ abcdefghij klmnopqrs tuvwxyze

This alphabet was used in the inscription on the base of Trajan's Column in Rome, erected about 100 B.C. It is a beautiful letter, always in good taste, and can be used wherever a dignified or conservative style is desired. The individual letters can be condensed or expanded slightly without losing their charm.

ABCDEF GHIJKL MOPO RSTIJWW XX abcdefghijklmnopgrs tuvwxyz:

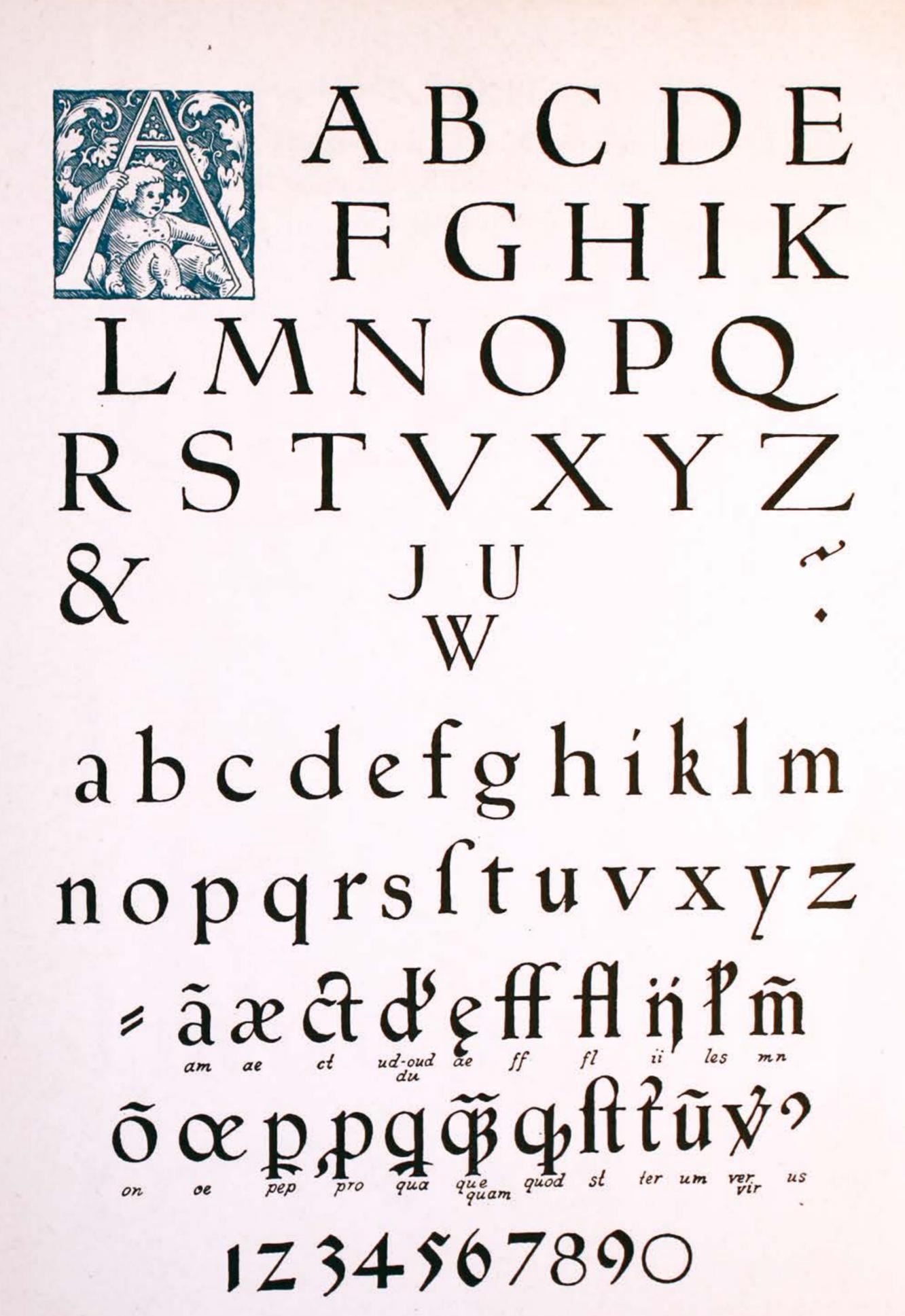
The letters in the Architectural Outline Roman alphabet are based on old Roman inscriptions in stone, and are used mainly for architectural work. They also are useful for titles and book covers, and look well when used in solid color.

The specimen below shows how this alphabet can be handled to give an incised effect.

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ABCWZDEFG HIJKLMNOP ORSTVWXXZ DANTROWS ROMEDESE

This Latin alphabet is a companion to the Old-German lettering and numerals in Plate 59. It is taken from old hand-cut type used by Melchior Lotther (Leipzig — 1536). The combination letters are interesting examples of abbreviations copied by the early printers from the old scribes. The capitals J, U, and W have been supplied to complete the alphabet.



This is a modern adaptation of the original Trajan. It shows how an alphabet can be modified by changing the weight of the letters while still retaining the basic form.

ABCDEFG HIJKLIMN OPQRSTU WWXPZP 123456789 abcdefghijk lmnopqrstu 6-vwxyz-

This ornamental Roman alphabet is rather ornate with a touch of Gothic curves. The letters are not appropriate for mass or page-work lettering in which legibility is a factor.

ABCDEF GHICIKI MODO abadefghi jklmnopgr stuvwxyz

Another modern variation of Roman capital letters is shown here. It is especially suitable for headings, titles, and letterheads where a modern touch is desired.

ABCDE FGHIJK LMNDP QRSTU VWXX

This plate shows a modern Roman alphabet which is easy to space and therefore easy to use. It is suitable wherever legible lettering is wanted for headings, titles, letterheads, captions, and logotypes. It also is very legible in mass lettering.

ABCDEFGHIJ KLMNOPQR STUVUXYZ

abcdefghijkl mnopqrstu

VWXUZ &

This is a shaded Roman bank note style. Craftint paper is used here to achieve the background and shading.

(Craftint is available in most art stores or can be ordered directly from the Craftint Co., Cleveland, Ohio. It comes in a wide variety of patterns and screens, and will be found useful not only in this style of alphabet but also wherever a shaded effect is desired.)



A rather unique handling of the Roman alphabet may be achieved with Ben Day or Craftint. A second color also may be used in place of the shaded portions.

F G Q 1R S 7

A delicate Roman adaptation with a modern touch is shown here. It is useful wherever grace or femininity is desired.

ABCDE Q R V W Z

This delicate lightface letter, with which many liberties may be taken, reflects some of the best spirit of the so-called modern movement in lettering. Lower-case letters may be treated like the caps where only a few words are used. The alphabet is appropriate for jewelry, ladies' wear advertisements, etc., and for captions, running heads, and titles.



abcdefghij klmnopqrs tuvwx;

This extremely delicate Roman adaptation is useful where femininity is desired.

The two-tone effect in this Roman alphabet can be achieved with Chinese white or scratch board. The shaded portion also can be the second color.

ABCDE 1234567890

This Roman italic alphabet can be used almost anywhere to emphasize a word or draw attention to a point. The following plates (16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21) are all slight variations of this basic alphabet. Careful study will show individual characteristics in each one.

ABCDEF GHIJKI MMOPO RSTIVIV XXXX abcdefghi jklmnopq rstuvwxyz

This is another Roman italic alphabet slightly more ornate than the preceding one on Plate 15.

ABCDEF GHIJKL MNOPQ XYZ 6 abcdefghi jklmnopq rstuvwxyz

This Roman italic alphabet was inspired by hand-cut type examples of the sixteenth century. It is a very graceful letter with which liberties may be taken, such as extending the swings of the letters K, R, and Q.

Happiness grows at our own fireside and is not to be picked in strange gardens.

—Jerrold

ABCDEFGH IJKLMMOP ORSTUV XY ES (t) Æ (D) abcdefghiklm nopgrstuv XUZ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 a fi ct & is

Another Roman Italic alphabet which may be made even heavier than shown.

ABCDEF GHIJKIM NOPQ RSTUW XYZ 6 abcdefghi jklmnopq rstuvwxyz

This is one of the more flexible Roman Italic alphabets which often is used for one or two words requiring accentuation.

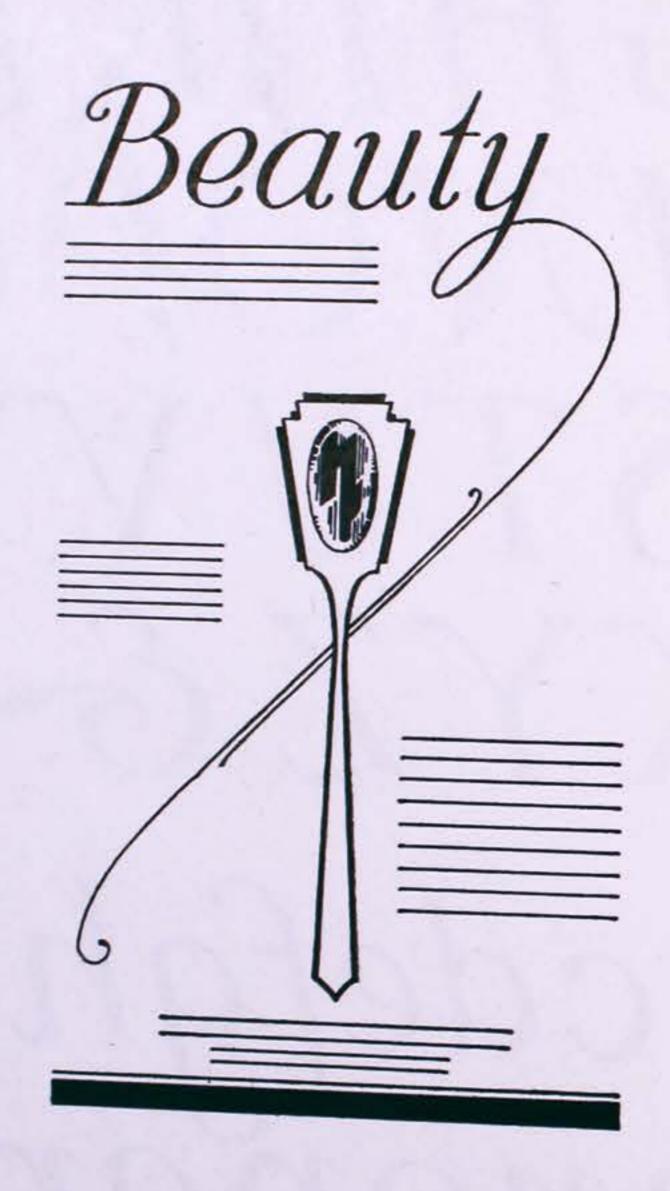
The History
Archery

CABCDE 3 GHIJKL MMOPO RSTUNW XYZES abcdefghijk lmnopqrst uvwxyz The

You probably wonder why so many Italic alphabets, but it will be noticed that they are all different in one way or another.

ABCDEF GHIJKL MMOPO RSTIW XXZ6 abcdefghijk lmnopqrst uvwxyz-ag

One of those ornate Roman Italics which comes in handy for ads of frivolous things. Can be drawn heavier also.



ABCDET GHTIKLOM abcdefghij som klmnopq Testuvwxyz

This cursive alphabet is very useful where a loose, free letter is desired. It is quickly drawn with a flat-nib pen and is equally effective in headings, spots, or mass lettering.

ABCDEFG HIJKIMN OPQRSTU UMXMZE abcodefahijklm nopgrstuvwxyz 1234567890

PLATE 23

This squared italic letter is useful in modern advertising.

ABCBEF4 M 9 9 H L M 11
O P Q R S Till 19 1/9 H 1/1 / 7 abed for the form OPArstubWXYZ

A bold Roman italic which lends itself to poster work or where heaviness or strength is desired.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTNOWXYZ
abcdefghijk
lmnopqrstuv

WXYZ 12345 67890

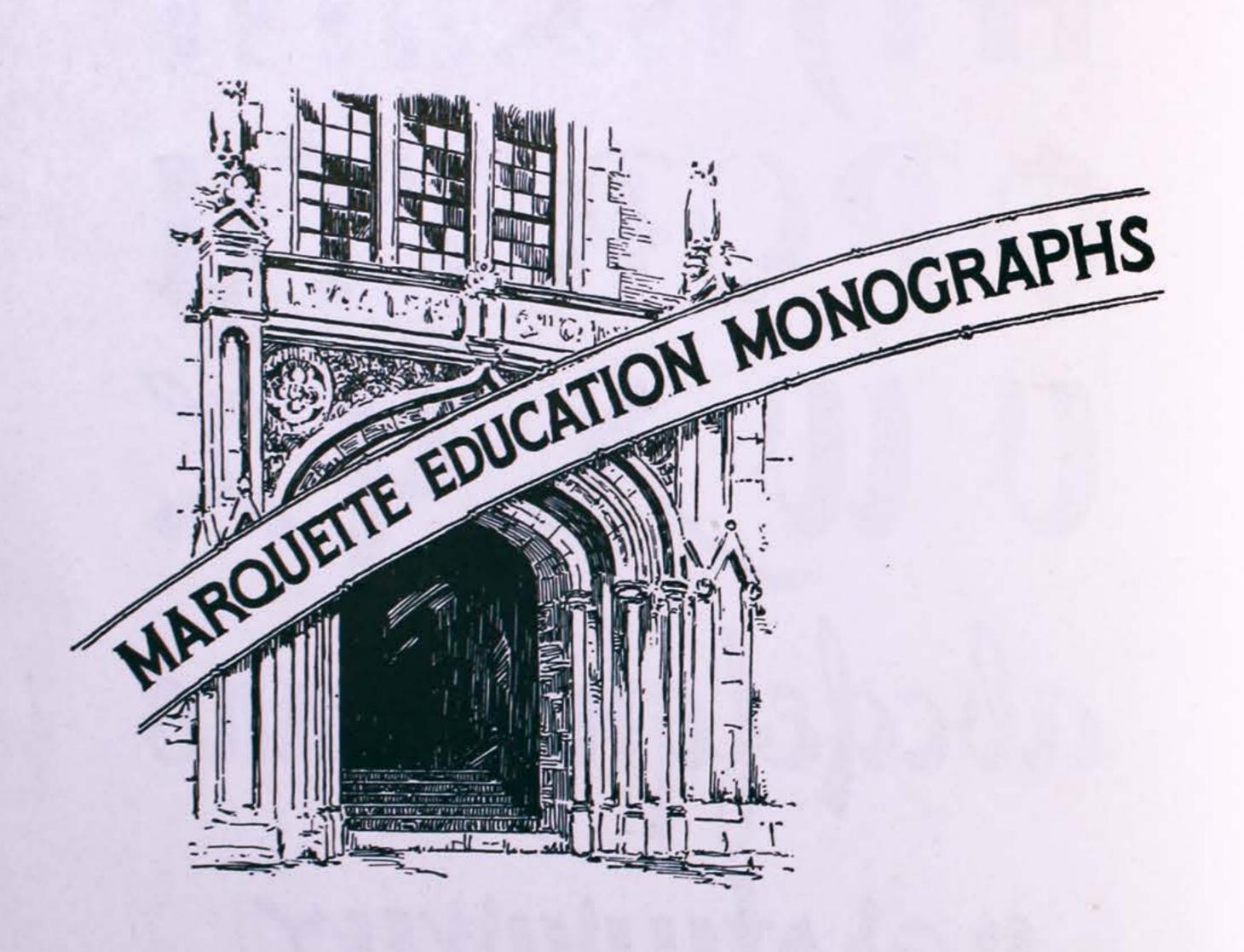
Many liberties can be taken with this alphabet with its Oriental feeling. It is not good for mass lettering.

ARCDEFG HIRLAMAN GPQRSTAN ANXAYZE abedefghijklmno parsturwxyz

This is an interesting alphabet with a great deal of character. Liberties can be taken with both upper- and lower-case letters.

ABCDEFG HIJKLMN
OPQRIU UWXY abcdefghijklmno pastuuxux 1234567890

A conservative, well-proportioned Gothic alphabet. Always in good taste where legibility and neatness are desired. Many liberties can be taken with these basic forms as shown in the five plates following.



ABCDEF GHIJKL MOPQ RSTUN XX abcdefghi jklmnopqr stuvwxyz

This style letter is used for poster and sign work.

It may be drawn with serrated or smooth edges with equally good results.

As an eye-catcher it works well in a word of few letters in newspaper and trade-paper advertising.



ABCDEF GHIJKL MNOPQ R/TUV WXYZ

abcdefghij klmnopqr/ tuvwxyz

This is a squared Gothic alphabet. To be assured of an even thickness of line, the use of a flat-nibbed pen is suggested.

ABCDE FGHIJK LMNOP ORBSTU VWXY

A unique alphabet made with a ball-point pen is shown here. It is strictly an eye-catcher where only a word or two need emphasis.

ABCDS FGHIJK IL M IN O IP QRSIU WUXYZ

Here is another ball-point Gothic alphabet with a Chinese touch. The ends of the lines are finished with a pointed lettering pen.

ABCDE FGHIJ料 QR1 V W X J

This is a good example of what can be done by varying the strokes in two alphabets with similar characteristics.

AREALBUY

FOR UNUSUAL PROFITS



ABCDEFG HIJKLMN OPRSTU WWXYZ ABCDEFG HIJKLMN OPQASTUV

WXXXX

A bold German Gothic alphabet which can be drawn entirely with a ball-point pen is shown here.



ABCDEF GHIJKI MINOPQ RSTUY XXXXX abcdefghij klmnopqr stuvwxyz

This single-stroke ball-point alphabet permits many variations.

ABCDB FGHIJK LMNOPO RSTUV WZXZ abcdefghij klmnopars tuvwxyz 1234-567890

This irregular poster alphabet can be used where ruggedness and force are desired.



AB(DEF GHIJKL MNOPQ RITUV WXYZ

123456789

As mentioned in the text on page 58, many treatments are possible with the Gothic alphabet. In fact, on this plate will be found the inspiration for twenty-six alphabets. Many more can be created.

ABCBE FCHIJ QRSTU

VARIOUS TREATMENTS OF BLOCK LETTERING

This plate shows twenty-six variations of the Gothic alphabet. All were done on Craftint paper.

This is Engraver's Script — what more need be said? It is a basic alphabet, graceful and everlasting. Although one of the hardest to draw, once mastered, it has unlimited use.

16m2/m00 PhQq RngS It Um Ty Es Ha Who

This Bold Script alphabet differs from Engraver's Script in the method of bringing the shaded portion around the bottom of each rounded letter, giving more color and strength.



ABBBBBBBBBB HAGAKA MALOPQR 123 456 abcdefghijkl mnongstuv 78 MXYZ 90

This is a modern script with interesting capital letters. The lower-case letters are similar to the lower case used on the preceding plate.

ABCDEFG HIGH CEMM OP QRSTU UWXYI ZEB abcdefghijklmn oparstuvuxyzfk 1234567890

A modern italic with many possible uses, especially in advertising headings, is shown here. The horizontal terminals on the lower-case letters can be extended if desired.

ABCDET THISH MILL RSTUDIO Habc Adet I ghijklmnopgr stuvwæyz E

These are script capital letters.

2011/0/11/11 DR57001

1234567890

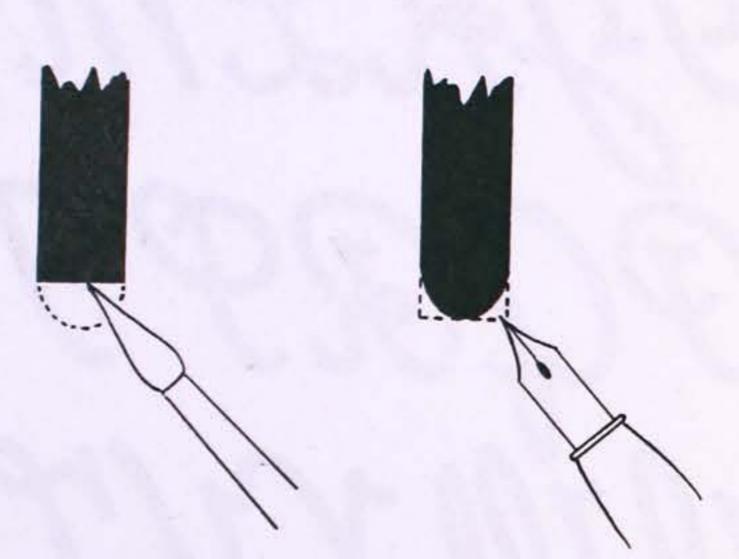
Where flourishes are desired, this alphabet is recommended. There is hardly any limit to what can be done with this style script, but please keep the flourishes graceful.

New Ping Card for any occasion. abcdefghijklmn opgrstuvwxyz9

This is ball-point script.

CBBBBBBB AGGKZMN OGGRATU WW. My abcdefghijklmn : opgisturury: 1234567890

In this ball-point italic, note the squared ends of the strokes. The illustrations below show how this is done, either with a pen or with Chinese white.



ABCDEFG 499KLMM OPQRSTU b-W-X41E abcasfahiikemn ong esturing 12 1234567890

"Old English" is one of the most beautiful and yet the most abused of all the alphabets. Extreme care should be taken when drawing these letters, as they are easily distorted. The letters in this plate form a beautiful alphabet and may be used for a great many purposes — headings, covers, titles, greeting cards, diplomas, etc., and for illuminated work. The capital letters never should be used to letter entire words or sentences.

AMUBE ATHIN (A) HORST 进通光道 abedefghijklmn oparstuomxuz:

Celtic lettering and motifs taken from old tenth-century manuscripts are shown in this plate.

ABCÓEF CDIJKL OMNOP QRSTUV WX & YZ

The alphabets in this plate were carefully copied from old hand-cut type used in ecclesiastical books in the early part of the sixteenth century.

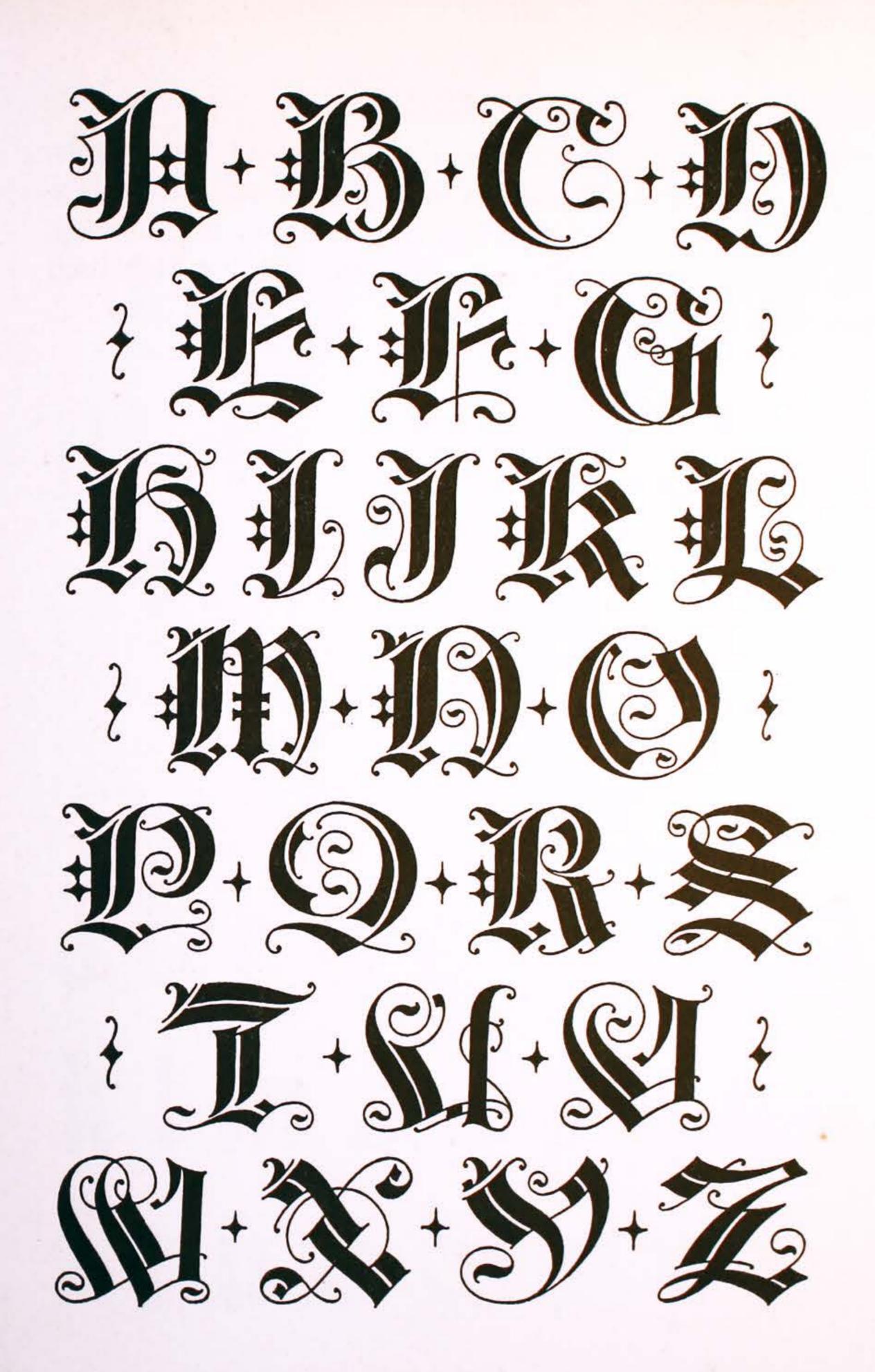
Letters having a dot below them could not be found in the manuscripts consulted and were designed by the authors to harmonize with the other letters.

These alphabets are beautifully adapted for mass lettering. However, when used for book titles or where only a few words are required, it would be well to see if the particular caps to be used are legible enough to insure easy reading.

ABODEEODES RIMOQUAS MUTUTEY3. ABLDEFBIO 3 KLBS NOPOR BTMDWXY3 MBCBEF5193 AIRILABIH OTBO BETUVIENT abcdefghijklmn opgrøtuvwxy3

This is an alphabet of capital letters developed for its decorative beauty. For lower-case letters, use standard Old English. See Plate 46.





These letters are drawn from an early hand-cut font of type. The capitals may be illuminated for beginning chapters or paragraphs. As is the case of most Old English and Gothic lettering, this alphabet is suitable for mass work. The alphabet lends itself especially well to ecclesiastical work.

B C B E GHJHH RADON F 13 abcdefghij klmnopgrs tuowry3

This variation of Cloister initials can be drawn with a flat-nib pen if a freer effect is desired.

ABCOE rghijk Lmnop ars tu VWXYZ

123456789

This severe German Text can be drawn with a wide flat-nib pen. It looks especially good in mass lettering.

BBCDESG fllkenin OPORSTU UUXY abcdefghijklm noparstuwxy 1234567890

This alphabet with a distinctive character can be drawn with a flat-nib pen if desired. It is good for mass lettering or engrossing.

ABCDEFG huklmn OPQRST UNEUZ abcdefghijklmn oparstuuwxyz 1234567890

This black Initial Text alphabet may be combined with the lower-case letters on Plate 46.

ABC DE FIGHT. SPDBB TI II III T. T. T.

This is a German Uncial Gothic alphabet of both capital and lower-case letters. The capitals may be used for initials and illuminated letters. This alphabet is well suited for ecclesiastical, greeting-card, and manuscript work.

rtisa jealous thing, it ree quires the whole and entire man.

Dichael Angelo.

ABCOE FGGB LOOP abcdekghijklmn opustnowxuz

These are decorative Cloister initials. Note that each line of letters has a different motif — flowers, animals, vegetables, etc. This idea also can be used with different styles of lettering.

This combination Text alphabet is made with flat-nib and fine lettering pens.

ABLDEFG FIJKIM OPQR5TU 0+10+1+9+7 abcdefghijklm nopqrstynwrz 1234567890

This alphabet is based on the letters of a modern English missal. It is a readable and graceful letter, well adapted for ecclesiastical or greeting-card work.

00000000 63BJ3BE muopor stupw abcdefghi jklmnopgr stupmrp3

This alphabet is derived from a hand-cut type used by Melchior Lotther of Leipzig in 1536. It is recommended for ecclesiastical work in which mass lettering is necessary. Very few, if any, liberties should be taken with these letters.

ABCSEKU BILWIU PURSTN 123456789 abcd defghilmn oparesseuubw ryy : Talk

A rather ornate Text alphabet is shown here. Note that the flourish on the upper left of each capital letter is practically the same, giving this alphabet an interesting character.

ABCOEF HATHANAN THARAGI DITIE ahedefishijklm nopustumpig 1234567890

This alphabet is particularly adapted to stonecutters and wood carvers. The curves have been straightened wherever practicable in order to simplify cutting.

æ 13 abedefghijklmm OMOSTWO WIS 1234567890

This ornamental alphabet is very effective when used for book titles, initial letters, etc. Liberties may be taken with these letters to simplify or to elaborate them.

012018 TUIS

This is a modern flat-nib script.

ABCDEF AHIJK B MMOPAR STUNDA Flat-nib [Script abcdefghij kemuspan sturwxyz

PLATE 64
This is a modern flat-nib Text.

ABCDEF GHIJKLM NOPORST UVIIXYZ abcdefghijklmno parstuuxyz & 1234567890

This alphabet reflects the gingerbread architecture and type of the gay 90's. It is very effective when filled in with color.

This is another old-style alphabet of the gay 90's period.

ABCDEFGH abcdefghijk lmnopqrstu; YWXUZ 123456789 The Gay Nineties

These ornamental Initial letters were very much in vogue about fifty years ago. In this plate, six different treatments of the same motif were used.



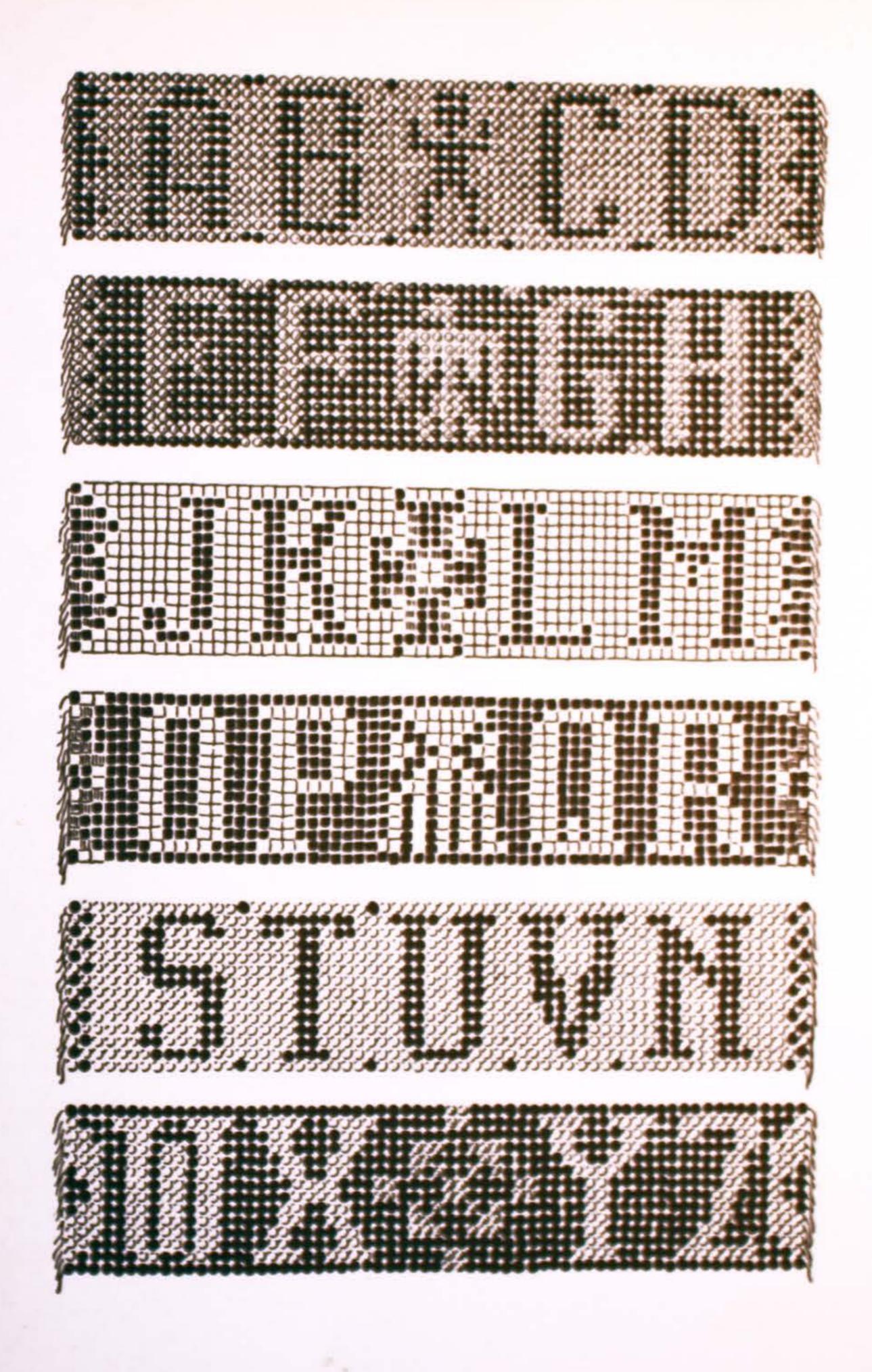
This alphabet was created by a need for an alphabet with a Persian feeling.

abcdelabi.
*iklmpopq;
tstuviuxuz;

This rustic alphabet will come in handy for camp or outdoor advertising. While cord holds these letters together, nails could be used instead.

1234567890

Here again is an alphabet to fit a definite need. Six different treatments of the beads are shown. The authors got bleary eyed drawing this but it was lots of fun.



The authors were at a loss to give this alphabet a name except that it is different. It was made with a ball-point pen.

ABCD HIJKL MNO PQRS TI W WXXJ

It probably would be easier to make this alphabet out of strips of metal but it will come in handy some time. The shading was done with an airbrush.

ABCIDE FGH91K 12 MIN ODD QRSSTUL WW. XIE 123456789

This effect was achieved with crayon on a rough antique paper.

This is an unusual treatment of an alphabet where color is desired.

ABCDEFG DE ROMANIA DE LA CONTRACTION D abaefahijkm nopustuvwyz 1234567890

This is a suggested method of treating not only this but most any lettering to get an unusual effect. It is done with Chinese white after lettering has been completed.

ABCDEF GHIJKI MANOPO RSTUVW a b c d e f g h i jklmnopq rstuvwxyz 1234567890

This is an interesting alphabet that can be drawn with a ruling pen, or, if more freedom is desired, it can be drawn freehand.

ABCDE FGHIJK Q PSTU WWW XY 123456789

A strong alphabet of capital letters suitable for headings, posters, etc., is shown here.

BEBE FGHIJK LIMINOP OR STU WWXX

1234567890

This is a good poster letter where strength is desired.

ABCDE FGHIJIK QRS/TU WWW.X

1234567890

This is shadow lettering for an interesting effect.

A3 C3 701111 711101 VWXXX 1234557399

This jigsaw alphabet is suitable for headings and posters. In fact, this type of lettering can be cut out of plywood and mounted on a panel to make an interesting sign.

AB B B FG b IJ Q R 5 T U 1284567890

This diversion from the customary straight line is suitable for spots, headings, posters, etc.

ABGDEFG HIJKEMAN OPQRIT UVWXUZ abcdefghijklm nopgrstuvuxyz 1234567890

This alphabet can be made with either a flat-nib pen or a square-end lettering brush.

ABCDEF GHIJKL MNOPQR STUVWX abcdefghij klmnopqr stuvwxyz

This unusual poster letter also can be cut out of plywood with a jig saw to make interesting signs.

1234-567350

This is a good poster letter that adapts itself to a variety of treatments as shown in the center of the plate.

ABCDEFG HJJKLMN OPQRSTU VWXYZ



abcdefghij klmnopqrs tuvwxyz

This modern poster letter, being so very bold, should be used only for short names or captions.

ABCDD B abedeffhi JEIN INDIDI ISTUNYXUII

Serifs are the bugaboo of many an artist. For that reason fourteen of the standard serifs used in Roman type lettering are shown on pages 177 and 179.

SKEE KESS E S S K PLATE 87
This is the second plate of standard serifs.

SKE KESS E S SK SKEE

These three alphabets are the customary types used for mechanical drawing. An ordinary ball-point writing pen works best for this weight of letter, and a ball-point lettering pen for heavier lettering.

The apparently simple one-line Architectural alphabet provides almost unlimited opportunity for the expression of personality. Any one of the light modifications shown in the plate may be used with gratifying results. The letters are best adapted to architectural and mechanical work.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN

opqrstu

obqrstu

obqrstu

owxyz

l234567890

wwxyz

l234567890

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN

OPQRSTU

vwxyz

l234567890 ABCDEFGHIJKIMNOPGRALU

ABCDEFGHIJKIMNOPGRALU

XW X X X X 1234567890

ABCDEFGHIJKIMN

ABCDEFGHIJKIMN

ABCDEFGHIJKIMN

OPQRSTUVWXYZ

abcdefghijkImnopgratu

VWXYZ

1234567890

This plate shows the direction and number of strokes generally used in drawing single-stroke alphabets.

 PLATE 91

This plate is self-explanatory.

SIMPLE	CHAR	TOF	
ROMAN	NUM	ERA	LS

ARABIC	ROMAN	ARABIC	ROMAN
7	T	2/1	
1	1	24	XXIV
2	TT	30	XXX
~	11		$\Lambda\Lambda\Lambda$
.5	III	40	XL
1	TYT		211
4	IV	50	
5	77	C 0	TV
5	V	60	LX
6	VI	70	TVV
~		10	LXX
/	VII	80	LXXX
0	THIT	00	
0	VIII	90	XC
9	IX		C
		100	C
10	X	200	CC
11	XI	300	CCC
12	XII		
		400	CD
13	XIII	500	D
14			
	XIV	600	DC
15	XV	700	
			DCC
16	XVI	800	DCCC
17	XVII	900	
		900	CM
18	XVIII	1000	
19			M
	XIX	2000	MM
20	XX		The state of the s
		3000	MMM
21	XXI	4000	
22			MV
	XXII	5000	V
23	XXIII		$\frac{\overline{\overline{\mathbf{V}}}}{\overline{\mathbf{X}}}$
		10000	X

EXAMPLES

28 — XX (20) VIII (8) WRITTEN XXVIII
463 — CD (400) LX (60) III (3) WRITTEN CDLXIII
1492 — M (1000) CD (400) XC (90) II (2) WRITTEN MCDXCII

PLATE 92

Architects, artists, and draftsmen frequently are called upon to lay out the lettering for inscriptions to be used on buildings, memorials, bronze tablets, and the like. For work of this kind, the geometrical analysis of the Roman alphabet will be found helpful. The letters analyzed have been modernized to some extent, but in the main, adherence to the fine Old Roman has been aimed at.

The individual letters may be drawn with pointed or squared serifs. This may be done by merely moving the centers from which the various radii are drawn as shown on the letters C and E.

