what makes a type face "good" or "bad"

Everyone thinks he knows an 'A' when he sees it; but only the few extraordinary minds can distinguish between a good one & a bad one, or can demonstrate precisely what constitutes 'A-ness.' When is an A not an A? Or when is an R not an R? It is clear that for any letter there is some sort of norm. To discover this norm is obviously the first thing to be done.

Everyone thinks he knows an 'A' when he sees it; but only the few extraordinary minds can distinguish between a good one & a bad one, or can demonstrate precisely what constitutes 'A-ness.' When is an A not an A? Or when is an R not an R? It is clear that for any letter there is some sort of norm. To discover this norm is obviously the first thing to be done.

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FHWA Highway Gothic

Clearview Highway

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24.30	DonelleyRR DNY
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24.30	DonelleyRR DNY
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4.78	Dover Motor DVD s
23.66	DowChem DOW
43.05	DowJones DJ
25.05	DowneyFnlCap DFT
32.62	DowneyFnl DSL

Helvetica Condensed

Retina

more compact —10 lines in the space of 9 more open + distinct numbers greater difference between bold/light HOME PAGE

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Rally in Scores of Cities for **Legal Status**

By RACHEL L. SWARNS

Throngs of immigrants and their supporters called for legal status and citizenship for illegal immigrants.

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- Photographs
- · Video: Overview | In New York

In Attics and Rubble, More Bodies and Ouestions

By SHAILA DEWAN

The bodies of storm victims are still being discovered in New Orleans, In March alone there were nine.

- Photographs: A Grim Search
- Evacuees Travel to Cast Ballots
- Complete Coverage

WHITE HOUSE MEMO

that the same of the state

With One Filing, **Prosecutor Puts Bush in Spotlight**

By DAVID E. SANGER and DAVID JOHNSTON

The C.I.A. leak prosecutor said



Andrew Medichini/Associated Press

Opposition Leader Claims Win in Italy

The claim by Romano Prodi, above, was disputed by supporters of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

Chinese Turn to Civic Power as a New Tool

By HOWARD W. FRENCH

A once totalitarian system faces growing pressure from a population awakening to the power of organization.

NEWS ANALYSIS

In France, an Economic Bullet Goes Unbitten

By FLOYD NORRIS

The furor over a labor law was the latest instance of the French people resisting economic reform.

- · Labor Law to Be Rescinded
- Video: Analysis of the Decision

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12 minutes ago By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARTS »

The Berlin Biennial

An unusual array of sites focuses on an unusual subject: the street.



Lessons to the Devout

"Altar Boyz" fans get the show's message, and also the parody.



TALK TO THE NEWSROOM

Bill Keller's Answers

The executive editor of The Times is taking questions this week. Ask a Question

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- The Opinionator

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Diplomacy Klaus Peter Löbbe has

Diploma

found out what it's like to be a high school



· Catchphrases for the Digital Age

Describing Matthew Carter's method as "bottom-up" design, Andrew Boag argues that this approach has its limits: there is a ceiling on the number of different letterforms you can make from a restricted grid

INOPQRSTUVWXYZ12345678980 K $NOP_{ ext{F}}$ HIJKLMNOPQRST

The Guggenheim Museum College Hallike Manhood on the

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Martha Stewart Living

RADIO CITY MUSICSHALLWWXXYY 77 11 22 33 44 55 66 7

RADIO CITY by Jonathan Hoefler & Kevin Dresser

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RETINA by Tobias Frere-Jones

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WHITNEY by Tobias Frere-Jones

NIKE

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IJKLMNOPORSTUVWXYZIRHEY7MIGHTEBEXGIANTS * (0) (A) (0) (0) A C É Î

IIJKKLIThe New Times Newspapers fGgHhIIJKKLIMmNnOoPpQqRrs

SsTilluVvWwXxYyZz 1234567890:AaBbccDdEeNeWSWeeKoppagRrSsT

what is the best typface in the entire would?

what is the absolute worst type face in the world?

ABCDEFGHIJKLM NOPQRSTUVWXYZ abcdefghijklm nopgrstuvwxyz 1234567890



ADBOCCD CEFF GSHhliJjKkLl MmMnOopo GRISTIUUVV WWXXXXXXZZ O123456789 &*?!(#)-\$+!!!%

VICTIM: Papurus

PERSONAL DIFFERENCES:

"OOOOOOOH! AM I IN ANCIENT EGYPT? Because I see a faux-antiquated, boringly-distressed font everywhere!"

"JAMES Cameron spent our entire economic stimulus package on Avatar" - Ogre) WITH A SIX DOLLAR MICROSOFT WORD DEFAULT FONT. What is this? Is Avatar a movie or a vegetarian three bean cruelty free lentil chili?"

RECONCILIATION:

It was hand-drawn over a period of six months by means of calligraphy pen and textured paper. Costello described his goal as a font that would represent what English language texts would have looked like if written on papyrus 2000 years ago.



VICTIM: AVANT GARDE

PERSONAL DIFFERENCES:

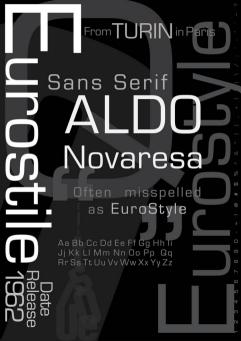
"The first time Avant Garde was used was one of the few times it was used correctly. It's become the most abused typeface in the world." — Tony DiSpigna

"excessive number of ligatures [...] were misused by designers who had no understanding of how to employ these typographic forms. Avant Garde was Lubalin's signature, and in his hands it had character; in others' it was a flawed Futuraesque face." — Steven Heller

RECONCILIATION:

Originally designed in 1964 as the logo for Avant Garde magazine. It was intended to feel very progressive and remeniscent of planes taking off. A typeface was eventually created and sold commercially in 1970.





Courier

Aa Ee Qq
Aa Ee Qq



abcdefghijklm nopqrstuvwxyz 0123456789

ABCDEFGHI JKLMN0ROR STUUWXYZ



Helvetica

Helvetica Max Miedinger 1957

»Lern erst mal was Richtiges ... « Mit diesen Worten beendet der Vater den Streit mit seinem 16-jährigen Sohn Max, der so gerne Maler werden möchte. Stattdessen tritt Miedinger Junior im Herbst 1926 eine Lehre zum Schriftsetzer bei der Zürcher Buchdruckerei Jacques Bollmann an. Vier Jahre später ist er sich sicher: »Ich will gestalten und nicht bis zum Lebensende Kolumnen auf Satzschiffen zusammenfummeln«.

Die Abendkurse bei Johann Kohlmann an der Kunstgewerbeschule Zürich bestätigen sein Interesse. 1936 endlich kann Max Miedinger sein Talent beruflich nutzen: als Typograf im Werbeatelier der Kaufhauskette Globus. Im Laufe der folgenden 10 Jahre erstellt er hier Plakate, Zeitungsanzeigen, die Hausbeschriftung und interne Drucksachen.



Das kürzeste Pop-Märchen der Welt, 1966 gesetzt in Helvetica Black (Idee: Experimental Jetset, Grafik: FontShop)

Meet the cast:

ABCD **EFGHIJK** LMNOP QRSTUV WXYZ

Now see the movie:

Helvetica

A documentary film by Gary Hustwit











Mental Akzidenz Grotesk 8 Officina 9 Gill Sans 10 Univers Univers
Adrian Frutiger 1954 Die Schrift, die Adrian Frutiger weltberühmt machte, geht auf Übungen zurück, die er bereits 1949 als 21jähriger an der Kunstgewerbeschule Zürich durchführte. Das eigentlich Neue an Univers war, dass eine Schriftfamilie erstmals als geschlossenes System behandelt wurde. Ausgangspunkt ist der Normalschnitt (Univers 55), von dem aus sich alle weiteren herleiten. Der Kontrast ist so austariert, dass sich die Schrift auch für lange Texte eignet. Frutiger legte großen Wert auf die Abstimmung der Strichstärkenunterschiede zwischen Versalien und Gemeine. Für damalige Zeiten ist die Mittellänge ungewöhnlich hoch. 39 univers 45 46 47 48 49 univers univers univers univers univers 53 55 56 57 59 univers univers univers univers univers 65 66 63 67 univers univers univers univers univers 75 76 73 univers univers univers 83 univers Aufbau der Univers von 1954, weitere Schnitte sind inzwischen hinzugekommen: die erste Ziffer steht für die Strichstärke, die zweite für die Buchstabenbreite, wobei gerade

Ziffern »oblique« bedeuten

Suggested Typefaces (installed on your system)

Helvetica /Arial

Helvetica designed by Max Miedinger in 1957.

Arial designed by Monotype in 1982 for Xerox/IBM.

Helvetica / Arial Hoefler_Text

Designed by Jonathan Hoefler for Apple in 1991.

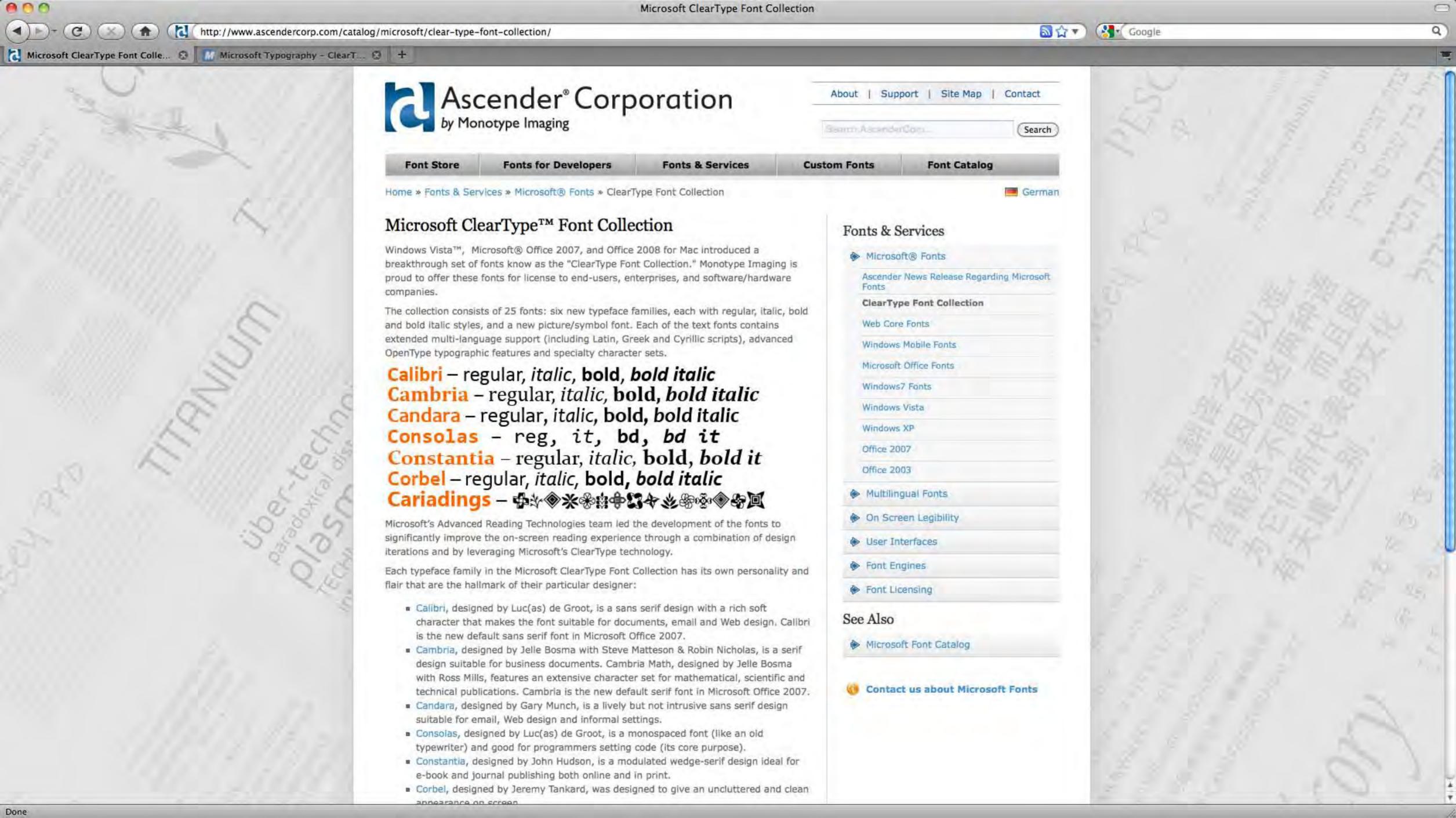
Helvetica / Arial Hoefler_Text Myriad

Designed by Robert Slimbach and Carol Twombly for Adobe in late 1990s.

Helvetica / Arial Hoefler_Text Myriad

Windows Vista Fonts:

Calibri_Cambria



Cambria | Κάμπρια | Камбрия

Designers: Jelle Bosma, with Steve Matteson and Robin Nicholas

Type family: 4 styles (regular, italic, bold, bold italic); 992 glyphs per font (plus special math set)

Layout features: smallcaps, stylistic alternates, localized forms, contextual alternates, uppercasesensitive forms, oldstyle figures, lining figures, arbitrary fractions, superscript, subscript

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz0123456789 æàáåçčèéêëëëëëëñøæßÆÀÁÅÇÈÉÊĚËĒËËËËÑØŒ ABГ Δ EZH Θ IK Λ MN Ξ OПР Σ TY Φ X Ψ Ω αββγ δ εζηθ ϑ ικ λ μν ξ οπρ σ ςτυφ φ χ ψ ω AБВГДЕЖЗИЙКЛМНОПРСТУ Φ XЦЧШЩЪЫЬЭЮЯ абвгдежзийклмнопрсту φ хцчшщъыьэюя Áвç θ EřĞHi θ Iķ θ LMABΓ θ EZH θ IK θ IK θ MABF θ EZH θ IK θ MABF θ EZH θ IK θ IMABF θ B

Cambria Cambria Bold Cambria Italic Bold Italic

STILL OTHERS CLAIM that language grew out of grunts of effort, inarticulate chants, or exclamations of fear or surprise. Pythagoras and Plato and the Stoics all simply begged the question by arguing that language "sprang from necessity." As to just how it sprang,

STILL OTHERS CLAIM THAT

language grew out of grunts of effort, inarticulate chants, or exclamations of fear or surprise. Pythagoras and

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► CLASSIFICATION

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An increase of 25¢
I'm in your print, informing your readers
Thankful

stay fickle

Spinning broadsheets of pulpy newsprint Black & white & read Glosa

Dino dos Santos

τραγωδία
thou shalt not escape calumny
žádný čtvrcení
que de lejos parecen moscas
kar nji kar esi karep

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Baskerville, Otakar Karlas

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RETTER MAN'OR

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Stag Christian Schwartz CARMEN Display

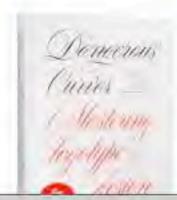
CARMEN Regular L'amour est un oiseau rebelle

CIRMEN

Carmen Andreu Balius

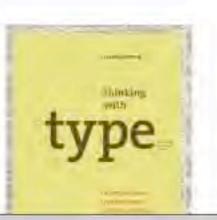
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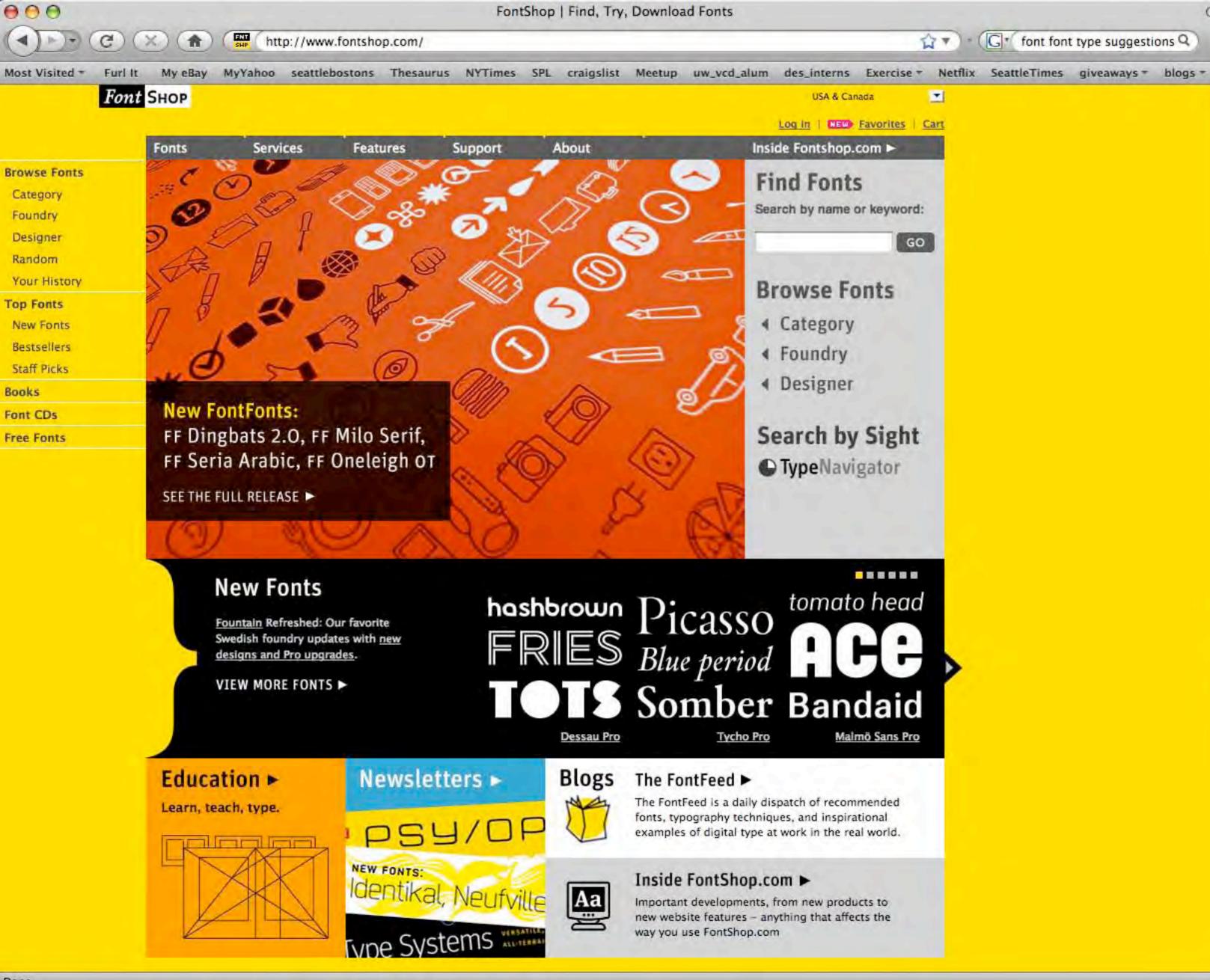












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ABDUT US

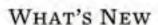
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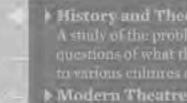


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Archer Friendlier than your average slab serif, Archer is forthright, colorful, credible, and charming. Romans and italics in eight weights each, including a delicate hairline, featuring small caps, fractions & tabular figures.

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New Fonts: Benton Modern Display, Rocky & ITC Franklin

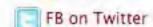
New Fonts: Scout and FB Moderno





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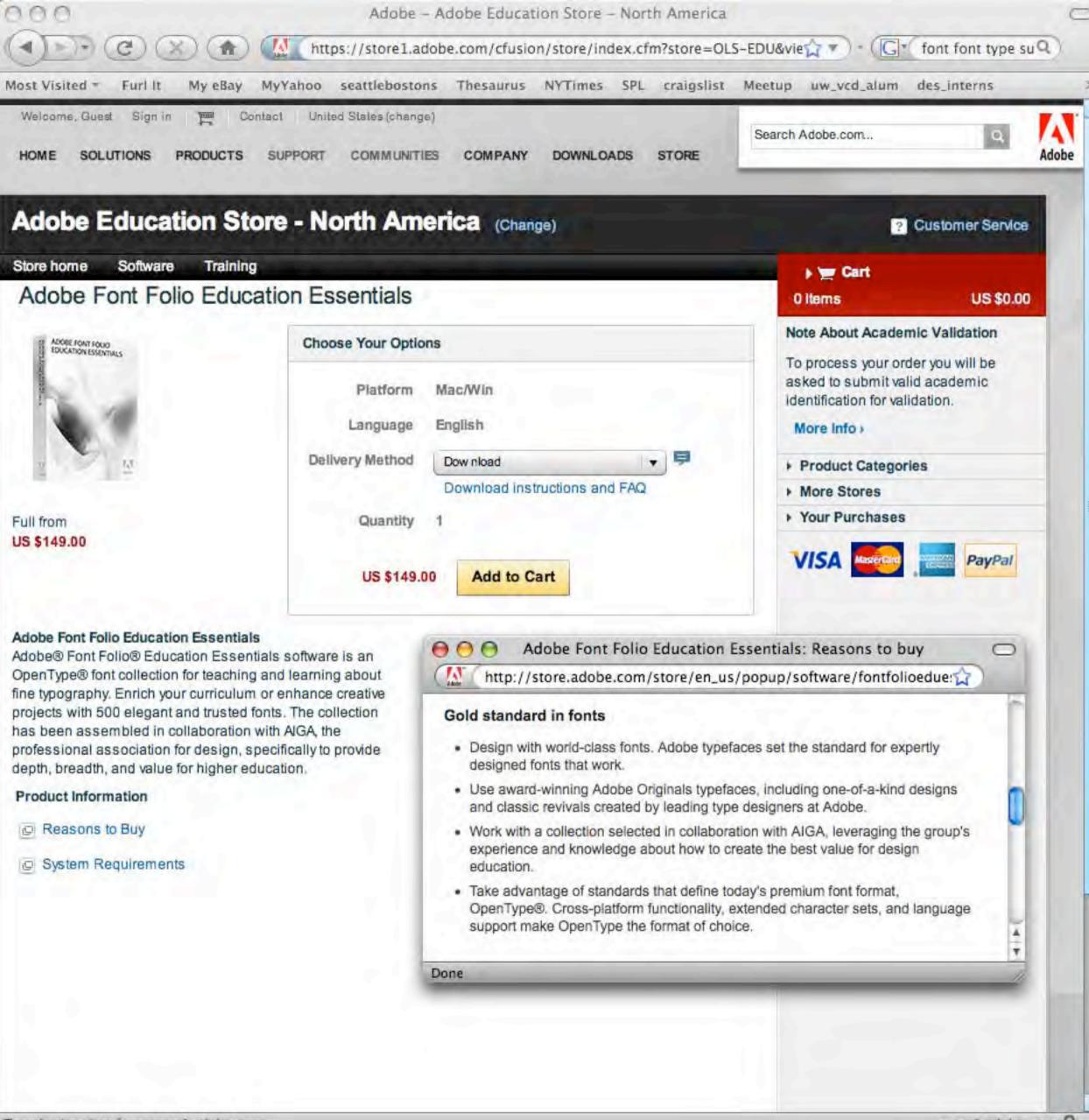
Newspaper fonts

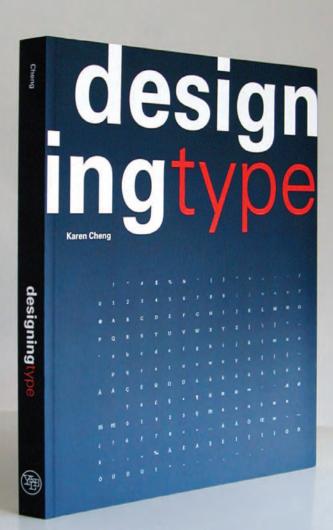


Specimen book

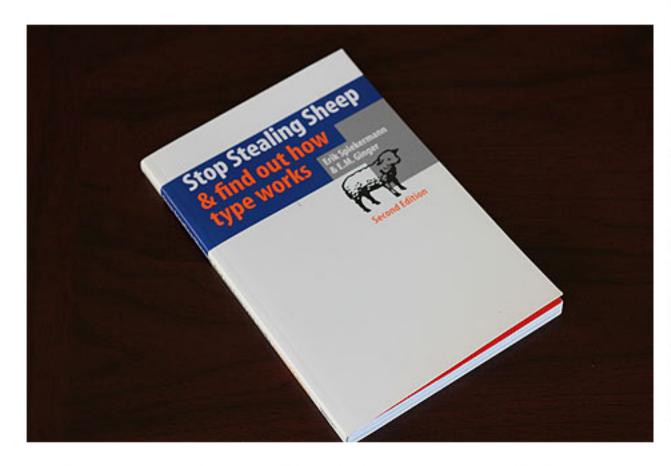








Stop Stealing Sheep & Find Out How Type Works Erik Spiekermann + E.M. Ginger, 2002



Stop Stealing Sheep is a good introduction into the world of typography. The book offers basic terminology and concepts into type classification, selection, and usage in a engaging, sometimes entertaining way. This book is compact and covers a lot of territory in its form which is the opposite of the many other typographic guide books out there. The illustrations and photographs are very demonstrative with easy to grasp concepts.

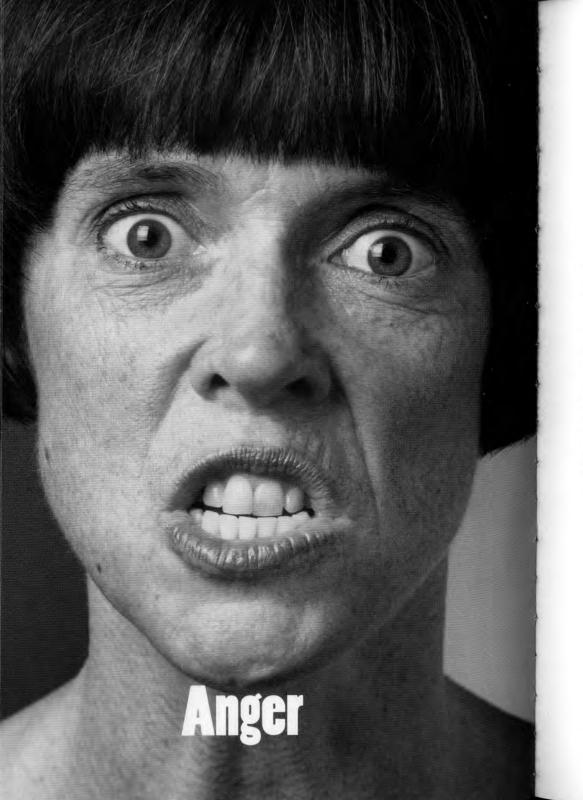












Anger, like doubt, can be described as a dark feeling that calls for a black, heavy type-face. Anger is not as narrow as doubt. It needs room to expand, sometimes to shout out loud.

It helps if the letters are not perfectly worked out and closed in on themselves, but rather a little irregular, leaving room for our imagination. A well-balanced Univers or Helvetica would not do.

Flyer Extra Black Condensed, designed in 1962 by Konrad Bauer and Walter Baum.

Poplar is a 1990 revival from Adobe of an old wood type from the midnineteenth century.

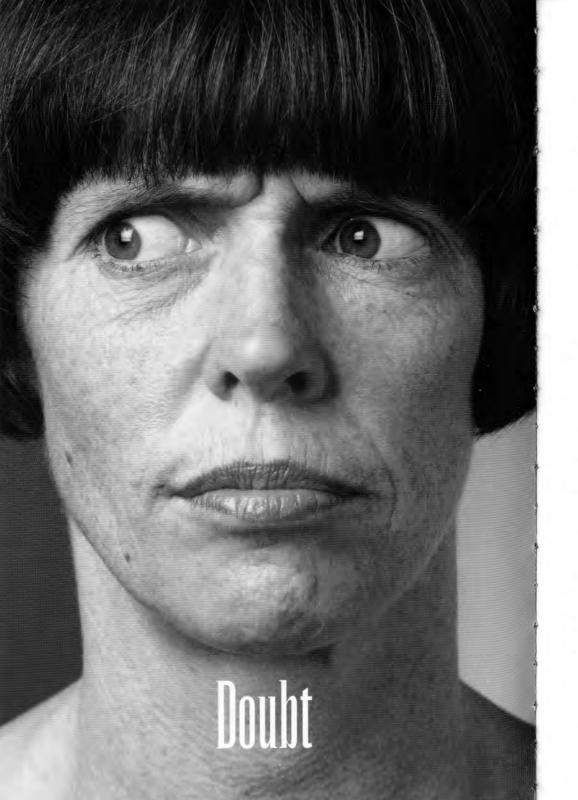
Block Heavy is the fattest member of the family. Its outlines are deliberately irregular, which helped prevent damage when metal type was printed on heavy platen presses. You could call it a pre-stressed design.

Anger! Flyer Extra Black Condensed

Anger!

Anger!

Block Heavy



So type has its practical uses – it can walk, run, skip, jump, climb, and dance. Can it also express emotions? Of course. If you look closely at a letter, you can see personality expressed in its physical characteristics: light or heavy, round or square, slim or squat. Letters can stand at attention next to each other like soldiers or they can dance gracefully on the line. Just as some words sound better than others, some words look nicer than others. That may be because we don't like the meaning of the word, but often we've formed an opinion before we've even read it. Isn't it nice that the o imitates the way we make our lips round to pronounce it? And how could the i stand for anything but the pointed sound it has in "pick"?

Dark emotions call for a black typeface with sharp edges; pleasant feelings are best evoked by informal, light characters. Or are they? The trouble is that as soon as you select a typeface that looks appropriate, put it on a page, surround it by space and perhaps other elements, it can take on a totally different look. So for the moment, we'll stick to choosing appropriate typefaces.

Runic Condensed is slightly awkward and definitely not suited for long passages. Its spiky serifs and exaggerated letterforms do not agree with classic theories of beauty and fine proportion. If unusual letterforms express uneasy feelings, these other condensed types might be a good choice. The last one might be suitable, not because it is condensed, but because it has slightly strange shapes.

Doubt?

Doubt?

Doubt?

Block Extra Condensed

Doubt?



