

Display Size 30/42

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

Subhead Size 24/33

Vincent Figgins (1766–1844), born in Peckham, England, was a British punch-cutter and type-founder. He started his career as an apprentice to Joseph Jackson from 1782 until Jackson's death in 1792.

Text Size 9/14

Vincent Figgins would run his foundry until 1836 when he retired. He would leave his foundry to his two sons Vincent & James. They were met with the same success as their father. They published their first specimen book in 1838. After his first son, Vincent II died in 1860 the business and the foundry were continued by his brother James. The family-owned foundry would then live on once more; after James died the foundry was taken over by his son James II. In 1868 he was elected to Parliament, he retired from the business. The foundry then moved to 3-0 Ray Street, Clerkenwell in 1865. The building still retains the cast iron railings bearing a VJF monogram.

Caption Size 6/10

He is credited with the design of the first slab serif or Egyptian typeface, which he released under the name *Antique* in 1815, on which *Egiziano Black* was based. The first Slab Serif typeface was an outrage to the public. This was designed from scratch without historical reference. Not everyone disliked the new form of type, though. Critic's comments would range from "the most brilliant typographical innovation of the nineteenth century," to being referred to as a "typographical monstrosity." Figgins also made a number of sans serif typefaces as well. In fact he coined the term "sans-serif" with his sans serif typeface which was named *Sans Serif*. His most influential typeface was *Monotype Ionic*, created in 1821, which became widely used for body text by the newspaper industry. It was the model for many 20th century newspaper typefaces.

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Spacing Strings Oldstyle Figures

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Spacing Strings Oldstyle Alternate Figures

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Spacing Strings Lining Figures

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