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Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg
Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm
Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss
Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

A small but im-
portant & unique
feature of John-
ston are the tittles
on the lowercase
"i" and "j," which
sit at a 45 degree
angle.
While Johnston's
typeface may look
relatively plain by
our standards to-
day, his design was
beyond its time.
When the Under-
ground asked him
to create this font,
they asked for
a "distinctly 20th
century typeface,"
which is exactly
what Johnston
delivered.

Light
Book
Demibold
Heavy

Only decades
later did the type
foundry "Mono-
type" design these
missing aspects.
This revised ver-
sion of Johnston
is known as "P22
Underground."

Johnston's student, Eric Gill,
went on to create Gill Sans,
modeled after Johnston.

	Johnston	Gill Sans
cap height	Gg	Gg
x-height	Ll	Ll
baseline	Tt	Tt
	Yy	Yy

pointier shape in
the descender's
counterform

the tail curves
upwards in
Johnston

Johnston has
extended crossbar,
Gill Sans is slanted

the descender
curves
upwards in
Johnston

"Johnston" was created by the
type designer Edward Johnston
in 1916 at the request of Frank Pick,
(the head of the London Under-
ground) for his new marketing
campaign. While initially only
meant for some posters, John-
ston proved to be so effective that
it became widely used both for
advertising and general signage,
including things like the famous
tube map.

Johnston's typeface is one of the
first "Humanist" typefaces, which
has very little stroke contrast and
is based on Roman Square Cap-
itals. Johnston's departure from
previous "Grotesque" typefaces
has had a lasting effect.

The more well known "Gill Sans,"
was created by Johnston's student
Eric Gill, who greatly admired the
simplicity of Johnston's typeface.

JOHNSTON

JOHNSTON

