

# Hermann Zapf

Hermann Zapf is a German designer who designed a variety of highly regarded typefaces including Optima and Palatino. The break in the loop of Palatino's capital P, as well as the subtle scalloping in Optima's contours express an unparalleled mastery of letterform.

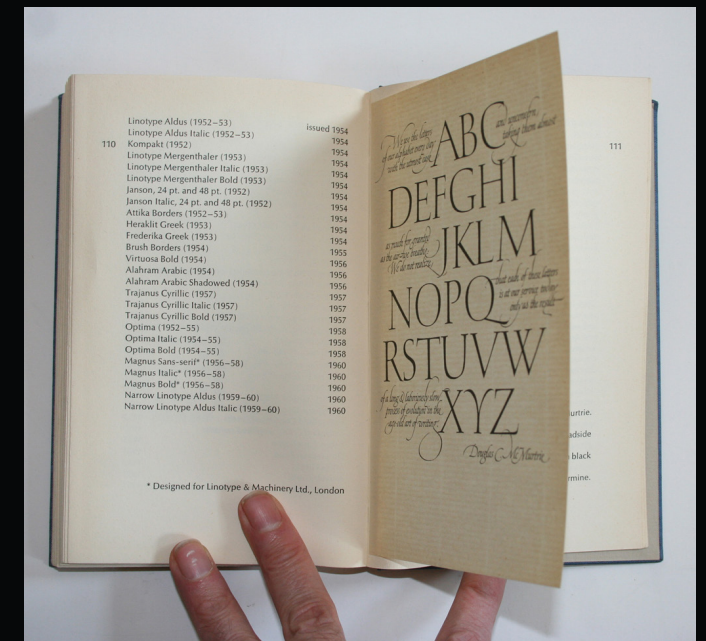
Zapf also worked on the Zapfino typeface, which employs heavy use of the additional AAT (Apple Advanced Typography) technologies which allow for a more varied document. Indeed,



an entire table in the TrueType font file format is named the 'zapf' table after him. Because of Zapfino's large embellishments, it is often used to

test layouts for robustness against overlapping glyphs or overflowing contours.

Not only are Zapf's creations impressive, but the company he kept is world renowned. He taught at the



Rochester Institute of Technology, my alma mater, for 10 years, where he focused on digital letterform design. One of his students at RIT went on to design Lucida Grande, which was the system font in Macintosh OS X for 9 years. In addition, Zapf worked on AMS Euler with Donald Knuth, who is the world's foremost programming expert and is a personal inspiration.

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