11/4 - 2023
april
Den 11 april, 2023.

Back to the Fraktur

Apart from decorative use in wine labels, newspaper mast-heads, and tattoos, you rarely see Fraktur nowadays. We've become unaccoustomed to the letterforms, and it takes some effort to even get through a few paragraphs of modernized Fraktur. If you want to read old texts you also have to get used to old conventions. It's my hope that this text will make you better prepared to take on reading Fraktur.

Let's start with looking at some lower case letters:

a b c d e f g h i j

Letterforms new and old

- Lower case modern forms
  - Upper case modern forms
  - Older forms
  - Rules

Contemporary use

It does no harm to print a Christmas card in black
but who nowadays would read a book in that type?
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–Stanley M

History

- Culture and politics of the alphabet: the will to ur
break out.

Qinzhuang, Rome, Charlemagne, Soviet Union.
- Maximilian I to Hitler?

Opentype features

Emphasis - letterspace (8), Schwabacher
   ss01 - modern forms (cv00 – cv10, cv20)
   ss02 - U/u becomes V/v at beginning of words, v becomes u in the middle
   cv00 - no long s, only round s
   cv01 - modern k, ck ligature
   cv02 - modern x
   cv03 - modern y
   cv04 - modern A
   cv05 - modern G
   cv06 - modern K
   cv07 - Modern N
   cv08 - Modern S
   cv09 - Modern V
   cv10 - Modern Y
   cv11 - long s heuristic
   cv12 - round r after round letter (+hlig for tironian etc)
   cv13 - I and J both written J
   ss03 - i becomes j at beginning of word, j becomes i in the middle
   cv14 - uc two letter umlauts (eg. Ae)
   cv15 - lc umlaut e
   cv16 - suppress deswash with diacritical mark
   cv17 - diacritics over long s
   cv19 - emdash instead of endash
   cv20 - deswash s in middle of words
   cv21-25 - diacritics over letters with swashes etc

lnum - "normal numbers" historically accurate

onum - more fraktur looking numbers, not histo

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dlig - macron bar m or n instead of mm nn

◊ UnifrakturMaguntia16: cv11, cv12, cv13, cv14,
cv19, hlig, lnum, ss02

◊ UnifrakturMaguntia17: cv11, cv13, cv14, cv15,
hlig, lnum, ss02

◊ UnifrakturMaguntia18: cv11, cv13, cv14, cv15,
hlig, lnum

◊ UnifrakturMaguntia19: cv11, cv13, cv14, cv19
lnum

◊ UnifrakturMaguntia20: cv11, cv19, lnum

◊ UnifrakturMaguntia21: ss01

Testchapter with a short title

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet. Lorem ipsum do
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April 11, 2023

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◊ UnifrakturMaguntia21: ss01