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# The Practice of Printing



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RALPH W. POLK

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**THE PRACTICE  
OF PRINTING**



**William Caxton in Westminster Abbey, showing the first printing done in England to King Edward IV, the Queen, and Members of the Court. Reproduced from a steel engraving by F. Bromley, in the Typographic Library and Museum of the American Type Founders Company, Jersey City, N. J.**

# THE PRACTICE OF PRINTING

BY

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## PREFACE

**T**HERE is an urgent need in the printing industry for young craftsmen who are properly trained in the science of printing, and who are acquainted with the details of the basic operations of the trade. It is in answer to that need that this book has been developed. Our purpose has been to select and arrange such material as will be most helpful to the student of printing, whether in the school printshop, or in the apprentice department of the commercial printing plant. The book will be found to contain reliable information and instruction on the various trade processes that are commonly considered as essential to a complete and well-rounded apprentice training in typography.

The material which comprises the text is in no sense in a theoretical or experimental stage. Each chapter has been perfected from practical lesson material which has been successfully used in regular classes, and after taking its present page form, it has been again subjected to the test of regular class procedure. Proofs of each section have also been submitted to outstanding specialists in the trade, and verified as to correctness of technical detail. Some of our best printing instructors, and many printers of national reputation have given much time and attention to the perfection of this material, which co-operation the author very gratefully acknowledges.

Naturally, it is impracticable to attempt to discuss all the details of each process in a book of this nature. At the ends of chapters dealing with special phases of printing will be found lists of reliable trade books which may be used as references, or for a further study of these subjects. These books have been carefully selected, and are recommended for the school, or the printer's library.

Advertising men, salesmen of printing, printing-office executives, and all printing employees who have not been scientifically trained in the mechanics of printing, will find this book full of very helpful information, and it should be available to the workmen throughout the plant.

To printing instructors using this book as a basic text, it is recommended that the author's *Elementary Printing Job Sheets* be used with the text during the first year of the students' work, and that his companion book, *Elementary Platen Presswork*, be made the background for the students' training in presswork.

This book has been handset in foundry type and materials, as a guide and example to the young compositor, and as an inspiration to his typographic efforts.

It was developed with the sincere desire for helpfulness, to young men who wish to become printers, and to the noble Craft itself, to which I owe a larger debt than I can hope to repay.

Ralph W. Polk

# CONTENTS

	PAGE
Chapter I . . . . . <i>A Brief History of Printing</i>	1
1. The cairn. 2. Early records in stone. 3. Tablets of clay. 4. The first paper. 5. Early picture-writing. 6. Development of an alphabet. 7. Early printing from wood blocks. 8. Early books. THE INVENTION OF PRINTING. 9. The invention of movable types. 10. Origin of Roman types. 11. The origin of Italic types. 12. Italy's master typographer. 13. Beginnings in France. 14. Beginnings in England. 15. Modern-face types. 16. Printing in America.	
Chapter II . . . . . <i>The Great Industry of Printing</i>	13
17. Printing ranks sixth among industries. 18. The allied trades. 19. The printing trade. 20. Broad training necessary. 21. Exceptional opportunities in printing.	
Chapter III . . . . . <i>Type</i>	18
22. Kinds of type. 23. Height of type. 24. Type metal. 25. Parts of a type. 26. Type is put up in fonts. 27. Weight fonts. 28. Job fonts. 29. Kerned letters. 30. Type classified by series and families. 31. Body type and display type.	
Chapter IV . . . . . <i>Type Cases</i>	26
32. News cases. 33. Upper case holds capitals. 34. Lower case not alphabetical. 35. The California Job Case. 36. The Triple Case. 37. Sizes of cases. 38. Special cases. 39. Case racks.	
Chapter V . . . . . <i>Spacing Material</i>	31
40. Leads and slugs. 41. Brass leads. 42. Lead cases and racks. 43. The proper method of piecing leads. 44. Solid matter. 45. Spaces and quads. 46. Spaces cast to point widths. 47. Location of spacing material. 48. Thin spaces. 49. Metal furniture. 50. Wood furniture. 51. Reglet. 52. Corner quads.	
Chapter VI . . . . . <i>The Process of Setting Type</i>	39
53. Composing sticks. 54. Method of holding the stick. 55. Setting type. 56. Always read type upside down. 57. The four demons. 58. Simple type-assembling exercises. JUSTIFICATION AND SPACING. 59. Justification of lines. 60. Justifying work in uneven lines. 61. Justifying straight composition. 62. Equal spacing between words. 63. Letter forms affect the spacing. 64. Correct method of spacing out. 65. The wrong method.	



	PAGE
Chapter VII . . . . . <i>The Handling of Type Forms</i>	51
66. Removing type from the stick. 67. Placing type in galley. 68. Tying up the form. 69. Emptying the galley.	
Chapter VIII . . . . . <i>Proofing and Correcting Forms</i>	55
70. Taking stone proofs. 71. Using the proof press. 72. Type must be thoroughly cleaned. 73. Making corrections. 74. Revised proofs. 75. The use of tweezers.	
Chapter IX . . . . . <i>The Distribution of Type</i>	61
76. Distribution from galley. 77. Identify the type. 78. Holding the type. 79. Distributing the letters. 80. Distributing leads and slugs.	
Chapter X . . . . . <i>The Printers' System of Measurement</i>	65
81. The line measure. 82. Type sizes. 83. Measuring of type matter.	
Chapter XI . . . . . <i>Common Usage in Composition</i>	70
84. Office style. THE DIVISION OF WORDS. 85. Words divided into syllables. 86. Some typographic considerations. ABBREVIATIONS. 87. Avoid abbreviations. 88. Abbreviations not capitalized. USE OF PUNCTUATION MARKS. 89. Use of the period. 90. The comma. 91. Semi-colons and colons. 92. The apostrophe. 93. Quotation marks. 94. Parentheses and brackets. 95. Hyphens and dashes. USES OF OTHER CHARACTERS. 96. The use of ampersand. 97. Expressing numbers. 98. Roman numerals. INDENTIONS. 99. Purpose of indentions. 100. Widths of paragraph indentions. 101. Hanging indentions. 102. Cut-in notes. 103. Indention of poetry. 104. Indention of quoted paragraphs.	
Chapter XII . . . . . <i>Reading Printers' Proofs</i>	83
105. Proofreaders' marks. 106. Marking errors. 107. Marking without guide-lines. 108. O. K.ing a proof. 109. Proofs to authors.	
Chapter XIII . . . . . <i>Locking Up Forms for the Press</i>	88
110. The imposing stone. 111. Stone must be clean. 112. Position of the form in the chase. 113. Placing furniture around the form. 114. Positions of quoins. 115. Locking up the form. 116. Locking forms for cylinder presses. SOME HINTS ON THE IMPOSITION OF FORMS. 117. Imposition of forms. 118. Locking up two pages. 119. Locking up four-page forms. 120. Determining the lay-out.	

# Contents

xi

	PAGE
Chapter XIV . . . . . <i>Printing Presses</i>	99
121. The platen press. 122. Cylinder presses. 123. The drum cylinder. 124. The two-revolution press. 125. The Kelly Press. 126. Rotary presses. 127. Automatic mechanical feeders. PARTS OF THE GORDON PRESS. 128. The chase. 129. The platen. 130. The feed board. 131. The grippers. 132. The throw-off lever. 133. The fly-wheel. 134. The ink rollers. 135. Composition of ink rollers. 136. Care of rollers. CARE OF THE PLATEN PRESS. 137. Oiling the press. 138. Washing the press.	
Chapter XV . . . . . <i>Make-Ready and Feeding Platen Presses</i>	111
139. Inking the press. 140. Putting in the form. 141. Regulating the impression. 142. Setting the guides. 143. Feeding the press. 144. Off-setting. 145. Slip-sheeting.	
Chapter XVI . . . . . <i>Printing Inks</i>	118
146. Composition of inks. 147. Different kinds of inks. 148. Driers. 149. "Doping" inks. 150. Care of inks. 151. Mixing colored inks.	
Chapter XVII . . . . . <i>Composing Machines</i>	123
THE LINOTYPE. 152. Matrix is unit of composition. 153. Justification is by space-bands. 154. Slugs are cast automatically. THE MONOTYPE. 155. The keyboard. 156. The caster machine.	
Chapter XVIII . . . . . <i>Brass Rules and Their Uses</i>	128
157. Styles of brass rules. 158. Construction of rules. 159. Rule cases. 160. Miters. 161. Butted corners. 162. Using rules with type.	
Chapter XIX . . . . . <i>Composition of Tabular Forms</i>	132
163. Casting up a table. 164. Construction. 165. Proportioning the space. 166. Handling figures. 167. Making columns self-spacing. 168. Spacing out columns. 169. Multiple justification. 170. Setting columns to odd measures. 171. Use of point-set spaces. 172. Work-and-twist jobs. 173. Typotabular Squares. 174. Protecting rollers. 175. Machine-set tables.	
Chapter XX . . . . . <i>The Use of Lay-Outs</i>	144
176. Lay-out blanks. 177. Lay-outs should be detailed.	
Chapter XXI . . . . . <i>The Use of Borders</i>	147
178. Purpose of borders. 179. Use of rules as borders. 180. Panel borders. 181. How to build a border. 182. Machine-cast borders.	

	PAGE
Chapter XXII . . . . .	152
<p>Classification of Type Faces</p> <p>ROMAN TYPES. 183. Roman most important group. <i>Table of Alphabets and Lettering.</i> 184. Serifs. 185. Oldstyle types. 186. Modern-face types. 187. Transitionary forms. 188. Oldstyle and modern figures. 189. Type in families. ITALIC TYPES. 190. Italic usually kerned. 191. Swash letters. 192. Italic capitals. TEXT TYPES. 193. Use of text types. 194. The real Gothic letter. 195. Missal letters. BLOCK-LETTER OR "GOTHIC." SCRIPT.</p>	
Chapter XXIII . . . . .	163
<p>Legibility of Type Faces</p> <p>196. Conditions affecting legibility. LETTER STYLES. 197. Capitals not as legible as lower-case. 198. Text-letter is not legible. 199. Shaded letters. 200. Avoid bold type in mass. SIZES OF TYPE. LENGTH OF LINES OF TYPE. 201. A popular theory. 202. Sherbow's table. SPACING AND MARGINS. 203. Solid matter is hard to read. 204. Leaded matter is more legible. PAPER AND LEGIBILITY. 205. Glossy paper hinders reader. 206. Smooth paper with modern-face type. 207. Antique paper with oldstyle.</p>	
Chapter XXIV . . . . .	175
<p>Fundamental Principles of Display—Fitness</p> <p>THE PRINCIPLE OF FITNESS. 208. Simplicity. 209. General specifications. 210. Breaking up the copy.</p>	
Chapter XXV . . . . .	179
<p>The Principle of Balance</p> <p>211. An optical illusion. 212. The center of balance. 213. To find the balance between groups. 214. Margins affect spacing between groups. 215. Out-of-center balance.</p>	
Chapter XXVI . . . . .	183
<p>The Principle of Proportion</p> <p>216. Proportion in margins. 217. Page sizes. 218. Proportion of margin and text.</p>	
Chapter XXVII . . . . .	186
<p>The Principle of Shape Harmony</p> <p>219. Type should fit page. 220. Shapes of lines or groups. 221. Harmony of type faces. 222. Harmony of type and border. 223. Squared groups. 224. Establishing harmony of shapes.</p>	
Chapter XXVIII . . . . .	190
<p>The Principle of Tone Harmony</p> <p>225. To obtain tone harmony. 226. Contrast in tones.</p>	
Chapter XXIX . . . . .	193
<p>The Use of Decoration in Printing</p> <p>227. Purpose of decoration. 228. Must pass the test of fitness. 229. The decoration must harmonize with the type. 230. Ornaments should be conventionalized. 231. Hints on choosing an ornament.</p>	

## Contents

xiii

	PAGE
Chapter XXX . . . . . <i>The Use of Initial Letters</i>	197
232. Typographical considerations. 233. Set first word in capitals. 234. The placing of initial letters. 235. Letters that present special problems. 236. Proper use of quotation marks. 237. Informal treatments of initials. 238. Aligning irregular shapes.	
Chapter XXXI . . . . . <i>Paper</i>	203
239. Paper made from pulp. 240. News print paper. 241. Book papers. 242. Writing papers. 243. Hand-made papers. 244. Deckled edges. 245. Covers. 246. Cardboards. 247. Sizes, weights, and quantities. FIGURING AND CUTTING STOCK. 248. Paper cutters. 249. Allowance is made for final trim. 250. Spoilage allowance for printing. 251. Figuring stock for jobs. 252. Finding cost of stock.	
Chapter XXXII . . . . . <i>The Use of Color in Printing</i>	212
253. Primary and secondary colors. 254. A simple color wheel. 255. Colors have three dimensions. 256. Hue. 257. Value. 258. Chroma. 259. Warm and cold colors. 260. Complementary colors. SECURING COLOR HARMONY. 261. Complementary color harmony. 262. Harmony of tint and shade. 263. Use of black with colors. 264. Use of colored papers.	
Chapter XXXIII . . . . . <i>The Composition of Tickets</i>	222
265. Sizes. 266. Styles in tickets.	
Chapter XXXIV . . . . . <i>The Composition of Business Stationery</i>	224
LETTERHEADS. 267. Typography of letterheads. 268. Sizes of letterheads. ENVELOPES. 269. Envelope sizes. 270. Envelopes should match letterheads. 271. Position of the wording. BUSINESS CARDS. 272. Sizes of cards. 273. Typography of cards.	
Chapter XXXV . . . . . <i>The Composition of Advertisements</i>	237
274. The purpose of an advertisement. 275. Ads should be well designed. 276. Legibility especially important. 277. Follow the principles of display. 278. Borders. 279. The value of white space. 280. Harmony among the neighboring ads. 281. Sizes of newspaper ads.	
Chapter XXXVI . . . . . <i>The Composition of Programs</i>	247
282. Single-sheet programs. 283. The four-page program. 284. Ornamentation of programs. 285. Choice of types. 286. Use of leaders.	
Chapter XXXVII . . . . . <i>Cover-Pages and Title-Pages</i>	255
COVER-PAGES. 287. Cover-page designs. 288. Stock is to be considered. TITLE-PAGES. 289. The colophon. 290. Typography of title-pages.	

	PAGE
Chapter XXXVIII . . . . . <i>The Composition of Books</i>	263
291. Order of the contents. 292. Page numbers. 293. Running-heads 294. Sizes of books. 295. Proportions of margins and text. 299. Balanced page margins. 297. Details that mar the page. 298. Placing of illustra- tions. 299. Choice of paper. 300. Calculating the space to be covered by the copy. 301. Informal booklets.	
Chapter XXXIX . . . . . <i>Printing Plates</i>	276
REPRODUCTIVE PRINTING PLATES. 302. Halftones. 303. Halftone screens. 304. Zinc etchings. 305. Copy. PLATES FOR DUPLICATION. 306. Electro- types. 307. Nickeltypes. 308. Stereotypes. PATENT BASES FOR PLATES. 309. Sectional base for unmounted plates.	
Chapter XL . . . . . <i>Linoleum Block Printing</i>	285
310. Putting the design on the linoleum block. 311. Engraving the block. 312. Printing the block. 313. Designs in color.	
Chapter XLI . . . . . <i>Photo-Offset-Lithography</i>	287
314. "Oil and water won't mix." 315. Metal plates now replace stone slabs. 316. Offset lithography. 317. Preparation of the plate. 318. Hand- ling copy for offset work. 319. Proofing type for offset jobs. 320. Letter- press and offset.	
Glossary . . . . . <i>Technical and Trade Terms</i>	293
Index . . . . .	297

## INDEX

- Abbreviations, use of, 73
  - not capitalized, 73
- Advertisements, composition of, 237
  - harmony among, 241
  - sizes of newspaper, 245
- Allied trades, the, 13
- Allowance for final trim, 207
- Allowance for spoilage, 208
- Alphabet introduced by Phenicians, 4
- Alphabets, table of, 153
- Ampersand, the use of, 77
- Apostrophe, use of the, 75
- Areas covered by 1000 ems of type, 68
- Automatic presses, 104
- Balance, the principle of, 179
  - out-of-center, 182
- Balanced page margins, 267
- Bases for unmounted plates, 283
- Beginnings in England, 9
- Beginnings in France, 8
- Ben Day process, 280
- Block-letter, 161
- Bodoni, Giambattista, 9
- Book, the first printed, 6
- Booklets, informal, 271
- Books, the composition of, 263
  - order of contents, 263
  - sizes of, 266
- Borders, the use of, 147
  - how to build, 149
  - panel, 148
  - sizes of ad, 246
  - use of rules as, 147
- Brass and copper thin spaces, 36
- Brass rules, styles of, 128
  - used with type, 130
- Business cards, composition of, 233
- Cairn, the, 1, 11
- Capitals not legible as lower-case, 164
- Cards, the composition of, 233
- Cases, rule, 129
  - special, 29
  - type, 26
- Caslon, William, type designer, 9
- Caster, Monotype, 126
- Casting up tables, 132
- Caxton, William, 9
- Center of balance, the, 180
- Chase, locking forms in the, 90
- Chroma, 214
- Clay tablets, early, 2
- Colophon, the, 257
- Color in printing, 212
- Color wheel, a simple, 213
- Colored inks, mixing of, 121
- Colors, complementary, 217
  - primary and secondary, 212
  - securing a harmony of, 217
  - warm and cold, 215
- Comma, the use of, 74
- Composing machines, 123
- Composing sticks, 39
  - method of holding, 39
- Composition of advertisements, 237
  - of books, 263
  - of business cards, 233
  - of business stationery, 224
  - of cover-pages and title-pages, 225
  - of envelopes, 230
  - of letterheads, 224
  - of programs, 247
  - of tabular forms, 132
  - of tickets, 222
- Contrast in tones, 192
- Conventionalized ornaments, 195
- Copper and brass thin spaces, 36
- Corner quads, 38
- Correcting proofs, 85
- Correcting type forms, 58
- Coster, Laurens, of Haarlem, 6
- Cost of paper stock, finding the, 210
- Cover-pages, composition of, 255
- Cuneiform characters, 2
- Cursive letters, 159
- Cut-in-notes, 80
- Cutting paper stock, 206
- Cylinder presses, 100
- Deckled edges, 205
- Decoration in printing, use of, 193

- Display, general principles of, 175  
 Distribution of leads and slugs, 63  
   of type, 61  
 Division of words, 70  
 Driers for printing inks, 120  
  
 Early records in stone, 2  
 Electrotypes, 232  
 Ems pica, definition of, 66  
 Envelopes, composition of, 230  
   sizes of, 230  
 Estimating areas of type matter, 66, 270  
 Etchings, zinc, 280  
 Evolution of the book, the, 11  
  
 Figures, in tabular composition, 135  
   oldstyle and modern, 157  
 Figuring and cutting stock, 206  
 Finding the cost of stock, 210  
 Fitness, the principle of, 176  
 Fonts, characters in ordinary type, 22  
   type put up in, 21  
   weight and job, 22  
 Fonts of brass rule, 128  
   of metal furniture, 36  
   of wood furniture, 37  
 Furniture, around form in chase, 89  
  
 Galley press, 57  
 Garamond, Claud, 9  
 Gauge pins, 114  
 Gordon Press, parts of the, 104  
 Gothic lettering, 161  
 Guides, setting the, 114  
 Gutenberg, Johann, 6  
  
 Halftones, 276  
 Halftone screens, 278  
 Harmony of shapes, 186  
   of tone, 190  
   of type and borders, 188  
   of types, 187  
**Hell**-box, 291  
 Hieroglyphics, Egyptians, 4, 11  
 Hyphen leaders, 131  
 Hyphens and dashes, 77  
 Hue of a color, 213  
  
 Illustrations, placing of, 269  
 Imposition, some hints on, 94  
 Impression, regulating the, 113  
 Indentions, of poetry, 80  
   of quoted paragraphs, 80  
  
 Indentions, purpose of, 79  
   widths of paragraph, 79  
 Initial letters, informal treatments in, 201  
   irregular shapes in, 202  
   placing of, 199  
   quotation marks with, 201  
 Inking the press, 111  
 Ink rollers, care of, 108  
   composition of, 107  
 Inks, care of, 120  
   composition of, 118  
   mixing colored, 121  
 Invention of printing, 6  
 Italic capitals appear awkward, 159  
 Italic types, origin of, 8, 158  
   use of, 158  
  
 Jenson, Nicholas, 8  
 Justification and spacing, 44  
 Justifying straight composition, 46  
  
 Kerned letters, 23  
  
 Lay-outs, the use of, 144  
 Lead and slug case, 32  
 Leaders, 131, 133, 137, 254  
 Leads and slugs, 31  
   brass, 32  
   proper method of piecing, 32  
 Legibility, conditions affecting, 163  
   paper and, 173  
 Letter forms affect spacing, 47  
 Letterheads, sizes of, 226  
   typography of, 224  
 Line measure, printers', 66  
 Linoleum-block printing, 285  
 Linotype, the, 123  
 Lithography, offset, 287  
 Locking up forms, 88  
 Ludlow Typograph, 127  
  
 Makeready on the press, 113  
 Making up book pages, 268  
 Margins, balanced page, 267  
   proportion in, 183  
   legibility affected by, 172  
 Marking proofs, 85  
 Matrices with space-bands, 125  
 Measure, the printers', 65  
 Measuring of type matter, 65  
 Metal furniture, 36  
 Mitters, brass rule, 120  
 Mixing colored inks, 121

- Modern-face types, characteristics of, 156  
 origin of, 9  
 Monotype, the, 126  
 Multiple justification, 137
- NEWSPAPER, AIDS FOR THE SCHOOL—**  
 Ads, composition of, 237  
   harmony among, 243  
 Body type and display type, 23  
 Classification of type faces, 152  
 Common usage in composition, 70  
 Distributing type, 62  
 Feeding the press, 111  
 Handling type, 51  
 How to build borders, 149  
 Justification of type, 44  
 Leads and slugs, 31  
 Legibility of types, 163  
 Locking up type forms, 88  
 Paper, kinds of, 204  
   figuring and cutting, 206  
 Plates, printing, 276  
 Process of setting type, 39  
 Proofing and correcting type, 55  
 Reading proofs, 83  
 Sizes of newspaper ads, 245  
 Styles of type faces, 166  
 Taking proofs, 55  
   Type cases, 26  
   Type sizes, 67  
 Nickleotypes, 283  
 Numbers, expressing, 78  
 Numerals, Roman, 78
- Office style, 70  
 Offset printing, 287  
 Offset and letterpress, 292  
 Offsetting of freshly printed sheets, 116  
 Oiling the press, 108  
 Old English types, 160  
 Oldstyle types, characteristics of, 155  
 Origin of Italic types, 8, 158  
 Origin of Roman types, 7, 152  
 Ornament, hints on choosing an, 196  
 Ornaments, conventionalized, 195  
 Out-of-center balance, 182
- Page lay-outs for lock-up, 96  
 Page numbers, or folios, 264  
 Paper, and legibility, 173  
   handmade, 205  
   kinds of, 204  
   made from pulp, 203  
 Paper cutters, 206
- Papyrus, 3  
 Parchment, early use of, 3  
 Parts of the C. & P. Gordon Press, 104  
 Patent base for plates, 283  
 Period, use of the, 74  
 Photoengraving, 276  
 Photo-offset-lithography, 287  
 Pica stick, 66  
 Picture-writing, 3, 11  
 Piecing lead and slugs, 32  
 Placing of illustrations, 269  
 Planing forms, 92  
 Planography, 287  
 Platen, the, 105  
 Plates for offset lithography, 290  
 Plates, printing, 276  
 Point-set spaces, 35, 139  
 Point system, 65  
 Presses, automatic feeders for, 104  
   cylinder, 100  
   feeding platen, 115  
   Gordon, 104  
   main types of, 99  
   offset lithograph, 287  
   platen, 99  
   proof, 56  
   rotary, 103  
   washing of, 109  
 Principles of display, general, 175  
   of balance, 179  
   of fitness, 175  
   of proportion, 183  
   of shape harmony, 186  
   of tone harmony, 190
- Printing, first, in America, 10  
 invention of, 6, 11  
 trade, departments in., 14
- Printing inks, 118  
 plates, 276  
 processes, 99
- Programs, composition of, 247  
 Proofing and correcting forms, 55  
 Proof presses, 56  
 Proofreaders' marks, 83  
 Proofs for offset printing, 291  
 Proofs, revised, 59  
   taking stone, 55
- Proportion, the principle of, 183  
 in margins, 183  
 in page dimensions, 184  
 of margin and text, 184
- Punctuation marks, use of, 74



- Quads and spaces, 33  
   table of widths of, 34  
 Quoins, positions of the, 91  
 Quotation marks, use of, 76, 80
- Reading printers' proofs, 83  
 Register hooks, 284  
 Reproduction proofs, 291  
 Revised proofs, 59  
 Rollers, ink, 106  
   protection for, 142  
 Roman numerals, 78  
 Roman types, origin of, 7  
   classification of, 152  
 Rotary letterpresses, 103, 121  
 Rotary lithograph presses, 289  
 Rubber blanket for offset, 290  
 Running-heads, 265
- Scroll forerunner of book, 5  
 Self-spacing columns in tables, 135  
 Serifs, 20, 154  
 Shaded letters difficult to read, 165  
 Shape harmony, principle of, 186  
 Sheetwise printing, 95  
 Simplicity in design, 176  
 Skeletons of borders, 150  
 Slip-sheeting, 117  
 Space-bands, linotype, 125  
 Spaces and quads, 33  
   method of substituting, in stick, 49  
   position of, in the case, 35  
 Spacing, correct method of, 48  
   letter forms affect the, 47  
 Spacing, and justification, 44  
   and legibility, 172  
   material, 31  
 Spoilage allowance, 209  
 Squared groups, 188  
 Stereotypes, 283  
 Stone, the imposing, 88  
 Stones, lithograph, 287  
 Swash letters, 159
- Table of alphabets and lettering, 153  
 Tablets of clay, 2  
 Tabular composition, 132  
 Tabular quadrules, 141  
 Text types, 160  
   not legible, 165
- Tickets, composition of, 222  
 Title-pages, composition of, 255  
 Tone harmony, principle of, 190  
 Type-assembling exercises, simple, 44  
 Type, body and display, 24  
   common sizes of, 66  
   foundry, 18  
   Gothic, 161  
   height of, 19  
   Italic, 158  
   kinds of, 18  
   parts of a, 19, 20  
   placing, in the galley, 52  
   removing, from the stick, 51  
   Roman, 152  
   Script, 162  
   Text, 160  
   was made to read, 163  
   wood, 19
- Type cabinet, illustration of, 25  
   cases, 26  
   classified by series and families, 23  
   faces, classification of, 152  
   faces, legibility of, 163  
   metal, ingredients of, 19  
   must be read upside down, 41  
   put up in fonts, 21
- Types, artistic and legible, 167  
   not legible in masses, 168  
   strongest in legibility, 166
- Type-setting, procedure in, 40  
 Typograph, Ludlow, 127  
 Typotabular squares, 141  
 Tweezers, use of, 59
- Value of a color, 214  
 Value of a white space, 241  
 Values, chart of color, 214  
 Vellum, 3
- Washing the press, 109  
 White space, value of, 241  
 Wood blocks, early printing from, 5  
 Wood furniture, 37  
 Words per square inch, 271  
 Work-and-turn printing, 95  
 Work-and-twist jobs, 139
- Zinc etchings, 280  
 Zinc plates for offset printing, 288