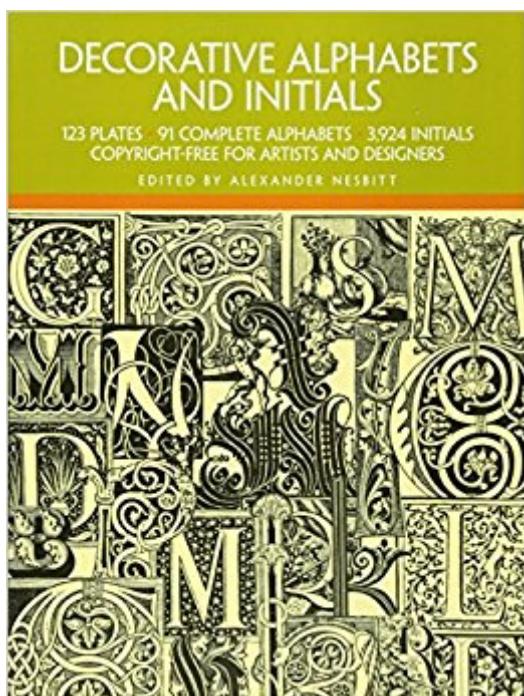


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# Decorative Alphabets And Initials (Lettering, Calligraphy, Typography)



## Synopsis

This unusual Dover publication presents a singular opportunity to the artist, crafter, designer, illustrator, printer, or other user of letter designs to have always at hand a rich store of inspiration and a swipe-file. More important, you may reproduce any initial or alphabet in this volume free of charge, without asking permission. The work is all royalty-free; when you buy the book, you buy the reproduction rights to any individual part of it. The price is less than you would pay to professional archives for one copy of the letter. There are 123 full-page plates including 91 complete alphabets in widely differing styles. In all, there are 3,924 initial letters. These alphabets were obtained from rare, out-of-print books, generally available only in libraries or in the rare-book market. They were reproduced directly from the pages of a large and expensive collection that was made specifically for the production of this volume. Since they are direct reproductions, they will all reproduce again excellently. The book has been carefully arranged and annotated by the compiler so that the student of letters and types may have a complete understanding of decorative alphabets and initials. The work is divided into three parts. Part One deals entirely with manuscript initials as they were used from the eighth to the fifteenth centuries. It includes Celtic initials, rare designs from the Bible of Charles the Bald, and incised letters from the monument of Richard II in Westminster Abbey. Part Two contains initials from printed books, starting with the fifteenth century and running through the eighteenth. Here are the fanciful creations of the sixteenth-century woodcutters; initials illustrated with children, cherubs, birds, beasts, flowers, legends, and grotesque heads. The work of the later engravers, writing masters, and baroque and rococo designers follows in order. Part Three attempts to arrange the "great weedy jungle" of Victorian letters and types and concludes with twentieth-century alphabets such as the distinctive wood engraving of Edward Wadsworth. Each section has a historical introduction, and each plate has a descriptive caption.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ninety-one complete alphabets – medieval to modern – include 3,924 decorative initials, including Victorian novelty and Art Nouveau. These alphabets were obtained from rare, out-of-print books, generally available only in libraries or in the rare-book market. They were reproduced directly from the pages of a large and expensive collection that was made specifically for the production of this volume. Since they are direct reproductions, they will all reproduce again excellently. The book has been carefully arranged and annotated so that the students of letters and types may have a complete understanding of decorative alphabets and initials. The work is divided into three parts. Part One deals entirely with manuscript initials as they were used from the 8th to the 15th century. It includes Celtic initials, rare designs from the Bible of Charles the Bald, and incised letters from the monument of Richard II in Westminster Abbey. Part Two contains initials from printed books, starting with the 15th century and running through the 18th. Here are the fanciful creations of the 16th-century woodcutters: initials illustrated with children, cherubs, birds, beasts, flowers, legends, and grotesque heads. The works of the later engravers, writing, masters, and baroque and rococo designers follows in order. Part Three attempts to arrange the "great weeds jungle" of Victorian letters and types and concludes with the 20th-century alphabets such as the distinctive wood engravings of Edward Wadsworth. Each section has an historical introduction and each plate has a descriptive caption.

I have many many bookk of decorative alphabets, about 50 of them and this is my favorite. I had lost it so I ordered another one. That is how much I loved it. It inspires me in what I do..... I am an illuminator and truly, I use it a lot for inspiration and do good for my soul. I have been using it for about 15 years and I don't get tired of it.

This is not a how to do it book but gives a massive quantity of examples and letters through the ages. Many of the alphabets are not complete (centuries old alphabets) but you definitely get the idea. Fascinating and inspiring. I am new at decorative letters and I love this book. The price is great, too.

Great work - jammed with ideas for my illustration work in illuminated manuscripting

Alexander Nesbitt's book of Decorative Alphabets, and Initials has many, many beautiful examples of lettering, calligraphy, and typography. It is a wonderful addition to my ever increasing "library of inspirations". The book arrived in a timely manor, and despite having been "previously Loved" it was in very good condition.

these are very old ornamental letters constructed with highly elaborate decorations. Very interesting to compare the middle age letters to modern fonts.

This book was absolutely fantastic. There are so many different designs to look at and try as wells and some back information on time periods. If you are a calligraphy fan I recommend this to you for new ideas and some challenges.

I like the letter history

Images too small to use without scanning and enlarging. Some alphabets do not have all the letters. Nice variety of styles.

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