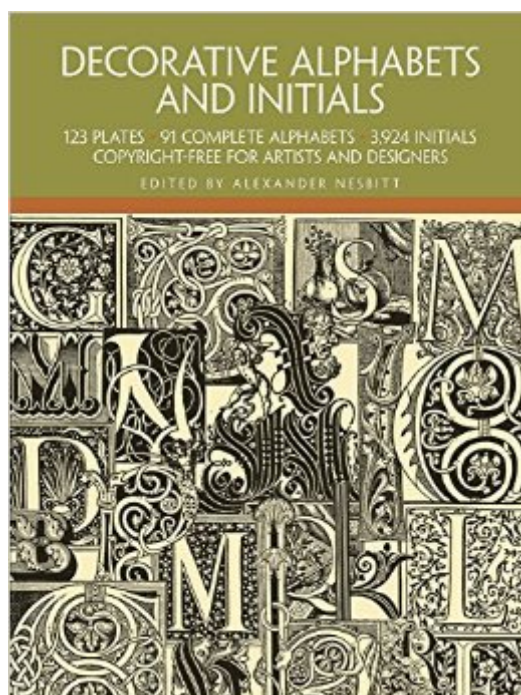


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# Decorative Alphabets And Initials (Lettering, Calligraphy, Typography)



## 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

This book provides hours of entertainment and study. Alphabets from all different eras, some of them incredibly ornamental. Every time I look at this book, I see something new to admire.

This book is a great resource for calligrapher, doodling artists, lettering artists that need a copyright-FREE book for inspiring their creativity. The book shows the contour lines of the initials letters where the artist used the positive and negative shapes of the letter form to draw patterns. The book starts with the 8th century and ends in the beginning of the 20th century. This is a great resource book to add to your library if you love working in the contour of the outline of the alphabets and initials letter forms. This book works for me as a calligrapher and also as a Doodling Artist that specialize in working in the positive and negative contour lines of a letter form using geometric shapes and ink silhouette shading. My favor plate is Plate 29 which the author describes "Letter surrounded by penwork doodling-from a 16th-century chorale, Monte Cassino. I also use this book to challenge my art skills, for example plates 102 and plate 117 are full with penwork doodling. I highly recommend this book to anyone that loves decorative alphabets and initials. PenandInk777

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.

I was disappointed that there are a lof of sample letters but very few (if any) full alphabets. So I might find a letter I like but it doesn't show the letter I need in that design.

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.

A nice sampling of alphabets; although I was expecting something more along the lines of a book I could use to help me learn artful lettering; rather than a sort of history listing. Probably my fault for not reading the description more carefully. Still I can use the samples to jump start my own calligraphy. A bargain for the price and useful-just not what I was expecting.

This book is ok, but if you are expecting complete alphabets, many of the fonts do not have them. Read the front of the book carefully before purchasing. The thing that disappointed me the most was that the letter missing from the various alphabets just happens to be my first initial (J). In a few cases, it was the "I" that was missing. Some alphabets were missing many letters so that they were just an example of the alphabet. Even so, there is supposedly 91 complete alphabets in this book though I haven't counted them all to be sure.

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