LIST OF WOOD-LETTER TYPE FOR SALE

John Woodwark

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This PDF document is a list of the nearly 50 founts of wood-letter type that I have accumulated over the last 20 years, and which I am now, regrettably, offering for sale. You should be able to click on the links provided to view pictures of the founts (3000 x 4000-pixel images located on my website).

Prices do not include delivery, which is by arrangement and at cost. Payment can be made by BACS or Paypal. I am offering a 10% discount (plus a cup of coffee) if you collect in person and pay in cash. (Please note that I am not offering any other discounts at this time.)

I have been storing most of these founts in 60x40cm 'Eurotrays' (which provide economical accommodation, although they have to be stacked and won't pull out like drawers), while larger founts are stacked up in smaller, deeper boxes. I have photographed founts in their trays, or paraded them for a photoshoot and then returned them to storage. Unlike the metal type, these founts have not been packed: they will be packed and weighed when purchased -- or you can collect them in their trays/boxes if you appear in person.

Condition of the type

Some of the founts listed below are new, but most are not: so you must expect wear, damage (repaired or not) and 'trimmed' letters -- i.e. letters of which the bodies have been cut down (not by me!) to suit some specific job. There are even some letters which have been reworked to substitute for other letters in short supply (e.g. 'Q's become 'O's). A fount may also include a few letters of a slightly different design --or 'foreigners' (in printers' non-PC speak) -- which have slipped in from another fount. I have left most of them in because they are better than nothing if things get tight.

I have noted some, but far from all, of these shortcomings. Please look carefully at the pictures, which should have sufficient resolution for you to make your own assessment of a fount before purchase.

About synopses

I use the letters A, a, and F following the name and size of a fount to suggest the number of letters that the fount contains. For example, a fount labelled 10A, 20a, 5F will have 10 upper-case 'A's, 20 lower-case 'a's and 5 figure '1's (if I have counted them correctly -- I suggest you check the photos); whereas a 10A fount will have 10 upper-case 'A's, but neither lower-case letters nor figures.

This is the usual way of designating the size of a new fount, and the quantities of the other letters follow a pattern, called a synopsis, which is published by the typefounder, and is intended to provide the best selection of letters for some notional 'average' printing job. These synopses differ between founders, and even between founts for different purposes.

Most of the founts listed below are *not* new, and their synopses are unlikely to follow their founders' specifications, due to losses over the years. I describe the synopses of some of these founts as 'poor': meaning that there are significant shortages of some letters and others may even be absent altogether. In some cases I flag egregious absences. Nevertheless, it is essential that you look carefully at all the pictures of a fount to determine for yourself whether the selection of letters actually present is suitable for your needs.

Please let me know if you cannot connect to the images.

I have already found -- and corrected -- several errors in this document. Please advise me of any more that you may discover.

There are separate listings of metal type and books on www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress. I will be listing ornaments, rules, furniture and sundries in due course.

I am also looking to sell a Littlejohn flatbed offset litho press. (A rare beast, I believe.) It was designed for zinc plates but can use modern polyester plates. Its format is 20" x 15". Please contact me if you are interested.

John Woodwark
Tollesbury, Essex
jrw{curly-wurly}johnwoodwark.com

Unknown slab-serif 12-line 3A [Lot 1] £80
Only one 'P'. Looks to have been hand cut. Plank grain, with the expected dimensional issues.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/001_Unknown_slab_serif_12-line.jpg

Gayton (3 founts below): I call the following three founts 'Gayton' because they were manufactured by F. Gayton, Leicester. All three are the same nice-looking serifed font, but what its correct name or number is I cannot say. The type appears to be the remains of huge founts. The synopsis of the 6-line type is disastrous, and that of the 10-line is very poor. The 16-line fount of caps only, in contrast, has an acceptable synopsis. Note that the cutouts in this type are very uniform, and seem to have been introduced by the manufacturer. They make a neat job of some letter pairs such as "AV". All three founts have a selection of accented lower-case letters.

Gayton 6-line 14A, 22a, 12F [Lot 3] £140
Large fount, but only 2 'K's, and 1 'W'. No 'X' or 'Z'. 'F's, 'L's, 'P's and 'V's have been made from other letters, quite neatly. Only 5 'c's, 2 'j's and 3 'k's. No 'q', 'x', or 'z'. No '0' (use 'O'?). Grubby, but basically in good condition and very usable if you can cope with the synopsis.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/003_Gayton_6-line_(1).jpg
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/003_Gayton_6-line_(2).jpg
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/003_Gayton_6-line_(3).jpg

Gayton 10-line 13A, 19a [Lot 4] SOLD
Large fount, but no 'Q' or 'Z'. 'F's, 'I's and 'V's have been made by cutting down other letters: quite neat. Only 1 'v'. No 'q'. A bit grubby.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/004_Gayton_10-line_(1).jpg
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/004_Gayton_10-line_(2).jpg
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/004_Gayton_10-line_(3).jpg

Gayton 16-line 8A, 2F [Lot 5] £180
Acceptable synopsis. A bit grubby.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/005_Gayton_16-line_(1).jpg
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/005_Gayton_16-line_(2).jpg
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/005_Gayton_16-line_(3).jpg

Unknown rounded serif 6-line 5A, 5a [Lot 26] £120
Pity I don't know what this font is. It has some quietly stylish features (e.g. the 'n's, 'u's &c). Some unexceptionable cutouts.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/026_Unknown_rounded_serif_6-line.jpg

Unknown rounded serif 8-line 4A, 2F [Lot 27] £60
Showcard fount. Includes fractions! Undersized & inky; partially cleaned. Only 1 'M' and 1 'P'. A 'T' and a 'U' are obviously foreigners.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/027_Unknown_rounded_serif_8-line.jpg

Cheltenham Extra Bold 6-line 6A, 4F [Lot 39] £350
Bought new from Wood Type Customs (Romania). Beech wood. Unused. (Currently $540 + p&p + VAT from Wood Type Customs.)
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/039_Cheltenham_Extra_Bold_6-line.jpg

Cheltenham Extra Bold 8-line 3A, 4F [Lot 40] £270
Bought new from Wood Type Customs (Romania). Beech wood. Hardly used. (Currently $462 + p&p + VAT from Wood Type Customs.)
(Note that the label in the photo says '6-line'. This is incorrect.)
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/040_Cheltenham_Extra_Bold_8-line.jpg

Delittle 163 (3 founts below): Many old wood letter fonts look rather commercial, which is hardly surprising as they were designed for that purpose. Delittle 163 absolutely does not. The blob-like serifs make it robust, and there are no overhangs except the commas and semi-colons; but yet it seems to harmonize with serif both serif and sans types. I reckon that it was designed by someone who understood wood letter very well, and it is my favourite wood letter font.

The following three founts (Lots 41-43) of Delittle 163 are in very good condition in dimensionally accurate (.920" height), requiring very little makeready. They were cleaned, re-shellacked and oiled by me in 2017. They have received a certain amount of use since then, but I am obsessive in cleaning type, so I don't think that is readily apparent.

Delittle 163 10-line 4A [Lot 41] £400
Only minor damage, including a scratched 'K' and a broken comma
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/041_Delittle_163_10-line.jpg

Delittle 163 16-line 4A [Lot 42] £450
Good synopsis, except that there is only one comma. One of the ampersands has been badly squashed, but there is another. Otherwise very little damage.
http://www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/042_Delittle_163_16-line.jpg

Delittle 163 24-line 4A [Lot 43] £500
Synopsis marred by the lack of a question-mark; and there are only two 'O's and one 'S' is badly damaged, otherwise the type is in fine condition.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/043_Delittle_163_24-line_(1).jpg
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/043_Delittle_163_24-line_(2).jpg

Delittle 274 8-line 3A, 5a, 2F [Lot 44] £160
Similar to Cheltenham. There is only 1 of each of 'D', 'H', 'M' and 'U'. Clean, with a few cutouts.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/044_Delittle_274_8-line.jpg

Unknown slab-serif 8-line 4A [Lot 45] £100
Extra condensed. Damaged 'A', 'K; and 'W's. Only punctuation is a comma and an inverted comma.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/045_Unknown_slab_serif_8-line.jpg

Unknown slab-serif 10-line 3A [Lot 46] £140 RESERVED
An antique fount, but clean. Nice patina, if you value such attributes. Respectable synopsis, but no '?'. Quite a lot of dents.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/046_Unknown_slab-serif_(Antique)_10-line.jpg

Egyptian Expanded 4-line 3A [Lot 47] £140
Unusual 48pt wooden type. But old and very worn.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/047_Egyptian_Expanded_4-line.jpg

High School 9-line 3A [Lot 48] £180
Wood Type Custome (Romania). I see that Petrescu are now calling this 'Banner Serif', and they no longer offer 9-line. This would indeed be an awkward size, except that a very adequate amount of the special spacing and brackets is included in the fount. (cf. 'Motto' in my list of metal type.) Very little use, as you can see.
(The 8-line is currently $296 + p&p + VAT from Wood Type Customs.)
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/048_High_School_9-line.jpg

Playbill (a.k.a. French Antique, Figaro) 12-line 3A Lot 53 £180
Brierley. Good synopsis. Some repairable damage, including an 'F', which has recently split. (I imagine the purchaser would prefer to repair it themselves!) Some of the punctuation is foreign. I cleaned and re-shellacked a few characters some years ago: it shows the potential for restoration.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/053_Playbill_12-line.jpg

Playbill (a.k.a. French Antique, Figaro) 18-line 2A [Lot 54] SOLD
DeLittle; accurate. The 'X' is a foreigner, but plausible -- especially next to an 'O'. No punctuation.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/054_Playbill_18-line.jpg

Playbill (a.k.a. French Antique, Figaro) 24-line 3A [Lot 55] £220
Bodies are a bit grubby, although the faces are nice and clean. Some damage, including quite serious dents in a 'B', 2 'E's, an 'H' and a 'T'. The back of a 'Z' has been roughly carved into a 'V' (that sort of thing is quite common). Very little punctuation.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/055_Playbill_24-line.jpg

Unknown gothic 5-line 10A [Lot 66] £150
Remains of a large showcard fount, but a reasonable synopsis nevertheless, except that there are only 2 'K's. No zeros, but a lot of 'O's to substitute. The '8' are not identical. The '6's and '9's appear to be interchangeable.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/066_Unknown_gothic_5-line.jpg

Unknown gothic 6-line 11A, 2F [Lot 67] £180
Condensed. Decent condition, but needs a good clean, No question-mark.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/067_Unknown_gothic_6-line.jpg

Unknown gothic 8-line 3A & 4A, 2F [Lot 68] SOLD
Two matching founts, one condensed, sharing a set of figures. Clean. Only 1 'U' in the wider fount.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/068_Unknown_gothic_8-line.jpg

Unknown gothic 8-line 2A [Lot 69] £120
Sellers, Sheffield. Deco-style condensed. Only 1 'I', but it would be relatively easy to make a couple more. Not much punctuation, but that is often unnecessary with a headline font of this sort. Sharp, but there are a few dents and several cutouts.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/
069_Unknown_gothic_(Condensed)_8-line.jpg

Unknown gothic 10-line 7A, F2 [Lot 70] £220
Condensed. Good synopsis. Cleaned and re-shellacked in 2016.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/
070_Unknown_gothic_(Condensed)_10-line.jpg

Unknown gothic 12-line 4A, F1 [Lot 71] £160
Caslon. Extra-condensed. Fairly clean and good dimensions. No '1', but 'I' could substitute. An 'H' and a 'U' are foreigners.
(The card in the image says "10-line". That is incorrect.)
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/
071_Unknown_gothic_(Extra_Condensed)_12-line.jpg

Unknown gothic 12-line 3A [Lot 72] £140
Bold. Not much punctuation, but that is often unnecessary with a headline font of this sort. Quite clean: would be easy to re-shellac.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/072_Unknown_gothic_(Bold)_12-line.jpg

Unknown gothic 16-line 3A [Lot 73] £250
DeLittle. Condensed. The synopsis is acceptable. The two '/' characters are foreigners.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/073_Unknown_gothic_16-line.jpg

Unknown gothic 18-line 3A [Lot 75] £160
Bold extra-condensed. Reasonable dimensions but some damage. Needs a clean. Badly damaged 'P'. Two 'B's, a 'C' & a 'J' were treated for woodworm in 2013. Fair synopsis. No question-mark.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/075_Unknown_gothic_(Extra_Condensed)_18-line.jpg

Unknown gothic 24-line 2A [Lot 76] £180
Bold. Moderate condition. Fairly recently reshellacked. No 'Z' or punctuation. Note the ring-shaped dent in the last 'H'.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/076_Unknown_gothic_(Bold)_24-line.jpg

Stephenson Blake Condensed Sans-Serif No. 1 18-line 4A [Lot 77] SOLD
Excellent condition. The 16-line question-mark is an obvious foreigner: emergencies only!
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/077_Stephenson_Blake_Condensed_Sans-Serif_No1_18-line.jpg

Delittle 40 24-line 3A, 4F [Lot 78] £320
Extra-extra-condensed. Clean. Only 1 'U', and no question-mark. Otherwise a good synopsis. As I recollect, this fount needs quite a bit of makeready.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/078_Delittle_40_24-line.jpg

Delittle 40 30-line 2A [Lot 79] SOLD
Extra-extra-condensed. Fairly recently reshellacked. Good condition, but only 2 'E's. Good filler repair to the question-mark.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/079_Delittle_40_30-line.jpg

Delittle 219 12-line 4A [Lot 80] £120
Very clean, but rather poor synopsis. One 'A' is a foreigner.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/080_Delittle_219_12-line.jpg

Atlantic 6-line 3A, F2 [Lot 91] £100
Day & Collins. Needs a clean. Complete set of nice numerals, but no punctuation except an exclamation-mark.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/091_Day_&_Collins_Atlantic_6-line.jpg

Atlantic 8-line 3A [Lot 92] £80
Day & Collins. A lot of ink build-up. Someone has scraped an 'S', badly. I scraped a 'Y', and treated a 'J' with paint stripper -- the latter approach turned out to be more successful.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/092_Day_&_Collins_Atlantic_8-line.jpg

Day & Collins Atlantic 18-line 2A [Lot 93] £120
Fairly good synopsis for such a tiny fount. Some damage, especially to the second 'E'.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/093_Day_&_Collins_Atlantic_18-line.jpg

Chromatic 8-line 3A [Lot 94] £80
DeLittle. Appears to have had a very hard life, but it will print if nursed along. There are 5 obvious foreigners, amongst which only the 'R' is plausible.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/094_Chromatic_8-line.jpg

Gill Sans 6-line 4A, 8a, F2 [Lot 107] SOLD
Stephenson Blake's version of this typeface.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/107_Gill_Sans_6-line.jpg

Gill Bold 6-line 4A, 5a [Lot 108] SOLD
Fair synopsis, but only one 'K'. (Some misplaced characters in the image.)
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/108_Gill_Bold_6-line.jpg

Gill Light 8-line 9A, 16a, F3 [Lot 109] £440
Stephenson Blake's version. Unusual to see Gill Light, which I think looks airy and modern. Large fount in excellent condition. Some cutouts, very neatly executed. 'l's and '1's are often difficult to differentiate with Gill (in some metal founts there are identifying tabs on the letters), but in this fount there really seems to be only one character which I presume is intended for 'l' and '1'.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/109_Gill_Light_8-line_(1).jpg
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/109_Gill_Light_8-line_(2).jpg
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/109_Gill_Light_8-line_(3).jpg

Gill Sans 8-line 2A [Lot 110] £120
DeLittle. Seems to have had very little use, although the synopsis is not brilliant.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/110_Gill_Sans_8-line.jpg

Gill Sans 12-line 2A [Lot 111] £100
Small, clean fount. One 'D' is badly damaged.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/111_Gill_Sans_12-line.jpg

Dom Casual (two founts below): is my favourite brush font. There are quite a few amusing logotypes, including a 'TT', which shows that the designer was expecting this font to be used with or without lower case.

Dom Casual 12-line 1A, 6a [Lot 136] £240
Clean, but only a small supply of capitals: no 'H' or 'Z', but a lot of lower-case.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/136_Dom_Casual_12-line.jpg

Dom Casual 16-line 2A, 6a [Lot 137] £320
Good condition. Capitals have only a fair synopsis: only 1 'D'.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/137_Dom_Casual_16-line.jpg

Unknown decorative 8-line 4A, 8a [Lot 139] £320
A 'Saxon' script, which is more practical than Light English Text in wood letter. Appears to be an amalgamation of a couple of founts, although the letter-forms look identical to me. Very printable, but dimensions are a bit flaky: needs a quite a lot of makeready.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/
139_Unknown_black_letter_(Saxon)_8-line.jpg

DeLittle 254 8-line [Lot 140] £160
Only 2 'H's and no question-mark. Otherwise good.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/140_Delittle_254_8-line.jpg

Unknown decorative 16-line 2A [Lot 141] SOLD
A 'half-outline' font (possibly 'Chromatic', but obviously not the same font as Lot 94). Presumably an optional second colour was available. Acceptable synopsis. Some damage. 'C' repaired with a proper old-maple insert.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/
141_Unknown_decorative_(Chromatic)_16-line.jpg

Böcklin 6-line 3A, 6a, 2F [Lot 143] £280
Nothing says 'continental' like this font. Wood Type Customs (Romania). Beechwood. Very little use indeed, as you can see.
(Currently $448 + p&p + VAT from Wood Type Customs.)
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/143_Bocklin_6-line.jpg

Tuscan 8-line 2A, 3F [Lot 158] £180
American Wood Type Co. (hence the dollar is the only currency sign). Remarkably clean. One 'S' is damaged, and there are only three pieces of punctuation, plus an oddment.
www.johnwoodwark.com/letterpress/pics/158_Tuscan_8-line.jpg