

The Monotype Chronicles

Key events in Monotype's history: people, technology, typefaces, company developments, and important industry developments

by Lawrence W. Wallis and Monotype Imaging staff

1844 – 1894

Tolbert Lanston, Ottmar Mergenthaler, and, Stanley Morison born.

1896 – 1906

Monotype issued first typeface; Monotype registered as trademark in US.

1907 – 1916

Business structure of Monotype consolidated; First formalised Monotype School established.

1917 – 1925

Monotype adopted the Anglo-American point system; F.W. Goudy appointed Art Director.

1926 – 1933

Monotype supercaster developed in UK; Perpetua, Gill Sans, Bembo, Times New Roman and Walbaum go on sale.

1934 – 1941

Frank Pierpont appointed to the Board of Monotype; Monotype offices in London destroyed by enemy bombing.

1942 – 1953

W.I. Burch died; Monotype Bulletin first appeared.

1954 – 1959

Monotype Filmsetters installed in US, UK and South Africa.

1960 – 1970

Monophoto 600 Filmsetter produced by Monotype.

1971 – 1981

Monotype Lasercomp launched; New Series of Monotype Recorders initiated after 10 year lapse.

1982 – 1991

Monotype ceased manufacturing of hot metal keyboards and casters; First PostScript type 1 fonts were issued; Monotype licensed 13 core fonts to Microsoft.

1992 – 1996

Agfa, Lexmark, and Hewlett Packard licensed Monotype typefaces for their printers; Monotype CD launched with over 2000 fonts; Font licensing on www.monotype.com began.

1997

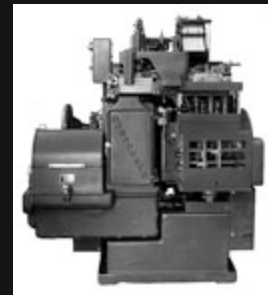
Monotype T-ShirtDesign Maker version 2.0 introduced - bundled with Lexmark inkjet printers. Custom versions of the software licensed to Xerox and REY & Co for European distribution in their t-shirt transfer paper packages.

Agfa acquires Monotype. Agfa and Monotype formally combine their resources and expertise to deliver a world-class font library and state of the art font technologies.



1844

Tolbert Lanston, the inventor of the Monotype hot-metal composition system, born on 3 February at Troy in Ohio.



1944

The Monotype Corporation Ltd. began research on the project that eventually brought forth the Monophoto Filmsetter. It was to remain an entirely British development.

1998

Monotype develops three new custom 'create and print' software products for International Paper's REY & Co division in Europe. Sybase ships Monotype's WorldType implementation of the first fully hinted font with complete Unicode 2.0 coverage.

1999

Agfa Monotype is created, forming the largest font company in the world dedicated to fonts and font technologies.

Agfa Monotype releases the Albany, Thorndale and Cumberland core set of fonts for new media devices. The New Media Core Fonts are designed for high legibility on low resolution devices such as computer screens and have the same font metrics and widths as the Windows core fonts providing document fidelity between Windows and other operating systems.

Arial Unicode, another WorldType Unicode implementation, ships with Microsoft Office 2000.

Agfa Monotype develops a custom software program for Lexmark that allows users to print Photo Calendars on their Lexmark inkjet printers.

Agfa becomes independent from Bayer and once again takes the name Agfa Corporation. Agfa Typographic Systems becomes Agfa Monotype Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Agfa Corporation.

2000

Agfa Monotype acquires International Typeface Corporation (ITC).

Corel licenses Albany and Thorndale families for use in their Linux OS and Office Suite to provide Corel customers with metric compatibility with the Windows core fonts.

A new font licensing and embedding model for the e-book publishing industry was introduced.

iType®, a highly compact, extremely portable font scaling technology, was announced. Designed particularly for smart Internet devices, iType gives OEMs the industry's fastest, highest quality solution for developing products that generate text for on-screen display.

IBM® selects UFST® (Universal Font Scaling Technology®) as the standard font platform for IBM and IBM subsidiary products.

2001

Hewlett-Packard® licenses Agfa Monotype's PostScript® Level 3-compatible font solution, allowing HP to provide its customers with fully compatible PostScript 3 fonts to use with HP LaserJet™ and Deskjet™ printers.

Fonts.com launches and almost immediately becomes the premier site for purchasing fonts on the World Wide Web by offering the most comprehensive selection of downloadable and licensable high-quality fonts available.

iType now includes font support requirements mandated by the Federal Communications Commission for closed captioning display on both analog and digital television systems.

2002

Apple® selects 19 TrueType® fonts from Agfa Monotype's Enhanced Screen Quality™ (ESQ™) font library, for use in the Mac OS X®, Apple's revolutionary UNIX™-based operating system.

Agfa Monotype joins the Swiss-based DVB™ (Digital Video Broadcasting Project™). The membership allows Agfa Monotype to provide input and expertise in the development of DVB font standards for digital television.

The two major Chinese-based standards groups – the Committee on Information Technology Standards (CITS) and the State Language Committee (SLC) – approve two Agfa Monotype multilingual fonts for distribution within the People's Republic of China (PRC).



1999

Ira Mirochnick (l), senior vice-president and Robert Givens (r), president of Agfa Monotype at Monotype's Elk Grove Village offices.

2003

Fontwise™, a state of the art font licence management service is launched.

Agfa Monotype acquires Eyewire.com™, a website servicing the high-end designer and font market.

Alliant™ Software, Inc., a new engineering services business providing software and integration services to device manufacturers, is launched.

2004

Agfa Monotype releases Japanese fonts and text rendering capabilities that support Japan's ARIB (Association of Radio Industries and Businesses) data coding and transmission specification for digital broadcasting.

Agfa Monotype licenses the Albany®, Cumberland® and Thorndale® families to Red Hat Inc., one of the world's top suppliers of open source technologies for the enterprise.

The Neo Sans™ and Neo Tech™ typefaces, designed by Agfa Monotype's Sebastian Lester, make their debut in the Monotype® Library.

MicroType® Express font compression technology is included in the latest MPEG-4 specification.

Agfa Monotype releases the new custom-designed Expert Sans™ typeface family to Barclays, one of the largest financial services groups in the UK.

Agfa Monotype is acquired by TA Associates in November and renamed as Monotype Imaging.

2005

The Eight Golden Rules of font software licensing are produced in an effort to make font licensing easier to understand for end users. Monotype Imaging works alongside Berthold Types, Dalton Maag, Fontsmith, Identikal, Microsoft and Shinn Type to bring forth a single source of information to help end users manage their font assets.

Monotype Imaging launches a new downloadable font counting tool to help businesses discover how many fonts are stored on their computers. Monotype Imaging's Fontwise® Web site and the Business Software Alliance's Software Asset Management Web site host the free tool.

Typefaces from the Monotype Library of more than 1,300 typefaces become available in the OpenType® font format.

2006

Monotype Imaging becomes the exclusive provider of Saffron rendering technology, setting the course for developing enhanced text rendering capabilities that meet increasingly sophisticated text requirements.

CD versions of the OpenType-based Monotype Library, the Adobe® Type Collection and the ITC® Library are introduced. The Monotype Library CD contains 1,496 typefaces, including 190 new typefaces and 574 that are exclusive to the collection. The OpenType version of the Adobe collection contains more than 2,900 typefaces on one CD, including more than 400 that are new to the collection. The ITC release features more than 1,650 typefaces in 1,320 OpenType files on one CD. One hundred new typefaces are included, in addition to more than 650 exclusive designs.

Monotype Imaging licenses its iType® font engine and WorldType® Layout Engine to QUALCOMM for its BREW® solution. The new technologies, which first become available to handset manufacturers, offer a standard framework to support scalable fonts and multilingual text layout capabilities.

Monotype Imaging debuts theme-based, scalable fonts engineered for optimal display quality on mobile phones. The fonts are later branded as ESQ® (Enhanced Screen Quality) Mobile fonts.

Monotype Imaging acquires Linotype GmbH, home of the Linotype® Library, which includes such widely used typefaces such as the Helvetica®, Frutiger® and Optima® designs. Linotype and its employees remain in Bad Homburg, Germany, and begin operations as a wholly owned subsidiary of Monotype Imaging.

2006 contd

Monotype Imaging acquires China Type Design Limited, a typeface design and production company based in Hong Kong. As a wholly owned subsidiary, China Type is chartered to help lead expansion into Asian consumer electronics and printer markets which require scalable, multilingual text solutions.

Monotype Imaging releases version 3.0 of its iType font engine and introduces the company's patent-pending SmartHint™ technology, which enables the clear display of scalable East Asian text. WorldType Layout Engine version 2.2 also makes its debut. The release rounds out support for all the major written languages of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

More than 100,000 font products are available for the first time from Monotype Imaging's Fonts.com™ store. Products range from single fonts to bundled packages in standard PostScript®, TrueType® and OpenType formats for Macintosh® and Windows® platforms.

Monotype Imaging's Fonts.com store launches eight payment options and 13 currency selections.

2007

Douglas J. Shaw is promoted from senior vice president to president and chief executive officer, succeeding Robert M. Givens, who retires. Givens remains as chairman of Monotype Imaging's board of directors.

The iType font engine is chosen as a reference component to ship within the Symbian™ operating system.

Among the typefaces released into the continuously expanding Monotype Library is the Soho™ family, available in the OpenType Pro format and consisting of 40 fonts in various weights and widths. The Soho design was created by Monotype Imaging's Sebastian Lester.

Monotype Imaging announces a multilingual collaborative project with Microsoft which results in new and extended fonts for the Microsoft 2007 Office solution and Windows Vista™ operating system.

Monotype Imaging unveils a suite of printer driver kits that support the Microsoft XML Paper Specification (XPS).

Monotype Imaging makes its text rendering technologies available to all QUALCOMM BREW operators, handset manufacturers, publishers, developers and content creators. In addition, the company introduces fonts available as BREW extensions, extending choice for stylistic, scalable type to enrich mobile offerings such as games, applications, services, user interfaces, advertising and multimedia content. Monotype Imaging's fonts become deployable to consumers over-the-air through BREW operators.

Monotype Imaging begins trading on July 25 as "TYPE" on the Nasdaq Global Market Exchange.