

Future is still unwritten

2000 A.D.–today

Nowdays, the type of book varies and so does the colophon. Through the implementation of the imprint and its legal role, the main information about datation and responsible people belong there.

The colophon contains today the information concerning realisation technique, printing and design. They can be found in bibliophile publications and are displayed in various designs.

Have a look at the colophon of this publication. You will see a brand new reference for contemporary colophon design there.

Always remember: the future is still unwritten!

A quick colophon time travel

Eine schnelle Zeitreise des Kolophon

All eyes on information

1900 A.D.

The colophon wanders from the title pages back to the end of the book. The main information is about type and printers names and locations.

The informational part gets far more important as the historical back dating or representation. Books are for everyone, and so are the information about “the type in which this book is set”.

- 15 Title page *Flächen Schmuck* by Koloman Moser, color lithography on paper, **1901**
- 16 Colophon and signet, *The Wild Orchid*, Sigrid Undset, New York, Alfred A. Knopf, **1931**
- 17 Signet of the *Malik* publishment, initials forming a pictogramme, **1916-1947**

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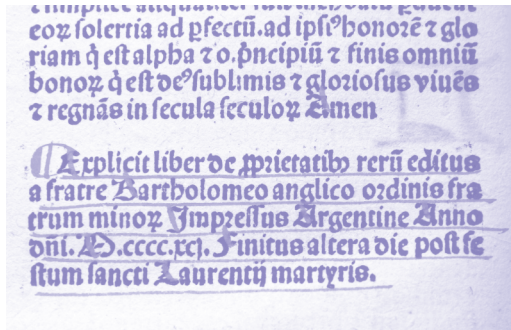
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The birth of letterpress

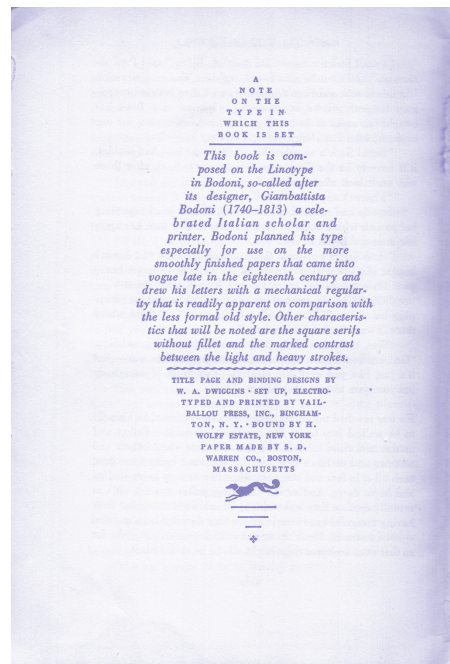
1400 A.D.

Imprint and colophon are mostly standing for themselves, detached from the title page. They were ornamented by the outstanding printers marks.

This expresses the importance of representation and protection from a copy.



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DER MALIK-VERLAG



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- 1 Colophon and printers mark, Johann Fust and Peter Schöffer in *The Mainz Psalter*, **1457**
- 2 Hand pressed print with facsimile colophon, *Mainz Psalter* of Johannes Gutenberg, **1457**
- 3 Colophon, *Calendarius* of astronomer from Königsberg, mathematician and publisher Johann(es) Müller (Regiomontanus, 1436–1476), **1478**
- 4 Explicit, *Liber de proprietatibus rerum*, Straßburg; Georg Husner, **1491**

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Let me entertain you

1800 A.D.

The innovations of the present Industrial Revolution offer more possibilities for printing and selling books. They develop from art and luxury products to sources of education for a bigger targetgroup.

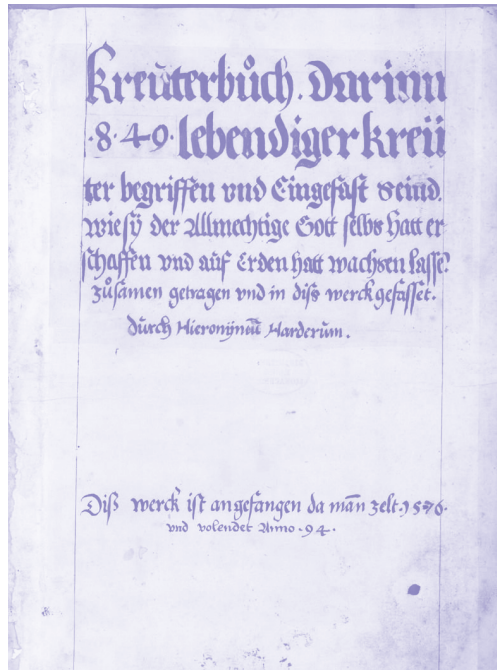
The focus develops from representation through illustration to spreading text for educational and entertaining purposes. At the end of the century, the first upcoming of the contemporary Art Nouveau style takes place.

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Cerpositio in Erodū, iurta quadruplicē sacre scripture sensum: literalē scilicet, moralem, allegoricum, ⁊ anagogicum: auctore fratre Guillelmo Depino, sacre Theologie p̄fessore, religiosi conuētus Ebroycē. ordinis P̄dicatorum alumno, ⁊ incolā.



Parisij, Apud Claudium Chevalloniū, sub Sole aureo, in via ad diuum Iacobum.
1534.



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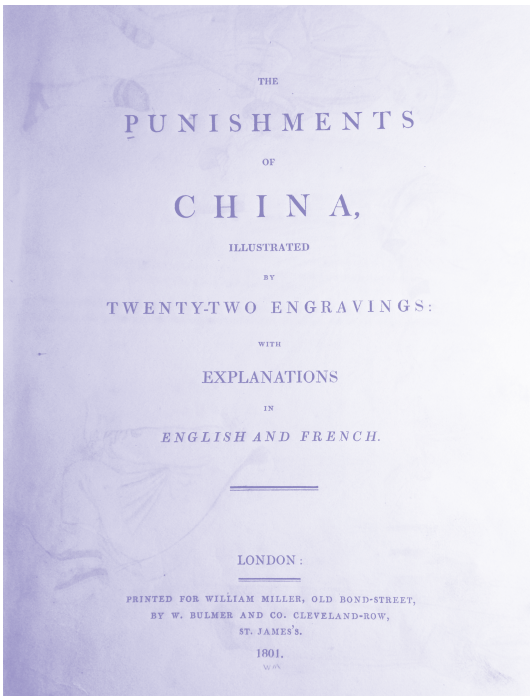
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- 13 Title with imprint; *The punishments of China*, illustrated by twenty-two engravings, with explanations in English and French, London, Printed for William Miller, Old Bond Street, by W. Bulmer and Co., Cleveland-Row, St. James's; 1801
- 14 Signet of the encyclopedian publisher Larousse, Eugène Grasset, 1890

The conquest of title

1500 A.D.

The printers information are often displayed as an imprint on the title page to give short but outstanding information about the origin of the publication and names relating to it. The printers marks are always present.



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- 5 Imprint and printers mark, *Expositio in Exodum iuxta quadruplicem Sacrae Scripture sensum literalem scilicet moralem, allegoricum et anagogicum*, Parisijs: apud Claudium Cheuallonium, **1534**
- 6 Title with colophon, *Davidis Chytraei Neue Sachssen Chronica: vom Jahr Christi 1500 biß auffß XCVII*, **1597**
- 7 Title with Colophon, *Herbarium vivum* of Hieronymus Harder, **1576-1600**

Storm and light

1700 A.D.

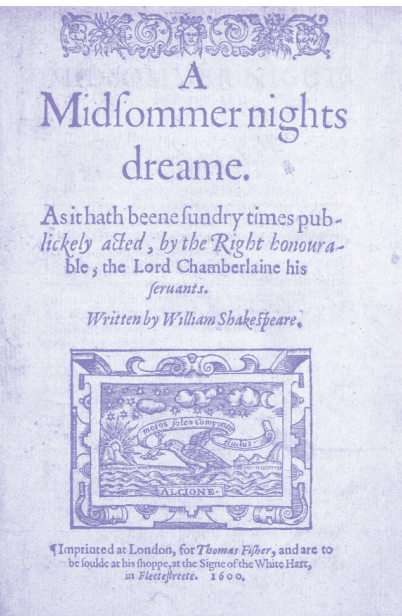
Right in the middle of a stormy time, education plays an important role. Various lexica and encyclopedias are made to understand the enlightened world better.

The text seems to gain more importance, the illustrations are affected by baroque, classicistic and romantic styles.

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11 Title with colophon, Johann Theodor Jablonski *Allgemeines Lexicon der Künste und Wissenschaften*, Leipzig, printed by Thomas Fritschen, 1721

12 Title with colophon, *Neueröffneter Musen-Tempel mit 60 auserlesenen Bildern/ welche das Allermerkwürdigste aus den Fabeln der Alten vorstellen/ ausgezieret: gezeichnet und in Kupfer gestochen durch Herrn Bernard Picart le Romain, und andere Kunstreiche Männer; Mit Deutlichen Erklärungen und Anmerkungen [...]*, Amsterdam, Zacharias Chatelain, 1754

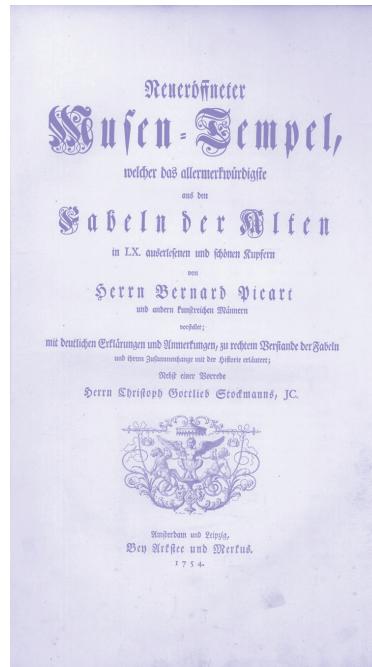
Ornament over text

1600 A.D.

This time is dominated by complex and beautifully illustrated printers marks. The popular themes are affected by the beginning of Enlightenment.

Ancient mythical figures and allegories conquer the stage. The picture seems more important than textual information.

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- 8 Title with imprint, W. Shakespeare, *A midsummer nights dreame.*, Thomas Fisher, **1600**
- 9 Illustrated title, colophon; *Argentorati, Sumptibus Hæredum Lazari Zetzneri, MDCXLV; 1645*
- 10 Title with colophon, *Verciert met af-beeldsels na't leven in America gemaekt, en beschreeven door Arnoldus Montanus, t' Amsterdam, 1671*

Let us travel in time.

A historival overview.

