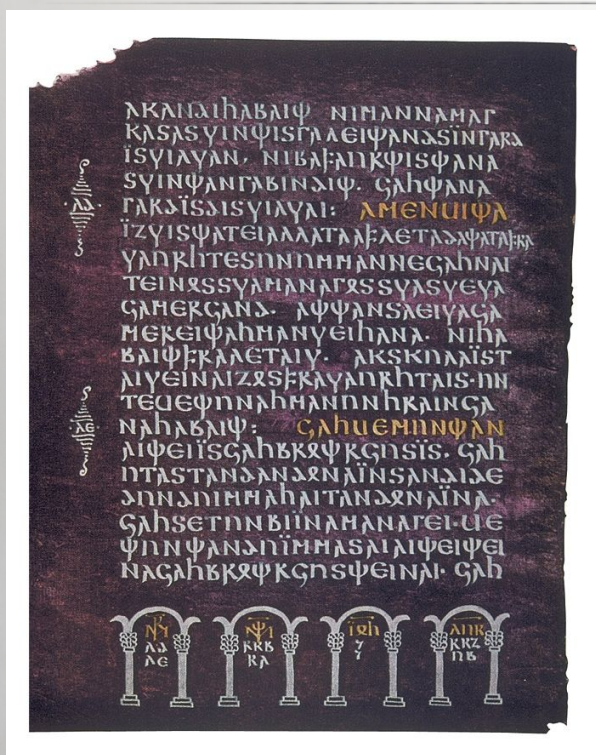




THE GOTHIC WRITING



Wulfila's bible translation



The Gothic alphabet is an alphabet for writing the Gothic language, created in the 4th century by Ulfilas (or Wulfila) for the purpose of translating the Bible.

Carolingian minuscule was the direct ancestor of blackletter. Blackletter developed from Carolingian as an increasingly literate 12th-century Europe required new books in many different subjects.



Folio 56r of the Aberdeen Bestiary, an early example of black letter from the 12th century



Page from a 14th-century psalter
(Vulgate Ps 93:16–21), with
black letter "sine pedibus" text

The name *Gothic*

The term Gothic was first used to describe this script in 15th-century Italy, in the midst of the Renaissance, because Renaissance Humanists believed it was barbaric. Gothic was a synonym for barbaric. Flavio Biondo, in *Italia Illustrata* (1531) thought it was invented by the Lombards after their invasion of Italy in the 6th century.

	Textur	Rotunda	Schwa- bacher
a	ɑ	Ɱ	Ɱ
d	ð	Ɱ	Ɱ
g	g	g	g
n	n	n	n
o	o	o	o
A	A	A	A
B	B	B	B
H	H	H	H
S	S	S	S

Forms of black letter

Textualis, also known as *textura* or Gothic bookhand, was the most calligraphic form of black letter, and today is the form most associated with "Gothic"

Schwabacher was a black-letter form that was much used in early German print typefaces. It continued to be used occasionally until the 20th century

Fraktur is a form of black letter that became the most common German black-letter typeface by the mid 16th century

Schriftbeispiel Frühling

Schriftbeispiel Maximilian

Schriftbeispiel Deutsche Fierschrift

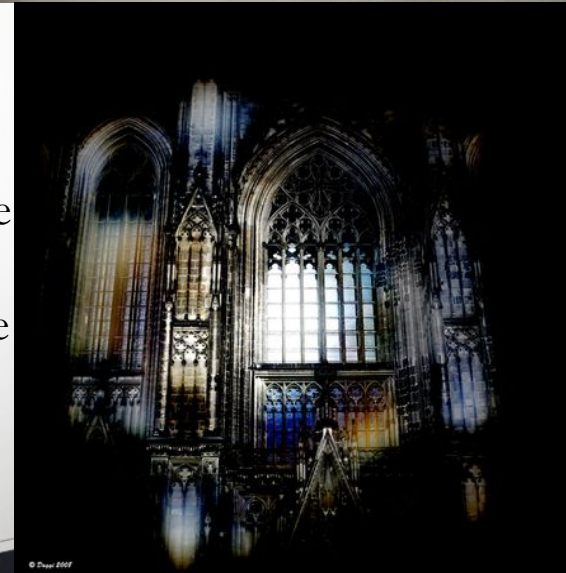
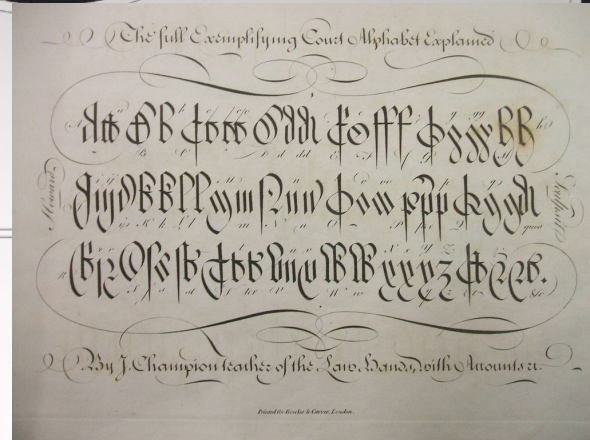
Schriftbeispiel Deutsche Anzeigerschrift

Schriftbeispiel Wilhelm-Klingspor-Schrift

Schriftbeispiel Wallau

Schriftbeispiel Claudius

However, Gothic lettering in one form or another has been used all over medieval Europe at different times. Basically, it derives from around the time when Gothic architecture was the predominant building style in western Europe, and the lettering does indeed share some characteristics with the architecture, such as a heavy emphasis on the vertical, lots of decorative elements, and an ornate regularity of style.



Scripts from 15th-century books

W

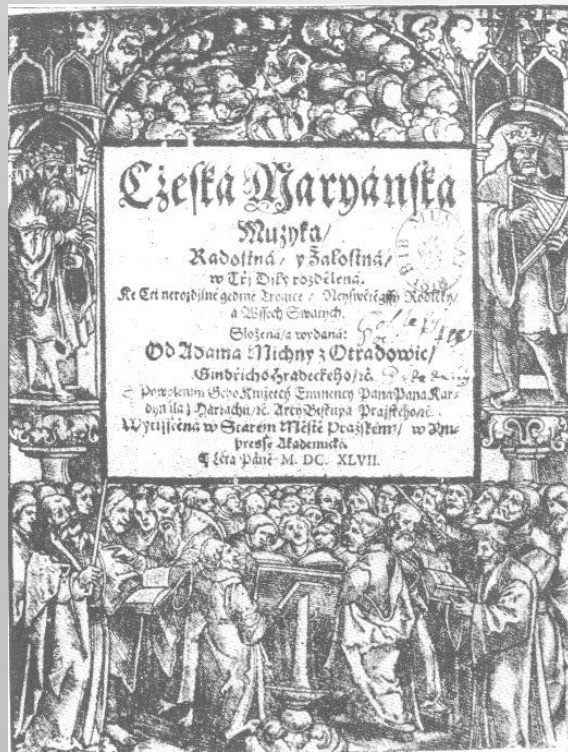
ie vnd in welcher weis vnd form die fünfzechen zaichen
kimen vor dem Jungsten tag: wil ich hienach sagen. Durch
grosser grundoser: parmherzigkeit vnd oberflüssiger liebun willē
die der allmerhig got zu allen menschen hat. So hat er geordi-
niet vnd gemacht. Das die nachgeschriben fünfzechen zaichen ge-
schehen sollen vor dem Jungsten tag: nach dem vnd das auch die ler-
er beschreiben. Also das alle element vnd geschepfte. von pitterlich

LAERTII DIOGENIS VITAE ET SENTEN-
TIAE EORVM QVI IN PHILOSOPHIA
PROBATI FVERVNT.

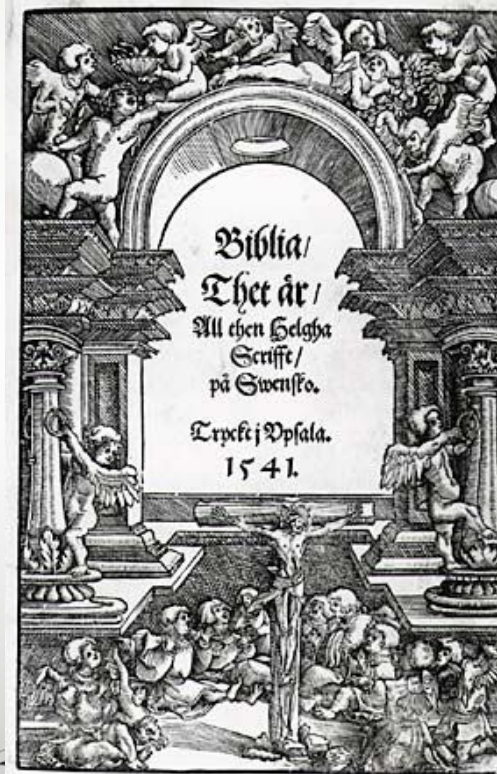


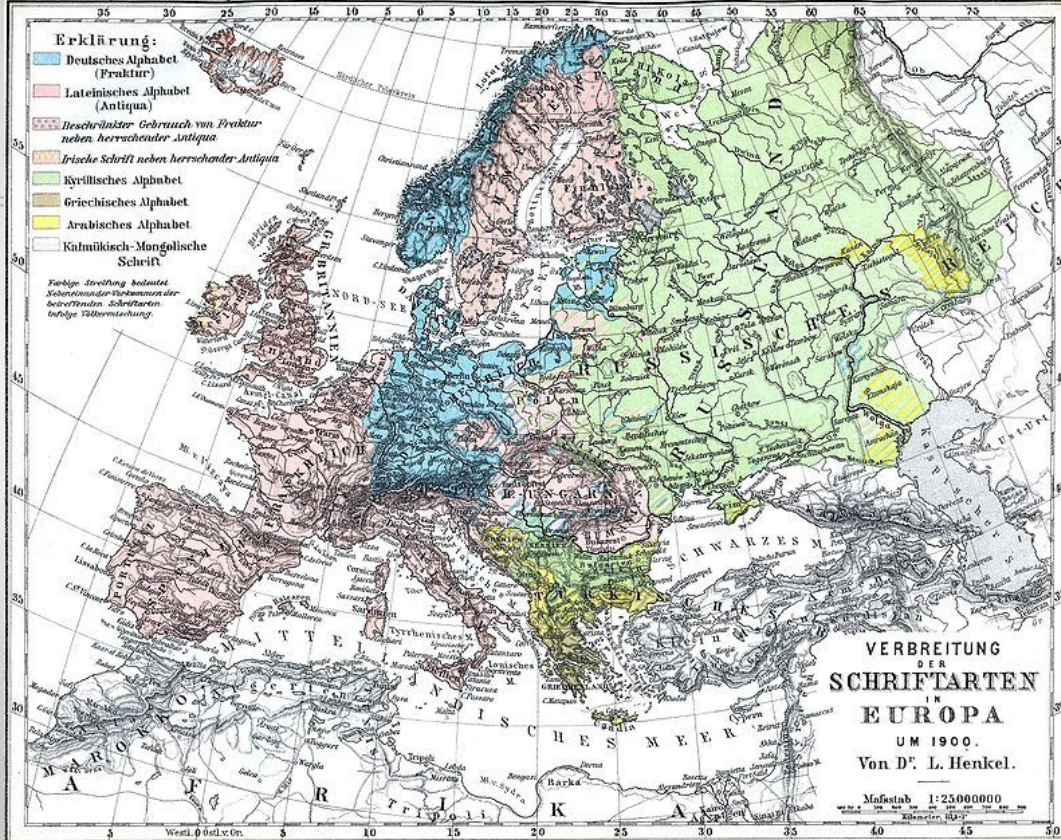
PHILOSOPHIAM A BARBA-
ris itia sūplisse pleriq; aurumāt.
Nanq; apud Persas claruisse Ma-
gos. Babylonis siue assyris eius rei
principes fuisse Chaldeos: Gym-
nosophistas Indis Celtis seu Gal-
lis Druidas & qui Semnothet ap-
pellabantur: qui ut ait Aristoteles
in Magico & Sotion in uigesimotertio successione hitor:
q; diuini humaniq; iuris peritissimi: ac praeterea religioni

A Czech example of Fraktur



Front page of Gustav Vasa's Bible from 1541, using Fraktur





DP&H red.

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1901

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