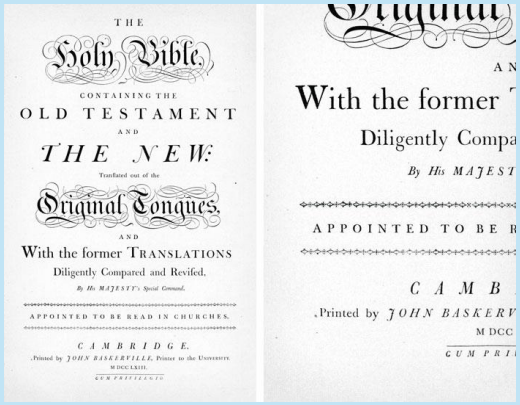
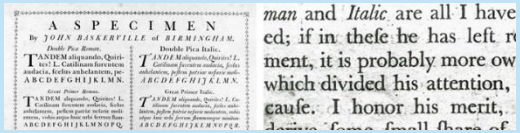
John Baskerville



- Bible that Baskerville recreated



- Closed up viewing of the Baskerville Old Face

Sources

- https://britainunlimited.com/john-baskerville/
- https://historywm.com/films/industry-and-genius-john-baskerville-the-beauty-of-letters
- https://collection.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/objects/co65542/john-baskerville-oil-painting-portrait
- https://www.pinterest.com/pin/176273772898472064/
- http://idsgn.org/posts/know-your-type-baskerville/

History:

John Baskerville 1706–75 was an inventor, entrepreneur and artist with a world-wide reputation who made eighteenth-century Birmingham a city without typographic equal. John Baskerville not only designed a typeface, which has become one of the world's most sleek and historically important typeface, he also experimented with casting type, improved the printing-press, developed a new kind of paper and refined the quality of printing inks. Yet despite his importance many aspects of his work remain unexplored. He also went to Sebright School.

Where was he born?

John Baskerville was born in England. He was born between 1705-1706. There is not a certain date.

Important facts:

- He worked as a writing master in Birmingham, teaching handwriting.
- Baskerville established himself as a printer in Birmingham.
- Baskerville pioneered a new style of typography, introducing wide margins and leading between each line.

Timeline:

- 1723: Originally Baskerville worked as a footman but by the age of seventeen he had become a writing master and engraver of headstones for graves working from the Bull Ring in Birmingham.
- 1738: John Baskerville starts a successful varnishing metals business in Birmingham which over the next ten years makes him a wealthy businessman.
- 1750: He begins to experiment with paper making, type founding, printing and the manufacture of printer inks.
- 1754: He produces his first new typeface with the help of his assistant cutter John Handy which is the one which now bears his name.
- 1757: Baskerville publishes his first printed work, an edition of "Aeneid" by the Roman poet Virgil at his house at Easy Hill, Birmingham.
- 1758: He becomes the printer to Cambridge University.
- 1762: He prints a copy of the Roman lyric poet Horace's works.
- 1763: Baskerville prints a copy of the Bible.
- 1764: He marries Sarah Eaves.
- 1769: He finds new energy and restarts his work on printing.
- 1770: The success of his second edition of Horace leads him to print a series of other Roman authors.
- 1773: His last great work of printing is "Orlando Furioso" by Lodovico Ariosto which was commissioned by French booksellers.
- It was not until 1917 that the quality of his type was recognized again in Britain and in 1953 the surviving printing pieces were presented to the University of Cambridge.

Creations:

- Baskerville Typeface
- Woven Paper