

*How To Become*  
**AN ALL-ROUND PRINTER**



The Kelsey Course of Printing Lessons  
Written So You Can Understand Them

Including the Complete  
PRINTER'S DICTIONARY

THE form of this printing course and the information in it are the result of over one hundred years' experience. During that whole period we have been supplying not only printing equipment, but detailed printing instruction books and guides which have enabled beginners to use it satisfactorily. We have received and answered thousands of letters on printing questions from press users, and these, also, have contributed to our understanding of what the new printer needs to know, as well as what his problems are. Each one of the lessons includes an instalment of Printer's Dictionary.



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*Learning to be***AN ALL-ROUND PRINTER***How This Course is Planned for You*

Since learning to print consists in doing as much as in reading, it seems best to assume that you have access to at least enough equipment so that you can make printed proofs. However, even if you have not, you will be able to follow the course and to learn, just the same.

The most important and fundamental details will be covered first. We will then go back, after you are acquainted with those, and cover each subject more thoroughly. In this way the study will be easier and more interesting.

The lessons are so divided that for the most part active lessons which require "doing" are alternated with those which contain general or specific information. We believe you will find them more interesting that way.

To those of you who have been through the first stages and perhaps a little further, these first lessons will be old stuff. However, review it to see how it checks with your own experience and be patient. The things you don't know and want to learn about will come soon enough.

If you are up on your terms, you will know that so-called letterpress is the only kind of printing most people hear about — that is, printing from raised letters, plates, etc., as contrasted with lithography (flat plates), steel and copper engraving (recessed plates, instead of raised — called intaglio) and offset (printing on a roller which in turn transfers to paper). The dictionary of printing terms will be carried through from lesson to lesson until it is completed. Most names and terms will be explained in the individual lessons, but you can refresh your memory from this dictionary if you forget.

But don't let the terms bother you — you'll pick those up as you go along.

The questions after each lesson have been formulated to help you find out for yourself just how much you have absorbed from it, of the kind you should know if you wish to be an all-round printer. Some of the informative material in the lessons does not appear in the questions, but we are confident that you will pay just as much attention to it as to parts you do require for answering them. Only in that way can you consider yourself well educated in your chosen calling or avocation. Remember that you are taking up the study of printing of your own free will, and unless you get all you can from this course you are cheating yourself out of its full benefits.

You are going to learn about and explore one of the most interesting crafts in business life, one which has fascinated men since long before the day of American printers' patron saint, Benjamin Franklin.

### *Some Helpful Tools to Use in Studying*

In printing, as in many other callings, nothing takes the place of practice. We strongly urge, therefore, that you have at least a small outfit, including a hand press, with which you can carry out the lessons. Many students in this course probably already have one.

Lacking this, we suggest that you obtain a few simple tools which will enable you to practice the fundamentals. Here is a helpful list:

- A font (package) of type. A case to hold the type.
- A chase (frame) for making up a printing form. If not a screw lockup, add 6 quoins and a quoin key.
- Furniture (wood blocking) sufficient to hold the type in the chase.
- A tube of black ink.
- A hand roller (brayer).
- A planer (smooth block of wood) for making a proof.
- A mallet (to tap the planer).
- A piece of felt (to put between the planer and the type form).
- A composing stick (to set the type in).
- A package of News White paper the size of the chase or larger (for proofs).
- A glass, or marble slab, or smooth piece of metal (for working up the ink).
- A pound of leads and a pound of slugs (these go between the lines of type).
- A strip of rule (for frames, underlining, etc.).
- A line gauge.

The type can be of any style which suits your fancy, but we recommend to begin with that you have a style good for cards, letterheads and such work, or a plain roman face such as these words are set in.

The case can be a small square,  $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ , as a space saver, or better yet, a standard  $16 \times 21$  (called two-thirds by printers) or the same in the so-called full size,  $16 \times 32$ . These last two will have the regular printer's arrangement, which will enable you to "learn the case." The small square case would have a strictly alphabetical layout.

The chase is a frame in which type is put in the press. Screw chases have screws along the edge which are tightened to hold the type forms. Plain chases without screws use wedges called quoins, with a "key" to "lock" or "unlock" the wedges. Quoins and key can be used in screw chases, too, and you may find it worth while to eventually get them for practice, big presses in most cases requiring them.

A type form for printing can be made up in a shallow tray called a galley instead of a chase, then tied up with string and printed impression taken. The practice of locking up the form is lost, however, if a galley is used instead of a chase.

Kelsey has inexpensive sets of furniture (wood blocking) made up to fill the respective sizes of chase. However, if desired, furniture may be bought in other forms, including yard lengths, and cut up as needed.

Unless you have home workshop equipment for making and testing a wood block for flatness, we recommend buying your hardwood planer. Any wood mallet, of course, will do. Don't use a carpenter's or other metal hammer — the possibility of damaging your type or other accessories is too great. The piece of felt should be of uniform thickness, and if you wish you can tack it over the bottom of your planer. Tacks should not be on the bottom, but on the sides or top. You can buy a felt bottom proof planer if you prefer.

Leads and slugs are metal strips which come in two foot lengths, but these may be purchased in labor saving fonts or assortments of standard cut sizes. If bought in strips they may be cut up with tin shears, or filed apart. They can be cut with scissors or ordinary shears, too, if you aren't fussy about the condition of the shears or scissors later. You'll hear about lead cutters made for the job later. Metal rule likewise comes in two foot strips, and can be cut the same way.

The line gauge is the printer's ruler, which has inches on one side, but on the other has measurements in picas and half picas (printers' measurement) with a projection at one end to make accurate use easy.

The Kelsey Printing Course will all be issued on sheets  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$  punched to fit standard loose leaf binders. You can obtain the right size binder at any stationery and most variety stores. Keep all your lessons and information sheets in the binder, for quick and ready reference.

