

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz fi ff fl ffi ffl & 1234567890

This rarely seen chancery cursive was created in 1929 by the noted English calligrapher, Alfred Fairbank. Easily read in mass, this unique and elegant italic type was initially produced to complement the Bembo roman font. However, as a new type design, it quickly proved to be too original, strong in personality, and independent for use as a ‘companion’ italic; it consequently was not produced in a wide range of sizes. The three sizes offered herein are frequently used for introductory or marginal notes, poems, and announcements. Used either alone or in combination with Bembo roman, this uncommon cursive italic readily generates a sense of typographic distinction and individuality.

FAIRBANKS ITALIC ABOVE: SET IN METAL, BELOW: DIGITAL

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Monotype Bembo is generally regarded as one of the most handsome revivals of Aldus Manutius’ 15th century roman type, but the original had no italic counterpart. The story is told that Stanley Morison commissioned Alfred Fairbank, a renowned calligrapher, to create the first italic for Bembo, which was released as metal fonts in 1929. Alfred Fairbank, however, claimed that he drew the design as an independent project and then sold his drawings to Monotype. According to him, “the statement has been made that I was asked to design an italic for the Bembo roman. This is not so. Had the request been made, the italic type produced would have been different.”