



18TH CENTURY REPLICA PRINTING

MANY Tracts and Pamphlets that I give away are scan'd copies of Originals that I own. They are made to the same size as the Originals. My Wife *Haley*, my Son *Gabriel*, and I give typically give them away at Colonial living history events. We enjoy revisiting and sharing our country's great spiritual Heritage, and plus, we believe many of the Sutlers enjoy something of eternal Value to read between Customers. Also, any Visitors whom we may meet would have a keepsake to take home with them.

The Medium that I use is from the *Neenab Paper Company*, 8 1/2" x 11" Classic Laid, Millstone color, 24 lb. text (imaging) paper, which seems as close to the original as I can find. I use a **LASER** printer to print them, and stain the edges and at least the front & back covers with coffee *after* they are printed. (Note: For an ink jet, the paper would have to be stained *prior* to printing.) I have found Coffee to give a better age color than Tea, which tends to redden it too much. Of course, a newly-printed 18th century Document would be nearly white, and not be aged or have foxing, but I do want to add at least a little Character to it, especially after its recipient takes it back to the 21st century.

This classic "laid" paper (that has a "bamboo" look) is the most appropriate for the 1700's. After 1790, "wove" paper became popular, which was not made on a course wire screen like laid paper, but pressed on a screen of thousands of interlocking little chains. What we call bond paper today is like this wove paper. Most so-called parchment paper of today is simply trying to imitate aged wove paper.

The binding thread that I use now is typically off-white or tan waxed lined thread. In the past, I have also used hemp cord from crafts stores (used nowadays to make bead bracelets). I have also used 3M cotton packaging cord, but it was too thick, and it didn't stain as well as the paper.

A Project that involves making a pamphlet from scratch, without having an original, can easily be done, as I have experimented with this myself. I recently made a 48-page booklet of the *Book of Proverbs*. It is not a Facsimile ; however, it is based on a book for

children circulated in the 1740's that contained the book of *Proverbs*, along with a Psalter, and the Sermon on the Mount.

First, research what would be an appropriate font. One suggestion is to try *E-bay* (www.ebay.com) to perform a search under the category of "antiquarian books" by typing 174* for anything 1740-1749, or type 175* for anything 1750-1759 in the title, and so forth. Many books for sale will be accompanied by some very detailed text photographs, especially for the highly priced books. Another suggestion is a *Library of Congress* website at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/rbpehtml/pehome.html>, which has detailed scanned documents and broadsides arranged by year.

For nearly anything in the mid to late 18th century, this will require some version of what is commonly known as *Caslon* font, named after *William Caslon*, who began marketing his slightly updated style of printing type to printing presses beginning in London about 1725. It has the characteristic long-s (an "f" that looks like an "f" without a right crossbar) that had been used since the 1500's. Below are several versions of Caslon or Pre-Caslon that can be found on the internet :

(a) "JSL Ancient" font, found at <http://www.shipbrook.com/jeff/typograf.html>. (pre-Caslon, best for the late 1600's). *Free download.*

(b) "Wyld" font, found at <http://www.orbitals.com/self/ligature/ligature.htm> (best for early to mid 1700's). *Free download.*

(c) "P22-1722" font, found at <http://www.myfonts.com/fonts/sherwood/p22-1722/> (best for early 1700's). \$39.95 for both Roman & Italicks. This font is bold, and works well only for small print. *This font imitates American Colonial, because it has a look of somebody who was using old equipment. It is good for small Text, but not large Text.*

(d) "Caslon Book" font, found at <http://www.waldenfont.com/product.asp?productID=1>. This is basically the same as the Wyld font. \$49.95 also includes Borders and many Woodcuts.

(e) "ITC Founders Caslon" font, found at <http://www.myfonts.com/fonts/itc/founders-caslon/fcaslon-twelve/>. Cost is \$42.00 for both Roman and Italicks. This is one of my Favorites, and probably

best fits anything 1740 to 1790. *This is what I'm using for most of this letter, and 'tis also what I used for my Proverbs booklet.*

(f) *IM Fell family of fonts* at <http://www.iginomarini.com/fell.html>. This is a complete set of six fonts, from small to large text, and has been well-researched! Free download, and good for 1680's to 1740's.

Whatever you choose, I would recommend as follows: printing each sheet out on white paper from a laser printer, taking the paper out, crumbling it up, smoothing it back out, and then scanning it on at least 500 dpi. (If you don't do a good job smoothing out the paper, you may have to put a weight on top of the scanner.) Although you will have to experiment a bit with this to get it just right, this is the only process to my knowledge that will give you text a worn, uneven look like that from a hand press. This is a much better technique than just simply copying it over and over and over. You should desire an uneven look, but one that looks CRISP and SHARP, not dull and blurry. I would recommend scanning it into some type of grayscale. (I use 8-bit gray scale on my Epson scanner.) This way you can adjust the brightness and contrast after you have scanned it. When you get it the way you want it, convert it to a Monochrome (black & white only) Bitmap, as this requires the least storage space. You will have to go into the Bitmap file and clean up a few areas that are either too dark or too light. However, you should allow a few little black specks here and there. That's how a hand-pressed document would look.

This aforementioned Process may seem laborious, but I believe it will establish your work at a higher standard of Authenticity. While you may be careful to select the perfect computer-generated font, if every letter on the computer-printed page looks the same, then it will look exactly that, i.e. – **COMPUTER-GENERATED**. An old hand-press made every letter look just a little different, because every letter block *was* a little different. The paper was never exactly even; the ink was never applied exactly the same; the pressure on the press block was never exactly symmetrical; and the composing sticks were never exactly set perfectly aligned. The result is something that did *not* look computer-generated, but I believe that was part of the beauty of it!

Through your research, you may also come to appreciate other Distinctives of 18th century Printing, to name a few:

- (1) The "Catchword" on the bottom right corner of each page (to forecast the first word on the next page);
- (2) The signatures (A, A2, A3, A4, B, B2, &c) on the bottom of each facing page of an eight or sixteen-page grouping;
- (3) The use of connected lower-case letters or "Ligatures" (ff, ffi, ffl, ct, fi, & fh);
- (4) The liberal Amount of Capitalization of common Nouns (mostly before 1750); and
- (5) The *Italicizing* of particular proper Names and Places. Note that Numerals and Years are never italicized in text print (but may be for plate printing)

You will also have to decide how large to make your booklet. Will it be on half pages, or on quarter pages? Half pages can be folded in groups of 8, 12, or 16 pages. For an 8-page fold, page 1 and page 8 will print on one side, and page 2 and page 7 on the other side, &c, &c. Page One is the signature "A" page (but since 'tis often a title page, this signature will not be printed). Page 3 will have "A2" on the bottom. Beginning with the next section, page 9 will have a "B", and page 11 will have a "B2", and so forth. A 12-page grouping will go through A3, and a 16-page grouping will go through A4. *Microsoft Publisher* makes this 8, 12, or 16-group printing easier, but with some forethought, it can probably be done with any other word processing software.

I highly recommend a tutorial about the correct use of the long-s and ligatures at www.orbitals.com/self/ligature/ligature.htm. I also recommend a small booklet, entitled *The Printer in Eighteenth-Century Williamsburg*, for \$3.95 plus shipping from Colonial Williamsburg at <http://www.history.org/Publications/books/index.cfm?subcatidffi42>.

I hope this Information will assist you. I would be happy to answer any Particulars. Most of all have fun. Again, call me or email me if you desire, for I am,

Your obedient Servant,

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