



CARL DAIR graphic design at the studio on Scott Drive, Richvale, Ont. telephone Thornhill: AVenue 5-1869

the eighteenth of March.

Dear Al:

Thanks for your two most recent letters, and my apologies for not having answered your earlier one before now.

I imagine the Albion will arrive soon, though the problem of housing it is still not solved... the studio house is still on the architect's drawing board. Thanks again for all your work! And for the gift, shall we say?

Now about type:

Cancellaresca: van Krimpen advises me that the kerns are delicate, and that one combines the 12pt Bomulus with the 16pt Cancellaresca, the latter either an inconvenience in the matter of leads, or of expense in getting the 12 cast on a 16 body. I think those factors rule it out.

Poliphilus & Blado: The most important consideration here is the fact that it is not a foundry face, and Monotype in smaller sizes is not sturdy enough for case setting and distribution. Aside from that, there are several design features that render it something less than perfect... the narrow a instead of a, very poor fitting of some letters, and the annoying inner serif on the upper left join of the cap N.

Palatino: Stempel do make this as a foundry face, and it has been adapted for Linotype. I agree with your criticism of the s, but I think I would ask them to cut an s. Most



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of the other letters I find elegant in the Palatino italic, while the roman has a rich character, again excepting the s.

Athenaeum: At present I have only seen isolated caps, and they are so beautiful that I have asked Nebolo to send specimens of the face. I have a reply stating that showings are coming by boat mail. You might look it up in London and comment. I am surprised that Berry & Johnson do not show it!

I think that the problem of purchasing types for a private press requires consideration from several angles:

1. It must be a foundry type.
2. It must be unique in that it is not available, particularly in the area in which the press operates.
3. Without affecting its legibility, it should have some slightly mannered letters so that a page from the press has a distinctive flavour that identifies it to the casual bibliophile.
4. House style in the size and characteristic leading: and here is where I feel that I personally would like to attempt a revival of the italic style, in which case, only the roman caps would concern me! Those caps would have to be less high than the lower case ascenders, as in Aldus. The size should be large... at least 14 pt.

Well, that problem is still a ways off, though it is much in my mind. In the meantime... studio house, cases & racks, etc., etc.



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3.

Many cheers for Nan, both a mater^(to be) and a potter!
Good luck, Nan.

Thanks for picking up the Gill for me. What
do I owe you?

Well, my lunch hour is over, and press of work
prevents me from commenting on all the other
items of interest in your letters.

My kind regards to B.W. when you see her. . .

best,

Carl.