Fraktur

Germany "How to" Guide, Beginner Level: Instruction

November 2015

GOAL

This guide will teach you how to recognize letters in the *Fraktur* font so that you will be able to read important reference materials critical to research in Germanic areas of Europe.

INTRODUCTION

Fraktur is the term used to describe the old German typesets. These typesets developed from medieval calligraphy. This style is still used today to evoke an old-world European feeling, for example, in advertising. *Fraktur* was in use in most German language publications until 1941. Any publication before that time will be set in *Fraktur* and may be difficult to read without an understanding of the basic shapes of the letters.

HOW TO

There is an excellent English-language Wikipedia page describing the history and use of *Fraktur*. There are also several examples of the *Fraktur* alphabet which will be helpful for you to refer to as you learn to read it. Please read this page carefully as the instruction contained there will not be repeated in this guide.

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fraktur

For additional information and examples of *Fraktur* or "gebrochene Schrift" (broken script) visit the following German language Wikipedia pages. If you use the Google Chrome web browser, you can right-click on the page and select "Translate to English".

- https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fraktur_(Schrift)

- https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gebrochene_Schrift

- https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fraktursatz

Brigham Young University has created a website dedicated to teaching prospective researchers about the German typed and written letters. At the following link, you will find a brief overview of *Fraktur* and a sample of the alphabet that you may want to print for reference as you continue to the activity portion of this guide. By clicking on the letters, you can see a detailed description of the characteristics of the letter, as well as sample words containing the letter so you can practice recognizing it in context.

- https://script.byu.edu/Pages/German/en/fraktur.aspx

PRACTICE

Follow the link below:

https://script.byu.edu/Pages/German/en/alphabet%20descriptions%20type.aspx

Read the description of each letter and look at the examples of the letters in context.

For extra practice, look carefully at all the letters in the context examples to practice reading whole words. The answers are right there on the page, so you shouldn't get lost.

ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this "How to" Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you've mastered the Guide! Click here to try out the Activity.