

**F**<sup>REEMAN</sup> GAGE DELAMOTTE was an artist, photographer and wood engraver. His father was the landscape painter William De La Motte. His brother, Philip Delamotte, was one of the first documentary photographers.

He published three successful alphabet books. Most of his lettering is typical of the Victorian tradition that adds ornament to simple silhouettes.

He was born at Sandhurst in 1814, and died in his London studio in 1862.

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## **F Delamotte** Examples of **Modern Alphabets** Plain and Ornamental

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## Contents

Original cover	7
Advertisement	9
Original title page	11
Ornamental	13
Egyptian for Carving	15
Egyptian	17
Spurred Letter	19
Tuscan	21
Ornamental Fleur de Lis	23
Large Old English Riband	25
Small Old English Riband	27
Imitation Saxon	29
Riband Letter	31
Italian Shaded	33
Small Italian	35
Roman Shaded, various	37
Egyptian	39
	41
Ornamental German, Small	43
Ornamental	45
Italic	47
Gothic, Large	49
Gothic, Small	51
Egyptian, Shaded	53
Perspective Italian	55
Rustic	57

Deretie	
Rustic	59
German Riband, Large	61
German Riband, Small	63
Roman Shaded	65
Perspective Italic	67
Pearl Letter	69
Large Relief	71
Small Relief	73
German Arabesque	75
Roman Analytical, Large	77
Roman Analytical, Small	79
Italic	81
Ornamental Riband	83
Ornamental Riband, Small	85
Ornamental Riband, Small	87
Examples of Letters	89
Old English Analytical, Large	91
Old English Analytical, Small	93
Italic Shaded	95
Italian, Large and Small	97
Velvet Letter	99
Hebrew andf Greek	101
Examples of Letters	103
Examples of Numerals	105
Engrossing and Court Hand	105
Example Alphabet	109
Advertisement	-
	111







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## Examples of Modern Alphabets Plain and Ornamental

There was a time when Victorian letterforms were new and inspiring.

 $T^{\rm HIS}$  BOOK shows alphabets made from shrubbery and decorated with foilage. It plays with three-dimensional letters and drop shadows. Some are woven and interlaced.

All this was rejected and abandoned by generations that followed. Now it is back. We embraced decorated letters as soon as digital tools made them available again.

In its time, Freeman Gage Delamotte's work was eagerly studied by draughtsmen and surveyors, masons, decorative painters, lithographers, engravers and carvers. It was practical and it was successful.

As a sampler of nineteenth-century tradition in ornamental letters, few books can equal it.

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