

**Meta-METAFONT:
An Exhibit at The Cooper Union, NYC**

Alan Hoenig

The Herb Lubalin Study Center of Design and Typography of The Cooper Union (41 Cooper Square, New York, NY 10003) featured an exhibit on **METAFONT** from March 3 to April 4 of this year. I discovered this fact well after the April 4 termination date, so this is only a second-hand report. The curator of the Lubalin Center, Ms. Ellen Lupton, would like this to be a travelling show, and one reason for this report is to whet the appetites of any institutions who might wish to host this show.

The show concentrated on the humanistic nature of **METAFONT**, rather than upon its mathematical underpinnings. The exhibit consists of text drawn from a series of articles by Don Knuth, Douglas Hofstadter, and Geoffrey Sampson published in the journal *Visible Language* between winter 1982 and winter 1985, and is illustrated with work done by Neenie Billawala of Stanford and Georgia K.M. Tobin of The Metafoundry.

This exhibit will appear in an abbreviated form from July 12 through July 19 at the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ, and will also be in Edinburgh, Scotland, later this summer; dates and exact location are unavailable. For further information, contact Ellen Lupton directly at the above address or by phoning her at (212) 254-6300, ext 211. She also solicits institutions who would be interested in guest-hosting the exhibit.

Editor's note: The following quote, and the illustrations on this page, are from the "poster" describing the exhibition; the illustrations were created by Neenie Billawala, Stanford University, and are typical of her experiments with **METAFONT**.

Metafont, as Knuth describes it, has a humanistic mission; its value is not so much in the variety it may offer consumers, but in the discipline it offers designers. The Lubalin Center is not so interested in the final 'look' of Metafont. We are interested in Metafont as an open, unfinished method for making and thinking about letters. The specific language **METAFONT** is under continuous revision; the concept of a *meta-font* provides a frame for questioning the history and spirit of letters.

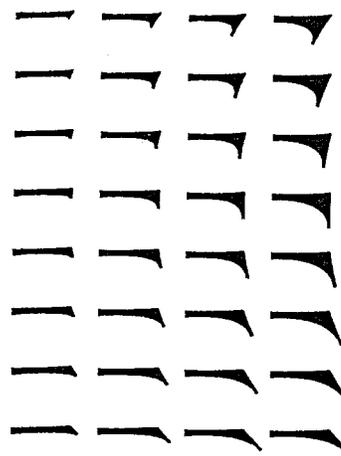
Output Devices

Addenda to the Output Device Charts

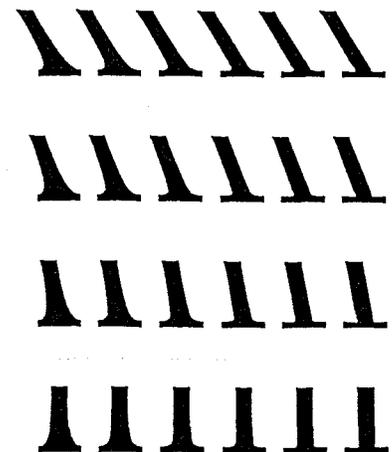
The charts giving information on interfaces between computers and output devices are being omitted from this issue, since almost no changes have been received since their publication in the last issue of TUGboat. The following new information can be added to the existing charts.

MPAE Max-Planck-Institut für Aeronomie
HP 9000 Series 500 with HP LaserJet Plus
Helmut Kopka, [49] 5556-41451
Bitnet: MI040L@DG0GWD01

T A&M3 Texas A&M
Commodore Amiga with previewer,
QMS Kiss laser printer
Norman Naugle, 409-845-3104



Terminal serifs with varying heel softness and terminal angle.



Serifs with varying mid-bracket pull and stem slant