ANTIQUE FONTS

Plumb Bob

A free 1920s newspaper serif traced letter by letter from The Carpenter, the union magazine of America's carpenters, with up to four printed versions of every letter.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
0123456789 & ? !“ ”

STYLE	Serif · Slab Serif	ERA	Art Deco
SOURCE	The Carpenter, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Indianapolis, December 1926 and September 1927	ORIGINAL TYPE	Ionic No. 5 (probable), Mergenthaler Linotype Company, Brooklyn, 1925
CHARACTERS	94 characters · 221 glyphs	VERSION	1.000

CAPITALS

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN
OPQRSTUVWXYZ

LOWERCASE

abcdefghijklmnopqrst
uvwxyz

NUMERALS, PUNCTUATION & SYMBOLS

0123456789
!"#$%&'()*,-./:;=?@[]·——“”’•…

LIGATURES, AS IN THE MAGAZINE

fi ff fl ffi ffl

F + I F + F F + L F + F + I F + F + L

NOT INCLUDED

- Accented letters (é è à ñ ü ç and others)
- § ¶ † ‡ (section and footnote marks)
- £ ¢ ½ ¼ ¾ © ° + ×
- Bold and italic styles

Four printed versions of every lowercase letter (three of q) and three of most capitals (two of K and V; one each of Q, X and Z, the rarest letters in the magazine). Each variant comes from a different page and was checked against its main letter's weight. With Contextual Alternates on, as it is by default, Plumb Bob rotates through them as you type.

LOWERCASE · EVERY PRINTED VERSION

	MAIN	SET 1	SET 2	SET 3		MAIN	SET 1	SET 2	SET 3
a	a	a	a	a	n	n	n	n	n
b	b	b	b	b	o	o	o	o	o
c	c	c	c	c	p	p	p	p	p
d	d	d	d	d	q	q	q	q	q
e	e	e	e	e	r	r	r	r	r
f	f	f	f	f	s	s	s	s	s
g	g	g	g	g	t	t	t	t	t
h	h	h	h	h	u	u	u	u	u
i	i	i	i	i	v	v	v	v	v
j	j	j	j	j	w	w	w	w	w
k	k	k	k	k	x	x	x	x	x
l	l	l	l	l	y	y	y	y	y
m	m	m	m	m	z	z	z	z	z

CAPITALS · EVERY PRINTED VERSION

	MAIN	SET 1	SET 2
A	A	A	A
B	B	B	B
C	C	C	C
D	D	D	D
E	E	E	E
F	F	F	F
G	G	G	G
H	H	H	H
I	I	I	I
J	J	J	J
K	K	K	K
L	L	L	L
M	M	M	M
N	N	N	N
O	O	O	O
P	P	P	P
Q	Q	Q	Q
R	R	R	R
S	S	S	S
T	T	T	T
U	U	U	U
V	V	V	V
W	W	W	W
X	X	X	X
Y	Y	Y	Y
Z	Z	Z	Z

OPENTYPE FEATURES

FEATURE	WHAT IT DOES	ON BY DEFAULT
Contextual Alternates (calt)	Cycles each letter through its printed versions, based on the letter before it	Yes
Standard Ligatures (liga)	fi, ff, fl, ffi and ffl joined as in the magazine	Yes
Stylistic Set 1 (ss01)	Switches every letter to its 2nd version	No
Stylistic Set 2 (ss02)	Switches every letter to its 3rd version	No
Stylistic Set 3 (ss03)	Switches lowercase to its 4th version	No

Apps without OpenType support show only the main version of each letter.

72 PT

Plumb Bob

48 PT

The Carpenter, 1926

30 PT

The Five Day Week

20 PT

Advanced Roof Framing, Lesson V

14 PT

Editorial · Correspondence · Craft Problems · Official Information

TEXT SETTINGS

8 ON 9 PT · THE SIZE PRINTED IN THE MAGAZINE

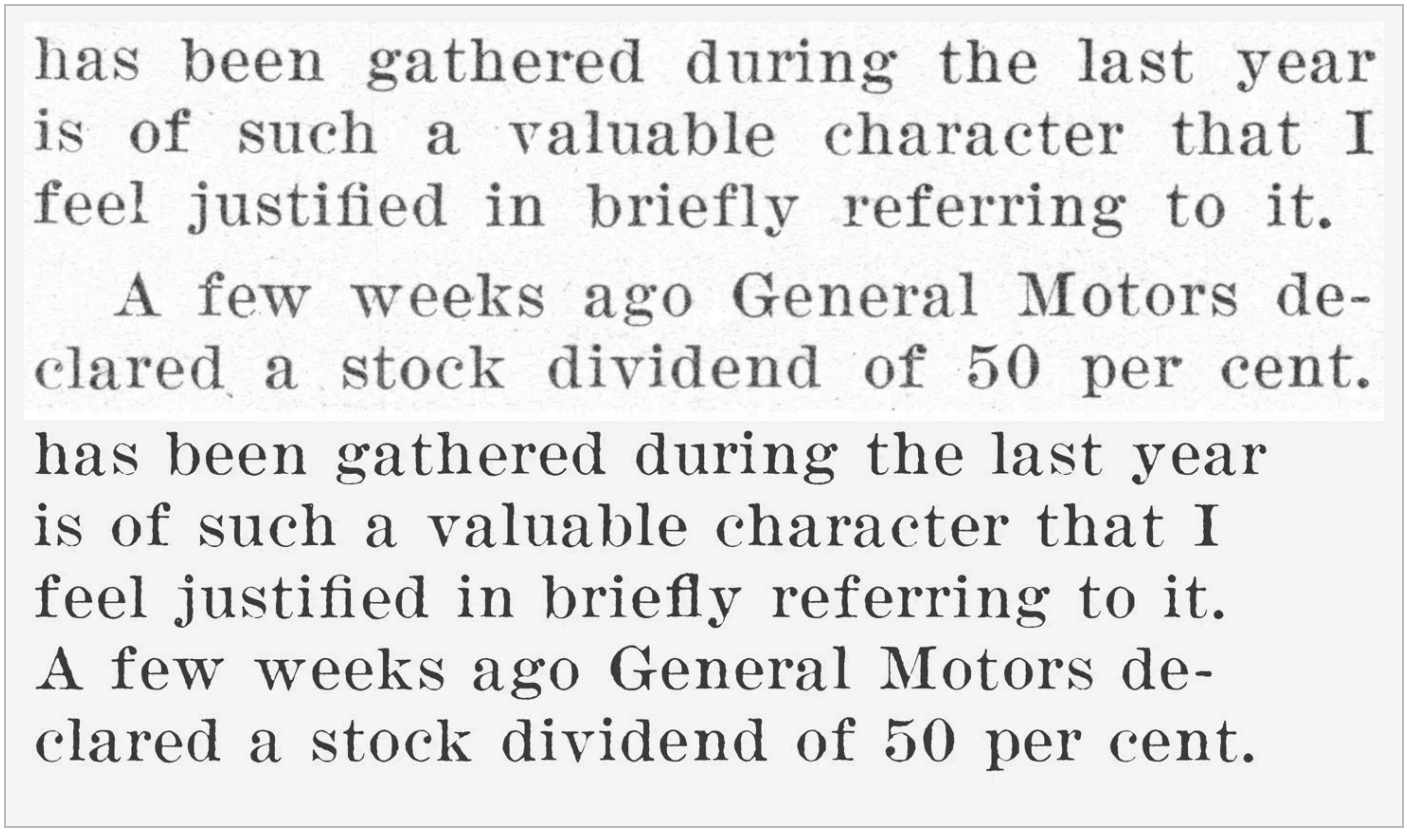
Last year the convention of the American Federation of Labor adopted a policy relative to a basis for wages which has had a considerable bearing upon the question of production. The action taken led to a new departure on the part of the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. For many, many years our movement has relied upon that department for statistics indicating fluctuations in the cost of living.

11 ON 13 PT

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16 ON 20 PT

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TOP: THE ORIGINAL PAGE, CLEANED. BOTTOM: THE SAME TEXT SET IN PLUMB BOB AT THE SAME SIZE AND LEADING.

FROM THE MAGAZINE

The Carpenter. United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Indianapolis, December 1926 and September 1927.

The original type is most likely Ionic No. 5, a newspaper face designed by Chauncey H. Griffith and released by the Mergenthaler Linotype Company in 1925. Set beside Linotype's own specimen of the face, the magazine's type shares its unusually large x-height and short ascenders, its low contrast, its short, sturdy bracketed serifs and ball ends, and the same set of ligatures, ffl included. One letter differs: the magazine's J drops below the line, while the specimen's sits on it. That could be an alternate matrix or a close relative from another maker, so our confidence is good rather than certain. Century Expanded, the other usual choice for 1920s magazines, has longer ascenders and more contrast and does not fit.

WHERE EACH GLYPH CAME FROM

204 of Plumb Bob's 218 drawn glyphs are real impressions from the magazine. The other 14 were rebuilt because the magazine never prints them; drawn parts use stroke widths measured from the real letters and the same mottled ink texture.

Free for personal and commercial use. Plumb Bob is released under the SIL Open Font License 1.1. Use it for anything; just don't sell the font files on their own.

A link back to antiquefonts.com is greatly appreciated. Made something with Plumb Bob? We'd love to see it: hello@antiquefonts.com