Preserving ATypI's Legacy: A Call for Support

At GRANSHAN, we are dedicated to fostering the appreciation and advancement of typography across languages and cultures.

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Why GRANSHAN Supports This Initiative

At GRANSHAN, we are dedicated to fostering the appreciation and advancement of typography across languages and cultures. A key part of that mission is recognizing and preserving the historical milestones that have shaped our field. One such milestone is the history of ATypI (Association Typographique Internationale), an organization that has played a fundamental role in global typography for over 70 years. By supporting this documentation project, we contribute to safeguarding the knowledge that has influenced type design, ensuring it remains accessible for future generations.



[Photo by Michelle Mengsu Chang, at the Face/Interface conference at Stanford University, January 2025

The Project in Brief

The history of ATypI is, in many ways, the history of modern typography itself. Founded in the 1950s to address the challenges of new typesetting technologies, ATypI has since become a key forum for typographers, type designers, and educators worldwide. Recognizing the importance of documenting this legacy, a former ATypI President and expert in type history began researching and writing an in-depth historical account of the organization in 2018. The work led to the discovery of forgotten

archives and the completion of an initial chapter, which was presented at the 2019 ATypI conference in Tokyo. However, due to the pandemic, the project was put on hold, leaving its completion uncertain.

What Is Needed and How You Can Help

To complete this important work, a GoFundMe campaign has been launched to support further research, writing, and final publication. Without financial backing, there is a risk that this invaluable history will remain incomplete and inaccessible.

We invite the global type community to help bring this project to fruition by contributing or spreading the word:

https://gofund.me/4b7f5e16

Every donation, no matter the size, directly supports the continuation of this research. Even if you are unable to contribute financially, sharing this campaign with others in the typography and design community is an equally meaningful way to help.

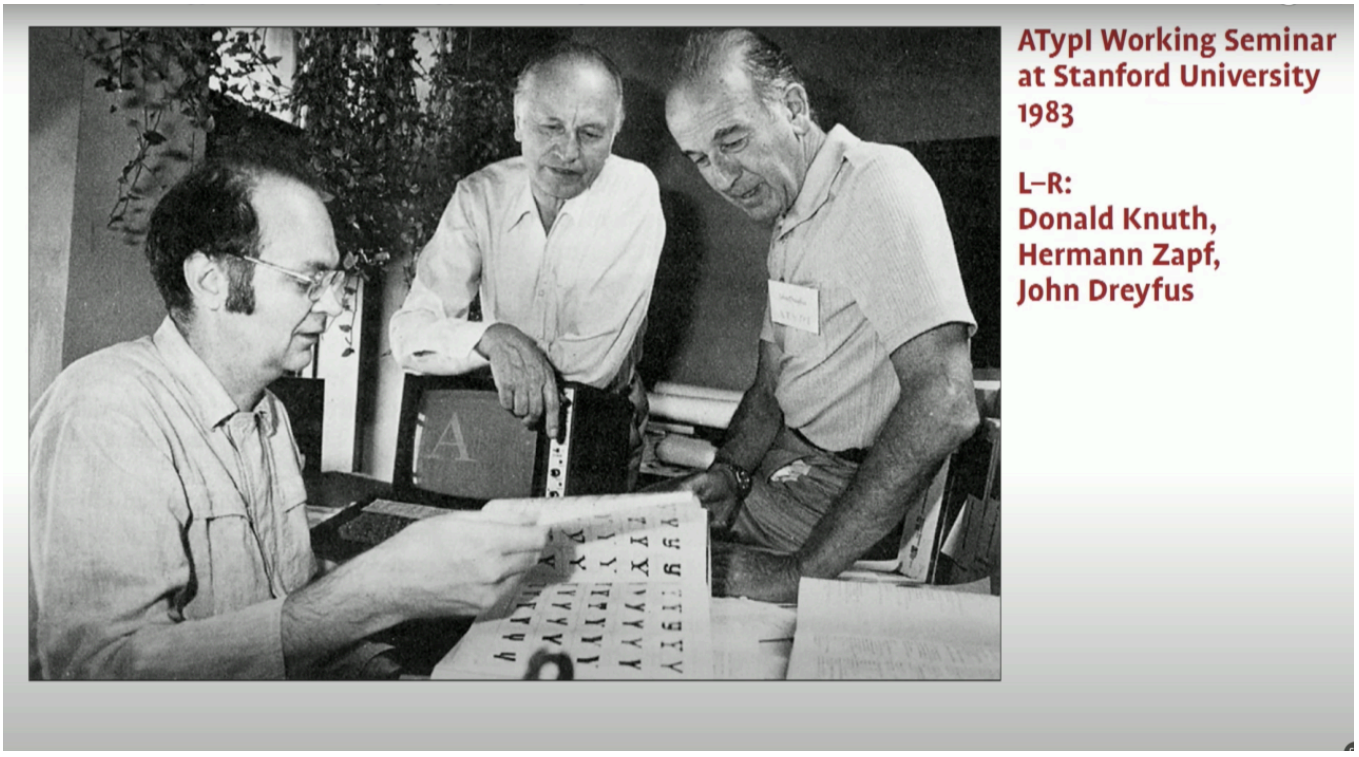


ATypI abbreviation over the years

Why This Matters

Understanding ATypI's past provides a crucial perspective on the evolution of type design. The organization was founded in response to the growing ease of typeface reproduction, a challenge that continues to shape discussions around intellectual property and creative rights today. From its origins as a European initiative to its current role as a truly international platform, ATypI has influenced typography in profound ways.

This project is more than just a historical record—it is an essential resource for anyone passionate about typography. It offers insights into the forces that have shaped our industry and provides a foundation for the future of type design and education.



Atypi working seminar at Stanford University 1983

If this seems worthwhile to you, please contribute. And please let others know about this campaign. Let's work together to ensure that this critical history is documented and preserved for generations to come.

For donation, please visit: https://gofund.me/4b7f5e16

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