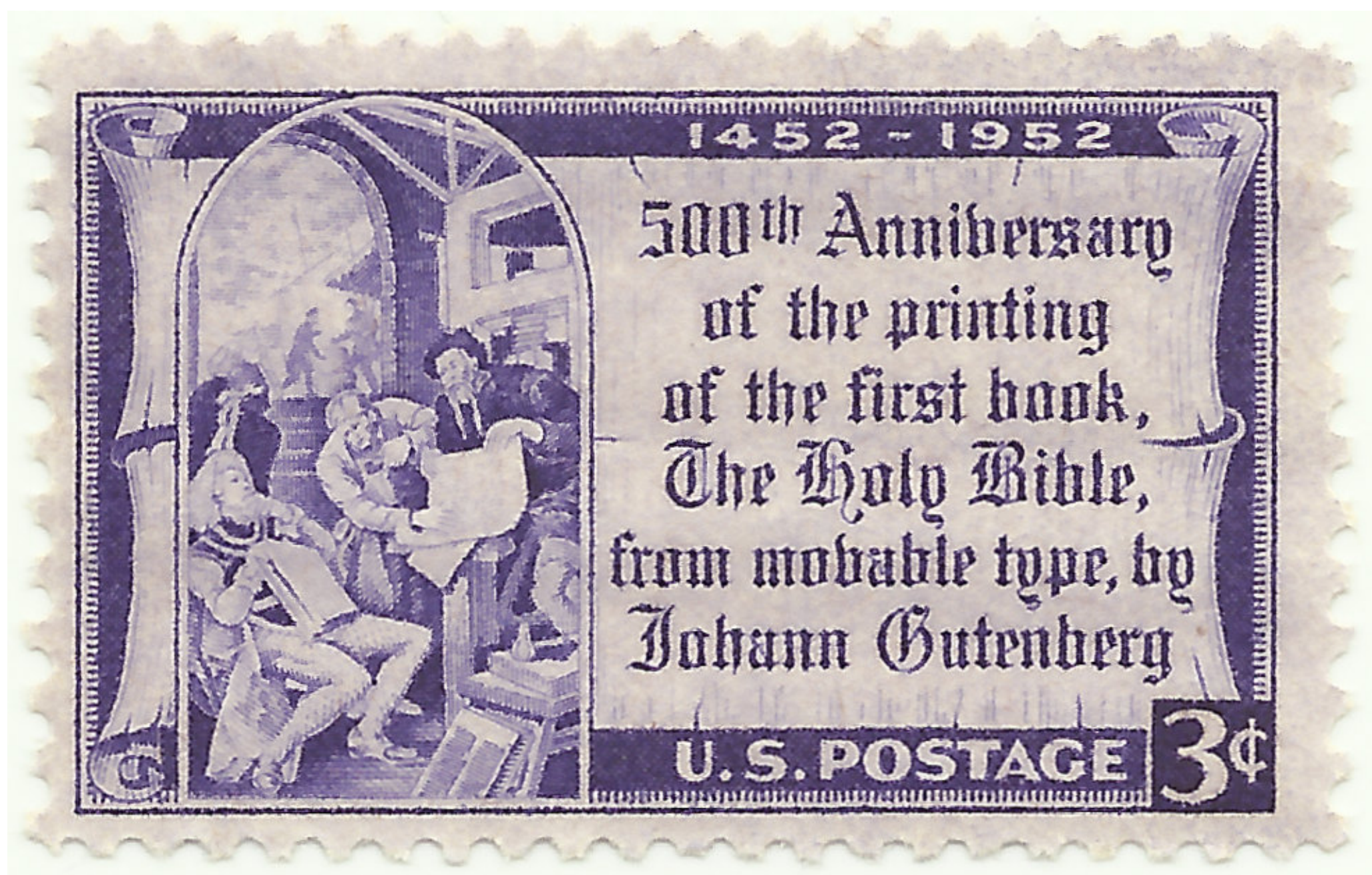
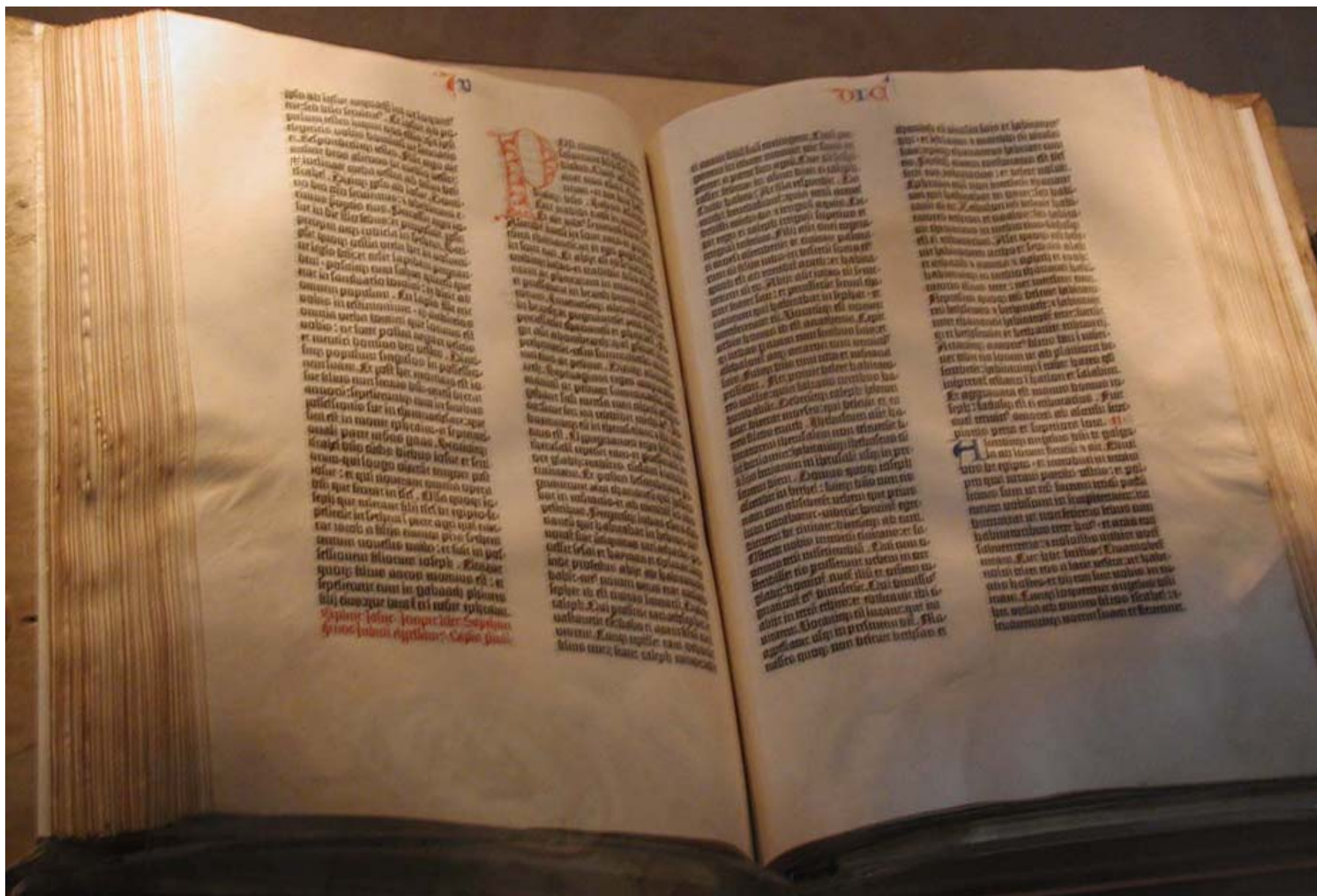




United States Postal Service stamp issued in 1952 commemorating the 500th anniversary of Gutenberg's first printed Bible.

- The invention of mass printing practices changed our world, and the print invention is regarded by many as the invention of the millennium.
- Before Gutenberg, books were either copied out by hand on scrolls and paper, and even a small book could take months to complete, or printed from hand-carved wooden blocks.
- Gutenberg is generally credited with the invention of practical movable type around 1450. He made metal moulds, and introduced the use of printing press to press the type against paper. For this he used a hand press used in his times by the wine industry. After a page was printed, the type could be reused for printing other pages.



The Gutenberg Bible

Raul654 - CC 3.0

- Gutenberg's name does not appear on any of his work, but he is generally accredited with the world's first book printed by movable type. The 42 line Bible (the number of lines per page), also known as the Gutenberg Bible or the Mainz Bible (for the place where it was produced). It took Gutenberg at least two years to complete his first book.
- The the best guess of the copies of Bible were printed is that around 180-145 on paper and a few more on the more luxurious and expensive vellum. A contemporary account by a visitor to Mainz indicates that the book was nearly ready in October 1454 and available for sale by March 1455.
- Gutenberg's Bible edition is the Vulgate - the Latin version of the Bible prepared mainly by Saint Jerome at the end of the 4th century A.D. and used as the official version of the Roman catholic Church.



Wooden wine press dated to 1702 from Rhodt unter Rietburg, Palatinate, Germany. The press is constructed with oak, pine and apple tree wood.

Gun Powder Ma - CC 3.0

To follow in the steps of Gutenberg you'll need three components:

- Letter types which you can carve from wood. Another option: Letters from different materials could be obtained in the market.
- A wooden frame, suitable for a book page. You'll have to design it in a way to accommodate rows of letters for page lines. Don't forget that when turned upside down the letters should not fall down.
- An old press which you can borrow from a winery, bookbinder, or an old drill press from a mechanic shop, etc.

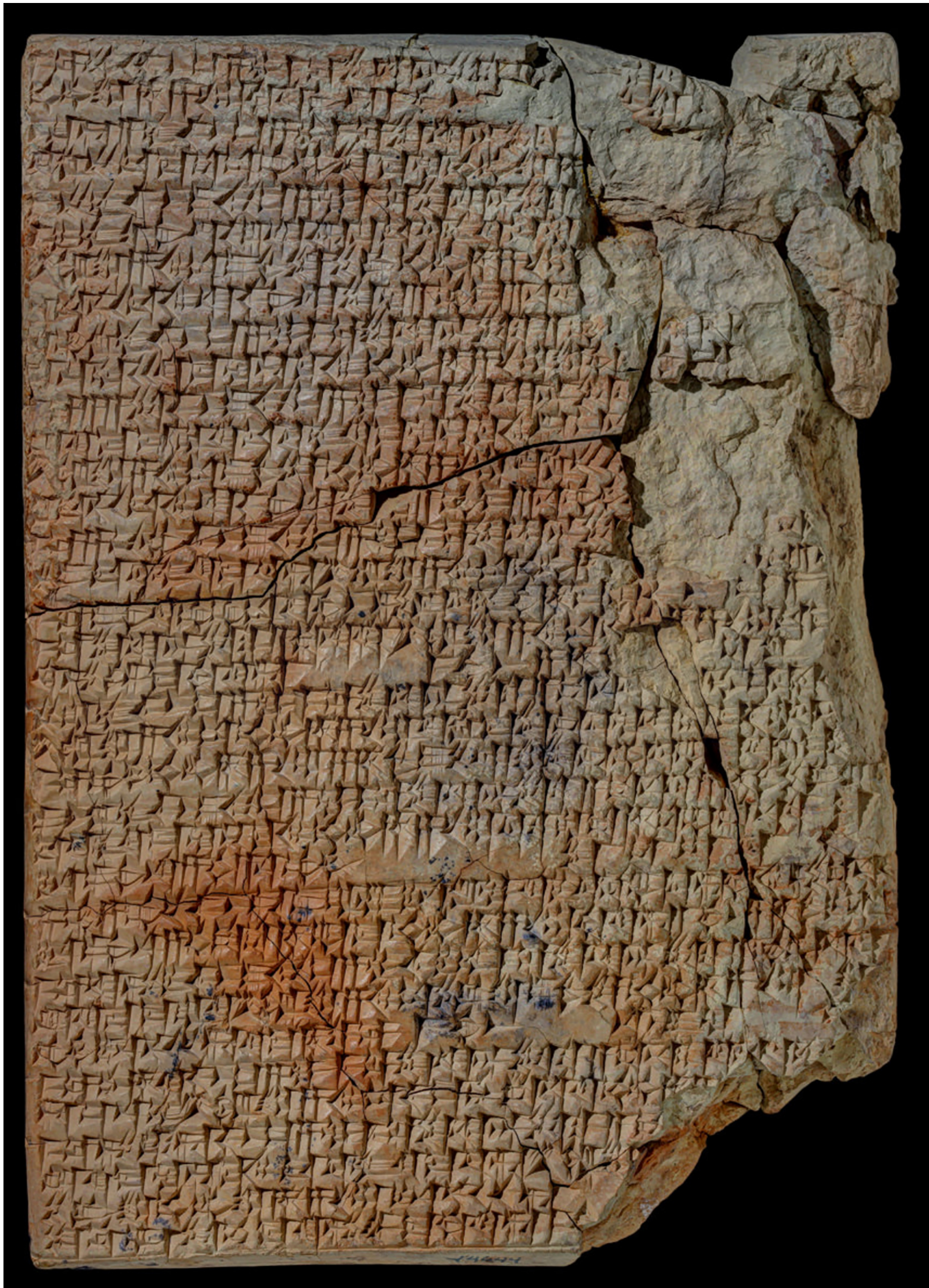
The Evolution of the Books



- As books have now reached the 21st century with the creation of the increasingly popular e-book format, we thought it would be a good idea to look back at the long and involved history of the humble book.
- From the clay tablets to the e-book format, the book has enjoyed a remarkable evolution, presented here is a snapshot of that history.

Symbols Engraved Onto Tablets

3500 BC



- The first ever symbols put on a moveable object were from a group of southern Mesopotamian people called the Sumarians.
- They had a "cuneiform" alphabet, and they wrote the symbols on clay tablets with a stylus called a "Calamus".
- The Sumarians had the earliest known alphabet in the world.

Earliest Surviving Papyrus Scrolls

2400 B.C.



- Scrolls, made of the thick paper material Papyrus, that contained written words date all the way back to 2400 BC, from Egypt.
- Some historians believe that papyrus could have been invented as early as 3100 B.C. Egyptians used papyrus before the Greeks or Romans adopted the use of it.
- They stored their books rolled up into wooden tubes, and glued together lots of scrolls to make very long pages.

The Invention of Parchment

500-200 B.C.



- As opposed to the plant-based papyrus, people began writing on parchment made from thinned out animal skins.
- The word "parchment" comes from the name of the Greek town that perfected it, Pergamon.
- After the over-farming of papyrus reeds, parchment became the main writing material.

Library of Alexandria Is Created

295 AD



- The Great Library of Alexandria in Alexandria, Egypt, was one of the largest and most significant libraries of the ancient world.
- The Library was part of a larger research institution called the Mouseion, which was dedicated to the Muses, the nine goddesses of the arts. [
- The Library, or part of its collection, was accidentally burned by Julius Caesar during his civil war in 48 BC and gradually declined.

Wax Tablets

200 BC



- Invented by the Romans, these blocks of wood had wax on the inside of them that one could make an impression on using a stylus, and this innovation of a book allowed for words to be erased and re-written.
- These were sometimes bound together with string or cord to keep "pages" together like an early version of the ringed binder.

Illustrations Added To Books 400-600 A.D.



- Early illustrations were still made on parchment as opposed to the more modern paper due to the better quality and strength of parchment.
- These books were handwritten and decorated with bright colors, intricate designs, and even silver and gold.

The Very First Printed Book

868 AD

The Diamond Sutra



- printed on paper in China using woodblocks with characters on it.
- The woodblock was used much like a stamp, covered with ink and pressed into the paper.
- The woodblock(s) were carefully and tediously prepared using knives, to carve out around each letter.

Moveable Type- The Improvement of Woodblocks

1041-1230 AD



- A system of printing literature that involved rearranging small blocks with a letter on each one to form sentences, and paragraphs, and books.
- This process was an improvement on the woodblock because each small letter could be rearranged and re-used, as opposed to recarving an entire block of wood for each page.

The Guttenberg Bible

1455 AD



- A man called Johannes Gutenberg had invented the printing press, and with this technology it became possible to print long books for much cheaper than before.
- 180 total copies of the Bible were printed, and some were even illustrated.

Moveable Type Goes Worldwide

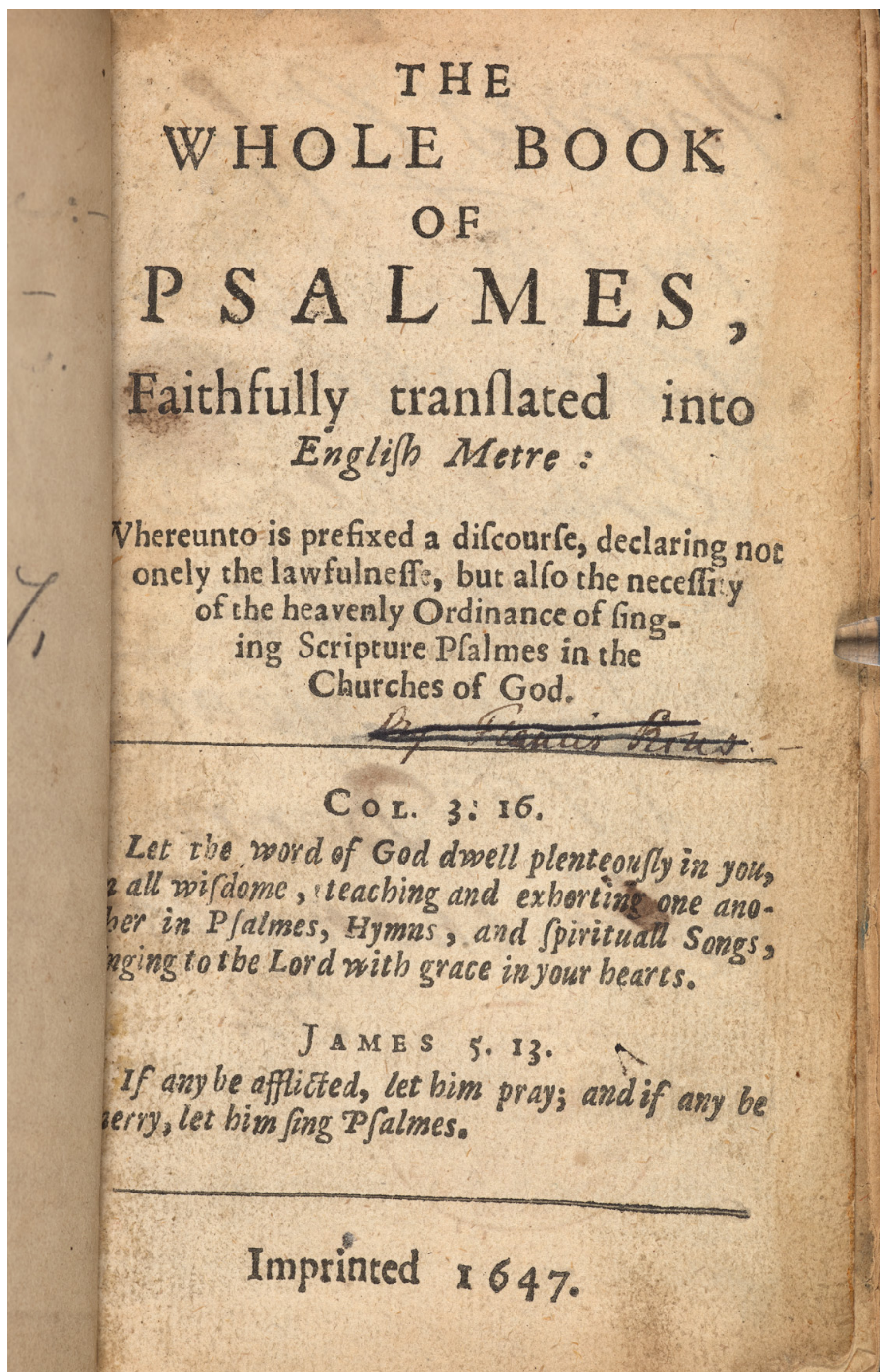
I250-I450 AD



- The system of using moveable, individual letters catches on and starts being used by other countries such as Egypt and Europe, however each country put their own twist on the idea.
- In Egypt, it was mainly used for religious texts which would be rolled into tubes and worn around the neck.
- In Europe they started to make the blocks out of metal instead of wood so they would be more durable with clearer shapes, and they also invented the printing press.

Print Is Brought To North America

I639-I640 AD



- The first book to be printed in America was made with a printing press brought over by Puritans.
- It was called the 'Bay Psalm', and was essentially a book of the psalms from the Hebrew Bible.

Chlorine Is Discovered

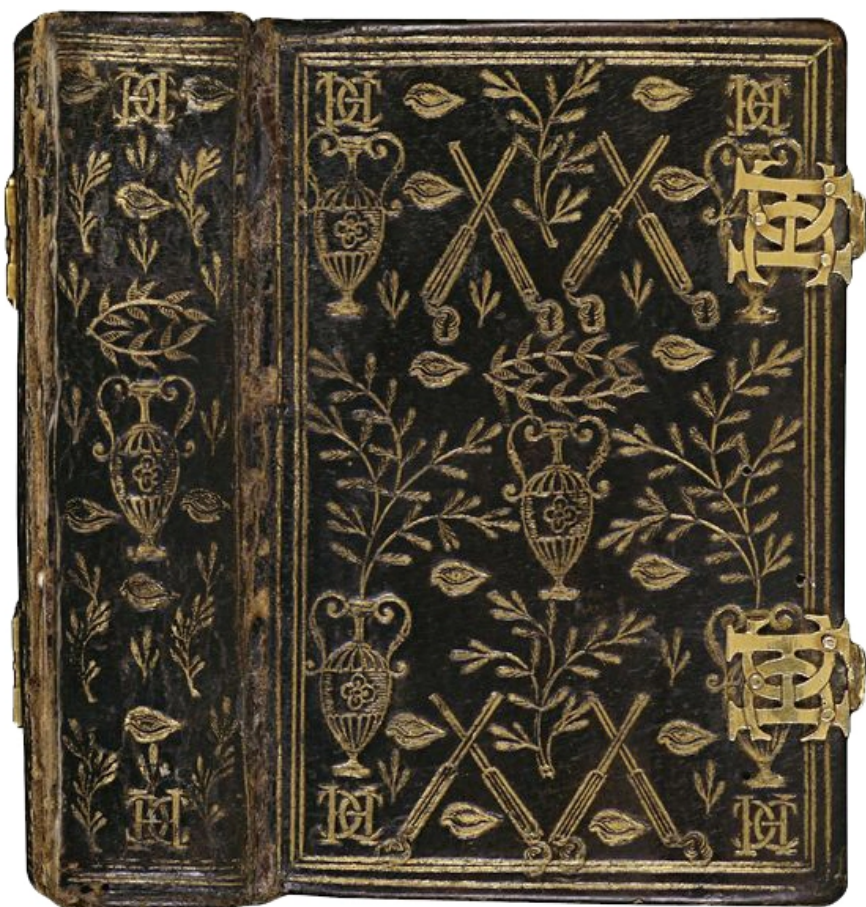
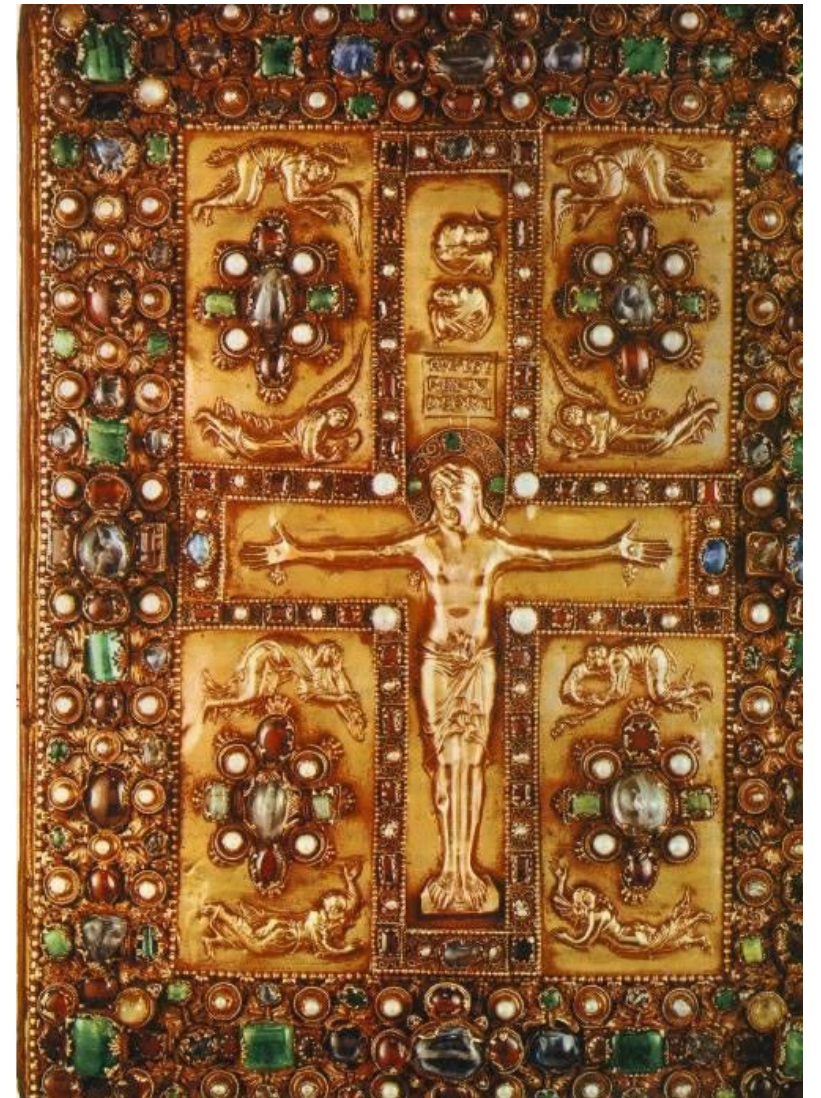
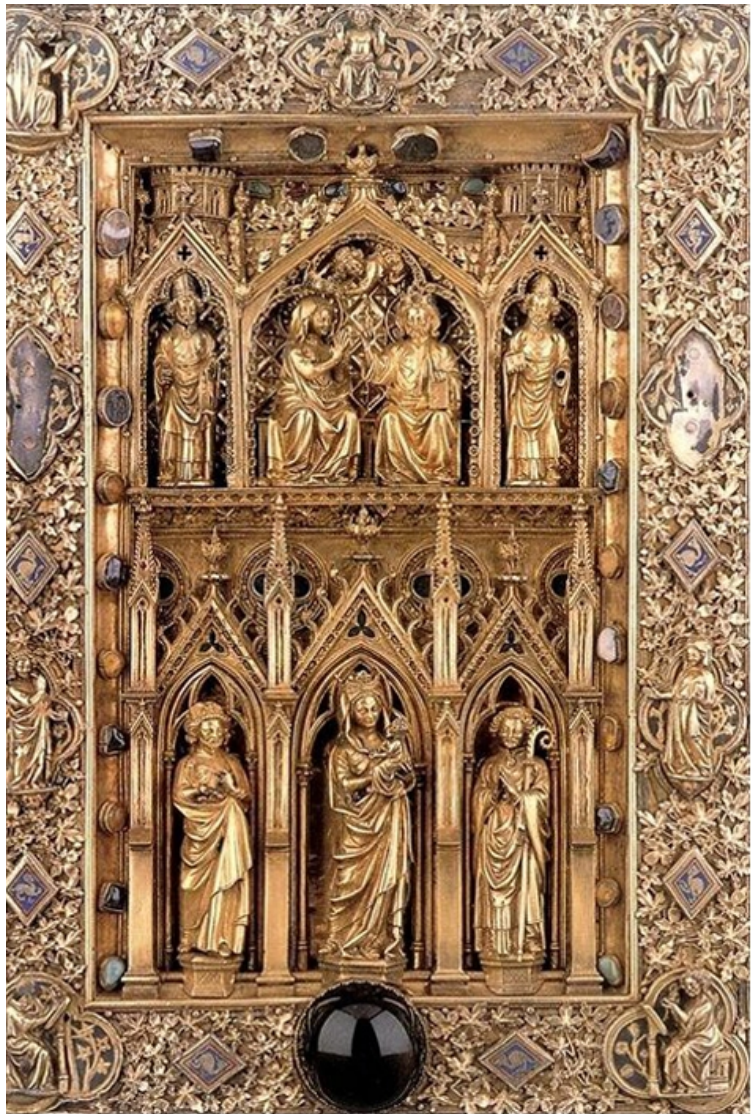
1744 AD



- A Swedish chemist by the name of Carl Wilhelm Sheele discovered chlorine.
- Chlorine is relevant to the improvement of books because chlorine is used to bleach the pages so that they have a cleaner look and they are easier to read.

Book Covers

1832 AD



- The very first books to be made with removable paper jackets or sleeves, appear.

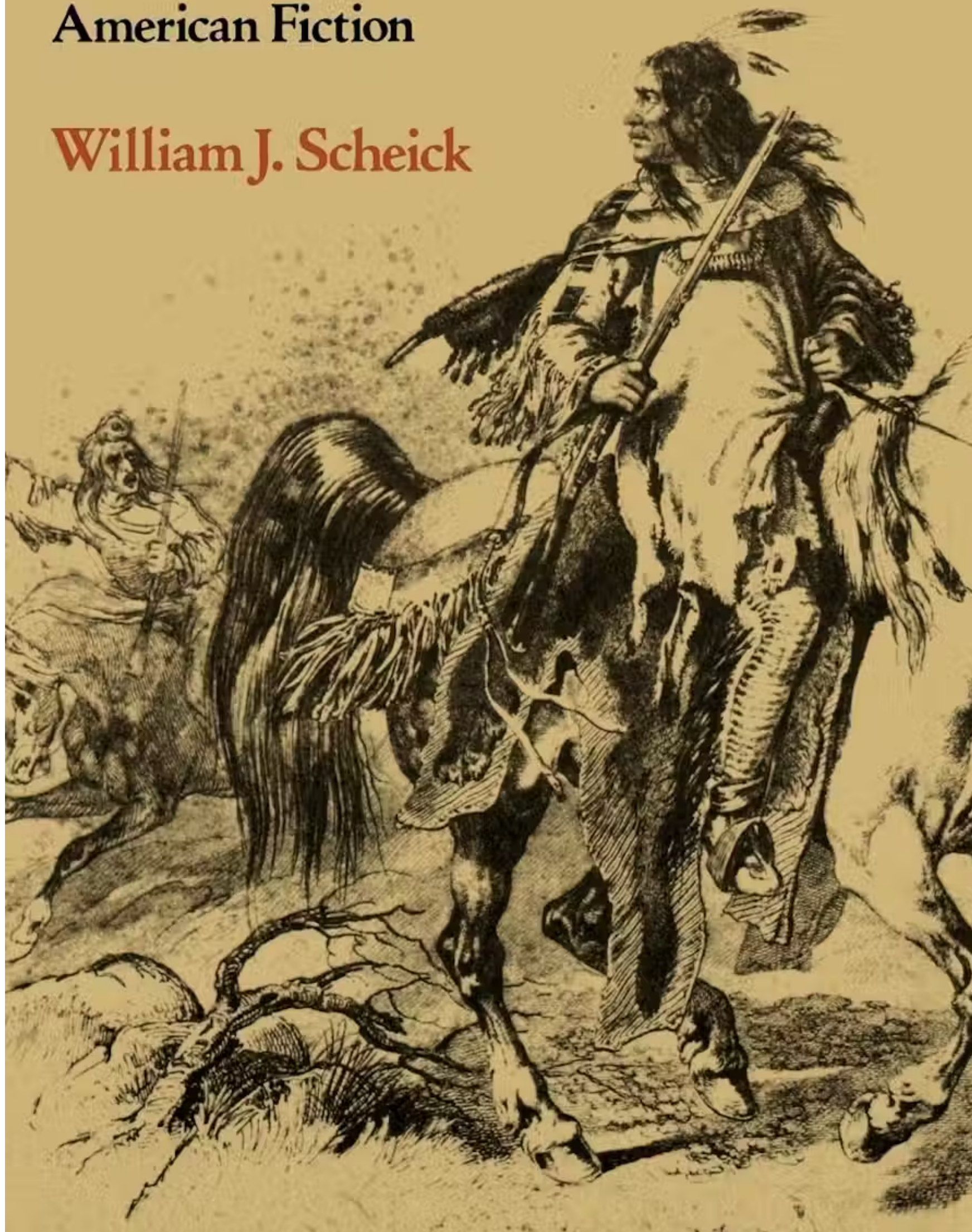
The Cheap Novel

1832-1860 AD

The Half-Blood

A Cultural Symbol in 19th-Century
American Fiction

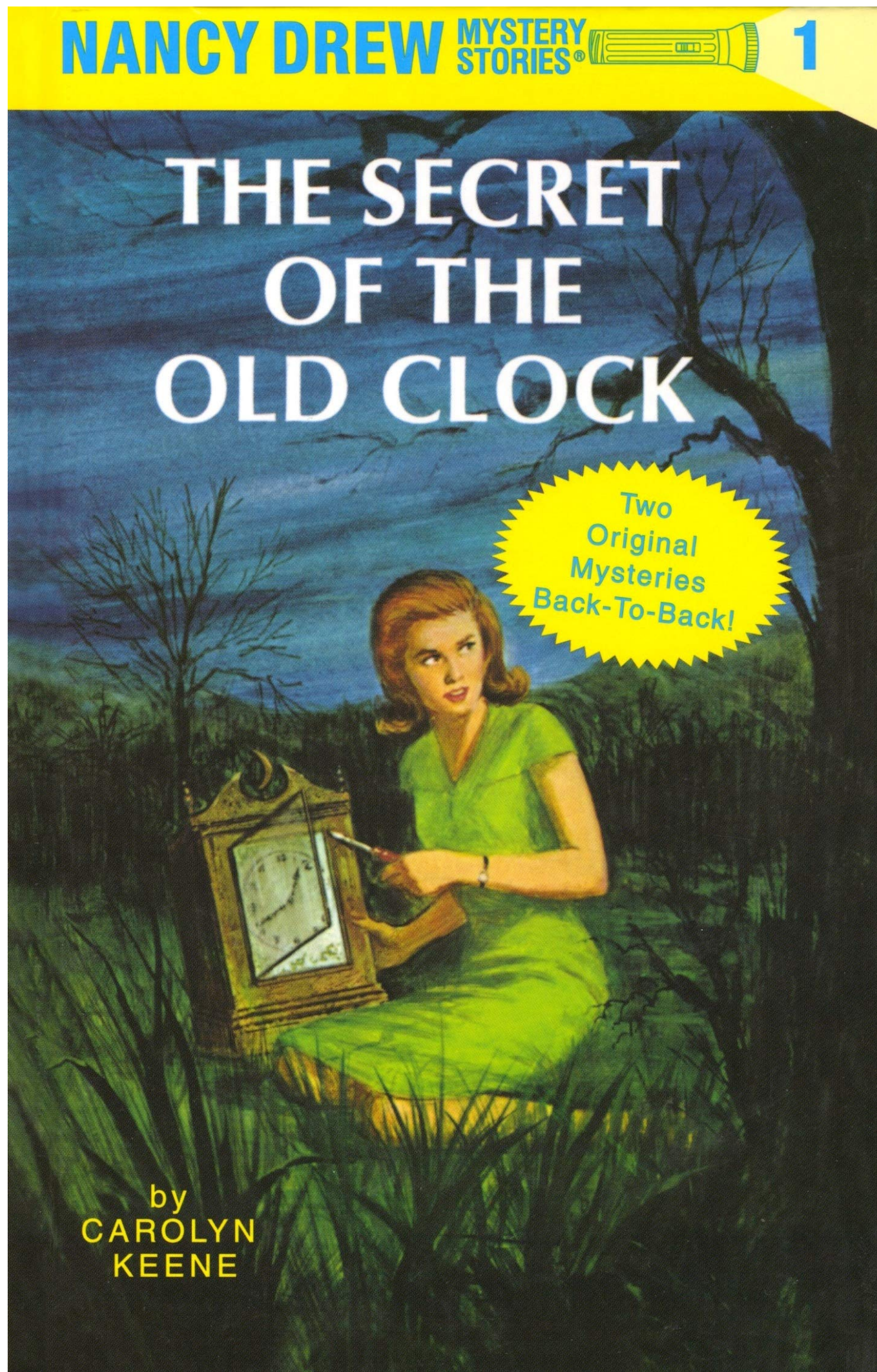
William J. Scheick



- The first mass-market paperback books are made in response to the growth of education and knowledge in the world.
- They were printed on cheap paper and were usually rewrites of novels or stories in the Crime genre.
- In America, they became known as Dime Novels.

The Paperback

1920-1938 AD



- When they were first made, paperback novels were considered trashy and lower quality than hardback novels and people thought they would never appeal to the public.
- However, one publisher called Emanuel Haldemann-Julius had large success with selling paperback newspaper advertisements through mail order, and then companies began offering up subscriptions to receive paperback literature in the mail for 5\$ a month.

The Modern Paperback Novel

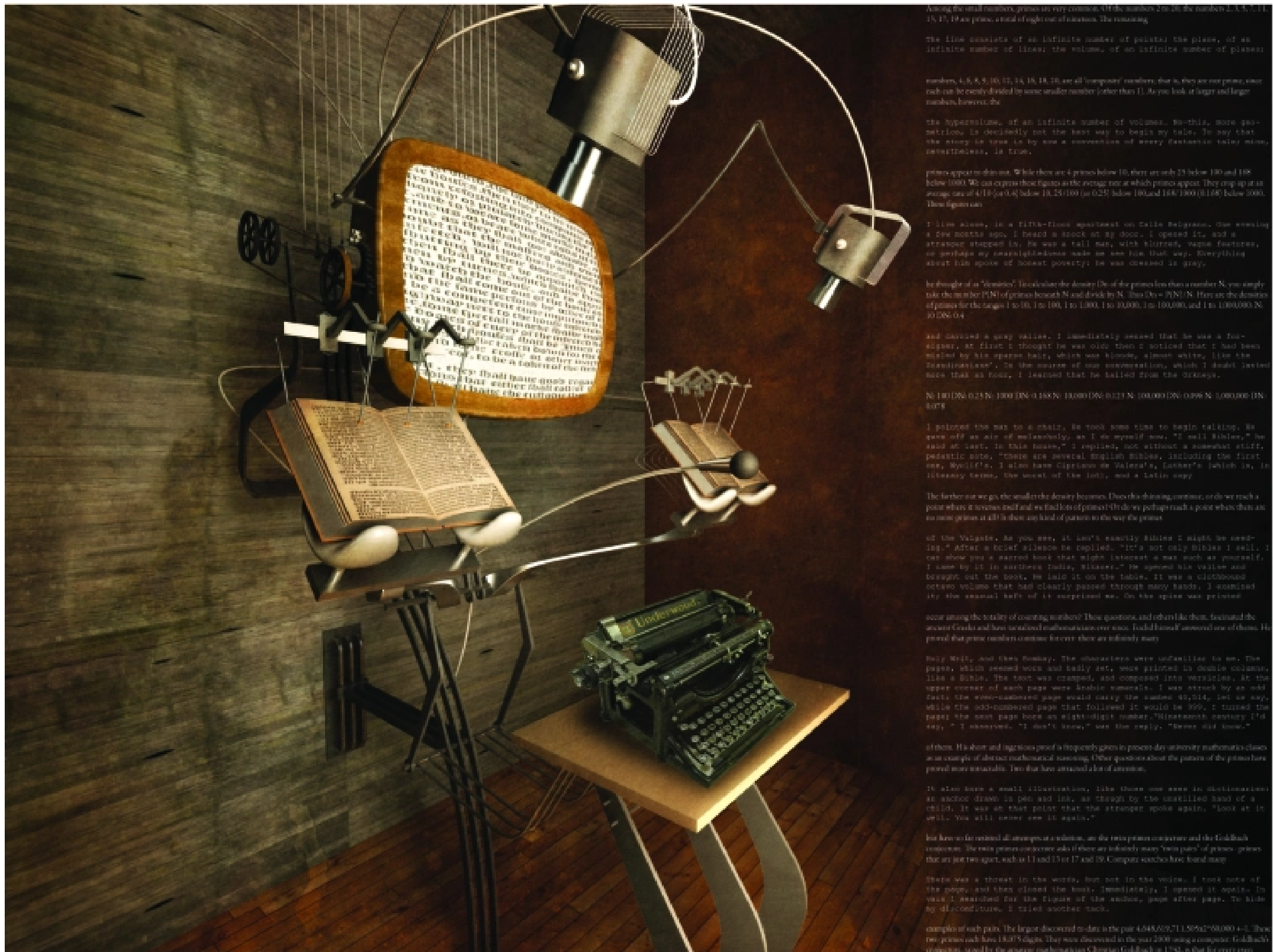
1935 AD



- The Penguin publishing company published ten books for sale in stores in paperback form.

The Microprocessor Digitalizes Literature

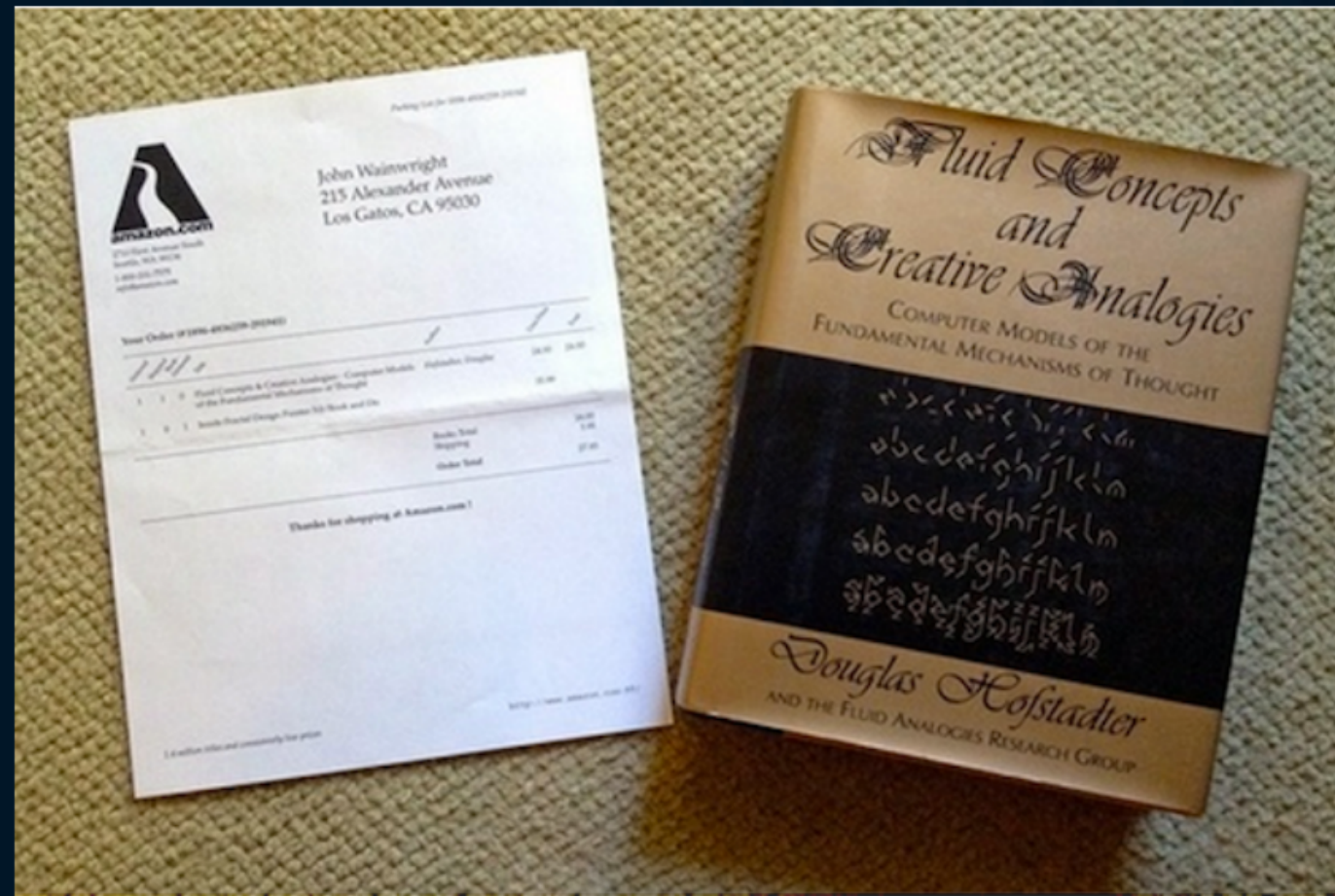
I97I AD



- The invention of the microprocessor led to the creation of computers, which made books' availability skyrocket and it also made books easier to make better through typing them and editing and re-editing them.

Books Sold Through The Internet 1995

TODAY IN HISTORY



JULY 16, 1995

**AMAZON.COM SELLS ITS
FIRST BOOK**

HISTORY COMPACTED

- When the internet was made public not only did it connect the world, it made for a new way to sell and exchange goods and services.
- The sale of books online was revolutionary, and made books published in other countries more widely available.
- The very first book sold on Amazon.com was called "Fluid Concepts and Creative Analogies: Computer Models of the Fundamental Mechanisms of Thought".

The Kindle

2007 AD



- The invention of the kindle offered ways to store thousands of books digitally and gave you the ability to have many many books with you at one time without the weight.