PERPETUA

Perpetua, is one of the best-known and most widely-used of contemporary type faces. It was designed by the great sculptor Eric Gill (1882-1940), and is in fact a translation into metal type of the chiselled lettering in stone which had established Gill's European reputation as a fine creative craftsman before his 'Stations of the Cross' at Westminster Cathedral brought him fame as an artist. The Monotype Corporation commissioned the design from Gill in 1927, and in that year one experimental fount was cut by hand from the sculptor's own drawings. The final version of the face then evolved by subtle modifications and had its first appearance in an inset in Number 7 of the Fleuron in 1930. The italic of Perpetua is full of character and is unusually legible, and constitutes an invaluable aid to the designer of title-pages, jackets, advertisments, etc.