THE
CHRISTMAS
PRINT SHOP

Vintage Holiday Fonts, Borders and Ornaments

Volume One

WALDEN FONT CO.

Christmas comes but once a year, and it's a busy season for printers and graphic designers. This has been true since the late 19th century, when society and commercial printing first boomed, and when type foundries first offered Christmas-themed cuts and ornaments to meet the demand.

Much of this material has been lost to time in successive technical revolutions in printing, and now exists only in foundry catalogs and scattered ephemera. It has been my goal to make these treasures accessible to modern graphic artists. To that end, I have gathered borders, ornaments, and a few appropriate typefaces from foundry catalogs and original lead type, German and American, dating from the 1890s to the 1920s. They range from fussy Victorian bits to Art Nouveau and Art Deco gems, none of them previously available in digital form. In preparing this design kit, I took great care to preserve my sources' authenticity while making them convenient to use in modern applications.

Many supporters have contributed to this project: Robert M. Schöne, Ilja Wanka, Ralf Herrmann, and Martin Z. Schröder were most generous in sharing their valuable source material and advice. To all of you I am exceedingly grateful.

Special thanks to my lovely and forbearing wife who suffered my constant whistling, humming, and singing of Christmas tunes all year long. I promise I'm done caroling!

Merry Christmas!

Winchester, October 2024

Oliver Weiss

ORIENT ANTIQUA CHECKERED STONEWAIT TATZENBÄR THOROUGH Wortschaßlücke

Orient Antiqua was designed in 1914 by the firm of Wagner & Schmidt and offered by various foundries under different names. It is both stately and playful, and well-suited for display work and limited quantities of body text. WF Orient Antiqua is a faithful restoration of the original. I have extended it to support most western European languages.

Stylistic Sets: P/P, original Umlaute: ÄÖÜ.
Discretional Ligatures: CH CK ST TZ TH ch ck th ß

Special thanks to Ralf Herrmann and the Pavillon-Presse in Weimar, Germany, who kindly shared their original, 48-point lead type and so made this digitization possible.

Schneekönigin

FROZEN

WEIHNACHTLICHES

Glühwein Lebkuchen

Schneekönigin ("Snow Queen") was cast by Hoffmeister in Leipzig around 1909. It was still offered in 1925 by their successor, Stempel. I have extended this resurrection to support most western European languages. It includes all usual special characters, and a bespoke snowy border.

The separate "Snow" style allows you to apply color to the snow caps. (yellow not recommended).

Snow

Regular + Snow
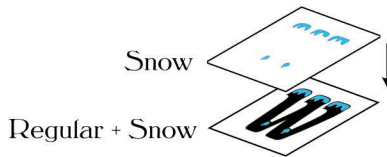
My special thanks to Berlin letterpress printer Martin Z. Schröder, who kindly granted me access to his original, complete, 48-point lead type of "Schneekönigin" and so made this accurate digitization possible.

BORDERS

ANDREAS

H

B

A

D

F

G

I

C

E
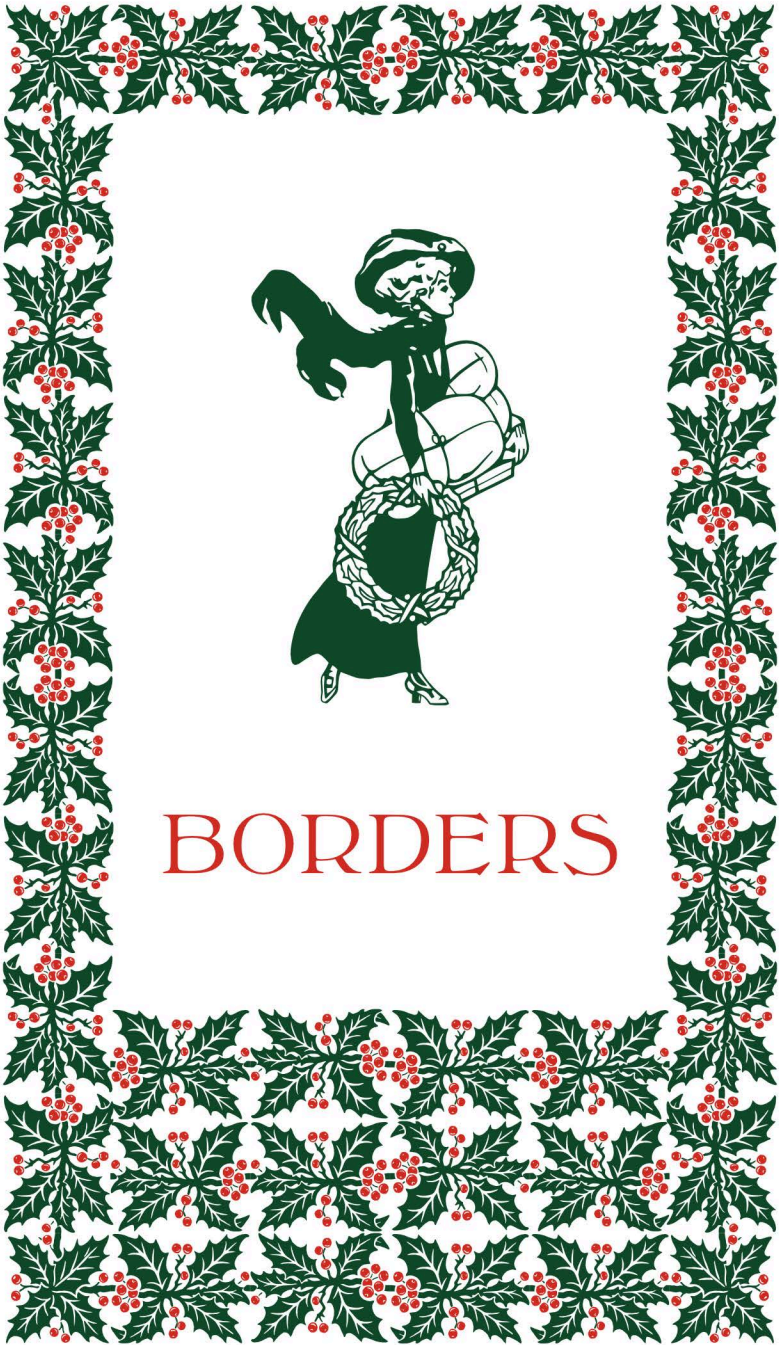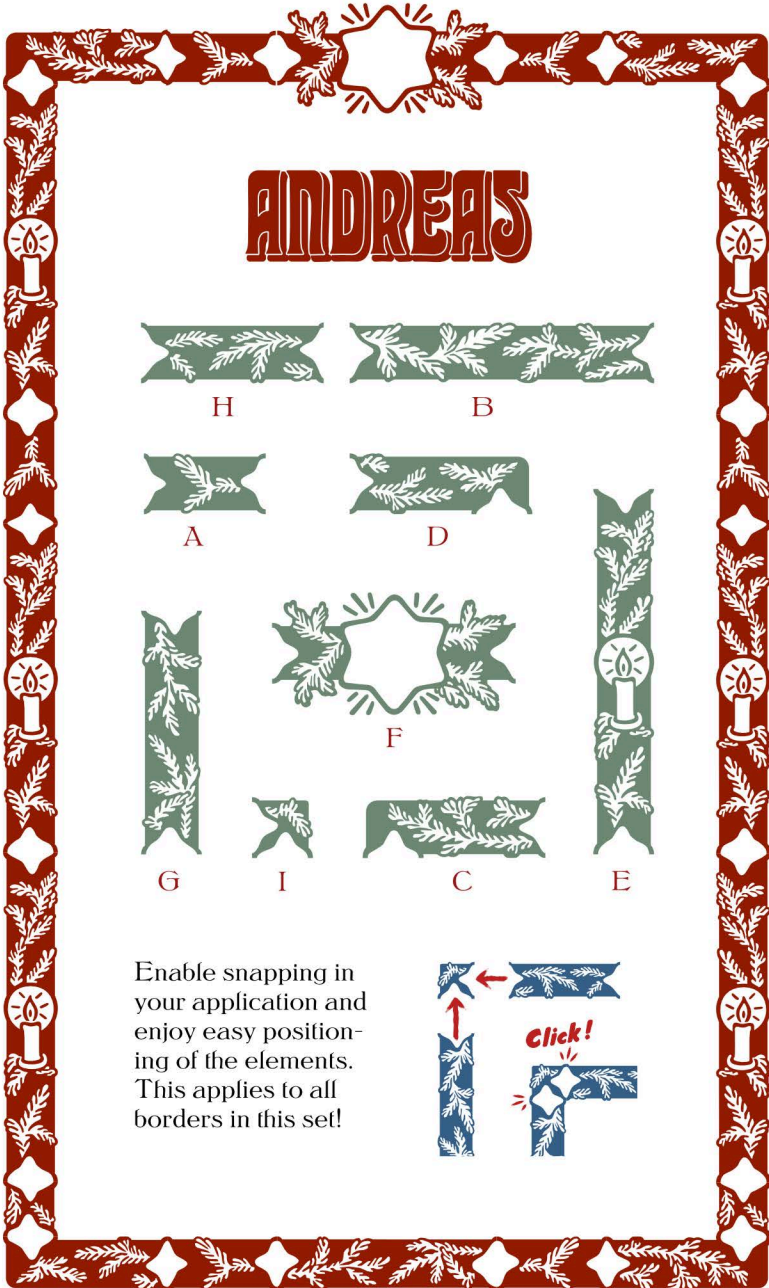
Enable snapping in
your application and
enjoy easy position-
ing of the elements.
This applies to all
borders in this set!

Click!
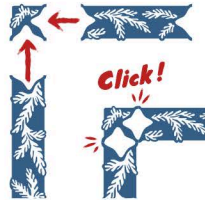
With WF Dahlia from the Art Nouveau Printshop design kit.

WF Border

»Christa«

A   C   B   E   D   F
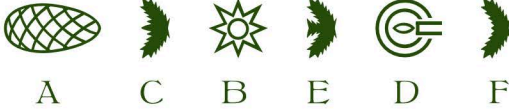
Note: A and D should be combined with F in the same text string to achieve the correct spacing. Do not use F with any other pieces.

Two Text Strings:

One Text String:

With WF Liane, from the Art Nouveau Printshop design kit.

~BORDER~
FRIEDEN

I

F

G

H

K

N

D

E

J

L

B

C

A

M
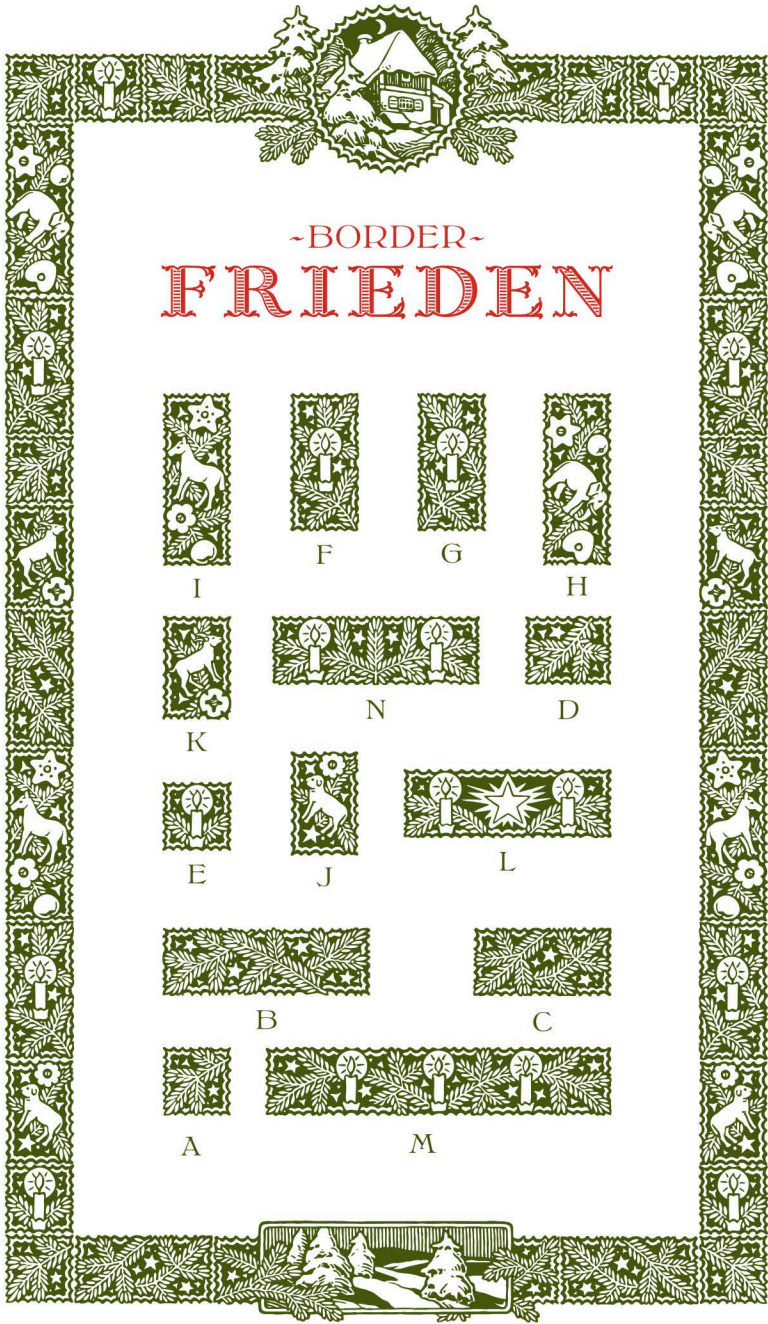
See next page for pictorial inserts

~PICTORIAL~
INSERTS

S

T

a

X

d

R

Z

b

Y

O

c

V

P

Q

U

W
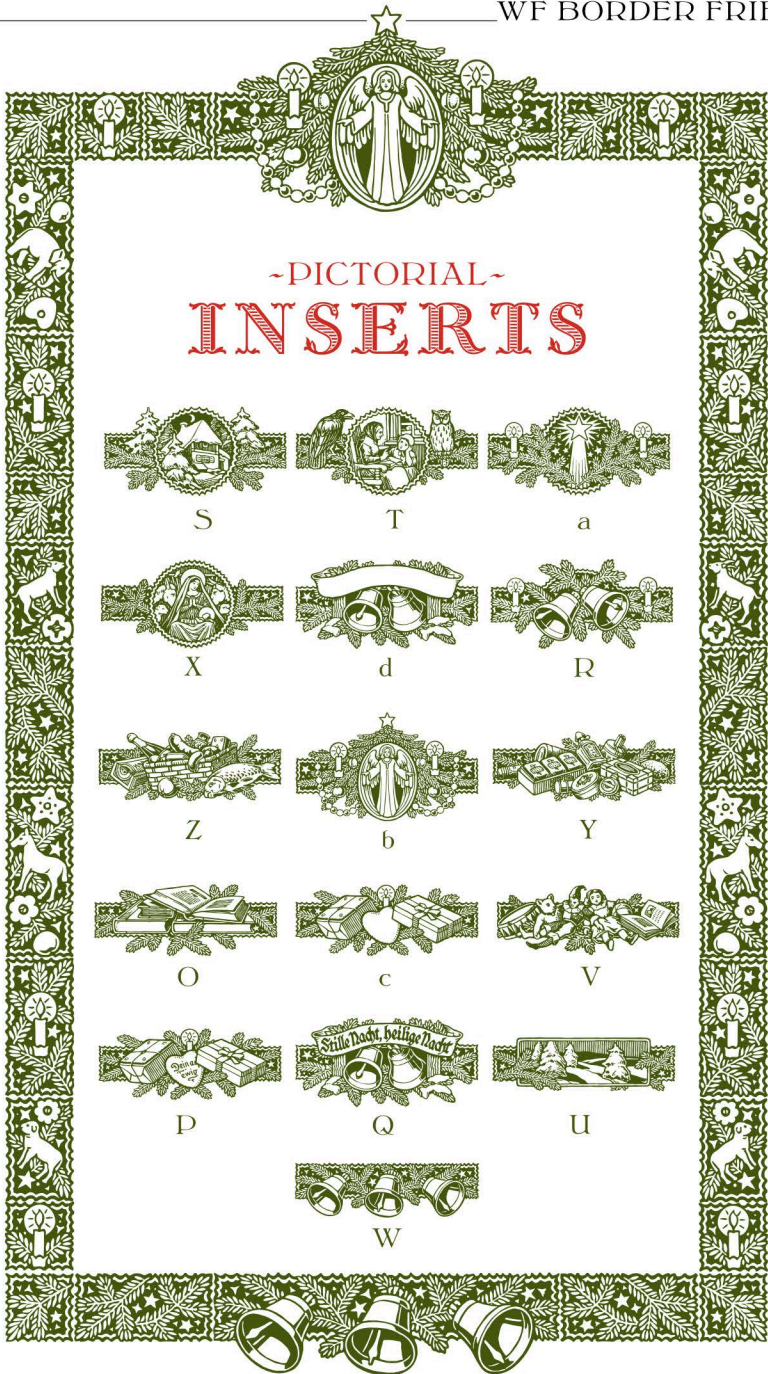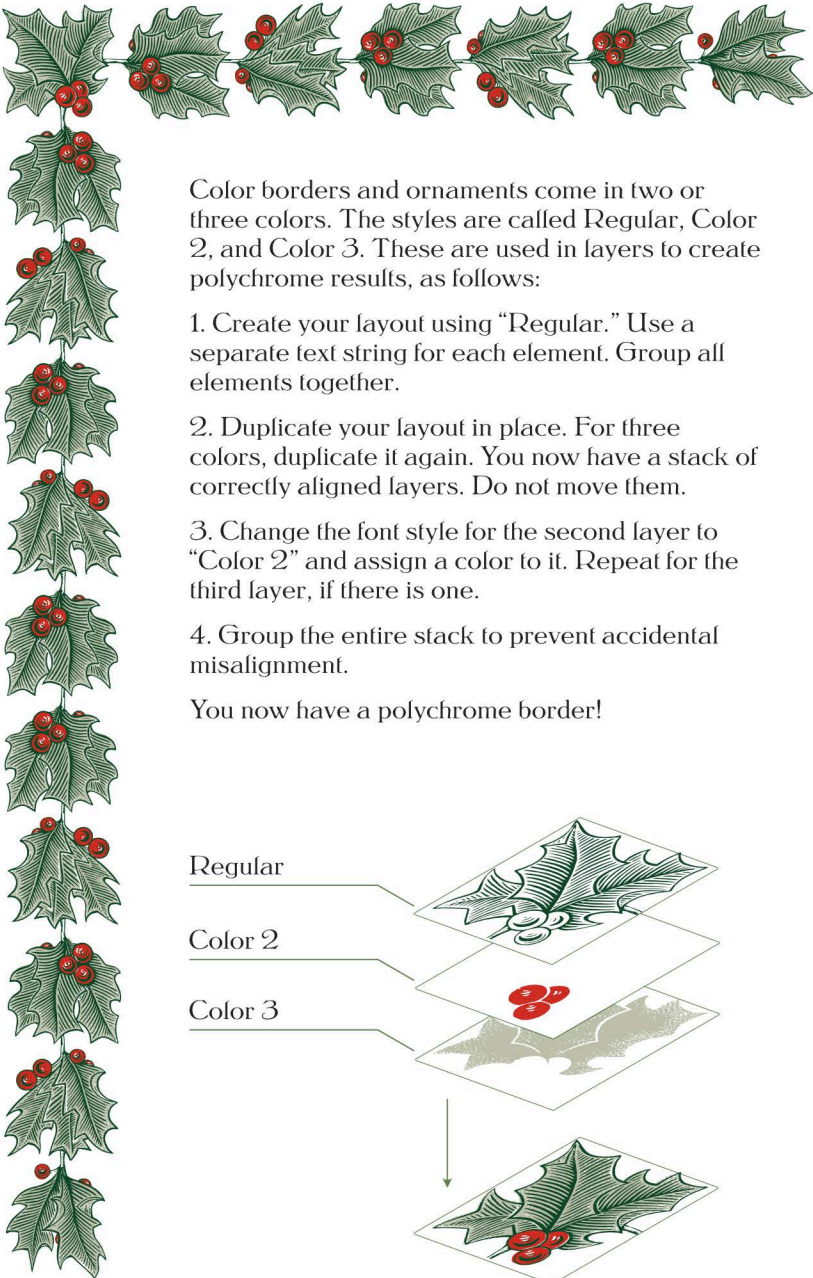
Color borders and ornaments come in two or three colors. The styles are called Regular, Color 2, and Color 3. These are used in layers to create polychrome results, as follows:

1. Create your layout using "Regular." Use a separate text string for each element. Group all elements together.

2. Duplicate your layout in place. For three colors, duplicate it again. You now have a stack of correctly aligned layers. Do not move them.

3. Change the font style for the second layer to "Color 2" and assign a color to it. Repeat for the third layer, if there is one.

4. Group the entire stack to prevent accidental misalignment.

You now have a polychrome border!

Regular

Color 2

Color 3

Polychrome Holly Borders

Eleven Distinctive Holly Borders in two and three colors

Y

Z

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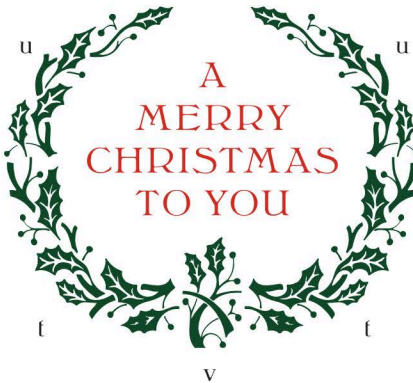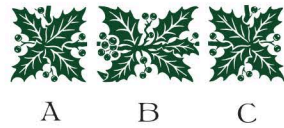
O   2   1   !   D   E   F

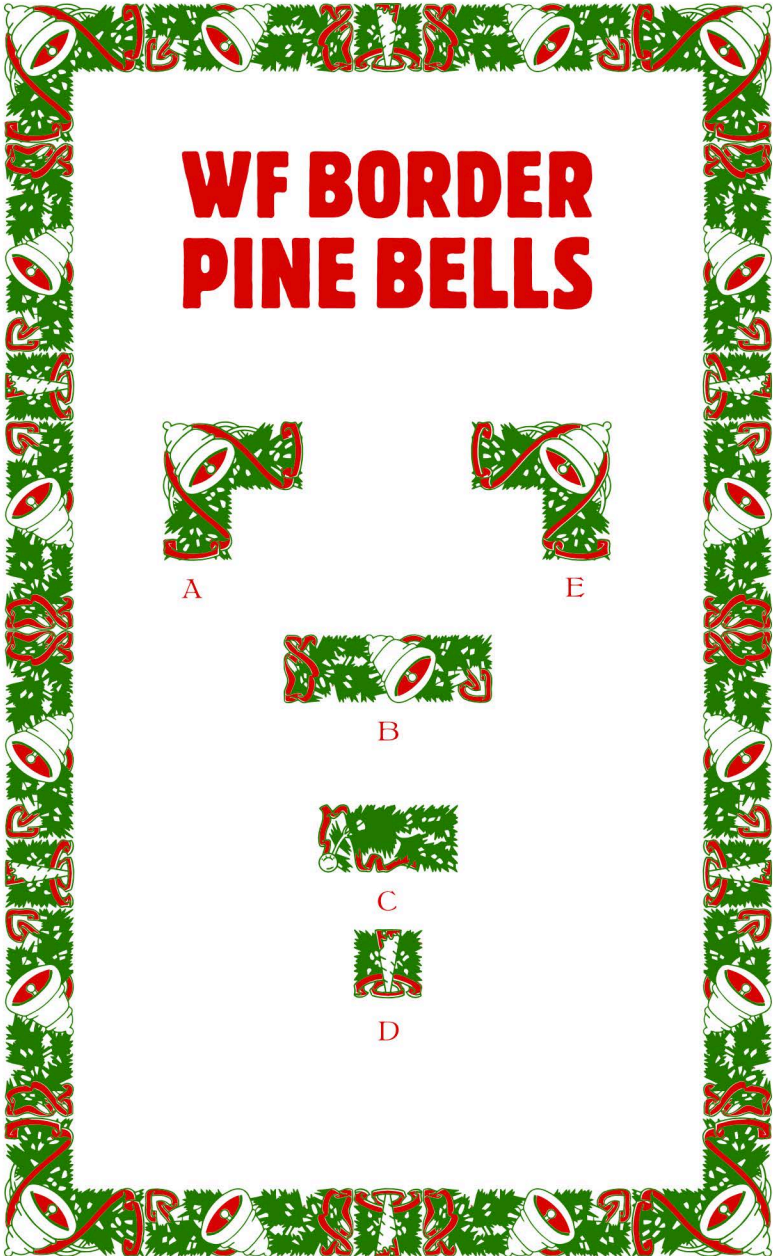s   r   q   o   l   m   p   n

b   h   i   c   j

k   a   d   f   g   e

6   7   8   9

$

11

L

Monochrome Holly Borders
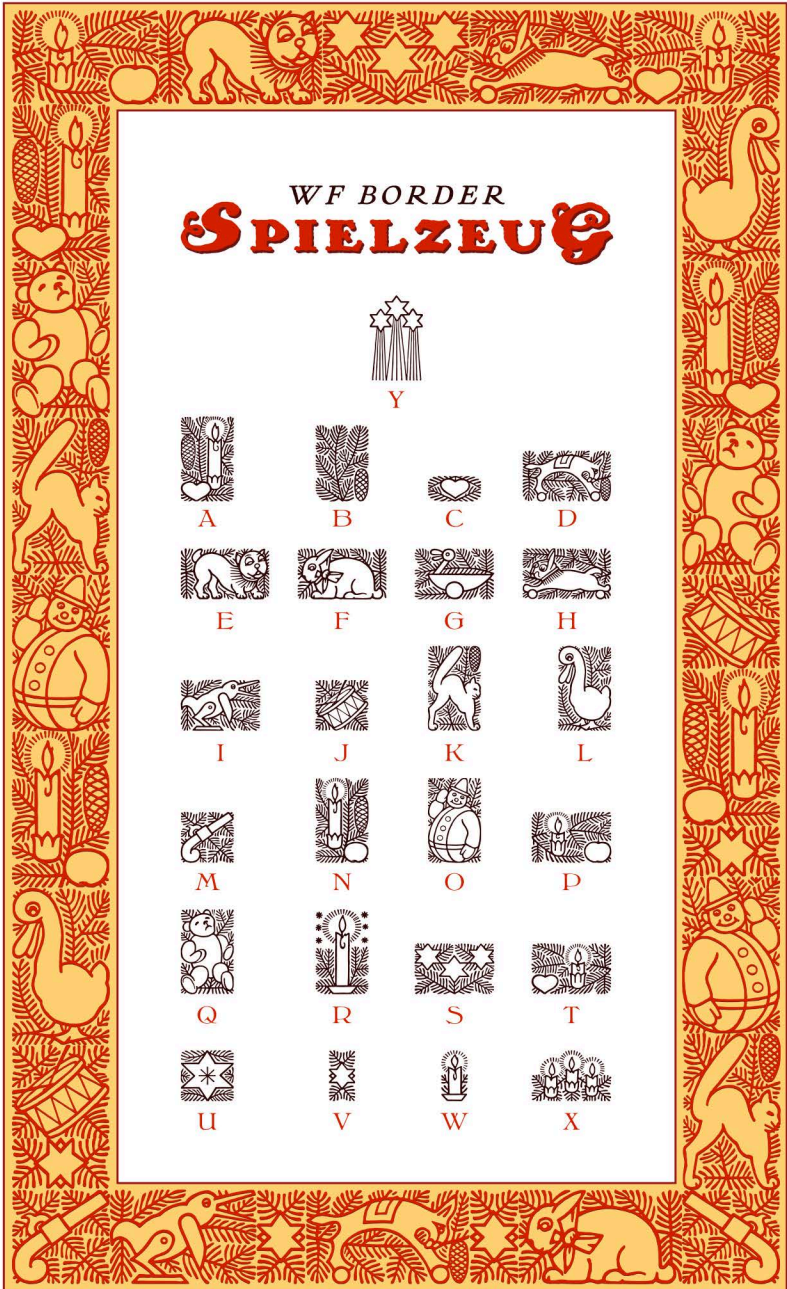## Six Distinctive Holly Borders and Ornaments

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MERRY
CHRISTMAS
TO YOU

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" "

Note: monochrome and polychrome holly borders live in the same font!

WF BORDER PINE BELLS

A

E

B

C

D

With WF Hochdruck from the Kraftwerk Press design kit.

WF BORDER
SPIELZEUG

With WF Neue Ohio Kraft from the Kraftwerk Press design kit.

Border Sylvester

A

C

G   D   F

E

B   H

I
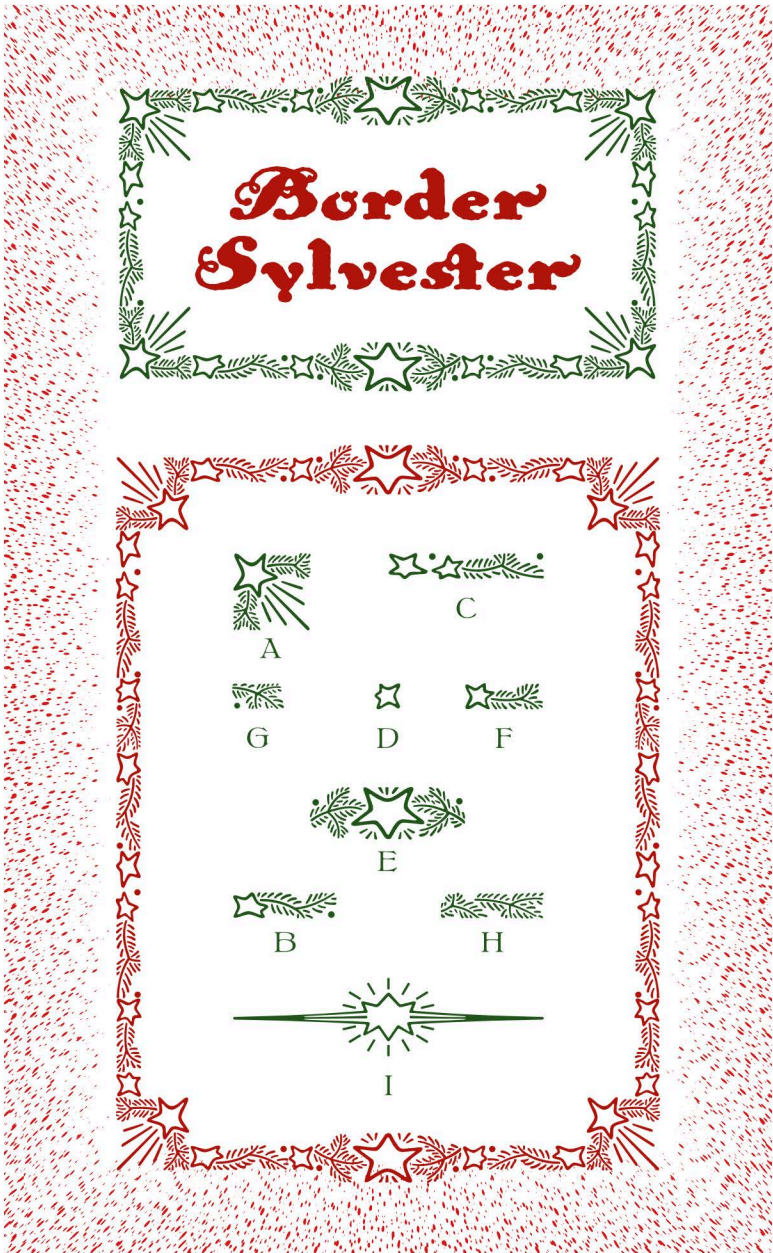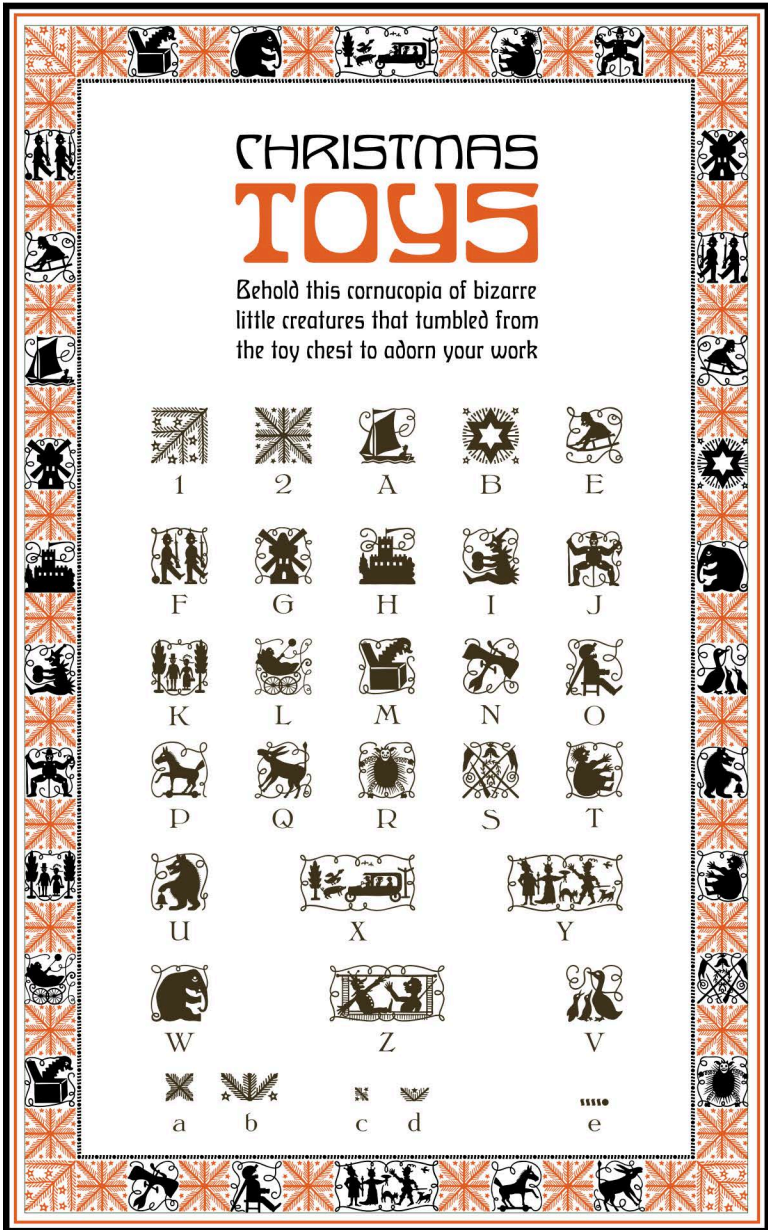
With WF Neue Ohio Kraft from the Kraftwerk Press design kit.
The outer border is a rectangle with stipple brush stroke applied.

E B

C D

A F

G H

I J
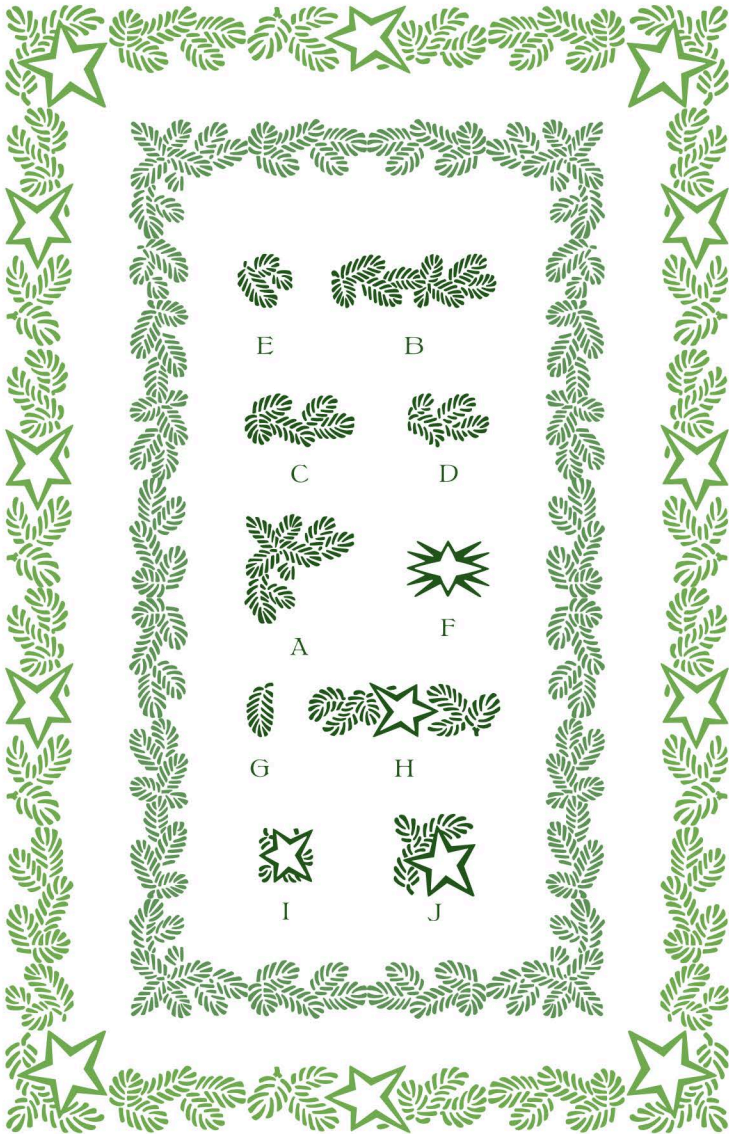
Tannenduft

With WF Neue Ohio Kraft from the Kraftwerk Press design kit.

CHRISTMAS
TOYS

Behold this cornucopia of bizarre
little creatures that tumbled from
the toy chest to adorn your work

1	2	A	B	E
F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O
P	Q	R	S	T
U	X	Y		
W	Z	V		
a	b	c	d	e

With WF Habsburg, WF Wallenstein, and WF Wittelsbach
from the Art Nouveau Printshop design kit.

ORNAMENTS

Q

SERIES

B

BANNERS

A

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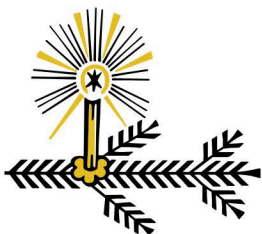F

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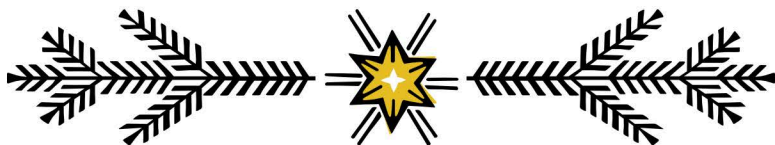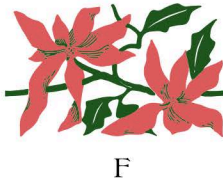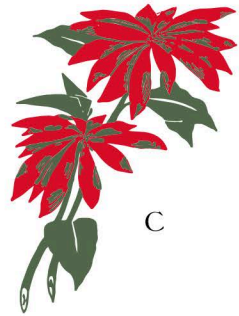With WF Neue Ohio Schrift from the Kraftwerk Press design kit.

PINE BOUGHS

A

B

C

D

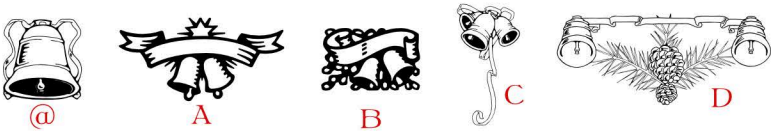With WF Maria Theresia from the Art Nouveau Printshop design kit.
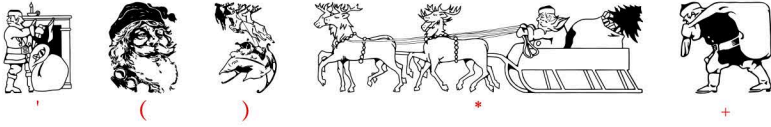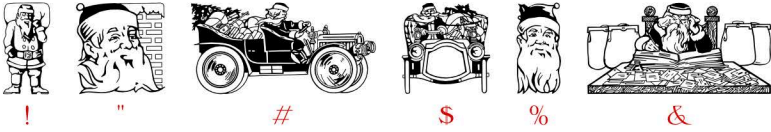
POINSETTIA MADNESS

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With WF Wallenstein from the Art Nouveau Printshop design kit.

L

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Merry Xmas

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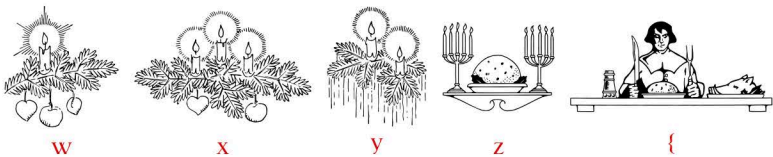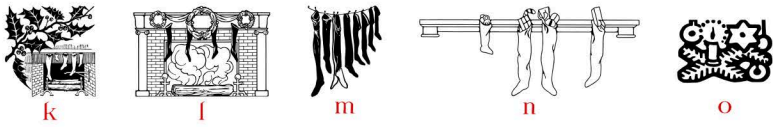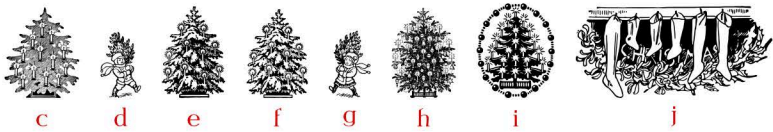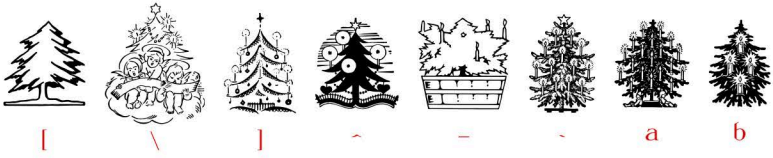
P

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Q

With WF Wallenstein from the Art Nouveau Printshop design kit.

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E F G H I

Tip: Use your application's glyph browser to choose and place ornaments!

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R S T U V W X Y Z

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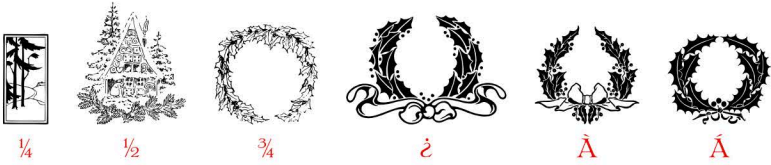w x y z {

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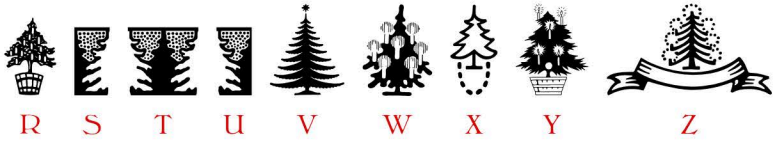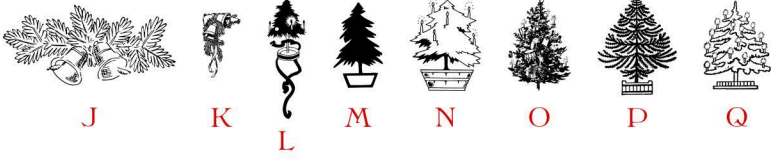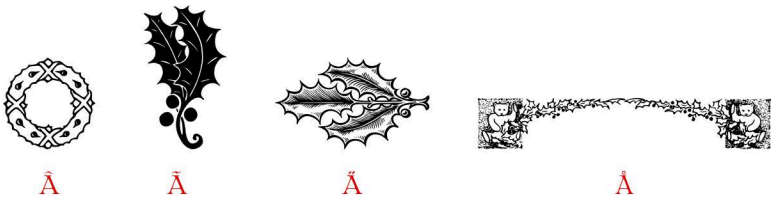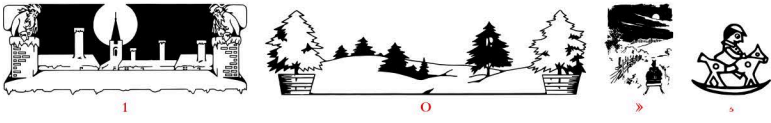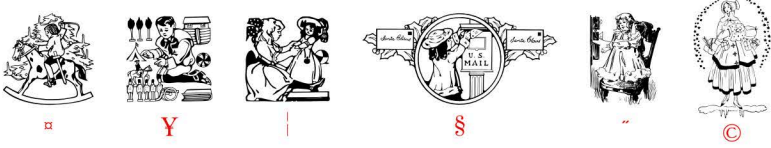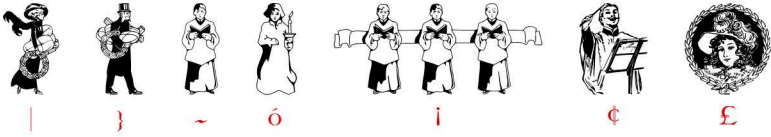
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