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Technical terms, *The Coming of the Book*, chapter 2:

punch, die, intaglio, casting vs. die stamping, matrix/matrices, mold, a sort, a custom, linotype, monotype, galley, lead, forme, bed, platen, frisket, tympan: HUH?

Three basic types of printing:

From below surface of paper (or other material to be printed upon):

- *intaglio* : Image cut or etched into a plate (usually metal, usually copper); plate then inked and pressed to paper

From a flat plane:

- *lithograph* : Image marked on a flat surface (stone [Grk *lithos*], metal) with some areas treated with oil or fat to repel ink. Developed in Germany around 1798 by Alois Senefelder.

From raised type pieces:

- *letterpress* : Image formed by assemblage of many individual movable pieces

Four different types of press (in order of chronological development):

- *platen press*: paper is pressed by a flat surface onto a block of metal type (the “*forme*”) cf. Gutenberg-era wine press technology
- *rubber press*: a rubber blade moves over the paper to press it against inked surface
- *cylinder press*: a cylinder presses the paper to the inked surface by rolling over the sheet
- *rotary press*: paper is pulled in a continuous roll through two cylinders touching each other (cf. old movies containing scenes of newspapers being printed)

Creating type:

- *punch*: the beginning of creating a letter of type. Hard metal engraved with the RAISED form of a letter. Requires painstaking detail work done by practiced metalsmith.
- *matrix*: the INDENTED image of the letter formed by the punch striking this piece, of necessity softer metal than that of the punch; the face of the type that will be pressed to the paper. Before having its edges trimmed and leveled, a matrix is called a “strike.” The trimming is called “justification.” Also called the “die.”
- *slug*: a set of matrices lined up to create (“cast”) a line of type ready for use
- *sort*: the individual letter created

Important moments in technological advancement:

- the printing press goes mechanical (no more turning of the parts by hand) by the application of steam power to printing in the early 19th century; the rotary press is first used in Germany in 1812
- typesetting is automated (no more standing at a case and putting type into a composing stick by hand) by the 1880s invention of the *Linotype* (pron. “line o’ type”) machine (Germany)
- typesetting goes digital by use of computers in the 1960s

Source: G. A. Glaister, *Encyclopedia of the Book*, 1996