Claude Garamond Encyclopedia Article

Claude Garamond

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1490-1561

French typefounder and craftsman who was the first to specialize in type design, punch cutting and type founding as a service to publishers and printers. From the late 1520s, Garamond was commissioned to cut types for the publishing firm of the scholar-printer Robert Estienne. His first roman font was used in the 1530 edition of *Paraphrasis in Elegantiarum Libros Laurentii Vallae* by Erasmus. Following the success of Garamond's roman font, King François I of France commissioned a Greek font, now known as the *Grecs du Roi*, for his exclusive use (c. 1451). In 1545, Garamond also began publishing his own type designs including a new italic font.