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Resume Chapter 1 of :  
Modern typography, Robin Kinross

Robin Kinross begins this chapter by asking the question of modernism in typography.

According to him, we can't talk about typography without talking about the printing process. Since 1450 began the modernity by the fact that printing was becoming a mass production and standardization. Kinross is next coming to the fact that the printing process is divided in two different kind of knowledge: the composition and the presswork. Then he establish that the interest of the book is beginning from the emergence of this consciousness. He questions the relationship between the practice of the technical process of printing and the conscious thinking of shapes in typography. According to Kinross, the printing process and its standardization is also connecting nations and cultures together. The process of modernization is related to homogenization.

As an introduction to the book, Robin Kinross is writing about the different histories that should be taken in consideration. There is the history of printing which is related to the technical evolution of printing machines. The history of bibliography about the tradition of the reading supports. A cultural history more connected to the book as a media of knowledge. And off course the history of typography and typefaces which Kinross is putting a lot of attention in the book.

As a following statement, he announce an approach to lead the book. This approach should take care of the historical aspects of modernism and be aware of what is exactly modernism. He writes that modernism is much more defined by discussions, ideas and ordering than the products in itself. He emphasize on the fact that we should analyze modernity through the process and activity of design more than in observing final products.