# Book Review
Arabic Type-Making in the Machine Age
The Influence of Technology on the Form of Arabic Type, 1908-1993

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صناعة الحرف العربي في عصر الآلة: تأثير التكنولوجيا على شكل الحرف العربي، ١٩٠٨-١٩٩٣

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Author	Titus Nemeth
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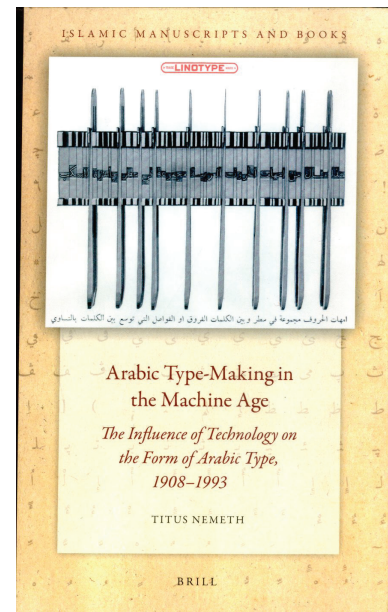
This book provides the first comprehensive account of the history of the Arabic Type-Making in the Machine Age during the 20th century. The author, Titus Nemeth, gives a wide spectrum of the evolution of the Arabic type under the influence of change technologies and combines historical research with applied design considerations. This book is based on his PhD dissertation, that he has obtained from Reading University in United Kingdom in 2014.

The book is divided into seven chapters. The author provided the book with two annexes of early examples of Arabic typography designed in monotype and an extended and updated bibliography.

Chapter one gives an introduction about the emergence of Arabic script and its evolution used in printing. Arabic is considered the third spread in the world. It is rich in its forms, which varied in different contexts. This variation has engaged printers, engineers, business and designers since the 16th century to create different metal fonts. It is worth knowing that the first Arabic book was composed with movable type was printed in Europe in the early 16th century, but from the 18th century printing with Arabic type practiced in print shops in the Ottoman Empire.

Starting from the 20th century the Arabic type-making became a domain of its own right, and evolved into the specialized field that we know today, and a prominently discussed topic.

However, the academic studies of Arabic typography tend to be histories of printing away from making connections to current practice. Therefore, this book is the first study of Arabic type-making in the 20th century that systematically employs primary sources together with the documentation of Arabic typographical history in professional archives of the companies that worked in the field. In addition, the author conducted some interviews with select participants of the investigated events to complete his archival work.

The historical scope of this book is defined by technological evolution, as suggested in its title. The start-date of 1908 refers to the development of