
A REVERSED STRESS, HISTORIC GREEK DISPLAY TYPEFACE: A TRIBUTE TO **MULTICULTURALISM** AND **DIVERSITY**

Donmeh is a display typeface based on specimens and samples found on Greek advertisements from the 50s. It is a caps only typeface with reversed stress, a rather unorthodox but popular approach with Greek sign painters and letterers.

Its name (properly written with an dieresis over the o, Dönmeh) refers to a group of crypto-Jews in the Ottoman Empire who converted publicly to Islam, but were said to have retained their beliefs (you can read more about them [here](#)). The reason for choosing this name is multifold:

1. As a tribute to Thessaloniki, my birth-/hometown, which was actually the main center for the historical movement of the Dönmeh. An open city with an long multicultural tradition, where Greeks, Hebrews, Muslims, Armenians and several other ethnic groups created a rich cultural amalgam whose remains are still visible today.
2. Due to the similarities of the typeface's strokes with both the Arabic script and the Hebrew alphabet, with its heavy top and bottom horizontal strokes. Even though I have no solid knowledge or historical proof for the actual origins of this typeface's design (or its original designer), I am certain that it has such roots (to be further researched).
3. As a tribute to openness, collaboration and cultural diversity, and, most importantly, a tribute to the "sacred humans" (in a literal/poetic sense and not Giorgio Agamben's interpretation of the homo sacer); she who constantly reminds us that the most important aspects of being a human are selflessness and solidarity; he who seeks asylum and protection, and who must be treated with respect and the utmost compassion and support; those whose tragic and unfair deaths in the Aegean sea, Lampedusa or Calais, should not be in vain but change us and shake us to the core instead. Those "sacred humans" that essentially were/are/will always be (like) us; and we will always be (like) them: The REFUGEES.

The Dönmeh typeface is freely available with just one condition: those who download and use the font are kindly requested to go to a super market and buy some food, open their closet and collect some of their clothes, go to a toy store and buy some toys, visit a drugstore and buy some medicine. And send them to those who need them the most.

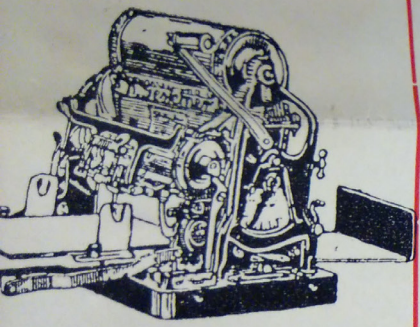
...ος δι' ἐκάστην εἰς 3
 ...ωτερικὸν καὶ 2 διὰ τὸ
 ... γίνονται ἐπιστολαὶ
 ...μένης ἀ
 ...ταχυδρ.
 ...δεδηλωμένης ἀξίας
 ...αὶ ἐπὶ ἀντικαταβολῇ
 ...-remboursement),
 ...ΜΑ
 ...=

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ΚΑΤΑΣΤΗΜΑΤΑ, ΑΘΗΝΑΙ, ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ
 ... ΒΟΛΟΣ, ΠΑΤΡΑΙ

Initial samples of Dönme from an advertisements poster (probably around 1950). From the collection of Γιαννάκης Φιλίππου.

ΚΙΝΗΜΑΤΟΓΡΑΦΟΣ
ΔΙΟΝΥΣΙΑ
 ΠΡΟΒΑΛΛΟΝΤΑΙ ΠΑΝΤΟΤΕ ΤΑ ΕΚΛΕΚΤΟΤΕΡΑ ΕΡΓΑ
 ΜΕ ΜΗΧΑΝΑΣ
ΘΥΕΣΤΕΡΝ ΕΛΕΚΤΡΙΚ
ΚΟΣΜΗΜΑΤΟΠΩΛΗΣ-ΩΡΟΛΟΓΟΠΩΛΗΣ
ΠΕΤΡ ΛΙΜΝΙΤΡΙΑΛΗΣ



ΓΡΑΦΟΙ: Ἠλεκτροκίνητοι Αὐτόματοι, Χειροκίνητοι αὐτόματοι, Ἐπίπεδοι.
ΥΓΡΑΦΟΥ: Μεμβράναι, Μελάναι, Δι-καὶ ἐνισχυτικὰ ὑγρά, Χάρτης Πο-τῶν παγκοσμίου φήμης Ἀγγλικῶν αἰών D. GESTETNER, Ὑποκατά-μα Θεσσαλονίκης, Ταμισηκὴ 5.

ΠΡΟΤΙΜΑΤΕ
ΒΟΥΤΥΡΑ



“ΒΟΣΚΟΣ,,



ΞΥΡΙΖΕΜΟΕ
ΜΕ
ΛΑΜΕΣ
GOLF

ΚΑΠΝΙΖΕΤΕ ΣΙΓΑΡΕΤΤΑ **ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΙΚΑ “ΠΕΛΛΑ,,**
 ΑΝΤΙΠΡΟΣΩΠΟΙ ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΙΑΣ – ΘΡΑΚΗΣ
ΑΧ. & ΑΡ. ΜΑΡΙΝΤΣΟΓΛΟΥ
 ΤΣΙΜΙΣΚΗ 51 – ΤΗΛΕΦΩΝΟΝ 13-53

ορθωτικά καὶ ενδύχστικά ὄπλα, ἁρτίης μὲ-
 λυγράφου τῶν παγκοσμίου φήμης Ἀγγλικῶν
 Ἐργοστασίων D. GESTETNER, Ὑποκατά-
 στημα Θεσσαλονίκης, Ταμισηκὴ 5.

ΚΑΛΛΙΤΕΧΝΙΚΑΙ ΦΩΤΟΓΡΑΦΙΑΙ
ΜΕΓΕΘΥΝΣΕΙΣ
ΦΩΤΟ-ΑΙΓΛΗ
 ΤΣΙΜΙΣΚΗ 44

ΚΑΠΝΙΖΕΤΕ ΣΙΓΑΡ
 ΕΡΓΟΣΤΑ
 Α.
 ΕΝ ΠΛΩΜΑΡΙΩΙ: ΣΑΠΟ
 ΓΕΝΙΚΟΣ ΑΝΤΙΠΡΟΣΩΠΟΣ
 ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΙΑΣ-ΘΡΑΚΗΣ

ΤΥΠΟΙΣ Μ. ΤΡΙΑΝΤ

ΠΡΟΤΙΜΑΤΕ ΤΑ “Ο

ΞΕΣΚΕΛΑΖΩ
ΦΩΤΟ-ΔΙΓΛΗ
“ΒΟΣΚΟΣ,”
ΔΙΟΝΥΣΙΑ
ΒΔΕΛΥΓΜΙΑ
ΚΟΛΩΝΙΑΣ
COLOGNE
ΨΥΧΟΦΘΟΡΑ

INCREDIBLE QUALITY

FLABOYANT

“VIBRANT”

RIDICULOUS

INFORMAL

VITALITY

JUICY & ENERGETIC

WONDERFUL XYZ

HORRIBLE KIT

PROMINENT