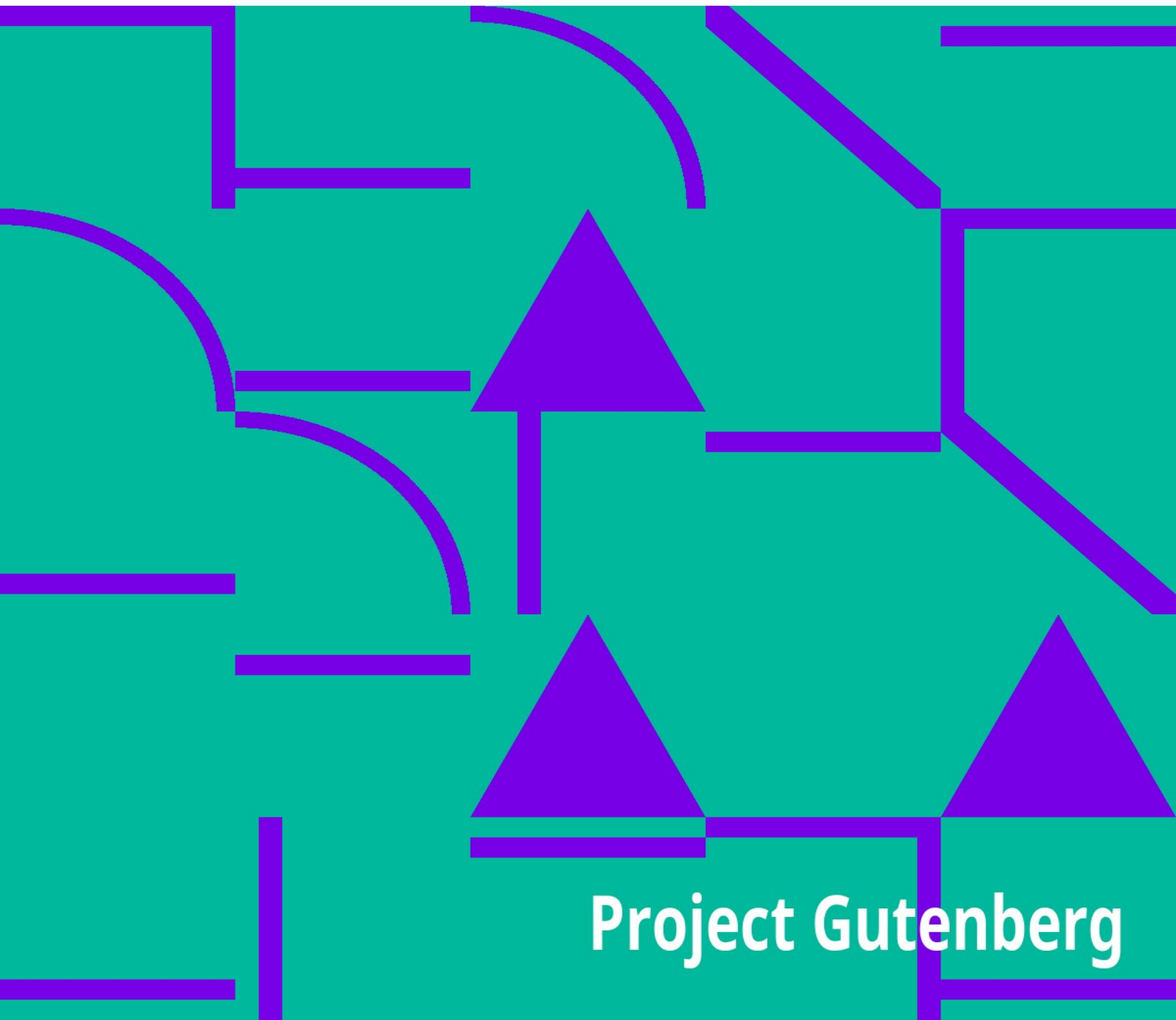


Primeira origem da arte

João Villeneuve

An abstract geometric pattern composed of various teal and purple shapes. It includes horizontal, vertical, and diagonal lines, as well as quarter-circles and triangles. The shapes are arranged in a non-repeating, organic manner across the page.

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*** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK PRIMEIRA
ORIGEM DA ARTE ***

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PRIMEIRA ORIGEM DA ARTE DE IMPRIMIR DADA A LUZ PELOS PRIMEIROS CHARACTERES,

Que João de Villeneuve formou para serviço da Academia Real da Historia Portuguesa.

Dedicada a ELREY Dom JOAÕ V. seu Augustissimo Protector.

LISBOA OCCIDENTAL.

Na Officina de Joseph Antonio Da Sylva,
Impressor da Academia Real.
MDCCXXXII.

[Figura: aberto por Pedro de Rochefort. Lisboa 1732]

Senhor

Com a generosa protecção de Vossa Magestade não só renascem em Portugal as Letras, mas agora pode dizerse [~q] nascem; pois sem as [~q] eu venho a introduzir nos dilatados dominios de Vossa Magestade, não podiam as outras propagarse, e fazer-se eternas sendo os bronzes, em [~q] eu as deixo gravadas, as primeiras formas para as estatuas, e para as Inscriptoens, [~q] Vossa Magestade merece como Heroe, de quem os Sabios da Academia Real haõ de escrever a Historia, [~q] se há de imprimir com estas minhas letras, se o seu grande Character podese descreverse, e escreverse em Characteres tam pequenos. Attrahido pela fama [~q] com verdade pinta a Vossa Magestade por toda Europa segundo Augusto no seculo litterario de Portugal, sem valerme de outro Mecenas, vim buscar a felicidade de ser subdito seu, deixando Paris por Lisboa para introduzir nella a incognita, e utilissima Arte de fundir, e gravar as Matrises, e Punçoens, deque se serve a maravilhosa Arte Typografica, e [~q] até agora ou se

mandavam vir de fóra do Reyno, saindo delle consideravel cabedal, ou se uzava das imperfeitas, e gastadas com o tempo, sem poder aperfeiçoarse por esta causa as ediçoens dos melhores Livros: como em Europa há tam poucos Artifices desta minha manufactura, he crível, [~q] venhaõ a Portugal procuralla dos Reynos mais vizinhos, convertendose o damno em publico beneficio. Teve Vossa Magestade, Senhor, com a sua alta comprehenção tam prompto conhecimento deste meu zelo, [~q] logo o remunerou com huma pensão, e o [~q] he mais, o admittio, e honrou com o seu Real agrado: para o não desmerecer, offereço a os pes de Vossa Magestade alguns indicios das letras [~q] tenho fabricado, estando prompto para fazer as outras, sem me intimidarem as Hebraicas, Gregas, e Arabigas, [~q] sam tão precisas para as doudas dissertaçoens da Academia, e para perpetuar os monumentos originaes, [~q] nestas, e outras Lingoas se conservaõ em todo o dilatado Imperio de Vossa Magestade pelas quatro partes do mundo. Espero, Senhor, [~q] nem a ociozidade, nem a distracção me fação indigno da benevolencia de Vossa Magestade, [~q] procurarei não desmerecer em quanto a Vida me durar.

Joaõ de Villeneuve.

PRIMEIRA ORIGEM DA ARTE DE IMPRIMIR.

Primeira Prova Destes Novos Characteres.

De muitas cousas grandes, que se admiraõ no Mundo, se não sabe o principio; assim succedeo à Patria de Homero, ao nascimento do rio Nilo; e assim acontece tambem à origem da Arte de imprimir; se não he que os progressos das mesmas Artes muitas vezes são os mayores impedimentos para se saberem com certeza os seus nascimentos, por[~q] com a experiencia, e o uso dos artifices se costumão augmentar de forte, [~q] não parecem as mesmas, e como insensivelmente crescem, não he facil determinarlhe, nem o lugar em [~q] se inventaraõ, nem as primeiras pessoas [~q] as acharaõ, por[~q] a diversidade dos lugares, e multiplicidade dos Authores, [~q] as aperfeiçoaraõ, fazem provaveis as muitas opinioens, que não sem fundamento se seguem, e que por ambição de gloria se arrogaõ as Cidades, e naçoens, [~q] se costumão jactar de terem produzido homens em qualquer profissão insignes; para o que não concorre menos a emulação taõ poderosa, quando he louvavel para exercitar as mais laboriosas, e engenhosas producçoens, e taõ efficaz quando he viciosa, para promover os

efeitos mais escandalosos do odio. Alguns querem fazer nesta Arte a differença, [~q] costuma haver nas producções da natureza, affirmando [~q] foy muy diverso o tempo, em [~q] se concebeo, daquelle em que sahio a luz, e diversas tambem as pessoas, [~q] concorreraõ para [~q] se conseguisse o fim pertendido. Os Hollandezes, como Boxornio affirma no seu Theatro de Holanda, attribuem a Lourenço Coster, guarda do Palacio Real da Cidade de Harlem, a invenção desta admiravel Arte; o que pertendem provar com huma inscripção, [~q] ainda presentemente se lê na porta da Casa, em [~q] o mesmo Lourenço Coster assistio, na qual se anticipa muito o nascimento da Impressão à opiniaõ cõmua, declarando-se, que ella se inventara no anno de 1440. havendo a contradição de se ler na Estatua do mesmo Lourenço Coster, que elle fora outro Cadmo, e o primeiro inventor deste utilissimo Artefacto no anno 1430. o [~q] ainda se faz tanto mais incrivel, quanto mais se afasta esta opiniaõ do anno em que se vê [~q] foraõ impressos os primeiros Livros, que appareceraõ no Mundo.

Serve-se este Author tambem do [~q] escreveo Adriaõ Junio, Medico, e Historiador de Hollanda, [~q] no seu Livro, [~q] intitulou *de Batavia*, diz [~q] assistindo Lourenço Coster em huma Casa de Campo, e passeando por hum Bosque, lhe lembrara fazer huns characteres de pao de *Faia* com os quaes imprimira alguns Versos em papelaõ; e assim este Author, como o primeiro em que fallei, seguraõ existirem varios Livros, [~q] nomeaõ para mostrarem [~q] Lourenço Coster seu Nacional fora quem inventara a Arte de imprimir taõ anticipadamente, como ambos affirmaõ; e para corroborarem mais a sua opiniaõ, dizem [~q] o mesmo Lourenço Coster vendo, que lhe succedera bem na primeira prova dos characteres de pao, os fizera de chumbo, ou de estanho, e para o ajudar chamara a Joaõ Fauste, ou Fust. Porèm Malinchrot na sua

Arte Typographica he de parecer, [~q] as primeiras folhas de alg[~u] dos Livros, [~q] os Hollandezes allegaõ para mostrar que os imprimira Lourenço Coster, se lhe ajuntaraõ depois, e por este, e outros principios mais solidos segue, que a invençaõ da Arte de imprimir pertence aos naturaes de Moguncia, e naõ aos de Harlem, como entendem todos os que fazem o melhor, e mais certo juizo sobre esta materia, julgando [~q] este invento se deve a Joaõ Guttemberg natural de Strasbourg, a quem ajudara muito Joaõ Fauste, ou Fust no anno 1440. ou [~q] pelo contrario, o inventor fora Joaõ Fust; e [~q] Joaõ Guttemberg, e Pedro Schofer seu genro, [~q] depois foy do mesmo Fust, contribuiरा sómente com a despesa necessaria para se pôr em pratica este projecto; e a isso se accrescenta, que dos primeiros Livros, que se imprimiraõ, foy hum intitulado: *Speculum Salutis*, que os de Harlem pertendem [~q] já de antes estivesse impresso em vulgar por Lourenço Coster; porèm o [~q] Berthio diz no 3^o Livro da descripçaõ de Alemanha, fallando de Moguncia, póde tirar toda a duvida, [~q] se mover nesta questãõ, ficando satisfeitos os sequazes de huma, e outra opiniaõ; por[~q] diz elle, [~q] neste Livro *Speculum Salutis*, como em outros muitos das primeiras ediçoens da Officina de Lourenço Coster, observara, que cada pagina fora impressa sobre numa forma, ou taboa, em [~q] se esculpiraõ as letras como abertas ao buril, e naõ com caracteres separados; do que se póde julgar, que Lourenço Coster achou em Harlem a invençaõ de imprimir com esta forma, ou taboa, do modo de que dizem usaõ os Chinas; e [~q] Guttemberg, Fauste, e Schofer foraõ os [~q] inventaraõ em Moguncia os caracteres moveis, e separados huns dos outros, para se poderem compor as syllabas, as palavras, e as paginas, como presentemente se pratica; mas a mais cõmua opiniaõ he a [~q] seguem Tritemio na sua Chronica, Polidoro Virgilio, Bruschio no Catalogo dos Bispos de Moguncia,

Salmuth sobre Pancirolo Sabellico nas suas Eneadas, e Wemphelingo, que escreveo em 1511. os quaes affirmão, [~q] Joaõ Guttemberg natural de Strasbourg fora o primeiro, que nesta Cidade inventara a Arte de imprimir; e que passando a Moguncia, ahi a concluirea felizmente. Esta he a opiniaõ, que commummente se segue como mais verdadeira, com que concorda Ferrario na descripção da Cidade de Moguncia, com outros que Naude cita na addição à Historia de Luiz XI. os quaes affirmão, que Joaõ Guttemberg, Cavalhero Alemaõ, natural da Cidade de Strasbourg, procurando, ainda [~q] sem fruto, pôr esta Arte na ultima perfeição na mesma Cidade de Strasbourg, se achara obrigado a hir para Moguncia, aonde passou o resto da sua vida, alcançando o Privilegio de natural della, o que foy cauza de muitos Authores lhe chamarem Moguntino, como tambem na Inscripção seguinte.

JOANNI GUTTEMBERGENSI
MOGUNTINO,
Qui Primus omnium Litteras
AEre imprimendas invenit
Hac Arte de Orbe toto benemerenti
YVO Vintigensis
Hoc Saxum pro Monumento posuit.

Guttemberg não podendo fazer os gastos, e despesas necessarias para se pôr em pratica esta Arte, (porque a mayor parte dos primeiros Livros se imprimiraõ em pergaminho para poderem passar por Manuscritos, e por isto custavaõ muy caros) se vio obrigado a fazer sociedade com Joaõ Fust, ou Fauste, acima nomeados, ajudado de seu genro Pedro Schoffer, ou Opilio de Gernshain, [~q] se tem pelo primeiro inventor dos Punçoens e Matrizes, aos quaes cõmunicou o seu projecto, com que

ultimamente se publicaraõ tantos effeitos desta Arte, como o explicou Arnaldo Bergellano nestes Versos.

Addidit huic operi lucem sumptumque laboris
Faustus Germamus, munera fausta ferens.
Et levi ligno sculpunt & grammata prima,
Quae poterat variis quisque referre modis.
Materiam bibulae supponunt indè papyri
Aptam, quam libris littore Nilus alit.
Insuper aptabant mitti quas sepia guttas
Reddebat pressas sculpta tabella notas.
Sed qui non poterat propria de classe character
Tolli, nec variis usibus aptus erat,
Illi succurrit Petrus cognomine Schoffer,
Quo vix caelando promptior alter erat.
Ille sagax animi praeclare toreumata finxit,
Quae sanxit matris nomine posteritas.
Et primus vocum fundebat in aere figuras,
Innumeris cogi quae potuere modis.

E mais adiante fallando nesta mesma sociedade neste distico:

Illo primus erat tunc Guttembergus in albo,
Alter erat Faustus, tertius Opilio.

Principiaraõ estes Inventores a imprimir os primeiros Livros no anno de 1450. como se acha escrito no Livro intitulado *Trithemianarum Historiarum Breviarium*: isto mesmo confirma Erasmo no prologo de hum Tito Livio, impresso em 2 Volumes no anno de 1519 em Moguncia, por Joaõ Schoffer, filho de Pedro Schoffer, e Neto de Joaõ Fust, no fim do qual se lê tambem hum Privilegio do Emperador Maximiliano, dado ao mesmo Joaõ Schoffer

em consideração de seu avou João Faust ter inventado a Arte de imprimir.

A Biblia, que estes mesmos primeiros inventores imprimiraõ, era tam semelhante às manuscritas, que levando João Faust muitos Exemplares a Pariz, de que a mayor parte eraõ de pergaminho, ornados com grandes Letras, e Vinhetas de ouro feitas de mão, como ainda muitos existem, os vendeo por Escritos de mão por hum preço muy consideravel; porèm advertindo os [~q] os tinhaõ comprado, que os Exemplares eraõ muitos, o accusaraõ pelo crime de feitiçaria; e isto obrigou a João Fauste a retirar-se para Moguncia; e não se achando ainda seguro, passou a Strasbourg, aonde assistio alg[~u] tempo, e alli ensinou esta Arte a João Metelin, ou Mentel, que foy o primeiro, que a exercitou em Strasbourg.

Depois publicou por hum Edital o Parlamento de Pariz, que declarava livre de culpa a João Faust, reconhecendo a grande utilidade da admiravel Arte de imprimir.

Tendo estes engenhosos Artifices impresso estas Biblias, e alguns mais Livros, se deviaõ separar, ou morrer, porque se não achaõ outros com os seus nomes; e assim se principiou a divulgar este invento pelos criados, e Officiaes destes primeiros Impressores.

Joaõ de la Caille na sua Historia da Impressaõ, de quem tirey a mayor parte destas noticias, diz que Roma fora a primeira Cidade aonde se principiou a exercitar esta Arte no anno de 1467. sendo Pontifice Paulo II, e que o primeiro Livro, [~q] ahi imprimiraõ Conrado Suvenhein, e Arnoldo Parmarts, fora a Cidade de Deos de Santo Agostinho, e que por isto se ficara chamando a letra em que esta Obra foy impressa, com o mesmo nome do Santo; porèm eu entendo, que Joaõ de la Caille se engana, se he certo o que

peessoas dignas de mayor credito me affirmaraõ, dizendome que na Livraria de huma das primeiras Casas deste Reyno se acha hum Livro impresso em Lisboa sem data, porèm em lugar della, se lê nelle, que fora impresso 8 annos depois de se inventar a Arte da Imprimissaõ; (saõ palavras do mesmo Livro) e como o mesmo de la Caille assenta, que os primeiros Livros se principiaraõ a imprimir no anno 1450. sendo certa a noticia da nossa primeira ediçaõ, tambem fica sem duvida, que já em Lisboa havia Impressaõ no anno 1458. que saõ nove annos antes que esta Arte se exercitasse em Roma, como diz o mesmo de la Caille; mas sobre esta materia espero tratar mais com extençaõ em outra Obra a [~q] mais propriamente pertence. Foy tal o progresso, [~q] em breve tempo fez esta utilissima Arte, que dentro do mesmo seculo de 400. se introduzio o seu uso nas Cidades mais principaes de Europa, e os que a exercitaraõ, tiveraõ tanta estimaçaõ, que mereceraõ occupar muitos lugares, e Officios pela sua capacidade, a qual parece que adquiriraõ pelo mesmo emprego em que se occupavaõ, tirando do seu trabalho o melhor lucro no estudo [~q] faziaõ, e pelas noticias com [~q] se instruaõ. Sirva a todos de exemplo o celebre Aldo Manuntio, que floreceo no mesmo seculo de 400. e a quem devem os Professores da Lingua Latina a mayor luz para penetrarem os mysterios mais escuros, e o methodo mais efficaz de se aproveitarem das riquezas deste Thesouro da erudiçaõ. Os louvores desta Arte naõ cabem nem ainda em tantos volumes, quantos por ella se tem publicado, porque todas quantas ediçoens se fizerem pelos seculos futuros, todas seraõ novas provas da sua utilidade, porque ninguem negarà, que se a Arte de escrever he a mais necessaria para o cõmercio dos homens de Negocio, e para o mais trato civil, a Arte de imprimir he a mais precisa para os homens de letras, e para todas as Artes, e Sciencias, que tambem ajudaõ ao

negocio, e à conservação do genero humano, com a differença, [~q] a Arte de escrever suppre ordinariamente a falta da presença dos que vivem, e a Arte de imprimir resuscita os que já não existem, conservando lhes o nome, e a fama, que he huma vida mais perduravel. Devem pois entre os Artifices, que concorrem para este fim, ser mais estimados, não só os que fundem os characteres, mas os que formão aquelles instrumentos donde elles nascem, e muito mais os que executaõ huma, e outra cousa; de sorte que não só enriquecem as officinas da Impressão com as letras mais bem formadas, mas lhes deixaõ as fontes inexgotaveis dos Punçoens, Matrizes, e Moldes, de que por muitos seculos se poderão valer para se refazerem de toda a especie de characteres, que lhes forem necessarios. Aos Soberanos pertence mais que a ninguem exaltar, e favorecer a Arte de imprimir, porque nesta Officina se forja a trombeta da sua Fama; e o metal [~q] se emprega neste exercicio, não he menos conducente para permanecer a sua gloria, que o das Estatuas, em que tanto se ostenta a dos Heroes, a quem se dedicaõ semelhantes incentivos da memoria, ficando esta mais diffusa, e nobremente eternizada pelas relaçoens das façanhas, escritas, e impressas pelo character das virtudes referidas, e pela eloquencia dos Historiadores, e Panegyristas, do que pela semelhança da figura representada, ou pela estatura do corpo figurada, que mais serve para lembrar a pessoa, do que para persuadir o merecimento. Assim espera *Joaõ de Villeneuve* ter a mayor fortuna, [~q] he merecer o agrado de Vossa Magestade por esta prova, [~q] offerece dos characteres [~q] formou, e fundio para o serviço da Impressão da Academia Real da Historia Portugueza.

* * * * *

O Director, e Censores da Academia Real da Historia Portugueza mandaõ imprimir esta prova dos primeiros characteres, que fez João de Villeneuve para uso da Imprensa da mesma Academia. Lisboa Occidental, 18 de Janeiro de 1732.

O Conde da Ericeira.
O Marquez de Alegrete.
Joseph da Cunha Brochado.
O Marquez de Abrantes.
O P. D. Manoel Caetano de Sousa.
O Marquez Manoel Telles da Sylva.

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