

Renaissance

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ABSTRACT

This paper talks about Johannes Gutenberg who invented the Printing press and changed the world in a way not a lot of people thought it could be changed. Johannes Gutenberg was a man of intelligence and an important personality who played a pivotal role in shaping the world. Ideas could reach a larger audience over long distances due to his invention. The printing press invented by Johannes Gutenberg allowed, for the first time, the mass production of books at a low cost.

Keywords: Printing press, Johannes Gutenberg

Subject: Renaissance

INTRODUCTION

Johannes Gutenberg was an engineer who invented the Printing Press and changed the world in a way not a lot of people thought it could be changed. Johannes Gutenberg's full name is Johannes Gensfleisch zur Laden zum Gutenberg. He was born in the 14th century in Mainz (Germany) and probably died on February 3, 1468. Gutenberg was raised by Friele Gensfleisch zur Laden (his father) and Else Wyrich (his mother). He started his working life as a merchant but then moved into work as a blacksmith and goldsmith (*Johannes Gutenberg biography: 2019*). In his 30s, he sometimes moved to Stratburg with his family. He became heavily indebted due to a failed investment in holy mirrors. This paper states and expands on the importance of his invention - the printing press shows that Johannes Gutenberg was intelligent. Gutenberg graduated from the University of Erfurt. He was skilled in metalworking and he was inspired by the wine press in Mainz. His invention was important in shaping the world as it is today. He quickened discoveries and literacy in Renaissance Europe from around 1436 up to 2022.

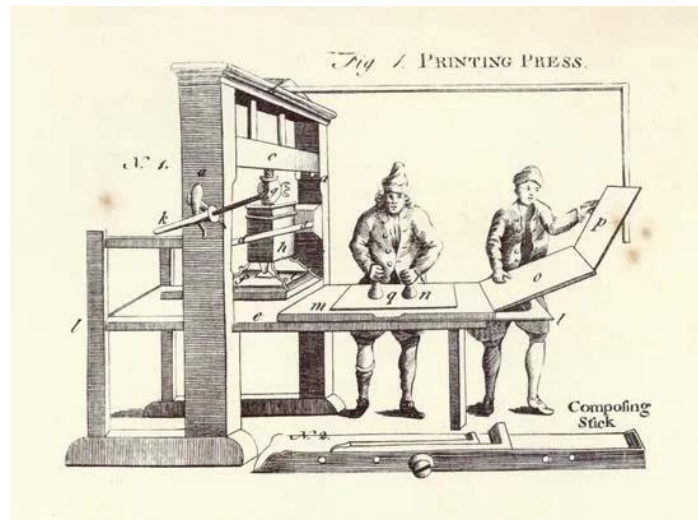


DISCUSSION

Johannes Gutenburgs childhood life was difficult and he was from a poor family with a lot of debt. He managed to get university education from the University of Erfurt. The university was known for focusing on arts and social studies that revolved around arts and humanities. According to historian Heinrich Wallau, Gutenberg may have studied

goldsmithing at the University of Erfurt. Johannes Gutenberg was able to pay for all his tuition fees by taking loans from Johann (*Biography Online, 2022*). Gutenberg debt was over 20,000 guilders (11,113.89 dollars in today's money). The University of Erfurt helped Gutenberg with his invention of the printing press because he studied goldsmithing there, which is the study of forging of gold which involves metal, and his invention was metal related because part of his printing machinery was made of metal.

Johannes Gutenberg was a very skilled metal worker and that helped him a lot with his invention of the printing press. The printing press was movable, i.e., it was arranged over a flat wooden plate called the lower platen. Ink was put on the type and a sheet of paper was laid on top of it. An upper platen was brought down to meet the lower plate. The two plates press the paper and type together creating sharp images on the paper (*Encyclopedia Britannica, 2022*). His skill in metal working really helped him with his invention because that was what created the small metal pieces with the raised backward letters, arranged in a famed coated with ink and pressed onto a piece of paper which allowed books to be printed more quickly.



The invention of the printing press by Gutenberg quickened the spread of knowledge, discoveries and literacy in Renaissance Europe. Since his invention, he made it possible to print large numbers of books for very little cost for the first time. Books and other printed objects quickly became available to a wide audience, greatly contributing to the spread of literacy and education in Europe. This had an effect on the renaissance because it made books easier to make and cheaper to produce which increased the number of books and lowered the cost of books, more people could learn, read and get more reading materials. Thus, Johannes Gutenberg with his invention increased literacy in renaissance Europe as more individuals would have increased access to such knowledge and would be available for the next person to continue or build on previous research.

Gutenberg quickened discoveries around the world because of his invention. Interestingly, Johann Fust took away all the profits that Gutenberg made from his invention. His invention not only quickened the spread of knowledge and literacy renaissance Europe but it also quickened discoveries all around the world because people then got more knowledge from reading books at cheap prices.

CONCLUSION

Johannes Gutenbergs's invention greatly contributed to shaping today's world. His invention made the renaissance thrive. His invention quickened discoveries and literacy in Renaissance Europe from around 1436 up to 2022

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