typography delight

Paul Renner

Paul Renner was a student at Staatliches Bauhaus, where he encountered Herbert Bayer's typeface Universal. It is said that this was the inspiration for his later design of the geometric, sans-serif Futura. Renner was raised with a German strictness, and did not have a taste for much of what modernism encompassed. However, he appreciated the restrained utilitarianism in modernism, and he sought to tie together Gothic and Roman styles in his typefaces. He was very involved with typography, and wrote *Typografie als Kunst* (Typography as Art) and *Die Kunst der Typographie* (The Art of Typography) whilst working as a teacher. Renner's interests extended into politics, and he openly opposed the Nazi regime. When he could not find a German publisher for his book *Kultur-bolschewismus?* (Cultural Bolshevism?), he had it published in Switzerland. For this he was arrested by the Nazis and dismissed from his teaching position, and thenceforth lived as a painter.