

# Gutenberg Printing Press AD 1450

Johannes Gutenberg perfected the printing press in Germany by AD 1450. Before this invention, books were hand copied, which took many years, or manually printed at a rate of no more than 40 pages a day. Gutenberg first used a cheese press with a large screw to press the type against the paper. Later a specialized press was developed for greater speed.

The first major work printed on a printing press was St. Jerome's Latin Vulgate translation of the Bible from the 13th century. It became known as the Gutenberg Bible.

The printing press allowed mass production of books, which increased literacy allowing ideas to spread much more quickly, changing the middle class in Europe.

To more efficiently create plates for his press, Gutenberg used his training as a goldsmith to make tiny letters from pieces of metal. This *moveable type* could be rearranged and used repeatedly.