

Frederic Goudy

Frederic Goudy and his wife lived in this home at 329 S. Prospect and operated the Village Press modeled on the Arts and Crafts ideals of William Morris in an unheated garage at the rear of the property. Although his primary business was printing fine books, he is best remembered for inventing the Goudy typeface which is considered to be among the most legible and readable typefaces ever developed. In 1908, he created his first significant typeface for the Lanston Monotype Machine Company—E-38— sometimes known as Goudy Light. However, in that same year the Village Press burned to the ground, destroying all of his equipment and designs.

In 1911, Goudy produced his first "hit," Kennerly Old Style, for an H. G. Wells anthology published by Mitchell Kennerly. Goudy is celebrated as one of the finest and most prolific type designers in history, developing more than 120 typefaces. You may find some on your computer: Goudy Old Style and Copperplate are among them. He also developed Remington Typewriter, originally developed for Remington typewriters but later picked up by Monotype. His most popular typeface, Goudy, was similar to older type styles but had a uniqueness of form no other could rival. He designed all his distinctive typefaces freehand.