

Macalla, meaning Echo, is a revival of Gaelic orthography of the 1800s. It is based on the type used in Transactions of the Ossianic Society, 1858. That unidentified typeface shows marked similarities to Watts in particular (1818) and an American redrawing for the Irish Echo (1881). There are some differences though, particularly in the lowercase “d” and “e”.



As well as Watts and the Irish Echo, similar historical fonts were created by Barlow, Christie, Fry and Figgins (Dermot McGuinne, Irish Type Design 1992). They are characterised by unusual uppercase A and M glyphs, which are almost blackletter in appearance. The typeface uses the traditional forms of a, g, r, s & t, some of which are unusual to modern eyes. The r and s in particular, along with the tironean ampersand are particular to Gaelic orthography.

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The 18 letters of the Gaelic alphabet have been extended to the Latin 26. As a consequence of this, the original i (which had a descender) has been truncated to the baseline so as not to be confused with j, which does not exist in Irish. Macalla is available in just a single weight, with no italic, as per the original. There was no reference for the numerals in the old texts, therefore these have been extrapolated from the existing letterforms.

Ifréamhachan scríbhneoireachta 1800í é Macalla, rud a ciallaíonn Echo. Tá ré bunaithe ar an gcineál a úráidtear i leabhar de chuid Míosaí Fionn a bailigh Douglas Hyde. Cairpeánach an cineálchló neamhaitheanta go bhfuil corúlachtaí corúil le Wattar go háirithe (1818) agus aithriúcháin Míosaí Fionn don “Irish Echo” (1881). Tá roinnt difríochtaí ann, go háirithe fa mhíri íochtarach “d” agus “e”.

Cómh maith le Wattar agus an Irish Echo, cruthaigh Barlow, Christie, Fry agus Figgins (Dermot McGuinne, Irish Type Design 1992) clónna riarúla den cineál céanna. Tá tréithe neamhghnách A agus M orthu, arís é siad beagnach dubhlicir é an cuma orthu.

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
ABCDEFGHIJKLMN
OPQRSTUVWXYZ

áéíóú ḃċḋḟżṁṗṙṫ
áéíóú ḂĊḊḞŻṀṖṠṪ
1234567890 .,:;!?()

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