

K k

Designed by **Rudolph Koch** and first issued in 1927, the **Kabel** family of geometric typefaces was named in honour of the newly laid trans-Atlantic telephone cable. Vertical strokes terminate at an angle, giving an animated, jaunty feeling. There is a wide range of weights, but no italic versions.

Kodak

K is for ... **Kodak**.
 Founded by George Eastman in 1892, **Kodak** revolutionised photography with the invention of roll film – after exposure the pre-loaded box camera was returned to Kodak for processing. By also making the film available to other camera manufacturers Eastman transformed his business rivals into partners. Eastman gave away most of his vast fortune, funding university departments in the US and dental clinics worldwide.



With the world's largest collection of living plants, The Royal Botanic Gardens – **Kew Gardens** – employs over 600 scientific staff. The Palm House of 1848 with its hand blown panes of glass was the first large-scale structural use of wrought iron, while the Flemish style brick-built Kew Palace is the smallest of the royal palaces. Hundreds of trees within the Gardens were destroyed in the Great Storm of October 1987.



At Tagg's Island, in the Thames a few miles upstream from Kew, **Fred Karno** (1866–1941) – originator of the custard pie in the face gag – led his comedy troupe **Fred Karno's Army**, featuring both the young Charlie Chaplin and Stan Laurel. Karno's houseboat *Astoria* is now owned and used as a recording studio by Dave Gilmour of Pink Floyd, while the site of the **Karsino** music hall on Tagg's Island was later used by AC Cars, builders of electric powered three-wheeled invalid carriages and milk floats, and the legendary Cobra 1960s sports car, with its seven litre Ford V8 engine, capable of 186mph.



Drummer with Benny Goodman's jazz orchestra, the mercurial **Gene Krupa** supplied relentless, driving, pyrotechnic rhythms – regardless of the nuances or demands of the individual tune. His finest performance came in the 12½ minute version of *Sing, sing, sing* during the pioneering 1938 Carnegie Hall concert – Goodman, asked how long the interval should be, replied 'How long does Toscanini take?' Soon after, Krupa left Goodman amid spectacular acrimony – no organisation could possibly contain two such colossal egos – and enjoyed huge success as leader of his own dance band.



In his two posthumously published novels *The Trial* – with its main character identified only as **K** – and *The Castle*, **Franz Kafka** (1883–1924) portrays man's isolation, alienation and persecution in a dehumanised, night-

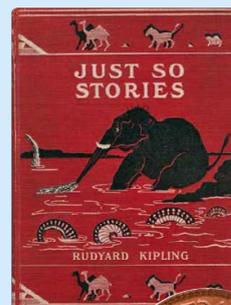
mare world. Writing in German, he often employed complex page-long passages with an unexpected impact delivered by the verb at the end of the sentence.



In films such as *Singin' in the Rain* and *An American in Paris* the muscular athleticism of **Gene Kelly** set him apart from the elegant fantasy dance world of Fred Astaire. An economics graduate, Kelly became a Broadway star in *Pal Joey* before war service in the US Naval Air Service.



First climbed in 1954, Mount Godwin-Austen, at 28,251ft, is the second highest mountain on earth. The designation **K2** – Karakoram Range, peak 2 – was given by the surveyors of the British Raj's Great Trigonometric Survey. Born in Bombay and winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1907, **Rudyard Kipling** (1865–1936) produced a stream of short stories, novels and children's tales, together with *If—*, voted Britain's favourite poem in a 1995 BBC poll.



A national symbol of Australia, the **kangaroo** was first described to Europeans by Captain Cook in 1770. A popular myth has it that when Cook asked what the animal was called a local tribesman replied *kangaroo*, meaning 'I don't understand the question'. Predictably Australian, the collective noun for a group of kangaroos is a *mob*.